



**Three week leak** – This hydrant on Main St. has been leaking for about three weeks, resulting in water freezing and piling up over the curb downstream. Public Works told the *Independent* on Feb. 11 the leak was a small one and there was no good way to shut off the hydrant. Repairs were scheduled for that morning and had previously been put off as workers tended other, more serious water main breaks around the city.

PHOTO BY GWEN ETHEREDGE



## Rock Street still a rocky road to vacation

NICKY BOYETTE

Since December of 2012, Ryan and Rachel Brix have been asking for clarity from city government regarding an undeveloped plat of land called Rock Street that runs through the middle of their property and within six feet of their front door. It is access to their home and the city does not maintain it. They requested a vacation of the strip of property before both the Parks and Planning Commissions, but were denied because the owners of Marble Flats, a tract of land adjacent to the Brixes' property, claimed they would be losing the southern access to their property even though they have yet to develop it.

After those denials, Rachel Brix changed the request by stating her research indicated the city did not even own the property, and she was looking for confirmation.

The Eureka Springs city council in December agreed to allow city attorney Tim Weaver until the Feb. 10 meeting to research and provide guidance for council. Monday evening Weaver announced he had spoken with attorneys for both sides, and he said he had found "nothing decisive that says we [the city] don't own it."

"This has gone on a long time, and here we are again at vacating," alderman David Mitchell said, meaning the Brixes were basically starting over.

Brix told council she and Ryan had followed procedures outlined by the city, and the only opponents to their request were the Marble Flats owners, "and they have three other means of

**COUNCIL** continued on page 23

### This Week's INDEPENDENT Thinker



PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

Adrian Hoppel worked successfully in corporate America for more than 10 years, but decided the only way he could avoid the disconnect between work and life was to feel good about himself.

Hoppel, a web designer, decided to use his talent and expertise to form a "gift economy."

"My pricing is simple," he says. "I design and build your website and give it to you. I trust you to gift me back what you think is fair value. A business relationship founded on mutual trust and gratitude."

And guess what? He makes more money per project than he did in a suit and tie.

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## INDEPENDENTNews

### Legislators on board to change SWEPCO ruling outcome

BECKY GILLETTE

More than 6,000 public comments opposing the American Electric Power (AEP)/Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) 345-kilovolt (kV) Shipe Road to Kings River power line didn't stop an Arkansas Public Service Commission (ASPC) Administrative Law Judge from approving the northern Route 109.

But now legislators from Missouri and Arkansas are working to change the outcome for the hundreds of property owners along the route who believe their quality of life, property values and the area's tourism based economy would be decimated by the line that would carry towers twice as tall as the tallest trees in the Ozarks.

Missouri legislators have introduced two bills designed to stop AEP/SWEPCO from using Route 109 that would run through 25 miles of Missouri property along the state line for a project that would not provide electricity to Missouri. AEP/SWEPCO has no customers in Missouri, and earlier indicated that Route 109 was the least preferred of six routes because of anticipated difficulties in obtaining regulatory permission in Missouri. It appears AEP/SWEPCO was right, at least, about that. A bill introduced in the Missouri House of Representatives states the Missouri Public Service Commission "shall lack jurisdiction to approve the construction of the SWEPCO line along Route 109." A bill introduced Feb. 6 by Sen. David Sater of Cassville would prohibit SWEPCO from using eminent domain for the project in Missouri.

Sater said the bill protects his constituents' property rights and sends a clear message to SWEPCO and the Arkansas PSC that they need to address "an Arkansas problem in Arkansas."

People in southwest Missouri knew what they were doing when they elected Sater, Save the Ozarks Executive Director Pat Costner said. "His proposed amendment to Missouri's law on the eminent domain power of utilities is the work of a wily, old-time politician," she said. "If the senator's bill passes, it looks like SWEPCO's plan could be dead in the water."

Slater said with no Missouri interest

in this line, it simply doesn't make sense to run the line through the state.

It doesn't make sense to run the line through Northwest Arkansas either, according to Sen. Bryan King of Berryville. King said he is planning to draft legislation that would strengthen private property rights and make it more difficult for big corporations to take land using eminent domain.

King said it is a big problem when an individual landowner has to come up with thousands or tens of thousands of dollars to go up against a wealthy corporation when fighting eminent domain or trying to get a fair settlement for providing a right-of-way.

"My biggest concern is the little guy has a hard time beating the big guy in court," King said.

The Arkansas Legislature has a fiscal session that begins this week, and King said he would take the opportunity to meet with attorneys about drafting legislation that would be helpful to opponents of the AEP/SWEPCO line and other similar projects. Two other high voltage transmission lines are in the works for Northwest Arkansas.

"I will be sitting down face-to-face with attorneys looking at property rights and eminent domain," King said. "I'm looking at something that would strengthen property rights. I'm a farmer, and having a high voltage power line go through pastureland is a lot different than going through the major tourism areas like the town of Beaver. It is problematic. If you go through pastureland, it may only affect each individual owner and not someone a quarter mile away. But if this goes through a tourism area, it can have a negative impact on the entire economy."

The legislation King proposes wouldn't be considered until the 2015 session, but could still have an impact on the AEP/SWEPCO proposal as appeals are planned that could stall the project.

King said he was disappointed in the judge's order giving AEP/SWEPCO permission to build the line.

"Volumes of public comments were presented during the public comment period pertaining to the direct consequences of building a transmission line of this size through northern Carroll County," King

**SWEPCO** continued on page 25



## Filling in parking gaps

NICKY BOYETTE

Alderman Dee Purkeypile told city council Monday night he had spoken with Public Works Director Dwayne Allen about a section of parking lot near the courthouse

that sank a wee bit. It was roped off as a safety precaution before Mayor Morris Pate's election to office. The affected area takes away two parking spots.

Purkeypile also said he had toured

the area from underneath and had seen a storm sewer made by rectangular limestone blocks, each with cracks. He said the city would need to deal with the problem at some point, but suspects the section would not collapse.

Mayor's assistant, Diane Wilkerson, said Allen is working on a mitigation plan that would make the city eligible for federal assistance.

Alderman Mickey Schneider commented, "The county owns the land, but the quorum court will do nothing if we don't push it. They own it, they're responsible, so fix it!"

Purkeypile suggested for \$4000-5000, the spot could be safely repaired without impacting anything underneath. Then the city could again begin collecting parking revenue from those two spots.

Mayor Morris Pate observed the city could not spend money fixing county property, yet the lease says the city is to keep hard surfaces of the lot in good repair.

Alderman Terry McClung moved to

ask County Judge Sam Barr to authorize Eureka Springs to fix the problem for no more than \$8000, but alderman James DeVito was not on board with the idea. He said it would take years for parking revenue to catch up with that expense. With that kind of money, the city could buy more land and create more parking spaces.

"This is pathetic!" Schneider said, adding she thought the city should "expend the money to save lives."

Purkeypile said he did not want to spend money recklessly, and was confident the amount would be less than McClung's number. "I would be happy to put a finer pencil to it and report back."

McClung remarked that if the city wanted to sell access to those parking spots for \$8000, merchants would be lining up all day long, but he would withdraw his motion if Purkeypile wanted to fine-tune the cost of the project.

Vote to have Purkeypile report back with a clearer estimate of the cost was 5-1, DeVito voting No.

## Fire victims identified

Two people who died in a Berryville house fire Jan. 27 were identified as Daniel Cody Middleton, 26, and Jackie Lee Aday, 31, according to Carroll County Sheriff Bob Grudek.

"They both died of smoke inhalation according to the state medical examiner in Little Rock," Grudek said, adding there was no foul play.

"The Arkansas State Police arson investigator, Arthur Raff, went slowly

through the debris and determined that although the fire likely smoldered for awhile, it became what's termed a flashover," Grudek said. "But right now there is no cause pinpointed and there were no accelerants. There will be more tests, so things could change, but that's the way it stands now."

Grudek said the fire was also investigated by Harrison Fire Chief Mark Lowery.

## How to be an armchair Olympian

JAY BENDER

Now that the Olympic games have begun, I'm sure lots of you have watched some NBC primetime coverage. As someone who was an Olympic Official for Biathlon at the 2010 Vancouver games, I got the opportunity to see many of the Nordic events (Cross Country, Ski Jumping, Nordic Combined and Biathlon) up close and personal.

This time, though, I've got to do like everyone else and follow my favorite sports on TV. An unprecedented number of hours of coverage are being broadcast, and NBC packages their prime time broadcasts to appeal to the wide, general audience. This means lots of figure skating, and hours and hours of interviews with the small number of athletes NBC bigwigs have decided are going to be featured. So, if you're like me, you'll need to work to get your Olympics viewing streamlined and targeted for you. Here are some tips:

Go to [nbcolympics.com](http://nbcolympics.com) where you can click on specific events across the top of the page. Here you can read about the athletes, view event schedule and see results and medal standings. However, this does not include television broadcast times for the event. For that you'll have to go to the broadcast schedule (see links below) and make notes about when your sports are on.

Most sports get very little prime coverage aside from skating and skiing.

We record prime time coverage on DVR and watch later so we can fast forward through commercials and events we have no interest in. There's also a spoiler alert here, as you may see event results on other shows before you get a chance to watch the recording.

The good news for those of us who like the more obscure sports (curling, anyone?) is that all Olympic events are streamed live over the Internet on Live Extra, and can be viewed on home computer or mobile device. You do need a cable subscription, Dish Network or DirectTV, but must go through a fairly painless "verification" process on the website. Since many events take place in the middle of the night for us (Sochi is 10 hrs. earlier), you will either have to stay up to watch, or you can watch it in replay via the archive at Live Extra. Of course it helps to have a fast Internet connection.

Lastly, for those with premium dish or cable subscriptions, NBCSN (Sports Network) will have coverage of both men's and women's hockey and, of course, more figure skating. Me ... I'll be watching biathlon!

Helpful links: [nbcolympics.com](http://nbcolympics.com) (TV listings and watch live signup); [nbcolympics.com/live-extra](http://nbcolympics.com/live-extra); [nbcsports.com/live-extra-schedule](http://nbcsports.com/live-extra-schedule); [allisports.com](http://allisports.com) (snowboard and slope style news); and [nbcolympics.com/news/nbcsn-air-over-230-hours-sochi-coverage](http://nbcolympics.com/news/nbcsn-air-over-230-hours-sochi-coverage).

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## Arctic cold takes toll on heating bills

BECKY GILLETTE

While Eureka Springs has a lower cost of living than many areas of the country, the majority of people living here are employed in low-paying jobs in hotels, retail shops and restaurants. When the tourism-based economy drops off precipitously in the winter months, it can be a struggle for people to pay their bills.

And now the area has experienced the longest prolonged cold spell in nearly three decades, resulting in high heating bills for many in the area.

AEP/SWEPCO spokesman Peter Main said the extreme Arctic cold brought a new all-time winter peak load for the power company on Tuesday, Jan. 7, as its 524,000 customers used 4,892 megawatts of electricity at 8 a.m. One megawatt is a million watts.

"The new record demand is 16.1 percent over the company's projected customer load for this winter," Main said. "Extreme temperatures like those

*The biggest news for Carroll Electric members is significantly higher usage for most homes beginning with the winter storm that hit the first week of December.*

– CECC spokesperson Nancy Plagge

we have experienced in Arkansas the last few months can always be a factor in electricity usage and customer's electric bills. If customers have questions about their bills or they are concerned about making payments, we encourage them to contact our Customer Solutions Center at 1 (888) 216-3523."

Carroll Electric Cooperative Corp. (CECC) also saw record power usage this winter. On Jan. 6, Carroll Electric members used a record 10,126,903 kilowatt-hours.

"The biggest news for Carroll Electric members is significantly higher usage for most homes beginning with the winter storm that hit the first week of December," said CECC spokesperson Nancy Plagge. "Month-to-date February

system loads are up 48 percent over February last year."

CECC's Customer Service Center is fielding many, many calls from Carroll Electric members who have received bills much higher than expected. Plagge said members are encouraged to contact CECC at 1 (800) 432-9720 prior to their due date to discuss payment options to

minimize the impact on their budgets.

The Salvation Army, which provides help with heating bills for struggling families, has seen a big jump in the number of people calling for assistance.

"It has been tough on everyone this year," Salvation Army Major N.J. Pope, area commander said. "Obviously, there are a lot more people calling and asking for assistance. We like to help people, but we can only do that with the funds we have available. Hopefully, people are not doing without food to keep heat on. We try to help with food, as well."

