



**Introducing ... the Indie!** – Jim Nelson, artist and owner of the James Andrew Nelson Gallery on Spring Street, has the distinct honor of creating the first-ever Indie Award for the Eureka Springs Indie Film Fest. Each statue is being hand-carved, stained and signed by Nelson as a unique piece of art on its own. Designed by Sandy Martin, Chair of the Eureka Springs Arts Council, the Indie icon can be created in several types of materials – the idea being that a different artist would produce the Indie Award each year, making it a one-of-a-kind and truly Eureka trophy. “It sure fits the independent spirit ... I can see these becoming a sought after collectible for the filmmakers. It’s a cool idea and very Eureka!” Nelson said.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

## SWEPCO northern route runs into opposition

BECKY GILLETTE

Arkansas Public Service Commission (ASPC) Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Connie Griffin filed an order Jan. 17 giving the green light to American Electric Power (AEP) subsidiary Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) to construct and operate a new 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Shipe Road station to the proposed Kings River Station, and to build a new \$20-million 345 kV station on SWEPCO-owned property next to the Kings River northwest of Berryville.

Because of the pro-utility cartel bias of the APSC, the judge’s approval of a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (CECPN) for AEP/SWEPCO was not a surprise to most people. But it did catch people by surprise that northern Route 109 was chosen. Route 109 would save the communities of Pea Ridge, Gateway and Garfield from having a large power line down the center of their towns,

**SWEPCO** continued on page 23

### This Week’s INDEPENDENT Thinker

Dame Vivienne Westwood, English fashion designer and businesswoman, wants public support to make environmental destruction a crime, forcing responsibility on businesses for ecocidal actions. This includes the highly controversial practice of fracking, which looks set to go ahead in the UK and other European countries despite widespread protests and huge public opposition.

Westwood believes monetary fines do not deter corporations, as they simply factor fines into the cost of doing business and the profits are well worth the risk. She stated, as blunt as ever, “Our financial rulers and the politicians who help them are playing a giant game of Monopoly with the world’s finite resources. But you can’t play Monopoly when everybody’s dead.”



PHOTO CREDIT: EPA/ANDY RAIN

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# INDEPENDENTNews

## HISID lawsuit settlement approved

BECKY GILLETTE

In approving a settlement Tuesday in the class action lawsuit by David Bischoff v. the Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District (HISID), Circuit Court Judge on Assignment, David Clinger, praised both sides for coming to a mediated agreement regarding how HISID determines charges to property owners for Assessment of Benefit (AOB) fees to pay for infrastructure such as water, sewer and roads.

Clinger said only one “well articulated” objection to the settlement was filed, that by Rebecca Sherman.

He said while the complaint by Bischoff was well drafted, it was a very complex case. Clinger said he felt it was a righteous lawsuit, but potential outcome if the parties were to proceed in court could well have been the opening of a Pandora’s box. Clinger said this type of lawsuit has the potential for unintentionally destroying governmental bodies.

The judge added that stakes were very high, with both sides of the lawsuit presenting valid positions, and there was great value in the case being decided in such a way that preserves a way of life and property values in Holiday Island. “The approval of this settlement is in the best interests of all parties,” he said.

Early in Tuesday’s proceeding Bischoff’s attorney, Tim Hutchinson, gave a summary saying a major issue was the

failure of HISID to account for a reduction in principal each year for the AOB. He said SIDs are a financing mechanism by which bonds can be issued to pay for improvements such as water and sewer plants and roads, which are then repaid by people who purchase property in the SID. He said AOBs are, by law, carried forward as a lien on the property. But SIDs are not allowed taxation powers under Arkansas law.

The plaintiff contended that for about 30 years HISID had been levying AOBs without notifying property owners of what amount of the fees paid was for the principal and how much was interest. Class members weren’t sure of how much they still owned on AOB. In the settlement, the 2011 reassessment of benefits stands, but property owners will now receive a bill regarding how much is principal and how much is interest.

Previously, HISID could have charged up to 17 percent interest – the maximum interest rate allowed by Arkansas law – on AOBs, and all accrued interest not collected each year could have been carried forward to be added to the principal. That unlimited compounding could have made the AOB balance owed go up quickly each year. The settlement caps the amount of interest HISID may charge at six percent, unless HISID is carrying bonds charging greater than that amount.

**HISID** continued on page 24



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## Patience running thin waiting for new hospital

NICKY BOYETTE

The Eureka Springs Hospital Commission had a heart-to-heart with Eureka Springs Hospital CEO Chris Bariola at its Jan. 20 meeting. Chair Michael Merry told Bariola people are asking whether Eureka Springs will be getting a new hospital, and he wants to know what to tell them.

Rock Bordelon, CEO of Allegiance, the for-profit company which leases management of ESH, attended the April 15, 2013 commission meeting and told commissioners he was in a position to buy property for the new facility, and would get his staff to begin identifying a location. As for a time frame, Bordelon replied, "If we can make some agreements, we're ready to start now." He said he would pursue securing land, and the attorneys of the two parties would need to sort out the options for cooperation.

No commissioner has heard from Bordelon since that meeting.

Bariola attended commission meetings throughout the summer, and reported progress was being made on procuring property. However, he told commissioners in October of new proposed federal budget legislation that would preclude there being two critical care access hospitals within 15 miles of each other, and ESH is 14.3 miles from Mercy in Berryville. Bariola said Allegiance's plan went on hold as a precautionary move, and they now are looking to identify land outside the 15-mile line.

At Monday's meeting, Bariola still held that things had been in place for a deal to buy land until they heard about the proposed law, and they are not willing to risk investors' money unwisely.

He said they had even talked about rebuilding the existing building, but improvements they could make would be limited, space would still be cramped and only 14.3 miles from a slightly bigger

critical care hospital.

Commissioner Mary Jean Sell stated regarding Allegiance, "We had a solemn promise from seven years ago to build a hospital."

Bariola insisted the desire to build a hospital is still alive, and pointed out there is more to building a hospital than finding land and hiring a contractor.

Jerry Ahlman, a citizen attending the meeting, spoke up. "I've been hearing this for seven years," he said. "There's always a delay, something always comes up, and now we're seeing further delay." He cited concerns about condition of the facility and whether it would still be standing at the end of the lease with Allegiance. He asked when the public would see plans for a new hospital. "We need you to step up and give us a plan! People are getting fed up!"

Bariola said the hospital gets assessed annually on all phases, including the physical plant, and always passes. There had also been refurbishing and reinforcing work done in some areas commissioners were unaware of. Also, he reiterated there had been money spent on trying to get property but the deal fell through. He thinks the wise move would be to find a place outside the 15-mile radius.

Commissioner Suzanne Tourtelot told Bariola the hospital needs to work on its public relations because some people in town just will not go there. There is an attitude about ESH, and "people don't know how good a hospital it is," she said.

Chair Michael Merry then said, "Allegiance making a commitment to the public to build a hospital would mean a lot, and local support is critical to getting it built."

Commissioner Jack Pritchard looked at Bariola and asked, "Who will stand up and move this forward?"

Bariola answered, "We have spent time planning."

Ahlman said he saw Siloam

Springs get a new hospital. Maybe the circumstances were different, but, "They got a hospital, and we have yet to see progress, just more promises."

"We want to build it. Our goal is to build a hospital," Bariola said. He said the first step would be to negotiate contracts, but he is not the negotiator. And before any plans go far, federal agencies such as Medicare would have to bless different aspects of the move, and those timelines are out of everyone's control.

"Yes, we are moving forward. I would not sit here and lie to you," he said.

There will more discussion at the February meeting.

### New ambulance for ESFD?

Commissioners voted to have their attorney confirm whether they can give money to the city for buying a special new ambulance for ESFD, which might cost \$300,000.

### Other things...

- The "Lunch and Learn" educational

forums that acquaint the public with different physicians and specialists in the vicinity have been postponed until further notice.

- The commission voted to retain the same slate of officers: Chair – Michael Merry; Secretary – Mary Jean Sell; Treasurer – Robert Walling.

- Bariola said ESH now has fully implemented its electronic medical records. He said a specialist anywhere can see a patient's records if ESH allows them in. Since different facilities might use different software, not everyone is speaking yet, but Bariola sees at some point the changeover will be a timesaver.

- Bariola also reported a stay in the ESH emergency room, from showing up to leaving, averaged 115 minutes over the past year. The national average is three hours.

Next meeting will be Monday, Feb. 17, at 1 p.m. at ECHO Clinic.

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 4PM-Ozark Rm~Tyrannosaurus Chicken  
 6PM-Ballroom~SX Rex  
 8PM-Ozark Rm~Ben Miller Band  
 10PM-Ballroom~National Park Radio  
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### Coffee Social Jan. 23

The public is invited to a Coffee Social at the Berryville Community Center Thursday, Jan. 23, at 10:45 a.m. Coffee, refreshments, and fun will be provided as well as information about our Silver Sneaker program. Please spread the word and bring friends. Come start off the New Year with good health, good fun, and good friendships!

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# INDEPENDENTNews

## Life in the ER

NICKY BOYETTE

“The beauty of the emergency room is you don’t know what to expect,” Angie Shaw, emergency room director at Eureka Springs Hospital, said. For example, on a typical, uneventful afternoon in June 2011, ESH staff got word there was a busload of ill passengers in town, 25 of whom would be arriving soon at ESH.

So, Shaw said, they went to work. Extra doctors and nurses were called in. “As patients started arriving, we triaged them and placed them in rooms according to level of sickness.” She said ESH has three emergency rooms, but they had these patients all over the hospital. However, everything went as well as could be expected.

And there was a time when several motorcyclists arrived with bat bites.

Shaw said ER treats an average of eight patients each day. “All patients that present to be seen in our ER receive a medical screening by a physician

regardless of their financial status or if they have an ID. We see everyone who walks through our doors to be seen.”

She added there would always be at least one nurse and one physician in the ER, as well as ancillary staff for testing or assistance.

Vicki Andert, director of Nursing, said ESH is a Level 4 trauma center, which means ESH meets nationwide standards for advanced trauma care, and its equipment has been upgraded to provide this level of service and the nurses and resident physicians have received advanced trauma care instruction. The nursing staff has a collective 195 years of experience. The average time in the ER from showing up needing services to leaving was 115 minutes last year.

Since autumn 2012, the hospital has participated with the Sessions Group to provide board-certified trauma physicians in the ER. “And they are in the building,” Chris Bariola, CEO of ESH, said. “Not across the street or across town, they are here, and that decreases waiting times for patients.” He said their focus in ER is pain management – get relief for the patient as quickly as possible. He was pleased they get high marks on patient satisfaction ratings.

Eight patients per day means almost 3000 in a year, and Shaw said over time you think you have seen it all. Some days it will start with a fracture, and for some reason other people think they should have a fracture, too, so the ER might see a rash of fractures that day, but you never know.

They’ve seen multi-vehicle accidents that produced numerous

victims with various injuries. They’ve treated patients who fell from horses or were trampled by livestock. Injuries from saws and axes span the seasons. There were so many fishhook injuries one summer, ER kept a trophy board with all the fishhooks.

Visitors in the summer have difficulty with Eureka Springs sidewalks, and there is slipping and sliding on ice in the winter. Andert remarked the recent storms were so bad few went out in the weather, so there were fewer than usual injuries.

But for Bariola, Andert and Shaw, the bottom line is care of patients when they need it. “ESH rates among the highest in the state in core measures implemented by Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care,” Andert pointed out. Also, a hospital rating agency scored ESH at 95 percent in patient satisfaction.

Andert commented, “Critical Care Access Hospitals are important to the community because we provide immediate care. A patient does not need to be transported an hour or more before seeing a physician. In severe cases, we stabilize a patient here, then transport by ambulance or helicopter.”

This autumn, ESH will pass its 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of providing quality health care for people in Carroll County. ESH sports ancillary services including urology, respiratory therapy, physical therapy, dermatology, and an outpatient psychiatric clinic in addition to its highly-rated ER.

Andert commented, “The people of this community can be proud of the quality of care and concern offered by the staff of the hospital.”

## Templar “way” explained Jan. 26

There will be a presentation at the Carnegie Library Annex at 2 p.m. Jan. 26 on the common “way” of the Templar and Japanese Samurai in Meditation by Abbot Dr. David Michael, LD.HKt.B.

## Let the good eats roll!

### Rolling restaurant ribbon cutting Jan. 23

A Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the new Café Roulant will be held at the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center Thursday, Jan. 23, at 5 p.m. All are welcome to come celebrate and welcome this new business to the community!

## Quorum court hears from sheriff; talks money

NICKY BOYETTE

Carroll County Sheriff Bob Grudek expressed concern about financial thunderclouds looming over the county at the Jan. 17 Carroll County Quorum Court meeting, and told the court his office has been criticized for his policy of not accepting prisoners with medical problems and insistence that CCSO stop paying for services that should be paid for by the cities. He claimed it is the responsibility of the cities to pay for the medical expenses according to an agreement signed in 2004 by County Judge Phil Jackson and city officials. Last year his department spent \$62,000 for medical expenses for prisoners.

He acknowledged Mayor Charles Reece of Green Forest for reaching out to him in an effort to work out issues with the sheriff's department.

Grudek said this issue, as with many other quorum court concerns, comes down to budget. He said the county could not continue holding back raises. His staff of 64, including jail and dispatch, have not had a raise in three years. The turnover rate in the jail and dispatch is 50 percent, and he said the county is

lucky the number is not worse. Some of his former deputies have moved on to positions offering considerably more pay. Every time a staff member moves on, the county loses the investment in training.

Justice of the Peace John Howerton stated the obvious: "We have no money in the county for raises." No one disagreed.

Also related to the budget, JP Ron Flake suggested a possible revenue source for the county would be to follow up more consistently on collecting fines and fees owed the county. He said there could be two million dollars out there waiting to be collected. One plan he offered was to let the sheriff use night dispatchers to help circuit clerk Ramona Wilson's staff identify possible fines they could track down for collection. Then, after a year, assess the situation and maybe consider hiring a private company to find more nonpayers.

There was much procedural explanation about the difference between how district court and circuit court handle warrants. JP Gaylon Riggs added there is also a distinction between a court

issue and a law enforcement issue, and Wilson threw in that sometimes a judge will waive a fine so she cannot collect it. Also, some folks die owing money.

JP Tim Garrison commented he did not see this effort leading to much revenue. He claimed many of the miscreants do not have any money to pay fines so they go to jail where they still cannot pay, and get out even worse off.

"You'll solve that issue the same time you solve the barking dog issue," observed Tim McKinney, mayor of Berryville. He did not see the scheme as a great source of income. He asked, "How many man hours are you willing to spend to collect a \$100 fine?"

Howerton told the group the budget committee is trying to educate itself on ways to generate more money for the county. He said rural counties in the Ozarks always feel an economic pinch last but also recover last, and he warned, "We

must at some point consider raising the sales tax unless things really turn around."

Flake replied, "It would be a tough sell to get a sales tax. We've got to squeeze revenue wherever we can find it."

### Committee complexion

Judge Sam Barr announced committee assignments for 2014:

Budget – Gaylon Riggs, Joe Mills, Jack Deaton; County Facilities and Properties – Lamont Richie, Matt Phillips, Joe Mills; Public Water Development – Ron Flake, John Howerton, Don McNeely; Personnel – Jack Deaton, Tim Garrison, Gaylon Riggs; County Finance – Larry Swofford, Tim Garrison, Matt Phillips; County Library – John Reeve, Ron Flake, Lamont Richie.

Next meeting will be 10 a.m., Friday, Feb. 28. This meeting is one week later than usual because some county officials have prior obligations on Feb. 21.

### Flapjacks for furbabies – "bone" appetit!

The First United Methodist Church, 195 Huntsville Road (Hwy. 23S), is hosting a Pancake Breakfast Saturday, Jan. 25, to help the Good Shepherd Humane Society recoup revenue lost from having to close both Doggie Thrift Shops for nine days during December and January snowstorms.

