

Modified counteroffer on old high school property approved

NICKY BOYETTE

The Eureka Springs school board approved, with two modifications, a counteroffer from the Eureka Springs Community Center Foundation to lease the vacant old high school property. Terms of the agreement include an annual rent of \$20,000 for 20 years to be credited in full against the purchase price for the property of \$400,000.

Superintendent Brian Pruitt said at the Nov. 30 meeting there were two issues identified by a board discussion regarding the counteroffer: one was the survey of the property and who would be responsible for the cost; and how to define the exposure of risk of the school district, which would still own the property for the time being, during the construction phase and beyond.

Diane Murphy, chair of the Foundation board, told the board she recognized the importance of the survey. The date for the Foundation to take possession would be April 1, and she wanted to make sure they could have the survey done on time. Her only issue was she expected the district to participate in paying for the survey.

Board president Chris McClung said everyone needed to know if there were going to be boundary disputes. No school personnel knew of a recent survey. Foundation board member Glenn Crenshaw said the cost for a survey like this one might be \$2,500 – 5,000.

McClung said he had no issue with sharing the cost of the

“This is the most significant real estate event in town in years.”

– Glenn Crenshaw

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It's a wonder-full life – Dad, Kristian, helped little Allie Meyer get a view from the top after her first experience Christmas tree decorating at grandmother Hilke Zimmerman's house. Scenes like this are no doubt taking place in homes all around Eureka Springs as the big day nears.

PHOTO BY HILKE ZIMMERMAN

This Week's INDEPENDENT Thinker

Black Friday, Shop Local Saturday, Cyber Monday, Santa stuck in the chimney – whether America is celebrating the birth of Christ or the discounts of retail sales, it's an annual season where we want cold days, warm fires and full bellies.

There are people in the world who don't give a flip about Christmas even though they do have a December 25.

More than 10 million Syrians have had to leave celebrations, security, home, and what's left of family because their towns were bombed. Children like 5-year-old Lamar, above, escaped in a rubber boat. Lamar now sleeps in the cold forest every night, then walks and walks every day, perhaps wishing for what he used to have. Peace. Food. Dog. Bed. School. Mom and Dad.

Stuff he can't buy.



PHOTO BY MAGNUS WENNMAN

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INDEPENDENTNews

December hours for Snow Village and Train display

The Snow Village and Train display at Gaskins Switch Village will be open at 2051 Hwy. 63 East, on Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. through Dec. 20. Special evening hours will be Dec. 21 – 23 from 5 – 7 p.m. which will be the final dates.

This exhibit consists of over 300 buildings in a wintery setting, together with three Lionel 0 scale trains, a Lionel 0 scale trolley, and many accessories.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for children 5 – 12 and children under 5 free. This exhibit is a fundraiser for the Eureka Springs Historical Museum.

SCHOOL BOARD continued from page 1

survey, and McClung got agreement from the board the wording would be changed to state survey cost be shared equally between the district and the Foundation.

Murphy also addressed the board's concern regarding exposure to liabilities. She said if the possibility of a swimming pool being part of the project at some point were the issue, then she suggested they address specific risks in their agreement. What she preferred was an agreement where the Foundation board would not continuously be going to the school board for approval during construction.

Everyone agreed all activities during construction provide exposure to risks, even walking onto the property, but discussion was how to ascribe liabilities in the agreement.

Foundation board member Jack Moyer mentioned if his group raises the funds they expect, the district would be released from any liability because the Foundation will have raised the money it needs to buy the property.

The board made further observations regarding liability and language in the counteroffer, and Candace Spaulding insisted the attorney should look at their changes to the counteroffer.

There was agreement that modifications during construction outside the footprint of the existing buildings would require school board approval, but as Crenshaw, vice-chair of the Foundation, pointed out, the Foundation and school board could work out the details of liabilities during lease negotiations. As for the document in discussion, he commented, "This is a vehicle to get the process started."

"This is a good start," followed Spaulding, and board member Jason Morris stated the board should also consider time constraints under which the Foundation is operating.

Pruitt pointed out the board could

approve the counterproposal subject to their changes.

Al Larson, member of both the school board and Foundation board, stated negotiations really begin once both parties see the proposed lease.

Morris moved to accept the counteroffer with the stipulated revisions.

Board member Gayla Wolfenbarger pointed out 20 years is a long time to tie up property in a lease. Many changes will occur on the school board during that time, and some folks have told her a better deal would be to sell the property, not lease it.

Morris said he had heard comments like that as well, but, "This group is trying to do something good for the city." He also said offloading the property was important. The school board admitted the property might have been marketed better, but Morris asserted this deal "was the best thing to do."

Larson reminded the board the Foundation was a descendant of a school board Facilities Committee of three years ago, and the Foundation's goal was established because citizens said they wanted a community center.

Crenshaw told the board, "This is the most significant real estate event in town in years." He speculated the project could be a spark to inspire the local economy.

The school board unanimously approved the counteroffer with two amendments. Next will come lease negotiations.

According to a Foundation press release, the plan for the property is for "an outdoor amphitheater, a community center, rooms for exercises and classes, 13,000 square feet of Class A office space, and outdoor pool and a splash park." Estimated cost of the project is \$5 million.

The school board also approved a three percent raise for Licensed Personnel and a \$1000 bonus for Classified Personnel.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 17, at 5:30 p.m.

Time-share owners, HIDC file complaint against HISID *Voting rights could stop commissioner election*

LEE MITCHELL

Voting rights during the annual Holiday Island Board of Commissioners election has been a point of contention for three years between time-share owners known as the Table Rock Landing Owners Association and the Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District. While TRLOA insists that under Arkansas law they are entitled to at least one vote per property owner, HISID maintains that TRLOA can only receive one ballot for the entire association. For the past three years TRLOA board Secretary, Gary Hanson, has requested election ballots from the district, receiving none the first two years and just one this year.

On Nov. 25 a complaint was filed against HISID with the Carroll County Circuit Court by Reece Moore Pendergraft, LLP, on behalf of TRLOA and Holiday Island Development Corporation. It was signed by Attorney for the Plaintiffs, Tim Hutchinson.

The Parties, Jurisdiction, and Venue section of the complaint gives jurisdiction over its subject matter to the court, followed by the factual background of the complaint case # CV 2015 – 90 WD, which describes that Holiday Island includes 28 separate time-share units divided into 51 fractional ownership interests, for a total of 1,428 time-share property interests that can be owned. It establishes that under the jurisdiction of HISID, each receives an annual assessment

of benefits that must be paid and that each time-share owner received a separate deed evidencing ownership of property interest, which has been recorded in Carroll County land records.

The TRLOA complaint noted that on Dec. 8, 2014, the Arkansas Attorney General gave an opinion on timeshare voting rights under Arkansas law, stating in Opinion # 2014-101 that A.C.A 18-14-104 characterizes a “time-share estate” as “an estate in real property” that “has the character and incidents of an estate in fee simple at common law.” As such, any owner of a time-share estate would appear to qualify as a property owner, as that term is employed in A.C.A 14-92-240(c). Each such owner would appear to be entitled to one vote in a SID election.

The document filed by the plaintiffs also states that because HISID failed to properly notify TRLOA about the commissioner nomination meeting on Oct. 19, 2015, the district is in violation of A.C.A 14-92-240(c) (1) (C) and 14-92-240 (e), and has “therefore artificially and improperly limited the pool of available nominees for the position of Commissioner.” They also contend that HISID has limited that nomination statute without authority by adding specific requirement barriers by which commissioners can be nominated, such as being current on their district water bill, and that these barriers are not supported

under Arkansas law and prevent otherwise qualified voters from participating in the election of commissioners.

A temporary restraining order was also requested in the suit filed by TRLOA and HIDC, asking the court to enter an order postponing the Dec. 1 commissioner election so all time-share owners would have an opportunity to participate in the election, and that failure to do so would result immediate and irreparable harm to a particular group of voters.

Plaintiffs also requested that the court declare HISID’s practices to be in violation of Arkansas law and that the court should use its power to order HISID to conduct elections in a manner that conforms to Arkansas law. Specifically to mail notice to every property owner within HISID, including time-share owners, provide absentee ballots to every time-share owner that requests one, remove barriers to those who can be nominated to serve as commissioner, and remove barriers to those who can qualify to vote in HISID elections. It was also requested by TRLOA and HIDC that the Court further prevent, permanently, HISID from conducting elections under the manner in which it currently does.

Copies of the entire case, # CV 2015-90WD filed with the Carroll County Circuit Court is public record and can be obtained from the Carroll County Circuit Court Clerk.

We’re getting married!

Julie Quinn and Kevin Quinn of Eureka Springs, Ark., proudly announce the marriage of their daughter, Eileen Nicole Quinn, to Robert Joseph Ward, son of Dr. Bobby and Bonita Ward of Hot Springs, Ark.

Eileen graduated from Hendrix College and Missouri State University with a Master’s in Clinical Psychology and has been working as a substance abuse counselor and forensic therapist in Dallas for the past year. Robert is a graduate of the University of Arkansas School of Architecture and works as a Marketing and Design professional at IPA Texas.

Their wedding is this Saturday at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church with a private reception to follow at the Crescent Hotel Crystal Dining Room. The couple will honeymoon at the Ward family cabin on the Ouachita River before returning to Dallas, where they currently reside.



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INDEPENDENTNews

Heart of historic church open to many ways

BECKY GILLETTE

The historic First Church of Christ, Scientist, building at 68 W. Mountain St. served for many decades as the home for Christian Scientists. But after membership declined and services were stopped in 2014, local residents came up with another plan, one designed to help preserve and maintain the beautiful, old building while continuing use as a sacred space.

The building has been reborn as the Heart of Many Ways, open to different faiths and spiritual paths. In a time when religious tolerance is a major issue, supporters say it can be a bridge to peace by encouraging individuals and groups to provide programs that enrich and uplift the spirit.

Melissa Clare, one of the founders of the Heart of Many Ways, said the building was perfect for ongoing spiritual-oriented activities that would maintain the original purpose. They also want to encourage activities that promote spiritual tolerance. To help accomplish those goals, the organization has received 501(c)3 non-profit status and is planning a major fundraising event Dec. 12.

The Festival of Harps in May and June was the first big fundraiser, with four concerts that spanned a period of six weeks.

"We were really happy with that," Clare said. "We found out the acoustics in the chapel are really wonderful. Personally, I feel music can serve a spiritual purpose. It can uplift people's spirits. A lot of people really loved the harp concerts, and want us to bring it back. It was really historic in terms of outreach to the public. I think it is going to be an annual event. We made enough to help keep things floating, from small maintenance projects to on-going utilities. Now we need to raise enough money to complete the transfer of ownership."

The building has long been host to meetings of the Arkansas Metaphysical Society. In February the building was the venue for Mystical Arts of Tibet Tour from the Drepung Loseling Monastery, India, which included traditional ancient music and multiphonic chanting.

