

2015 Wrap: The way we were

Busy year for city council

NICKY BOYETTE

Mayor Butch Berry took office January 1, 2015, and events in his first year kept him and City Council busy.

To start, council faced a writ of mandamus which obligated a yes or no vote on the application for a carriage franchise by Ray Dotson. Council had tabled a decision in November 2014 because Dotson’s application was incomplete, plus the issue was complicated because Dotson was suing the city. Vote on the application was 0-3-3, so it was denied. Council voted down 5-1 an attempt at a settlement by Dotson’s attorney, Bob Ballinger, in November 2015. By year’s end, there was still a decision pending from Circuit Court Judge Scott Jackson regarding the writ of mandamus.

In the meantime, council tabled another application pending results of the court case.

Fluoridation

Because of Act 137, the Carroll-Boone Water District was mandated to fluoridate water it provides to Eureka Springs. Consternation in the council chamber was rampant, and alderman David Mitchell

CITY COUNCIL continued on page 2

**Talk about pressure!** Beaver Lake crested at 1132.04 Tuesday morning, requiring generation of 92,150 cubic feet of water per second, slightly under the 2008 record. Seven spillway gates have been lowered from 9.5 ft. to five feet, and the US Army Corps of Engineers said they will continue lowering the pool and incrementally reducing water releases by closing the gates, using full power generation for a time, then restricting flow in accordance with the water control plan. Flood storage at Table Rock and Bull Shoals Dams will also be released. Gate changes will continue as the lake level falls and inflow recedes. Which means when it stops raining. *Photo by Chip Ford*



This Week’s INDEPENDENT Thinkers

We never, ever thought the U.S. government would end its prohibition of medical marijuana without squirming, screaming, and holding its breath until it turned blue. But it did.

President Obama signed a 1,600-page spending bill last Friday, one sent to his office from the United States Congress. Included in the bill is a provision banning authorities from arresting or prosecuting users, or raiding dispensaries, in any state that legally provides the herb. It is federal law – maybe not legal enough, but a step forward.

Benefits of cannabis range from pain relief to providing paper that doesn’t require cutting a tree, but the benefits of a Congress seeing the folly of prohibiting an herb that helps people in many ways is another reason to clink glasses to a stellar 2016.



PHOTO FROM 420MAGAZINE.COM

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addressed the State Legislature in April expressing the collective dissatisfaction of the city. Nevertheless, fluoridation began in July.

### Big dig

Berry announced in January the tunnel underneath the parking lot between the courthouse and the Auditorium had collapsed. The blockage would at some point mean a backup of water, possibly into the bottom floor of the courthouse. The parking lot needed to be excavated and new culverts put in place underground. He negotiated a cooperative effort between city and county resources, and got a \$69,000 grant from the state for the project, which was completed by early May.

### Ordinance 2223

The topic prompting the biggest response from the public, by far, was passage of Ordinance 2223, the non-discrimination ordinance. Alderman James DeVito championed the ordinance and convinced council to pass all three readings and the emergency clause at the Feb. 9 meeting. Council wanted the ordinance to be on the books before a state law passed banning local government entities from enacting or enforcing non-discrimination laws.

Tumult ensued. Opponents of the ordinance organized and engaged a lawyer

from Fayetteville to get the ordinance rescinded. Citizens on both sides spoke out passionately. Council voted to maintain the upper hand by putting the issue to a vote of the people at a special election in May, and in that election 71 percent of the voters upheld Ordinance 2223.

In June, council discussed, but voted against, filing an injunction to stop the Act 137 from taking effect. The state law took effect in July.

### No more circuses

In March, with a 4-2 vote, council passed the second and third readings of Ordinance 2224 which banned “traveling exotic animal performances” such as circuses from performing in Eureka Springs.

### New hospital

Berry announced in May there had been progress toward getting a new hospital built by Allegiance, the company that leases operations of Eureka Springs Hospital, but progress seemed agonizingly slow. He said bond underwriters were ready to work with the city to reorganize the city’s bonded indebtedness to finance extending a sewer line an extra mile to the proposed site of the new facility. At the end of the year, Berry was still waiting to hear from Allegiance.

### Moving the meeting site

Council had several discussions about finding a meeting place where the public

could be more comfortably accommodated. Berry looked into other sites, such as the basement of the Transit building or upstairs in the courtroom. The principal hang-up would have been moving and setting up video and audio equipment. No appropriate site has yet been identified.

### Black Bass Lake Dam

Berry told council in spring the dam at Black Bass Lake was rapidly deteriorating. The solution for the moment was to lower the water level to the level of the original dam to prevent overtopping. He will pursue a grant to pay for repairing the dam.

### Flowmeter installation

Council voted in 2014 to authorize Public Works to replace faulty flow meters in town, some of which did not register any water flow. Aldermen expected the meter upgrade to properly register flow and provide a significant return on the investment. By autumn, council was concerned that progress on the project seemed to have stalled because there had not been the increase in revenue they had been led to expect.

### Food trucks

Council became aware in early June of a loophole in the peddler ordinance. A food truck set up for business in the parking

lot of a closed business not connected with the food truck. Though the vendor had permission and complied with city requirements, the situation violated a city ordinance, and council agreed the ordinance need clarity. Discussion got contentious at the council table, but the peddler ordinance was amended by a 4-3 vote, Berry casting the deciding fourth vote.

What to do about food trucks came next. At two workshops, council got plenty of commentary for and against food trucks from the public. Some said Eureka Springs has too many restaurants on the edge already. Others said food trucks could add a new element in town and fill an unmet need.

After discussion, council decided to send the topic of food trucks to the Planning Commission.

### Water rates increased

Carroll-Boone Water District increased rates for the water it sells to Eureka Springs in April. The city covered the \$8,000 per month increase until October when Berry presented council with the idea of a rate increase. In December, council passed the third reading of Ordinance 2234, which raised rates 50 cents per thousand gallons on a graduated scale depending on use.

## January

**New sheriff in town** – County Sheriff, Randy Mayfield, was sworn in at the Carroll County

Courthouse in Berryville as 2015 began. Circuit Clerk Ramona Wilson was earlier sworn in by County Judge Sam Barr, and in turn swore in the circuit judge, the mayors of Green Forest and Eureka Springs, and other elected and appointed officials.

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## CAPC logs another good year

NICKY BOYETTE

CAPC entered 2015 on the heels of an excellent 2014 and the best December ever. To begin the year, commissioners voted to put \$70,000 into a reserve account as a cushion to use for emergencies.

### Lovin' Every Minute but not for long

By February, Executive Director Mike Maloney told commissioners that Bob Nichols, representing SSK Entertainment, was interested in putting a regular musical variety show called *Lovin' Every Minute* in the auditorium. The original concept was to stage 146 shows beginning in April. There were to be shows Tuesday through Saturday nights until the end of the year. The CAPC and Nichols struck a deal, and the show opened but never caught on and announced its closing in June.

### Accommodations

In spring, a dissatisfied customer contended the CAPC was not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act by not having special accommodations for customers with hearing impairments. Staff

researched the law and the marketplace, and Chair Charles Ragsdell eventually announced staff had spent about \$4000 for 39 wireless devices that satisfy ADA requirements and are available for those with hearing impairments.

### P.R. and marketing

Maloney moved toward digital marketing because he said could use analytics to track Internet responses to a Eureka Springs ad on a cable station. He also amped up the Eureka Springs presence on social media.

As a result of publicity following the special election in May in which voters approved the non-discrimination ordinance #2223, Maloney said good public relations about Eureka Springs was everywhere. "I can't estimate the value, but it's in the millions," he said, "and it's from all over – Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami. It's phenomenal."

The *Rachel Maddow Show* also featured Eureka Springs on a show in May, and the *Daily Show with Jon Stewart* filmed a popular segment that again sent

news of Eureka Springs around the world.

### Auditorium Commission

The idea of an Auditorium Commission percolated to the surface again in summer. Commissioners and members of the public discussed the topic at a workshop, and a new Auditorium Committee met Dec. 17 looking for a new perspective on managing and operating the facility.

### Film Commission

In August, Eureka Springs became a founding member of the Northwest Arkansas Film Commission, which Maloney said was focused on attracting movie producers to the area.

### Funding requests

During the year, the CAPC provided marketing funds for the Eureka Springs Indie Film Festival, Books in Bloom, Studio Tour, Outback in the Ozarks and the Tour of Homes among others.

### The good news

Collections through October indicated an increase of slightly more seven percent over 2014.

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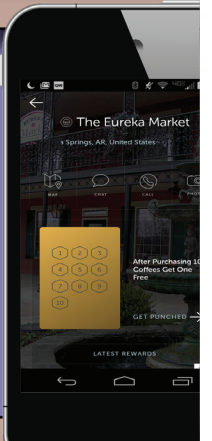


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## January



A long and winding road – ended in jubilation for STO and a concerned community. Faces were radiant and spirits high during a celebration Jan. 11. PHOTOS BY BECKY GILLETTE

Owl bet you didn't see that coming – A Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) was recently captured and banded at Ozark Natural Science Center in Huntsville. This small species is silent during winter and migratory patterns are unknown, as the birds of prey fly under the radar. A study by ONSC and the Univ. of Arkansas researchers hopes to track their migration. PHOTO BY MITCHELL PRUITT





## Thumbnail version of Quorum Court's 2015

NICKY BOYETTE

At the April 20 meeting of the Carroll County Quorum Court, Berryville Mayor Tim McKinney presented the concept of establishing an ambulance district for the eastern side of the county similar to the Western Carroll County Ambulance District. JPs east of the Kings River spoke with constituents, and not everyone was convinced there was a problem.

JP John Reeve proposed the court form a committee to pursue McKinney's idea, and he volunteered to be on it. McNeely and JPs Roger Hall and Marty Johnson also volunteered.

In June, the court passed all three readings of two ordinances: the first established an Ambulance Service Citizens Advisory Board of seven qualified electors. The second created an Ambulance Service Committee of the Quorum Court.

Discussions about how to fund the district, or if it would even need a millage to support it, and other legal quandaries

were bandied about in meetings the rest of the year. Reeve prepared an ordinance establishing the district and funding it with a two-and-a-half cent millage. The ordinance passed its first two readings, but in November JPs tabled a vote on the third reading to better gauge what citizens want.

In December, the court tabled it until deputy prosecutor Devon Goodman resolved a technical issue with the Attorney General's office.