The fun begins at 7:30 a.m. and goes to 11:30. Bring the whole family to feast on pancakes (gluten-free available), bacon or sausage and your choice of coffee or juice. Tickets are \$8 adults and \$3 for kids 12 and under.

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## State of county – are we out of the hole yet?

NICKY BOYETTE

Is there a glimmer of recovery in our economy? Is there something we can look forward to this year, like raises?

NBC News reported on Dec. 30, “Recent job gains and record highs in the stock market are signs that the U.S. economy is strengthening, leading many economists to believe job growth will continue into 2014.” The report noted the number of new claims for unemployment benefits fell slightly more than expected which indicates an economy continuing to gain steam. The same source reported on Jan. 9 market indicators paint an upbeat picture of the jobs market and the overall economy.

So what about Carroll County? What is the attitude of locals?

“Cautious optimism” is the perspective of Mike Maloney, executive director of the City Advertising and Promotion Commission. “I feel pretty good about what I see up ahead.” In

his encounters, he has heard tentative enthusiasm bubbling through the business community. Maloney does not expect double-digit improvement, but “maybe eight or nine percent.”

Cindy Collins, county treasurer, said she has seen improvements already in some parts of the economy, but she does not anticipate either big reductions in revenue or increases in expenses. She is still assessing the impact to the county of a new state law that will reduce taxes for poultry farmers, thereby reducing county revenue. Nevertheless, her attitude is similar to Maloney’s: “I tend to be positive but cautious.”

Lonnie Clark, Eureka Springs finance director, was less tepid. “It’s going to be a year of continued improvement,” he said. “There is more enthusiasm. Housing and jobs are rebounding slowly nationwide.” He sees confidence in the economy “in an upward mode, nothing dramatic but positive.” He said city workers might even

see a raise.

Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Mike Bishop is also encouraged. He noted last year’s tax collections in Eureka Springs were up only a miniscule amount but in a tough economy, so he sees things in place for a better year.

City council alderman Mickey Schneider, who manages five businesses downtown, was conflicted, but expects the local economy to stay about the same, maybe improve a bit. As for raises for workers? “Don’t see it happening.”

Charles Reece is the mayor of Green Forest, and when asked if he sees an opportunity for improvement in the economy, he responded, “It can’t get much worse!” He has learned, though, small towns in the Ozarks are the last to see a recession set in and the last to see the recovery. Nevertheless, he sees “glimmers of growth” in Green Forest.

He said within the last six months, three businesses – two restaurants and one manufacturer – have contacted him about moving to Green Forest. He also noted three new homes are being built in Green Forest, which is three more than he has seen in awhile.

Reece also pointed out his city has always been aggressive about rewarding deserving employees with merit increases, and the Green Forest city council passed a budget for 2014 at its Jan. 13 meeting that included a ten percent raise for Green Forest police. He hopes the trend continues into the community at large.

Berryville’s mayor, Tim McKinney, said things in his town are “picking up but not booming. Major employers like LaBarge and Tyson are holding on pretty well, and things are not as tough as they were a few years ago,” he noted.

He said the Berryville city council is looking to partner with the Chamber of Commerce to find a professional who can help them improve their internet presence and recruit businesses to town. He said, however, that expansion comes with maintenance costs and a city or a business must plan responsibly.

Justice of the Peace John Howerton leans toward optimism. “Within a couple of years, we should look better,” he stated at a Carroll County Quorum Court Budget Committee meeting. Fellow J.P. Lamont Richie demurred. He predicted the county would not see an increase in revenue for at least two years, and he does not see property values increasing. He pointed out Eureka Springs – a barometer for how the county is doing – has been flat.

JP Ron Flake also had a glum outlook. He thinks the county is in no shape now to consider raises for its employees and the quorum court must conscientiously look for new ways to increase revenue and watch expenses. He was not optimistic for a quick resurgence in the county’s economy.

Some saw barren ground while others saw the place where corn is going to grow, but, as Clark observed, “We’re all ready to turn over a new leaf.”

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### Ozark Mountain Music Fest lineup

*New indoor music festival will go on – weather or not!*

A three-day music festival held in various spaces at the Basin Park Hotel begins Friday, Jan. 24, featuring some of the best entertainment in the area.

Friday’s shows begin at 6 p.m. with HonkySuckle, Wink Burcham (Tulsa) and 3-Penny Acre.

On Saturday, music continues at noon and concludes with a midnight jam. Featured artists are the Hogscalders, Pearl Brick, Tyrannosaurus Chicken (Fort Smith),

SX Rex, the Ben Miller Band (Joplin) and National Park Radio (Harrison).

The festival closes Sunday with Handmade Moments (Conway/Fayetteville) taking the stage at noon.

All-access passes are \$45 and can be purchased online at [www.reserveeureka.com](http://www.reserveeureka.com). For room packages, venue details, updates and more, see [www.ozarkmountainmusicfestival.com](http://www.ozarkmountainmusicfestival.com) on the web and on Facebook.

## Airport commission tussles with tenacious tenancy

NICKY BOYETTE

The Carroll County Airport Commission spent a hard two hours last Thursday trying to resolve tough lease negotiations over hangar spaces. Legal counsel attended for one discussion, which was what to do next about the expired lease with CCA Properties, and Larkin Floyd who rents hangar space for his business, Tristate Airmotive, and sublets hangar spaces as well.

The subject was first discussed at the October meeting, and Floyd told commissioners he had a copy of minutes, somewhere, from one of their long ago meetings in which the commission said it would notify him if his lease payments were overdue. Commission members did not remember this agreement. Former airport manager Sheila Evans said she searched through 15 years of records and did not find such a statement.

According to Evans, Floyd had not paid his rent for two years as of October 2013, nor did he provide insurance or get a business license. "Leases are contracts... he knew what he owed," she said.

Commissioner Dave Teigen stated, "We are not responsible for Floyd's actions, but the problem is we did not do everything we could have to avoid this predicament."

The commission asked Floyd to produce the statement by the November meeting, but nothing was produced. Commissioners agreed to give their attorney, Jim Sprot, a new proposed lease to present to Floyd's attorney,

Wade Williams. The commission expected a yes or no decision within ten days of Williams receiving the new lease.

Floyd and Williams attended the December meeting, and Williams said they had a check on hand for the unpaid amount and asked commissioners to reinstate the old lease. The commission wrestled with the circumstance, but eventually agreed to give Floyd until the January meeting to agree or disagree to the terms of the new lease.

January 16 rolled around, and what commissioners received in response was a counteroffer from Larkin because he said the terms of the new lease were unacceptable. Frustration among commissioners was palpable.

Chair Lonnie Clark said they had given Floyd 30 days to decide and his time was up. He said the moment had come for appropriate action. Teigen insisted Floyd had presented a counteroffer and commissioners had not seen it. Though this was not exactly what they wanted, he thought the commission should consider it within a prompt timeframe and resolve the issue.

Clark said the period for negotiation had passed. He said Floyd never produced the document he claimed in autumn he "had and had not" complied at any point.

Teigen insisted commissioners should see the suggestions Floyd offered.

Commissioner Lester Ward moved to proceed with an eviction lawsuit.

"We've waited long enough."

More points and counterpoints bounced around, but the vote on Ward's motion was 1-4, Teigen and commissioners Mark Mallet, Ron Rupe and Lloyd Jones voting No.

Then Rupe moved to hear Floyd's counteroffer within 14 working days with all commissioners in attendance along with attorneys for both sides. That vote was 5-0. A special meeting will be called by airport manager Dana Serrano.

### Another lease

Danny Hendricks, representing his business, Flight School of the Ozarks, announced last spring his intention to lease two of the eight new hangars being planned.

Since then, he and others created the Flight Club of the Ozarks, a separate nonprofit entity. Discussions about the hangars through the months became clouded when the Flight Club somehow became involved with leasing the spaces

along with Hendricks' Flight School.

Now that the hangars almost ready for use, the commission needed to sort out who is leasing what.

Commissioners wanted to be clear who was taking responsibility and Hendricks replied, "Makes no difference to us. We can sign and pay the full amount today."

Their proposal was to lease one hangar for ten years for \$10,000 and another one for five years for \$5000. The commission voted to accept the proposal with both entities signing.

### Trophy cases

The good news was the long-awaited display cases to house the donation of model airplanes finally arrived. However, the three cases were still sitting at the front door because they were too heavy to move inside. Serrano will find a moving company to help.

Next regular meeting will be 12 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 20.

## Wanted! Lovers of song

If you love to sing, The Holiday Island Singers would love to have you. The group includes singers from Northwest Arkansas and Southwest Missouri.

Spring concert rehearsals began Wednesday, Jan. 22 at the Holiday Island Country Club Ballroom at 1:15 pm. If you can commit to Wednesday afternoon rehearsals from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. and have some singing experience, please come join the Singers.

The Spring Concert, "Love American Style," will portray through music the many ways we celebrate love in America. If you have any questions, please call Tim Szafranski, Holiday Island Singers Board President (479) 253-5188.

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- **Coffee Break Al-Anon Family Group Women** – Tuesdays, 9:45 a.m., Faith Christian Family Church, Hwy. 23S. (479) 363-9495.
- **First United Methodist Church offers free Sunday suppers** 5:30 – 7 p.m. Hwy. 23S. Night Church at 6 with short message and music. (479) 253-8987
- **St. James' Episcopal Church hosts community Sunday Night Suppers from 5 – 6:30 p.m.** at St. James' Church, 28 Prospect, until March. The suppers are for the community, especially those who are out of work, and are provided at no charge by area restaurants and others. (479) 253-8610.
- **GRIEF SHARE** 13-week grief recovery program begins Oct. 13. Sundays 2 – 4 p.m. HI Community Church Fellowship Hall library (188 Stateline Drive). Join at any time. \$15 workbook fee required. For details phone (479) 253-8925, or e-mail lardellen@gmail.com.

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

- **Alateen** – Sundays, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Email alateen1st@gmx.com or phone (479) 981-9977.
- **Overeaters Anonymous** – Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Barbara (479) 244-0070.
- **Narcotics Anonymous** – Fridays, 5:30 p.m. (903) 278-5568
- **Al-Anon Family Group (AFG)** – Sundays, 11:30 a.m., Mondays and Tuesdays 7 p.m.
- **Eureka Springs Coffee Pot AA Group**  
Monday – Saturday 12:30 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.  
Sunday – Thursday, Saturday, 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday and Friday, 8 p.m. (479) 253-7956  
Al-Anon, Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.  
All other meetings: See www.nwarkaa.org

## Clear Spring students “table” YAC grant funds

Thanks to a grant from Carroll County Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Council (YAC), there's a new picnic table at Cardinal Spring Wetland Rain Garden – a gift from Clear Spring School made possible by the YAC grant they received.

Clear Spring was one of several local non-profit groups awarded grant money in 2013 for a project benefitting area youth. Their grant provided funds for two wooden tables intended to promote education and enjoyment in nature. Students assembled and painted the tables, led by their YAC members Rachel Guillory, Raven Leggett and Siddhartha Torre-Frost.

One picnic table will remain on campus to facilitate the outdoor classroom experience, and the other is a gift to Eureka Springs Parks and the community who will enjoy visiting the Rain Garden at Cardinal Spring Watershed Park off Fuller Street near Harmon Park.

Both Harmon and Cardinal Spring are welcome areas of study and enrichment for students of all ages. Clear Spring students were involved



**Table toppers** – Front, from left, Josie Muskrat, Raven Leggett, Rachel Guillory and Siddhartha Torre-Frost. Back row, from left, Mark Rhame, Scott Rodier, David Zho, Hendrik Pot and Courtney Scemimi. The Clear Spring School students, led by their YAC team, created two beautiful outdoor tables with YAC grant funds.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

in the Park's Cardinal Spring Wetland Rain Garden and Trail dedication ceremony last spring, and were happy to add another attractive feature to the area. Outdoor education and community

service are integral aspects to Clear Spring's curriculum, and the YAC Grant facilitated both. To learn more about the school, visit [www.ClearSpringSchool.org](http://www.ClearSpringSchool.org).

## Movie night classics begin at high school

Some time ago, Eureka Springs High School purchased a license to screen feature films for the public in its comfortable new theater, starting with some of the all-time classics – but the first two showings got canceled by winter weather.

Happily, things are back on schedule beginning Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. in the high school's comfy theater.

According to parent and supporter Michael Boardman, his idea was to provide a way for students and the public to see good movies at a reasonable price and use movie night to raise money to support the drama club as well as other student organizations.

The only catch is, the license has a quirk that doesn't allow the school to publicly state the name of the movie, so clues will be provided. For instance; the movie scheduled Friday, Jan. 24 is based on a John Steinbeck novel featuring a sometimes-hotheaded Tom Joad.

Stumped? You can always call the

high school office and get the name of the movie. Admission is \$2 per person, \$1 for students. Popcorn and water will be for sale to start up the concession fundraiser, which may be expanded.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and the movie begins promptly at 7. *There will be no admittance allowed once the movie has started.* “Once the movie has started people will not be able to come in late because we really want the quality of the experience to be the best we can provide,” Boardman said.

Some movies are based on books which may be required reading in various schools, and certain ESHS teachers may offer extra credit for a report on the movie. Some of the well-known films have a serious social comment if not an outright impact. “They're movies we think kids should see,” Boardman said.

Once the school recoups the cost of the license, funds from admission and concessions will be used to purchase

necessary equipment for the drama club and for other school projects.

Movie nights will start with some classics but the school is open for suggestions about future movies and the times they are offered. Anyone with fundraising ideas for concessions or suggestions for movies should speak with principal Kathryn Lavender at the high school (479) 253-8875.

## STO public meeting Jan. 30

Save The Ozarks will hold a public meeting Thursday, Jan. 30, 6 p.m., at the auditorium. STO officers will offer updates on ‘what's next,’ since the AL Judge's ruling on the proposed SWEPCO high-voltage transmission line from Shipe Rd. to the Kings River in Berryville. A question and answer period will follow.

## Planning OKs house move

NICKY BOYETTE

Monte Taft told the Planning Commission at its Jan. 14 meeting that the First United Methodist Church on Huntsville Rd. has a house on its property it wants to get rid of. The church gave the house to him, and he wants to move it around the corner onto his property at 5 Gretna Green.

He said he intends to maintain a single-family home there. To move the house onto the property, he will need to cut several trees, so he had to apply for a tree cut permit and approval of his plan to move the house.

To start the meeting, Planning held a public hearing regarding moving the house onto the Gretna Green property. Vice-chair James Morris, who ran the meeting, presented letters that raised concerns about the move, and commissioners read them into the record. Concerns included additional strain on

the two-inch water line that services the whole street. Also, neighbors had heard Taft planned a multi-family dwelling on the property, so there were concerns about too many people driving on the narrow dirt street.

Jim Berney, nearby neighbor, came to the meeting to oppose having a multi-family dwelling on Gretna Green, but he was okay with Taft's single-family plan. He cited other issues such as trash pickup and water flow, and if a house could even be moved down the street. Taft replied he had spoken with Public Works about the water line and was confident if there were a problem it would not be hard to fix. He also said he would help maintain the road. He expected there to be "a night and day difference" for the property once he gets the house in place and has a chance to landscape the property.

Berney was satisfied with Taft's answers, especially the single-family part.

Commissioner Steve Beacham again asked Taft to address all concerns presented in the letters, and in the end Beacham was satisfied as well.

Commissioner Pat Lujan commented that Public Works would assess the circumstances and not let a bad situation occur.

Convened as BOZA, commissioners approved the tree cut after Taft assured them he wanted to "make it look nice," and would plant trees to fill in once he gets a lawn growing. He also mentioned high school students would cut some of the trees into firewood as part of a class, and sell it to pay for other activities.

Convened back to Planning, commissioners unanimously approved moving the house.

### Other things

- On the agenda was the vacation of Sweeney Alley, a platted plot between Water and Douglas Sts. totally surrounded by the property of Jeff and Kay Franco.