John Two Hawks offered a class in Native American flute, and has more events lined up for next year.

The building is used for Sufi healing circles every Tuesday morning, and there are "An Inquiry into Sufism" sessions two Wednesdays a month. The building is open Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. for silent meditation. A Buddhist group meets there on Thursday afternoons.

For the event Dec. 12, Clare will lead an opening meditation at 10 a.m. followed by a performance by harpist Brenda Bowen Cox. Starting at 10:45 a.m., Rebekah Clark will do a chanting and sound healing demonstration. At 12:30, guitarist and vocalist Don Matt will perform original compositions. At 1:30 p.m. the Silvermore Trio, a harpist, flutist and fiddle player, will be doing a Celtic Christmas selection. There will be a blessing at 3:30 p.m. by the Venerable Geshe Thupten Dorjee, a Buddhist monk from Fayetteville.

The Heart of Many Ways is soliciting donations for a silent auction that will be held downstairs, where there will also be vendors with items suitable for Christmas presents, including health products. There will be refreshment and a raffle.

"There is no entrance fee, but we need to collect the remainder of what is needed to make the transition into new management of the church complete," Clare said.

She said they are hoping there will be more groups that will use the space for spiritual and educational purposes. For more information, visit www.heartofmanyways.org.

Organizers of the Heart of Many Ways are also interested in



Melissa Clare

learning more about the history of the building, which looks much different today than when it was built in the late 1914.

"We are curious why the building was changed so much," Clare said. "Someone suggested the turret might have been taken down during the Depression because it was too much maintenance. We think under the stucco is the original brick. There are also some large missing doors. We wonder what happened to them. If anyone has answers to those questions, we are very interested in hearing more about the history of the building. Our main plan is to be able to maintain the building and bring it back into full integrity. It needs some TLC." Clare can be reached at (479) 253-8252.

Christmas spirit in full swing in Eureka Springs

Eureka Springs will be in the Christmas Spirit on Friday, Dec. 4 for the annual Christmas Parade of Lights. This night-time parade strolls through downtown at 6 p.m. with the theme this year *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*. Sign-up is available online at www.eurekaspringschamber.com under Special Events and the link can also be found on the Chamber's Facebook page.

The deadline for judged entries has already passed but entries that do not wish to be judged will be accepted up to the day of the parade. For questions or more information contact the Eureka Springs Chamber at (479) 253-8737 or email holly@eurekaspringschamber.com.

Don't mess with Mother The Shrine must move on...

BECKY GILLETTE

Ralph Wilson, who goes by the name Ralph Shrine or Ralph the Shrine Man, caused a stir on Facebook earlier this week when he said his Our Lady of the Springs shrine, which has been in the North Main Music Park for about a year, had been banned by the city.

"I have built hundreds of shrines around the country, and have never run into this," Wilson said. "If they destroy the shrine, they are destroying something that was a gift to them. I have created a permanent shrine for Eureka. What happens if we don't move it? I put it up on Facebook and I have people ready to start carrying torches. You know how Eureka is."

Wilson objected to Sandy Martin, chair of the Eureka Springs Art Council, telling him that the shrine had only been approved for temporary placement at the park and needed to be moved.

The shrine in question was created as part of an art show, Artist's Impression of the Mother. Some people find shrines like this made from an odd collection of objects, to be creative and fun. Other people don't get it, and question if it is really art.

"What is all that junk in there for?" a visitor walking by asked. "What does it mean? Is it some kind of religious thing?"

The shrine is a small hut that has photographs, old dolls, plastic flowers, mirrors, candles and other objects clustered inside, seemingly at random. The frame of the hut is decorated with old CDs and there is a piece of Styrofoam overhead that looks like a cloud. There is a window in the side of it.

"A shrine is basically a place to go to light candles, make a wish, and say prayers," Wilson said. "It is pretty universal. The Chinese were doing shrines a long time ago. This shrine is all about honoring the mother including Mother Nature, your mother, and my mother. I



was down there yesterday and talked to my mother, and she said, 'They know not what they do.'"

Wilson alleged the city was opposed to art in public spaces, and that Martin was deciding what was art in Eureka by making him remove the shrine from the Music Park.

"I'm a firm believer in art in public spaces," Martin responded. "We have done that. This shrine was never

approved as a permanent display. I verified that with former Mayor Morris Pate. After the Mother show, Ralph needed to move it from The Space where it was. He called me as chair of the Arts Council and said the concept was to move it around town to different parks. He wanted to know if he could start it at Music Park. The original plan was to move it to a different park every two months, and he didn't. And periodically every time I have seen him, I have asked if he would move it. He never did. I saw him at the Bazaar this past weekend, and I said, 'We need to move it.' He got angry, and said, 'You can't mess with mother.'

"If he wants it to stay at the park, he needs to present that to the city council," Martin said. "They are the only ones who can approve it. Art is all subjective. That is why the process is in place that it has to go through the city council to be permanent art. It is a city park. Council are the only ones who can do that. I was just trying to follow up on the agreement."

Wilson is leaving town for winter, and doesn't have time to find a new home for the shrine. So he has been given until February 2016 to find a new home for it. In an e-mail to Wilson, Mayor Butch Berry said, "As per our conversation this morning, we agreed that you will move the Shrine in the Music Park on Main Street when you get back from Arizona in January, 2016, if not before."

"In order to make sure there is no confusion, unless you notify me different, the shrine will be relocated by February 15, 2016. That gives you a month after you come back from Arizona to arrange for personnel to move the shrine to a new location. If the shrine is not moved by February 15, 2016, the city will remove it from the Music Park and will not be responsible for any damages to the shrine."

Wilson said he is looking for a positive outcome and welcomes suggestions about a new home for the shrine.

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Explore RoundHouse on Christmas Tour

BECKY GILLETTE

One of the more unique and intriguing homes in Eureka Springs is the four-story RoundHouse owned by Twyla Pease at 77 Hillside near the railroad station. The limestone building that resembles a castle attracts a lot of interest, particularly from tourists. But in recent years, the only way for the curious to see inside the building was to watch a video.

Pease has to be careful to lock her doors because at times people have walked in and said, “We are here for the tour.” She’s had to explain that the house is a private residence not open for tours; but on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 3 – 8 p.m., the RoundHouse will be open to visitors on the Eureka Springs Preservation Society’s 33rd Christmas Tour of Homes.

Twyla and her late husband, Jon, spent nearly six years renovating the RoundHouse before completing it in 2003. The original structure was used to hold gas to light street lamps in the late 1800s. After electricity came to town gas storage was no longer needed, so 18-inch thick limestone walls were built to replace the metal tank.

For the next several decades, the building was used as the headquarters of the Ozarka Water Company, which shipped water all over the nation in glass-lined railroad tanks. Ozarka went out of business in 1965, and in the following years the structure was used at various times as an apartment, an art gallery, a restaurant and nightclub. It had been vacant and in disrepair for several years when it was purchased by the Pease family.

“It was in a derelict state, and we bought it as a weekend getaway,” Pease said. “We had a farm a an hour-and-a-half drive away. But I was from a big city, Dallas, Texas, and not a farm girl. So I preferred being in Eureka Springs to living out on the farm.”

Pease, a prolific master quilter whose Christmas-themed quilts will be on display for the tour, said the couple hired the Johnson-Troillett architecture firm and spent a couple of years planning the massive project before launching into renovation. The first thing they did was gut the interior because the limestone walls were incapable of supporting the weight of the structure. The building was transformed over the next several years into a comfortable, airy and artistic gem. Pease served as her own general contractor.

After the six-month demolition work, four continuous steel columns were tied to concrete piers under the basement floor and to the peak of the new roof. Steel girders were tied into the limestone walls at the various floor levels.

Most of the work was done by superintendent Sam Utter and two helpers. Darrell Weaver built the challenging, curved stairways. Preservationist stonemason Bruce Wright repaired and tuck pointed the



entire surface of the limestone walls.

There are four stories, 1,500 square feet each, with zoned heating and cooling. Numerous works of art by local artists enhance extensive mahogany, cherry and alder wood work, and lovely Pella windows frame great views of North Main and the train station below.

“One of the hardest parts of the design was floor level placement so that the existing window openings were usable for each floor,” Pease said. “We ended with some floors fourteen feet apart and others sixteen or

eighteen, but the result is as beautiful as it is respectful of the original architecture.”

She describes the upper level as having the feel of a tree house. “And one of the most wonderful things is that when there are a lot of motorcycles in town, I can’t even hear them,” Pease said.

The second level of the RoundHouse is where the main living quarters are, including the bedroom, bathroom and a rotating kitchen retrieval system. The third level, off the entrance from Hillside, contains a living room, a long arm quilting machine, and a bar area. The fourth level includes a studio and sitting areas.

Pease, whose husband passed away in 2009, said she has greatly enjoyed her years living in the RoundHouse, but she has put the landmark structure up for sale with Gene Bland, Mountain Country Properties, and is planning to move back to her home state of Iowa to renovate an old church into living quarters.

For more information about the 33rd Christmas Tour of Homes, visit the website www.eurkeaspringspreservationsociety.org. Tickets are \$20 and include a trolley pass from the Transit Center and Welcome Center on US 62 or the Planer Hill Park & Ride.

Other stops on the tour include the Brownstone Inn next to the RoundHouse, the Eureka Springs and North Arkansas Railway at 299 N. Main; Starry Night home at 180 Spring; the Carnegie Public Library (which has public restrooms) at 194 Spring; the Moyer home at 238 Spring; the First Presbyterian Church at 209 Spring; Kimberly Cottage at 12 Hillside; and the home of Heather Denslow and Gene Sweptson at 37 Hillside.

And the Oscar’s goes to

– Clear Spring School held their first Alumni Soiree at Oscar’s Cafe on Friday, Nov. 27. From left: Ike Doss, Kyle Hunnicutt, Daniel Goodson, Lucy Stowe and Johan Pot – former students from the past four decades – came together to reconnect and celebrate their legacy.

PHOTO BY LINDA GREG



Council doesn't settle with Dotson

NICKY BOYETTE

City council convened a special meeting Monday to consider a settlement offer from Ray Dotson, who had applied for an animal-drawn franchise in October 2014, but when his application was deemed incomplete and denied, he sued the city. The hearing for part of the litigation was scheduled for the following day.

The settlement offer was for Dotson to drop his litigation against the city if council would grant him the franchise.

Mayor Butch Berry told council, "We've got a lawsuit going on, and this meeting is about a settlement. We're going to court tomorrow morning unless we settle."

Attorney Bob Ballinger, who stated he and his client wanted to "wipe the slate clean and start over" represented Dotson. Ballinger said he wanted to get past old issues and look at Dotson's application anew. He said Dotson was a "real deal carriage operator who got off on the wrong foot with the city."

Ballinger explained his client's history with the city, which has involved litigation stemming from applications for the franchise being denied, so Ballinger asked council to grant Dotson's application for a franchise. He urged council to "put all that behind us."