WEATHER continued on page 27

## Energy saving tips from SWEPCO

For economy, set the thermostat for 68°, then leave it alone. Each degree above that adds to your cost. Setting it higher won't heat your home any faster. A five-degree lower setting will conserve energy when you plan to be away for the day.

Keep filter clean. Check them at least once a month. If it's a permanent-type filter, clean it according to manufacturer's directions. A disposable one should be checked each month and replaced when needed. Dirty filters cause equipment to work harder and use more electricity.

The entire heating system should be inspected and serviced each year to operate at maximum efficiency.

Weatherstrip doors and windows to prevent air leaks. Check caulking around windows, doors and other parts of the house.

Air leakage through small cracks and holes in a home's exterior is a major reason

for heat loss in the winter. Make sure all doors and windows are closed when the heating unit is operating.

Open curtains or blinds on the sunny side of the house and allow sunshine into the home. Otherwise, keep shades closed to help keep the warm air inside.

Inspect the attic. Heat rising through the ceiling into the attic is another major source of heat loss. Check the duct insulation to see that all tears are taped and the insulation is securely wrapped around the ducts. Over time, ducts that are not properly sealed can leak as much as 25 percent of heated air into the attic.

When the fireplace is not in use, be sure the damper is tightly closed. Glass fireplace doors are also good for additional savings.

Have blankets, flashlights, bottled water, portable radios and TVs, and a supply of fresh batteries on hand if the power should go off.

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## State of the city

NICKY BOYETTE

Mayor Morris Pate opened the Feb. 10 city council meeting by delivering his State of the City address. Highlights included:

- New public restrooms on North Main were completed
- Details are being finalized for construction of a sidewalk on the north side of US 62 from Hwy. 23 North almost to the intersection with Hwy. 23 South
- Resurfacing of the road into Lake Leatherwood City Park (LLCP) completed
- ESPD made 243 arrests; issued 1285 citations and 319 written warnings
- ESFD celebrated 130 years of service; ESFD-Rural purchased property south of town for a new volunteer fire station to cover the gap between the city and the Buck Mountain area
- ESFD hosted another successful First Responder Conference; 150 attended
- Community First Bank donated funds for the installation of a soccer scoreboard at the Lake Leatherwood City Park fields
- Arkansas Forestry Commission

contributed toward the rain garden at Cardinal Spring; the project was acknowledged by the Municipal League and *Arkansas Business* magazine with the Green Initiatives award

- Public Works made several improvements to the wastewater plant, such as repairing service line leaks; repairs were made to numerous sewer mains due to failing pipes and root intrusion
- Pressure reducing valves in water lines were replaced or repaired to slow water loss
- New leaks in the water delivery system identified and repaired
- Worked on improving storm water drainage
- CAPC reported a .6 percent increase in collections over the previous year
- Eureka Springs received free public relations valued at \$1.12 million by being featured in articles in print media in several states; also received tremendous public relations from hosting the WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour at the Auditorium

• Transit gave 120,552 rides, traveled 158,716 miles and spent 10,774 hours in service

- Passed the 30-year mark as the oldest Tree City USA in Arkansas
- Received funding from the Arkansas Arts Council for the North Main Music Sculpture Park

## Templars in America before 1492

On Feb. 16, Abbot Dr. David Michael, OC, LD.HKt.B., ThD, will present "The Templar and Culdee in America before 1492" at 2 p.m. in the Carnegie Library annex. The presentation centers around the Culdee being in America by the 6<sup>th</sup> Century with the Templars following in the late 1300s and proto-Templars being in Arizona by 800 AD.

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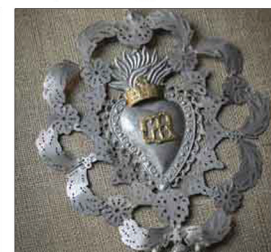
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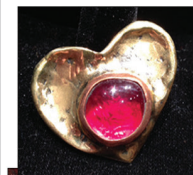
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## INDEPENDENTNews

### Big chill puts deep freeze on business

BECKY GILLETTE

The most severe winter in decades hasn't just left people with cabin fever, high heating bills and the dangers of driving or walking on icy roads and sidewalks. It has also taken the area's economy into the deep freeze.

According to Rick Bright, finance director for the City Advertising and Promotion Commission (CAPC), collections for December were down 18 percent, resulting in a decline of \$10,000 in revenues. Gross sales for restaurants and lodging establishments subject to the CAPC tax were \$330,000.

The loss of the first two weeks of business in December was significant resulting in a loss of about 22 percent of that month's revenue for the 1886 Crescent Hotel and the Basin Park Hotel, according to General Manager Jack Moyer.

"In January, we saw most bad weather on weekdays and we were

fortunate to be able to save most of Eureka Springs Paranormal weekend and the Ozark Mountain Music Festival was a great success," Moyer said. "In February we have lost *all* weekday business, making it fifty percent down to date, but saved the ESP conference in the first weekend. We expect sellouts for Valentine and the two weekends to follow."

There were a lot of hotel cancellations because people couldn't get into town, Mike Bishop, President of the Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce said.

"Then there are a lot of shops that weren't able to open because people couldn't get to the shops," Bishop said. "It is much slower and tougher to move about, no doubt. There are also concerns about employees being able to get into work. We have had employees who can't get into work because of it. The only good thing about that is there isn't

**TOURISM** continued on page 27

### A little help from our friends:

• **Food pantry, furniture bank and used book store** – Wildflower Chapel Food Pantry is open 10:30 – Noon on Fridays. Thrift Store and Used Furniture Bank open Monday – Friday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (479) 363-6408. Service times: 253-5108.

• **Coffee Break Al-Anon Family Group Women** – Tuesdays, 9:45 a.m., Faith Christian Family Church, Hwy. 23S. (479) 363-9495.

• **First United Methodist Church offers free Sunday suppers** 5:30 – 7 p.m. Hwy. 23S. Night Church at 6 with short message and music. (479) 253-8987

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

• **GRIEF SHARE** 13-week grief recovery program begins Oct. 13. Sundays 2 – 4 p.m. HI Community Church Fellowship Hall library (188 Stateline Drive). Join at any time. \$15 workbook fee required. For details phone (479) 253-8925, or e-mail [lardellen@gmail.com](mailto:lardellen@gmail.com).

• **Celebrate Recovery** – All are welcome at Soul Purpose Ministries, 801 S. Springfield, Green Forest, at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, for a potluck meal followed by 12-step Christ-centered meetings for those suffering from addiction, habit, hang-up or hurt.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.nwarkaa.org)



## Odds and ends at city council

NICKY BOYETTE

• Council voted unanimously Monday night to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2202 that reclaims McCune St. and the northern part of Hartman St. from Parks' jurisdiction. The first reading went so well council also approved the second and third readings. Alderman Mickey Schneider insisted the city install appropriate signage so private property is not trod upon and motorists know there will be a tight turnaround at the end of the street.

• City attorney Tim Weaver said the proposed ordinance requiring a business license for multi-family dwellings in the R-1 zone might not provide the results they are looking for. He described the situation as "a whole lot of nothing being accomplished with this ordinance." Intent of the ordinance was to ensure multi-family dwellings have proper fire extinguishers and fire alarms.

Weaver said the problem was the ordinance as written would not allow Building Inspector Bobby Ray authority

to enforce anything until ownership of a multi-family dwelling is transferred. Council voted to send the ordinance back to the Planning Commission to work out the details with Ray.

• Aldermen considered limiting the size of performing animals in the C-3 zone to 25 lbs. Alderman David Mitchell pointed out a six-lb. monkey is part of the performance of the Intrigue Theater at Gavioli Chapel and in conflict with zoning restrictions.

After a brief discussion regarding dire possibilities, they agreed unanimously to delete wording in City Code prohibiting animals from performances in C-3. If a new situation ever warranted their attention, they agreed to confront it at that time.

• On the agenda was setting a workshop date to discuss a parking rate increase for special events promoters who want to use the city parking spaces near the courthouse. Assistant to the Mayor, Diane Wilkerson, told council she had been keeping close track of the use of rented spaces and has been using her own discretion for how

many spaces a group might need based on historical usage. She considered this an administrative issue, and there were no problems presently. Nevertheless, Mitchell moved for council to review the ordinance proposed last year, and the vote to approve was 4-2, Terry McClung and Dee Purkeypile voting No.

Nevertheless, Mitchell moved for council to review the pertinent ordinance, and vote to approve his motion was 4-2, McClung and Purkeypile voting No.

• Alderman James DeVito said the issue of what vehicles could be used as limousines had been brought to their table, but he thought council did not need to get involved. "The marketplace will take care of it. Council does not need to get into the details," he said.

Alderman Joyce Zeller said there was already an issue because out-of-town companies were being called for rides to Northwest Regional Airport. She said these companies were taking the lucrative business away from local companies.

Council, however, agreed they could not stop phone calls and took no action.

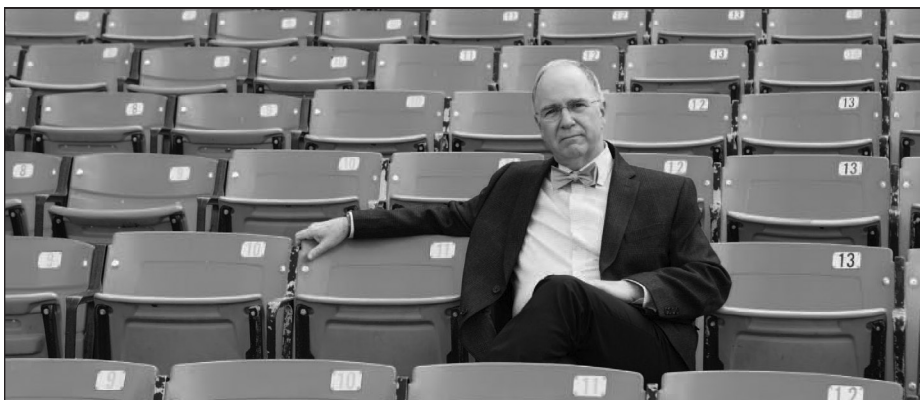
• During Council Comments, DeVito and Terry McClung applauded employees of Public Works for resolute work during recent difficult weather. "We've had winters like this before, but it's been awhile, and they've been great," McClung commented.

Mayor Morris Pate noted employees of Public Works "have earned more than they're making."

Next meeting will be Monday, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m.

### Purple Heart recipients invited Feb. 24

Purple Heart recipients are encouraged to attend the Feb. 24 Holiday Island Board of Commissioners meeting at 9 a.m. at the District office. The commission will discuss and take action on proclaiming Holiday Island a Purple Heart Community.



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

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

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

## How the APSC works

Editor,

The Arkansas Public Service Commission has a pattern of choosing the least defended route (almost always the one the utility wants). When a utility company wants to put in a new power line, several routes are offered to the APSC. The utility presents a route analysis and suggests a preferred route based on an Environmental Impact Statement that meets no particular well-defined objective standards (and certainly not federal standards). State regulatory agencies are asked to name concerns, then landowners are notified at the last possible minute to comply with state law. Through a quasi-judicial process, the judge, as a rule of thumb, is left to choose the least defended route.

The question of whether or not the power line is needed is easy to fix if any

one dares bring it up. The APSC just takes the word of the utility (in this case SWEPCO) and the Southwest Power Pool. Nothing more need be said when it comes to need (in their minds, anyway.) Just in case any upstart group of citizens or nosy reporters dare to question need, they throw orders for non-disclosure into the docket on a routine basis to keep questioning minds from getting the full picture.

In the Shipe Road to Kings River power line proposal, AEP/SWEPCO refused to notify landowners in Missouri, and the APSC refused to acknowledge the need to notify residents along that route, despite Save the Ozarks' insistence that *all* landowners along the proposed routes receive adequate and timely notice.

Once again, we have a situation in which the APSC judge chooses the least defended route. But in this case, we wonder where justice might be found in the APSC process. In her ruling, Judge Connie Griffin agreed with

AEP/SWEPCO that notice to Missouri landowners was not required by Arkansas law. It is a Catch-22 of sorts. Choose the least defended route, but make certain that at least one route is not alerted to defend itself.

This is very much like the situation where we started. The judge's ruling came as a surprise to Missouri residents, but we've become used to surprises. In April we were informed that a power line in planning by SWEPCO and the Southwest Power Pool would be coming, that had been kept secret from us for over six years. It was a sneak attack by a rogue utility, and we were given but 30 days to defend ourselves.