Commissioners had made a site visit, and Beacham said, "It looks like it needs to be vacated." Vote to approve the vacation was unanimous.

- Commissioners agreed to drop from their agenda revising City Code to allow farm animals in residential zones.

- Morris announced City Economic Development Coordinator Glenna Booth saw problems regarding parking with the rezoning of South Main to C-1. Lujan pointed out businesses downtown are not required to provide parking so he did not see a problem.

Commissioner Ed Leswig stated if there were a specific problem they would deal with it. Otherwise, he thought they should drop it from the agenda, and they did.

- Officers elected for 2014 are James Morris, chair; Ed Leswig, vice-chair; Denys Flaherty, secretary.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 6 p.m.

## Take the plunge for Special Olympics Arkansas

*Go freezin' for a reason with the chosen frozen Jan. 25*

The always-fun Polar Plunge, coordinated by Special Olympics Arkansas (SOA) and the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, will take place at the Beaver Park swim area Saturday, Jan. 25, at 11 a.m.



The annual fundraising event continues to grow each year and attracts "polar bears" both young and old. Teams already signed up include a City of Eureka Springs team, public school team, student team and many individuals.

So gather your pledges, get a team and some crazy costumes together and sign up now at [www.specialolympicsarkansas.org](http://www.specialolympicsarkansas.org) and win some prizes – cash and otherwise. Click on Polar Plunge and go to the Eureka Springs signup page.

You can also gather pledges online! Just follow the instructions on the brochure on the signup page to set up an online donation page. And don't forget to check out the list of contests and prizes to be awarded at the Plunge!

Too chicken to plunge? For a minimum \$25 donation you can have a long sleeved 'I Chick-ened Out' shirt. You can even form your own Chickened Out team and hunt and peck your way over to the Chickened Out table to meet other peeps and claim your shirt.

Join friends and neighbors and go "Freezin' for a Reason" in support of the athletes of SOA! If you can't attend but want to donate to this important program, you can do so at [www.firstgiving.com/soar/beaverparkplunge](http://www.firstgiving.com/soar/beaverparkplunge).

SOA supports 14,000 Arkansas athletes who train year-round and compete free of charge in 20 different Olympic-type sports. In addition to sports opportunities, SOA also offers education programs and health/wellness programs. For more info, phone Donna Kilmer (479) 366-3216 or email [donna@specialolympicsarkansas.org](mailto:donna@specialolympicsarkansas.org).

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The **Eureka Springs Independent**  
is published weekly in Eureka Springs, AR

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178A W. Van Buren • Eureka Springs, AR  
**479.253.6101**

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or **ES Independent**

**Mailing address:** 103 E. Van Buren #353  
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### Subscriptions:

\$50 year – mail to above address

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

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

## Kanye not basketball friendly

Editor,

During the Sr. Basketball Game on Jan. 11 the following racist and curse filled rap song by Kanye West [Black Skinhead] was allowed to play in its entirety during the game. This is disrespectful and wrong to be done at a public school event. I have video and audio of the music being played.

After making my feelings known and talking to the coach and parents of the visiting team, there was no official apology made to the visiting team, fans.

There were children present as young as three years old. This is simply uncalled for and unacceptable that the principal or whoever was running the event did not make a public statement for exposing our young children to this type of thing at

a public school event.

**Robbie Foreman**

I have enclosed a copy of the lyrics and can provide video.

## Exploring Cargill statement

Editor,

In response to Mike Martin, Cargill director of communications, [Jan. 8 *Independent*].

I have searched ADEQ's website and other documents finding that in 1992 Randy Young, executive director of Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission, initiated a study of confined animal operations in the Buffalo River Watershed. Confined animal operations were viewed as one of the greatest potential contributors of bacteria and nutrients in the watershed. The project concentrated on swine operations that the Arkansas Department of Pollution

Control & Ecology considered as the more eminent threat to the water quality of the Buffalo River.

At the time of the project there were 11 permitted hog facilities. Nine of the farms were on the southern edge of the watershed high on the sandstone and shale formation of the Atoka and Bloyd Formation, around 2000 ft. elevation. Two were near but outside the watershed, also high in elevation. There were a total of 3,094 sows in 1994.

C & H Hog Farms is located in the recharge zone of the Springfield Aquifer and isolates 2,500 sows at an approximate elevation of 900 ft. There are three other permitted hog farms in or near the Buffalo River watershed for a combined number of sows at 3,525. The other three farms are located in the Atoka and Bloyd formations on the southern edge of the watershed, high in elevation.

**MAIL** continued on page 25



## WEEK'S Top Tweets

**@sammyrhodes** --- Every parent's superpower is the ability to communicate "I love you!" and "I will kill you!" with a single look

**@1Happytwit** --- If someone asks what you do for a living and you reply, "I'm a lunatic" they won't ask you any more questions.

**@JoshComers** --- The new Congress. The new Twitter. Which do you fear more?

**@SarahThyre** --- Phone just autocorrected "torture" to "torturgasm." I'm frightened.

**@sarahcolonna** --- You guys – if you call someone a "loser" but you spell it "looser," you lose.

**@BlackCatBettie** --- If we all winked, laughed out loud, stuck out our tongues and blew kisses in real life as much as we do in texts...it would be very creepy.

**@sammyrhodes** --- Gossip = saying behind their back what you'd never say to their face. Flattery = saying to their face what you'd never say behind their back.

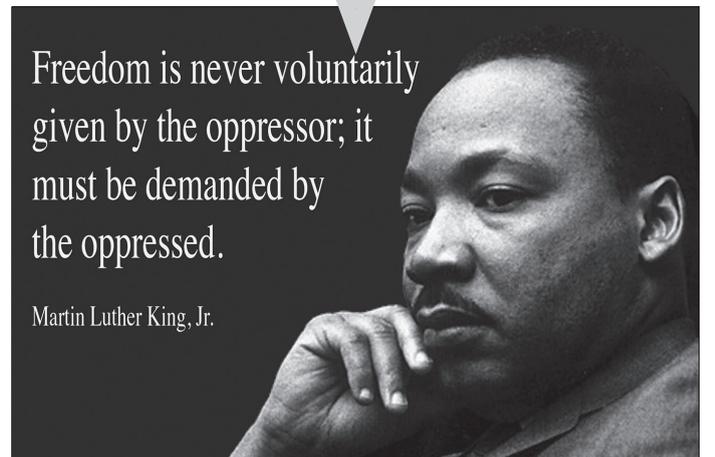
**@toddlevin** --- I just realized the reason old people seem so angry is because we have ruined everything.

**@Zen\_Moments** --- Don't compromise yourself. You are all you've got. ~ Janis Joplin

**@psych\_7706** --- "Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Freedom is never voluntarily  
given by the oppressor; it  
must be demanded by  
the oppressed.

Martin Luther King, Jr.



# GUESTatorial

## What 'public' is the Public Service Commission serving?

In April 2013, we were shocked by the lack of thoroughness in the AEP/SWEPCO Environmental Impact Statement. There was scarcely any mention of our dependence on tourism or that scenic beauty is essential to our economy. There was no analysis of economic impact on our small local communities as required by law. There was scarcely any mention of the endangered species. There was no mention of bald eagles or their nests. Each of the proposed routes was an assault on our environment and our sensibilities. We wondered how anyone in his or her right mind could be so blind to the beauty of our environment or so callous in a willingness to destroy it.

As state and federal agencies began to weigh in with their opinions of the project and proposed routes, they too, expressed concerns over extreme inaccuracies and lack of thoroughness of the Environmental Impact Statement offered by AEP/SWEPCO. We were mistaken in assuming that the opinions of those agencies with regard to the poor quality EIS might make any difference at all to the Arkansas Public Service Commission.

In Judge Griffin's ruling, she notes that the APSC has much lower standards for an Environmental Impact Statement, and in her view, the EIS submitted by AEP/SWEPCO was "sufficient."

And yet, in considering the area of Northwest Arkansas that most regard as the jewel in the crown of Arkansas tourism, is the APSC's idea of sufficient, sufficient?

During the hearing in Little Rock, biologist Stephen Thornhill, testifying for SWEPCO, was forced to admit the process he used to eliminate serious concerns from the EIS. Mention of Bald eagles? Delete. Analysis of impact on tourism? Delete. Mention of the Military Park and Pea Ridge or the Trail of Tears? Delete. Mention of karst terrain, or concern for endangered bats and cave habitat? Delete most of that, too.

By purposeful deletion, SWEPCO had the ability to misrepresent to the APSC the probable impact of their power line, present a rosy picture to the state of Arkansas that they knew to be untrue, and attempted to slide by with an EIS intended to meet the barest possible standard of "sufficiency." The EIS was intentionally designed to be as lacking in thoroughness as humanly possible and to fool the judge, which in this case they seem to have done.

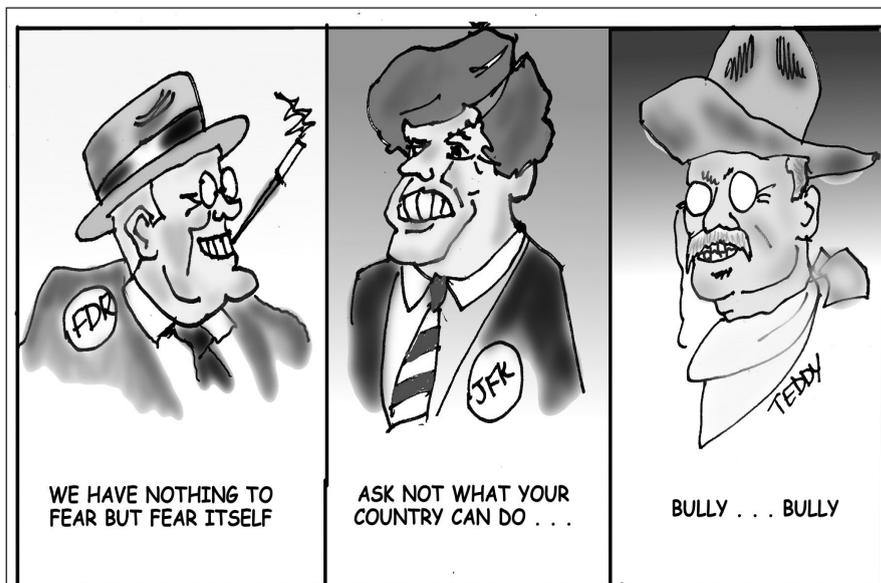
What the judge seems to have missed in her review of the EIS is not whether or not it is thorough enough to meet APSC low standards of sufficiency, but whether or not it is honest enough in its intent to meet common standards of moral decency or the standards set by state law. And the EIS submitted by AEP/SWEPCO, in this case, was not. It was carefully crafted from the outset to minimize concerns and marginalize the citizens of Northwest Arkansas.

Due to the judge's selection of Route 109 as her preferred route, the citizens of Missouri will also have the opportunity to weigh in on whether or not this power line is built. We were caught by AEP/SWEPCO's proposal like small furry animals in a steel trap, but have made certain that residents of Missouri are forewarned and able to defend their own communities against AEP/SWEPCO's wrongful plans.

In addition, testimony at the hearing in Little Rock proved that the Shipes Road to Kings River power line is only one small part of a much larger network of high voltage power lines that will do nothing but harm to our small local communities. With that evidence we plan to assist others in standing up to AEP/SWEPCO's unwarranted transmission expansion plans.

We hoped for a better ruling from Judge Griffin. The commission may overrule the judge at any time in the next 30 days to propose their own solution. In any case, we will continue to oppose SWEPCO's plans. We insist that the APSC be required to assess the honesty of Environmental Impact Statements in addition to their "sufficiency." If that requires the court of appeals to provide justice, so be it. That seems to be where we're headed next.

*Doug Stowe*



## The Pursuit of HAPPINESS

by Dan Krotz

I'm the scheduled deacon this Sunday at the little church I attend. I enjoy the work; deacons go in early and make the coffee. They turn the lights on and prepare the communion table – wine is poured into cups, wafers are laid on plates, candles are lit. The church is still and empty and it feels good to sit in the quiet for a while.

Deacons are selected on the basis of their good character by the church's elders, and for the Christian example they set for the other lambs. Obviously, "good character" and "example" are broadly defined: I am a bad Catholic, but a good enough Christian to pass muster, and so are gay people, and marital losers, and the odd recovering harlot now and then. Work, along with faith, is valued in this congregation, even if it is performed by folks who have been around the block a time or two.

Has this church dumbed down sin or normalized deviancy? I don't know. I do know that it accepts fat boys and gluttons, people "whose God is their belly" (Philippians 3:19), people "who test God in their heart by demanding the food they crave" (Psalm 78:18), people who reside "among drunkards and gluttonous eaters of meat" (Proverbs 23:20), people who fail to "put a knife to their throat if they are given to appetite" (Proverbs 23:2), and people who are "arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; who do not help the poor and needy" (Ezekiel 16:49).

Biblical literalists, Fundamentalists, and the Righteous are certainly among the members of this church. They storm in – and out – and back in sometimes – ready to pluck out your eye if it offends them. And they serve a grand Christian purpose: they remind snooty semi-skilled intellectuals of Christ's admonition that you must love your monumentally unlovable neighbor.

This church also accepts people who wear cowboy hats, even if they don't own any cows. Men who wear earrings are also welcome, even if they aren't pirates. SEC Division football players may attend (if they get permission from their probation officers). Even moneylenders, Leviticus notwithstanding, are welcome.

# INDEPENDENT Constables On Patrol

## JANUARY 13

4:22 p.m. – A Chocolate Lab ran loose and unescorted near US 62 until the constable on patrol captured it.

## JANUARY 14

12:26 a.m. – Traffic stop resulted in the arrest of the driver for DWI and failure to pay registration fee.

3:25 p.m. – Concerned witness saw a group of males park a vehicle in a weedy area in a suspicious manner, and it appeared they were trying to steal

pipes. Constables responded, and the group claimed they were told they could have the items. They left the scene upon urging by the constables.

## JANUARY 15

8:38 a.m. – Observer asked for a welfare check on a dog chained outside in the cold. The constable found the dog to be okay and its owner said it was not out all the time.

9:19 a.m. – An employee accidentally tripped an alarm.

2:08 p.m. – A pickup, which reportedly had been parked in a loading zone for an hour, was just pulling away as the constable arrived.

2:53 p.m. – Central dispatch reported someone at a motel had made a 911-hangup call. Constable checked and found everything peachy.

6:51 p.m. – Constables got information about a vehicle with a brake light out in town.

11:06 p.m. – Alarmed individual at a motel told ESPD a male smelling like alcohol had acted rudely and then driven across the street. Constables responded to the scene and arrested the individual for public intoxication, drinking in public, and fictitious vehicle license.

## JANUARY 16

8:29 p.m. – Animal Control went to a motel to check on a loose dog but the owner had already collected it.

9:45 a.m. – Constable met with Madison County deputy for transfer of an individual just released from Madison County but who had a valid ESPD warrant for failure to pay fines. Individual was booked and taken to county jail.

10:47 a.m. – Constable looked for but did not find a pickup which reportedly had run the stop sign at Main and Spring Sts.

12:21 p.m. – Constable escorted a funeral.

12:30 p.m. – Constable initiated a traffic stop and arrested the driver for driving on a suspended license, having a fictitious vehicle license and no insurance.

## JANUARY 17

12:25 a.m. – Constable on patrol encountered an individual walking along US 62 who was looking for a motel that would accept his check. Constable took him to a motel where he got a room.

8:48 a.m. – Passerby saw a large loose dog cavorting along US 62. Constables scoured the area but saw no loose dogs.

9:43 a.m. – Individual who lives along US 62 just east of town told ESPD a female pulled up in front of his house, got of her vehicle, grabbed one of his Yorkies and drove away toward town. The call was transferred to the sheriff for a theft report, but constables watched for the vehicle in town.

10:25 a.m. – Individual said someone shot and shattered a window in her car overnight.