Alderman Terry McClung clarified that the previous vote on Dotson's application had been three voting No, three voting Present.

Alderman Mickey Schneider pointed out to Ballinger that Dotson had a route he never used. Ballinger said he did not know about that, saying, "Maybe the route was not profitable."

Alderman Joyce Zeller asked city clerk Ann Armstrong if Dotson had filled out the application properly for the route requested.

"No. But close," Armstrong said.

Ballinger maintained the permit and ordinance changed after his client applied. Also, according to Ballinger, the application was considered by

council, so in his opinion the application was complete since only completed applications would be considered.

Alderman David Mitchell asked again, "Have we ever had a complete application for this franchise from this applicant for this route?"

Armstrong said, "No."

Ballinger continued to maintain the process was changed midstream and his client's civil rights violated.

Mitchell eventually asked city attorney Tim Weaver what the judge would consider at a hearing.

Weaver replied the judge would consider whether the Writ of Mandamus was correctly applied. Council was forced to vote at its January 2015 meeting because of a Writ of Mandamus initiated by Dotson's attorneys. Council voted 0-3-3 to deny it.

Ballinger said he was not in the business of trying to pick fights with the city, but did not deny his client could bring further litigation against the city.

Schneider asked Ballinger why his client did not drop his lawsuit to show good faith.

Ballinger returned his client would drop the lawsuits when the city agreed to his terms.

Alderman James DeVito asked why the city was not granting the application, saying council cannot put faces on the application and had a responsibility to handle business deals whether or not they like the person.

"Why are we building a wall and not engaging in progress?" DeVito asked. He admitted the plaintiff might not have handled things the way the city would have liked, but settling would alleviate the lawsuits.

Mitchell called for a vote, and council voted 5-1, DeVito voting No, to deny the settlement offer.

The matter went to court Tuesday where Circuit Judge Scott Jackson said he would take it under advisement and hand down a decision Dec. 11.



Stre-e-etching the food budget – The Eureka Springs High School Student Council (StuCo) voted to make a donation to Fatima and Latigo Treuer's Annual Fill the Stretch Limo Food Drive. From left are StuCo Sponsor Daniel Moose, Fatima Treuer, StuCo President Corinna Campbell-Green (presenting a \$50 check) and StuCo Vice President Sarah Andress. All food and money donated will benefit families in the Eureka Springs community during the holiday.

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INDEPENDENTMail

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

Holiday tree not suitable replacement for POW/MIA flag

Editor,

I rode past Planer Hill yesterday and was shocked to see the POW/MIA flag missing from its usual spot. Someone, surely not knowing the sanctity of that flag, saw to it that the flag, pole and all, was removed and replaced with a meaningless plastic tree, I assume for the holidays. I and a lot of other veterans in the community are very proud of that flag, some may even consider that spot where the POW/MIA flag flies as sacred ground, but I see that some thoughtless person(s) sees it as a spot for a garish doo-dad. It's a big slap in the face to see it taken down and replaced with a plastic tree, a tree that they could have put anywhere else on the hill.

Why would someone disrespect the veterans, some of them war veterans, by taking down our honored symbol? I especially take offense of this action because I'm the one who bought and donated the POW/MIA flag on behalf of my American Legion Post #9.

Two years ago on the 4th of July, we held a grand dedication ceremony, performed the soldier's cross ceremony in honor of the POW/MIAs, and raised the flag briskly. I was filled with pride knowing that our community was thoughtful enough of our veterans to allow us to do that ceremony and present the flag to our city.

Now it's been taken down without notice or permission, without a vote, or even the decency of a heads up. If the flag was removed to make way for a holiday decoration, they why? Will our beloved POW/MIA flag be returned and put back up where it belongs after the holidays?

With all the atrocities happening around the world today, this time of year more than ever should be the right time to fly that flag, not some plastic tree. I can't even begin to imagine how a cheap tree ornament outranks a POW/MIA flag.

What idiot thought that this was a good idea to take down the flag? And who do I blame for their thoughtlessness?

Sonny Smith

Benefit of local support appreciated

Editor,

I would like to thank Eureka for all the love and support. I am grateful to be part of such an amazing village!

Love,

Margot Mayer

What is right might not be right

Editor,

Every time I hear Mr. Trump's bombastic, egotistical and belligerent clichés, I fear creeping fascism in the USA.

Many white voters think he is the answer to our problems. Of course, his racism is so obnoxious perhaps he does not really have a chance of being our next president.

I researched fascism. Ask yourself if any of this applies to Mr. Trump, who by the way inherited most of his wealth from his father, went bankrupt many times, fired many employees, and used the law to further himself and his trophy family.

Michael Mann, professor of sociology at UCLA, talks about some of the characteristics of fascism:

ethnic cleansing – favoring one ethnic group over another; deportation of ethnic minorities.

political cleansing – restricting the freedom of speech (remember the Mexican reporter from *El Mundo* who was physically thrown out of Trump's press conference)?

nationalism – belief in the inherent unity and superiority of a population with distinct linguistic, physical or cultural characteristics.

militarism – state supported violence by the military, the police and prisons.

charismatic leadership – Trump is, at best, a television showman.

Another scholar, Chuck Arnesi, defines fascism as, "... a form of political and social behavior that arises when the middle class, finding its hopes frustrated by economic instability coupled with political polarization and deadlock, abandons traditional ideology and turns, with the approbation of police and military forces, to a poorly-defined but emotionally appealing soteriology [theology] of national unity, immediate and direct resolution of problems, and intolerance for dissent."

I personally witnessed the rise of fascism in Greece when "the colonels" took over. They certainly controlled every aspect of the once-delicious Greek lifestyle and spread fear and control everywhere. And used torture against dissenters.

I will vote for Bernie in the primaries, and Hillary if she wins the primary. Trump needs to go back to ripping off consumers, parading his third trophy wife around, and making up more lies about whatever his delusions require.

T.A. Laughlin



WEEK'S TopTweets

@maraWritesStuff: I have a flight to catch but there's a cat on my lap.

@sween: In Canada, she's Kilometry Cyrus.

@donni: I'm taking a stand. If the stand owners come looking for it, you guys saw nothing.

@sucittaM: I typed something into Google on my phone then held it to my ear. I felt stupid at first, but now I'm kinda mad it doesn't work.

@juliussharpe: My earthquake kit is just a tuxedo because in case of a disaster, I want to look like the most important person to save.

@beerhaze: Undecided voters are the same undecided people we hate for holding up the buffet line.

@johndashgreen: Password must contain a capital letter, a number, a plot, a protagonist with some character development, and a surprise ending.

@TheThryll: Camping tip: If you get lost in the woods, a compass can help you get lost more north.

@treviso_electric: Dear insane self-destructive people, thanks for music and art.

@Home_Halfway: French toast is just regular toast that smokes cigarettes and has a tiny mustache.

Protecting homes – and the climate – with metal roofs

BECKY GILLETTE

As I write this article Nov. 30, 2015, leaders from 140 countries are opening talks in Paris to discuss a global accord to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to help preserve the climate. Climate change has rightly been called the greatest challenge ever faced by humankind.

When I purchased a non-historic home recently, I could have installed an asphalt shingle roof. But I budgeted to spend more for a quality residential metal roof. The single largest thing a homeowner can do to reduce energy use (and utility bills) and help combat climate change is to put on a light-colored, reflective metal roof. “Cool roofs” reduce cooling costs by about 15 percent, and make not just your house, but your whole neighborhood cooler.

The Historic District Commission denied me permission to put the residential metal roof on that home, even after I showed them photos of a home across the street and nine other homes nearby with similar roofs. I was told the HDC didn’t approve most of those.

For a long time now, people have been putting on metal roofs without permission. There are potential fines of up to \$500 per day per violation, but I have been unable to find even one case where a citizen has been successfully prosecuted for doing work without a HDC permit. So why make people sneak around to do the right thing for their home and the environment?

City council needs to step in and require the HDC to conform with the commitment the city made when it adopted the Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement that states in part, “Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED program or a similar system.”

When I was turned down at the HDC meeting, commissioner Melissa Greene said I could apply for other types of metal roofs allowed by HDC (all types of roofs I couldn’t find any other homeowner using). I had put in my application that the standing seam metal roofs allowed on homes would nearly double the bill costing me an extra \$3,000 to \$5,000. Greene said that \$3,000 wasn’t a lot of extra money for a roof. Hello? Ordinance 2223, among other things, prohibits economic discrimination against residents.

One reason the HDC doesn’t allow what it calls lap panel steel roofing on homes zoned residential (although it allows it on homes with commercial zoning) is it’s supposedly not historic.

Another reason was that “lap panel metal looks cheap.” Not all lap panel metal roofing is created equal. Some have used the cheaper stuff you buy at Lowe’s, but the type I proposed was from the number one supplier of metal roofing in our region, Metal Central. It is manufactured to the color and thickness you choose.

A roofer told me “lap panel steel” and “standing seam metal” aren’t even the terms used by roofing and manufacturers. They refer to roofing as residential, commercial, post and frame and steel building.

The roofer recommended residential roofing over standing seam commercial because he gets complaints about leaking from the standing seam since there are more seams.

Standing seam has a concealed fastening system. It doesn’t make sense to allow one and disallow the other when both look so similar.

A couple of years ago HDC decided to allow stamped metal roofs, which have no historic precedent on homes here. These roofs meant to simulate stone or slate are unproven for longevity and have bumps that may cause leaves to collect on the roof which can cause leaks at joints. I couldn’t find a roofer willing to even give me a quote using this material.

One HDC commissioner told me they were considering allowing lap panel roofs, but only in three dark shades: black, charcoal and grey. That defeats half the purpose of a metal roof, and there are plenty of white roofs in Eureka. I don’t buy the argument that “dark roofs are more historic.”

Eureka Springs is well known for acceptance of diversity in people, so why require metal roofs to be dark when there are many different colors of roofs in the city? I support historic preservation, so what better way is there than by preserving a structure for 50-100 years instead of 25? Eureka should be allowed to make the right choice to put a lifetime roof on their homes to preserve not just their homes, but the climate.

Becky Gillette

1 \$#@&* PLANNED PARENTHOOD
BABY KILLERS, \$#@&* FELONS
HARVESTING BABY PARTS
\$#@&* DOING ABORTIONS
\$#@&* KILLING MILLIONS
IT'S GOT TO \$#@&* STOP!!!

2 NEWS FLASH
COLORADO GUNMAN KILLS 3
AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD
CLINIC

3 WHO ME?
I DIDN'T
SAY NOTHIN'



WORDS MATTER

The Pursuit Of HAPPINESS

by Dan Krotz

My wife and I have strikingly different tastes in art, music, and home decorating. This has required a fair amount of compromise over our married life. My wife likes, for example, antiques, “charming” 18th and 19th century architecture, and small town life. I like concrete and glass houses, high-rise skylines, and Eames furniture. So we compromised and live in a 19th century, antique-filled house in a small town. Our charming house is also filled with mice. The Great Mouse Compromise of Twenty Fifteen involves her setting traps, and my carrying them away after she’s murdered Minnie. It works out just fine.