### Carroll County Airport

In the 2015 budget, JPs had reduced funding and cut the manager and part-time bookkeeper positions for Carroll County Airport (CCA). Morris Pate, new chair of the Airport Commission, found himself running the airport with help from commissioners while lobbying for more funding.

The court agreed in February to increase the monthly allocation to \$6900 per month beginning in March. Pate lobbied for the county also to create the position of

manager, but the court held fast.

By mid-year, JPs were more supportive of the new commission at CCA because of better communication with JPs. The commission hired Michael Pfeifer as manager in September, and by the end of the year, a financial-reporting routine was established and positive relations between the court and the airport were restored.

The court adjusted the monthly allotment in 2016 to \$60,000.

### Big dig

JPs learned in February the tunnel underneath the parking lot between the courthouse in Eureka Springs and the Auditorium had collapsed to the point where a significant rainfall could back up and flood the bottom floor of the courthouse.

Mayor Butch Berry pointed out the courthouse and parking lot belonged to the county, as did the subsurface, so repair would be the county's responsibility, but Eureka Springs was willing to participate. To pay for the repair, the county in April

transferred \$140,000 to a line item. JPs were counting on as much as \$66,000 being repaid by the Federal Emergency Management Authority.

The task of excavation, replacing faulty underground culverts, and putting the parking lot back together occurred quickly in April and early May.

The county received \$51,000 from FEMA in August.

### Capital projects fund

JP Lamont Richie told the court in June they would be negligent not to begin a Capital Projects Fund. One large budget expense on the horizon would be required upgrade of all radios and towers in a few years, but there were also upgrades looming for dispatch equipment. JPs voted in July to establish the fund for "expenditures related to Carroll County Central Dispatch and the Carroll County Detention Center." The court voted to put \$100,000 into the fund in equal monthly installments until the end of 2015.

## February



**You go girls!** – Marie Howard, left, and Trella Laughlin barely had room to stand upright in the crowd that showed up for the birthday party Trella threw at Caribé for Marie's 80<sup>th</sup>. **PHOTO BY JAY VRECEK**

**Eurekaski!** – Where did he even find a ski in Arkansas? The first real snow of the season brought out the best in Yahkie Naumann who took a bicycle seat, attached it to a ski, and got himself down Howell St. in high style Monday morning. **PHOTO BY BECKY GILLETTE**

### Young thespians

– The Drama Club of Eureka Springs High School gathers for a photograph following their dinner theater presentation of *Check Please* in the high school auditorium on Feb. 13. The series of humorous short playlets portrayed couples in a series of first dates.

PHOTO SUBMITTED



**The Royal Couple arrives** – Eureka Gras royalty, King LeRoy Gorrell and Queen Cné Breaux, arrive for the first official event of their reign at Taste of N'Awlins at the Grand Taverne. **PHOTO BY ILENE POWELL**



## Parks switches horses in midyear

NICKY BOYETTE

Biggest news for the Parks Commission during 2015 was a change in director in mid-June. Bruce Levine was relieved of duty and Donna Woods was hired as interim director. Several citizens, from Eagle Scouts to a Justice of the Peace, spoke to the commission at the June 16 meeting on Levine's behalf, but Woods assumed duties the next day. Search for a permanent director began in November and continued through the end of the year.

### Lake study

Chair Bill Featherstone announced two lake experts would be studying Lake Leatherwood to provide a long-term maintenance plan. He said Parks might have to choose between a good fishing lake and a good swimming lake. Results of the study had not been released by the end of the year.

### Trails

In February, Levine presented plans for a handicapped-accessible asphalt pathway from Harmon Park to Clear Spring School along Grand Avenue.

Parks learned in December the Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department granted \$63,724 for the path.

Another trail project was for extension of the trail at Harmon Park, making a 1740-ft. loop. Woods took over this project in mid-stream but was able to work with AHTD to complete it by the end of November.

A significant event for trail-building around town was creation of the Ozark Off Road Cyclists, a group of biking enthusiasts who volunteered to make and maintain the Spring Garden trail extension and a bike path for beginners at Lake Leatherwood City Park (LLCP).

### Park use policy

An incident in Basin Park prompted commissioners to define rights and responsibilities conveyed with an event permit for Basin Park or any city space. After investing much workshop time on the nuances and legal aspects of the topic, commissioners eventually voted to simply add five items to existing special events applications.

### Lake Leatherwood City Park

In July, Woods announced two changes at LLCP. She closed the swim beach and planted grass seed there instead because the famous geese had not gone anywhere, aversions or not. She also put a moratorium on rental of the island camp because of several issues including copperheads, squawking geese and an unsteady dock.

Signs throughout LLCP were refurbished or installed where missing.

### Lighting up

Parks staff drew the task of repairing the town's Christmas decorations and installing them as well as an assemblage of new ones. Parks also rehabilitated the old trolley barn at Harmon Park to house decorations during the year.

### Shoestring

Featherstone and Woods emphasized the financial limitations under which Parks staff operates. Woods stated after payroll, insurance, sanitation and utilities, Parks has only \$30,000 left to take care of all its responsibilities.

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## March

**It's twins!** – Proud mama Gefilte, a Nubian goat, looks over her day-old male kids. Proud papa Guido is a Saanen. He and Gefilte made cute kids didn't they? They all live in John Rankine and Bill King's small herd that includes five pregnant females. Goat milk? **PHOTO BY JOHN RANKINE**



**Equality for all** – During the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 14 Christians for Equality, a multi-denominational Christian group, shared their messages of Jesus's love on signs, urging the community to "Keep Eureka Fair." Group organizer, D Rude, said, "...a Christianity that is full of love for all persons" was "alive and well in Eureka Springs."

**PHOTO BY JAY VRECENAK**



**End Hate** – *Tales From The South's* End Hate 1 Redux show took place April 11, 7 p.m. at Caribé with local and visiting talent. The original was performed at the Arts Center in Little Rock and broadcast worldwide. Producer Paula Morell agreed to host an encore performance in Eureka Springs with ticket sales going to support Keep Eureka Fair. **PHOTO SUBMITTED**



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## Fluoridation follows rate increase at Carroll-Boone in 2015

NICKY BOYETTE

In January, the Carroll-Boone Water District (CBWD) board voted to increase water rates from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per thousand gallons for its four customers Harrison,

Green Forest, Berryville and Eureka Springs, beginning April 1. According to Barry Connell, plant manager for the Freeman-Raney Water Treatment Plant, the average amount of water pumped out daily

for 2014 was 7,699,000 gallons.

The controversial fluoridation of the CBWD water began in July. Commissioner Gene Bland asked, "Are we doing everything we can to make it safe?" Connell responded the operators had been trained by the Health Department in all aspects of handling the product.

Opponents of forced fluoridation continued to speak out. Dr. Luis Contreras speculated at the July 16 meeting the fluoride mixture could leach lead from the ancient pipes in Eureka Springs. He also pointed out it does not take much water to brush your teeth and CBWD is treating a huge amount of water for a small percentage of its use.

The board has maintained it had no choice since not adding fluoride would have been illegal, and Dan Bowers, attorney to the board, stated in spite of attempts to amend the law, the law had not changed.

Another project underway in 2015 was Phase 1 of the parallel transmission line project which would involve installation

of approximately 36,760 linear ft. of 36-in. ductile water pipeline from the water treatment plant to Eureka Springs and approximately 1,350 linear ft. of 42-in. pipeline to go under the Kings River. Eventually the parallel lines will extend to Harrison.

Clearing the right-of-way prompted complaints from property owners along the way, but issues were resolved and the way was cleared by March 15, which was the beginning of the breeding season for Indiana bats. Engineer Chris Hall of McGoodwin, Williams and Yates said all trees along the easement three inches in diameter or larger had to be down by then.

By autumn, pipes were stockpiled in place along Hwy. 187 and the pipe laying began. The project is scheduled for completion by spring of 2017.

CBWD also moved 3300 ft. of the transmission line near Green Forest because of the US 62 widening project. That project was completed by October and the pipe was upgraded.

### March

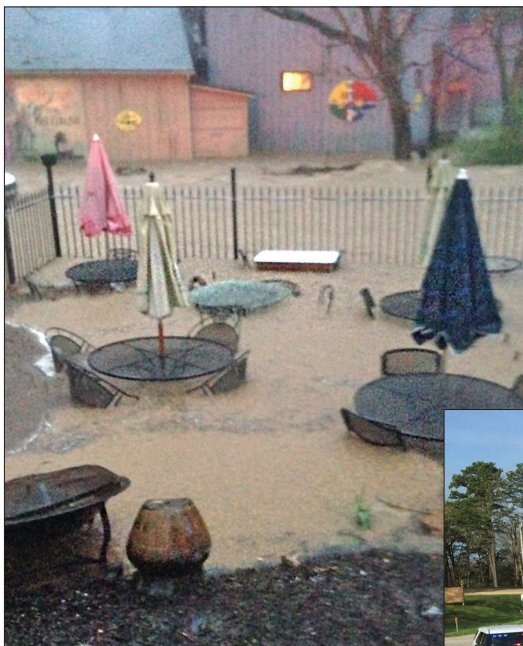
**Babycakes** – Josh Ridenour celebrated his first birthday Saturday, Feb. 28, with a smash cake – which he duly decimated. It was also his brother



Zachary's 7<sup>th</sup> birthday, which Zach celebrated with a bit more restraint. (Guess which one turns out to be the kid who cleans his room.) Proud parents of the double-birthday boys are Kendra and Travis Ridenour. **PHOTOS BY KENDRA RIDENOUR AND MELANIE MYHRE**



### April



**Whiskey and water, please** – Farm-to-Table FRESH owner, Ken Ketelsen, is in the process of installing a swim-up bar for patrons. Here, he experiments with water levels to determine how high the bar should be so tabletops will stay dry when bathing-suited guests enjoy dinner in the patio pool. Eureka got 5 in. of rain last Wednesday night.

**Down the rabbit hole** – Eureka Springs Public Works is providing some help and supervision as Carroll County Road Department workers and equipment dig 18 – 21 feet down to the collapsed tunnel under the auditorium parking lot. Word was the tunnel had collapsed completely and had water in it. Nonetheless, workers said it might be cleaned out by day's end. Mayor Butch Berry estimated the project would be completed and the parking lot back in service in two to three weeks, depending on the weather.