7:23 p.m. – Constable arrested a person on a valid warrant.

11:15 a.m. – Employees at a business asked for a constable to stand by while they close because there had been problems with a customer earlier and he continued to drive past. Constable stood by.

## JANUARY 18

1:52 a.m. – Traffic stop resulted in the

arrest of an individual on a Garland County warrant.

3:35 p.m. – Witness reported two aggressive individuals at a restaurant. The male was making threats and the female pushed employees. Constables responded and found things under control. Manager sustained bruises, but she had been an aggressor.

4:57 p.m. – Convenience store employee said a person came in, grabbed two beers and two packs of jerky, mentioned a motel room number and walked out. Constables went to that room and arrested the individual for shoplifting.

7:06 p.m. – Constables were on the lookout for a beat up vehicle driving slowly and swerving.

10:06 p.m. – Constable went to the scene of a triggered alarm, but everything was behaving at the time.

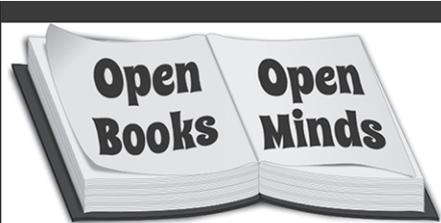
## JANUARY 19

1:38 a.m. – Traffic stop resulted in the arrest of the driver for DWI.

7:27 a.m. – Resident of an apartment asked a constable to have a look at suspicious circumstances. She thought people had come into her apartment. ESPD will provide extra patrols for the area.

3:36 p.m. – Ex-wife claimed the ex-husband had threatened to harm her.

11:45 p.m. – Hotel employee alerted ESPD to a dog locked in a truck in the parking lot. It appeared to have no food or water and looked very cold. Constable found the animal had no water but otherwise looked okay. He could not find the owner of the vehicle, so he said he would check back in awhile.



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## Governor's Tourism Conference in Rogers this year *Locals will find topics of interest*

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Arkansas Governor's Conference on Tourism is Sunday through Tuesday, March 9 –11, at the John Q. Hammons Center in nearby Rogers, which gives more of Eureka Springs' busy hospitality and tourism community an opportunity to attend pertinent sessions and events.

The tentative program begins with registration at 11 a.m. on March 9, and includes an evening reception at Crystal Bridges.

Monday and Tuesday's general and breakout sessions include many topics likely to be of specific interest to Eureka Springs, including "Social Media for Tourism

Sales," "Create Partnerships. Build Business," "Historic Preservation and Storytelling," "Is Your Community Camera Ready," "Culture that Rocks" and "A Newcomer's View of the Natural State," to list a few.

There will also be hundreds of valuable silent and live auction items to bid on – from trips and advertising to jewelry and art; plus evening Hospitality Suite gatherings and the popular Henry Awards Banquet.

Costs range from \$50 to \$195 inclusive, depending on event(s) selected. See [www.arkansas.com/governors-conference](http://www.arkansas.com/governors-conference) for details, speakers, registration form, silent auction donation form (deadline Feb. 28) and downloadable schedule.

**A**PSC Administrative Judge Connie Griffin sided with SWEPCO last week, recommending alternative Route 109 through Beaver for the electric company's proposed 150 ft. high, 350 kV transmission lines and \$20 million 350 KV Station next to the Kings River in Berryville.

The disappointing ruling came as no real shock, but



Local activism saved the bluffs and Beaver Bridge. Can it Save The Ozarks?

PHOTO BY BILL KING

SWEPCO opponents were somewhat optimistic after observing the judge's reaction to the 300 residents who spoke out against the project during our local public hearings. Surely the 6,000 letters in opposition would impact her decision.

Crocodile tears? It appears the judge, who teared-up listening to our passionate pleas, gave the performance of a lifetime. Who knows her reason for siding with the wrong side – corporate job, corporate pressure, corporate greed? – but it sure wasn't based on compassion, rule of law or logic.

No one expects the 3-panel APSC commission to deny SWEPCO anything. We were told early on this was a "done deal" and to not waste our time fighting." The panel has three weeks to make its final decision – then it's back to battle in the appeal process.

On a recent trip to my hometown, I was given a bag of newspaper articles my late mother clipped and saved, all

## David v. Goliath



about me. Included was a picture and feature on a 14 year-old boy who organized afterschool demonstrations in front of the railroad tracks near his home. The railroad crossing was unsafe and responsible for the death of my best friend. Inspired by the Civil Rights and anti-war movements, I took it upon myself to bring awareness to this local problem, and after weeks of relentless protest an order for a bypass bridge was issued. It was an early and valuable lesson in questioning and challenging authority.

Before the advent of social media, when our only local news source was the *Times-Echo* and dial-up was all the rage, a small group of us got together to discuss another apparent "done deal" in Eureka Springs. The Corps of Engineers had approved a new marina along the scenic bluffs at Dam Site North, the popular swimming and picnicking area on Beaver Lake. Public outcry and a couple of well-timed and attended demonstrations at the park were key in preventing this environmental destruction.

Who doesn't love a David and Goliath story? Judge Griffin's ruling is a small setback that will just make us stronger. The grassroots organization against this corporate giant is unparalleled.

SWEPCO obviously does not see that stone coming.

## INDEPENDENTArt

### Now Showing!

#### Indie Film Fest award nominees hit the screen

For two days, the screening room at the Arkansas Club at the Queen Anne Mansion was cluttered with papers, DVDs, computers and fortification. After screening films for 13 hours, Eureka Springs Indie Film Fest judges Doug Wynn, Linda Lewis, Rod Slane, Christopher Lewis and Jill Slane culled the entries down to the following finalists in each category. All finalists will be screened Jan. 23 – 25 in the city auditorium. (See screening schedule on p. X) Winners will be announced at 6 p.m., Jan. 25, at the auditorium.

And the nominees are:

**Drama:** *Strings*, *Gordon Family Tree*, *A Wheel and the Moon*, *John Wayne's Bed*, *Boxes*, *Doorways*, *Subterfuge*, *Tree*.

**Comedy:** *Home Fires*, *Camp Kickitoo*.

**Cause-Related Documentary:** *Bullied* (series), *Turpentine Creek*, *A Calendar to Live By*.

**Documentary:** *After the Tsunami*, *The Road Less Traveled*, *The Art of Crystal Bridges*, *My Calling*.

**Young Filmmaker:** *The Little Treasure Chest*, *US*, *Awesome Skiing*.

**Art Film:** *The Return*, *A Life on the Day of*, *Loathsome Malady*, *Myst*, *You Must Know Something*.

**Feature Length:** *Gordon Family Tree*, *Subterfuge*, *Camp Kickitoo*.

**Cinematography:** Edward Robison III – *Myst*.

**Original Musical Score:** James Greeson – *After the Tsunami*, Jennifer Nash/Robert J. Cornejo – *Strings*, Nathan Towns – *Boxes*.

**Best Actor:** Kathryn Rich "Electra" – *Strings*, Verda Davenport-Booher "May" – *Tree*,

Bob Boaz "Jim" – *John Wayne's Bed*.

Festival passes are on sale at the Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce (479) 253-8737. Tickets (from \$5 for single event to \$25 for all days) will also be available at the door. For more information, see [www.esindiefilmfest.com](http://www.esindiefilmfest.com) or contact Teresa DeVito – [eurekaspringsfilm@gmail.com](mailto:eurekaspringsfilm@gmail.com), (479) 363-8185 or Sandy Martin – [procommeureka@gmail.com](mailto:procommeureka@gmail.com), (479) 244-6636.

### Indie Film Fest Schedule January 23 – 25

(Screening sessions are followed by ten-minute breaks. Some adjustments may be made to the following schedule.)

#### Thursday

11 a.m. – Opening and introduction of judges.

11:30 – 12:15 – Screenings: *Doorways*, *Boxes*, *A Calendar to Live by*, *Us*

Lunch

1:15 p.m. – Screenings: *Bullied* Series (1 hr. 15 min.)

2:35 p.m. – Screenings: *A Wheel and the Moon*, *My Calling*, *John Wayne's Bed*

3:35 – 5 p.m. – Kini Kay Panel

5:10 p.m. – *Art of Crystal Bridges* (37 min.)

5:50 p.m. – VIP Announcements/dinner break

8 p.m. – VIP Filmmaker Reception at FRESH, 179 N. Main

#### Friday

10:30 a.m. – Welcome

10:40 a.m. – Screenings: *Gordon Family Tree* (1 hr. 47 min.)

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. – Screening: *After the Tsunami*

2:10 p.m. – Screenings: *Strings*, *The Road Less Traveled* – Winslow

3:00 p.m. – VCI Panel

Adults only begins

4:15 p.m. – *Subterfuge* (1hr. 16 min.)

5:30 – 7 p.m. – Dinner break

7 p.m. – *The Big Shootout* with intro. Q & A following film

9:15 p.m. – *Loathsome Malady*

9:21 – 11 p.m. – "Late Night Feature" *Camp Kickitoo* (1 hr. 33 min.)

11 p.m. Closing & announcements

#### Saturday

10 – 11 a.m. – Young Filmmakers Panel

11:10 – Screenings: *Home Fires*, *Tree*

11:55 – AETN's "The Loupe" Arkansas Arts & Culture Films

1:25 p.m. – Screenings: Best of *Arkansas Shorts* and *Valley of the Vapors*, an independent music festival documentary with intro by Bill Solleder

3:20 – Locals' Film Block: *You Must Know Something*, *A Life on the Day of*, *The Little Treasure Chest*, *Myst*, *The Return*, *Awesome Skiing*, *Turpentine Creek Refuge*

4:30 – Closing announcements

Break

6 p.m. – Indie Awards Show, opening with Chris Crane, Arkansas Film Commission

9 p.m. – After-party at Voulez-Vous Lounge, 63 Spring, with Leah and the

Mojo Doctors

# INDEPENDENTHIGH (Falutin') SOCIETY



**Homecoming** – Jake McClung and Eden Randolph were crowned Eureka Springs High Homecoming King and Queen 2014 before the game against Decatur on Friday, Jan. 17.

PHOTO BY DAVID FRANK DEMPSEY

## Ready for the bonfire

– From left, Alex Cisneros, Diedra Asmus, Dalton Kesner and Corrina Green greet the crowd arriving for the Homecoming bonfire on Jan. 16 and collect money for dinner. Students served a hot meal in the cafeteria and got folks warmed up before the nighttime bonfire.



## Decatur goes down –

but only in effigy. Eureka Springs Schools' Homecoming crowd gathers to watch the opposing school's mascot, the Decatur Bulldog, flame out at the big bonfire. In the following night's contest against Decatur, the Highlander senior boys lost their first conference game and the Lady Highlanders won.

PHOTOS BY GWEN ETHEREIDGE



**Job well done** – From left, Eureka Springs Indie Film Fest judges Doug Wynn, Rod Slane, Jill Slane, Linda Lewis and Christopher Lewis raise a well-deserved glass after some 13 hours of viewing films and choosing finalists to be screened during the festival Jan. 23 – 25 in the auditorium.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

**Madcaps** – We've made Max C. Madcap and Mary Lewis honorary Eureka Springs (high falutin') society. Max and Mary spent a couple of weeks in Eureka Springs on vacation from their home in Decorah, Iowa, and plunged right in – Mary took a writing class and Max sang and played at two of the Song Circle celebrations honoring Martin Luther King. "I feel like we belong here," said Max.

PHOTO BY CD WHITE





**Song Circles** – Organizer Quin Withey leads a community sing-along at Flora Roja as part of three evenings of Song Circles in honor of Martin Luther King Day. A variety of musicians sang and led groups in singing spirituals, protest songs and familiar favorites.

*PHOTO BY MELANIE MHYRE*

Martin Luther King Day was celebrated in small gatherings around town prior to the official holiday on Jan. 20. Due to snow days, school was in session on the holiday and no major events were planned. King was instead honored with a series of Song Circles put together by Quin Withey and various musicians which were hosted at various venues Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Song Circles gave everyone the chance to sing and share and provided a very communitarian way of celebrating the achievements of Dr. King.



**Strum along** – Ivan Thompson tunes his strum stick during the Song Circle at the Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow on Jan. 17. All three Song Circles were well attended.

*PHOTO BY LINDA CALDWELL*

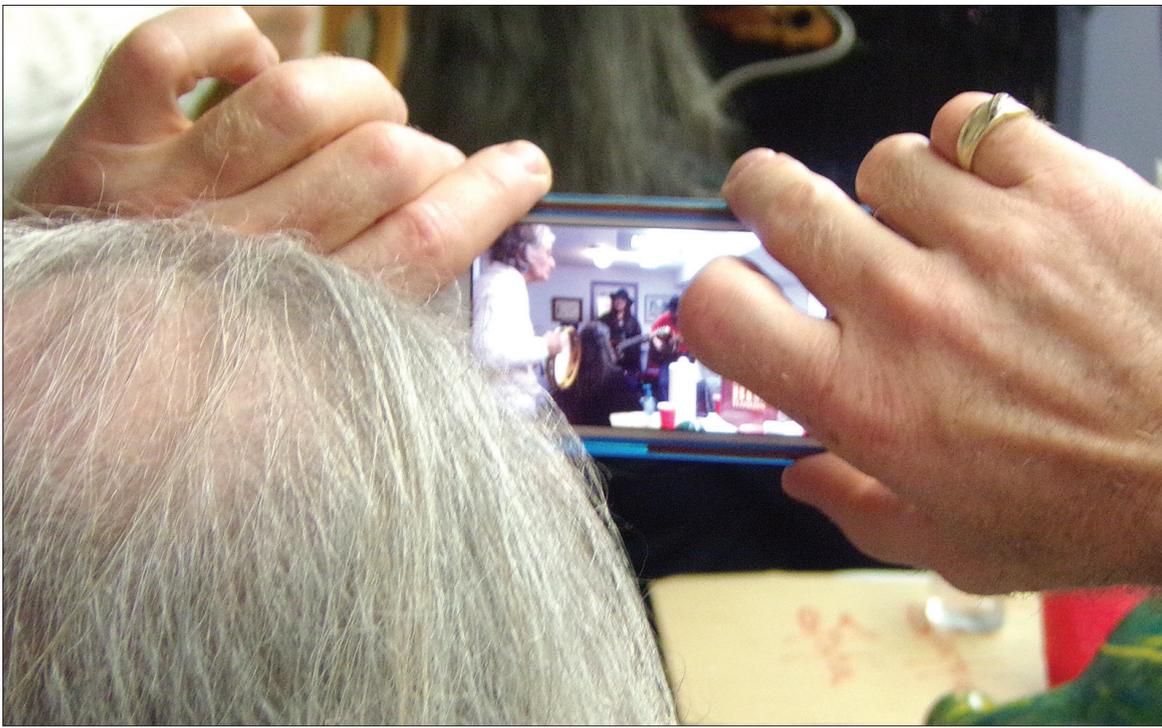
**Words of wisdom** – Margo Pirkle displays a book of the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at the Song Circle celebration of MLK Day at the St. James Sunday Supper. She also provided percussion for the sing-along.

*PHOTO BY C.D. WHITE*



**Tuned in** – The aptly-named Elliot Tune gets serious at the Flora Roja Song Circle Jan 18. At right is Sergio Gomez.

*PHOTO BY MELANIE MHYRE*



**Technology** – Max Madcap records the Jan. 19 St. James Song Circle on his new “device.” Shown onscreen are Margo Pirkle, left, and Black Hat member Rebecca Brock.

PHOTO BY CD WHITE

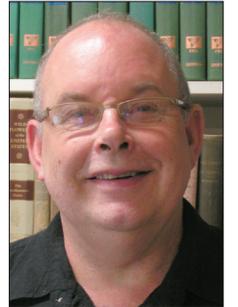


**Highlander basketball** – Dalton Johnson goes for a layup against Decatur in the homecoming game at Eureka Springs High School Friday, Jan. 17. The boys lost to Decatur, 72 – 68.

