

This week's Independent thinkers

It took a lot of greed and malevolence when the United States government decided to uproot the Cherokee from

their homes and send them packing. In order to displace people and get their gold, the U.S. signed a treaty in 1835 that the Cherokee Nation has the right to send a nonvoting delegate to the House of Representatives.



The Cherokee have never sent that representative. But the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma has 317,000 citizens who could send that person to Congress, much as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico do.

Non-voting does not mean lame – the delegate could have influence over committees and introduce legislation.

A president-elect who has been as hostile and racist as Andrew Jackson (the president who conceived and enforced the Trail of Tears) might listen to a fresh force of reason to prevent environmental calamities, such as running oil pipelines anywhere close to people's drinking water.

We won't know if we don't try.

Map from Anthony Finley Co., Philadelphia via Wikipedia Commons

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Planning labors over but does not revoke CUP

NICKY BOYETTE

It took two-and-a-half hours of point, counterpoint, claims and rebuttals but the Planning Commission decided not to revoke the Conditional Use Permit for a 5-unit tourist lodging at 12 Lookout.

Discussion at the Jan. 10 meeting began with interim chair Melissa Greene pointing out five possible violations of City Code regarding the property owned by John and Julie Van Woy. Greene's issues included operating six units of tourist lodging with a CUP for five units; operating as a wedding establishment without the required CUP; violating the quiet use requirements incumbent upon CUP holders; operating beyond the definition of a tourist lodging; various parking and safety violations.

Greene read a letter from neighbors Jeff and Kathy Collins who claim to have witnessed weddings and receptions at the site, and community events and family reunions bringing in many visitors, creating parking problems. The events last till late and there seems to be no oversight. The occupancy rate for the five-unit tourist lodging is not monitored, either.

Greene reported the owners advertise the site as a wedding venue though they do not have a CUP for a wedding establishment. She witnessed an event at the site that a guest said was a wedding reception, and there were parking violations and violations of the quiet use stipulation

(firecrackers, loud music, activities past 9 p.m. in a residential zone).

She also reported a cottage was built as a residence for an elderly relative but was quickly advertised as a rental unit that became the sixth unit rented under the five-unit CUP.

Attorney Wade Williams represented the owners. He claimed the owners immediately ceased renting the sixth unit when they were apprised it was a violation. They also took another unit off the rental list and brought in an individual to provide 24-hour security and monitor the quiet use obligation.

Williams acknowledged the Crescent Hotel rents 12 Lookout Circle for events, and John Van Woy said they have a room rental agreement with the Crescent. Commissioner Ann Sallee said it would be useful for commissioners to see a copy of the rental agreement. Commissioner James Morris agreed. He said, "We're put in a dilemma here... there have been several violations of the Code. It's obvious." He asked why no citations had been issued.

"Because it's not a violation," Williams responded. "There have been no witnesses except the chairman, and the evidence laid out so far is, in my opinion, incorrect." Williams presented several nuances of language in the law to substantiate his claims.

Julie Van Woy stated there were weddings going on **PLANNING** continued on page 2

PLANNING continued from page 1

there before she and her husband bought the property. Commissioner Susan Harman pointed out, however, the owners of a property and a CUP should know what the rules are.

Williams redirected the conversation to assert that parking is not the Van Woy's issue, and claimed all building code violations have been corrected.

Morris stated that Planning has a duty to act when they become aware of violations, and this case represents a history of violations. However, he said his decision would not be based on history, and he was glad to know some violations were corrected.

Greene was steadfast in reminding the commission that weddings were being held without the CUP, and gave Van Woy's own comments to the Historic District Commission as evidence.

Williams stated he was concerned the waters were getting muddied, but then he stirred them by saying to Greene, "It also concerned me that you, as chairman, are taking steps to investigate and then provide testimony to this body." He continued that the sixth unit had been taken off the rental list, a 24-hour monitor was on site because of the past noise issues and parking problems.

He also contended the Van Woys were operating appropriately regarding weddings.

Weddings occurred on the property before they bought it, and they have continued. He said the Van Woys would get whatever license the city deemed appropriate regarding weddings. Furthermore, upon receiving the revocation notice, the Van Woys applied for the appropriate CUP to operate a wedding establishment and a CUP for the sixth unit tourist lodging.

"We're not here to tell you there have not been violations," Williams stated, but reiterated the owners have made efforts to come into compliance whenever they were alerted to noncompliance.

Greene acknowledged the site is a beautiful venue for weddings and events, but she was still concerned about complaints from the nearest neighbors. She recommended allowing the CUP to stand but with conditions.

John Van Woy got his chance at the microphone, and commented, "I really believe we're being misrepresented here." He claimed weddings and guest lodgings were happening on the property when he and his wife bought it, and they continued what was going on. They thought they were in compliance, and they continued to improve the property. Their other neighbors have never complained, and he has never been approached directly by the Collinses.

He admitted he did not apply for a CUP

for a tourist lodging when the additional cottage was built, but the structure was intended to be for his mother-in-law. Upon completion, she told him she would not be able to live there, so he advertised for renters, not intending anything illicit.

Van Woy also claimed the primary complainants have put their property up for sale, and he sees these complaints as "a parting shot."

"It concerns me you did not know what the rules were," Harman again stated. "There were several big things you should have done your homework on and you didn't."

Greene suggested the CUP should remain with the following stipulations: no weddings, receptions or events for a year. Then apply for the wedding CUP.

Williams asserted the owners might have no problem with a probationary period while they continue to get all the violations cleared up. After all, they have already stopped renting the sixth unit and they are not conducting any events at the site. However, he said waiting a year was not acceptable.

Morris suggested a 90-day probationary period, but his motion got no second.

After a brief recess, Harman moved that Planning not revoke the CUP for the tourist lodging at 12 Lookout Circle, and that Planning establish a process for complaints "because we should never have gotten to this place. It irritates me as a commissioner I have to decide on this without a full history."

Greene added to the motion that all City Code relating to the situation at 12 Lookout Circle is followed in full.

Vote to approve the motion not to revoke the CUP was unanimous, 6-0.

Regarding the possible view of city council on the suggested complaint process, Harman stated, "I would hope they would approve a process that would prevent commissioners going through what we did tonight. It was not fair to us to be in this position."

Commissioner Tom Buford agreed a more complete paper trail would an asset.

In summing up the experience, Greene said, "It made me sad to have to go through this, but until we start enforcing our Codes, nobody is going to follow what we put out there." Commissioners voted unanimously to develop a process for making complaints regarding Code violations accessible.

Commission elections for 2017

Chair – Melissa Greene; Vice-chair – Ann Sallee; Secretary – Susan Harman.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 6 p.m. At the beginning of the meeting, there will be public hearings on two CUP applications for 12 Lookout Circle, one for an additional one-unit tourist lodging and one for a wedding establishment.



CAPC to whip up the 'egg'

NICKY BOYETTE

"Let's see if we can change a few things," commissioner Susan Harman stated as she began a PowerPoint presentation to the City Advertising and Promotion Commission at its Jan. 11 meeting. She said she had suggestions for changes in marketing

She said the state, using an algorithm, determined that Eureka Springs brings in one million visitors annually. Harman showed maps representing where the CAPC currently advertises frequently, an area Executive Mike Maloney calls the egg, which represents approximately a six-hour driving distance from Eureka Springs. Cities inside the egg include Shreveport, Dallas, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Little Rock, Memphis, Omaha, St. Louis, Kansas City, Wichita and Springfield.

Harman noted that this six-hour egg represents maybe 20 million people, and, since one million came to Eureka Springs, one could interpret this to mean five percent of the targeted audience came to Eureka Springs. She proposed expanding the egg to an elevenhour distance, which would up the ante by an additional 80 million people.

She said in her experience as a Bed & Breakfast owner, some guests tell her they drive two five- or

six-hour days to get here. Those extra hours, Harman maintained, would add Austin, Houston, New Orleans, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Minneapolis, Chicago, Des Moines and Denver. She envisioned short online videos she called "introductions to Eureka Springs" as a teaser to draw viewers to the website.

Harman said this "targeted digital campaign" would be a logical format for the Made in Eureka Springs promotions Maloney has been developing. She reiterated the importance of expanding the egg, and Maloney said he was in favor of trying it every other month during the year to see what happens, and would talk to his digital ad team about it soon.