PHOTO BY CHIP FORD



**Coca-uh-oh-la** – Things could have gone better with Coke on April 11. This semi loaded with the sticky soda came a little too close to the edge of the ditch in front of the ECHO building on US 62 and tipped over. Responders found the driver unhurt. Two heavy equipment vehicles from McKnight's Towing in West Fork were called in to first strap the trailer and then lift the 35 – 45,000 lb. semi back onto the road. As it came off the ground, the weight of the cargo blew the side of the trailer out. Arkansas Highway Dept. cleaned up the product and debris with a dump truck and front-end loader while traffic was rerouted through the ECHO parking lot. The crippled carbonated cola conveyance was carted back to Bentonville. **PHOTO BY JOHN RANKINE**



Planning tackled variety of issues in ‘15

NICKY BOYETTE

The Eureka Springs Planning Commission looked at several issues during 2015, but four topics commanded special attention beginning at the Jan. 27 meeting when alderman Terry McClung asked commissioners to look into preparing an ordinance setting a minimum size for new residential construction. He suggested for discussion purposes establishing 600 square feet for new residences in the R-1 zone.

Alderman Mickey Schneider, sitting on Planning until a new commissioner could be seated, strongly disagreed and alleged McClung’s idea would infringe on

people’s rights. Other commissioners said McClung’s idea might have merit and at least deserved to remain on the agenda. At the April 14 meeting, Terry McGwire, an expert in building codes and city planning, told commissioners, “The complexities of this are monumental,” and suggested the Historic District Guidelines and existing city ordinances should provide enough regulations. Commissioners voted to drop the topic from their agenda.

Home Occupations

In February, commissioners were presented with the controversy regarding contractors who store equipment and tools

outside their residences and that impact on neighbors. Commissioner Steve Beacham pointed out City Code in one section states a Home Occupation Permit may be required, but the city has never issued such a permit.

Opinions varied on how to define a Home Occupation, so enforcement seemed inconsistent. Some homeowners worried the value of their properties might be devalued by being next door to a yard full of painting or building supplies.

Building Inspector Bobby Ray suggested changing City Code to state if a person listed the home address as the business address, all work-related materials at that site must be screened from view from all streets. There was also a distinction made regarding businesses that brought extra traffic to a residence and consideration of tightening up signage limitations for residential zones.

In April, Planning got advice from Municipal League attorney Jim von Tungeln who stated, “The concept I use for Home Occupations is “Nobody knows it is there.”

Beacham organized their suggestions for clarifying City Code and sent them to city attorney Tim Weaver. In August, Beacham said he had received Weaver’s response, but wondered if they had not been specific enough in their suggestions, so commissioners refined what they wanted and sent their suggestions to Weaver again.

PLANNING continued on page 23



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## INDEPENDENT2015 Wrap

### Mayor's 'force' sets tasks in 2015

**NICKY BOYETTE**

Thirty people showed up in the Auditorium lobby for the first 2015 meeting of the *ad hoc* committee of citizens looking to boost the city's economy. Upon Mayor Butch Berry assuming office, the group became known as the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Development. Former alderman Dee Purkeypille, who had led the first few meetings in 2014, continued to help organize and focus the group by announcing there would be representatives from city government and the business sector. He suggested subcommittees from specific business categories such as retail and galleries, attractions, healing and other arts, lodging and dining.

The point of the subcommittees would be to find out needs and opinions of various segments of the community. Each subcommittee would organize itself and report to the task force each meeting.

Sandy Martin presented an early version of a presentation she called a toolkit, which would entice potential businesses to come here and provide a step-by-step guide for moving a business here.

Martin began chairing the meetings in February, which was when Berry announced the owners of the Rockin' Pig were moving forward with the purchase of Pine Mountain Village.

Much discussion went into the potential benefit of a coordinated city-wide calendar as far out as possible so event planners could pick a non-competing date, but also be convenient enough for people to know what was happening Saturday night. Rick Bright, CAPC finance director, offered insight into the difficulties in collecting information for

their calendar.

By July the group agreed input to the calendar would be the responsibility of event planners. In August, Kim Stryker, assistant to the mayor, announced a two-month rolling calendar was almost ready. The procedure for getting on the calendar would be to contact CAPC publicist Gina Drennon.

Also in August, Martin announced Eureka Springs was part of the creation of the Northwest Arkansas Film Commission along with the other major cities in the area. The purpose is to attract film producers to make movies here.

She also announced the Winrock Foundation approved a grant for \$249,960 for capacity building and economic development in Eureka Springs and Berryville. The intent is to bring in

professionals who will provide the research and guidance.

Martin mentioned the importance of Carroll County Airport in the future of economic development in the county. Once the runway is extended to 5000 ft., small freight planes could work out of the airport and more business-types could fly in and out.

Conversations continued during the summer, and by autumn there was more focus on what kinds of businesses would be a good fit for Eureka Springs, what properties were available, and is there an adequate available workforce here? The task force expressed interest in collaborating with Eureka West in development plans.

By the end of the year, Martin had finished the toolkit, and the task force was ready to identify a prospect and go to work.



**For sail –**  
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and Sean  
Michael from  
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send happy  
holiday  
greetings  
from aboard  
their boat. In  
the Bahamas!  
Without us!



### WEEK'S TopTweets

**@BruceForce:** My phone spends so much time stuck to a charger I might as well just call it a landline.

**@hazelmotes1:** My wife is all, "We love each other so much we finish each other's sentences," until it comes to prison sentences.

**@daemonic3:** Kangaroo 911: What's your emergency? Kangaroo: I CAN'T FIND MY CHILDREN! Kangaroo 911: Did you check your pockets? Kangaroo: Oh, never mind.

**@thecatwhisprer:** Just knocked over my cat's Christmas tree.

**@KentWGraham:** I'm a suburban white guy. I could use some blues songs about long lines at Starbucks or forgetting the password to my 401K account.

**@iwearaonesie:** Cop: Do you know why I pulled you over? Me: [typing this] Hang on.

**@densepen:** If cats could drive cars they wouldn't use their turn signals either.

**@juicymorsel:** If there were an Olympic medal for making three trips upstairs before I got what I went for, my face would be on a box of Wheaties.

**@celebritychez:** I own seven pairs of khaki pants in case anyone wants to start a gang.

**@theblowout:** I didn't get your text because I'm lying.

**@noticeablybacon:** Wrote Santa a letter today because I don't want him to think we only talk when I want something.

**@kevinseccia:** I bet there is already someone who's put their number of twitter followers on a college application.



# INDEPENDENT Guestatorial

## New thinking for the future

*THE FUTURE AIN'T LIKE IT USED TO BE – YOGI BERRA*

**A**re we ready for extreme weather? We can take a wait-and-see attitude hoping the governor declares an emergency and the FEMA folks show up, or we can be prepared. Scouts know what that means: you are always ready to help others, and you are ready, willing, and able to do whatever necessary in any situation. Fast action, awareness, and having a disaster plan are some of the things people can do to protect themselves and others.

Several Facebook groups provide current information on weather and emergencies: Eureka Springs Road Conditions and Traffic, Inspiration Point Rural Fire Protection, Eureka Springs Fire Department, and local newspapers. A new group, Arkansans Be Prepared! provides links to FEMA preparedness information and other emergency sites. ES Alerts, a service of the Eureka Springs Police Department, will send you emergency messages when you register by calling 253-8666. The ECHO Health Outreach Clinic plans a new emergency shelter, with standby power and supplies for the community.

Our highways, bridges and other infrastructure need improvement. This requires state and county funds, but will create thousands of jobs.

The ill-conceived Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015 (H.R. 2647) to give USFS full power to sell our national forests for logging, mining, and other commercial ventures, was stopped by the Senate on December 22, 2015. The Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics and many concerned citizens called USDA Undersecretary Robert Bonnie asking him to tell President Obama to stop H.R. 2647. On the other hand, all requests to Arkansas Congressman Bruce Westerman, the Senate sponsor of this Act, handled by his D.C. Communications Director Ryan Saylor, were ignored. There are many ways to skin a rat. Persistence and community participation made a difference. FSEEE is a non-profit national organization of government employees holding the Forest Service accountable for responsible land stewardship. Please visit [www.fseee.org](http://www.fseee.org) for additional information. The Butler Hollow project remains on hold. It would have been approved immediately if the Resilient Act had become law.

Louisiana loses at least 25 square miles of wetlands each year, natural buffers against catastrophic storm flooding. This fall, a private company rebuilt a square half-mile of wetlands. The company made a profit selling “wetland credits” to businesses whose activities cause marsh destruction to offset the damage they inflict.

Forests are unique sources of clean air and clean water. No one owns the forests, the sky or the rivers. While other nations are planting trees to deal with climate change, Arkansans look at private and public forests as timber, thinking we have excess inventory of trees; no one talks about the carbon sink provided by the forest soil or the erosion with severe weather.

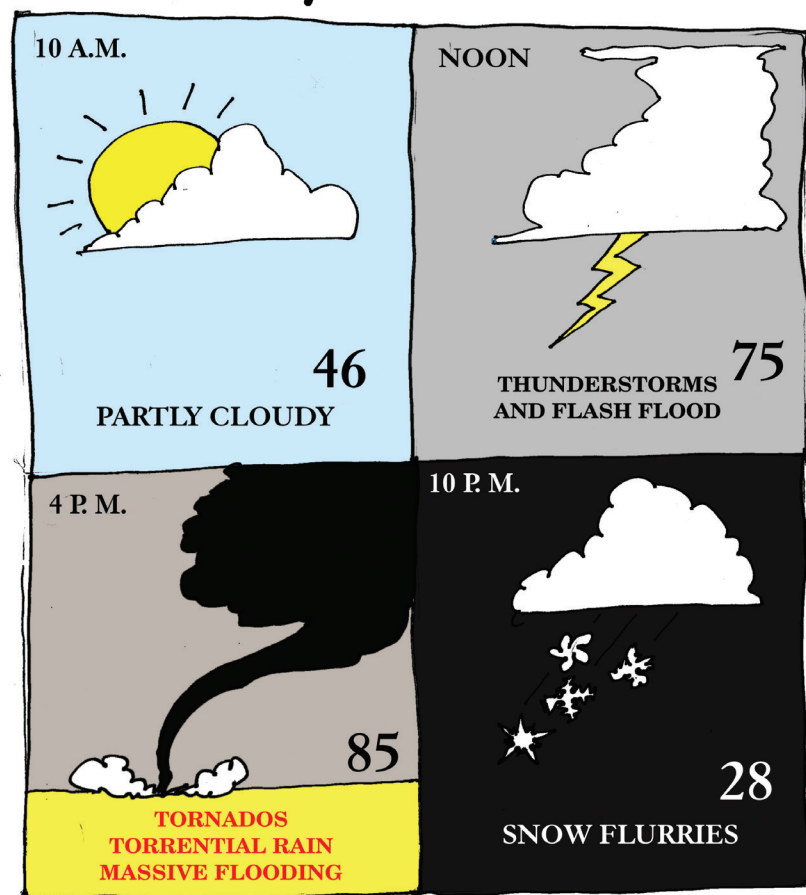
The Arkansas Economic Development Council plans to sell our forests and use public funds (your taxes) to lure the first Chinese wood pulp mill to Arkansas. El Dorado, Pine Bluff, Monticello, Camden and other communities are busy working on additional bonds and incentives to host the monster plant; the site will be announced May 1, 2016.