PHOTO BY DAVID FRANK DEMPSEY



## TheNATUREofEUREKA by Steven Foster



### Joyfull Newes in the Newe Founde World – the Internet

Everyone I know who loves books, delights in holding a physical book in their hands. For more than five centuries, the world has enjoyed printed books, with a binding that allows one to flip from one page to another, cradling, fondling,

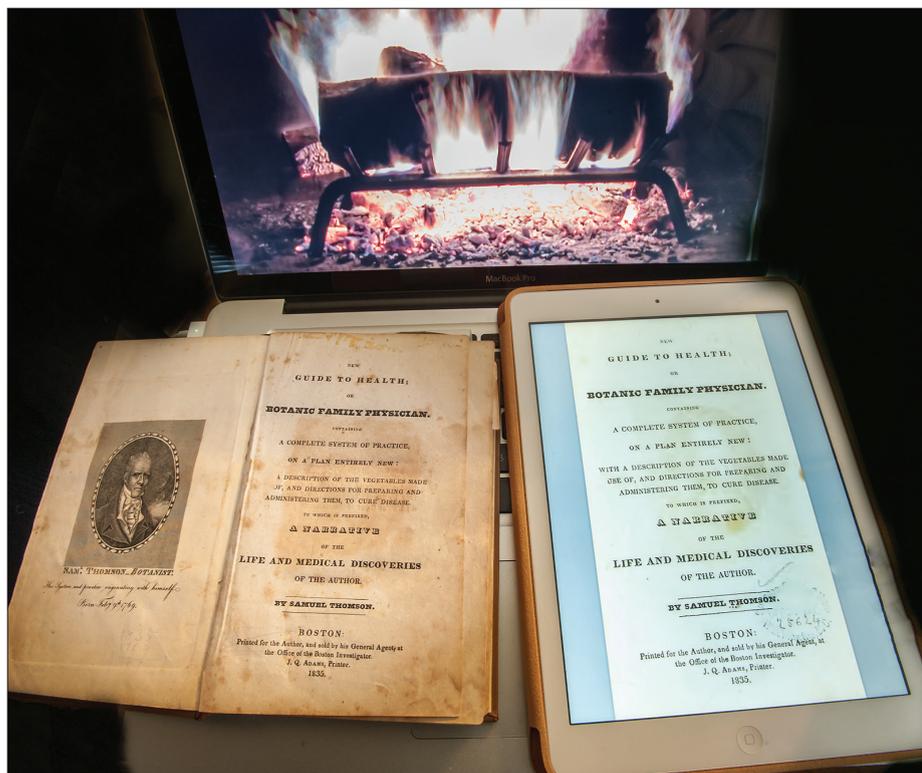
experiencing the tactile joy offered by a physical book.

Wintertime is a great opportunity to curl up next to your virtual electronic fireplace and read your favorite e-book. When I have a choice, especially for old books with fragile bindings, I choose the electronic book form. I increasingly observe that those who tell me, “but I like the feel of a real book,” when asked if they know how to access e-books, especially antiquarian material, the inevitable answer is no. I preferred walking before I owned a car.

In the realm of natural history I am amazed and delighted each day how much information is available at my fingertips, on a smart phone, tablet or computer – veritable libraries of books that I could never access before. I am writing an article on saw palmetto berries (from Florida) used for prostate problems in men. I have a book from 1898 *Saw Palmetto* by E. M. Hale, who alludes to “a very old book, with a quaint title page by Jonathan Dickinson” on the adventures of shipwrecked Quakers on the Florida coast. Captured, they are offered saw palmetto berries to eat, which Dickinson describes as tasting like “rotten cheese steeped in tobacco juice,” a quote I have used in lectures for years.

But I never saw the original reference until now. I searched “Jonathan Dickinson, Florida” at archives.org, an internet portal to millions of books, and found an electronic “original” of the book published in 1700 in Philadelphia, with the quaint title: “*God’s Protecting Providence, Man’s Surest Help and Defence in Times of Greatest Difficulty and Most Eminent Danger: Evidenced In the Remarkable Deliverance of Robert Barrow, with divers other Persons, from the Devouring Waves of the Sea; amongst which they suffered SHIPWRACK: and also, From the cruel Devouring Jaws of the Inhumane Canibals of Florida.*”

No wonder E.M. Hale cited only “a quaint title page.” Now I have the original source of the quote.



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

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

In this episode, newly-married Jane arrives in Sycamore.

There was surely no object in telling Jane about anything so dead and gone as all this. In any case, over the whole affair hung a dense fog of irrationality which would have been hard to explain away. He could scarcely have expected anyone, even Jane, to understand why the mere sight of Fenton Sayre's sharp-boned sullen face should still unnerve him, or why he should feel it as a reproach, an old and hidden wound beginning to throb again, on the day when he was bringing Jane home.



CONSTANCE WAGNER

Beside him, Jane was asking: "What did you mean about a detour?"

They had gained the crest of Warfield Grade. The two red cylinders of a gas station erupted in front of a fusty beer-joint, which appeared to have spawned a half-dozen unkempt little tourist cabins. The words **PAW** and **MAW** were painted in large, crude letters on the two doors at the side of the saloon.

"You'll see," he told her. "In just a minute now." A sharp turn had cut the blighted filling station from view. They left the highway for an unpaved lane that vanished, after fifty yards, in a curve that was veiled by forest trees, crowding to its edge.

"What fascinates me," Jane was saying, "is the way you never can see where you're going. You never know what's ahead of you."

"You will," he said cryptically. "Some day you'll know the turns of this road as well as your own hand."

"It's – awfully wild," she said.

The trunks of trees were hung with woodbine which was just beginning to leaf out, and here and there a sinewy grapevine embraced the bole of a dogwood, reaching into its upper branches with a long, rapacious ar. As the car rounded another curve, the woods seemed abruptly to drop away from the road. On the left, the land pitched steeply

into a brushy gulch and rose again into a long vista of hills, one behind another, the farthest of them no more than a pale mauve blur on the afternoon sky.

On the right, a wide flat space was hollowed out of the mountain, hemmed in by a half circle of almost perpendicular rock. Two or three small trees had got a foothold in crevices of the bluff, and spidery stems of creeper crossed and recrossed its face in an intricate tracery. At the top of the bluff, the forest marched upward toward a conjectural summit that was veiled from view.

Walter pulled the car to a stop, took a deep breath and threw Jane an inquiring look. "Like it?" he asked. He sounded very casual.

She stared at him, at the rugged bluff, and light broke in her face. "Oh – *Walter!*" she cried in a little, awed voice. "Our home site – where our house is going to be! Ah, let's get out!"

They scrambled out of the car and walked, hand in hand, over the springy carpet of needles shed by the pines that stood about the clearing. "It's beautiful," she said, and sighed with content. "What a view we'll have!" She grasped the trunk of a small redbud tree that had force its way through the bluff, and jumped up on the rock beside it to scan the farther hills. Walter leaned against her, clasping her with both arms, kissing her knees.

"Don't," she said. "Someone might see us."

He laughed. "Who? And what of it? You're mine, aren't you?"

She touched his rumpled hair. Looking down on him this way, she felt maternal and secure. "Yes, I'm yours," she reassured him. She let herself slide down into his arms. "Tell me," she asked, "did you have this place – this very spot – in mind all along?"

Yes (jubilantly) he had. "In fact, I picked it a long time ago. Eight or ten years. I said: 'This is it. This is where I'm going to build my home.'"

She pushed away a little to look at him, puzzled. "*Your* house? But that was ages before you knew me –"

"Well, yes." He mussed her hair, conscious that he had said the wrong thing. "Matter of fact, there was a girl –" He spoke with a lightness that must, he thought, sound spurious. "Kid stuff, you know. High school. Oh, we thought we were awfully serious, but it blew over, as those things always do... Clytie Byrne," he said. "Her mother was part Indian."

## NOTES from the HOLLOW by Steve Weems

The sequence of events that precedes someone becoming a resident of Eureka Springs can take many forms. For Mamie Kincaid it started with an article in the *Ford Times* magazine that mentioned Eureka Springs.

Mamie and her late husband, Paul, had ordered a new white 1965 Mustang and knew the day it was coming off the assembly line. No one knows what led them to want a Mustang, which was a newly-released model by Ford Motor Company. When Paul died in Klamath Falls, Oregon, in 1966, Mamie, who hadn't driven a car since the 1920s, signed up for a two-week driving course to learn to drive her sports car.

The 58-year-old widow first moved

to Mesa, Arizona, where her sister Kay lived, but then read of Eureka Springs. She and Kay made a trip to visit in the spring of 1969.

The trip must have been a success, because after a phone conversation with her daughter, a house, barn and acreage were purchased on top of Busch hill near Hunt's log cabin. Mamie with her 1965 Mustang and her sister, Kay, with her 1957 Chevrolet, moved into the home and awaited the arrival of daughter, Gail.

In July 1969, Gail arrived with her 1963 Chrysler 300 Pacesetter convertible, three sons, horse and cat. Gail was out on the mountain for two weeks before she made the trek into town.

"What a surprise Eureka was," she told me. "Not that it was doing much." A diehard Oregon native, Gail has always had mixed feelings about being in Arkansas. She said her horse disliked it here from the start, not liking the thick brush or copperhead snakes.

Mamie Kincaid and her family didn't stay out on the mountain, though, as they all moved into town at different times. Many will remember that white 1965 Mustang parked at 215 Spring Street for many years, and it hasn't left the family as her grandson, Scott Schmitz, now has it.

Sister Kay took an apartment in Colonel King's house and worked at the Hallmark Shop on Spring Street. What became of her 1957 Chevrolet is



not certain.

Gail sold the 1963 Chrysler convertible, but 13 years later was able to buy it back and has now fully restored it. If you keep your eyes open, you'll see her in it from time to time.

## Break out the haggis – it's Burns' night!

The Scots are a-comin' to the Pied Piper for an informal Robbie Burns' Birthday Bash at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25. There will be toasts to the bard and traditional readings – so strap on

your kilts, drop some change in your sporran, wrap your plaids, don your glengarries and join us for a festive evening. Call (479) 363-9976 for more info.

## Academy celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> chili cook-off Calls for chili contestants and auction items

The Academy of Excellence hosts their 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off and Silent Auction on Feb. 21. Anyone wishing to participate in the cook-off or who has

items to donate to the silent auction should contact the school for details at (479) 253-5400. The fundraiser dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. and the auction at 6:30.

## National Volunteer Donor Month Give blood on Jan. 29 and save a life

In 1971, President Richard Nixon designated the month of January to honoring those who give life. Every president since then has reaffirmed the designation.

Community Blood Center of the Ozarks (CBCO) celebrates the month by offering a 50 percent bonus on LifePoints for any blood donation during the month as thanks to donors for giving blood for local patients.

CBCO has issued a Code Yellow Alert for all blood types. There is currently less than a two-day supply of this type on hospital shelves and

donations are needed immediately. On average, a transfusion takes place every five minutes. It takes around 250 donations each day to meet the area's blood needs. You can help by giving blood at the Inn of the Ozarks on Wednesday, Jan. 29 between 1 and 6 p.m.

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

## EATINGOUT in our cool little town

## OPEN THIS WINTER

Best to call ahead for hours of operation since many restaurants have abbreviated hours or close for the season.

**RESTAURANT QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE**

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- Caribe
- Casa Colina
- Cottage Inn
- DeVito's
- Ermilio's
- Eureka Live
- Forest Hill
- Grand Taverne
- Horizon Lakeview Restaurant
- Island Grill & Sports Bar
- Island Ice Cream Parlor
- Island Pizza and Pub
- Legends
- Local Flavor Cafe
- New Delhi
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## Aquarius – Waters of Life Poured Forth For Thirsty Humanity

The Sun is in Aquarius. The new Age is the Age of Aquarius. Humanity is Aquarius. The New Group of World Servers, at the threshold of each morning, stands together calling humanity's Soul forth. Aquarius, the Water Bearer, "waters of life poured forth for thirsty humanity," expresses the Soul of Humanity. The characteristics, qualities and nature of Aquarius (the Age of) leading humanity toward its collective purpose the next two thousand years. Aquarius will color and impulse all activities, directing humanity to the Path of Return.

No matter what our individual Sun signs are, Aquarius, now and in future times, influences all peoples and events in our world. It's therefore important to understand Aquarius and those born with Aquarius Sun, Rising, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars and Chiron. Two signs are important here – Aquarius and its shadow, Leo. One is learning how to identify and serve the self. The other serves humanity. Developmental stages, one follows the other. Leo "finds" the self through creativity. Then, turning, offers its talents to humanity. Aquarius is the "human group." There's a great component of

service in Aquarius. After serving the self (coming to know and develop the self), when awakened to the Soul, Aquarius serves the well-being of humanity and Earth's kingdoms.

For Aquarius the entire world is their community. Here they present new archetypes. Aquarius (Star card in tarot) loves the world. From their fully opened heart, this love becomes the "Waters of life poured forth for thirsty humanity." All of humanity thirsts, seeking the waters leading to the Path of Return. Aquarius understands. And thus serves.

**ARIES:** You should be creating and/or attending gatherings with friends and groups of like minded others. You have the ability, with a heart of kindness, to find common ground in groups with diverse interest. You are to create synthesis. It's not good to feel isolated. You could at times. You want to form new alliances, create a circle of goodwill, new friendships that last well into the future. You need new currents of thought to think.

**TAURUS:** You're becoming known as an expert in some field of thought, enlightening many who depend upon you for intelligent conversations, new thought and information based on focused research. Even though you're considered one of the more traditional signs, you're also one of the most unusual. That's because eventually Taurus receives their information from the Raincloud of Knowable Things. New directions keep precipitating.

**GEMINI:** An integration is occurring as your shadow side, Sagittarius, is highlighted this week and next. You're on a quest for new knowledge, adventures, a new journey, explorations, new terrain. You're seeking to have a global mind. There's wonder in your eyes when you encounter the freedom arising from an intelligent, well thought out mind. A new philosophy or science emerges. Perhaps it's the Electric Universe you need to discover.

**CANCER:** You often surprise others. When speaking, it's often from a deep intuition and instinct. It's often

profound. Your inner world is filled with leading edge thinking although you don't consider it as such. To you it's simply the way you think. Healing becomes a major need and interest. Esoteric Healing is something you might consider studying. There's something in your body in need of healing. It's breaking free from the past.

**LEO:** It seems new rules are coming forth regarding you and relationships. New ways of being, new archetypes. It's time to play a bit with those new rules. What would they be? Something about freedom, celebration, merging, commitment, desire, romance. Creating bonds that last. Remembering and reflecting upon the past and realizing true love was there all along. You need a friend, a lover and a deeply beloved.

**VIRGO:** Replenishing your energy, seeing health in a different way, experimenting with new levels and ways of healing and remove all things habitual in your life helps create out of the old needed new rhythms and rituals. Having more ease in your daily life is important. Things routine become difficult. Redo your work schedule. Make it unconventional. Which road will you choose when two are offered?

**LIBRA:** You will feel you've returned to a previous creative self. For so long

you created routine that produced safety and well-being. Actually you'd rather be avant-garde, an artist on the wild side, breaking all rules, encountering the unusual, being unconventional and unlikely. You know there are gardens to grow, photographs to take, pictures to paint, clothing to design, trees to plant. There's generosity to offer and creativity to burst forth. Possibilities, colorful, alive, bursting forth everywhere.

**SCORPIO:** Staying at home seems best these days. Allowing the maximum freedom. It's your place of refuge, your Ashram, your foundation, temple and sanctuary. Here you research, are illumined, have inspiration, meditation, contemplation. Here are your tools, music and place of creative thought. Self-determination and independence are major needs in your life. Without them there is no free will.