Harman also asked for these other items:

- keeping commissioners informed of ad campaigns in development so the commission knows what is going on
 - preparing a campaign checklist for all campaigns
- informing the commission of data related to ad
 - setting periodic revenue goals
- meeting with the digital vendors at workshops to ask questions
- · considering the shelf life of the Made in Eureka Springs campaign
 - · making sure staff get the training they need

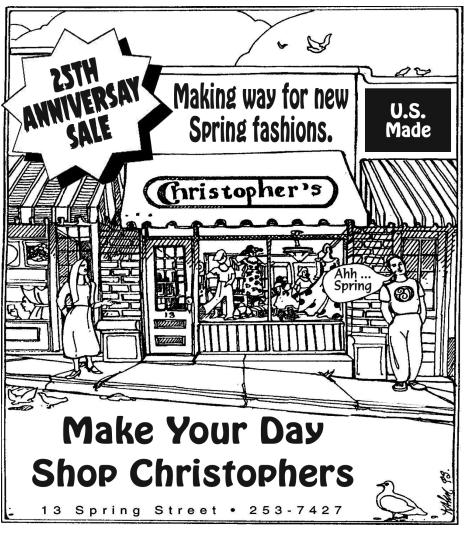
On the road again

Maloney reported that Sales Director Karen Pryor was off to Cleveland for the American Bus Association and Progressive Motorcycle shows. In February, she will be in California for the Select Traveler show and then back to Chicago for another Progressive Motorcycle show. In March, she has two events scheduled in Eureka Springs with representatives from Travel South, plus the Branson Travel South Showcase. The final event in the first quarter will be a big Eureka Springs presence at the Travel and Adventure Expo in Denver March 17-20

Other items

- Finance Director Rick Bright reported that total collections through November were \$109,241 over budgeted expectations, and expenses were \$60,792 less than had been budgeted.
- · After a brief discussion, commissioners agreed that Bright would re-write the Auditorium Management Agreement to reflect that the CAPC would pay up to \$40,000 for the utilities at the Auditorium for 2017.
- · Commissioners voted to seat Ken Ketelsen as the chair for 2017.

Next workshop will be Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 4 p.m., at the CAPC office, and the next meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 6 p.m.







ENDENTNews

Support for Chocolate Festival melts

NICKY BOYETTE

The City Advertising and Promotion Commission considered marketing support requests at last Wednesday's meeting, and gave the nod to two. Maureen Alexander represented the first request of \$2000 for printing costs to promote the Plein Air Festival May 21-25. She said last year 72 artists from across the country, many with families, participated, and she expects more to be here this year. Alexander

commented there are many festivals like this one all over the country, and the artists are committed to attending their favorites throughout the year. Vote to approve the request was unanimous.

Dee Bright represented the Preservation Society is its request of \$3000 for advertising the 2017 Tour of Homes in December. She said the event brings in "tons of people from out of state," including some who come every year and make a week's vacation out of the event. Commissioners also approved that request.

Bright mentioned she is still looking for homes for this year's tour.

Commissioners voted not to approve the request from the 13th Annual Chocolate Lovers' Festival for \$2000. They approved Maloney and staff using social media resources and the I-49 digital billboard to promote the event, but not to fund it and instead fund newer events.

ES biking gets national coverage; Valentines summoned to town

NICKY BOYETTE

CAPC executive Director Mike Maloney announced at last Wednesday's meeting that the current Bike Magazine has Eureka Springs "deeply embedded in it." He said Bike Magazine is the go-to periodical for cycling enthusiasts, and he is looking forward to seeing results of this exposure.

In other cycling news, Maloney said

Parks Director Justin Huss announced that the National Interscholastic Cycling Association intends to stage another big national cycling event at Lake Leatherwood City Park in autumn.

Maloney commented the big Valentine's Day ad push is in motion including a big ad in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and television ads in Kansas City. He said the CAPC participated in co-op ads with Arkansas Parks & Tourism in several magazines including Southern Living, D Magazine, Garden & Gun, Memphis Magazine and Oklahoma Magazine.

Malonev mentioned that Christmas, articles about Eureka Springs have appeared in media in 16 states, equating to \$32,000 in free public relations.

rime Rib Saturdays at Myrtie Mae's



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Former CAPC commissioner re-seated

NICKY BOYETTE

Chair Ken Ketelsen announced there would be a vacancy on the CAPC since the motion at the Jan. 9 city council meeting to re-nominate Damon Henke did not get a second and was thereby denied. Ketelsen said two people had applied for the seat, former CAPC commissioner Bobbie Foster and former city alderman James DeVito. Commissioner David Mitchell moved to seat Foster. Vote for Foster's confirmation was 4-0.

Get involved in politics

Join at the Carnegie Library Annex on Wednesday, Monday, Jan. 30 from 6 – 8 p.m. to get involved in a political interest and brainstorming sessions. For questions call Jillian Guthrie at (479) 244-5181 or Jackie Wolven at (479) 244-5074.

Get your toes tapping for OzMoMu4

is returning to the 1905 Basin Park Hotel from Jan. 19-22. For full lineup of bands this year such as Horseshoes and Hand

The Ozark Mountain Music Festival Grenades and A.J. Gaither One Man Band go to ozarkmountainmusicfestival. com and for ticket information go to reserveeureka.com.

Bible study begins Jan. 19

Holiday Island Baptist Church Ladies will begin their new weekly Bible study Thursday, Jan. 19 at 9:30 a.m. in the downstairs fellowship hall, 14 Stateline Drive. They will use Priscilla

Shirer's The Armor of God workbooks and DVD. Workbooks will be handed out on Jan. 19 and the cost is \$13. For more information call the church at (479) 352-7624.

INDEPENDENTNews

School board back to seven

NICKY BOYETTE

The Carroll County Quorum Court voted at the Jan. 9 meeting to seat former board member Debbie Davis to the vacant seat on the Eureka Springs School Board, so for the first time since the seat was declared vacant in September 2015, the board convened Jan. 10 with seven members even though two were absent.

Facilities report

Facilities Director Mike Dwyer also announced seven dumpsters of debris had been removed from the demolition of B-100 at the former high school property as part of the Community Center Foundation renovation. The contract calls for the job to be completed within 120 days of the date work began which was Jan. 3.

Dwyer updated the board on planned improvements in the Master Facilities Plan including these items:

- lightpole update at Van Pelt Stadium
- flooring for the elementary school
- LED replacements for light bulbs that burn out
 - improved signage at the intersection



Outstanding, and he is mild - Chris McClung (l.) was presented with the Outstanding Board Member Award by School Supt. Bryan Pruitt at last week's meeting after completing 25 hours of board training. He was on the board from 1990-2002, and has been again the past four years. Рното ву Nicky Boyette

of Greenwood Hollow Rd. and Hwy. 23

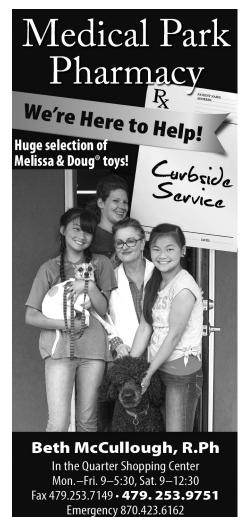
- · restroom remodeling
- pre-K playground

Reports from the schools

Mandy Elsey, math interventionist for the middle school, told the board that

students are identified by test scores as needing additional assistance with learning math skills, and a team of teachers and administrators determines who is referred to her program for intervention. She sees

SCHOOL BOARD continued on page 19





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NDEPENDENTNews



A meeting of Indivisible Eureka Springs Sunday afternoon attracted 64 people to Sparky's in an effort to organize citizens for fairness and justice under the Trump Administration. PHOTO BY JILLIAN GUTHRIE

Locals resist Trump agenda

BECKY GILLETTE

In what is believed to be the largest political gathering since the days of massive opposition to the proposed SWEPCO highvoltage powerline, 64 people showed up Sunday at the first Eureka Springs meeting of Indivisible, a national movement designed to combat cynicism about government and instead help citizens reclaim their government.

"Government is us, not something being done to us," Indivisible's website claims.

Cynthia Hudson, one of the organizers of the meeting in Eureka Springs Sunday afternoon, said the meeting wasn't about them to take it out to the parking lot. We can voicing fears and frustration. Instead, it was laser focused on taking actions to influence elected leaders to do what is best for the people, instead of big business.

'We are very focused," Hudson said. "That was why the meeting was short. We took steps as to what we are going to do as a group together, and it was great. I was pleased with how many people turned out."

Indivisible was started by a group of people working on Capitol Hill who watched the Tea Party start with a handful of people and become a powerful national influence.

"The people who have been working on Capitol Hill have created a handbook for us, Indivisible: A Practical Guide for Resisting the Trump Agenda, that details the same tactics the Tea Party used in order to get where they are now," Hudson said. "That is how it started. Rachel Maddow let people know on one of her shows this past week that this was available. Since then thousands and thousands of handbooks have been downloaded, and meetings have been held all over the nation. The meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, was packed."

The movement may be going viral in a period of time some are considering the darkest days the nation has experienced in many years. Campaign spending is so out of control that some Americans have lost faith that individual citizen action can have any effective influence. Trump's pledges to eliminate the Affordable Care Act, create a national registry for Muslims, criminalize abortion, stop supporting NATO and deport millions of non-documented residents have caused obvious concerns.

"People are kind of at a loss as to how to fight big government," Hudson said. "This is how you do it, small meetings like we had Sunday. We are organized, action based and focused on being effective instead of just complaining. The Indivisible guide says if you have somebody who stands up at a meeting and just keeps complaining, ask all complain at home, but not at the meeting. We have to move forward."

Hudson said people need to get the phone numbers for their senators and representatives, and call consistently. "You need to call every day because things are happening every day. For example, the Trump Administration is getting its cabinet together. Phone calls are good."

What about letters? One local couple pledged to handwrite a letter each week. But

INDIVISIBLE continued on page 13

This is the letter **Indivisible** Eureka Springs sent Rep. Steve Womack

Dear Congressman Womack,

We represent Indivisible Eureka Springs. We are a newly formed group of concerned citizens who are taking action on a state level to stand up to President Elect Trump's racist, corrupt, sexist and authoritarian agenda. We formed last week and had 64 members at our first meeting on January 15, and today we have 125 members. We expect our group to continue to expand.