Pulp mills are old projects, a bad idea at the time. Today, it would be hard to choose a worse venture than harvesting three million tons of timber a year to produce 700,000 tons of fluff pulp shipped to China. We get air and water pollution, wear on public roads, and the stench of putrid eggs. No one wants to visit or live near a pulp mill.

Pulp mills are highly automated industrial centers using large volumes of water and chemicals to make fluff out of trees; few high-skilled jobs are created. Try to imagine the total amount of energy and carbon dioxide required to send 100 thousand acres of forests to China every year for 40 years. Instead, Entergy, SWPCO, AECC and other power companies can buy “forest credits” to pay forest owners to keep all our forests untouched. This is the least we can do for our children.

*Dr. Luis Contreras*

## 1 Day in Arkansas



## The Pursuit Of HAPPINESS

by Dan Krotz

**O**ur little towns are filled with many fine people who have simultaneously inspired and shamed me in the past year. We have run into one another at various places, ranging from the Evil Retail Giant over in Berryville, to Oscar's Cafe, to our farmers' markets staged attractively in parking lots hither and yon, and to places beyond. These people have been friendly to me, and kind, and never once admonished me for being the dullard I am.

Among them have been Frank and Lisa Rebiejo, who are unfailingly happy, optimistic, and cheerful, and who prepare and serve some of the best food I have ever eaten. Thank you, Frank and Lisa, for being so hardworking and such ebullient souls.

Andrew Schwerin and his wife, Madeleine, have been the practical teachers of what the future will be if we're lucky enough and smart enough to pull through our present glutinous and narcissistic condition. Joining them are Jon and Kaylynn Toombs, who may be the most graceful couple – and like the Schwerins, futurists – I've had the pleasure to know. Thank you, Andrew and Madeleine, and Jon and Kaylynn, for showing us a safe and rational pathway into what tomorrow could be.

Tim McKinney, the mayor of Berryville, Kirby Murray, its Director of Public Works, Johnice Dominick, director of the Carroll and Madison County Library System, and our County Sheriff, Randy Mayfield, thank you for serving your constituents so quietly, so effectively, and so efficiently. You are the problem solvers who make the wheels of community life spin unobtrusively and reliably, every day.

To my colleagues at *The Ozark Radio Hour*, Richard Pille, Sharon Laborde, Kent Crow, Suzy Q, and Lee Mitchell, please accept my gratitude for doing the hard work of witnessing to – and celebrating – life here in the beautiful Ozark Mountains of Arkansas. You remind me every day of our good sense in choosing this place to live.

And Dear Readers, thanks for stopping me, as I bumble around town, to offer encouraging words, reprimands, for shared laughter, and for saying, “Bless your heart, we know you're doing the best you can.” Happy New Year.



## A little help from our friends:

- **Community Suppers at St. James:** St. James' Episcopal Church, 28 Prospect, will hold Sunday community suppers, from 5 – 6 p.m., through March 20. Supper will be provided by local restaurants. The suppers are free and all are welcome.
- **Carroll County Domestic Violence Hotline:** 1-844-247-3223 (844-24PEACE) is available 24/7. The Purple Flower Domestic Violence Resource and Support Center of Carroll County is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. 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](http://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](mailto:lardellen@gmail.com). Meetings at Coffee Pot Club:
- **Alateen** – Sundays, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Email [alateen1st@gmx.com](mailto:alateen1st@gmx.com) or phone (479) 981-9977 • **Overeaters Anonymous** – Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Barbara (479) 244-0371 • **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](http://www.nwarkaa.org)

# INDEPENDENT2015 Wrap

## Calls, incidents and arrests all down for the year

Eureka Springs Police Chief's synopsis of 2014-15

### Stats for 2014

- 2052 calls for service
- 813 offense/incident reports taken
- 23 reports of domestic disturbances resulting in 15 arrests or warrants issued
- 1353 uniform citations issued
- 1274 warning citations issued
- 348 arrests made
- 78 warrants served
- 112 noise violations issued
- 81 vehicle traffic accidents worked, 4 of these accidents involved motorcycles

- 15 arrests or warrants issued
- 986 uniform citations issued
- 1,070 warning citations issued
- 292 arrests made
- 80 warrants served
- 187 noise violations issued
- 91 vehicle traffic accidents worked, 4 of these accidents involved motorcycles

The Police Department assisted with many events through the year of 2015 which include:

Mardi Gras, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Victorian Classic, Artrageous Parade, PT Cruiser Rally, The Eureka, Bluegrass Festival, Volkswagen Weekend, Bikes Blues and BBQ, Corvette Weekend, Folk Festival and the Christmas Parade.

### Stats for 2015 (Dec. 22, 2015)

- 1719 calls for service
- 765 offense/incident reports taken
- 22 reports of domestic disturbances resulting in



**2015 Award Winners** – Eureka Springs Fire and EMS staff members won awards for dedication to the fire department, going above and beyond, public service and being enthusiastic promoters of emergency medical services and fire suppression/prevention in the Eureka Springs community. This year's winners are, from left, Paramedic of the Year – Captain Shane Stanley, Volunteer of the Year – Mike Melroy, Firefighter of the Year – Josh Byler, Fire Chief's Appreciation Award – Michael FitzPatrick, EMT of the Year – Kenneth Smith and Emergency Medical Responder of the Year – David Barnes (not shown). *PHOTO SUBMITTED*

# INDEPENDENTConstablesOnPatrol

### DECEMBER 21

- 6:46 a.m. – Constable gathered information about an attempt to cash stolen checks.
- 4:10 p.m. – As a result of a traffic stop, constable arrested a driver for a fictitious vehicle license and driving on a suspended license.
- 4:21 p.m. – Traffic stop resulted in the arrest of the driver for DWI, and a passenger was arrested for public intoxication.

### DECEMBER 22

- 5:54 p.m. – An RV was parked beside a church on US 62. Constable advised the driver to move the vehicle and offered directions to an RV park.
- 6:25 p.m. – A male told ESPD his ex-girlfriend had kicked in his windshield.

### DECEMBER 25

- 10:24 a.m. – Traffic stop resulted in the arrest of the driver for driving on a suspended license.

### DECEMBER 26

- 7:06 p.m. – Constable filed a report on a hit-and-run accident in a restaurant parking lot.

### DECEMBER 27

- 1:42 p.m. – A tree fell onto power lines in the north part of town. A constable and ESFD responded. The utility company shut off power while the tree was cleared after which power was restored.
- 2:11 p.m. – Motel management called ESPD about damage to a room. A constable arrived to investigate, but the guests had already returned to the scene to work things out.
- 9:50 p.m. – Individual told a constable he was receiving harassing phone calls.



## ES School District gets new super, leases old school

NICKY BOYETTE

The Eureka Springs School District started the year with David Kellogg as superintendent, but he moved on as of June 30, and Bryan Pruitt replaced him. At the Sept. 21 school board meeting, Pruitt asked the board to authorize him to negotiate a deal for leasing or selling the vacant high school property, and the board approved. Pruitt said the district spends about \$30,000 annually to insure and maintain the deteriorating property.

At the Oct. 20 meeting, Pruitt announced the district had received an offer from the Eureka Springs Community Center Foundation. The foundation, an *ad hoc* Highlander Committee which had been meeting for the two years since the property became vacant, had been figuring out a way to use the property to give the community what it wanted – a community center. During 2015, the group received 501(c)(3) status.

Foundation chair was Diane Murphy, who made a presentation to the board Feb. 24 before the group got its nonprofit status. She described their intention to use Building 300 for a community center and multi-

use facility. Building 200 would be developed as office space, and Building 100 would be demolished except for a portion of a wall left as a tribute to former students. The footprint would be transformed into an outdoor gathering space for farmers' markets, concerts, flea markets and other special events.

Murphy said their early inquiries for funding were positive though they couldn't raise money until they have the property.

The offer to the district in October was the Foundation would lease the property from the district for 10 percent of the gross rent revenues received from Building 200, with a minimum payment no less than \$10,000 annually. The term of the contract would be for 99 years beginning once the contingency has been met, but not later than July 1, 2016.

The contingency says the foundation must raise \$500,000 by June 30, 2016. The lease offer also stated the foundation has the option to buy all or part of the property during the term of the lease.

The attorney for the board responded to the offer, and

in November the board considered a counteroffer from the foundation, which they approved with two modifications. Next step in the process will be lease negotiations.

In other news, high school principal Kathryn Lavender announced in January ESHS had been named #10 in Arkansas based on test scores and is number 1242 out of all high schools in the country.

In April, high school science teacher Katy Turnbaugh announced six of her engineering students had participated in the statewide engineering competition for the first time, and the team finished second. Participants were Wade Carter, Nathan Address, Jake Hager, Wyatt Pavelsek, Dalton Kesner and Thanh Nguyen.

Also, Lavender reported Kyle Rains finished in first place in the masonry category in the recent statewide SkillsUSA competition, which means he will be participating in the nationals. Olin Blair finished second in plumbing.

In September, the board declared the seat held by Glenn Coggeshell to be vacant. The seat will remain vacant until the next school board election.