Justice will only be delivered to those who demand it. Please continue to insist that the Shipe Road to Kings River application be rejected in full. No route should be approved by such a flawed regulatory process. Ever.

**Doug Stowe**

**MAIL** continued on page 24



## WEEK'S Top Tweets

**@joeveix** --- Definitely never want to own a small fruit stand in an action movie.

**@TheIronSherk** --- What idiot called it the "number of Police Officers in the Precinct" and not the "Copulation?"

**@Cali\_Kid\_Mike** --- "You clean up nicely," is just a polite way of saying "You usually look like s#i%."

**@andylasnner** --- If The Lego Movie is about anything other than parents walking around and cursing after stepping on Legos, it's not based on a true story.

**@\_NTFG\_** --- My friend left his laptop on the floor in my living room. My other friend thought it was a scale. Conclusion: She weighs \$950.

**@Truculent67** --- I'd rather be an outlaw than an in-law.

**@KenJennings** --- The Super Bowl is over, everyone. Time to briefly learn the names of some Winter Olympians.

**@Reverend\_Scott** --- Fun Fact: Valentine's Day was created by a woman that didn't get what she wanted for Christmas.

**@Zen\_Moments** --- And those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music. ~ Friedrich Nietzsche

**@nycjim** --- Jamie Anderson of US wins gold in women's snowboarding slope style.





## American dream is dead – planet could be next. Now what?

**D**id you miss the AP poll in 2013? The upshot is that the American dream is dead. The middle class is disappearing as the rich get richer and the poor get thrown under the backhoe. According to the survey, four out of five adults struggle with joblessness, near-poverty or reliance on welfare for at least part of their lives.

An estimated 52 percent of people in Arkansas struggle constantly with economic insecurity. People are one paycheck, one trip to the ER or one car accident away from losing the struggle to tread water economically.

Income inequality in the U.S. is now the highest since 1928, and the highest of any first-world country. Remember Occupy/the 99 percent? The fact is that one percent of our population owns 43 percent of the wealth while the bottom 80 percent owns only seven percent.

It isn't just those of the Occupy ilk who believe this is a problem. Nobel Prize winning economist Robert J. Shiller said rising economic inequality in the U.S. and other countries is "the most important problem that we are facing now today."

Vying even more strongly for the title "most important problem," in our opinion, is the "The Coming 'Instant Planetary Emergency'." That is the title of a recent article by Dahr Jamail published in *The Nation*.

"How will the climate change affect the future of the planet?" Dahr asks. "Scientists predict it will be nothing short of a nightmare." This article is a sobering summary of the fact that the warming of our planet due to greenhouse gas emissions is a runaway freight train.

The article quotes University of Arizona climate change expert Guy McPherson: "We've never been on a planet with no Arctic ice, and we will hit the average of 400 ppm (carbon dioxide)... within the next couple of years. At that time, we'll also see the loss of Arctic ice in the summers. This planet has not experienced an ice-free Arctic for at least the last three million years. We've never been here as a species and the implications are truly dire and profound for our species and the rest of the living planet."

Of great concern is the potential for catastrophic releases from the Arctic Ocean. As the Arctic icecap melts and the Arctic Ocean warms, it may release huge stores of methane that are a hundred times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Scientists are dramatically increasing estimates of the amount of methane being released into the atmosphere.

The article is filled with other facts that could keep you up at night if you care about the future of your children and grandchildren and the many species that share the Earth with us that are going extinct. So let's cut to the chase. What is the one thing that the U.S. could do to have the most important impact on the two most important issues of our time? Adopt a carbon tax.

Shelley Buonaiuto, Chair of the Fayetteville Citizens' Climate Lobby, said it well in a recent opinion piece responding to Sen. John Boozman's efforts to halt EPA caps on pollution from power plants because it would be hard on poor people.

Buonaiuto suggests, instead, assisting families battling the high cost of energy through a revenue-neutral carbon fee on point sources of carbon pollution.

"A substantial percentage of the money collected should be returned as a dividend to the consumer to compensate for higher energy prices. It is estimated that two-thirds of U.S. citizens would break even or come out ahead," she said. "A carbon fee and dividend is the free-market solution to emission reductions, and will assist in the development of clean technologies. This would be an economic boon and job creator, keeping America economically in the world market. Renewables may also be our only chance to preserve this planet for our children."

*Becky Gillette*



## The Pursuit Of HAPPINESS

by Dan Krotz

**S**ean Fallon-Nebbia of Rochester, New York, bit his brother Frank's ear off in a family fight during the Super Bowl. That's the good news. The bad news is that the Fallon-Nebbia brouhaha reminds us that our legislators have convened in Little Rock for a "short" fiscal session. Yes, Arkansas' Honorable Rotundities once again assemble, rally, and amass like ticks on a tired old coonhound. Can you hear that puckered, sucking sound?

We will learn yet again that they love liberty, Jesus, guns, freedom, and the idea of hard work and honesty. And because it is hard to fit "Give me liberty or give me death!" into a speech on maintenance, we won't hear anything about improving the State Highway and Transportation Department's hit-and-miss approach to keeping main roads passable during snowy weather. That's because these important people have more important work to do: they need to throw 90,000 newly insured Arkansans off the health care bus.

They'll make the argument that ObamaCare will cause 2,300,000 job losses. What that really means is that folks between the ages of 62 and 65 who want to retire from "Welcome to Wal-Mart!" positions can now retire because they have affordable health care. And it means that some people with second jobs will quit them because they won't need to work 50 or 60 hours a week just to provide coverage for their families. There won't be 2,300,000 job losses. There will be 2,300,000 job openings. What Republicans truly mean is that when workers decide to work less it is a bad thing; only when employers decide that workers should work less is it a good thing.

They also worry about productivity losses, and with good reason. In the world they grew up in, between 1948 and 1973, productivity gains and wages and benefits gains were roughly equal: it made sense to work hard and long because employers rewarded effort. But since 1973, productivity gains have been 80.4 percent, while wage and benefit gains have been 10.7 percent. If politicians want people to depend less on the government they should agree that the laborer is worthy of his hire.



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# INDEPENDENT Constables On Patrol

### FEBRUARY 3

9:20 a.m. – There was a two-vehicle crash, no injuries, just east of downtown.

12:20 p.m. – Individual reported a possible vehicle versus gas line accident. ESPD alerted the sheriff so deputies could check outside city limits.

### FEBRUARY 4

3:39 a.m. – Constables on patrol responded to the scene of a tripped burglar alarm but found the building secure.

8:52 a.m. – Concerned resident thought there was too much snow on the ramp of his apartment and emergency services would not be able to get through if needed. Constable shoveled the ramp.

7:20 p.m. – Observer reported dogs had been in a nearby car for three or four days and one of them had turned on the hazard lights. Constable responded and determined who owned the vehicle.

10:11 p.m. – Person at an inn told ESPD he heard doors banging and saw people walking around outside. Constable went to the scene but found everything okay.

### FEBRUARY 5

9:41 a.m. – Alarm was triggered at a business downtown, but the constable found the building locked up tight.

7:24 p.m. – Resident in a neighborhood reported a loud noise coming from near the house next door. Constable checked out the area and referred the matter to the Building Inspector.

### FEBRUARY 6

10:19 a.m. – Manager of a business asked a constable to take a report regarding an instance of battery between employees that had occurred two weeks before.

11:09 a.m. – Concerned citizen asked ESPD to check on a dog chained up outside. Constable responded, and he saw where a dog had been outside, but it was back inside at the moment.

4:00 p.m. – Constable made a traffic stop on a tractor trailer coming to town from the west. The right rear tire of the trailer was falling apart.

7:33 p.m. – Madison County authorities alerted ESPD to a gas drive-off in Clifty.

### FEBRUARY 7

2:17 p.m. – There was a private property vehicle accident.

3:01 p.m. – Constables were on the lookout for a vehicle reportedly crossing the yellow line and endangering people.

3:14 p.m. – Another report of a vehicle headed toward town from the south being driven down the middle of the road.

10:08 p.m. – Constables got word a stepfather might have hit a child. Turns out the adult had slapped the child's hand.

11:56 p.m. – Central dispatch reported an adult male had been drinking and taking pills and was sitting in a vehicle behind a business toward the eastern end of town. He was also spitting up a bit of blood. Constables looked for but did not find anyone at the location. They eventually were able to speak to the caller, who was the wife of the subject, and she said he was now throwing up and choking. She updated their location, and constables found the subject in bed. Apparently he had just been

very intoxicated.

### FEBRUARY 8

6:30 p.m. – Constables and EMS responded to a possible overdose.

11:18 p.m. – Resident said her doorbell keeps going off. She thought the battery might be waning, but she asked a constable to check the area. Constable went to the scene and found nothing suspicious nearby.

### FEBRUARY 9

11:40 a.m. – Person at a tourist lodging reported a robbery that had happened the previous night. Complainant told ESPD he would check further and let them know if a report was necessary.

10:55 p.m. – Observer noticed a vehicle parked where it did not belong. Constable responded and found nothing amiss. The building was secure.

### FEBRUARY 10

12:21 a.m. – Security company reported an alarm at a business had been triggered, but constable found the building secure.

12:41 a.m. – Resident saw a small car suspiciously driving back and forth and just hanging out on a street behind her house. Constables did not locate the vehicle.

4:11 a.m. – Alarm at the same business again had been tripped, and again the constable found the building secure.

## Offset power line threat with prayer ties

There will be a gathering at Flora Roja, 119 Wall Street at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 16 for making prayer ties for the protection, health, help, safety and peace of the people, creatures, trees, plants, air, water and land that would be threatened by the building of the massive power line proposed in Benton and Carroll counties by SWEPCO and AEP.

If you don't know how to make prayer ties, someone will teach you. Cloth, tobacco, string and sage will be provided. However if you have extra black, red, yellow, white, green, blue or purple pure cotton cloth or scissors, please feel free to bring them.

If you don't want to make prayer ties, just come and pray with us or send healing energy. For more information, contact Kit Shepperd (479) 363-9297.



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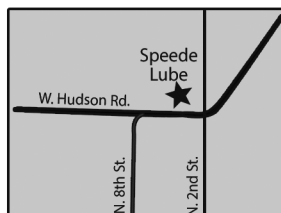
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## Echoes of laughter ...

... will be ringing throughout Caribé Restaurant and Cantina on Valentine's Night.

Just in time to amuse those of us who'd rather skip the sticky sweetness of Cupid's holiday, Echo Sunyata Sibley arrives on the scene to make us laugh at the human (female) condition.

Echo is a local grad now living in Italy who recently performed in Chicago and Fayetteville with her one-woman comedy show, *Flippin' Channels in the Estrogen Zone* – thoughts about love, sex and relationships through the adaptation of TV shows and television commercials. The bawdy comedy is filled with music, sound effects and humorous products for the unsatisfied single woman. It also contains moments of true vulnerability



and loneliness ... and ends with flying fruit.

Admission is free, so come shoot Cupid with his own arrow on Feb. 14 at Caribé, just outside town on US 62W. There's a happy hour from 5 –7 p.m. immediately followed by the show. After that, treat someone to dinner!

## Learn dialog and setting on Feb. 15

A writing workshop, Dialogue and Setting, will be offered at The Village Writing School Saturday, Feb. 15 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. with Alison Taylor-Brown at the Village Writing School, 177 Huntsville Road (Hwy. 23 South). Pre-registration is required and class size is limited.

Cost is \$45. Register online at [villagewritingschool.com](http://villagewritingschool.com) or contact Alison Taylor-Brown at [alisonbrown@me.com](mailto:alisonbrown@me.com) or (479) 292-3665.

## Robert Norman class at Crystal Bridges

Robert R. Norman will teach his vibrant technique of painting nature's creatures on natural wood surfaces on Sunday, Feb. 16 from 1 – 5 p.m. at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville.

Robert will guide students in creating a colorful, stylized work of art using

acrylic paints. The workshop is \$55 (\$44 for museum members) and is great for both beginner and intermediate painters. Register online at [shop.crystalbridges.org/Events.aspx](http://shop.crystalbridges.org/Events.aspx), or phone (479) 418-5700. To learn more about the artist, visit [www.RobertRNorman.com](http://www.RobertRNorman.com)

## Southern bluegrass Christian concert Feb. 22

The Steve Hess and Southern Salvation group will be performing at First Southern Baptist Church of Holiday Island, 6 Dove Circle, at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22. The public is invited to this free concert. For more information call (479) 253-6711 or email [hiscall1990@gmail.com](mailto:hiscall1990@gmail.com).