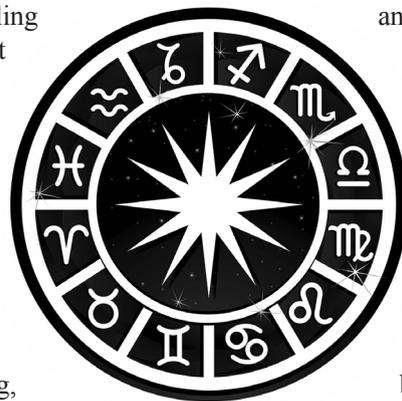
**SAGITTARIUS:** You've become much more social. Mingling more, throwing pit bright, at times, challenging, philosophical exchanges, creating new idea currents in minds of those who listen to you, read what you've written, need your company, cherish your friendship, and/or hang onto your every witty, outrageous word. Something you feel needs to be updated. A new

profile, newer identity, a new language? Something unusual.

**CAPRICORN:** You need freedom with your resources. And to you, time is a resource. You can't feel pushed or pulled into any situation not comfortable for you. You must make your own decisions, creating your own timetables, investigate your own ideas, releasing all that's old and outdated making room for all that new. This will be a long and thorough process. So you must have patience. Whatever you love the very most, you must do. It's where you will succeed.

**AQUARIUS:** You think sometimes you need a fresh new look in the world, a new combination of style highlighting your unconventional ideas, thoughts and behaviors. Unconventional because Aquarius exemplifies the future, what hasn't been seen or thought of before. You're a friend to everyone (everyone thinks). But really they're acquaintances, mostly. One or two real friends. Because you're original (some think odd, but only those who don't understand). You always make an impression.

**PISCES:** You've been quite intuitive lately. These are impressions from another level of reality, other worlds. Often you can't translate them into regular language. Sometimes they arrive so fast it's difficult to integrate the messages. The doors of perception continually open for you in dreams, in nature, in water, during times of silence and repose, when the atmosphere is safe and guarded. Protect these moments. They provide you with a needed retreat.



Risa D'Angeles, writer, founder & director Esoteric & Astrological Studies & Research Institute, a contemporary Wisdom School studying the Ageless Wisdom teachings. The foundation of the Teachings is Esoteric Astrology. Email: risagoodwill@gmail.com. Web journal: www.nightlightnews.com. Facebook: Risa's Esoteric Astrology for daily messages

It's always great to see a new music venue in town, and this weekend the Basin Park Hotel is sponsoring a three-day event focusing on bluegrass and indie folk. It promises to be an eargasm of strings, beats and vocal harmonies. The party starts Friday at 6 p.m. with 3 Penny Acre in the Barefoot Ballroom, Wink in the Ozark Room at 8 p.m. and HonkySuckle in the ballroom at 10 p.m.

Saturday's events start at noon with the Hogscalders playing on the balcony as they do every Friday in warmer

weather. The talents of Steve Jones and Chuck Onofrio are legendary around here and if you stick around for the midnight jam Chucky Waggs will join in.

Saturday's schedule also includes:

- Pearl Brick, 2 p.m., Ozark Room
- Tyrannosaurus Chicken, 4 p.m., Ozark Room
- SX Rex, 6 p.m., Barefoot Ballroom
- Ben Miller Band, 8 p.m., Ozark Room

- National Park Radio, 10 p.m., Barefoot Ballroom
- Midnight Jam, Barefoot Ballroom

Sunday wraps things up with Anna Horton's Handmade Moments at noon in the Ozark Room. Anna Horton from Berryville has a strong, sultry voice that will charm you right from the start. Her six-piece band, Don't Stop Please, is a regular favorite but the intimate duo of Handmade Moments, Anna and Joel Ludford, will provide just the right sound to close the festival with a selection of jazz and folk.

**THURSDAY – JANUARY 23**

- EUREKA PARADISE Free pool
- GRAND TAVERNE Jerry Yester Grand Piano Dinner Music, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- JACK'S PLACE Karaoke w/DJ Goose, 8 p.m. – midnight
- LEGENDS SALOON DJ Karaoke

**FRIDAY – JANUARY 24**

- BLARNEY STONE TBD
- CATHOUSE LOUNGE The Lick Snatchers, 8 p.m. – midnight
- CHASERS BAR & GRILL Chasers Winter Game Competition

- Preliminary
- CHELSEA'S Flip Off Pirates, 9 p.m.
- EUREKA LIVE! DJ & Dancing, 9 p.m.
- EUREKA PARADISE Ladies Night, Latin Fridays, DJ & Dancing to Latin hits
- GRAND TAVERNE Arkansas Red Guitar, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- JACK'S PLACE Karaoke with DJ Goose, 9 p.m.
- LEGENDS SALOON DJ Karaoke, 9 p.m.
- NEW DELHI Cutty Rye, 6–10 p.m.

- ROWDY BEAVER Spare Parts, 7 p.m.
- ROWDY BEAVER DEN Cooter & Friends, 8 p.m.
- SQUID & WHALE "Local Kine" featuring Derek & Friends, 8:30 p.m.
- THE STONE HOUSE Jerry Yester, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- VOUEZ-VOUS Leah & the Mojo Doctors, 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY – JANUARY 25**

- CATHOUSE LOUNGE The Lick Snatchers, 8 p.m. – midnight
- CHASERS BAR & GRILL Rideshy, 9 p.m.
- CHELSEA'S Chucky Waggs & Foley's Van, 9 p.m.
- EUREKA LIVE! DJ & Dancing, 9 p.m.
- EUREKA PARADISE DJ & Dancing
- GRAND TAVERNE Jerry Yester Grand Piano Dinner Music, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- JACK'S PLACE Karaoke with DJ Goose, 9 p.m.
- LEGENDS SALOON JAB the band, 9 p.m.
- NEW DELHI Jason Gordon, 6–10 p.m.
- ROWDY BEAVER Ozark

- Thunder, 6 p.m.
- ROWDY BEAVER DEN Strange Derangers, 8 p.m.
- SQUID & WHALE Springbilly, 8:30 p.m.
- VOUEZ-VOUS Leah & the Mojo Doctors, 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY – JANUARY 26**

- BLARNEY STONE Pro Bowl football
- CHASERS Shuffleboard Tournament, 4 p.m.
- JACK'S PLACE NFL Football with Dylan, 1 p.m.
- LEGENDS SALOON Free Texas Hold 'Em Tournament with prizes, 6 p.m.
- NEW DELHI CAFÉ Sunday Night Football – gametime food/drink specials
- ROWDY BEAVER Free Pool Sundays
- ROWDY BEAVER DEN Open mic with Jesse Dean, 5–9 p.m.

**MONDAY – JANUARY 27**

- BLARNEY STONE Monday Night Football
- CHASERS BAR & GRILL Pool Tournament, 7 p.m.,
- CHELSEA'S SpringBilly, 9 p.m.
- NEW DELHI CAFÉ

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Fri., Jan. 24 • 9 P.M. – FLIP OFF PIRATES  
Sat., Jan. 25 • 9 P.M. – CHUCKY WAGGS & FOLEYS VAN  
Mon., Jan. 27 • 9 P.M. – SPRINGBILLY  
Tues., Jan. 28 • 9 P.M. – OPEN MIC

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**Saturday (NO COVER)**  
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### Handmade Moments

– Anna Horton and Joel Ludford will close out the first Ozark Mountain Music Festival on Sunday at noon in the Ozark Room of the Basin Park Hotel.



Monday Night Football – gametime food/drink specials

### TUESDAY – JANUARY 28

- CHASERS BAR & GRILL Challenge Night
- CHELSEA’S Open Mic
- LEGENDS SALOON Pool Tournament, 6:30 p.m.
- ROWDY BEAVER Hospitality Night

### WEDNESDAY – JANUARY 29

- CHASERS BAR & GRILL Ladies Night – Drink specials, free jukebox
- NEW DELHI CAFÉ Open Jam
- PIED PIPER CATHOUSE LOUNGE Wheat Wednesday Draft Beer Specials
- ROWDY BEAVER Wine Wednesday

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Get your  
GROOVE on!

## Tulsa Youth Choir at UUF Jan. 26

The Youth Choir from All Souls UU Fellowship in Tulsa will share their music Sunday morning, Jan. 26 at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. This is also Soup Sunday (one week earlier than usual) with soups, bread, sweets, juice, wine and tea – along with great conversation. Bring something to share if you can! It's a bargain at \$4/adult; \$2/children; \$10 max per family.

All are welcome Sundays at 11 a.m. at 17 Elk St. for a program followed by refreshments. Childcare is provided. Extra parking at Ermilio's Restaurant, 26 White Street. (479) 253-0929, www.euuf.org. For program information, phone Ron Dugger (479) 981-9781.

## City Council Agenda

January 27, 6 p.m.

### Commission, Committee, Authority reports and Expired terms:

**Planning** – Pos. 2 – vacant – expires 1/1/17. Pos. 4 – Jim Morris – expired 7/1/12.

Pos. 5 – Melissa Greene – expired 1/1/13

**CAPC** – Pos. 2 – vacant – expires 6/30/14.

**Hospital** – Pos. 1 -- Anna Ahlman – expired 6/1/13

### Parks

**HDC** – Pos. 2 – Dee Bright -- expired 11/30/13. Pos. 4 – Doug

Breitling – expired 11/30/13. Pos. 5 – vacant – expires 11/30/14

### Cemetery

### Public Comments

### Unfinished business:

1. Vacating request for portion of Hartman and McCune – Mr. DeVito and Mr. Mitchell
2. Ordinance No. 2198 Business Licenses for Multi-family – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading/City Attorney's opinion re: Cert. of Occ. for residential – Mr. Purkeypile and Mr. McClung
3. Ordinance No. 2200 Vacating portion of Nut St. – 3<sup>rd</sup> reading
4. Auditorium Commission ordinance – Mr. DeVito and Mr. Mitchell
5. Cottage at 1 Magnetic – update from City Attorney **by February 10** – Mr. McClung and Ms. Schneider
6. Ordinance for procedures for vacating property, with processing fee – Mr. McClung and Ms. Schneider
7. Film Industry tax incentive update – Mr. Purkeypile and Ms. Schneider
8. Resolution for 531 Spring St. – Mr. Purkeypile and Ms. Schneider

### New business:

1. Infrastructure repair plan, with Dwayne Allen – Mr. Purkeypile and Mr. Mitchell
2. 2014 budget – Ms. Schneider and Mr. Purkeypile
3. Hours of operation and animals in C-3 – Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Purkeypile
4. Clean City Ordinance – Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Schneider
5. Conditional Use permit for farm animals – **postponed pending Planning action** -- Mayor Pate
6. Workshop date for parking rate increase for special events – Mr. Purkeypile and Ms. Schneider
7. Discussion of collapsing parking lot by Auditorium – Ms. Schneider and Mr. Purkeypile
8. Discussion of increasing water and sewer rates – Mr. Purkeypile and Ms. Schneider
9. Discussion of vehicles used as limousines – Mr. Purkeypile and Ms. Schneider
10. Vacating Sweeney Alley – Mayor Pate

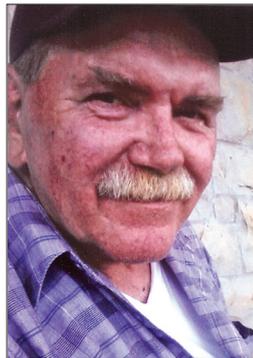
### Council comments

### Mayor's comments

# DEPARTURES

## Bill Grissom, Dec. 5, 1950 – Jan 6, 2014

Bill Grissom, your great smile and ever giving heart will be missed. Maybe some of you know Bill and his beloved wife, Marcy, from The Wildflower Church. They worked so hard to make certain those of us who needed food had a full basket every Friday. You'd never need if they could help you!



GRISSOM

Bill was an US Army Ranger who did three tours in Vietnam. He didn't talk about his years of service, or his awards and medals, but I understand there was a wall full. He earned a BS in nursing from Grayson College in Dallas, and was a paramedic on care flights for Childrens' Hospital in Dallas. Bill just couldn't stay put on the ground, so he became a tandem instructor at Sky Dive of Dallas. Bill was also a 33rd degree Mason for 40 years, following in his dad's footsteps. He was so many things to so many of us, I can't find the words to do him justice.

As I mentioned, no one could keep Bill out of the sky, so his family and friends will take his remains to Sky Dive in Dallas, fly 8,000 feet up and perform a ceremonial "Ash Dive." Friends, I must say only Bill Grissom would want to get to heaven starting at 8,000 feet!

Bill is survived by three daughters, Corrie and her husband, John Austin Riddler; Jenny and Kenneth Gleaves; and Crystal and Paul Ross; three sons, Jessey and Amanda Grissom; Dennis and Amanda Kendall; and Steven Kendall; six grandchildren, Madysin Riddler; Payton, Max and Ally Gleaves; Ethan and Conner Grissom; Raina and Ariana Ross; Ally Rose and Jr. Kendall; Bently Kendall; a sister, Donna Wawak, niece, Katie Wawak, and nephew, Chris Kirk.

There will be a celebration of his life at the Wildflower Church on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 2 p.m.

## Larry Dean Sprenger, April 30, 1943 – Jan. 13, 2014

Larry Dean Sprenger of Eureka Springs, Arkansas, was born April 30, 1943 in Wabasha, Minn., the son of Herbert L. and Esther M. (Fausch) Sprenger. He departed this life Monday, January 13, in Fayetteville, Ark., at the age 70.

Larry was a member of the United Methodist Church in Eureka Springs. He was a member of the Inspiration Point Fire Department for several years.

On April 10, 1965, he was united in marriage with Linda Marie (Lewis) Sprenger who survives him of the home. He is also survived by two sons, Jason Sprenger of Eureka Springs; Kyle and Kimberly Sprenger of Springdale, Ark.; sister, Phyllis Mattson of Annandale, Minn.; two brothers, Robert and Donna Sprenger of Brenham, Texas; George and Joanne Sprenger of Las Vegas, N.M.; four granddaughters, Allie Jo Sprenger, Megan R. Sprenger, Mirisa N. Sprenger, Jaime L. Sprenger; several nieces and nephews and a host of family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and brother-in-law, Merle Mattson.

Cremation arrangements will be at a later date. Service arrangements were under the direction of Nelson Funeral Service. In lieu of flowers family request potted plants or memorial donation be sent to United Methodist Church of Eureka Springs, 195 Huntsville Road, Eureka Springs, AR 72632 or the Inspiration Point Fire Department, 31 Ozark Automotive Road, Eureka Springs, AR 72632. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [nelsonfuneral.com](http://nelsonfuneral.com).

## GED classes continue at library

North Arkansas College Adult Education and the Eureka Springs Public Library continue to offer daytime GED preparation sessions at the Carnegie Library Annex, 192B Spring Street.

The free classes run through May 14 and are held every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Adults 18 or older, who want to get a GED, are encouraged to attend to prepare for the test. Open

enrollment and open classes allow students to come and go as work and personal schedules allow.

After an initial assessment, students will work individually on subjects in need of improvement, with help and direction from the instructor. For more information, call GED instructor Nancy Wood (479) 981-0482 or the library (479) 253-8754 – or email [info@eurekalibrary.org](mailto:info@eurekalibrary.org).

### New visitor

– Pam Ward of Independence, Mo., works on a beautiful rug at the Old Tyme Rug Hookers Convention at Inn of the Ozarks Jan. 18. This is her first visit to Eureka Springs.



PHOTO BY GWEN ETHEREDGE

## Circle of Life Hospice Comes to you Wherever you live in Carroll County

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and avoid impacting Pea Ridge Military Park.

Route 109 goes north from Shipe Road station to Missouri, and then east along the Missouri state line to north of Gateway and then crosses the White River south of Beaver before going southeast paralleling the Kings River for two miles before it crosses the river near the proposed new Kings River substation. That line is 56 miles long, and SWEPSCO earlier said it would have difficulty obtaining permission for the project from Missouri officials because of the lack of benefit to Missouri.