### May

**May pops** – Sparky and I Love Eureka Springs' "Ballooned Van" garnered the First Place vote from five out-of-town judges at the May 2 ArtRageous Parade. The van looked like a giant rolling chrysanthemum and was a great hit with kids who dove for stuffed animals being tossed to the crowds. Second place went to the Krewe of Krazo's Cinco de Mayo float, and the drummers of Africa in the Ozarks took Third. **PHOTO BY MELANIE MYHRE**



**For and Against** – Chip Ford holds up For 2223 signs Tuesday afternoon in front of New Day Fellowship, more than 100 ft. from the St. Elizabeth's Parish Center polling place. Driver of the truck hauling a Repeal 2223 sign in the background is Rene J. Chouinard. **PHOTO BY BILL KING**



### Not necessarily Niagara –

This couple prepare to ride after photographing the floodgates at Beaver Dam May 25. With the floodgates open and the dam's two generators running, Beaver Lake is discharging about 15,000 cubic-feet-per-second into the White River and Table Rock Lake, according to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spokesman Alan Bland. That rate of discharge about matches the rate of floodplain inflow into Beaver Lake, Bland said. When Beaver Lake levels begin to drop the floodgates will be closed.

**PHOTO BY DAVID FRANK DEMPSEY**



**Fox News** – This fox kit can't take a selfie, but if it could this would be it. The kit has five siblings and a mom, all spending springtime under a bluff south of the city limits.

**PHOTO SUBMITTED**



## HDC makes strides in 2015

NICKY BOYETTE

The Eureka Springs Historic District began the year by approving an application to build a three-ft. tall stone wall in front of the Historic Museum because rainwater splashed by passing vehicles was damaging the newly restored and repainted front of the building.

### Small residences

In February, commissioners approved the design for construction of a 630-sq. ft. house on Brush Street. In August, three applications for construction of homes smaller than 900 sq. ft. were on the agenda. One was an 864-sq. ft. retirement home set back off Wall Street. Three others were 16x50-foot shotgun style homes also on Wall Street, and the other was for a 768 sq. ft. residence on Drennon. All were approved.

### Old high school property

Diane Murphy and the Highlander Committee made a presentation of plans for demolishing building B100 as part of repurposing the old high school property to create a community center, an outdoor gathering space, and offices. Commissioners visited the site and got advice from the Building Inspector and the state historic preservation

program. Commissioners approved the application by a 4-3 vote, Chair Dee Bright breaking a 3-3 tie.

### Metal roofs

In August, commissioners approved an application to re-roof all buildings at the Art Colony at 185 N. Main with lap panel metal roofs in several colors for what contractor Dennis Alexander called an “artful, eclectic” look. This project was in a commercial zone.

The application for a stone-colored patterned-steel roofing product for 17 Cliff, also in a commercial zone, was approved. Faux-slate roofing was approved for two other addresses.

Becky Gillette applied for a lap-panel steel roof for 298 N. Main, which is zoned commercial, and the application was approved with a color modification. However, Gillette’s application for a similar roof for 19 Kimberling was denied because the property was zoned residential, and guidelines do not allow lap-panel steel roofs in residential zones. She subsequently was approved for the more expensive true standing seam metal roof that meets guidelines.

The commission set a Jan. 20 at 4 p.m. date for a

workshop on metal roofs.

### Demolish or save

In May, commissioners approved the demolishing of the structure at 35 Benton. The Building Inspector stated the structure presented concerns for public safety, the roof had collapsed in several areas, and black mold was present as were two copperheads. Not all commissioners were convinced, but the vote to approve demolition was 5-1.

At the Oct. 21 meeting, two applications involved trying to save dilapidated homes from further ruin. One address was 120 S. Main and the other was 19 Kimberling. Commissioner Melissa Greene stated both of the properties were almost at the point of demolition by neglect.

### New hotel

In November, Mayor Butch Berry presented the application for construction of a hotel with a 3300 sq. ft. footprint on Montgomery St. He said the project would include widening the entrance to Montgomery St., as well as attention to drainage issues. Commissioners approved the concept.

## June

### Loving it – L.

Kai Robert’s film, EUREKA! the Art of Being, was screened at Crystal Bridges on May 27. Many of the artists featured in the film were on hand for a reception and later shared some big love with L. Kai (at left).

PHOTO BY ANGELA ROBERT



### Happy trails

– The new ADA-compatible Spring Garden Loop trail was christened on National Trails Day, June 6, by a crowd of supporters and volunteers once the rain stopped and Mayor Butch Berry cut the ribbon at the new trailhead. There were also events at Lake Leatherwood and a celebration at Brews at the end of the day.

Amanda Haley and Rusty Duling share a couple of umbrellas. PHOTO BY JAY VRECENAK



**Putting the Fun in FUNFEST** – Margo Pirkle, right and Nelli Clark made a colorful pair at last weekend’s Fur FUNFEST fundraiser for Good Shepherd Animal Shelter.

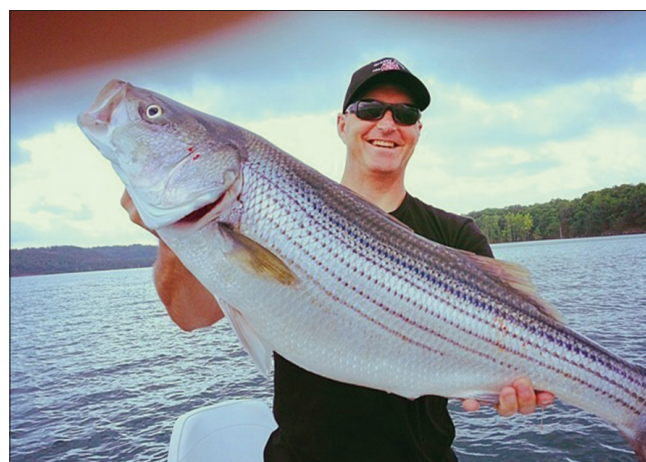
PHOTO BY JAY VRECENAK



### How many for dinner?

– Craig McVey, son of Grassy Knob VFD Chief Bob McVey, caught this 25-pound striper on Beaver Lake the morning of June 14 while visiting from Temecula, California. Now, *there’s* a fish story for Robert Johnson ...

PHOTO SUBMITTED





## Hospital Commission waits for news, opens new clinic

NICKY BOYETTE

Primary story of 2015 for the Eureka Springs Hospital (ESH) Commission was the possibility of a new hospital built on the western edge of town by Allegiance, the for-profit company based in Shreveport, La., that leases operations of the facility.

Early in the year, Chris Bariola, CEO

of ESH, was working with a cost estimator to scale back the plans to something Allegiance could afford. Eureka Springs Mayor Butch Berry told Bariola the city had been told it would be able to acquire bonds to pay for extending the city sewer to the proposed site.

In May, Bariola said he had been asked by Allegiance to attend a meeting

the following week, so maybe he would have news soon. However, communication with Allegiance faded during the summer with no word of any progress. Vicki Andert, chief of nursing, told the commission in November, "I have not heard the new hospital is off the table."

In other news, the commission had purchased a new ambulance and three

gurneys for the Eureka Springs Fire Department during 2014, and the ambulance finally arrived in January.

During the year, the swing bed census at ESH steadily increased.

In October, the ESH Clinic opened in the Eastgate Center at the eastern end of town, with Dr. Christopher Baranyk accepting patients.

### July

**Pride and joy** – On the heels of the Supreme Court's June 26 decision, marchers from Eureka Springs and Partners In Diversity showed up at the biggest Pride March ever in Fayetteville last weekend and were surprised to be greeted throughout the route with cheers, thumbs up and thanks for setting the model and being a leader in the fight for equal rights in Arkansas; and for giving Fayetteville courage in the upcoming fight for their own non-discrimination ordinance. Zeek Taylor, left, and Dick Titus, far right, hold the banner as Roxie Howard, center, provides a rainbow.

PHOTO BY JOHN RANKINE



**Freedom** – Among the many freedoms celebrated during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade was the hoped-for Freedom from Fluoride. It wouldn't be a Eureka Parade without an issue to march for! PHOTO SUBMITTED



**Daily (Eureka) Show** – *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart was in town last week and used Tee Rex and Twice Born Store as a setting for some comedy skits covering the success of Ord. 2223 and asking if there is fallout from recent political issues. Jayme Brandt (below) and Zeek Taylor, among others, were interviewed. The clip airs soon. PHOTO SUBMITTED



The streets were filled with riders young and old during Sunday morning's Fat Tire Festival's Race to the Lake. Funny how all those bikes didn't make any big noises ... hmm. PHOTO BY JAY VRECEK



### Old scam for the New Year

The Arkansas State Contractor's Licensing Agent contacted the Eureka Springs Police Department Dec. 28 regarding an asphalt contractor in Eureka Springs that may be running a scam. They approach homeowners saying they have an extra half load of asphalt and offer to put it on a driveway for a certain amount and then charge the homeowner far more and intimidate them into paying, according to Inspector Bikett Wootton of the Licensing Agency.

Wootton advised ESPD that he attempted to identify the company operating in Eureka Springs, but the person he spoke with would not provide a name or contractor information and was uncooperative when questioned.

Anyone who is approached to have asphalt work done should ask to see a contractor's license, and, if none is provided, do *not* do business with the individual. Instead, contact the State Contractor's Licensing Agency at (501) 372-4661 or the ESPD at (479) 253-8666.

It is the concern of the Police Department that any non-licensed contractors would do poor work and could use their business as a front to look for opportunities to commit crimes such as burglary and theft.

ESPD is making efforts to locate and fully identify the contractor at this time. However, they advise everyone to take steps to fully identify any asphalt contractors and request to see a Arkansas State Contractor's License – which all reputable contractors would have and be happy to provide to their customers.



# INDEPENDENT2015 Wrap

## August

**On with the show** – Randall Christy, left, and Jordan Klepper filming for *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. Christy said the crew especially enjoyed the Southern cooking at the Great Hall Buffet and had a great time. “Surely no educated person thinks *The Daily Show* is a reliable news source, now *that’s* funny,” Christy laughed.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

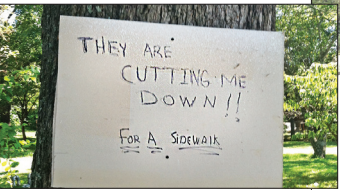


**Water we doing here?** – A break in the water main at 120 N. Main on August 9 left some folks without water and the rest of the city with very low pressure. A precautionary boil order was issued, and, although the leak has been repaired, city water wasn’t officially declared safe until samples from two days were returned from state testing labs. Inset shows the culprit responsible for the waterfall – a split in an 8-in. water line (near bottom of pic).