Naturally, our views on Crystal Bridges’s \$7,600,000 acquisition of Felix Gonzalez-Torres 1991 *Untitled* (L.A.) involved a bit of forging and banging about before we agreed it works well as a “What is art?” conversation starter. It’s gotten more press coverage than anything else Bridges has acquired.

In case you haven’t heard about *Untitled*, it’s \$500 worth of green-wrapped candy organized into a rectangle; viewers can take a piece of candy with them as they pass by and a docent, guard, or junior curator replaces the arrogated treat with a twin. So it’s art, it’s everlasting, and there’s candy, too.

Whether *Untitled* is art, a hoax, or a running gag remains an open question for a lot of folks. It’s sort of like trying to figure out if Conner Eldridge, the pigeon running against John Boozman for US Senate, is really a Democrat or not. So far, Eldridge’s platform is comprised of “balancing Washington’s out of control checkbook,” support of the Hyde Amendment, and bombing the tar out of ISIS. He’s also wetting his pants at the possibility of refugees in Arkansas, and promises to be tough on immigration. If he sounds like your kind of guy, you must be a Republican, or have an uncanny ability to hear, see, and speak no evil.

Eldridge may be saying what he thinks is necessary to win Natural State elections – and DINOs – but there isn’t much in his foray into the art of politics to inspire middle-of-the-road or progressive Democrats: there’s no backbone, no moral center, and no candy.

A little help from our friends:

- **Carroll County Domestic Violence Hotline:** 1-844-247-3223 (844-24PEACE) is available 24/7. The Purple Flower Domestic Violence Resource and Support Center of Carroll County is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on North Springfield St. in Berryville. (479) 981-1676.
 - **24-hour NWA Crisis Line for Women** – NWA Women’s Shelter serving Carroll County – “Empowering families to live free of violence.” (800) 775-9011 www.nwaws.org
 - **Cup of Love free soup lunches** – Cup of Love provides soup lunches at Flint Street Fellowship Mondays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and at First Baptist (Penn) Church on Fridays, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. (479) 363-4529
 - **Flint Street Fellowship food pantry, lunch, free clothing** – Pantry open 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Free lunch Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Free clothes/shoes closet, books and household items. (479) 253-9491 or 253-4945. Leave donations in barrel at entrance if facility is closed.
 - **Wildflowers one-dollar, furniture barn/thrift store** US 62E across from Hill County Hardware. One-dollar store in the yellow building every Friday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Thrift store, furniture bank in big blue barn behind the chapel open Wednesdays – Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Donation drop offs Thursday – Saturday between 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Healing and delivery outreach in chapel Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.
 - **Shamatha and Tonglen meditations Monday** – A meditation group will meet every Monday at 6:30 p.m. to focus on Shamatha, learning how to focus to achieve peace of mind, and Tonglen, a practice of love and compassion on all beings. The meetings will alternate these two practices so that one is the focus on each Monday with coffee and tea afterward. Call Alece at (479) 244-6842 or Gary at (479) 244-6840.
 - **Celebrate Recovery** – Soul Purpose Ministries, 801 S. Springfield, Green Forest, 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday. Potluck followed by 12-step Christ-centered meetings for those suffering from addiction, habit, hang-up or hurt.
 - **Coffee Break Al-Anon Family Group Women** – Tuesdays, 9:45 a.m., Faith Christian Family Church, Hwy. 23S, (479) 363- 9495.
 - **No high school diploma?** Free GED classes in the Carnegie Library Annex every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9 a.m. - noon with study and tutoring for the GED test. Open to ages 18 and up. GED classes also in Berryville at Carroll County Center. Some open to ages 16 and 17 per educational requirements. For info: Nancy Wood (479) 981-0482, Carnegie Library (479) 253-8754, Carroll County Center (870) 423-4455). Offered by North Arkansas College with Carnegie Library support.
 - **Grief Share**, a Bible-based, 13-week program for those who have lost a loved one, is held Sundays from 2 – 4 p.m. at Faith Bible Church, Suite C, 3 Parkcliff Drive, Holiday Island. Share in an informal, confidential setting with others experiencing similar circumstances. Call (479) 253-8925 or email lardellen@gmail.com.
- Meetings at Coffee Pot Club:
- **Alateen** – Sundays, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Email alateen1st@gmx.com or phone (479) 981-9977
 - **Overeaters Anonymous** – Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Barbara (479) 244-0371
 - **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 Groups** Monday – Saturday 12:30 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.; Sunday – Thursday, Saturday, 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 8 p.m. (479) 253-7956
 - **Al-Anon** Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. All other meetings: See www.nwarkaa.org

Metal roofs are tops

- Metal roofs last much longer than asphalt roofs, protecting structures decades longer, which is consistent with historic preservation.
- Metal roofs are fireproof, which helps protect not just the home, but the city.
- Metal roofs are made from metal that can be recycled at the end of life of the roof. There is currently no recycling program for old shingles in Carroll County. They go into landfills and all landfills eventually leak.
- Metal roofs can be maintained and repaired when leaks occur instead of having the replace the entire roof.
- Metal roofs protect the springs that have made Eureka famous because runoff from metal roofs is clean. Asphalt roofs pollute with hydrocarbons throughout their short life on a building, then end up in a landfill.
- Metal roofs allow homeowners to do clean water catchment that can be used for organic gardens and even drinking water.
- There is historical precedent for lap metal roofs in Eureka Springs, and not just standing seam metal roofs that are prohibitively expensive. Corrugated tin roofs are a type of lap panel metal roof used historically still protecting buildings decades after asphalt shingles would have worn out. There is a historic metal roof on Penn Castle.
- Metal roofs first came into us in 27 BC. Asphalt shingles were invented in 1903.
- As the climate warms, there are more clouds in the sky because warm air holds more water. Cloudy weather, particularly in the winter when days are short, can contribute to depression and other illnesses. Roofs that reflect sunlight can be cheerful to people suffering from



lack of sunlight.

- Metal roofs are more economical than shingles when the longer life span of metal is considered.
- In a stair-step town like Eureka, metal roofs can make streets and stairs safer by reflecting light from street lights at night.
- U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Chu said the U.S. could save \$735 million per year to be exact, if 85 percent of all air-conditioned buildings in the U.S. had white roofs. “When you’re thinking of putting on a new roof, make it white,” Dr. Chu said. “It costs no more to make it white than to make it black. Cool roofs are one of the quickest and lowest cost ways we can reduce our global carbon emissions and begin the hard work of slowing climate change.”

INDEPENDENT Constables On Patrol

NOVEMBER 23

10 a.m. – Constables watched for but did not encounter an allegedly erratic driver headed toward town from the east.
9:06 p.m. – Resident on a street near downtown claimed someone stole yard art from her yard.

NOVEMBER 24

12:09 a.m. – Person reported hearing gunshots near the intersection of US 62 and Hwy. 23 South. Constables did not find the source of the noise.
9:15 p.m. – There was a domestic disturbance at a motel prompting a visit from a constable. He learned the incident was just yelling, and the yellers separated for the night.
10:27 p.m. – A female told a constable there was a male in her vehicle and he would not get out. The male was gone by the time the constable arrived. The female did not press charges.

NOVEMBER 25

11:48 a.m. – Constable notified a resident her lost property had been found. Property was returned.
12:19 p.m. – Constable responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 62 in which one of the vehicles left the scene. Nearby authorities were notified of a description of the vehicle.
6:37 p.m. – A couple was causing a disturbance at a restaurant. Constables responded and the couple left quietly without further commotion.
9:29 p.m. – Individual caused damage to the property at

a residence on the west side of town. Resident asked him to leave, and he refused. Constables arrived. He decided it was time to go.

NOVEMBER 26

12:49 a.m. – Constables assisted EMS with an uncooperative patient.
8:06 a.m. – Resident just east of downtown filed a report regarding being attacked by the dog next door.
11:19 a.m. – Constables responded to a restaurant because there was an open door but no employees inside. Constables secured the premises.

NOVEMBER 27

10:23 a.m. – Central dispatch informed ESPD a customer left a debit card and driver’s license at a restaurant. Constable retrieved the items and notified customer how to get them back.
10:40 a.m. – Concerned observer reported a dog had been left out all night in the cold and rain. Animal Control visited the address and checked conditions for the animal. He warned the owner of city ordinances regarding care of animals.

NOVEMBER 28

10:50 a.m. – One neighbor complained the other neighbor was cutting trees in an easement without a permit. Constable went to the scene, but the sawyer was gone. Constable told complainant to call again if the sawyer returned.

CONSTABLES continued on page 23

Part One – Pioneering

Eureka Springs may not have been the last frontier settlement in America, but I am sure that the primitive living conditions there sixty-nine years ago approximated pioneer conditions. People were there from everywhere – north, south, east, and I have known a few who went there after they had been prospecting in Colorado and California.

I shall write of my remembrance of the early days. As I was a small child when my parents moved there, I missed many things that an adult would no doubt have noted, and remember vividly many other things that a mature mind might have considered unimportant. Children have little regard for dates; the scenes I recall are disconnected, but they are seldom dim. I have a remarkably good memory, and these pictures are indelibly stamped upon my mind. I am absolutely sure of the things I do recall.

We went from Oswego, Kansas, to Eureka Springs in two covered wagons. At that time the Frisco Railroad came no farther than Pierce City, Missouri, or as it was spelled in those days, Peirce City. We children, contrary to what people may think of the discomforts of wagon traveling, enjoyed the trip, rather than

otherwise. We were a week on the way.

I remember the Neosho River we crossed soon after leaving Oswego.

There was, for the first day or two of our journey, a pony named Balaam – my sister Minnie says it was a donkey, not a pony; the name suggests that she is right. At any rate, our oldest sister, Ettie, rode Balaam. What became of him I never knew.

To my immature mind, Ettie was a grown up young lady – she was fourteen and a half years old. At one place where we camped she tried to get some water lilies from a pool of water under a bridge over a creek. There was a stone pier at the edge of the water.

I have since been told that the place must have been Rocky Comfort – but a good many years afterward, when I drove with my brothers to Rocky Comfort, nothing there seemed familiar. There was no bridge, but there was a heap of rocks that might once have been a pier.

We were not the only campers there that night. When my father came to lift us children down from our wagon, he said, “Come on, you Jay Hawkers.” A man from another wagon said, “Are they Jay Hawkers?” That was the way I learned I was a Jay Hawker.

I wonder at what age children are first impressed by the grandeurs of nature? I have, at many times since, gazed with awe

at the bluffs, cliffs and chasms of Roaring River Spring, but on that trip when our father took us to see the majestic scene, the only thing that impressed me was the little shrubs with blue berries on them – huckleberries I learned they were.