We are reaching out to you today in hopes you will consider all the citizens in your district when you vote in the coming days. We also hope you vote to preserve the rights of all citizens as guaranteed in our constitution.

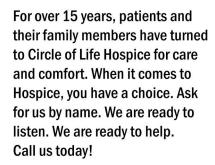
We will be monitoring current legislation in both the House and Senate and your voting record on each House bill, we will also be present at town halls and events.

Help us keep America the great nation it has always been.

Indivisible Eureka Springs



Every day can be challenging when you or someone you love is coping with a life-limiting illness. But you don't have to face the challenges of serious illness alone.





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INDEPENDENTNews

It really is sunnier at Sun Fest

BECKY GILLETTE

Sun Fest Manager Brian Byerley said he isn't sure where the name Sun Fest came from, but it does fit. There really is more sun at Sun Fest in Holiday Island. Last Sunday as it was getting dark in Eureka Springs, at Holiday Island it was bright and sunny again.

"We're on top of the hill!" Byerley said.

Sometimes friends who live in the Holiday Island area who will ask, "Why do vou come out here to shop?" There are plenty of good reasons, including the fact that Sun Fest gives seniors Sunday discounts.

"We do have quite a few customers in the senior citizen category," Byerley said. "They like the five percent discount on Sunday. Sunday used to be one of the slower days and now it is one of our busier days. Retired people on fixed income do big shopping on Sunday and fill in the gaps during the rest of the week."

Many retirees come to Carroll County from other areas of the country where they may be accustomed to bigger grocery stores offering more products. Sun Fest works to provide the wide selection of food and supplies those customers want, including beer and wine.

"We have one of the area's largest small farm wine collections," Byerley said. "A lot of the wine is bottled in Arkansas like Mount Bethel and Post Wines. Post Wines is probably one of our more popular brand wines. We also have a large selection of craft beers from all over the area. Several from the Fayetteville area, and some from Missouri."

Prices are also a big draw. "In the produce department, we buy as much from local growers as we can during the season." Byerley said. "That goes for anybody who has a small garden in their backyard to bigger growers in the area. It's important to support local farmers and bring fresh produce to customers."

Himalayan salt in bulk is a good deal – usually one must visit a health food store to get this superior salt. Byerley said the bulk foods purchased from an Amish company come in about every other week, and are quite a bit cheaper per pound.

Gluten intolerant and allergic to dairy? Four packages of Udi's bagels cost about half what I paid at a health food store. Byerley said a while back they realized gluten-free foods were becoming



Sun Fest manager Brian Byerley flashes his own sunny smile.

a hot consumer trend as many have experienced bad digestive problems from gluten.

"A lot of people were in need of the gluten-free foods," he said. "We started picking up what we could and it has steadily grown. We get our gluten-free products from a different warehouse than some of the smaller stores. So we get it in at a better price and pass those savings on to the customers."

There are also good selections of seafood. A two-pound package of large, premium, wild-caught shrimp was about \$16 and the prices on salmon were excellent. They had some bacon and sausage packages for only about \$1 each.

"We just had a massive meat sale where you could buy a whole side of beef and our butchers would cut it into any size you needed," Bryerly said. "Our meat sales have doubled this week from having that sale. All our meat is USDA Choice, which is a cut above what most stores do. It is higher quality."

Then there is a deli and full-service bakery with a seating area for diners. "We have a full-service breakfast and lunch, and people can pick things up for dinner," he said. "Our Aunt Minnie's fried chicken is very popular. My wife prefers it over KFC. And our cake decorator Jennifer Cullen stays busy with a lot of weddings, birthdays and anniversaries."

Unlike other industries, the grocery industry as a rule makes only a penny on every dollar spent in the store when you account for wholesale prices, labor and utilities.

"It doesn't run on a high percentage like other industries," Byerley said. "We try to keep our prices low. We also pride ourselves on being a great place to work. If you make your employees happy, they tend to spread that to customers. We pride ourselves on how we take care of customers."

Another bonus is the large selection of bedding plants sold in the spring, and mulch and fertilizers that are carried throughout the

SUN FEST continued on page 19





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INDEPENDENT Guestatorial

The Diamond invasion

"For a successful technology, reality must take precedence over public relations, for Nature cannot be fooled." RICHARD FEYNMAN

ichard Feynman, one of our brightest scientists, was a member of the Presidential Commission investigating the Challenger disaster. Feynman was critical of the decisionmaking process that led NASA to launch, despite warnings from expert engineers. For the first time, NASA asked the engineers to prove launching was unsafe. NASA's priority was funding the space program.

Home invasions are an illegal forceful entry into a private dwelling with intent to commit crimes. Criminals spend time observing and choosing their victims. They take the time to plan and find an easy mark. Recurrent break-ins are common; once criminals know the entry points, they will try again. If you leave your front door open and your windows up, you are an easy target.

Back in 2013, Valero Energy Corp. and Plains All American Pipeline LP planned to build a pipeline to transport shale crude oil from Cushing, Okla., to Memphis. Like thieves in the night, the plot was made. Arkansas was an easy target.

Why would Arkansas authorities ignore the known risks of earthquakes, flooding, oil spills, water contamination, and poor public health from a high-pressure pipeline? Why would they expect Arkansans to bury their heads in the sand and pretend all is good? Ignorance, arrogance, indifference, and fear are better than the alternatives.

Housing Bubble

The housing bubble was a financial scam driven by greed and ignorance. The early 2000's was the perfect home buyer's market. Interest rates were low and property values were going up. With properties as collateral, bankers were willing to make loans knowing home buyers may not be able to pay back the loan. Subprime mortgages were given to people with poor credit. For a while everyone was happy: people bought homes, banks got fees, and builders were busy. Then, homeowners were late making payments, and office buildings and new properties remained empty. The house of cards came down. With no credit, bad loans created the 2007-2009 economic recession.

Fracking Bubble

Fracking is destroying the U.S. economy and the world's ecology. Nature cannot be fooled. Fracking uses scarce, lifegiving pure water, to get low-quality, highcost, corrosive crude oil. Fracking for oil is a very expensive, inefficient, brute-force process, with wells thousands of feet deep, using millions of gallons of clean water and unregulated toxic chemicals.

Frackers ignore the Second Law of Holes: "If you can't pay your bills, stop digging." Feynman said, "Energy is a very subtle concept, most people do not understand it." The total amount of energy required to export one barrel of shale oil exceeds the amount of energy in the barrel.

Fracking has been cash-flow negative from the beginning. Declining production drives frackers to drill more wells, funded with debt. Low-interest rates encouraged investors desperate for high yields to sink

their money into the fracking boom.

Fracking creates over production. Storing crude is hazardous and expensive. U.S. law was changed to allow crude oil exports. Bulk high-pressure pipelines are required to transport crude to the Gulf Coast.

Constructing pipelines is very expensive with high, upfront costs, and slow returns based on the number of barrels per day transported. The U.S. tax code was changed to help pipelines. Master Limited Partnerships, a high-risk financial scheme, shelters investors and provides tax-free dividends. Frackers don't pay for earthquakes, oil spills, floods, soil erosion, lost crops, or anything else. We do.

Halting Diamond

When public health and environmental justice are ignored people have the obligation to protect their families. The Diamond Legal Challenge, www.gofundme.com/Stop-Diamond-Pipeline, funded by Arkansans with \$10 donations, will stop the illegal pipeline.

What Diamond says on their website is bad news: Right-of-Way: The ROW may contain one or more pipelines or other utilities such as power lines, and will cross through public and private property. Jobs: 1,500 new contract construction positions will be created across Oklahoma and Arkansas. FALSE. Diamond uses expert crews. Economic Impact: The pipeline will provide \$11 million in property tax revenue per year. FALSE. Landowners will pay for taxes on the ROW.

Dr. Luis Contreras



WEEK'STopTweets

@asguardianrose: My cat constantly looks at me like I asked her to give me a ride to the airport.

@celebritychez: The older I get the earlier it gets late. **@cheeky dre:** I'm running away to join the Internet.

@E lok44: No, sweetie, you can't see the moon with vernaculars.

@alkemp57: I just invented a perfume made from holy water. Eau my God. Sickayduh: Me: Rode my bike on the back tire down the street. Wife: Wheelie? Me: Yes, really, and cut the baby talk.

@causticbob: Heard someone has started digging Fidel Castro's grave. Must be

@mynameisntdave: Everyone at this whistling convention looks extremely suspicious.

@goldenspirals: I hate when I buy new shoes and have to learn to drive all over again.

@andrewnadeauo: Trump is opting not to have celebrities at his inauguration in the same way that I opted not to take any cheerleaders to prom.

@megananaram: I'm not sure Donald Trump is qualified to sit in an exit row on a plane.

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

Listen to Billy Bob

Editor,

Our state can take credit for the only mention of our Father during 2-plus hours of Hollywood hoopla at the NBC 2017 Golden Globe Awards.

The born here guy, Billy Bob Thornton, said "God Bless You All," as his salutation when he was awarded.

Richard B. Waxenfelter Berrvville

INDEPENDENT Guestatorial

hree years ago I suffered an 11-foot fall onto concrete, breaking my hip and dislocating my shoulder. My head was saved by a cushion of chicken wire below and I felt lucky to be alive.