## Key to success in the art market

Susan Morrison, wildlife artist and author, will offer a class Sunday, Feb. 23, 1 – 6 p.m. at the Morrison Woodward Gallery. Susan will present guidelines to help artists gain greater visibility and increase sales. She will also be discussing her new book *Drawn From My Life*.

Artists of all experience levels will learn marketing techniques and key elements for finding success in today's art market. Seating is limited, so reserve now. Cost is \$70 and includes a copy of her new book. Contact David Rush at (479)-981-6134 or email [kingd\\_509@hotmail.com](mailto:kingd_509@hotmail.com) to register.

## Mid-Winter Hometown Jam *The perfect topping for a day of chocolate*

Don't miss the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mid-Winter Hometown Jam Saturday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m. in the city auditorium as The Ariels, The Sarah Hughes Band, Josh Jennings Band, The Medicine Man Show, SX Rex, Kevin Riddle and Springbilly lay down a full evening of rock 'n' roll, country and rhythm and blues – topped off with a mind-boggling jam session finale.

Tickets are \$12 at the door; children under 12 admitted free. Advance tickets for both the chocolate and the jam can be purchased at the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center in the Village at Pine Mountain for only \$10 each. For more info call (479) 253-8737.

## It's Thyme for Valentine fun



Head for Eureka Thyme for two fun events on Valentine's Weekend. On Friday, Feb. 14, from 4 – 8 p.m., Craig Hirsch and Lorna Trigg will share a loving celebration called *Music Makes Sweethearts*. These master craftspeople

run Fire Om Earth, a spiritual retreat center and art studio in Eureka Springs, where music is always integral. Come and try out their handmade flutes, drums and other instruments and play with this talented duo in the shop at 19 Spring St. Refreshments will be served.

Next up is a special treat on Saturday, as the Valentine's party kicks off a year-long celebration of Eureka Thyme's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Special guest is the lovely Lida Arthaud of Bella Vista and her magnificent scarves. Lida will be with us from 1 to 6 p.m. with new styles of scarves in every color you can imagine. We will feature lots of surprises and tasty treats in addition to the warm, soft creations from Pandache handmade scarves and hats.



## Secret Season Cinema presents ....

Don't miss any of the great films during Carnegie Library's Secret Season Cinema. This week's selection, *War Witch*, hails from Canada, but was primarily filmed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Somewhere in Sub-Saharan Africa, Komona, a 14-year-old girl, tells her unborn child the story of how she became a rebel. Kidnapped by the rebel army, she was forced to carry an

AK-47 and kill when she was 12. Her only escape and friend is Magician, a 15-year-old boy who wants to marry her. This film is not rated, but contains adult themes.

Free admission Friday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m. in the library annex, 192B Spring St. Free popcorn! For more about the films in the series, see [www.eurekalibrary.org](http://www.eurekalibrary.org).



## Nothing but net for local business

C.D. WHITE

"I think we shot a three-pointer," Eureka Springs School District Superintendent, David Kellogg, commented about winning the bid to host the AA Regional Basketball Tournament Feb. 26 – March 1 along with the District Tournament being hosted here beginning Monday, Feb. 17.

Cities vying to host the tournaments had to make a

presentation to the 20-member board of the Arkansas Activities Association in North Little Rock. Each city only had three minutes to present, so Kellogg and Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce President/CEO, Mike Bishop, tag teamed a presentation on behalf of our city.

"We certainly had their attention," Kellogg commented. "I presented while Mike handed out information on

our amenities, then he presented and I closed. We think parents, family and friends that might only come to watch for one night somewhere else will now stay multiple nights because of what we have to offer."

Kellogg said they might also try offering a bid on golf tournaments in the future. "I've been so impressed with Eureka Springs," he added. "I've loved coming over here to visit in the

past, and now I get to work here!"

Kellogg was also impressed that Bishop "can sing like Johnny Cash." One never knows what tag teaming on a long trip might reveal.

Hoops madness begins Monday, Feb. 17 at Eureka Springs High School. State finals will be in March in Hot Springs. For schedules, information and brackets, click on Sports & Activities at ahsaa.org (search for class 2A West).

## Exhibit, reception mark Black History Month

The Eureka Springs Historical Museum celebrates Black History Month with an exhibit focusing on the African American community in the early days of Eureka Springs. The exhibit will run until Feb. 28.

Artifacts from the museum collections include hymnals and minutes of the AME Pilgrim Church in Eureka during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Photo subjects include Pastor Theo Harris who is remembered for composing more than 600 hymns. Other photographs depict daily activities of those residing in the city at the time.

A recent acquisition at the museum is a painting by

Frank Wetherell, an architect from Des Moines, Iowa, who retired to Eureka Springs in 1931 and painted scenes of the town until 1944. The painting features several people, including Miss Alice, daughter of Richard and Annie Fancher, descendants of Fancher slaves who were among the first to come to Eureka Springs. Miss Alice, her sister Mattie and Mattie's adopted son, Richard Banks, were the last surviving members of Eureka Springs' once large African American neighborhood.

Information on the Fancher Family is courtesy of *Eureka Springs in Black and White: The Lost History of an*

*African American Neighborhood*, by Jacqueline Froelich.

The Historical Museum will host a special reception and presentation Thursday, Feb. 20, at the Inn of the Ozarks Convention Center from 4 – 6 p.m. Speakers will include Froelich and David Zimmermann. The Wetherell painting and some items from the exhibit will be on display.

The exhibit will be on view at the museum, 95 S. Main, during February. For more information see the events page at [www.eurekaspringshistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.eurekaspringshistoricalmuseum.org), email [director@eurekaspringshistoricalmuseum.org](mailto:director@eurekaspringshistoricalmuseum.org) or phone (479) 253-9417.



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# INDEPENDENTHIGH (Falutin') SOCIETY



**Cold weather shopping** – Beverly and Mike McAllen compare choices of coconut oil at Eureka Market. It's great for dry skin and chapped lips brought on by the cold weather – and tastes good, too!

PHOTO BY MELANIE MYHRE



**If you knew sushi like I know sushi** – Taking a break from the cold, Beth and Greg Bartlett enjoy dinner (and each other) at Mountain Sushi (formerly ND's Pagoda Box), Andy Yang's new venture in Asian dining on US 62 next to Harts.

PHOTO BY GWEN ETHEREDGE



**No tan lines** – Lilah Stiger and Sean Johnson warm up at the indoor Beach Party at Chelsea's on Feb. 6. No tanning lotion needed.

PHOTO BY BECKY GILLETTE

**Revamped** – Sergio Aguinaga has transformed Eureka Paradise into the Amigo Restaurant & Cafe. He's offering a Valentine's Special during their grand opening Thursday, Feb. 13. The new family owned and operated restaurant serves handmade Tex-Mex & Mexican food and desserts. Get your food fix at 75 S. Main Street with authentic Mexican food and excellent service. (479) 363-6574

PHOTO BY MELANIE MYHRE

**Beach party beehive**

– What do enterprising locals do in the Polar Vortex? Have a beach party, of course. Chrissy and Junior sported these hairdos for the Beehive Contest at Chelsea's Beach Bash on Friday.

PHOTO BY BECKY GILLETTE



**Twisted** – Susan Morrison lays down a groovy move during the twist contest at the winter Beach Party at Chelsea's.

PHOTO BY BECKY GILLETTE





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

*In my humble opinion, Valentine's Day is a commercialized sham. My wife does not share this opinion. I draw a total blank about what I am supposed to do on this "holiday" and since I don't get it, I'm pretty sure I'll get it wrong. Suggestions?*

Okay, you have a point. But why miss an opportunity to connect with your partner? So you have to be romantic one day a year, big deal. Don't be a pansy! Accept the challenge with enthusiasm. Be genuine. You have nothing to lose. And no, the token last minute drugstore box of waxy chocolates and bouquet of wilted flowers will not do.

Let's start with two basics. First, resolve to not fight that day. This is a common spoiler of many romantic eves. The anticipation of closeness often creates anxiety and can trigger fears of intimacy. A conflict creates distance – and relief. So be aware of your actions and refrain

from sabotaging. We all have the capacity to rise above momentary irritations, as well as worn out power struggles. Allow this day to be special.

Second, if your partner has repeatedly hinted about expectations for Valentine's Day, consider yourself lucky and don't be a bonehead! Follow instructions and reap the rewards.

Beyond that, it really isn't brain science. Make it simple. Make it sexy. Why not? You don't have to be someone you're not. Just turn up the intensity a bit in your expression of love and desire.

Substitute that box of chocolates for some chocolate body paint. Instead of the dozen red roses, sprinkle fresh rose petals around the bed. Leave the cards to Hallmark and write your own love letter. Writers' block? Handwrite the lyrics to the love song that best fits your feelings, then expand on why these words resonate so well with your relationship.

Create space for quality time together. It's truly the best way to communicate your devotion. Celebrate your relationship by reminiscing. Grab your wedding album, your favorite wine and tempting treats, light a few candles and turn on the Marvin Gaye. Sit back and relax as you peruse old photos and revel in the forgotten details of your romance.

Be real and be righteous in your love. Honor one another with pride.

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



## Call for floats, bands and groups still open

Floats, bands, and costumed groups are still welcome to sign up with the Krewe of Krazo to participate in either or both of this year's Mardi Gras *Circus Eureka* parades. The third annual Night Parade will roll out Saturday, Feb. 22, at 6 p.m. Floats and walking groups in the night parade should be lighted.

The Day Parade begins at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 1, when the Krewe of Krazo presents its seven permanent theme floats followed by a maze of corporate and business floats. The Annual Cavalcade of Royal Chariots consisting of convertibles carrying Dukes, Duchesses and past Kings and Queens of the Realm will be followed by other units.

The canine Krewe of Barkus, headed by Krewe Captains Rachel and Ryan Brix, will lead off the parade. To parade your pooch or a shelter pup, email [rachelmrbrix@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelmrbrix@yahoo.com).

To register and for updates, see [www.krazo.ureeka.org](http://www.krazo.ureeka.org), [www.parade.ureeka.org](http://www.parade.ureeka.org) or phone (479) 244-0123, (225) 405-9673 or email [dan@ureeka.org](mailto:dan@ureeka.org).

## Eureka Gras/Mardi Gras Events

- Feb. 12: 5 p.m. – Umbrella Decorating at New Delhi
- Feb. 15: 2 p.m. – Taste of New Orleans at Keels Creek Winery
- Feb. 19: 5:30 p.m. – Umbrella Decorating at Eureka Live
- Feb. 22: 6 p.m. – Eureka Gras Nite Parade on Spring and Main
- 7 p.m. – After-Parade Second Line dancing
- 8 p.m. – Black Lite Ball at Voulez-Vous Lounge

See the February/March *Fun Guide* for individual event details and complete schedule through March 4, or check out [www.krazo.ureeka.org](http://www.krazo.ureeka.org) and Facebook online.



**Not the sports model** – The 2014 Midwest First Responder Conference welcomed vendors such as Ferrara, industry leader in heavy-duty fire trucks, to display their wares in the convention center last weekend.

PHOTO BY GWEN ETHEREDGE

The chill of winter is here

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*Sycamore*, by Constance Wagner and published in 1950 by Alfred A. Knopf. 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 meets Walter's family.



CONSTANCE WAGNER

Walter came in with the bags. "Good to be home," he said and took a deep breath of contentment. "Back in the old room –" He gave Jane a quick hug as he crossed to the gunrack and took down a rifle, fingering the breech, caressing the polished stock. "Wonder if I can still shoot?"

"I hope so," Mrs. Knowles said briskly. "Otherwise your father will probably disown you." She turned to Jane tactfully. "Do you hunt, my dear?"

Jane shook her head. "It's just one of a lot of things I've never learned."

"Oh, you will," Walter promised. "I'll put up a target for you to bang away at. There's good hunting around here in fall and winter."

Jane said she would enjoy shooting at a target, without adding that she knew she could never bring herself to kill a bird or an animal. Somehow, she felt certain that she would lose face with Walter and his mother if she confessed to such a weakness. Mrs. Knowles appeared so securely in possession of herself, her life, her personality – and even Walter, seen for the first time against his native background, seemed to have taken on such added stature and assurance,

that she wondered, for an instant of panic, if she could ever break into the complacent little tribal circle and become part of it.

Almost as if she had read the thought, Mrs. Knowles threw up another family hurdle. "Floyd and Willy May are coming to dinner," she told Walter. And to Jane: "Willy May Skelton is Roger's sister, you know."