SWEPSCO's preferred route, the green line, Route 33, goes 48.4 miles east from the Shipe Road station following US 62 through Pea Ridge, Garfield and Gateway, and then parallels Route 109 through Beaver before going southeast to the King's River station.

Pat Costner, director of the citizen group Save The Ozarks (STO) that oversaw a major campaign opposing the power line, said the group plans a legal appeal if the final decision of the APSC is to approve the project.

"Are we disappointed?" Costner asked. "Of course. Are we defeated? By no stretch of the imagination. We just have to roll up our sleeves and keep at it. It is time to get back in the trenches. We will take every step we need to take in order to perfect an appeal."

STO continues to maintain that SWEPSCO failed to prove that the \$118-million line is needed. "With all due respect, the Administrative Law Judge's ruling is both factually and legally incorrect," STO attorney Mick Harrison said.

Peter H. Main, spokesman for AEP/SWEPSCO, said they are pleased that the AJL confirmed the need for the transmission project and selected a route for the facilities.

"The order recognizes the need for the line to ensure future electric reliability in the region, as identified by the Southwest Power Pool," Main said. "It also lays out the reasons for selecting an alternate route as the best choice, given the many challenges of routing a line in this region. Since the ALJ has approved the northern alternate route, which includes segments in Missouri, we will start the process needed to complete the Missouri portion of the route."

Missouri lawmakers representing

*"I don't see there is any benefit to Missouri, period," Rep. Bill Lant said. "I can't believe the Missouri Public Service Commission would just sign off on it without holding some hearings." He said the northern route is the longest, and would cost more money.*

the area strongly oppose the project.

"I don't see there is any benefit to Missouri, period," Rep. Bill Lant said. "I can't believe the Missouri Public Service Commission would just sign off on it without holding some hearings. When I went to the hearing Little Rock, we were told Route 33 was the preferred route. They didn't even talk during the hearings down there about Route 109. I have to admit it comes as kind of a surprise to me. But they are a long way from putting any poles in the ground."

Lant said the area has beautiful scenery and most of the people who have settled in that area have done so because of its seclusion and natural beauty. And no one likes to look at big transmission towers. He said the northern route is the longest, and would cost more money.

"If it is the intent to run the line there, more miles and money, just to keep people from Arkansas from being upset with ruining their view, that is pretty short sighted on anyone's part," he said. "I don't know why they would think the Missouri folks would want it."

Missouri Sen. David Sater has said he would work with local officials and members of the Missouri Legislature to determine the best way to oppose Route 109.

Main said SWEPSCO is certainly aware of the many concerns about this project.

"We will work hard to complete the project in a responsible manner that will minimize the impact while serving the needs of electric consumers across the region," Main said.

Griffin's 118-page order granting the CECPN was filed on the website of the APSC on the project that drew widespread and heated opposition – nearly unanimous in Carroll County – on the grounds that the power line would greatly harm property values, the tourism economy, and environment of Northwest Arkansas. The judge acknowledged that 6,000 public comments were sent to the APSC

opposing the project were likely a record for a proceeding before the APSC.

Doug Stowe, STO board member, said he was disappointed that the judge was convinced that the power line is needed – an assertion that STO denies. But he said the ruling is not a complete victory for SWEPSCO because it creates a regulatory conundrum.

"There is some question because SWEPSCO is not licensed as a utility in Missouri," Stowe said. "State public service commissions don't like to approve major projects that don't provide value to their residents. It would trample through their forest and properties with no benefit to them. It would be like having a superhighway with no on ramp or off ramp in Missouri. So it makes it of questionable value to Missouri. The project may be held back for a while because SWEPSCO will have to gain regulatory permission from the State of Missouri."

Costner said STO has laid groundwork for an appeal, including filing expert witness testimony that the line is not needed and that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was seriously flawed. Stowe said an appeal is an important part of the process because all the objections raised by STO during the proceedings were largely ignored in the judge's ruling.

"The EIS was cut and paste malarkey, a complete sham that should never have been accepted by the APSC as a valid assessment," Stowe said. "While state law requires the application to address economic impact on the small local communities, AEP/SWEPSCO ignored the law on several accounts including economic impact. If the commission is not held accountable to state law, then someone has to step in and try to fix things."

Stowe said while STO never imagined that role for itself, the process of appeal may be a way to serve the people of Arkansas and force power companies to be held to a higher standard.

"And if we can do that, we will provide safeguards for our own community against future threats," Stowe said. "I would like to remind citizens of Carroll County that the Shipe Road to Kings River project is only a small part of a much greater network of proposed power lines that would extend north and east of the Kings River, that would still offer no benefit to citizens of Carroll County."

"Several important things came out in the hearing about AEP/SWEPSCO that must not be ignored. While the power company, the commission and Judge Griffin distinguish between a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) level EIS and one that is sufficient for the APSC, there is a difference from a thorough one and one that purposefully ignores major environmental concerns."

In testimony, Stephen Thornhill, associate project manager for Burns and McDonald, the engineering firm responsible for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that was commissioned by AEP/SWEPSCO, described many areas in which environmental and economic concerns were purposefully stricken from the assessment. Stowe said the point that raises is that while the EIS may be "sufficient" to meet the shockingly low standards of the APSC, it is also far removed from any common standards of honesty.

"By deliberately underplaying, and removing real concerns, the EIS makes a mockery of all that an EIS is supposed to accomplish. It makes a mockery of the APSC's function, of the judge's ruling, and the people of the state," Stowe said. "If power companies and the APSC are allowed to continue to operate with such low standards, all the folks of Arkansas are placed at risk."

SWEPSCO said the proposed facilities "will provide increased reliability and overload relief in eastern Benton County and Carroll County." Opponents have alleged that the purpose of the massive industrial power line that would blight some of the most scenic areas in Northwest Arkansas isn't to help Benton or Carroll County, but to facilitate profits for SWEPSCO.

The judge's order goes to the three-member Commission of the APSC, which can accept, modify or reject the order. If the three commissioners do nothing, the order becomes final in 30 days.



**A room full of hookers** – The Annual Olde Tyme Rug Hookers Retreat drew hookers from around the region to the Inn of the Ozarks for a weekend of creative fun and exploring new products from vendors.

PHOTO BY GWEN ETHEREDGE



**Mobile inspiration** – Shawn Williams, designer and owner of Threads That Bind pattern supply, displays “Up on the Rooftop,” at the Rug Hookers Convention at Inn of the Ozarks Jan. 18. The pattern design came to her in the car while travelling home to Macon, Mo., from a convention in Iowa.

PHOTO BY GWEN ETHEREDGE

**HISID** continued from page 2

The settlement also provides a \$2,300 AOB credit to owners of R1 and R2 improved lots in recognition of the fact that 100 percent of the cost of the sewage treatment plant was put into the AOB, and users of water and sewer are also being charged another 50 percent of the total amount for the sewage plant on their water bills. Remaining outstanding AOB benefits balance will be \$10,700 for R1 and R2 improved-paved lots and \$9,700 for R-1 improved-gravel.

Hutchinson said terms of the settlement would allow Holiday Island to go on indefinitely, rather than run out of fees to operate if the AOB fees were eventually paid off completely. He said property owners should not see major increases in AOB fees as in 2011 when AOB fees went up as much as 47 percent. Instead, Hutchinson said property owners would likely pay just the six percent interest per year on the AOB, which would be about the amount currently being charged.

“That brings stability to the Holiday Island real estate market,” Hutchinson said. “It is very beneficial to the members of the class.”

Hutchinson said Bischoff

understood that if the case had come to trial, they could have “won,” but still the plaintiff class – of which Bischoff is a member – would have lost if HISID no longer had the ability to maintain improvements and if Holiday Island real estate was unattractive as a result. Hutchinson said the settlement provides transparency and stability for Holiday Island.

The one objector, Rebecca Sherman, wanted a refund of AOB fees that were not legally justified.

Hutchinson said a class refund would have left HISID without enough money to operate, which could have left HISID in bankruptcy. He said the settlement agreement provides security for people buying at Holiday Island who want to know what their debt to HISID will be, and how much they will have to pay each year. Hutchinson, whose name and number were on a notice of the settlement sent to HISID property owners, said he had spoken to more than 100 people who received the notice of settlement letter. He said Sherman was the only person who was not in favor of the settlement, and filed an objection.

“The terms of the settlement

agreement are a path for Holiday Island to go on,” he said.

HISID attorney, Thomas Kieklak, stated in his summation that concerned citizens had repeatedly stated and documented concerns to the HISID Board of Commissioners until the BOC determined they didn’t want to hear about it anymore, then it went to litigation. He said HISID was in court Tuesday to support the agreement, “an important way to preserve the way of life in Holiday Island.” Kieklak said HISID knew it was important going forward to resolve the issues and defend people’s investments in their property that had been fundamentally threatened.

Following the judge’s ruling, BOC Chair Linda Graves said, “We’re happy that it is over.”

Sherman objected to the settlement providing \$125,000 in attorneys’ fees to Hutchinson’s law firm. Hutchinson said his law firm had put in a tremendous amount of time on the lawsuit, including three days of settlement mediations, and that the \$125,000 was less than 3.5 percent of the \$3.5 million in reduction of AOB fees that was given to class members as a result of the settlement.

Bischoff said that neither side is

“happy” with the settlement.

“I’m especially displeased that it had to come to litigation to get HISID to seriously consider the matter,” Bischoff said. “A tremendous amount of resources were wasted in simply getting HISID to a legal and logical course of action. It’s always been my position that laws are meant to be applied to, and followed by, everyone equally. With today’s court ruling we have at least established a baseline for future conduct, and hopefully returned to a groundwork for a stable and progressive Holiday Island.”

Other parts of the agreement include HISID agreeing to limit its annual spending on advertising to two percent of the collected AOBs from the previous year.

The lawsuit settlement also allows that, “In order to increase the ability to sell returned/foreclosed properties, the parties agree that HISID shall have the authority to waive the accruing of assessments of benefits on properties that have been returned and/or foreclosed on while they are thus titled in the name of HISID and/or are in the hands of the Arkansas Commissioner of Lands.”

The Agricultural Statistics Board, NASS USDA, shows that in 1990, on average, a sow produced 13 pigs per breeding animal per year, in 2008 the average pigs per breeding animal increased to 18.7 per year. In 2013 a sow produced 9.90-10.20 pigs per litter in a large operation like C & H's.

C & H Hog Farms has the largest concentration of sows in one location in the Buffalo River watershed, it is the only facility ever permitted in the Springfield Aquifer; it has larger amounts of waste per animal due to sow size and litter numbers per sow than 1990 according to statistics; it is spreading untreated manure on fields that have very shallow soils with porous rock outcrops in the middle of winter and the facility itself is within 1/2 mile of a school and town. The facility is .4 of a mile from Big Creek.

Once there were 11 family jobs now there are four family jobs.

I urge everyone to please speak out. The air we breathe and the water we drink are the basic elements in our everyday lives. We are the ones to do something to insure our future generations the same values we have known. We have the education and the research has been done, it is time to acknowledge that we make a difference.

Carol Bitting  
Marble Falls

## Hope for the best, prepare for the worst

Editor,

California Governor Jerry Brown is quoted in reference to California's severe drought, "We are in an unprecedented very serious situation, and people should pause and reflect on how dependent we are on the rain, on nature and on one another."

California, the golden state, is the most populated state in the USA and has a higher population than the 21 least populated states combined. The state income taxes paid by its residents are amongst the highest in the country. I guess money can't buy everything, like enough clean water, for example.

California was once blanketed with towering trees. Most of them have been cut down and continue to be cut down by loggers, building development due to its swelling population, high voltage transmission lines and even now by marijuana farms that are setting up shop

and cutting down what is left of the thin threads of forest near the Pacific coast. It is well known that deforestation is a major contributor to drought!

Let's be grateful that in Arkansas we still have enough fresh water that hopefully won't have unknown chemical tanks set up for coal cleaning next to sources of drinking water, and our turkey vultures, the purifiers of the forest, still have forest to live off of unlike the California condor, a close relative. Many require periodic capture by veterinarians to have lead filtered out of their blood, otherwise there would be no more of these vultures in the wild.

Let's also be thankful for our American eagles that reside in Arkansas and Missouri that are worth fighting for as their cousins on the Pacific west coast are dying off as they migrate to Utah after consuming their favorite Pacific Ocean food, eared grebes, that are believed to be tainted from the 100+ radioactive chemicals spewing over from Fukushima.

All the more reason to grow organic foods at home and protect our water, land and forests. All the more reason to fight against SWEPCO's attempts to denigrate our forests.

Susan Pang

## Stand where we can see you

Editor,

To accident workers and volunteers,

We so appreciate your willingness to work the crazy accidents we have here on our curvy, hilly roads. We don't want to lose any of you, so please work an accident carefully! To the gentleman that I almost squished Monday p.m. at the Leatherwood bridge, I am so sorry... *but...* in the future, please do *not* stand in the middle of the oncoming lane, with a teeny, tiny penlight, and expect us to see you, when the big, flashing, blue lights on the emergency vehicle just past you, are drawing all of our attention!

It was nice to find out that this big moose I now drive (instead of my little trio tracer), can all but stop on a dime, and it was equally nice to figure out you are probably a great swimmer, from the way you dove into the ditch, but really, I'd rather not know either of these things and would prefer to just keep you and others like you, safe!

Thanks to all of you who risk your lives for others!!

Mickey Schneider

## HIFD Aux luncheon Jan. 28

The Holiday Island Fire Auxilliary luncheon will be Tuesday, Jan. 28, at noon in the Holiday ballroom of the Island Country Club, corner of Country Club Drive and Holiday Island Drive,

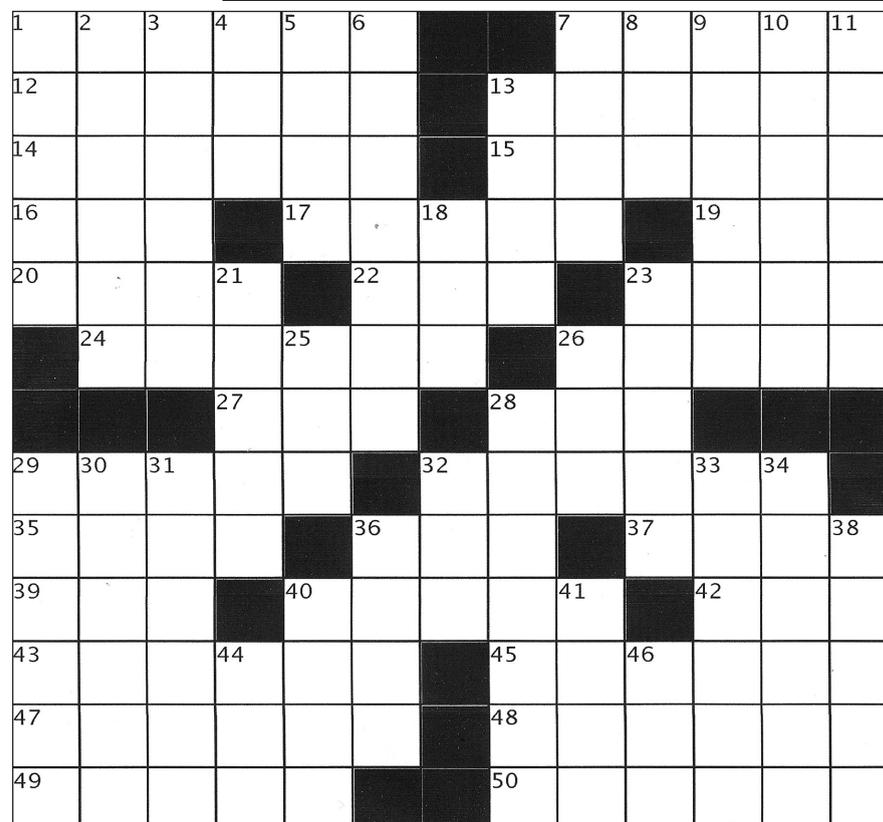
Dues for 2014 will be due. Reservations required – RSVP Nita Holley (479) 363-9541.