The recovery period was long and tedious with painful months of physical therapy. I was grateful to my husband and friends who offered meals and moral support, and extremely grateful that because of the Affordable Health Care Act, we did not have the added worry of looming medical bills.

Growing up in Canada, full coverage healthcare was taken for granted. While Canadians pay more in taxes, no one living north of the border has to worry about declaring bankruptcy or losing their home in order to pay medical bills or for expensive life-saving drugs. It's simply a right afforded to all.

While not a perfect or foolproof plan, few Canadians would give it up. It helps people sleep well at night.

Back in 1993, First Lady Hillary Clinton proposed a healthcare plan similar to Canada's single payer system, only to be foiled by Republican "socialist" scare tactics and an effective propaganda campaign brought to you by the Health Insurance Association of America. Many will remember Harry and Louise, the middleclass couple fraught with worries about "Hillarycare's" complex and bureaucratic health care plan.

Republicans went for Hillary's jugular, along with her "liberal, progressive agenda," and so emboldened, took over the House and Senate the following year for the first time since the 1950s. Comprehensive healthcare reform would not be muttered again until Barack Obama's 2008 campaign.

With lockstep Republican opposition, Obamacare, a watered-down compromise version of Obama's more comprehensive plan, was finally enacted in March 2010. It was seen as a presidential milestone with the Far Right screaming "socialized medicine" and the Left claiming it was not progressive enough.

Former Eureka Springs resident and life-long Republican, Jeff Jeans, gained notoriety this past week making the rounds on CNN and morning talk shows after his appearance on Republican Speaker of the House Paul Ryan's televised Town Hall meeting went viral.

Diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, Jeans was given six weeks to live and related to Speaker Ryan how as a small

Repeal and replace

business person, he would be dead if not for Obamacare.

Jeans was eloquent, moving and direct, and interrupted Ryan to personally thank President Obama from the bottom of his heart for saving his life.

Republicans, again in control of the House and Senate – this time with a Republican president – have vowed to repeal the Affordable Healthcare Act and replace it with "something better." While some Republicans have publicly stated repeal and replacement would happen simultaneously, they have already begun the repeal process with no progress on the much more difficult and contentious part, a replacement plan. One would think after eight years of doing everything in their power to kill Obamacare, they might have had an alternative health plan in the wings.

People are rightfully scared. The 20 million previously uninsured and the 52 million whose "pre-existing conditions" left them vulnerable to being cancelled or subject to unaffordable policies are again at grave risk. Imagine being a cancer survivor, like Jeff Jeans, and told by your insurance company you no longer are covered. Women's healthcare, millions of children, adults under age 26 who could stay covered under their parents' health

plans, the mentally ill, veterans, rural hospitals and low income individuals are all facing an unsettling future.

Like many Americans during the recession, I lost my job and the healthcare benefits that came with it. Facing unemployment and a partner who was self-employed, we simply could not afford the exorbitant premiums and, just like many Americans, gambled we would not get sick. Our health plan was simple. If one of us was involved in a major accident or came down with a serious illness, we would give up our life here and move to Canada. It felt like a drastic option, and one not available to most Americans. Thankfully, by the time I had my accident, we were covered under the Affordable Care Act.

Rather than fix some of the problems with Obamacare, Republicans have chosen to gut it completely, leaving millions of Americans in jeopardy.

Dismantling our health care system to get even with Obama, or tarnish his legacy, is a political game that will result in thousands of needless deaths of innocent Americans.

Wouldn't it be preferable to repeal Donald Trump and the Republican Congress and replace them with more compassionate and empathetic voices?

John Rankine



The Pursuit Of HAPPINESS

by Dan Krotz

People understand the world based on a "theoretical frame of reference" shaped by their life experiences and circumstances. These frames of reference are inherently filled with biases, preferences, and, occasionally, empathy — or evil. I understand the world largely in economic terms and believe, for example, that a rich black guy has more in common — and feels more comfortable with — a rich white guy than he would with a poor black guy.

Both rich guys might be able to respond to and feel what the poor guy is feeling. But in practical terms, they'll probably understand and empathize with each other way better than they do with the poor guy. And both guys, by the way, may be equally predatory and not have a second's thought about stealing the poor guy's lunch. It isn't about race, it's about economic class and character.

My economic frame of reference informs me that my kids are cake eaters. I am well aware that they've experienced the burden of me – and I thank them for their tolerance – but they've never missed a meal, been homeless, or been untimely ripped from the bosom of society to fight a foreign war against an enemy financed by our new BFF, Russia. Luckily, thankfully, the kids are all right and are good people, but in economic terms they have their cake, and they eat it, too.

And so it is with most Americans. Yes, there's terrible poverty in the US, but comparatively, most Americans live better and safer lives than King Solomon did in all his glory, thanks to New Deal safety nets, Medicare, and impressive organizations like Catholic Charities and Lutheran Social Services. So, why are we feeling so strapped and anxious when our communities are littered with storage buildings filled with all our extra crap?

My guess is that it's a variation on that old Civil War "southern heritage" scam where rich guys convince poor people to fight and die in a war, cultural or otherwise, so that the rich guys can own and control even poorer people. It's hard to realize that your pocket is getting picked when you're busy screaming at some poor schmuck for using food stamps.

A little help from our friends:

- *Good Shepherd Humane Society* monthly board meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. at LeStick Nouveau Restaurant, 63 Spring St. All are welcome.
- 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 Rinpocne 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

January 9

1:50 p.m. – Resident north of downtown reported his car was stolen while parked in his driveway.

4:51 p.m. – Motorist on US 62 in the eastern part of town was rear-ended.

5:28 p.m. – Customer at a restaurant skipped out without paying.

7:13 p.m. – Person claimed a parked vehicle was obstructing traffic flow in a neighborhood, but the responding constable deemed otherwise.

January 10

2:13 a.m. – Alarm was triggered at a business on US 62. Constable arrived to find a vehicle in the parking lot. Passengers claimed they were using the Wi-Fi. Constable found the building secure.

6:19 a.m. – Constables assisted ESH personnel with an uncooperative patient.

11:15 a.m. – Central dispatch reported a pickup had been stolen from the Holiday Island area.

2:04 p.m. – Staff at a campground asked for a welfare check on a guest, constable and EMS responded.

2:06 p.m. – Constable went to a gas station to see about a possibly suspicious check. 5:15 p.m. – There was a disturbance in a neighborhood.

6:13 p.m. – Constable checked on a report of trespassers at a business on Main Street.

January 11

8:18 a.m. – One vehicle backed into another one in a neighborhood.

8:53 a.m. – On a street just west of downtown, a dog roamed unattended and unleashed. Constable found it and brought it to the kennel where the owner later picked it up.

3:24 p.m. – Residential burglar alarm

prompted a visit from a constable.

5:04 p.m. – As the result of an anonymous tip, a constable arrested an individual with an outstanding warrant.

January 12

6:04 a.m. – Alarm company alerted ESPD to an alarm at a business on US 62 but canceled the call before the constable arrived.

8:28 a.m. – A large dog and a small one, wearing a pink sweater, roamed loose in a parking lot. Animal Control did not encounter them but knew who the owner was and made contact about the free-ranging animals.

9:29 a.m. – The vehicle previously reported stolen from a Eureka Springs driveway was discovered at Holiday Island.

4:54 p.m. – Constable spoke with two individuals regarding suspicious activity. 11:37 p.m. – Resident near downtown was concerned there might be a trespasser, but constable did not find one.

January 14

11:40 a.m. – A son told ESPD his father had been served divorce papers and was pointing a gun at his mother. Constables and EMS went to the scene, and EMS transported the father to ESH.

2:55 p.m. – There was a two-vehicle accident in the commercial area of US 62. 5:37 p.m. – Individual found a loose dog which was taken to the kennel.

January 15

1:53 a.m. – As the result of a traffic stop, a driver was arrested for driving left of center and DWI.

5 p.m. – Resident in the eastern part of town reported a suspicious vehicle nearby. Constable did not encounter the vehicle but spoke with the concerned caller.

Learn or practice figure drawing at Main Stage

John Robert Willer is offering studio life drawing classes on Thursday afternoons from $1-4~\rm p.m.$ at Main Stage. The three-hour studio classes give beginners and professional artists the opportunity to practice figure drawing with a live model. No preregistration is required and attendants can choose to attend whenever their schedule allows.

The fee is \$30 plus a \$5 model fee per class. Classes will continue into the spring. Drawing boards, paper and charcoal will be provided for beginners until they can purchase their own while more advanced artists can bring their media of choice. Main Stage is located at 67 N. Main. For more information contact John Willer at (479) 981-0548.