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BUTCH BERRY

**Farewell, old friend** – Chris McAllister of Berryville says the tree in front of his house on College will be cut down to make room for a sidewalk. “The tree is the largest on the block. It shades the noonday sun and is very sentimental to me,” Chris said. “Besides that, it’s gorgeous.” Chris posted a sign on his old friend so tree huggers could say goodbye, too. “We hate that he’s going to lose that tree even though it lives in our right-of-way,” Mayor Tim McKinney said, “but there’s been a lot of development out there and it’s very busy. We want kids to be safe walking to school!”

PHOTO SUBMITTED



## September

**Close call** – Firefighter/paramedics Rod Wasson, left, and partner Josh Beyler are shown taking a break after working a scene about a year ago. On August 29, Josh pulled Rod from danger after Rod’s regulator and mask became dislodged during a small but toxic fire on Grand Avenue. Rod (below) recovered after a tense up-and-down prognosis, and expects to be back to work in 2016.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RANDY ATEES



**And on that note** – The Ariels played their last official gig to a packed house at Chelsea’s on Sept. 19. A host of special guests sat in with the band during the goodbye party. PHOTO BY JAY VRECENAK

**Truly rare** – Thanks to Sandy Smith for posting this picture of a white hummingbird seen recently in Eureka Springs. A pure white hummingbird does exist, but is rare. The more common sight is the leucistic hummingbird, which has white, off-white, or tan plumage but eyes, beak, and feet have the normal black pigment. An albino is always pure white with pinkish eyes, feet, and bill, as this one seems to have. If you’ve seen one, please post the location to [beautyofbirds.com/albinohummingbirdsusalocations.html](http://beautyofbirds.com/albinohummingbirdsusalocations.html). And read more about them at [www.hummingbird-guide.com](http://www.hummingbird-guide.com).



PHOTO COURTESY OF SANDY SMITH



## Carroll County Airport soars through turbulence

NICKY BOYETTE

The Carroll County Airport (CCA) Commission began the year reeling from a budget cut. Chair Morris Pate announced the Quorum Court had budgeted \$4000 per month for the airport that he declared was not enough to run the facility.irate commissioners at the time voted 4-1-1 to continue running the airport as usual until the money ran out.

Casualties to the budget cuts were airport manager Dana Serrano and bookkeeper Lanna Fletcher, so Pate no longer had anyone to run the airport.

"This will be a predicament for meeting obligations," Pate observed.

Pate performed the duties of airport manager while he sought further support from the county. Fletcher continued

to volunteer as part-time bookkeeper. The quorum court in February did agree to add \$29,000 more to the airport budget for the remainder of 2015 contingent upon Pate handing in a monthly financial statement. This meant CCA would have \$6500 per month to operate, but with no manager.

Turnover on the commission continued into the spring with commissioners Lonnie Clark and Lester Ward resigning and Chase Tresler, Jason Tenant and Dane Mulligan being seated. By year's end, only commissioner Mark Mallet remained from the 2014 commission.

In spring, Pate began a long-term cleanup project, one hangar at a time. Hangar rental began to pick up in summer, and by December only two remained vacant with an offer pending on those. Harvey Cleveland began

offering flying lessons out of CCA in summer. By year's end, CCA had upgraded the worn-out fuel system and began to refurbish things all around. Commissioners even envisioned the need for more hangars.

Michael Pfeifer took over as manager in September, and continued efforts to get the airport caught up on its to do list. In December he installed a weather-monitoring device so pilots can access local weather data.

Commissioners learned in August state auditors had informed the Quorum Court there were discrepancies in financial records by former airport manager Sheila Evans who resigned at the end of 2013. There were non-business-related expenses totaling more than \$16,000 plus there were no bank reconciliations or annual financial reports. The matter was turned over to the Arkansas State Police.

### October

**Charred** – Fire Marshal Jimmy Kelley investigates the burned wall under the Eureka Grill. Cause was undetermined as of press time.

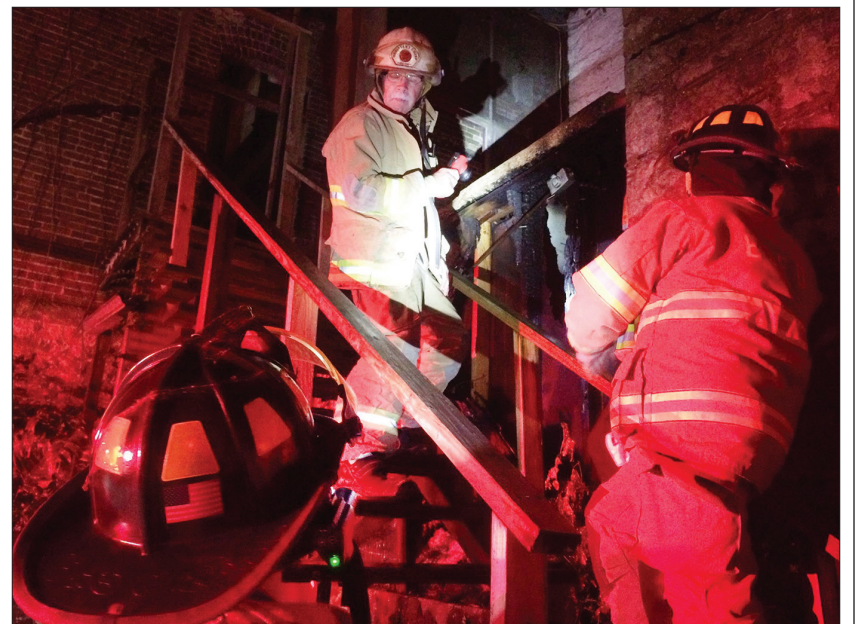
PHOTO COURTESY EUREKA FIRE & EMS

**Higher and Higher** – Rita Coolidge lifted the spirits of a wildly enthusiastic crowd of some 350 Oct.



10 when she sang "Higher and Higher" at the auditorium. Coolidge in turn was impressed with Eureka Springs and said she didn't want to leave. She performed for nearly two hours without a break and included stories about touring with Eric Clapton and writing for "Layla." She also discussed her Cherokee heritage and sang in that language. Her performance drew the crowd to a "standing O." The gracious star also spent lots of time mingling with fans.

PHOTO BY SUSAN STORCH



### Bowl-ing for dollars

– Eric Scheunemann looks over a plethora of pottery at the Hungry Bowl benefit event for Carroll County food pantries on Oct. 10. It looks like Jean Elderwind has already made her choice. Each \$20 donation was good for your choice of hand-made bowls and delicious soup from area restaurants served in the ESH cafeteria. Great turnout!

PHOTO BY CD WHITE



**Infinity table** – Center Street was shut down for a little outdoor dining last week as Eureka Springs Downtown Network hosted the Arkansas Parks & Tourism Commission and department management team. Numerous Eureka Springs business owners, restaurateurs and volunteer waitstaff made this special mini-fest, downtown tour and street dinner successful. Our guests from around the state were impressed by the hospitality. PHOTO BY BILL OTT



## A New Year – Looking Back into the Future Mercury & Jupiter Retrograde

The new year of 2016 begins Friday. Adding the numbers 2+1+6 equals nine (9). Nine signifies endings, completion, fulfillment and a major initiation (all year) into a new cycle of learning. Mercury enters Aquarius New Year's Day. We step, for a moment, into Aquarius with its new Laws & Principles. All planets are in direct motion on January 1. Planets-in-direction-motion means we move into the future more easily. This moment of moving

forward (planets direct), however, ends Tuesday, January 5, with Mercury turning stationary retrograde. Two days later, Thursday, January 7, Jupiter also stationary retrogrades.

Two major retrogrades in a week at the beginning of the year overshadow the events of new year. Retrogrades are important, surprising, magical times for humanity, offering a rest from usual ways of being. Mercury retrograde influences thinking

and communication. Jupiter retro reminds us, "Love more, for *Love underlies all happenings in our world.*"

Retrogrades (inner assessments) at the beginning of our new year set the tone for 2016, an election year. The retrogrades help us review, re-assess, re-evaluate, re-examine, re-analyze which candidate is best to lead our country and the world. Which candidate is not involved with Monsanto, places humanity's welfare ahead of business

as usual, can we trust, who speaks the Truth?

The planets work primarily in mutable signs (Gemini, Sag, Virgo, Pisces) during 2016. Mutable signs offer specific experiences that build a vital and integrated personality, strong enough to follow the disciplines of the Soul. In 2016, the themes for humanity are building a strong integrated personality, encountering the Soul, reviewing the past, stepping into the future and experiencing a new cycle of learning.

**ARIES:** You become more and more aware of others as the year progresses. You begin to say, "I see, I understand, I know more now." This comes from Mercury, helping you develop new thinking, communicate with kindness, and connecting your past, present and future. You interact and move about with speed and a new state of happiness. Breathe rhythmically. Swim. Care for yourself.

**TAURUS:** It's important to remain focused upon health and healing. Research what is most nourishing for your body and blood types, what is your "dosha." Find a "functional doctor," a new type of doctor that investigates the sources of illness. Find a natural wellness dentist. Do all things needed and necessary to remain healthy. You will need to manage daily affairs with more efficiency. A change comes soon.

**GEMINI:** You experience new motivations and new actions in the New Year. You may feel fiery, driven to creatively express yourself. At first you experience intuitive revelations as Mercury retrogrades. You remember the past, all relationships, the ways you used money and resources. You will remember deaths, too. From these memories, you will organize your future life. With sunbeams.

**CANCER:** You begin to learn new things, new ways of communicating and interacting with others. Negotiation becomes a skill you seek to acquire. Notice the ideals flowing through your mind. Record, journal, ponder upon, draw and share them. Use your knowledge. If we don't use a gift it disappears. Analysis, instinct and intuition are gifts offering you purpose and help to achieve goals. What are your goals?

**LEO:** You are an artist. Many recognize this. You may or may not. In some lifetime you will be aware that art and creativity are ways you learn about yourself. Daily life remains an in-depth process of regeneration. You will experience new foundations & new beginnings this year. With finances, home, and in the continued shifting of all daily life endeavors. All that you do and encounter will be fruitful.