Walter replaced the rifle. "Our first night home, Mother? Couldn't Jane have been spared that till tomorrow?"

Mrs. Knowles's face creased in an imperturbable smile. "Willy May would have been hurt," she said quietly. "I could see that. And anyway, Jane might just as well meet what your father calls the Skelton in the family closet, now as later."

Jane had begun to speculate uneasily about what might be wrong with Mr. and Mrs. Skelton. When they were alone, she asked Walter, and he said: "Oh, Aunt Willy Mae's all right. A little wacky, perhaps, but I always liked her. Floyd – maybe you'd better form your own opinion about *him*. He sells feed for a wholesale house, so he's away more than half the time, thank God. I always wondered how Aunt Willy happened to marry him. She probably didn't know, herself. Floyd's one of those characters that a family puts up with, just because they're kinfolks."

Jane was running the water for a bath. "Don't tell me any more," she called. "Maybe I'll discover some sterling qualities in Uncle Floyd."

"That'll take some doing," Walter said grimly.

"I'm not listening," she cried over the roar of water. "I won't be biased. I like everybody in Sycamore, even Uncle Floyd."

When she emerged, wrapped in a huge towel, her face shining, she came close to him and said earnestly: "Walter, they're wonderful. They seem so happy, and calm and *right*. Your mother, especially. Isn't she remarkable? If I could ever learn to be like that – so poised, taking everything in her stride –"

Walter hugged her to him. He said: "Ah, you haven't seen anything of Mother yet! I swear, I've never known

her to be thrown off balance." He was, however, a little troubled by Jane's eagerness to embrace every aspect of the new life without question. Her attitude reminded him uncomfortably of that of the tourists who came in summertime: charmed, effusive in the beginning, and then if they stayed for more than a week, becoming soured and angry in their disenchantment. She was not a tourist. She would be here forever. Ought he to warn her against being so easily disarmed?

While he was in the shower, feeling tension relax under the needles of tepid water, he tried to see his parents and his home through Jane's eyes, and this filled him with tenderness and pity for her. He thought of her life as having been insubstantial and without meaning, since the day when her father had walked out the door, uttering words of finality which she could not remember, but still resented. "I was only five," she had said. "I remember him standing there, talking to poor Mother, and I knew he was in a rage, because his voice got deep and husky when he was angry. For awhile I kept telling myself secretly that he would come back. I even prayed for him to come back, at night. He didn't, though. I'd rather not talk about it." The fact that Telemon had signed over his considerable inheritance to his wife and child, before he left for California, apparently had done nothing to soften Jane's resentment when she'd grown old enough to know of it. Except for the one occasion, she had never spoken of her father, and Walter knew nothing about him, beyond the barest factual outlines: he was an engineer and he came of a New England family.

In a way, he thought, toweling himself vigorously, it was just as well that Floyd and Willy May *were* showing up on their first night home. Meeting Floyd might even things up, in a measure, for Jane. For an uneasy instant, it occurred to him that he'd not been entirely frank with Jane. What if he had told her of the time when the beautiful family cohesion had some close to splitting down the middle – so close that he had packed his belongings and had left home for nearly a year, because the sight of his father had become unendurable to him?

## NOTES from the HOLLOW by Steve Weems

The hillbilly comic strip *Li'l Abner* made Connecticut-native Al Capp wealthy. I read that at one time the strip was carried in nearly a thousand newspapers worldwide with a daily circulation of 60 million, which spawned a Broadway musical, two movies and a great deal of merchandising.

During its 43-year run, the comic strip also reinforced the hillbilly stereotype to a global audience. Writing in *The Ozarks Mountaineer*, the late Phyllis Rossiter-Modeland blamed Al Capp for "negatively influencing and ignorantly prejudicing millions of others about hillbillies through his comic strip."

Perhaps based on my childhood visit

to the now defunct Dogpatch amusement park south of Harrison, I wrongly assumed that *Li'l Abner* had some connection to the Arkansas Ozarks. Instead, the comic strip town of Dogpatch was actually set in Kentucky.

While researching the column on Lena Wilson, I stopped in at the Eureka Springs Historical Museum to see what was in their files. A hand-written note said that Charles Kappen told the story of Al Capp sitting on a bench in Basin Park one day when Lena Wilson traveled down the street. Al Capp asked a young boy who she was and was told, "Oh, that's Lena the Hyena."

Soon after, "Lena the Hyena" was an off-screen character in the *Li'l Abner*

comic strip. Later, Al Capp staged an art contest for the best design of the character, which was judged by the likes of Frank Sinatra, Boris Karloff and Salvador Dalí. It caused a sensation.

Though Lena Wilson may have had the appearance of what tourists expected a hillbilly to be (overalls or eccentric combinations of clothes), she was actually an only child born in Kansas to a prosperous family. She and her parents moved to Eureka Springs in the 1890s, purchasing and renovating a nice large house on Pivot Rock Road. Before attending college and becoming a schoolteacher, Lena graduated from Eureka Springs High School in 1900.



As Mary Margaret Torok said, "I never thought of Lena as a hillbilly in any way. She had class, a bit of style and a bit of grace."



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- Ermilio's
- Eureka Live
- Forest Hill
- Grand Taverne
- Horizon Lakeview Restaurant
- Island Grill & Sports Bar
- Island Ice Cream Parlor
- Island Pizza and Pub
- La Familia
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## Valentine's Day Full Moon Lantern Festival

Friday is Valentine's Day, a full moon in dramatic Leo (Aquarius solar festival) and Chinese Lantern Festival. A creative multi-festival celebration – full moon Valentine's Lantern Festival party. It's best to give Valentine gifts and start festivities by 7 p.m. (west coast time). After that, the night's (the moon is) void-of-course and connections will be harder to make.

The astrology on Friday reflects deep love, attraction, drama and passion. With Leo moon, we give our heart away. Leo rules the heart in the zodiac.

Valentine's Day will not be calm and orderly. It may be emotional, dramatic and a bit out of sorts. The Aquarius Sun takes a bit of time to reach the heart of the matter. Let's have a few rules here about the day. Have no expectations. Give a lot and don't expect a return. Don't have a tantrum (it's unattractive). Don't overspend. Don't expect to be understood (it's Mercury retrograde). Don't make anything complicated. Give yourself a valentine and buy yourself some lanterns. Let them light up your night.

On Tuesday, as the Sun exits Aquarius and

enters Pisces, the North and South Nodes (points in a chart signifying present/future and past) change signs. From Taurus/Scorpio to Aries/Libra. Nodal changes shift humanity's focus, direction, lessons and endeavors. We now become aware of self (Aries) in relation to others (Libra). This reflects what I wrote about for the Green Wood Horse last week. When all that we are used to (material things) is no longer available we will need to rely upon each other. Forming new relationships in a newly formed economy. Learning the Aquarian Principle of Sharing.

**ARIES:** The full moon's in your house of love affairs, romance, gambling, children and knowing who you are by what you create. You really should host a party. Allow all your feelings to get the better of you. No holding back, no restraint. Be in love with everyone and everything. Don't let Saturn's influence restrict you. Do things differently. Make everyone happy. Yourself first.

**TAURUS:** You may or may not have expectations for Valentine's Day. If they're high, you will be disappointed. If you have no expectations, then you will maintain equanimity (balance). Feelings will swing here, there, everywhere concerning the past and the loss of something special. Mother, or a family member perhaps. Create an altar. Cut out paper hearts. Put names on them. Give them away.

**GEMINI:** Maintain being that caring person even while you tend to responsibilities and tasks. It's not a time for elaborate agendas and plans. Keep things simple, effortless and free. Create a dinner for friends offering only the foods you love. Celebrate each day as if it were your last. It's not but that perspective keeps us awake, aware and loving more.

**CANCER:** Make simple plans and attempt to keep those plans intact, difficult during retrogrades. Time seems to fall away, disappearing into no time at all. You may experience high hopes for something special. Perhaps you'll have

to create whatever you've hoped for. Perhaps someone else will understand what you want. Avoid expectations. Participate in whatever is offered. Allow something to be slow cooked, happy and special.

**LEO:** It's a dramatic sort of day for Leos. There can be fluctuating emotions – from exultation and joy to sadness and despair. Whatever feelings emerge, they're not peaceful or comforting. Krishnamurti used to say, "Whatever emotions arise, sit with them, observe them. Observation changes them." It would be good to plan a party. For your half birthday. Do what you have to do. Then want to do.

**VIRGO:** There are times and places where you experienced love, care and tenderness. Return to these simple times and environments where the only thing important was having a good time. You need this. There's someone special you think about often. Make a point of connecting with them. Create a situation of fun in the spirit of pleasure and celebration. These keep complications at bay.

**LIBRA:** You need things subtle and sweet. Not polite. Inform everyone how you feel. Don't let any entanglements occur that bring darkness to an otherwise

opportune time for quiet, beauty and depth of commitment. Turn all problems toward the light. Allow those

who love you to be close to you. Express desires with enthusiasm. Gather friends and family. Make homemade candy.

**SCORPIO:** There's a seriousness to the festivals this month, a rather dramatic time for everyone. Don't make promises you can't keep. There have been great demands in your personal life these past weeks you can't do any more. A property matter has your attention. Try and get away a bit. Do one thing that's extravagant (for you). Allow comfort to settle your mind and heart. Nothing's lighthearted. Be gentle anyway.

**SAGITTARIUS:** In celebrating love this week, there may be a few clouds drifting by. Allow no secrets or shadows to deter your need for play, happiness and joy. It's best for you to be rather solitary. Or with one or more close friends. Don't allow yourself to be controlled. Make all your own choices, ask everyone to be as undemanding as possible. Sag is the sign of honesty. What would you really like to say (offer, give) to someone?

**CAPRICORN:** It's very important

to define first what we don't want. A lot is eliminated. Then there's room (spaciousness) to know what we truly want. Translate want into need. They are different, one resting above the other. Serious issues may arise and call for discussion. Allow yourself to get through them. Remember always when disharmony or difficulty arises, tending to it leads to harmony. It's always that way. Afterward you can celebrate.

**AQUARIUS:** The full moon shines upon your relationships. It's a dramatic full moon, filled with emotions, hopefulness, desire, aspiration and seeking of the "other" for care and tenderness. Aquarians need a very special person. One who understands that under the seemingly unattached surface is a real, beating, kindly heart. You seek nothing elaborate in the other – just trust, consistency, understanding and a bit of romance now and then. Happy Birthday to all Aquarians.

**PISCES:** The festivals this week find you working, needing to balance social with the work world. Tend to all tasks so you can participate with friends, have fun, play without a sense of discontent and worry. Offer kindness to those around you, especially co-workers. You will seek order and comfort for yourself while tending those in need. It's important that you make your own Valentine this year. And prepare in advance for your birthday.



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.



# Season Opener for Eureka House Concerts

The Eureka House Concerts are a non-profit series that began in 2004. Concerts are held in the acoustically sweet Eureka Springs Unitarian Universalist Church located at 17 Elk Street. On Sunday, Feb. 16 the 2014 season begins with Grammy award-winning songwriter Jon Vezner.

Vezner displays his sensitivity in such songs as "Where've You Been" which was recorded by Kathy Mattea

in 1990 and received a Grammy for Best Country Song and Song of the Year by the Country Music Association and the Academy of Country Music. He also has a light-hearted side displayed in such works as "I've Got An App For That" and "Nobody Dies In This Song." Many well known artists such as Faith Hill, John Mellencamp, Martina McBride and Lorrie Morgan have recorded his songs.

Opening for Vezner is local Catherine Reed. Reed is

a talented musician whose solo performances have been compared to Nora Jones and Joni Mitchell. Her 15 years of performing in Eureka Springs at the Crescent and Basin Park Hotels and on behalf of the CAPC have earned her a loyal fan base.

The doors open at 5 p.m. for a Meet and Greet Pot Luck and the music starts at 6 p.m. Tickets at the door are a \$15 donation.

## THURSDAY – FEBRUARY 13

- **GRAND TAVERNE** *Jerry Yester*  
Grand Piano Dinner Music, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- **LEGENDS SALOON** DJ  
Karaoke
- **SQUID & WHALE** Open Mic  
& Pie Social—homemade pies and homegrown music, 7:30 p.m.