I remember nothing of crossing the White River; sometimes the wagons were rolling on their way when we children awoke. But I remember the place where we stopped for a week; our house in town was not quite ready. We camped in an icehouse by the side of a deep pool in Leatherwood Creek. There were a few houses there; Elk Ranch was afterward built on that site.

Across the road from us was a very comfortable farm house, with good outbuildings; it was the Butler home. The icehouse stood on a rocky bank some feet above the water; the door faced downstream. A rough footbridge stretched across the creek from near this door; at the other end of this bridge was the home of Mrs. Mary Rippetoe. On the same side of the branch, a few rods below, was the home of James Rippetoe and his family. The wagon road, which passed between the icehouse and the Butler place, curved down and crossed the branch between the two Rippetoe houses. Both houses were quite near the creek, but Mary Rippetoe’s was on higher ground.

All the houses were gone but the



Butler house when I went there some years later to explore the place.

When our house was finished, we made our way to town. Our home during all the years we lived at Eureka Springs was on the west side of Leatherwood, about a hundred yards beyond the mouth of Magnetic Hollow; the house was opposite the Cold Spring, which supplied us, and all our neighbors, with water.

Many times in those first days in town James Rippetoe came to our home, always riding a little pony he called Tinker. Before long he brought his family to town.

There were trees all around us in those early days.

NOTES from the HOLLOW by Steve Weems

Before the advent of mechanized refrigeration, ice was a luxury. The only ice that the earliest European settlers to this area had for home use was collected in the winter off creeks, ponds and rivers. A hard freeze meant quantities of ice could be cut and packed in sawdust

in cellars or specially built ice houses. Sometimes ice stored this way would last through summer.

The first commercial ice plant in Carroll County was the one located near the train depot in Eureka Springs. Southwestern Electric employed an ice

deliveryman who traveled around town in a horse drawn wagon delivering ice that was put into wooden iceboxes to keep food cold. Customers displayed cards that indicated the size of order they wanted. One long-time deliveryman was George Head.

I’ve heard about George Head from a variety of people and have never heard an unkind word said against him. In a 1949 *Chicago Tribune* newspaper article about square dancing in the Ozarks, Marge Lyon said George Head was “the best liked guy in town.” The article continues that he directed Saturday night square dancing, while “teaching perspiring, panting tourists who don’t realize what they are getting into until they are midway of a set.”

For a variety of reasons, George Head was popular with the children of Eureka Springs. He taught them to square dance as Hedgehoppers in the annual Folk Festival for one. For another, he allowed



kids following the ice wagon on a broiling hot summer day to grab ice chips. If none were available, George Head would stop and chip ice for the children.

George and Ruby Head raised their family on Elk Street in Eureka. Besides working for the electric company and delivering ice, George was a volunteer fireman for 38 years. When he became fire chief, I’m told he was the best one the town ever had. At the end of his life, George Head was the mayor of Eureka Springs. He died in 1971 and is buried in the city cemetery.

Find the meaning of the season

There will be an Advent Retreat sponsored by St. James Episcopal Church on Saturday, Dec. 12. The event will be led by Reverend Anne Carriere. This retreat will explore questions about images of God, the pre and post-Easter Jesus.

The retreat will be held at the House of Blessings Center on MORE Mountain, Onyx Cave Rd., starting at 9:30 a.m. and concluding around 2:30 p.m. The session, including lunch, is open to all. One must register by calling (479) 253-8610 by Dec. 8.

30 minutes of meditation followed by reading/discussion

The Eureka Springs Buddhist Study Group will gather for 30 minutes of meditation followed by reading and discussion on Thursday, Dec. 3 at 4 p.m. at Heart of Many Ways, 68 Mountain Street. All are welcome.

Tour festive homes of Eureka Springs

The Eureka Springs Preservation Society continue a loved tradition with the 33rd annual Christmas Tour of Homes on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 3 – 8 p.m. Guests will speak back in time to Christmas in a bygone era with nine locations participating in the tour this year. Visitors will be treated to choir and band music, carolers, refreshments and merriment.

Tickets are available at the Eureka Springs Museum 95 S. Main or may call (479) 253-9417. Go to www.eurekaspringspreservationsociety.org to purchase online.

Tickets will be available, on the day of the tour, at the Eureka Springs Transit and Welcome Center, 137 W. Van Buren from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20, children 12 and under are free.

Community Suppers at St. James

Sunday Community Suppers will begin this Sunday, Dec. 6 at St. James' Episcopal Church, 28 Prospect, from 5 – 6 p.m. Supper will be provided by local restaurants every Sunday through March 20. The suppers are free and everyone is welcome.



Mutual thanks – Artist Julie Kahn Valentine and musician Gates Magoo share a hug during the community Thanksgiving dinner at Chelsea's.

PHOTO BY BECKY GILLETTE

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HOLIDAY Shopping locally doesn't start with shopping. It starts with breakfast, and gets better.

1) In many cases, you can meet the person who created the gift. 2) Buying locally provides personal contact. 3) Our store owners tend to pamper you. 4) Shopping in an independent boutique diminishes willpower – getting something for yourself is highly likely. 5) Shopping local keeps tax money in a community. 6) *Time for lunch!* If you shop in our town, it's Salmon Caesar and a glass of Pinot Grigio.

Much more fun, don't you think?



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Call 911, or let it burn?

Got the fire protection dues blues? Look where the money goes

MIKE FITZPATRICK

Fire protection comes in many forms but a community usually gets what it pays for. Big cities with a solid tax base invest in hydrants, equipment, facilities and personnel. Small towns build their infrastructure over generations, adding bits of fire protection here and there, as annual budgets allow. Rural areas can vote to create a legal fire protection district and collect annual taxes dedicated to firefighting services, or residents of the area can form a rural fire association with voluntary membership.

Western Carroll County has examples of all of these.

Eureka Springs City employs professional firefighters who staff its city-owned stations around the clock. Hydrants in all parts of the city that assure a ready supply of water; and all these resources are funded by city taxes.

Holiday Island makes an assessment on all properties to generate funds for needed operations, including fire protection within its boundaries.

Inspiration Point is an example of a Fire District with a tax levy on property owners assigned specifically for fire protection, while Rural Eureka Springs and Grassy Knob have Rural Fire Associations operating on voluntary annual subscriptions from homeowners.

So can you take the risk and not pay the fire dues? Will firefighters arrive when disaster strikes?

A true Arkansan knows the answer to that second question. Nobody stands back and watches a neighbor in distress. Not in our town! All necessary resources will arrive, whatever the circumstances, and finances will be sorted out later. The property owner who decided to risk non-payment of annual dues will find a bill in their scorched mailbox for services rendered while the member who paid their annual dues pays nothing for the responders and equipment on that incident.

The dues

Residents of Inspiration Point pay

\$100 per year if their property has a structure on it and \$60 for undeveloped land. Commercial properties are levied \$125. Owners in Grassy Knob are asked to contribute \$100 for a property with a structure and \$40 if the property is undeveloped. Eureka Springs Rural Fire Association has annual dues of \$60 for property with a structure or \$35 for undeveloped land. It doesn't matter the size of the structure or the size of the lot. One payment covers all.

Where the money goes

Apart from three paid fire and medical Emergency Services responders in Holiday Island, all responders in Rural Western Carroll County are volunteers. So where does all that millage or annual subscription go?

A second-hand pumper truck might cost \$50,000, a smaller brush truck \$30,000 and a tanker about \$80,000. Our rural fire departments snap up used equipment with good life left in it after being retired from big metropolitan complexes to replace any trucks that are beyond economic repair. Ex-military trucks can also be converted for firefighting use at a fraction of the cost of a new vehicle.

A single set of protective clothing for a firefighter lists for \$2,500 and the air supply breathing pack \$8,000. Adding the cost of radios, hoses, generators, lights, fuel, maintenance, utilities, insurance, training and depreciation brings the operation into the category of a serious, expensive business!

Each fire district operates like a non-profit business, raising money to supplement its income from residents through bake sales, pancake breakfasts, chili suppers and social functions to buy necessary equipment or pay off bank loans for land, buildings and vehicles. It takes a lot of pancake breakfasts to cover these expenses.

Grassy Knob has two stations and a fleet of three pumpers, three tankers,

a rescue / emergency-response vehicle, a brush truck, a Humvee; and they are currently developing a fire-rescue boat.

The Rural area outside Holiday Island has one station with an engine and a water tanker.

Inspiration Point has two stations: one at each ends of its stretch of US 62, containing an engine, a tanker and a brush truck. There is also a multi-purpose service truck.

Eureka Rural, with its larger geographical area, has three stations, three engines, three tankers, four brush trucks and a rescue vehicle. Its boundaries reach from the county line south of Turpentine Creek to Leatherwood Bridge in the north, the Kings River on the east and to the Lake at Hogscald and Hillspeak.

In each area, the number and proximity of firefighting equipment impacts homeowner insurance rates. Typically, money paid for rural fire protection reduces homeowners' annual

insurance premiums.

Mutual Aid agreements between the fire protection districts assure that extra resources can be called up when needed. Wild land fires are the responsibility of the State Forestry Service, though volunteer firefighters are usually first on scene in case there are structures being threatened.

Dues or don'ts?

Firefighting/emergency volunteers represent a complete spectrum of age, gender, profession, education, skill and physical ability. They meet regularly for training and carry radios. A call to 911 goes to the County Dispatch Center where the dispatchers send a radio tone to the district, describing the situation. Volunteer emergency responders drop their tools, paintbrushes, laptops, knitting needles or newspapers and rush to take care of your fire, car accident or medical emergency – whatever the need may be.

Big payback to the community for a small investment of annual dues.



Fakin' it – The weekend's Great Ozarkan Beard-Off contests included a category for fake beards. Michelle Ogden, co-owner of Brews, sports a good one.

PHOTO BY JOHN RANKINE

Sunday at EUUF

Rabbi Rob Lennick of Congregation Etz Chaim will present *Just One Starfish* on Dec. 6 at 11 a.m. at the Eureka Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 17 Elk Street. There will be no soup Sunday. Childcare is provided. Extra parking at Ermilio's Restaurant, 26 White Street.

Holiday fun starts now!

Ongoing all month:

Eureka Springs Christmas Forest atop Crescent Mountain shines with more than two-dozen Christmas trees decorated by local charities. Free admission.

Experience the Light, Passion Play Grounds, dusk. Enjoy this drive-through Christmas display of lights Monday through Saturday nights until Jan. 1. Donation.

This week's events:

Dec. 3 49th Annual Silver Tea, Crescent Hotel Crystal Ballroom 1:30 – 4 p.m. (479) 253-8610. A Victorian holiday tea with silver tea and coffee services and tables heavy with handmade hors d'oeuvres. This year the women of St. James Episcopal Church are raising funds for Back our Kids, a weekend food program for students. Admission by donation.

4 Christmas Parade of Lights – Downtown, after

dusk. We'll be *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree* as thousands of colorful lights adorn walking groups, bands and floats accompanied by holiday tunes – all leading up to an appearance by Santa Claus!