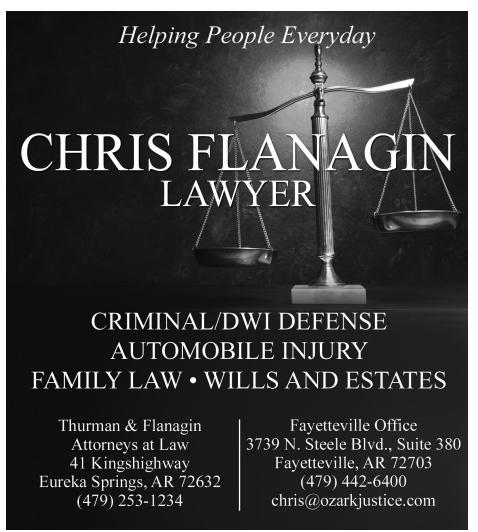


Small church, big heart - Ken Brown (left) and Ginger Petering (center) present \$495 to Janet Arnett, director for the ECHO Clinic, and Suzie and Dr. Dan Bell, founders of ECHO, from the Community Lutheran Church in Eagle Rock. Petering said they are a small church but the first December of each year they give their entire Sunday's offering split among three charities. Some of the church members serve on the board and as volunteers for the free medical and dental clinics on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. Other beneficiaries of the December offering this year were the Helping Hands Food Pantry in Eagle Rock, Mo., and the Lives Under Construction Boys Ranch in Lampe, Mo. PHOTO BY BECKY GILLETTE

Monday's high winds knocked the height requirement sign loose on the Beaver Bridge.

PHOTO BY REILLOT WESTON









Paint away the chill -Chilean-style

Noted artist holds limited classes in February

ESSA invites area artists to take advantage of a rare opportunity to study and paint with Professor Gaston Laval, currently teaching at the School of Arts of the Catholic University of Chile. His work, the product of his journeys through many countries, has been exhibited internationally in galleries and museums since 1991. He will be in Eureka Springs during February to teach at ESSA. Students will learn how to approach landscape painting in a way that tells a story, captures a moment in time and elicits emotional response.

There will be four special Tuesday evening class from 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. beginning Jan. 31. The sessions can instead be taken as a three-day intensive weekend workshop Feb. 17 – 19 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Register now at ESSA (479) 253-5384. Special winter rates are \$175 for the four Tuesday evening classes or \$195 for the weekend class.

TheNATURE of EUREKA by Steven Foster



Catnip follies

then I was 20 years old I worked in the herb department of the Sabbathday Lake Maine Shaker Community, the last active village of this 200+ year old iconic religious movement. One of my tasks was purchasing bulk herbs over and above what we could produce in our own gardens. It was in that context that I became aware of the fact that all things are not what they seem to be (or are at least not what they are offered to be).

Take catnip as an example. The catnip we produced in our own gardens had the strong distinct catnip fragrance that attracts felines. The plant's essential oil contains a compound called nepetalactone (among others), which produce the familiar "catnip response" in felines. It basically induces a chemical cross-reactivity with male cat pheromones associated with courtship behavior.

The catnip response is characterized by sniffing, licking, chewing, head shaking, chin and cheek rubbing, and head-over rolling. The catnip response is not induced by merely chewing the leaves, rather it requires scent induction, which means leaves must be crushed, bruised or broken to release the volatile essential oil from the leaves' oils glands.

One year on a hot summer day, after harvesting

catnip, the farm manager and went to visit a neighboring farm. They had 20 or more



cats, and soon after I got out of the car, walking toward the front door, a small herd of cats started making their way toward me. After two cats jumped up on my legs, I quickly retreated to the car and rolled up the windows. I knew I had quality catnip.

That year, we ran out of catnip. I had to buy it from commercial suppliers. A barrel of dried catnip arrived. I pried open the lid but the contents smelled like hay and dust. There were none of the sticky dried flower heads that I was accustomed to recognize as catnip.

After talking with a commercial catnip grower (yes, there are such farmers), I learned that most of what was being sold as catnip in the botanical trade was leftover stubble from catnip seed production operations. Any selfrespecting feline would lift their nose in smug rejection, turn and walk away.

If you have cats and they like catnip, grow your own. There's nothing like fresh produce, be it tomatoes or catnip.

Enjoy meditation and discussion at Heart of Many Ways

The Eureka Springs Buddhist Study Group will gather for 30 minutes of meditation followed by reading and discussion on Thursday, Jan. 19 at 4 p.m. at Heart of Many Ways, 68 Mountain Street. All are welcome.

Spirituality in motion

Dances of Universal Peace will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 17 Elk St. at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 20. The Dances are simple moving meditations that involve the singing of sacred phrases with accompanying movements from the world's many spiritual traditions. Participation is free of charge. Contact Rebecca Babbs at (479) 253-8303 or email babbsrebecca@gmail.com for more information.

INDIVISIBLE continued from page 6

Hudson says letters and emails can more easily be ignored than phone calls.

"It used to be people working in congressional offices answering telephone calls were sitting around playing cards because they weren't getting many calls," Hudson said. "They are not playing cards anymore. They are having to listen to the people, us, who have the real power if we were exercise it. Calls are making an impact."

The group also plans to be active on the local and state level.

Another organizer of the meeting, Nancy Paddock, said it was amazing the amount of turnout for a meeting that had only been called five days before. She expected about 20 people. "It was all kinds of people," Paddock said. "It was a great cross section."

In addition to the 64 people who showed up, a lot of people responded on Facebook that they would have come if they had known about it. There are now 125 members of the Eureka Springs Indivisible Facebook page less than a week after it was

The first action planned was sending a group to AR Sen. Steve Womack's office in Harrison to present themselves as a group and say they are against racist, sexist and xenophobic actions taken by Congress.

Step back to "The Roaring '20s"

Thirteen scheduled days of events are left in the Eureka Gras' 12th Mardi Gras Extravaganza presented by Krewe of Krazo:

- Umbrella Decorating on Jan. 18 and Jan. 25 at 5 p.m. at New Delhi and Feb. 8 at 5:30 p.m. at Eureka Live
 - Feb. 4 from 1 3 p.m. Taste of N'Awlins at the Grand Central Hotel and Taverne
 - Feb. 16 6 p.m. ArtiGras Palette to Palate at The Basin Park Hotel
 - Feb. 17 6 p.m. Coronation Ball at the Crescent Hotel Crystal Ballroom
- Feb. 18 6 p.m. Eureka Gras Night Parade "Light and Sound Parade" will roll through downtown on Spring and Main Street.
 - Feb. 18 7 p.m. Black Light Ball will be at Event Eureka (above the Grotto)
 - Feb. 24 6 p.m. Jokers Masquerade Ball at the Inn of the Ozark Convention Center
 - Feb. 25 2 p.m. Eureka Gras Day Parade
 - Feb. 25 6 p.m. Mayor's Ball at the Basin Park Hotel
 - Feb. 26 11:30 a.m. Jazz Brunch at Crescent Hotel Bring your Umbrellas
 - Feb. 28 6 p.m. St. Liz Cajun King Cake Ball at St. Elizabeth Parish Hall

Learn more at EurekaSpringsMardiGras.org.

Busy Poetluck at The Writers' Colony

Three writers-in-residence at The Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow will be sharing their work at Poetluck this Thursday.

Beth Reiber will be reading from a novel call Rife with the Tokyo Brews, a book about four women living together in Tokyo. Sheryl Loeffler will read from "Etna," a story of a solo trip from Malta to Sicily that will be published later this year in She Can Find Her Way: Women Travelers at Their Best, and Debby Howard will read an excerpt

from her upcoming book, working title The Caregiving Journey: How to Survive and Thrive One Step at a Time, which is meant to inspire caregivers to view their journeys as opportunity for transformation.

Poetluck starts with a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 19 at The Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow, 515 Spring Street. Local writers and musicians are invited to read from or perform their work for up to five minutes. Poetluck takes place every third Thursday of the month.

"We are going to do state legislature action, and will be present at town halls meetings and other events attended by our senators and representatives," Paddock said. "We will join with other indivisibles across the country."

Some argue that citizens have little impact compared to corporate donors who give huge sums to politicians. For example, Sen. Tom Cotton's campaign has received \$960,000 from the Israeli lobby and millions from the Koch brothers.

But Paddock said people could have an impact.

"There must be a way to overcome big money in government," Paddock said. "We just need to make our voices be heard now. Senators all over the country are getting tired of endless phone calls. We are not going away. We are here for the long haul. We will be paying attention to what is going on at the state capital. We will make our presence known in the statehouse. We will make them recognize what the people really want. We have started something, and we are going to follow it wherever it takes us."

Paddock points to one success already with the early stealth effort in Congress to gut the independent congressional ethics panel. Those plans were dropped after a massive public outcry.

The group plans a second meeting Jan. 29 at a place to be determined.

"We need a meeting house large enough to hold at least a hundred people," Paddock

For more information, visit the Indivisible Eureka Springs Facebook page or call (479) 244-0123 or send an email to Nlpaddock@gmail.com.