## FRIDAY – FEBRUARY 14

- **BLARNEY STONE** TBD
- **CATHOUSE LOUNGE** *Matt Reeves*, 8 p.m. – midnight
- **CHASERS BAR & GRILL**  
Chasers Winter Game Challenge
- **CHELSEA'S** *Cadillac Jackson*,

- 9 p.m.
- **EUREKA LIVE!** DJ & Dancing, 9 p.m.
- **FARM TO TABLE FRESH** *John Wiley's Piano Music*, 6 p.m.
- **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** *Dusty Pearls*, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- **ROWDY BEAVER** *Another Fine Mess*, 7 p.m.
- **ROWDY BEAVER DEN** *Ride*

- Shy*, 8 p.m.
- **SQUID & WHALE** *Strange Deranger*, 9 p.m.
- **THE STONE HOUSE** *Jerry Yester*, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- **VOUEZ-VOUS** *The OCIE Band*, 9 p.m.

## SATURDAY – FEBRUARY 15

- **BLARNEY STONE** TBD
- **CATHOUSE LOUNGE** *Dusty Pearls*, 8 p.m. – midnight
- **CHASERS BAR & GRILL** TBD
- **CHELSEA'S** *Adam Lopez*, 9 p.m.
- **EUREKA LIVE!** *Grease – 50s party & drag event*, 9 p.m.
- **FARM TO TABLE FRESH** *Becky Heath* – piano and vocals from our favorite Harts employee, 6 p.m.
- **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** *Ozark Thunder*, 9 p.m.
- **NEW DELHI** *Irie Lions*, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- **ROWDY BEAVER** *Terri & the Executives*, 7 p.m.
- **ROWDY BEAVER DEN** *Terri*

- & *Brett*, 12–4 p.m., *Blew Reed & the Flatheads*, 8 p.m.
- **SQUID & WHALE** *Ulrich and Tribe*, 9 p.m.
- **THE STONE HOUSE** *Handmade Moments*, 6–9 p.m.
- **VOUEZ-VOUS** *The OCIE Band*, 9 p.m.

## SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 16

- **CHASERS** Shuffleboard Tournament, 4 p.m.
  - **EUREKA HOUSE CONCERTS** *Catherine Reed* opening for *Jon Vezner*, 6 p.m.
  - **LEGENDS SALOON** Free Texas Hold 'Em Tournament with prizes, 6 p.m.
  - **ROWDY BEAVER** Free Pool Sundays
  - **ROWDY BEAVER DEN** Open mic with *Jesse Dean*, 12–4 p.m.
- ## MONDAY – FEBRUARY 17
- **CHASERS BAR & GRILL** Poker & Pool night – Pool Tournament, 7 p.m.,
  - **CHELSEA'S** *SpringBilly*, 9 p.m.
- ## TUESDAY – FEBRUARY 18
- **CHASERS BAR & GRILL** Challenge Night
  - **CHELSEA'S** Open Mic
  - **LEGENDS SALOON** Pool Tournament, 6:30 p.m.

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**CADILLAC JACKSON**

Sat., Feb. 15 • 9 P.M. – **ADAM LOPEZ**

Mon., Feb. 17 • 9 P.M. – **SPRINGBILLY**

Tues., Feb. 18 • 9 P.M. – **OPEN MIC**

Wed., Feb. 19 • 9 P.M. – **CINDY WOOLF and MARK BILYEU**

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**February 13-15, 2014**

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- Friday - Those Masters of Romance ...

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Blues • Outlaw Country From Austria via Austin, TX

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**Eureka House Concerts** – Grammy Award-winning songwriter Jon Vezner will perform at the UU Church, 17 Elk St., on Sunday, Feb. 16. Opening for him is local Catherine Reed. Music starts at 6 p.m.

- **ROWDY BEAVER** Hospitality Night
- **WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 19**
- **CHASERS BAR & GRILL** Ladies Night – Drink specials, free jukebox
- **CHELSEA'S** Cindy Wolf & Mark Bilyeu, 9 p.m.
- **NEW DELHI CAFÉ** Open Jam
- **PIED PIPER CATHOUSE LOUNGE** Wheat Wednesday Draft Beer Specials
- **ROWDY BEAVER** Wine Wednesday

Revive the Romance Valentine's Weekend with

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**Lucious gets his props** – Local blues fans will recognize Little Rock musician and area performer, Lucious Spiller, left, who earned second place in the solo/duo category at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual International Blues Challenge Jan. 25 at the Orpheum Theater in Memphis. Spiller, who performs in Little Rock and Fayetteville, represented the Ozark Blues Society of Northwest Arkansas. More than 255 acts from 40 states and 16 countries competed in the annual competition regarded as the biggest gathering of blues acts in the world. Presenting Spiller's award are Jay Sieleman and Joe Whitmer.

## HI Theater Guild at it again ...

The Holiday Island Theater Guild has scheduled their upcoming spring play, "Those Crazy Ladies in the House on the Corner," for April 24, 25, and 26. Tryout readings were scheduled for Feb. 2 and 3, but anyone unable to make it due to the weather may contact Elise Buchman, at [elisemariebuchman@gmail.com](mailto:elisemariebuchman@gmail.com).

The fun romp includes four men and five women in current time and features three geriatric sisters whose home and lives need a change and some energy, which will be provided by a new tenant, Nurse Jean. There is no need for acting experience, nor do you need to be a resident of Holiday Island.

For additional information, contact (479) 253-7075.

## Sign up now open for We've Got Talent

*We've Got Talent*, the popular concert fundraiser held by the Carroll County Music Group, will be back in the city auditorium on March 9.

The concert features Northwest Arkansas talent from youth to adult in every genre of music (classical to bluegrass, jazz, voice and instrumental) and provides a wonderful evening including music from some of the students who will benefit from your support.

Carroll County Music Group

helps talented junior and senior high students attend summer music camps to achieve their musical goals through events including *We've Got Talent*. Scholarship funds raised are awarded to deserving students who need financial help.

*We've Got Talent* is open to any musician in Northwest Arkansas, so get your "act" together and email Jim Swiggart at [swig@cox.net](mailto:swig@cox.net) or call (479) 253-8369 for registration and more information.



## Health insurance enrollment help Feb. 22

A Health Insurance Enrollment Fair will be held at the Berryville Community Center Saturday, Feb. 22, from 9 a.m. – to 3 p.m. Trained and licensed guides will answer questions, help complete applications and enroll

you in affordable health insurance. The fair is hosted by the non-profit Arkansas Guide Organization and [Arhealthconnector.org](http://Arhealthconnector.org) and is free and open to the public. Phone (479) 325-0943 for more information.

## The weather's great – send chocolate!

The Chocolate Lover's Festival is Saturday, Feb. 15, and the temperature is forecast to be around 50°. This could mean big crowds, and event organizer, the Chamber of Commerce, needs your help. The Chamber staff stepped in at the last minute to make sure the festival happened this year.

Those who can provide any sort of handmade chocolate treats (about one inch square for baked goods and ¼ to ½ oz. for candy) are asked to deliver them to the Inn of the Ozarks Convention

Center on Friday, Feb. 14 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Limited refrigerator space available at the Chamber if you need to bring it prior to Saturday. Delivery to the Inn of the Ozarks also begins Saturday at 8 a.m.

Please call (479) 253-8737 or email [Suzanne@eurekaspringschamber.com](mailto:Suzanne@eurekaspringschamber.com) to let her know what you will be bringing. If Suzanne is not available, please leave a message for her. Help our Chamber of Commerce make their first year of running the festival an excellent one.



**Cold classroom** – Jay Bell of Holmatro Rescue Equipment instructs students on the Jaws of Life (the piston rod hydraulic tools that aid in auto extrication) at the 2014 Midwest First Responder Conference at the Inn of the Ozarks Convention Center held Feb. 7 – 9. The event was hosted by Eureka Springs Fire & EMS and included classes, drills, lectures and competitions.

PHOTO BY GWEN ETHEREDGE

## TheNATUREofEUREKA by Steven Foster

### If you set it, cats will get it

**M**y cats are having a tough time of it this winter. The one catnip plant I save indoors to attempt to grow as a houseplant has been nibbled down to the nub and is no longer producing leaves. All that's left is a little pile of dried catnip I put on the back porch for them to play with, but it too, is under snow.

Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*) is a member of the mint family (Labiatae), native from



dry soils in temperate regions of the Mediterranean, inland Europe, West Asia and North Africa. It is naturalized in North America, and a particularly common roadside weed along highways in Virginia and North Carolina. It gets to be up to 4-ft. tall and is a gangly-branched plant with up to 80 percent of its biomass made up of stems by weight. It's an easy to grow perennial, propagated by seeds or root divisions.

The essential oil contains a compound called nepetalactone which produce the familiar "catnip response" in felines which may chemically produce cross-reactivity with male cat pheromones associated with courtship behavior. About 14 compounds found in other plant species, as well as catnip, elicit the catnip response.

The catnip response itself is characterized by sniffing; licking, chewing, and head shaking; chin and cheek rubbing; and head-over rolling and body rubbing. The catnip response is not induced by merely chewing the leaves, rather it requires scent induction, which means the leaves must be crushed, bruised or broken to release the volatile essential oil from the oils glands. Hence the old axiom, "If you sow it, cats won't know it, if you set it, cats will get it," reflects the fact that if you bruise the leaves while transplanting catnip, interested cats are sure to find it.

If your cat turns up a nose at an offering of catnip, don't be concerned. The catnip response is an inherited autosomal dominant gene that is absent in almost one-third of felines.

Also, I suggest that you not roll around in a bed of catnip then go to Turpentine Creek for a visit, because the catnip response is not limited to domestic cats. The catnip response is also a genetic trait enjoyed by lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars and other big cats.





## YAC grant deadline is Feb. 15

Carroll County Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) grant deadline is Feb. 15. Nonprofits whose programs focus on youth and children within Carroll County are encouraged to apply. Applications can be downloaded online at [www.arcf.org/carrollcounty](http://www.arcf.org/carrollcounty) and when completed can be submitted via email to [carrollcounty@arcf.org](mailto:carrollcounty@arcf.org).

For more information about the grant program or the Carroll County Community Foundation, contact Janell Robertson, executive director, at [CarrollCounty@arcf.org](mailto:CarrollCounty@arcf.org) or call (479) 253-8203.

## Sunday at UUF

"Move in the Hand" will be the topic Feb. 16 at Eureka Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 17 Elk St. All are welcome as we explore Unitarian Universalism and what it means to live love into the world. Speaker Jennifer Gray received her Masters of Divinity from

Andover Newton Theological School in Massachusetts, and resides in Ottawa where she serves as the intern minister for First Unitarian Congregation and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa. Program at 11 a.m. is followed by refreshments. Childcare provided.

## Simulcast scheduled at HI Community Church

Holiday Island Community Church invites the public to view a simulcast from Compass International Ministry on Saturday, Feb. 15, beginning at 11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, 188 Stateline Drive. Compass International is an evangelical, non-profit, non-denominational ministry based in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, whose mission and purpose is to defend the accuracy of the Bible.

Eight speakers throughout the

day will cover subjects including "The Coming World Government," "Islam's Allah vs. Israel's Jehovah," "The Incredible Effects of Rapture," "The 70 Weeks of Daniel," "The U.S. Constitution and the Bible," "Money and the Mark of the Beast," "Impact Financial Update" and "The Relentless Attack on Conservative America." For additional information contact Pastor John Wallace (479) 363-6636.

## Soup is super on Feb. 23

Join The Holiday Island Fire Dept. for the annual Souper Sunday, Feb. 23. Soups and desserts are served from 10:30 a.m. until p.m. for \$6 adult and \$2

for children under 12 in the Ballroom at the Holiday Island Country Club, corner of Holiday Island Drive and Country Club.



**Bee smart** – The Academy of Excellence hosted the Carroll County Spelling Bee on Jan. 30 in which 39 students from Clear Spring School, Berryville, Green Forest and the Academy of Excellence participated. For the second year, eighth graders Ashlynn Lockhart, from right, and Sam Harris took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place respectively, and a tied 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to C.J. Voerman and Linzy Wolfinbarger – all from the Academy. Lockhart will advance to the Arkansas State Spelling Bee in Conway on March 1.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

## Family movie night Feb. 21

The next movie night at Eureka Springs High School auditorium will be Friday, Feb. 21. The famous movie will start at 7 p.m. and doors will be closed at that time. No late entries allowed, so please be on time.

In keeping with the school's contract to show these important films, the name of the movie can't be announced

publically, save to say it has been called one of the best movies of all time and is loosely based on the life of William Randolph Hearst with a little mystery about the name "Rosebud."