5 Santa in the Park, Basin Park, 1 – 3 p.m. Basin Park will be alive with the fun of Reindeer Games and a musical performance by popular kids' entertainers, mömandpöp. And Santa hops out of his convertible just in time for selfies!

Christmas Tour of Homes, 3 – 8 p.m. Longing for a chance to step inside those ornately decorated Victorian domiciles? The Preservation Society's Tour of Homes is just the ticket! And you can get that ticket at www.eurekaspringspreservationsociety.org.

Living Windows, 3 – 8 p.m. Window shop downtown where live holiday mannequins and womannequins look back! Storefronts bustle throughout the shopping district.

Christmas Forest Tree Lighting Ceremony, Crescent Hotel lawn, 6 p.m. The illumination of more

than 30 trees will light the top of Crescent Hill. Vote for your favorite with a dollar bill! Fundraiser for charities that decorated trees runs until the end of the month.

13th Annual John Two Hawks Christmas Concert, City auditorium, 7 p.m. Tickets \$15 at www.johntwohawks.com (479) 253-5826 or \$20 at the door.

6 Brunch with Santa, Crescent Hotel Crystal Dining Room, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Santa will hear the kids' Christmas wishes from 11 – 1 at this Champagne brunch food extravaganza while mom and dad man the camera or iPhone. Reservations recommended. (800) 342-9766, www.christmasatthecrescent.com.

7 – 11 Christmas at the Crescent – Guests and non-guest visitors assemble in the lobby each day at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for varying holiday activities. On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, sounds of the season accompany the dinner menu with special live band or chorale dinner concerts in the Crystal Dining Room at 6 p.m. (800) 342-9766, www.christmasatthecrescent.com.

INDEPENDENT Art & Entertainment

In a galaxy not so far away ...

Stargazers can enjoy more than heavenly olive oils and stellar balsamics in the Fresh Harvest Tasting Room as of Dec. 15. That's when a new permanent art installation opens featuring the work of a most unexpected art photographer – the Hubble Space Telescope!

The telescope, named after astronomer Edwin Hubble, is still operating after being launched into low Earth orbit in 1990. With a 7.9-ft. mirror, Hubble's four main instruments observe in near ultraviolet, visible and near infrared spectra.

You'll be amazed at the mind-bending activity going on every day in space as captured in awe-inspiring, high quality NASA photographs. The Hubble Ultra Deep Field photography installation includes various galaxies and iconic space oddities such as the Eye of God (Helix Nebula), the Hand of God and the Pillars of Creation (Eagle Nebula). These fine art prints of the vast nature of our universe will capture your imagination and provide lifelong inspiration.

Fresh Harvest Tasting Room in The Village at Pine Mountain on US 62E is open Wednesday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. (479) 253-6247. www.FreshHarvest.co (no 'm').

Ozarks Chorale spreads harmonious holiday cheer

The Ozarks Chorale will usher in the holiday spirit on Saturday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Auditorium. Music selections from traditional favorites to Spanish Chorals will end with the Hallelujah Chorus.

Tickets may be purchased at the Aud ticket office for \$10 and student tickets are free. The box office will open one hour prior to the performance. Proceeds from the sale of intermission and refreshments will benefit the Carroll County Music Group, a local nonprofit organization associated with the National Federation of Music Clubs. For more information visit www.theozarkschorale.org or follow us on Facebook.

Two-Hawks and Kurkela present Noel Dec. 5

Grammy and Emmy nominated Native American flute player and musician John Two-Hawks will perform with Finnish singing star Johanna Kurkela during Two-Hawks's annual Christmas concert Dec. 5 at the city auditorium.

The pair collaborated on a new Christmas album, *Noel*, and will begin a national tour of music from the CD at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art before the Eureka Springs concert. From there they head immediately for

St. Louis.

Kurkela, who also plays violin, brings her heavenly voice to join Two-Hawks on stage following the all-girl Bel Canto Choir from Washington Junior High in Bentonville.

This will be an evening of special music to savor for the holidays.

Tickets for \$15 are selling fast online at www.johntwohawks.com or via (479) 253-1732, and will be \$20 at the door.

Advent – Preparing for Winter Solstice

During the month of Sagittarius – a joyful (due to Jupiter) yet hectic (holiday preparations) time of year, a time when the darkness increases, we can begin to feel disconnected from the Sun's light, our natural connections to the Earth seem distant. During the season of what seems like endless darkness there are festivals, both religious, spiritual & secular (worldly) that help us reconnect, give us strength and focus (a Sag word) us on what

is merry and bright. Advent, a four-week seasonal event, is one of these festivals. Advent is Latin for, "something is to come."

Advent is a preparatory festival of Lights following Thanksgiving. Advent articulates for us that, in the darkness of the late autumn to winter season, we are all in a state of waiting. Waiting for the Sun's return, for light and for warmth. Advent signifies the Light in the darkness – a festival of lighting candles, one more

each week for four weeks. The candles are in a circle... signifying the circle/spiral of life.

Advent began last Sunday, Nov. 29. Fresh evergreen wreaths are made. Four candles (1 rose & 3 lavender) are placed around the circle, one white candle in the center.

The Advent ritual is a preparation, offering us an awareness of time – the four weeks leading up to Winter Solstice

(birth of new light) & Christmas (Holy Child's birth). We are not confused. The two are the same. Each night the candles are lit. Each Sunday another candle is lit. Until by Winter Solstice, all four candles, along with the middle candle, are lit through Christmas (Dec. 25). At Winter Solstice each year, the Hierarchy begins preparations for Wesak (May Buddha Festival, 2016). With our Advent's inner light, we begin preparations with them.

ARIES: You're out and about, in and of the world. You can't help it. The world, people, events, food, travel, adventures, mountain peaks, plains, cultures, culture, civilization, call you to participate. Perhaps you will consider writing a book, perhaps publishing becomes interesting. Think deeply on your goals. Create more. Ponder upon this statement,

"I see the goal, I reach that goal and then I see another."

TAURUS: I ask that you also think on the last sentence for Aries. And then observe the many and varied goals, dreams, hopes & wishes that filter through your mind each day. There's not enough time in the days and nights to accomplish everything. Have you noticed time has changed? It's diminished. Money, resources, financial things held in common are important to look at. You can do this with poise.

GEMINI: What are you planning for the holidays? Have a party, a celebration with those closest to you. The new moon next week creates a silver path. It shines on your relationships. An intimacy is being called for. An intimacy of love, marriage, money, communication, and commitment – all bundled together. You and another need to be at home together, tend to the house together. Expanding your love and direction there.

CANCER: Your health at this time is what matters most. Focusing on this, and not much else, is best because you have the capacity to heal more quickly now than ever before. Foods are also on the menu in terms of health. Prepare tonics for yourself and especially as gifts. Offering them in clear glass bottles. Are endless tasks and responsibilities appearing moment by moment? Say no to most of them. You need rest. And tonics.

LEO: It's good for you to have bit more adventure, fun, play and being tended to creatively. You need to accept invitations, go to parties and festivities, be with friends, attend plays, art shows, dances, and visit other people's homes. You need both Christmas tree and Hanukkah bush, lights and candles everywhere. You need to be loved, cared for, recognized and then loved more. Who can (will) do this?

VIRGO: You're the light of the world to your family this year. You're the one who nurtures

and connects them, creating festivities that make everyone feel at home. Consider planning a get together for those who have no family. You will merge realities that are separated, unify what is opposed, and synthesize all parts and pieces. You love being given these detailed essential tasks.

LIBRA: Being out and about in neighborhoods looking at the lights and holiday decorations, dropping in on neighbors, having gatherings with friends, unpacking holiday boxes, making paper and popcorn chains and garlands, sending emails and holiday cards – celebrations and tasks during the season of light. At each holiday you capture its essential beauty. A question. Is your heart missing someone?

SCORPIO: For the next several weeks you sense a light shining within and upon you. You will feel lucky, capable, resourceful, emotionally supported and prosperous. Don't run out, however, and buy everything you fancy, anything that baubles brightly. Unless it's for a loved one. Most appreciated would be the offering of your heart. Even if it's to a friend. We think of you as internal, hidden, watchful, reserved. You can give (and be) more now.

SAGITTARIUS: All parts of you are active, energetic, hopeful. You shine in this season. Careful of being quick to anger or impatience. You're more assertive, daring and bold like a warrior. Therefore, be careful with

everything – communicating, driving, walking running, using tools, implements. Careful too of things red, hot and sharp (all of which, to some, you are). You're laughing. That's good. Caution.

CAPRICORN: Mars is in your 10th house (of the world). It's good to be out and about. People will see, recognize and be attracted to your fiery energy. You want to feel independent, purposeful, successful and creative. There is another side. You may be a bit weary, needing major nutrients and extra rest. Use half your time to draw back. You can still plan and create goals. However, act upon them slowly. Make health, rest, and well-being your central focus.

AQUARIUS: Everything personal and professional has the green light of change. You have energy and enthusiasm, you have hopes and wishes, you have opportunities and invitations. Amidst the many possibilities, you're your many needs, you must bring forth faith. This is the belief that all you need will be given in right timing. When things fall down, don't fall with them. Stand tall. Don't worry about money. You will always have enough.

PISCES: You become more public, more of your leadership qualities are emerging. Something new is occurring with your gifts of communication, intelligence and knowledge. You're preparing for something. As certain things dissolve away, you remain hopeful, patient, accepting, while also wary, cautious, circumspect, careful and coiled like a snake. Out of the wound a new creative gift comes forth. Something you thought you would never do, you begin. Bravo!

Risa – writer, teacher, founder & director, Esoteric & Astrological Studies & Research Institute, a contemporary Wisdom School studying the Ageless Wisdom teachings. The foundations of the Teachings are the study & application of Astrology & the Seven Rays. Email: risagoodwill@gmail.com. Web journal, www.nightlightnews.com. Facebook: Risa's Esoteric Astrology for daily messages – Astrological, esoteric, religious, history, geography, art, literature & cultural journalism.



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NWA Master Naturalists accepting enrollees

The NWA Master Naturalists are accepting enrollees for the 2016 annual training program that takes place on twelve Saturdays from Feb. 6 – March 21. 40 hours of training are required to graduate on May 21. The first class will be held at Northwest Arkansas Community College, 1 College Drive in Bentonville, with remaining classes being held at various locations. More than

90 hours of expert instruction and field studies will be offered.

Training includes techniques for observation and identification of trees, plants, insects, rock formations, weather patterns and the night sky.

Arkansas Master Naturalists may choose to perform at least 40 hours of volunteer service and complete 8 hours of advanced training annually to

become and remain certified.

Go to wordpress.ArkansasMasterNaturalists.org for more information and to obtain an application for enrollment. A fee of \$135, which covers materials and instruction, must accompany the completed application. Class size is limited, spaces reserved on first come, first served basis. For questions email nwamnContact@mn4arkansas.org.