**VIRGO:** New self-identity meets with old self-identity and you will have a choice as to which identity you want to be, how you want to identify yourself, and what self you will project into the world. Even though Virgo talks a lot and is out and about in the world, Virgo keeps part of the self hidden from view. Virgo is concerned always with communication, health and well-being. Do not toil or be troubled this year.

**LIBRA:** Take extra special care of yourself this year. Everything that happens, all that you encounter will have an expansive, larger than usual quality to it. Read T.S. Eliot. Memorize a few lines from his "Love Song." Follow your intuition to the letter this year, especially in terms of health. If seeing doctors, find the very best ones. Seek meaning and have faith in those who love you.

**SCORPIO:** Think about truth this New Year. All levels of truth, all dimensions, patterns and relationships to the truth. Then speak the truth. This may not be easy for you and/or for others to hear. The truth sets us free. Truth holds us in its care. The truth has variety in its simplicity. Truth steadies us. Truth has a deep connection to intuition. Truth offers us a foundation to stand upon.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Venus and Saturn are in Sag as the New Year begins. You may feel resources are no longer available. They seem to have up and walked away. This is partially the situation. It's the no longer useful that is gone. When we feel nothing's left, it's because new realities are pulsating like stars directly toward us, creating new structures and ways of being, new resources, plans and agendas. Have patience, be as routinized as possible. A bit more wild is good.

**CAPRICORN:** Considered practical, you're also imaginative and a bit unusual. You're curious, too, and generous with information, sharing all that you know. For some reason I sense it's time to create a journal of daily life. One that you draw, paint and color in. A deep sense of the creative is permeating your life. It's from Neptune. There's wisdom in creating this journal. Take time from your busy schedule for this creative art. It will have meaning later.

**AQUARIUS:** Neptune will be in your 2<sup>nd</sup> house of resources for years. Beginning this year, take very special care of finances and resources. Everything may feel changing and fluid. Things will constantly seem to shift. It's important during this time of change to maintain health and well being in all ways. Do not forego this. Create nourishment in all that you do. Pray for what is needed. Have faith.

**PISCES:** Everything in your life is in a state of preparation. For what will come forth in the coming times. Pisces talents become more recognized through the years. At first Pisces is hidden by Neptune's waters. Then Pluto takes over and Pisces becomes potent and powerful. What happened to the confused fish, people ask? Pisces all of a sudden becomes a leader (and savior) in a world in need!



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Risa – writer, 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.



Just because...

January

**He's b-a-a-ck** – Even though someone has been kissing his feet (yes, that's really lipstick on the right), Chip Ford has rejoined his former newspaper cronies (Mary Pat, Perlinda and Cheri) at the *Eureka Springs Independent*. As the new sales rep, Chip's Dancing-with-the-Eureka-Stars-winning feet will continue to transport his familiar face hither and yon along the local horizon whilst (to use a Chipism) he takes ad orders. *PHOTO BY CD WHITE*



February

This week did not have any trips, so I [Robert Johnson] took out Pippy who thought begging would put a fish in the boat.



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- Ermilio's
- Eureka Live
- Forest Hill
- FRESH
- Grand Taverne
- Island Grill & Sports Bar
- Island Ice Cream Parlor
- Island Pizza and Pub
- La Familia
- Local Flavor Cafe
- Mei Li
- New Delhi
- Oscar's Cafe
- Roadhouse
- 1886 Steakhouse
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## Happy New Year brought to you by Cadillac Jackson and The Brody Buster blues extravaganza

Happy 2016 everyone! This is Leap Year, Election Year and an Olympics Year. We start things off Thursday night with revelry up and down the streets. Eureka Live is having a Circus Costume Party, and elephants will be trumpeting their dominance underground. Cadillac Jackson from Fayetteville cruise in with the windows cracked so the funk can't leak. They'll set the dance floor afire at Chelsea's. Brody Buster, blues prodigy from Kansas City, slays some blues licks on his mighty guitar at The Cathouse. Opal Agafia and the Sweet Nothings bring their lovely renditions and pretty melodies to the Rowdy Beaver Den Thursday and everyone has a little something for them to welcome the new days.

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE**

CATHOUSE LOUNGE – *Brody Buster*,  
Blues, 8 p.m.

CHELSEA'S – *Cadillac Jackson*, Funk,  
9 p.m.

EUREKA LIVE! – *Circus Costume Party*,  
Open at 5 p.m.

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

LEGENDS SALOON – *JAB the Band*,  
Rock, 9 p.m.

NEW DELHI – *Pete and Dave*,  
Americana, 7 p.m. – 12 a.m.

ROWDY BEAVER – *Terri and the  
Executives*, Rock, 7 p.m.

ROWDY BEAVER DEN – *Terri and  
Brett*, Rock, 12 – 4 p.m., *Opal Agafia and*

*the Sweet Nothings*, Americana, 8 p.m.

### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY**

CATHOUSE LOUNGE – *Voxana*, Folk,  
8 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.

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

ROWDY BEAVER – *Jukebox and Free  
Pool*

ROWDY BEAVER DEN – *Karaoke with  
DJ Goose*, at 8.

### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 2**

CATHOUSE LOUNGE – *Fetts Folly*,  
Americana, 8 p.m.

CHELSEA'S – *Opal Agafia and the Sweet  
Nothings*, Americana, 9:30 p.m.

EUREKA LIVE! – *DJ & Dancing*, 9 p.m.

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

LEGENDS SALOON – *DJ and Karaoke*  
ROWDY BEAVER – *2 Dog 2 Karaoke*  
at 7.

ROWDY BEAVER DEN – *John  
Harwood*, from noon – 4, *Karaoke with DJ  
Goose*, 8 – midnight.

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 3**

BREWS – *Cards Against Humanity/  
Board Games*

### **MONDAY, JANUARY 4**

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

### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 5**

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

CHELSEA'S – *Open Mic*

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6**

BREWS – *Open Mic*

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**Cadillac Jackson play Chelsea's  
Thursday, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve.**



## November



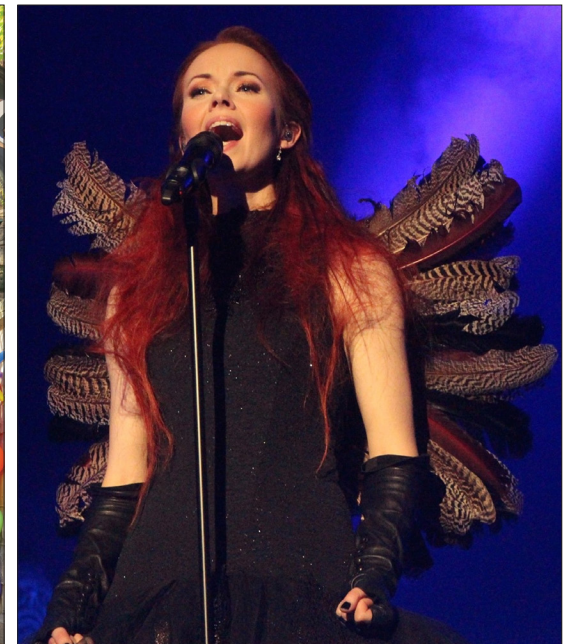
**Over the brim** – Little Lake Eureka had all the rain it could hold and began sending the overflow downhill on a watery trek to Flint Street.

PHOTOS BY BECKY GILLETTE



### Still diverse after all these years

– Diversity Weekend gave natural fall colors a run for the money as LGBT folks and supporters from around the region gathered to celebrate in Basin Park and all about town. PHOTO BY JAY VRECENAK

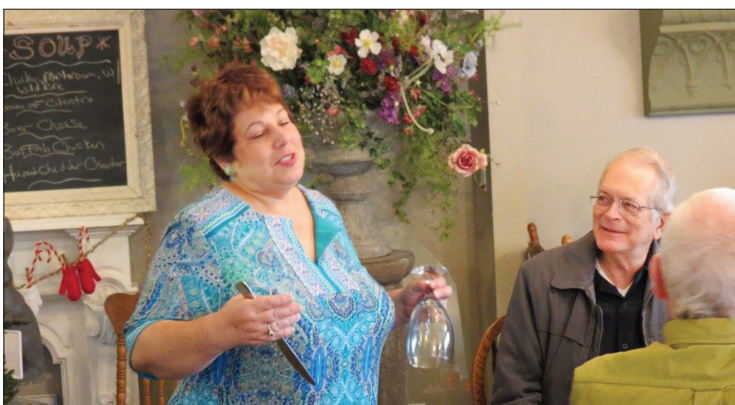


**Songbird flies the sea** – Finnish singing star Johanna Kurkela landed on our shores to begin her first American tour right here in the Ozarks, thanks to John Two-Hawks. Two-Hawks, who has a huge following in Finland, met Kurkela while performing there and suggested collaboration on a Christmas album. The result is the beautiful CD, *Noel*, much of which was heard on Dec. 5 at the *Annual John Two-Hawks Christmas Concert*.

## December

**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



**Tearful farewell** – Simply Scrumptious Tea Room closed its doors for good on Dec. 13. Up until then, the elegant lunchroom was packed as usual, but on the last three days the line extended out the door. The kitchen was overwhelmed, but customers didn't mind the wait. Nancy and Bob Clark of Rogers made it in and said they thought about staying overnight just so they could be first in line the next day. The Eagle Rock Book Club held a final birthday party for one of its members and wondered where they could go to celebrate now. Hunter Slay from Mississippi was there because he had been advised not to miss it. Above, owner Charleen McCain gave a thank you speech that ended in tears and elicited a standing ovation from the packed room. Recovering with her usual smile she said, "Let's just have a good time today!"