Adults tickets are \$2, students \$1. Popcorn and water will be available. Proceeds go to the High School Drama Club.

**COUNCIL** continued from page 1

access and egress to their property."

Alderman Joyce Zeller said Rock Street is not a practical access to Marble Flats. She stated regarding the opposition to the Brixes' request, "The pieces are not coming together for me."

Alderman James DeVito observed the issue at hand was whether or not to go ahead with vacating the piece of land.

Weaver said the city would end up in court according to Wade Williams, attorney for Marble Flats owners, if the city allows the vacation.

Many points pro and con were raised, some pointedly. Weaver insisted he did not see evidence one way or the other about whether the city owned the land. "That is what we pay judges for. There is not a land attorney out there who could give you an opinion," he commented.

Mitchell again spoke up and asked, "Ms. Brix, do you want us to vacate Rock Street? Yes or no."

"Yes," she replied.

Mitchell then made the motion to have Weaver draft an ordinance to reclaim the right-of-way called Rock Street within the

boundaries of the Brixes' surveyed property for the purpose of vacating it. Alderman Dee Purkepile right away seconded the motion.

Weaver more than once made it clear he needed a clear description of the property being discussed.

Mitchell pointed out the description is on the Brixes' application.

DeVito also pointed out all the land in question is surrounded by property owned by the Brixes, and he did not see any problems going forward with the description.

Weaver pointed out the description of the property on the application was handwritten.

Brix pointed out the city does not have a downloadable application, so short of finding a typewriter, her only choice was to handwrite the description.

Mitchell asked Brix to get her attorney to provide Weaver with a copy of the property description.

Vote on the motion was 4-1-1, alderman Terry McClung voting No and alderman Mickey Schneider voting Present.



# Radio club meets Feb. 20

The Little Switzerland Amateur Radio Club will meet Thursday, Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the physicians building at the Mercy Hospital, Berryville. Anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio is welcome. Refreshments will be available. Contact [gmj@bscsystems.com](mailto:gmj@bscsystems.com).

**MAIL** continued from page 10

## Keep fluoride out of drinking water

Editor,

Please explain again to me why my tax dollars are going to put the toxic heavy metal fluoride in my drinking water. This is preposterous. There is *no* excuse for such flagrant misuse of tax money. Not only will it cost our area a large sum of money, it will also be putting a *known* carcinogen into our water.

Furthermore, Harvard studies have demonstrated that it also causes up to a 15-point decrease in IQ. If our local government puts it in, I shall just have to buy a filter to remove it. If our local government is *dumb* enough to proceed with this plan, why don't we start taking bids to put strychnine or arsenic into the water next month? How much longer are we going to stick our heads in the sand and pretend this poison is good for us?

**Pamela Stewart**

## Lost school time not necessary

Editor,

With another week of school lost due to weather conditions and another week added to the prior two weeks, I ask myself why in this day and age of computer technology and multiple online cloud services, our leaders of this and surrounding school districts [have] not placed needed assignments online to help curve the makeup time that already has burdened families. Have we lost our minds thinking that the most important thing is the "required minutes" set by some appointed individuals having no understanding of things called "Acts of God?"

I understand that not all classroom activities can be sent via the internet, but the basics such as history, reading assignments, dreaded math homework and certain aspects of science can easily be done at home while parents help build a learning relationship with their kids.

It is looking to me that the only thing our school leaders care about is the "State and Federal time requirement" over the need and want to help all children grow in

knowledge. I enjoy helping my son with work and I am sure many other parents feel the same.

With many top colleges such as Yale, Stanford and University of Washington offering online courses, the focus should be on learning and not "so called required minutes" in the classroom. I also question the leaders in their closed mindedness in not thinking outside the box, a teaching tool that seems to be lost in today's educational system.

I say this fully aware that "teachers" want the best for our kids but seem to have more paperwork dealing with regulations then dealing with human beings. With America seeing a 50 percent dropout rate, falling educational status worldwide even though our kids spend more hours in school than any other nation, is shameful.

Simple things can have the greatest effects that create historic outcomes.

**Dr. Glenn E. Coggeshall III**

## Local posts say thanks

Editor,

Pendergrass Rose American Legion Post 36 and VFW Post 77 thanks everyone again for participating in The Big Honkin' \$500 Visa card giveaway. As most of you know, Roberta Isaacson won. The posts made over \$1400 on the raffle and spent \$300 to The Veteran's Hospice Center in Fayetteville; \$200 to support the National Cemetery in Fayetteville; \$300 to help a local veteran in need; and \$70 to the Flag Fund at Cornerstone Bank that is used to purchase U.S. flags for placement at Holiday Island Veterans Memorial Park. An additional \$300 is in reserve to help support the Honor Flight Program after more details are worked out. Whenever Posts 36 and 77 sponsor a fundraiser such as this or the upcoming Military Ball at the Crescent Hotel on March 7, money raised above the costs are used to support area veterans in many different ways. If you want to attend the Military Ball on March 7, contact Dean Lahm at (479) 253-5912 or Don Naas at (479) 253-7473. Reservations are required not later than February 15.

**Robin Lahm**



**Frozen lake** – This winter produced an unusual cove freeze at lake Leatherwood.

*PHOTO BY ERIC SCHABACKER*

## Night parade after 'glow' lights up Feb. 22

Eureka Gras' Mardi Gras has a new ball to get all aglow over! Following the night parade on Saturday, Feb. 22, the Black Light Ball at Voulez-Vous Lounge is launching the Mardi Gras ball season in support of the Main Street Eureka Springs/ESDN program.

Dress in your best glow-in-the-dark white outfit or come prepared to get painted with glow paint while you dance to Free Verse; a Little Rock band climbing up the ReverbNation.com charts. The Voulez-Vous Lounge will be glittering in black light and studded with Glow Delight Dancers throughout the evening.

"Mardi Gras has grown in Eureka Springs to one fantastic party and we wanted to add to the festival with

something new and different," Leslie Meeker, Main Street Eureka Springs board director and co-owner of the Voulez-Vous Lounge commented. "Come raise a signature glowing Black Light Ball cocktail and some funds for our Main Street program while kicking off the Mardi Gras season in Eureka Springs at the Black Light Ball."

Doors Open at 7:30 p.m. at Voulez-Vous, 63A Spring Street below the New Orleans Hotel. Tickets are \$20 and include live music, black light paint and a glow kit. Purchase tickets at [www.reserveeureka.com](http://www.reserveeureka.com) or call The Fine Art of Romance (479) 636-6264. For more details and updates, see the Black Light Ball on Facebook.

## Animated books 'tumble' into libraries

TumbleBooks – animated, talking picture and chapter books are now available from public libraries in Berryville, Eureka Springs, Green Forest, Huntsville, Kingston and St. Paul. TumbleBooks are flash animated books that make stories come alive as the child reads along with words on the page. In addition to picture and chapter books, foreign language books, puzzles and games are also available.

To access TumbleBooks go to [camals.org](http://camals.org) online, select your library and find the TumbleBooks blue icon. TumbleBooks can be used on any computer, tablet or phone with a browser and flash software.

For further information contact the Carroll & Madison Library System (870) 423-5300.



# DROPPING A Line

by Robert Johnson

Time to talk walleye. Walleye and trout are both the cold water species that live in our waters. All the rest are warm water fish, with the striper in the middle, and all three cannot survive too far south.

Walleye are the #1 eating fish up north and here, too. Crappie are right there with them, as both fish are excellent eating without a strong fish taste. Speaking of which, try this next time you fry any fish – put some cornflakes in a baggie and crunch up real good, then put in a bowl. Put flour in another bowl with salt and pepper. Mix ½ egg and milk in 3rd bowl. Roll in flour mix, 2nd dredge thru egg & milk, 3rd roll in cornflake mix. Fry in skillet with ¼ in. grease. Run grease not as hot as a deep fryer and turn after a couple minutes. Fry golden brown. Remember, one dry hand one wet hand. Can be messy to cook, but taste very good. You can also add crushed almonds to cornflake mix or substitute cornflakes with Ritz crackers.

Okay, back to walleye. Walleye, white bass and stripers are our fish that migrate up the river and creek arms to spawn. All other species we have here pretty well stay close to home and move toward the shoreline to spawn.

Close to home on Table Rock, most of our walleye run up the Kings River and up the Beaver tailwaters to spawn. They start staging in the deeper water around Holiday Island and Beaver in February and usually lay eggs from March to early April when the water temp gets between 45 and 50°. They really like spawning on the full moon. Best fishing is before and after the spawn. They lay eggs in the shallows on the gravel bars,



humps and islands between Holiday Island and the dam, then come back and pretty well hang out in the deeper water here into the summer.

Walleye like it slow and sexy near the bottom. Bright, pretty colors like chartreuse, orange, purple and clown work well. Let the wife choose the prettiest thing you have in your tackle box and she might outfish you. Trolling or throwing crank baits off the bottom works well. Working a jig straight down off the bottom tipped with a minnow in the cooler months works well, too, but tipping with a night crawler in the summer can do better sometimes.

Well that's it for this week. If you never ate walleye you don't know what you're missing. Stay warm, get that tackle ready and hope to see you on the water. Next week will share spawning temps for all species that swim in our waters.

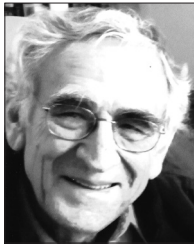
## SWEPCO continued from page 2

said. "The input from property owners was apparently ignored in the writing of Order #32, while the arguments in favor of a transmission line still don't take into account how devastating it will be to the local economy. For this reason, I support those property owners who are continuing to oppose the transmission line, using all the legal means available to them, and I am confident that ultimately their testimony will be granted the weight that it merits and that they will prevail in the courts."

While the APSC Administrative Law Judge chose Route 109, the five other routes under consideration are still on the table until the three-member APSC acts by Feb. 17 to either accept the ALJ's recommendation or modify it.

"The Commission is not bound by the ALJ's ruling," Costner said. "It is conceivable that APSC/SWEPCO can negotiate a workaround with the Corps to span or otherwise avoid the environmentally sensitive areas they identified on those three routes that were eliminated from consideration. The commission can devise an entirely new and different route. But, unless they make SWEPCO start over, any newly devised route must be composed of segments of the initially proposed routes. So, it is also possible that APSC/SWEPCO will pick segments from different parts of the six routes and combine them into a whole new route."

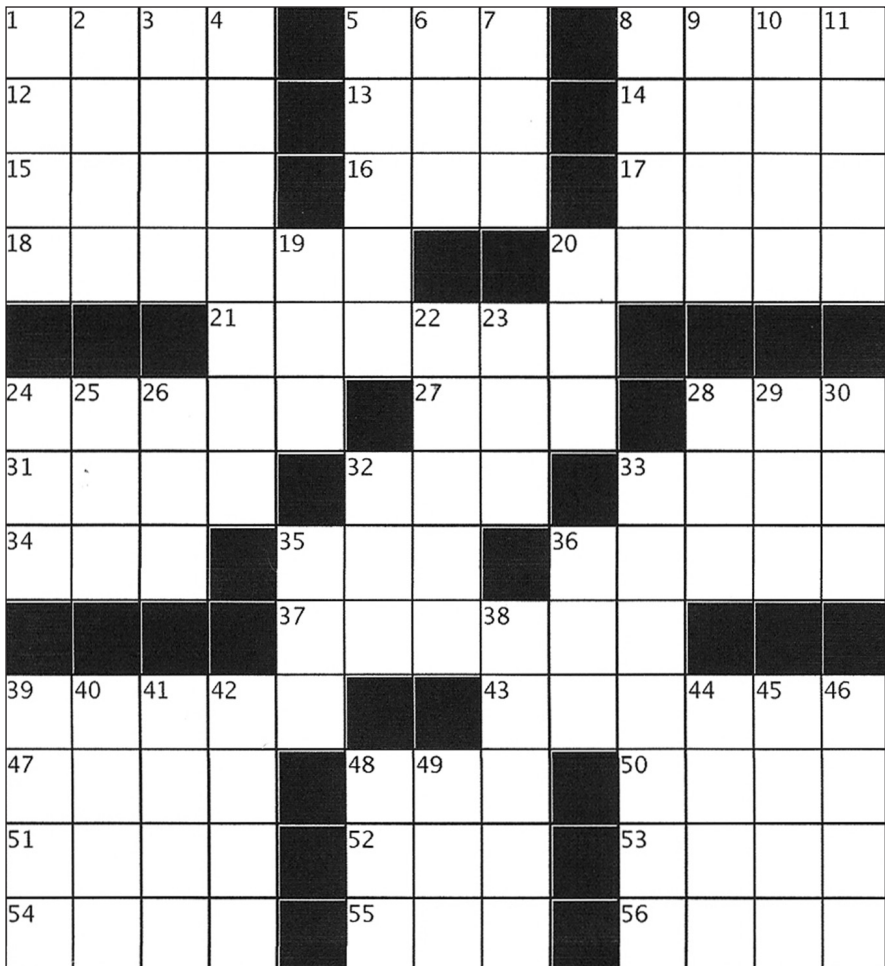
Costner said Save the Ozarks stands prepared to challenge any decision other than denial.