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Eureka Springs is hosting a wonderful winter weekend with multiple events and live music kicking December up a notch. Thursday, Eureka transplant Melissa Carper brings her Magic Carpet Riders to Chelsea's with a flying twist on old songs. Friday the annual Parade of Lights winds through downtown just after dark, followed by the Handmade Moments album release at Stone House, a lovely

jazz duo singing harmonies.

Saturday Brother Bagman from Kansas City flaunts their chops at Chelsea's with consummate instrumentation and flavorful covers. Flutist John Two Hawks plays his annual holiday concert at the AUD on Saturday, and Wednesday, the 9th, our friend Stevie Tombstone returns from afar West to defrost some desert bone blues at music central, Chelsea's.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

CHELSEA'S – *Melissa Carper and the Magic Carpet Riders*, Americana, 9 p.m.

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

GRAND TAVERNE – *Jerry Yester*, Grand Piano Dinner Music, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

LEGENDS SALOON – *Some Other Band*, Rock, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

PARADE OF LIGHTS – Downtown, 6 p.m.

CATHOUSE LOUNGE – *Caleb Martin*, Singer/Songwriter, 8 p.m.

CHELSEA'S – *Billabong Waters*, Rock,

9 p.m.

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

GRAND TAVERNE – *Arkansas Red*, Amplified Acoustic Guitar Dinner Music, 6:30- 9:30 p.m.

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

LEGENDS SALOON – *DJ and Karaoke with Kara*, 9 p.m.

NEW DELHI – *Terri and the Executives*, Rock, 6 – 10 p.m.

STONE HOUSE – *Handmade Moments*, Jazz Duo, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

AUD – *John Two Hawks with Johanna Kurkeland Holiday Concert*, 7 p.m.

BREWS – *Eric Howell Ol' Scratch*, Graveyard R and B, 7 – 10 p.m.

CATHOUSE LOUNGE – *RK Ellis and RANT*, Rock, 8 p.m.

CHELSEA'S – *Brother Bagman*, KC Rock, 9 p.m.

EUREKA LIVE! – *DJ & Dancing*, 9 p.m.

GRAND TAVERNE – *Jerry Yester*, Grand Piano Dinner Music, 6:30- 9:30 p.m.

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

LEGENDS SALOON – *DJ and Karaoke with Stan*, 9 p.m.

NEW DELHI – *Terri and the Executives*, Rock, 6 – 10 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

BREWS – *Cards Against Humanity/ Board Games*

CHELSEA'S – *Jerry Jones and all his Friends*, Hippie Revival, 6 – 9 p.m.

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

AQUARIUS TAQUERIA – *Buffalo Gals*, Americana, 6 p.m.

CHELSEA'S – *Sprungbilly*, Bluegrass, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

CATHOUSE LOUNGE – *Los Roscoes*, Americana, 5 – 7 p.m.

CHELSEA'S – *Open Mic*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

CHELSEA'S – *Stevie Tombstone*, Desert Rock, 9 p.m.

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

I asked my wife if she ever pleasures herself. She said she did which surprised me. She's pretty conservative and our sex life is good. It's been really bothering me. Is she not sexually attracted to me or am I not pleasing her in the bedroom?

Kudos to your wife for her honesty. You describe her as conservative so I imagine that was an uncomfortable question to answer. Many maintain the faulty assumption that if their sex life is good there is no "need" for partners to engage in self-stimulation. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Studies suggest that approximately 70 percent of married women and 85 percent of married men engage in self-stimulation. This is what's "reported." I call B.S.! The societally prescribed shame forced upon women regarding sexuality is slowly eroding and women will increasingly become more honest about their personal sexual practices. As for men, I'll stick with sex educator

and counselor Sue Johansen's famous quote, "Ninety-nine percent of men of all ages masturbate regularly and the other one percent are liars."

Research has long made it clear that those who engage in self-pleasure have more satisfying and more frequent sex with their partner. This is not brain science people. Self-pleasuring allows a person to explore their body without distraction or the added pressure of pleasing another. Knowing your body intimately and what arouses you sexually is the key to a sizzling sex life with your partner.

Self-stimulation has many benefits. It can provide a quick pick-me-up, relieve tension and stress, aid in inducing sleep and provide a great outlet for arousal when one's partner is unavailable. For women in particular, it can boost sexual confidence and increase their overall level of desire and interest in sex.

Don't allow your wife's self-exploration to intimidate you. Let it excite you. Spice up your next

marital romp by engaging in side-by-side self-pleasuring. You'll both learn valuable information. To be safe have an extinguisher handy. The rising heat level in your marital bed could ignite flames of passion.

Good sex in all its forms begets more good sex. Why deprive yourself of one form just because you have another? Would you deprive yourself of champagne just because you have caviar? Sex is about passion and indulgence. Go ahead, indulge!

Questions? Email leslie@esindependent.com. Leslie Meeker, M.A., L.P.C., is a psychotherapist who has specialized in relational and sex therapy, sexual compulsivity and sexual trauma for the past 16 years, after receiving extensive training in human sexuality at the Masters and Johnson Institute in St. Louis, Mo.



Book signing at Eureka Springs Historical Museum

June Westphal and Kate Cooper will be at the Eureka Springs Historical Museum on Friday, Dec. 11 from noon – 3 p.m. signing copies of their books. Books include *A Fame Not Easily Forgotten* and *Eureka Springs: A Postcard History* and many more. If you are a member of the museum you receive a 10% discount on all purchases.



Bazaar shopping – Eureka Springs Art Bazaar on Nov. 28 brought a crowd to the Inn of the Ozarks Convention Center, despite the constant drizzling rain, to do a little Shop Small Saturday buying.

PHOTO BY NORA PATTERSON VIOLA

CBCO blood drive Dec. 7

The Community Blood Center of the Ozarks has issued a code yellow alert for O Negative and AB Negative blood types. There will be a blood drive at the Holiday Island Elks Lodge, 4 Parkcliff Drive, on Monday, Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Each donation will be awarded LifePoints as part of CBCO's donor rewards program. LifePoints may be redeemed online for a variety of charities. To be eligible to give blood you must weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good health and present a valid photo ID.

For more information about sharing your good health with others or on the LifePoints donor rewards program go to www.cbco.org or call toll-free (800) 280-5337.

Hikers going around the mountain

The Holiday Island Hikers embark on a moderate, 3.6-mile hike on Round Top Mountain on Dec. 7. The group will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the highway end of Hart's parking lot by the drive-thru pharmacy. Lunch will be at Jamie's Local Flavor in Harrison. For more information call Dan Kees (660) 287-2082.

Dec. 7 Metafizzies meeting

The Dec. 7 meeting of the Eureka Springs Metaphysical Society will feature a discussion on metaphysical interpretation of the Bible led by Stephen Foster. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at Heart of Many Ways, 68 Mountain Street. All are welcome.

Dr. John Nash to retire

Dr. John Nash is a numbers guy. After caring for thousands of patients, delivering more than 1,500 babies and dedicating 25 years to Mercy Hospital Berryville, the family physician is hanging up his stethoscope for good.

On Monday, Dec. 7, Mercy will celebrate Dr. Nash's journey by inviting co-workers and community members to a retirement party from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, in the hospital cafeteria at 214 Carter Street. Refreshments will be served.

Born in Arkansas, Dr. Nash grew up in Oregon. "That's where I developed an interest in math and pursued electrical engineering," he said. His first job was with Motorola's Government Electronics Division designing radar antennas. "I absolutely love math, but working for the government, you soon realize that many projects are canceled before they see the light of day. I wanted to have something to show for

my work – a one-on-one relationship."

So he moved to Milwaukee to study medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. From there, he interned at a charity hospital in Louisiana. "That's where I realized I had a passion for obstetrics," he said. "I delivered about 200 babies there. It was a dream come true, and I was ready to build on that."

A two-year residency in Fort Smith, Ark., sealed the deal, and he's been in the Natural State ever since. He joined Carroll Regional Medical Center – now Mercy Hospital Berryville – in 1990.

"When I first arrived, I just wanted to know how much work I'd get to do, and how many babies I would get to deliver," he said.

"Since then, I've picked up a lot of fond memories – and they all revolve around my patients, co-workers and this fantastic community."



DR. JOHN NASH

Dr. Nash prides himself on following through with patients, watching them grow and expand their families. "You have to look at the whole, big picture," he said. "Whether it's babies, teenagers, their parents or the elderly, it's all about the patients. It's about the community. It's the people that made the last twenty five years so great.

"It's not lost on me how lucky I've been since I came here a quarter of a century ago," Nash said, who offers this advice for upcoming doctors: "Be patient, and be willing to work and push yourself to keep your skills sharp. Stay focused on patients and training and it will all fall into place, as long as you push yourself. Because of that, and working in a small town, I was allowed to do things not everybody gets to do. It's been pretty special."

In the meantime, Nash still has some numbers to count. In six weeks – Jan. 8, to be exact – he'll officially be retired, gaining 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to spend with his family, which includes four grandchildren – not a bad equation for a guy who loves kids.



Holiday attire gone local – John Two-Hawks sports a new silk brocade Nehru jacket by Mark Hughes of Regalia Handmade Clothing and pants from John Rankine's Bleach It and Dye POP UP Gallery next to Brews. You can see the outfit and live mannequin at the *Noel* concert, Dec. 7, 7 p.m. at the Aud. Obviously, shopping local rocks around the Christmas tree.

PHOTO BY NORA PATTERSON VIOLA

Shopping small in a big way – You don't have to *be* small to shop small ... or to sit on Santa's knee, for that matter! Just ask Wendi LaFey. Get thee downtown and have some fun!