# INDEPENDENT Crossword

by Wayne Levering

Solution on page 27



### ACROSS

1. Epitomes
7. Choir voice
12. Artifacts used in education
13. Parody
14. Unpaid debt
15. 10, but not X
16. Flimsy metal
17. Scope
19. Scarf of feathers
20. First garden
22. Dove call
23. Misfortunes
24. Polished writing
26. Niña, Pinta and Santa Maria, e.g.
27. Karate level
28. Taro pudding
29. Orally
32. Leave
35. Gentlemen, place

your \_\_\_\_

36. Distant
37. Female deer
39. Horse grain
40. Luxury cabin
42. Vietnam festival
43. Opera for "at ease"
45. Elaborate
47. Recompense
48. Skulk
49. *Macbeth* is one
50. Behind the boat

### DOWN

1. Incensed
2. Ridicule
3. Worked for
4. Pub order
5. Deceiver
6. Crusaders' foe
7. Weight allowance
8. About when we land (abbr.)

9. Nosh

10. Baseball bird
11. Throw the line again
13. Palm starch
18. Auction action
21. Hornet's nest
23. Homer's opus
25. Tiny bit
26. Dandy
28. Shaded passageway
29. In agreement
30. Pioneer
31. Canadian capital
32. *Pater familia*
33. Turn
34. Wobble
36. Chow
38. Hard-nosed
40. Rome's past currency
41. Muse of love
44. Leg
46. Louse

# INDEPENDENT Classifieds

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

**DEADLINE – Monday at noon**

To place a classified, email [classifieds@esindependent.com](mailto:classifieds@esindependent.com) or call 479.253.6101

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FLORA ROJA COMMUNITY ACUPUNCTURE** - providing affordable healthcare for the whole community. Sliding scale fee. \$15-\$35 per treatment, with an additional \$15 paperwork fee the first visit only. You decide what you can afford to pay! Francesca Garcia Giri, L.Ac. (479) 253-4968, 119 Wall Street

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

Established & Effective: **SIMPLICITY COUNSELING** – improving the health of your friends and neighbors in this community in a relaxed respectful environment since 2010. Depression, Anxiety, Self-Worth, Trauma, Grief, Adjustment & Relationships. Call for professional licensed service. (479) 244-5181 **“It’s Your Time”**

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

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

**FREE TO GOOD HOME** Sweet senior sister cats. Call 253-6983 for more information.

## ANTIQUES

**WONDERLAND ANTIQUES** buys/sells antiques, primitives, unique vintage items. Open 10-5. Closed Tuesday & Wednesday. Hwy 62 east of Eureka 3 miles. (479) 253-6900

## ESTATE SALE

**360 BEATRICE DRIVE, EUREKA SPRINGS. FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JAN. 24 & 25.** Sale hours 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Selling contents of home. Items for sale include but are not limited to the following: Living room furniture, accent tables, stained glass floor lamp, dining table with 6 chairs, game table with 4 chairs, large hutch, 2 curio cabinets, large book cases, gun case, console stereo, retro “Sound Design” stereo, retro “Sabina-Continental” Hi Fi. Sentry safe, kitchen cart, 2 king beds complete, 2 large dressers with mirrors, night stands, chest of drawers. Collector plates, tea cup and saucer collection, 3 Hohner harmonicas, music boxes, LLadro figurine, knick-knacks, pictures, books, LPs, videos (some in German.) Silver Plate flatware. Loaded Kitchen: crystal, glassware, tea pots, large set Mikassa dinnerware, utensils, pots/pans, cookbooks. Singer sewing machine model 6233, sewing machine table. GE side by side refrigerator, upright freezer, garage refrigerator, older washer/dryer. Riding lawn mower, yard tools, work bench, large vice, wood porch glider, large selection household items and furniture. Loads of treasures! Directions: Hwy 62 W of Eureka Springs to County Road 210 (look for Blue Spring sign,) take 210 to Beatrice Drive. For pictures: [qualitysalesnwa.com](http://qualitysalesnwa.com). Carrin (479) 381-3495. Quality Estate and Moving Sale services.

## MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

**DERKSEN PORTABLE BUILDINGS** for sale or rent-to-own. Hwy 62 West, across from WalMart, Berryville. No deposit or credit check. Free delivery. (870) 423-1414.

## HELP WANTED

**CASA COLINA MEXICAN GRILL & CANTINA** now hiring for March openings! Wait staff, host, line cooks/prep and dishwashers. Email your interest to [joejjoy@gmail.com](mailto:joejjoy@gmail.com) Please leave telephone number, work history and best time to reach you.

## HELP WANTED

**PART-TIME EXPERIENCED HOUSEKEEPER** needed for Tall Pines Inn. Must work weekends. (479) 253-8096

**MUST LOVE DOGS!** Responsible person wanted to help care for our pets when traveling for business. We are located on Beaver Lake off Mundell Road. If interested, contact Laurie at (816) 679-9009. (1/8-1/22)

Ahoy! Cap’n is looking to replenish the crew! **SQUID AND WHALE PUB & GRILL** seeking all positions (Kitchen, bar, janitorial) for the upcoming season. Also, local musicians, band, comedy acts, etc...if you ain’t playing every week, give me a holler. Contact: [info@squidandwhalepub.com](mailto:info@squidandwhalepub.com)

**PART-TIME COOK** Holiday Island Grill. Apply in person at 1 Country Club Drive, Holiday Island.

## REAL ESTATE

### COMMERCIAL SALES

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### APARTMENT RENTALS

**HOLIDAY ISLAND VILLAS & TOWNHOUSES** near lake and marina. Peaceful and quiet, ample parking. From \$375/mo. (479) 253-4385

## RENTAL PROPERTIES

### APARTMENT RENTALS

**SMALL, CUTE, BRIGHT** Apartment downtown available now. 250 sq. ft. with kitchen in separate room. Unfurnished. Clean & freshly painted, private cottage feel with small fenced yard. Small pet permitted. References required. \$375/month plus water & electric. First, last plus \$100 cleaning/damage deposit to move in. (479) 253-1649

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

### BEAUTY

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

### HEALTH SERVICES

**OVER-WORKED? UNDER-APPRECIATED!** Are they driving you crazy? Free attitude adjustment with every session. Call Alexa (479) 253-9208. Eureka!! Massage and Wellness Therapies, 147 W. Van Buren.

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# INDEPENDENT Classifieds

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

### MAINTENANCE/ LANDSCAPE/ HOME SERVICES

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

**HEAVEN SENT HANDYMAN**—Professional carpentry and painting. Some plumbing and electrical. Creative and artistic solutions for your remodeling or repairs. Call Jerry (479) 981-0976.

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

**TOM HEARST PROFESSIONAL PAINTING AND CARPENTRY**  
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## SERVICE DIRECTORY

### MAINTENANCE/ LANDSCAPE/ HOME SERVICES

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D	R	A	M	A				A	S	T	E	R	N

## Passion play offers great deal for upcoming season *Get tickets by Feb. 1 for generous discount*

The Great Passion Play is offering a special discount for any performance date in 2014 from Friday, May 2, through Saturday, Oct. 25 – provided the tickets are purchased before Feb. 1. Discounted tickets are \$15 for adults (17 and over), \$5 for youth and children (4 – 16). Kids under 4 are always free. Those planning to attend this season, or who have family and friends coming to visit can save \$10 on each adult and youth ticket and \$6 on children's tickets.

Those who wish to support the ongoing success of the Play and the importance of this attraction to the community have several ways to accomplish that goal, as well as advertise their group or honor an individual.

The Save-A-Seat Campaign will put a permanent plaque on a chair back in the amphitheater stating "In Memory of ...," "In Honor of ..." or "Donated by ..." (your business, church or an individual) for a donation of \$250. Funds raised go toward operational funds to improve the performance venue and grounds.

For a suggested donation of \$10, one can also light the Christ of the Ozarks in memory or honor of someone. Animal lovers can even help with funds for feeding the many animals housed on the grounds.

To purchase discount tickets, and for details on ways to support the Great Passion Play by honoring another, see [www.greatpassionplay.org](http://www.greatpassionplay.org) online or phone (800) 882-7529.

# GUESTatorial

In my view, the December 18, 2013 guestatorial [and news story] about Holiday Island presented information which only covers one narrow side of a much broader story. As a 13-year Holiday Island resident, it is my opinion that the Bischoff article contains mostly the self-supporting opinions of a dissatisfied litigant. Yet the Bischoff version of the events which led to filing a lawsuit against his Holiday Island neighbors appears to be taken as fact.

I have attended many HISID Board and public meetings where AOB [Assessment of Benefit] litigation was discussed and my recollections do not support positions promoted by the guestatorial. For example, while the 2011 AOB did increase some assessment bills, it lowered others. The guestatorial also makes accusations of impropriety against a respected professional assessor. Was that professional interviewed before being castigated with unsubstantiated accusations? The reporter cited no meeting records or other available documentation concerning the AOB process. When the current HISID Chairman was contacted and asked to respond to Mr. Bischoff's allegations that the settlement proved illegal actions by HISID, Ms. Graves refuted those allegations and pointed out that both parties made concessions. Ms. Graves also stated that the wastewater debt repayment method was a funding agency requirement.

I believe there is an obligation to check all of the facts before writing an editorial which labels a public document as "bogus" and states that elected BOC members "directed" a respected professional assessor to alter the AOB. The guestatorial accuses past elected HISID commissioners of "knowingly" breaking state law without providing a shred of evidence other than the Bischoff opinions. I believe attending more of the meetings about the AOB would have afforded your reporter additional context and improved understanding of the process.

As for the timing of the 2011 AOB some context is also missing. Prior to 2011 the AOB had not been verified or updated for several years. To my knowledge no previous assessment was prepared by an experienced, professional assessor. In a fair evaluation your readers can draw their own conclusions whether commissioners who voted to authorize an update of the AOB by a recognized professional assessor and to adopt required loan repayment formulas had "knowingly failed to comply" with Arkansas laws.

In championing incorporation your reporter has also made the quantum leap

that being an incorporated community would resolve the improprieties accused by Mr. Bischoff. In my opinion important facts were again omitted. In 2002 Holiday Island residents made a concerted effort to examine incorporation pros and cons. That process resulted in a "White Paper" which evaluated the steps required for incorporation as well as incorporation in other places. More recently after the Bischoff lawsuit was filed, an ex-officio "Solutions Committee" was formed by Holiday Island residents to investigate incorporation as a replacement for the SID. Nor did your reporter reference the HISID meeting where a representative from the Solutions Committee reported that both an incorporated place and a SID would be needed to provide sufficient revenues to operate and maintain Holiday Island's existing infrastructure plus the new infrastructure of an incorporated place.

My view is it won't be time for Holiday Island to incorporate until the required number of Holiday Island property owners sign the petitions necessary to initiate that process. In my view, the Dec. 18 article amounted to a blatant indictment without evidence and broad accusations of illegality without supporting fact. I believe [it] accepts the Bischoff version of events without independent verification. Results of the recent BOC election clearly demonstrate which side of this issue is supported by a majority of Holiday Island voters. Less than 25 percent of Holiday Island votes supported the candidate of the Bischoff faction.

Holiday Island deserves more fairness and objectivity in future editorials. As a reader, I expect a higher level of journalism.

**David Blackford**

[Eds. Note: Reporter and writer, Becky Gillette responds: "[Blackford] refers to a lawsuit against the Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District. It was not a lawsuit against Bischoff's "neighbors," but one that gives \$3.5 million in reductions in the Assessment of Benefits to property owners in Holiday Island. I didn't accuse the assessor of impropriety. I said the reassessment was "bogus" as it appeared to be very convenient that the assessment went up the amount needed to replace AOBs fees no longer being paid on vacant lots. As for citing no meeting records or other available documentation concerning AOB process, I quoted at length from the lawsuit settlement that was all about the AOB process. And at a hearing Tuesday in which this settlement was approved by Judge David Clinger, the judge said the lawsuit was justified].



[newhorizonrealtyeureka.com](http://newhorizonrealtyeureka.com)

**PERFECT COTTAGE**, view of Little Lake Eureka. Every inch is efficiently designed with built in tables, closets, drawers, shelves and a loft sleeping area to make the best use of the space. Additional lots adjoin the cottage property providing several options ... buffer, additional parking, space to build another structure or a good investment. Easily within walking distance of downtown. \$115,000. MLS# 693917. Call Evelyn.



**WELL MAINTAINED BUNGALOW** – 3 bd., 2 ba, detached garage, workshop, RV pad, terraced gardens, chain link fence, quiet lake area living on 1.3 acres. Paved road, community lake access. A lot for the money. \$179,900. MLS# 680300. Call Jack.



**EXCELLENT VIEWS** of Beaver Lake, 4 bd., 3.5 ba, 2 car garage, high on 3 acre ridge with southern exposure. Vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, custom cabinets, built-in entertainment center, wired for sound, water filtering system, fireplace and wood stove on lower level. Lake access from lot. Boat slips available just minutes away. Priced below appraisal at \$469,900. MLS# 656787. Call Evelyn.

Call one of our agents today!



Evelyn Cross  
Broker  
479.253.3450



Jack Cross  
Associate  
479.253.3711

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# All Seasons REAL ESTATE



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**NICE 3 BED/2 BATH HOME ON 20 ACRES** just minutes east of Eureka Springs. Open plan with nice layout. Main level has large living area with wood burning stove, kitchen open to living area, 2 bed, 1 bath, laundry, and lots of windows to enjoy the views. Master bedroom suite and bath on upper level with lots of windows as well. Property has a spring and many trails for exploring. This home is awaiting your decorative touch! Would make a great home, weekend get-a-way, or hunting lodge! \$129,000



**CABIN IN THE WOODS** – 1400 sq. ft. with studio space and acres of wooded mountain land. Private, yet only minutes to Eureka Springs. 1 bedroom, 1 bath and sleeping loft for guest. Nice wrap-around deck. \$109,900



**CUTE LITTLE COTTAGE** located in the heart of Eureka Springs. Corner fireplace, hardwood and tile floors, stainless steel appliances, wine refrigerator, and hot tub – nestled against the limestone bluff. Off-street parking, single car garage. Great weekender. \$119,000

[www.EurekaAllSeasons.com](http://www.EurekaAllSeasons.com)

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## 6 WOOD CIRCLE



Architecturally designed home in prestigious Eureka subdivision located at end of cul de sac for privacy. Private fenced pool for end-of-day relaxation, custom built children's play house, oak flooring, double faced fireplace warms great room and dining room, and super upper loggia for office/media room. Top of line windows and doors and stainless steel kitchen appliances, plus under counter drink refrigerator and Maytag washer & dryer. Nestled into nature, you will be proud to call this private place home. The location is totally tucked away in the treetops and tuned in with nature. MLS# 685105. REDUCED. \$215,000.

## NEW ON MARKET! CUSTOM EUREKA HOME

Beautifully maintained custom two story home. Lots of upgrades since original construction. A welcoming entry with Travertine marble greets you and your guests into a large great room with soaring two story stone fireplace. Beautiful dining room with enclosed sunroom leads to rear deck. Main floor bedroom also has door to deck. Custom cabinets with linen finish and black wrought iron hardware, 1 1/2" thick custom granite counter tops and fabulous stainless steel appliances including Elite gas range with double ovens, wine cooler and trash compactor. 3 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths and another bonus sunroom upstairs. Two jetted tubs with showers and beautiful ceramic tile. All this in convenient Eureka Springs Pines Addition with easy access to shopping and schools. MLS# 693346. \$259,000



## 5.35 ACRES ON HIGHWAY 187

A great piece of fairly flat manicured land just a short distance off Hwy. 187. Frontage on highway and widens as it goes back almost two and a half football fields deep. A great view over looking mountains and valleys, with Thorncrowne glass chapel in the background. Perfect building site with electric power nearby. Great for home and even a second home or guest house. MLS# 689678. \$31,900.