# INDEPENDENT Crossword

by Bill Westerman

Solution on page 27



- ACROSS**

  - 1. Partner of void
  - 5. Bled
  - 8. Clarified butter
  - 12. Samoan capital
  - 13. Atomic \_\_\_\_
  - 14. Hang loose
  - 15. Pea's pads
  - 16. Gear tooth
  - 17. Distinct historical periods
  - 18. Handled
  - 20. Ridiculous
  - 21. Rodent pet
  - 24. Dinnerware
  - 27. Wapiti
  - 28. "\_\_\_\_ what?"
  - 31. Heckle
  - 32. East Indian dish
  - 33. Roadside marker
  - 34. Nay's antonym
  - 35. Hat (slang)
  - 36. Ne'er do wells
  - 37. Whatever
  - 39. Stage/screen actress June
- DOWN**

  - 43. Dwell excessively
  - 47. Notion
  - 48. Broadcast
  - 50. Maui feast
  - 51. Blow off steam
  - 52. "Ode to a Grecian \_\_\_\_"
  - 53. Basin Park gallery
  - 54. Split \_\_\_\_
  - 55. Small island
  - 56. Linking nerve fibers
- 20. Sort
  - 22. Small, round and shiny
  - 23. Ailing
  - 24. Tear up
  - 25. Shake a leg
  - 26. Mont. neighbor
  - 28. Old French coin
  - 29. Pismire
  - 30. Affirmative statement
  - 32. Noise
  - 33. Primrose variety
  - 35. Resinous secretion
  - 36. Arched toss
  - 38. Like rhinos
  - 39. Bee abode
  - 40. Arabian Gulf
  - 41. Sell
  - 42. Cereal grain
  - 44. French bread
  - 45. Bless one's self (Brit.)
  - 46. Size up
  - 48. Northern diving bird
  - 49. Anger



# INDEPENDENTClassifieds

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

**DEADLINE – Monday at noon**

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ES PARTNERS IN WELLNESS** is hosting a free talk by Jilliam Guthrie, MSW, LCSW at Flora Roja Community Accupuncture, 119 Wall St., Wednesday 2/19 at 7 p.m. Jillian will speak about “How to Find Balance.” For information: Alexa Pittenger (479) 253-9208

**FREE TO GOOD HOME.** Sweet senior sister cats. Call (479) 253-6983 for more information

**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. Laughing Hands always a great location for couples massage. Call (479) 244-5954 for appointment.

**YOGA WITH JACK.** Start your new year off feeling strong by stretching, building muscles and breathing with a friendly, fun group. Mondays-6 p.m., Wednesdays-8:30 a.m. or Thursdays-6 p.m. At The Space, Pine and Spring Streets, \$8. (870) 480-9148.

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

**BREAD – LOCAL ORGANIC SOURDOUGH** Ivan's Art Bread-Pumpnickel Rye, Golden Gate Sourdough Art Loaves. Breakfast: Bialys, Spelt Crumpets and announcing Wheat Free “Artful Dodgers” for your toaster. @ Farmers' Market, 9 a.m. – Noon on Thursdays. [bread.LovEureka.com](http://bread.LovEureka.com) or call the request line: (479) 244-7112. Winter Rub is here!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**EVERMORE SACRED CEREMONIES** – Legal marriages, handfastings, broom-jumpings, devotion, birth, transition, separation ceremonies. Inter-faith and GLBT. Call (913) 837-0372 or (228) 223-8132 for info.

## 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.

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

## HELP WANTED

**NOW HIRING FRIENDLY, PROFESSIONAL** wait staff. Apply in person at Rockin' Pig Saloon, 2039-C E. Van Buren, Eureka Springs. Contact info: Sarah, (479) 363-6248, Rockin' Pig Eureka.

**SEEKING FULL TIME EXPERIENCED BAR MANAGER.** Position includes product ordering, inventory control, staffing, employee management and bar tending. \$10/hr. Fax letter of interest or resume to (479) 750-9986 or email: [vmartin@qcp.kscoxmail.com](mailto:vmartin@qcp.kscoxmail.com)

**MASSAGE THERAPISTS** – Apply now for full-time employment with competitive commissions, steady appointments and employee benefits at The Serenity Spa of Basin Park Hotel. Send an email to: [henley.aggie@gmail.com](mailto:henley.aggie@gmail.com)

Looking for someone to be **CAREGIVER FOR DISABLED CHILD.** After school, a few days a week and Saturdays. Call (479) 981-0055

Help wanted: **FULL/PART-TIME WAIT STAFF** and **WEEKEND HOSTESS.** Call Joe (479) 304-8998

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

## HELP WANTED

**DO YOU ENJOY TELLING STORIES? HISTORY? FOLKLORE?** The supernatural? Ghost tour guides/storytellers sought by the 1886 Crescent Hotel. Evening and weekend work, good hourly pay. For interview, send letter of inquiry with basic background info to: [kscales@ix.netcom.com](mailto:kscales@ix.netcom.com)

## REAL ESTATE

### COMMERCIAL SALES

**EUREKA OPPORTUNITY** – Operating bar/restaurant. Prime location. Numerous options and growth potential. Lease, buy – with or without real estate. (479) 903-0699

## RENTAL PROPERTIES

### APARTMENT RENTALS

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

**DOWNTOWN EUREKA ON SPRING ST.** 1BR, CH/A, great kitchen. \$550/mo. Please call (479) 244-5100

**DOWNTOWN 1BR APT.** \$500 plus gas, electric (water/trash pd). Call (479) 253-9481 or email [dan@twilight.arcoxmail.com](mailto:dan@twilight.arcoxmail.com)

## HOME RENTALS

**FOR SALE OR LEASE:** Charming Southwestern-style split-level on 2 wooded acres just outside of town. 3 or 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 living areas. Covered front porch, side deck, 2-car garage. \$185,000. Lease for \$1200/mo. \$1200 deposit. Pets negotiable. (479) 981-4110

## SEEKING RENTAL

**WANTED TO RENT OR LEASE:** Clean, furnished house with garage or carport. Prefer view of water. No kids, no pets, don't smoke. Call (479) 244-0844

## 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: 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

**MASSAGE GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE** CAUTION: recipient may be easier to live, work and play with...Call Alexa Pittenger, MMT, 147 W. Van Buren, (479) 253-9208

### VALENTINE SERVICES

**FIDDLEGRAM! LIVE** musical message of LOVE performed in person for someone special on Valentine's Day. Bookings: [www.Musical-Elegance.com](http://www.Musical-Elegance.com)

### PETS

**PET SITTING, HOUSE SITTING.** Holiday Island, Eureka Springs and surrounding areas. 25+ years experience. Reliable, references, insured. Call Lynn (479) 363-6676 or Emily (918) 409-6393

### HOUSEKEEPING

**TAYLOR-MAID TO THE RESCUE!** Clean freak has openings. References. Call Angie (479) 981-0125

### MAINTENANCE/ LANDSCAPE/ HOME SERVICES

**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.

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

**REALTORS-PROPERTY MGRS-LANDLORDS.** I specialize in preparation of properties for showing and/or occupancy. Excellent references. (479) 981-0125.



# INDEPENDENTClassifieds

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

### MAINTENANCE/ LANDSCAPE/ HOME SERVICES

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

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



**WEATHER** continued from page 4

The Arkansas Low Income Household Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible households pay utility bills with grants. Eligible households will receive assistance twice a year, but must apply each time. Payments are made directly to the energy/utility company. An online application can be found by doing an Internet search for Arkansas LIHEAP or by calling (479) 636- 7301.

CECC is encouraging members to be conservative and energy efficient.

“We have energy specialists available for free energy advice and free home energy audits which empower members with ways to help lower their electric usage and in turn, lower their electric bills,” Plagge said.

Plagge said CECC has seen an occasional outage due to the heavy electric loads and has also responded to numerous public accidents where icy road conditions have resulted in vehicles sliding into the power poles, knocking out power for short periods of time.

“With the high winds, we have

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

### MAINTENANCE/ LANDSCAPE/ HOME SERVICES

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

**CROSSWORDSolution**

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A	P	I	A	A	G	E	L	O	L	L
P	O	D	S	C	O	G	E	R	A	S
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also seen several trees outside of the rights-of-way blown into lines, causing power interruptions,” Plagge said. “Without a doubt, these combined conditions will make the weak links in an electric grid need attention. We attribute the low amount of outages to our ongoing vegetation management program, load balancing, system improvements made during the last few years, and our routine system inspection program which allows us to correct many issues before an outage occurs.”

CECC currently has 36 linemen and crewmen on loan to Craighead Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Jonesboro, Ark., where the latest round of ice hit hard. “We are grateful Carroll Electric members are not enduring the same type of adversity these neighboring cooperatives are now experiencing,” Plagge said. “At Carroll Electric, we remain on high alert with crews retained here at the Cooperative so we can continue with daily connects/reconnects and quickly respond to members as outages are reported.”



**Christmas gift keeps on giving** – From left, Mary Howze, Savannah Maloney, Courtney Peter, Summer Huffman, Stormi Scott and Dana Newman represent the winners of the Crescent Hotel's 2013 Christmas Tree Forest fundraiser. Winners were Wounded Warriors, first prize of \$736; The Rapunzel Project, second prize of \$629 and Back Our Kids, third prize of \$467. Around Thanksgiving weekend 25 to 30 spruce trees are purchased or donated by businesses, festooned with lights compliments of the hotel and uniquely decorated by representatives of local and area charities. Visitors “vote” for their favorite with dollars. Money collected for each tree is given to that charity and the top three vote getters also receive prize money while other charities receive an honorable mention cash prize – all from the Crescent Hotel.

**TOURISM** continued from page 8

as much traffic so we have been able to keep up with it.”

Bishop said it's the worst winter in the 15 years he has been in Eureka Springs. The ice storm in 2009 created more damage, but the cold wasn't as severe and long lasting.

“One thing we have to remember is that this is an extreme winter for us,” Bishop said. “We don't usually see winters like this. The past two winters were exceptionally mild. To have it this cold for so long is unusual for us. Every opportunity I get I like to commend our police and firemen who are out there taking care of us. The U.S. Post Office, UPS and FedEx are doing they best they can. Overall, the town has been keeping a pretty good attitude about it. We may be starting to see the end of it,” Bishop said.

The extreme cold weather has also caused what is possibly a record number of broken pipes in town. Eureka Plumbing and Supply reported that plumbers who could get out were working from 8 in the morning to 10 at night trying to keep up with busted pipes, and there were a lot of calls from people whose pipes have frozen up more than once.

Putting heat tape on pipes is a good idea, but right now there is none to be found in town because of the high demand.

Many people who didn't have to get out for work or other commitments have been choosing to stay home, making it

hard for restaurants to gauge how much food to purchase.

“We've had to close sometimes and have missed deliveries because the truck couldn't get here,” said Ruth Hager, owner of Sparky's Roadhouse Café. “We offered fifty percent off last week to encourage people to get out. It allowed us to have a fun day for locals who were out and about. There were people who made themselves get out and brave the roads because they heard about it. A lot were pleasantly surprised that Highway 62 was fine. Also, having the special made it so we didn't have food left over.”

Sparky's has been closing early in the winter because people rarely come out after dark. That results in fewer hours for employees. Hager said many of her employees have been with her since she opened in 1994, and know to put money back. “My employees are like squirrels,” Hager said. “They squirrel away nuts to be prepared for winter.”

Still, not all businesses suffered in January. Diane Murphy, owner of Century 21 Woodland Real Estate, said January is often a dead month for real estate transactions, but this past January was surprisingly good.

“The properties that closed in January went under contract in November or December,” Murphy said. “It has definitely been more challenging to show property in January. But you know that people looking in rough weather are serious about finding something!”



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