PHOTO COURTESY OF ESDN

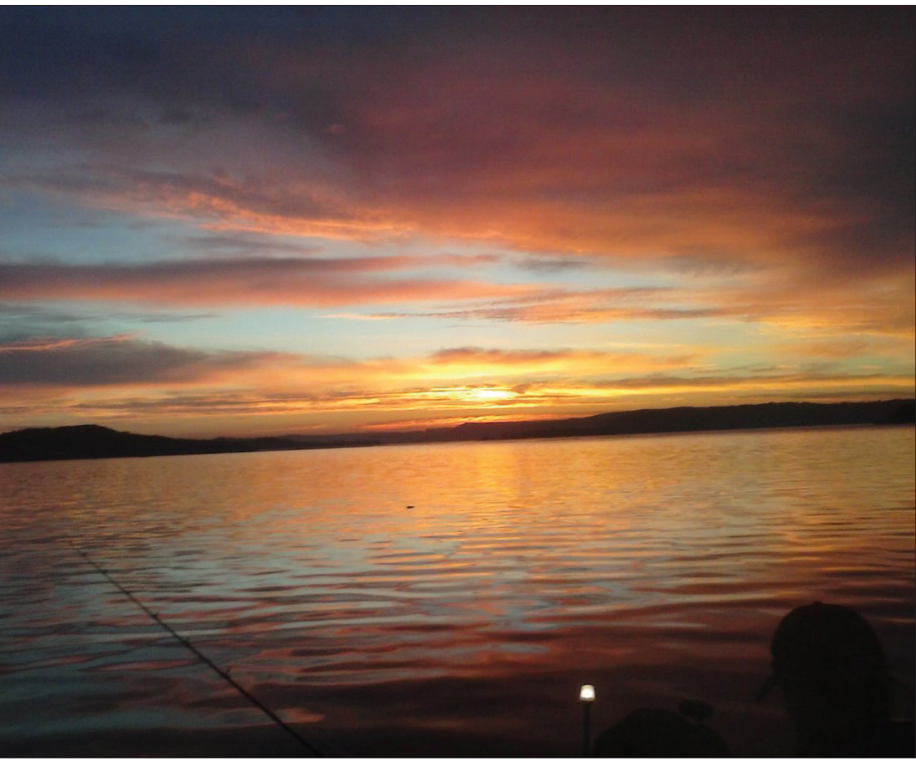
Toys for Tots Chili Cook-Off

Join in a chili cook-off to benefit Toys for Tots for kids in Carroll County on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 4 – 7 p.m. at the Senior Center, 202 West Madison, Berryville. The community will vote on the winners so bring the best chili you can cook up.

Entry fee to the chili cook-off is one new unwrapped toy. Admission is adults \$7; Senior 55 and up \$4; Children 13 and under \$3 or a new unwrapped toy of equal value to admission.

Application must be turned in by Dec. 7 to secure a spot. Proceeds benefit Toys for Tots for kids in Carroll County. For more information or to sign up contact Sirena at (870) 350-4283.





Well, the rain this week slowed us down a bit so I’m giving you a pic of a nice sunset. We got a striper trip tomorrow and we are going to work real hard to get on a big school of stripers heading up river but being held back by the mud.

Most of the bait and fish are between Prairie Creek out of Rogers and Hickory Creek near Springdale, with the mudline moving towards Horseshoe Bend also out of Rogers. That tells you we will be fishing from Prairie to Horseshoe Bend. We will move slow till we find them this time, then hopefully some rods start going down.

We got good big shad and brood shiners for appetizers they should like. Water temps running 58° and winds are moving back from the southwest which is great for a feeding frenzy.

We are now doing afternoon trips

from 11 a.m. to about sunset because that’s when the fish are biting and we are getting the warmest part of the day. This is a good time for people who are close enough to book a trip or go out on your own. If you have a day the temps are above 50°, get on the water and you might be surprised of the outcome.

We’re a little colder here at Holiday Island and not hearing much except for trout up above Beaver and crappie and bass in the creeks running deep with rest of the warm water fish, moving across the line into Missouri in search of deeper water for the winter.

Well, guess I better go for now, hope we get a few big fish for next week’s report. Stay warm.

Robert Johnson, Johnson Guide Service, www.fishofexcellence.com (479) 253-2258.

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49					50					51		

ACROSS

1. Hither companion
4. Knob on a shield
8. Great distance
12. Tremendous reverence
13. Make the sign of the cross on, bless
14. Ridge of corduroy
15. Insect’s mandible
17. Economic capital of Yemen
18. Monetary unit of Iran
19. Tedious speech
21. Identifies
23. Liver secretion
24. Roman poet
25. Have at it again
26. Color changer
29. Nautical distress message
30. One over par
31. Sales agt.
32. Navy junior officer (abbr.)
33. Regretted
34. Casual shirt
35. Thin layer of gold as a decoration
36. Local sources of water
37. Australian eucalyptus
40. 700 mile-long river in

South Africa

41. General vicinity
42. Deceit
46. Prevaricator
47. Sound of a clock
48. Hand-woven Scandinavian rug
49. Small whirlpool
50. Rapier used in competition
51. Casual affirmation
1. Synthetic aluminum garnet used for infrared lasers
2. Have title to
3. “Oh, so close!”
4. Female Hindu deity of dawn
5. *You’ve got ____!*
6. Part of horse’s bridle
7. Overwhelmingly prejudiced
8. Onto
9. Slowly go out of sight
10. Sheltered
11. Tear apart
16. Even Steven

DOWN

20. To sicken with too much sentiment
21. Aroma of wine
22. River flowing near Shakespeare’s home
23. Reproduce
25. Spinning wheel in Las Vegas
26. Oddly amusing story or jest
27. Call out, holler
28. Epic poetry
30. Salted, white, soft cheese
34. Very top
35. Harshly brilliant, as a light
36. Poorly sorted sandstone
37. Person with X and Y chromosomes
38. Climate with very low humidity
39. Step out first
40. Workshop tool to firmly hold something
43. Criticize without restraint, with into
44. City on Long Island Sound
45. Bark sharply or shrilly

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLORA ROJA COMMUNITY ACUPUNCTURE & APOTHECARY – 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. www.florarojaacupuncture.com

It's A Mystery BookStore
the gently-used book store featuring vintage, modern & classic reads on the Berryville Sq. www.itsmystery.net.

EUREKA SPRINGS FARMERS' MARKET Beginning Dec. 3, open Thursdays only, 9 a.m.-noon. Vegetables and fruits, cheese, meat, eggs, honey and so much more. Come for the food, music and to be with your friends. Catch us on Facebook.

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Breakfast breads and specialties
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OPEN STUDIO – Artist **Diana Harvey** is opening her studio/gallery to visitors over three weekends. Hours are 10 to 5 on December 5-6, and December 12-13. Her studio is easy to find on the east side of Eureka. Call (479) 244-6609 for directions.

PERSONALS

Dear **PARENTS**,
Your favorite son-in-law requests you visit for the New Year.
Love,
Your favorite DAUGHTER

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EUREKA WEST ANTIQUE MARKET:
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ROCKIN' PIG now hiring experienced, friendly wait staff. Apply in person only. Gaskin Switch Center, US62.

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To place a classified, email classifieds@eurekaspringsindependent.com

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APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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ONE BEDROOM Spring Street downtown. First, last, deposit, references. Private patio, front balcony. Water paid, no pets. (479) 253-9513

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT FOR RENT – Electric, water, trash, cable are included for \$575 a month Contact Christina (870) 654-5406.

COMMERCIAL FOR LEASE

WALDEN PLAZA – Passion Play Rd. – Glass front, paved parking, 1,100 sq. ft. m/l. \$650 per month. Call Sherry, Mountain Country Properties, (479) 253-9660. Agent has interest in property.

RENTAL PROPERTIES

HOMES FOR RENT

TWO BEDROOM, 2 bath country home, CH/A, large deck, mountain views, near Eureka Springs, \$800/month. Non-smoker, no pets, references required. (479) 981-1900

FOR RENT December through March, furnished one-bedroom and loft (two queen beds), wood burning fireplace, one bath, large kitchen. Large covered deck. Excellent well water, 180° view, near grocery, restaurants, etc. No pets. \$750. (479) 253-6180.

TWO BEDROOM, ONE BATH HOUSE in quiet, secluded area in Eureka Springs. Newly renovated. Available Dec. 1. \$800 plus deposit. (479) 244-0225.

AVAILABLE DECEMBER 1 – Apple Annie's Cottage now a monthly rental. 3 bedroom, 1 bath home near schools and downtown Eureka. \$650 a month and \$600 deposit. Country setting, wood burning fireplace. Washer/dryer hookups (must be stackable). Call (479) 253-8563 or (479) 981-0624 to view.

SEASONAL RENTALS

2 BEDROOM HOUSE, \$850. Furnished with utilities included. Parking, Jacuzzi, patio. No pets, no smoking. Available now until May 1. (479) 981-2507

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#ELFINEUREKA



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MAIN STREET
EUREKA SPRINGS

CONTEST DETAILS AT EUREKASPRINGSCHRISTMAS.COM
NOVEMBER 28TH - DECEMBER 13TH

Be elfish this Christmas! – If you go on Instagram and search #OnlyInEureka or #ElfinEureka - you will see a whole bunch of Elfie Selfies. Now it's *your* turn! Go explore Downtown Eureka Springs and upload your own Elfie Selfie!

Fun Guides are here! Inside, there's a complete schedule of Christmas events, contests and concerts as well as a list of New Year's Eve events large and small. Then we leap into 2016 with more fun – including the first Mardi Gras events. Need some Fun Guides for your business? Call (479) 253-6101. (And you can read it online at www.independentfunguide.com)



CONSTABLES continued from page 10
2:40 p.m. – Concerned resident reported hearing gunshots on the hillside just east of downtown. Constable discovered the

noise came from a nail gun at a nearby construction site.

8:10 p.m. – Store manager reported a shoplifter. She said two females came in together, made a purchase and left. Constables were able to find them and escort them back to the store to check the receipt. One of the females was arrested for shoplifting.

NOVEMBER 29

10:13 p.m. – Resident on a road south of downtown reported he came home to find lights on inside his house and toilet paper all over his yard. Constable took a report.

11:08 p.m. – Entry door alarm at a closed convenience store door was triggered. Constable checked the area and found everything in order.

CROSSWORD Solution

Y	O	N		U	M	B	O		A	F	A	R	
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It's beginning to sound a lot like Christmas

Join the Holiday Island Singers on Friday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. or Sunday, Dec. 13 at 2:30 p.m. for a dash of traditional holiday carols at the Holiday Island Club House Ballroom. Tickets are \$10 for adults, students under 16 free. Tickets are available at the Golf Shop, from any singer or at the door. For more information call Mary at (479) 295-5586.

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge closing days

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge will be closed on Christmas Day and will not open until 10 a.m. on New Year's Day.

Open your heart many ways

The Heart of Many Ways Open House will be on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. There will be music by Brenda Bowen Cox, Rebekah Clark, Don Matt and the Silvermore Trio in the upstairs Sanctuary, and raffles, art sales, silent auctions and light refreshments in the basement Reading Room. The event is a fundraiser to complete the transition of this historic building at 68 Mountain Street. All are welcome.

Retirement Reception for Jack and Connie Deaton

The Holiday Island Fire Department and Auxiliary will host a retirement reception to honor Jack and Connie Deaton on Thursday, Dec. 17 from 5 – 8 p.m. at the Holiday Island Clubhouse Ballroom. Drop by and celebrate the Deaton's longtime service and commitment to the community.

Eureka Springs Methodist Choir presents Christmas Cantata

Soprano soloist Maura Caldwell will sing "Magnificat," by John Rutter, on Sunday, Dec. 20 at the 10 a.m. service at the United Methodist Church on Hwy. 23 S. Accompanying will be a string quartet, two flutes, piano and organ. All are welcome.

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FLANAGIN**



District Judge

Meet & Greet for Chris Flanagin

**Granny's Kitchen in Huntsville
Monday, Dec. 7 • 2-3:15 p.m.**

Paid for by Committee to Elect Chris Flanagin