Contact your Congressman

United States Senators (AR)

Boozman, John – (R) Washington Office (202) 224-4843

Little Rock Office (501) 372-7153

Cotton, Tom - (R) Washington (202) 224-

Springdale Office (479) 751-0879

United States Representatives (AR) District 1

Crawford, Rick (R) Washington Office (202) 225-4076

Jonesboro Office (870) 203-0540

District 2

Hill, French (R) Washington Office (202) 225-2506

Conway Office (501) 358-3481

District 3 (Eureka Springs is in District

Womack, Steve (R) Washington Office (202) 225-4301

Rogers Office (479) 464-0446 Harrison Office (870) 741-6900

District 4

Westerman, Bruce (R) (202) 225-3772 Hot Springs Office (501) 609-9796

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ESOTERICAstrology as news for week Jan. 18-24 by Risa

Waters of Life Poured Forth for Thirsty Humanity

The sun enters Aquarius **Thursday** afternoon right from there. after Mars squares Saturn (a transit that can be a quite challenging - we move forward and are pulled back). Aquarius is the sign of humanity and of serving humanity in need. Friday is the inauguration of the new U.S. president. The president's role is to serve the people. Aquarius (humanity) is the shadow side of Leo (the leader). All leaders are learning to lead. And learning how to have Will, Love and Intelligence in order to have Right Action. Leo's counterpart is Aquarius, what Leo longs for. Aquarius is the future and all Aquarians come

Aquarius is the new age, the new culture and civilization. Aquarius, with Uranus, brings to humanity "all things new." Aquarius & Uranus can shock us with the change, bring forth things unexpected & revolutionary. Aquarius calls humanity to approach life from a group oriented spiritual point of view. Aquarians have a great need for freedom. And the ability to serve others with Love/Wisdom (from Jupiter). This love is not romantic personal love. It's a deep love for humanity. It's the Knight's quest for the Holy Grail, a "chalice filled

with the waters of life gathered for thirsty humanity."

Aquarius is a fixed sign, which is a steadfast energy. This fixedness helps Aquarius to remain in the present, while also aware of what's ahead. Aquarians are the World Servers, the Water Bearers. The "water" is electrical energies from Uranus, which brings forth "all things new." Astrology is both the language and tool of Aquarius. Astrology, an energetic scientific system of relationships, provides the waters of understanding to humanity. Here is the keynote of Aquarians – "Waters of Life am I poured forth for thirsty humanity."

ARIES: You are working toward a goal (perhaps many), seeking accomplishment. You are able to hold great focus. You are your own leader & authority. You are ambitious and professional; your heart goes into your work. You enjoy recognition, success. You can have pride & arrogance. Pause a while. See where you've come from. Where you're going. Help others along the way. Lift them up.

TAURUS: Your life endeavor is to understand the world. Looking ahead, over the horizon, you're able to see what's ahead and so you prepare, allowing no

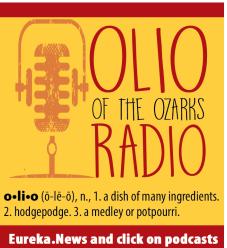
hindrances to stall progress. You're proud of your abilities & great patience. You're curious and want others to be curious, also. Alas, many aren't. You've acquired vast knowledge, more than most. Now you hide away, undercover, in order to quietly help others. We see you.

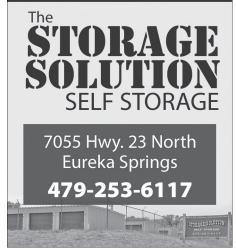
GEMINI: You soon will realize you must go further, wider, deeper into the ageless wisdom mysteries. You must finally accept that where you are may not be where you should be. You long to be somewhere else; a place that reflects your deep spiritual values. As you attune more to your heart, you discover that a change is needed for your spiritual growth to continue. The Path of discipleship is not easy. You're on it now. Keep moving forward.

CANCER: You attempt to bring harmony to relationships, hiding any disharmonious factors from the world. Sensitive to the slightest shift

of energy, when rejection's in the air you scuttle beneath your shell in protection. It's important to not protect others when their behavior has been harmful. It's most important to seek out the truth and only the truth. Not one side. Otherwise you become separate. And lonely.

LEO: There are so many daily responsibilities that, at times, you feel overwhelmed. Tasks large and small, serving, sharing and teaching others. Like Cancer, you're sensitive, especially to criticism. Therefore, be not critical... ever. Soon the hard work, responsibilities, seeking of perfection will ease. You'll meet crisis with determination & clear vision. Cultivate your gifts. They will be needed in the world.





VIRGO: Things we need to acknowledge for Virgo. You're unique and special, dramatic and able to express yourself creatively. Your fun-loving side emerges... sometimes. When is that, again? You're at times adventurous, risk-taking. Then you pull back. Combine old world traditions with technology. Children are most important. At times you're the child with an inner restlessness. You find your way. LIBRA: There's so much pride in what you've created... a self-identity, profession, social network, a social yet private life. You protect yourself while

> building secure foundations, your own new family and a new heritage. Relationships, most important, teach you how to love, share, give,

take & cooperate. One thought in all this building up-ness. Don't deny or reject your past. It contains the "jewel in the lotus."

SCORPIO: Privacy is your keyword, your template, guide, amulet, talisman & good luck charm. Privacy protects, provides refuge (like the Buddha), it's your sangha (community). You protect your home, family, possessions, and your personal life. Even your heritage is somewhat private. Privacy allows you to build a safe foundation from which you emerge into the world. But just for a while. We see you sometimes. We like you.

SAGITTARIUS: You need variation. You're laughing. You sense restlessness, the need for a scene change... often. You're proud of your gifts – intelligence, agility, friends, adaptation, strength,

fluent communication, knowledge, curiosity, aware of future trends, everyone knowing you while you remain unknowable. Talents and gifts equal responsibility. What and whom do you advocate for? Especially when so often you're the star in the spotlight & valued?

CAPRICORN: There's an image, a "presence" you present to others. It makes an impression. Some embrace you for this, others don't understand you. The rejection comes as a surprise because you're at your best when in the world, tending, serving, casting light on shadows. Some people are those shadows. When you're nearby they must hide, turn away. Allow them. Bless them. That is the only way they can survive. They will change. Your character strengthens them.

AQUARIUS: There's a need for introspection and seclusion for a time. Because you must gather strength, especially in the winter, directing all energies toward self-healing. While also in the world tending to worldly tasks. You feel often alone in a crowd, set apart from others. Aquarians are unusual, they hear a different drumbeat. You're not quite comfortable at this time, seeking the feeling of home. **PISCES:** Your tolerance and openness, humanitarianism, sense of equality with everyone, lack of bias & prejudice, and having no sense of social status whatsoever, creates the magnetic appeal surrounding you. Sometimes you must separate from people. Even as you adapt easily, you do not easily enter into close relationships except for one or two. You're here, but not. A silver cord keeps you grounded. For a while. Not too long. A safe group, family, closeness, a home you need.

Risa, writer, teacher, mentor, counselor, astrologer, esotericist. Founder/Director - Esoteric & Astrological Studies & Research Institute, a contemporary Wisdom School in the Ancient Mysteries tradition. Email: risagoodwill@gmail.com. Website: www.nightlightnews.org/Facebook: Risa's Esoteric Astrology. Note – FB posts are now on my website under Daily Studies.

Hot lunch on the Island

The Holiday Island Fire Department Auxiliary will hold its first luncheon and business meeting of the year on Tuesday, Jan. 24 at noon in the Clubhouse Ballroom at 1 Country Club

Drive. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social visiting. Cost is \$8 for lunch and \$12 for dues. Reservation must be made by Friday, Jan. 20. Call Drenda Higdon at (479) 363-8125 to make reservations.

More winter festivities to be had

Join in the Gym at the ES Community Center on Jan. 26 from 5-9 p.m. for a Winterfest Party. Musicians, auctions, soup contest, cash prize drawings, farm vendors and art projects from local kids will be available to those attending.

A \$15 donation per person or \$30 for a family is needed to attend. Money goes to benefit the Farmers' Market move to the Community Center.

Exploring the conscious mind at Metafizzies

The Jan. 23 meeting of the Eureka Springs Metaphysical Society will feature videos on the latest research into the nature of consciousness. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at Heart of Many Ways, 68 Mountain Street. All are welcome.

Spring cleaning for Historical Museum

The 3rd annual Eureka Springs Historical Museum's Garage Sale is 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 ESHM. Admission is \$3 per person. Set up will be Friday, Jan. 27. Contact Kindra at (479) 253-9768 Ext. 602 or email kindra@innoftheozarks.com for more information and to reserve your spot.

DININGOUT in our cool little town

Area restaurants are ready for you. EAT OUT OFTEN. Take a break and enjoy a good meal.













Sat., Feb. 11 • Benefit for Clear Spring School Krewe du Kork Dinner

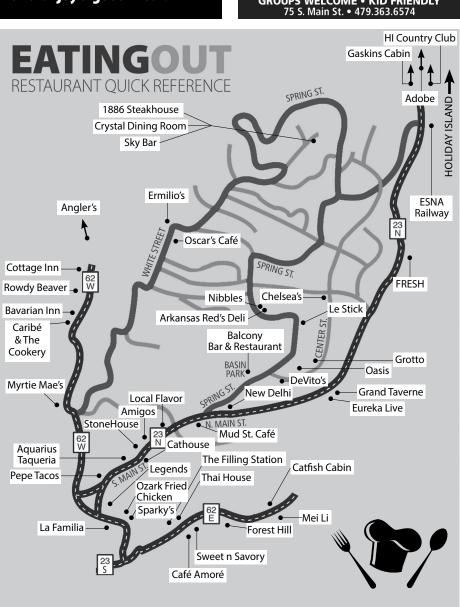
Valentine's Day Dinner

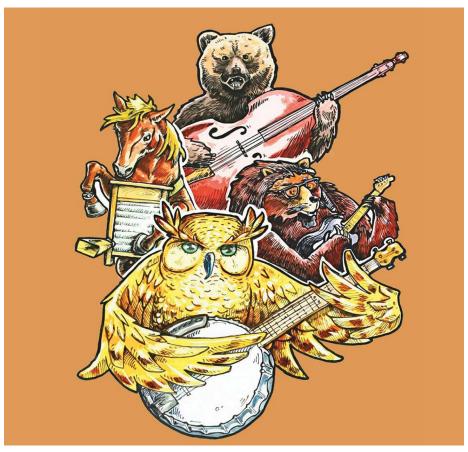
Tues., Feb. 14 • 5-8 p.m.

See website for menu Hwy 62 West • Eureka Springs • 479-253-5282

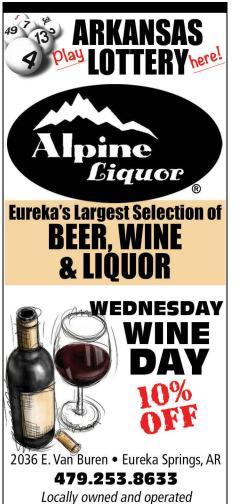


HWY 62 E. ONE BLOCK EAST FROM E.S. VISITOR CENTER





Ozark Mountain Music Festival this weekend at Basin Park Hotel Ballroom.





Fourth Annual Ozark Mountain Music Festival at Basin Park Hotel Ballroom

id-January has turned into a hot spot downtown! The Basin Park Hotel hosts the Ozark Mountain Music Festival featuring wonderful musical acts from all sorts of places. Things kick off Thursday with The Schwag, a Grateful Dead cover band with 20 years together, sometimes local acts Sad Daddy and Ponder the Albatross, a Saturday night headline show by Horseshoes and Hand Grenades, and a great Sunday brunch show at noon featuring Rozenbridge. For more info: ozarkmountainmusicfestival.com

THURSDAY, JANAURY 19

BASIN PARK HOTEL BAREFOOT BALLROOM - The Schwag, Grateful Dead Covers, 9 p.m.

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

EUREKA LIVE! - Green Screen Karaoke, 9 p.m.

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

LEGENDS SALOON - Another Turn, Rock, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 BASIN PARK HOTEL BAREFOOT



BALLROOM - AJ Gaither, 1 Man Band, 7 p.m., ClusterPluck, Americana, 9 p.m., The Squarshers, Americana, 11 p.m. BALCONY RESTAURANT - Jeff Lee, Folk, 5 p.m.

BREWS - Stephen Pruitt of Voxana, Singer/Songwriter, 6-9 p.m.

CATHOUSE LOUNGE - Jimmy Wayne Garrett and Liberty Bell Rhythm Band, Rock, 8 – 11 p.m.

CHELSEA'S - Irie Lions, Reggae, 9 p.m. EUREKA LIVE! - DJ and Dancing, 9

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

LEGENDS SALOON - DJ Karaoke with Stan, 8 p.m.

ROWDY BEAVER - 2 Dog 2 Karaoke, 7 p.m.

ROWDY BEAVER DEN - Josh

Newcom, Singer/Songwriter, 8 p.m. **SATURDAY, JANUARY 21**

BASIN PARK HOTEL BAREFOOT BALLROOM - High Plains Jamboree, Texas Bluegrass, 1 p.m., Sad Daddy, Local Folk, 3 p.m., Ponder the Albatross,

Americana, 5 p.m., The Fried Pies, Americana, 7 p.m., Horseshoes and Hand Grenades, Americana, 9 p.m., Fast Food Junkies, Americana, 11 p.m.

INDY SOUL continued on page 19

Wed. & Thurs. 5-close • Fri.-Sun. II-close • Happy Hour 5-8 Wed.-Fri.



DROPPINGA Line by Robert Johnson

Tith the cooler weather, not a lot of anglers have been out this last week and most of the guides are soaking up the sun in Florida or someplace warm with big fish. Or they're doing sport shows 'til March to book trips for the warmer weather around the corner.

My sidekick and 2nd boat, Johnny of big1sstriperguide, had a striper trip on Sun with Scott Logan from Springdale, getting two nice stripers right there in sight of Hwy. 12 bridge outside of Rogers. Water temp was down to 45° with cold drizzle, which put the bait and fish down close to 30 ft. deep.

With the warmer weather we're having this week it should come back up above 46°, so they should move back up on the flats again and be catchable freelining again without any weights.

Here at Holiday Island the walleye and spotted bass seem to be the most active, holding down about 18 ft. deep and moving up on the flats with the bait and a little Sun. We've got about six more weeks to go until all breaks loose, with most our fish moving up the creeks and rivers to spawn. Walleye are already up where they have current to lay their eggs.

Well, we're not doing any sport shows this year, just running our show special here and on line with the striper trips going for \$50 off for 2 people to fish any part of 2017 if in the books by the end of this month. So I'm working here getting all ready for March to come in full swing. And I'm staying warm. If the phone rings and somebody gets the fever then we can get the boat wet, but until



then she's staying nice and dry with me. If it doesn't ring I just might have to go down here at the Island when we hit that 60° mark again Thursday.

Well, that's it for this week. Stay warm and get your tackle in order for the days are getting longer, which also tells them fish what to do with them eggs.

DEPARTURE

Sharon Flory Lapping Jan. 22, 1953 – Jan. 13, 2017

Sharon "Shari" Flory Lapping, 63, of Eureka Springs, Ark., passed away Friday, Jan. 13, 2017 at Meadowview Nursing Home in Huntsville, Ark.. She was born January 22, 1953 in Omaha, Neb. Shari and her husband, Tom, were previous owners of Lazee Daze Log Cabin Resort in Eureka Springs.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Donald and Edna Flory; husband, Tom Lapping; sister, Donna Joan Callahan and brother, Phil Flory.

Survivors include two sisters, Pamela Flory of Tallahassee, Fla., and Elinor Brauning and husband, Homer, of Geneva, Neb.; sister-in-law, Ann Flory of Oceanside, Calif., and many nieces and nephews.

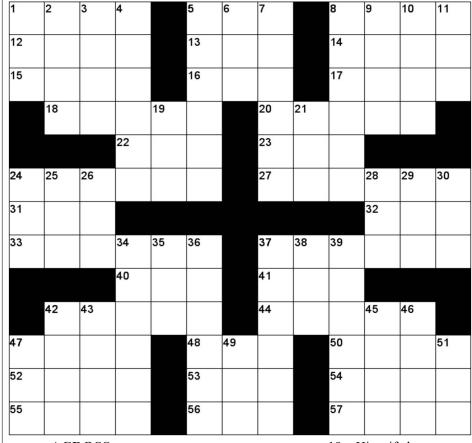
Memorials may be made to your local animal shelter in her name. A gathering will be held at a later date. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Madison County Funeral Service of Huntsville. Please visit www.madisoncountyfuneralservice. com to leave the family an online condolence



INDEPENDENTCrossword

by Mike Boian with extensive help from his wife, Ann

Solution on page 19



ACROSS

- 1. Rancher's unit
- 5. Teacher's favorite
- 8. Casual support
- Person, place or 12. thing
- 13. Expression of disgust
- 14. Hodgepodge
- 15. Exam
- 16. Crustacean eggs
- 17. Wearing apparel
- Financial transactions
- 20. Reflective
- 22. Payback?
- 23. Tiny charged particle
- 24. Slender
- 27. One liter beer mug
- 31. Important element of a solution
- Stand in arrears 32.
- 33. Germfree, uncontaminated
- 37. Fred Flintstone's buddy
- Make a mistake 40.
- 41. Index to quality of most wines
- 42. Helmet shaped

- structure
- 44. Outlaw's mark, perhaps
- 47. Wails
- 48. Oban's Little single malt
- 50. Wing shaped
- 52. Sign of holiness
- Half of a bikini
- 54. Very small quantity
- 55. Pippa's fiancé's troubled company Rock
- 56. Longing
- 57. Putin's denial

DOWN

- Predictable picnic 1. guest
- 2. Vassar, now
- 3. Sly trick
- 4. Involve
- 5. Try to catch, chase
- Number One concern 6.
- Central focus of term paper
- Enlightened Hindu female
- Impetuous ardor
- 10. Unsubstantial
- 11. Fireplace shelf

- 19. His wife became a pillar of salt
- 21. Thin out plants
- 24. Jamaican music
- 25. Annoy with trivial matters
- 26. Main feature of Cyclops
- 28. Put on
- 29. Ram's dam
- 30. Certain pewter
- 34. Half or full
- wrestling hold 35. Anger
- 36. Irritable
- 37. Famous tree in Lahaina
- 38. In the past
- 39. Hang on to
- 42. Urge forward, prod
- 43. Qualified and experienced
- 45. Become uninteresting
- through excess 46. Intensely dislike
- 47. Refers to a ship or country
- 49. Exists
- 51. Turn informer; squeal

INDEPENDENT Classifieds Material

The INDEPENDENT Classifieds cost \$8 for 20 words, each additional word is 25¢. **DEADLINE - Monday at noon** To place a classified, email Classifieds.Indie@gmail.com or call 479.253.6101

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLORA ROJA COMMUNITY ACUPUNCTURE & APOTHECARY -

Carrying over 300 organic herbs, teas and spices. Large selection of supplies for all your DIY natural health, home and body care needs. Open Monday-Saturday 11-6, 119 Wall Street. (479) 253-4968. www. florarojaacupuncture.com

SIMPLICITY COUNSELING "It's your time." A mental/emotional health therapy approach clients describe as deeper and more effective than any they 've ever had, often lifechanging. Depression, Anxiety, Self-Worth, Trauma, Grief, Codependency, Anger, Moods, Adjustment & Relationships. Call a licensed (LCSW) respectful, Professional (479) 244-5181, a unique therapist in Eureka Springs since 2008 who will be delighted to hear from you.

SPRINGS FARMERS' EUREKA MARKET Open Thursdays, 9 a.m.-noon. Vegetables and fruits, cheese, meat, eggs, honey and so much more. Come for the food, music and to be with your friends. Catch us on Facebook.

It's A Mystery BookStore

the gently-used book store featuring vintage, modern & classic reads on the Berryville Sq. www.itsmystery.net.

Local - Sourdough - Organic

IVAN'S ART BREAD

Farmers' Market Thursday 9-12 Sourdough Breakfast Bagels, Bialys, English, Crumpets Round Euro Rve Request line: (479) 244-7112

FIRE OM EARTH RETREAT CENTER

www.fireomearth.com 479-244-6273 Flutes, Drums, Ocarinas, Pottery. Call for studio hours, Classes, Trails, Nursery, Workshops, TaiChi, Yoga, Bellydance

PERSONALS

Dear parents,

Good party! Good road trip! Good visit! Had loads of fun! Table tennis and croquet for everyone. Come again soon.

PJP – A strange woman showed up on my deer camera. Made wanted posters and posted them all over town. She may be connected to the elf.

ANTIQUES

WONDERLAND ANTIQUES buys/ sells antiques, primitives, unique vintage items. Open 10-5. Closed Tuesday & Wednesday. Hwy 62 east of Eureka 3 miles. (479) 244-0943

AUTO FOR SALE

2004 FORD EXPLORER - Maintenance kept up. 92,000+ miles. Looks very good. (479) 981-6385

ESTATE SALE

HUGE ESTATE SALE – 4 Sunset Lane, Holiday Island, Ark., Friday, Jan. 20, 10-5; Saturday, Jan. 21, 10-5; Sunday, Jan. 22, 1-4. Cash only.

MISC. FOR SALE

GLASS RATTAN BAR SET with two cushion chairs and patio set (both never used outside). Bedroom set, fullsize Tempurpedic bed, books, pictures, amplifier, trendle bed and much more. (479) 981-6385

HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING PREP AND LINE COOKS. Apply in person at Pied Piper/ Cathouse, 82 Armstrong.

WANTED **FOOD DELIVERY DRIVERS** – Make great tips and delivery fee. Call Joe, (479) 304-8998.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for experienced kitchen staff. Please apply in person. Rocking Pig Saloon.

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN - Full or part-time. Call (479) 253-9751.

FULL-TIME LINE COOK AT ERMILIO'S

Apply in person Thursday through Sunday between 2-4 p.m.

ROWDY BEAVER HIRING COOKS.

\$10-\$13/hr. Start immediately. Apply at 417 W. Van Buren.



REAL ESTATE

HOMES FOR SALE

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

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.

2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, 900 sq. ft. with 200 sq. ft. storage. New paint, new heat/ air, private entrance, laundry hook-ups. All utilities/WiFi included. \$800/month, \$800/ deposit. (720) 212-8495.

COMMERCIAL FOR LEASE

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

RENTAL PROPERTIES COMMERCIAL FOR LEASE

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.arcoxmail.com

HOMES & STUDIOS FOR RENT

DOWNTOWNEUREKAFURNISHED RENTALS – Available Now-May 15, 2017. 2 studios & 2 bedroom home. Min. 4 month commitment. Possible long term year round for right renter. \$595, \$695 & \$1295 a month. INCLUDES: utilities, WiFi, cable, parking, patio. (479) 981-2507. No smoking/pets.

SMALL, BEAUTIFUL, SECLUDED HOUSE on East Mountain. Deposit and references required. (479) 253-8358

MOBILE HOME FOR RENT

3BR/2BA DOUBLE-WIDE MOBILE **HOME FOR RENT** – Nice clean home for rent. Private wooded views, nice deck and covered porch and storage. Has wood and linoleum floors, no carpeting. 3 miles west of Eureka on Hwy. 62. Water & trash included. Non-smoking, small pet ok, must have references. \$750/month. Ready for move-in. (479) 981-0706

SERVICE DIRECTORY

MAINTENANCE/ LANDSCAPE/ **HOME SERVICES**

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."

INDEPENDENT

ClassifiedsMaterial

SERVICE DIRECTORY

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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



INDY SOUL continued from page 16

BALCONY RESTAURANT – Catherine Reed, Singer/Songwriter, 12 p.m., Jeff Lee, Folk, 6 p.m.

BREWS - Jenny Parrott, Singer/ Songwriter, 6 - 9 p.m.

CATHOUSE LOUNGE – Septembers *End Duo*, Rock, 8 – 11 p.m.

CHELSEA'S - Chucky Waggs and Company of Raggs, Americana, 9 p.m.

EUREKA LIVE! - DJ & Dancing, 9 p.m. GRAND TAVERNE - Jerry Yester,

Singer/Songwriter, 6:30 p.m.

LEGENDS SALOON - Headley Lamar, Rock Ridge, 9 p.m.

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

ROWDY BEAVER - Josh Newcom, Singer/Songwriter, 7 p.m.

ROWDY BEAVER DEN - Jason Kinney Band, Singer/Songwriter, 8 p.m.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

MAINTENANCE/ LANDSCAPE/ **HOME SERVICES**

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

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

Taking a closer look at our community



SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

BASIN PARK HOTEL BAREFOOT BALLROOM - Rozenbridge, Americana,

BALCONY RESTAURANT – Steve Jones, Singer/Songwriter, 12 p.m. EUREKA LIVE! - Green Screen Karaoke, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

CHELSEA'S - Sprungbilly, Bluegrass, 9

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

CATHOUSE LOUNGE - Los Roscoes, Blues, 5 p.m.

CHELSEA'S - Open Mic, 9 p.m. **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25**

CATHOUSE - Jimmy Wayne Garrett.

Singer/Songwriter, 6 p.m. EUREKA LIVE! – DJ and Dancing, 9

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

SUN FEST continued from page 7

growing season. They have a good selection of fruit trees at prices that beat most big box

"We try to sell for a good price and we usually beat everybody's prices on bedding plants and fruit trees," Byerley.

Rods and reels and tackle at the

Money does grow on trees

Ozark AIDS Resources & Services took first place in the annual "growing" of a Christmas Forest at the Crescent Hotel with \$1,376 being raised. Arkansas Children's Hospital took second with \$1,349 and Good Shepherd Humane Society in third with \$178.

The Christmas Forest is illuminated on the first Saturday night in December and thru Dec. 31 those who go can

vote for their favorite tree by dropping one dollar into the ballot box for each vote they cast. On New Year's Day the votes are counted and each charity gets all their votes. The trees are stripped afterwards and donated to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge where they become cat toys for vbig cats.

Over the past eight years the Christmas Forest has raised more than \$27,000 for charities.

I've got a golden ticket; I've got a golden sun up in the sky

The 13th annual Chocolate Lovers' Festival will be on Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Best Western Inn of the Ozarks from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The event comes just in time for Valentine's Day with candy, cakes, chocolate novel items and body products. Vendors will showcase products and offer chocolate samples to attendees from organic and household brand names to select boutique labels.

This year will feature a Willy Wonka Room including pictures with Willy Wonka himself and boxes of chocolate with the chance at winning a Golden Ticket.

Admission to this year's event is \$15 per person when purchased online www.eurekaspringschamber.com or at the Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce. Admission at the door will be \$20. For more information about the event contact Jessica Wheeless at Jessica@eurekaspringschamber.com or call (479) 253-8737 or go online to www.eurekaspringschamber.com.

SCHOOL BOARD continued from page 5

36 students three or four times each week. "We try to close the gap and boost their confidence," she said.

Carol Cross is the middle school Alternative Learning Environment teacher, and has nine students every morning, and as many as four others might come in the afternoon. She provides help with learning English, math and social studies. Principal Cindy Holt added students of all grade levels move in and out of the program. Cross said parents are relieved to know there is a place where their child can get extra attention, and their involvement makes a big difference in the student's success.

Principal Kathy Lavender noted the high school is experiencing fewer failures and more students in the Renaissance program for students with A's and B's. Eighty of 200 students are in the program.

Lavender also announced the Be Pro Be Proud semi with its workshop-on-wheels trailer will park at Eureka Springs High School Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 13-14. The BPBP trailer unfolds to reveal a series of educational stations with tools from various trades. The trailer can accommodate no more than 20 people at a time. Lavender said the event is sponsored by the Arkansas Chamber of Commerce.

Supt. Bryan Pruitt presented board president Chris McClung the Outstanding Board Member award for participating in more than 25 hours of board member training.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 5:30 p.m.

grocery store? You bet. Gardening isn't for evervone.

Another thing customers like is the convenience of going to shopping center where you can go to a hardware store, grocery store, post office and Fred's.

Sunfest is open everyday from 7 a.m. $-9 \, \text{p.m.}$





(479) 253-7508

119 Greenwood Hollow Road • Eureka Springs

Domestic and Foreign

Welding

Brakes and Oil Changes

...and if you neglect to winterize, we offer

24 Hour Wrecker Service

*Califinator Pin causes mysterious noises

Front End Alignment Specialist