PHOTOS BY JAY VRECENAK



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# DEPARTURES2015 Wrap

*In 2015 family and friends in Eureka Springs, Holiday Island, Berryville and Green Forest said goodbye to:*

**Timothy Murray Lenser**, 54, on Jan. 9  
**Lila Warner**, 88, on Jan. 9  
**Raymond Graun Coleman**, 87, on Jan. 10  
**Patricia Irene Galbreath**, 64, on Jan. 10  
**Dustin Wendell Troxell**, 23, on Jan. 11  
**Ruth L. Havens**, 82, on Jan. 14  
**Margaret (Maggie) Helen Duran**, 91, on Jan. 15  
**Josephine Louise Mesa**, 82, on Jan. 16  
**Raphael (Randy) Troccoli**, 58, on Jan. 22  
**Faith LilyAnn Kennedy** on Jan. 24  
**Judy Carol Dulin**, 62, on Jan. 24  
**Jonell Powers Sullivan**, 85, on Jan. 27

**Robert Paul “Bob” Freeman**, 93, on Feb. 6  
**Thomas Joseph Knopp**, 76, on Feb. 15  
**Patrick Michael McCarty**, 55, on Feb. 24  
**Elizabeth June Sparks**, 93, on Feb. 24  
**Alice Gabrielle Walsh**, 73, on Feb. 10  
**Edith Ilona Holland**, 78, on Feb. 26

**Elaine Marie Umland**, 95, on March 4  
**Richard Bloch**, 55, on March 6  
**John Wesley Maxedon**, 73, on March 12  
**Casey Don Elliott**, 25, on March 16  
**Wallace Burton Gore**, 80, on March 17  
**James McKinney**, 83, on March 21  
**Donna Coleen Graves**, 82, on March 22

**Jack Hudson Green**, 73, on April 3  
**Patrick Joseph Mesa**, 98, on April 3  
**Carol Jean (Mohney) White**, 67, on April 9  
**Ronald Thomas Taylor**, 64, on April 12  
**Bette Severe**, 97, on April 16  
**Jason Thomas Tanton, Sr.**, 96, on April 18  
**Enness Roy McClelland**, 64, on April 20  
**George Pyschny** in April

**Ashley Jewel Wright**, 25, on May 2  
**Leah “Annie” Nelson**, 60, on May 3  
**Mark Tuttle**, 59, on May 8  
**James Michael Kanouff**, 62, on May 8  
**Brett Rainwater**, 48, on May 14

**Clara Mae Haise**, 77, on May 18  
**Annella Lowell Baker**, 92, on May 19  
**Katherine Louise “Katie” Wyatt**, 97, on May 22  
**David Jacob Wilson**, 48, on May 26  
**Erica Maleckyj**, 81, on May 29  
**Lashawna Ferrah York**, 38, on May 30  
**Clifford (Clif) Ray Jackson**, 53, on May 31

**Leonard “Harlan” Johnson**, 87, on June 4  
**Helen Virginia Gard Harrison**, 93, on June 7  
**Billy Gene Kerley, Sr.**, 81, on June 9  
**Daniel Russell Peterson, AKA Heather**, 57, on June 9  
**James Robert Cook**, 88, on June 13  
**Aaron Wayne Hardcastle**, 28, on June 16  
**Robert D. Rodriguez**, 73, on June 17  
**Sandy Davidson Goodier** on June 25  
**Doris Pauline Giles**, 76, on June 27  
**Renee Wilson**, 64, on June 27  
**Nancy Kay Graham**, 72, on June 30

**Mary Evelyn Seward**, 82, on July 3  
**Juanita Jean (Cricket) Bowling**, 66, on July 5  
**Ruth Ellen Leggett**, 87, on July 13  
**Kenneth Michael McCoy**, 67, on July 15  
**Jimmy Ray Howard**, 63, on July 17  
**Glenn Ferris McIntyre**, 88, on July 22  
**Michael Leroy Gwinup**, 65, on July 24  
**Barbara Jean Jayroe**, 65, on July 25  
**Mary Ann Lee**, 77, on July 26  
**Robert W. Overgaard**, 69, on July 29  
**Erik Skulason** in July

**Wanda Mae Castor**, 89, on Aug. 1  
**Howard Joseph Bonin**, 63, on Aug. 5  
**Stephen P. Mann**, 68, on Aug. 7  
**John Howze Jr.**, 67, on Aug. 7  
**Robert “Bob” Fenix**, 78, on Aug. 15  
**William Felix Lucas**, 89, on Aug. 15  
**Jennie J. Tinklenberg**, 95, on Aug. 15

**Audrey Jean Bott**, 77, on Aug. 18  
**Martha Elizabeth Brown**, 94, on Aug. 21  
**George Hans Degn**, 79, on Aug. 24  
**Hellen Smith Pinkley**, 91, on Aug. 25  
**John Charles (Jack) Thompson**, 84, on Aug. 25

**Ran (John) Sliter**, 70, on Sept. 3  
**James “Jim” Allen Miller**, 78, on Sept. 11  
**Carol Ann Murray**, 72, on Sept. 20  
**Arnold G. Merbitz**, 87, on Sept. 27  
**Anna Lee Clark Gunnels**, 85, on Sept. 28  
**Richard “Rick” Alfred Gaffga**, 71, on Sept. 29  
**James D. Wilder**, 74, on Sept. 30

**Kenneth Kirk Smith**, 73, on Oct. 7  
**Jack Muzio**, 88, on Oct. 15  
**Susan Harris Horton**, 61, on Oct. 20  
**Harlan Petter**, 80, on Oct. 22  
**Richard John Dillon**, 67, on Oct. 25  
**William Fearl Smith**, 75, on Oct. 26  
**Vivian Ileen (Moler) Clifford**, 79, on Oct. 29

**Joel Dean Bell**, 77, on Nov. 5  
**Sgt. Richard Evans Hansen**, 75, on Nov. 15  
**James Harold Lann**, 74, on Nov. 16  
**James Dee “Scooter” Mitchell**, 58, on Nov. 16  
**Larry Freamon Parton**, 66, on Nov. 16  
**Tom Morningstar Hovland** in November

**Joe Compton Luker, Jr.**, 74, on Dec. 2  
**Martin D. Edmondson**, 71, on Dec. 3  
**Dorothy Pearl Goodman**, 85, on Dec. 5  
**Grace Emma-Jean Young**, 76, on Dec. 6  
**Wilfred Dale “Willie” Helgeson**, 84, on Dec. 9  
**Santo Rizzo III**, 67, on Dec. 9  
**Robert “Bob” Gene Hattenhauer**, 91, on Dec. 14  
**Alfred Charlie Logan, Jr.**, 68, on Dec. 20  
**Elsa Pischke**, 78, on Dec. 17



# DROPPING A Line

by Robert Johnson

Well, we had a striper trip last week and Holden Hooper from Bentonville, who has never fished before, got his first fish and got to see how stripers fight.

Beaver Lake water temp is still in the low 50s, which is keeping the stripers feeding shallow on into January this year. Live shad, big shiners and top water baits are all catching. With all the rain, most the bait and fish are north of the mudline between Horseshoe Bend area and Prairie Creek. To avoid the colder air, the afternoons can do well, too, this time of year with more sun.

Here at Holiday Island the water is high with a lot of logs floating, so be careful. The creeks are still holding fish, with crappie and bass running about 8 – 12 ft. deep in sunken brush and a lot of bass are holding off the chunk rock of the bluffs in the main lake. We have a trip here this week, so should have more info on maybe some walleye.

To avoid the muddy water brought up from the flood gates, you might want to head north into Missouri toward Eagle Rock for cleaner and deeper water. If you have an Arkansas fishing license you can get a yearly border license for \$10. Or if you're just here

to visit, a Missouri daily license is only \$11. If you're just wanting to fish off the shoreline, try Lake Leatherwood, it's open for some good bass, crappie and catfish fishing, or if you have a trout stamp they bite good all year from the dam to Beaver. Try power bait and worms off the bottom.

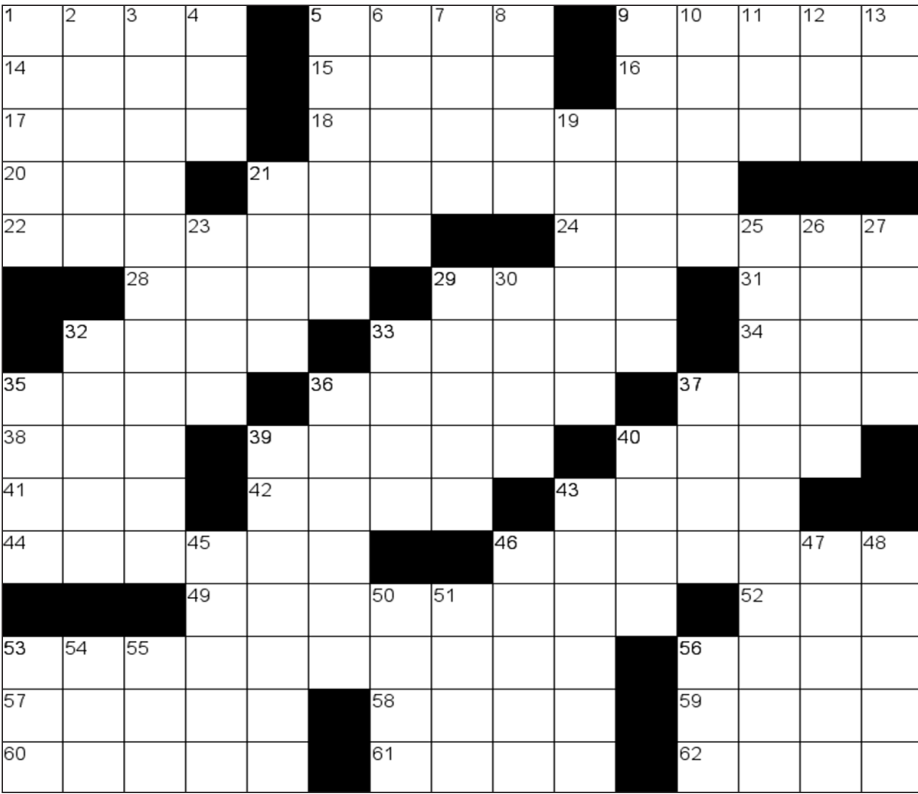
Well, better go for now, hope you all had a Merry Christmas.



# INDEPENDENT Crossword

by Mike Boian with extensive help from his wife, Ann

Solution on page 22



### ACROSS

- 1. In case of
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_ and hearty
- 9. East African master
- 14. Famous diamond
- 15. Dutch cheese
- 16. Horizontal airfoil on a helicopter
- 17. Not on land or in the air
- 18. "I'll take it under \_\_\_\_\_"
- 20. It began with an apple
- 21. Expressing an inference
- 22. Moderately slow tempo
- 24. Wicked; immoral
- 28. Specialist in solving performance, for short
- 29. 2012 candidate
- 31. Broad sash
- 32. Order to a horse
- 33. Cozy
- 34. Caviar
- 35. Basic farm structure
- 36. Cake ingredient
- 37. Quaff of the gods
- 38. Giants quarterback or Yalie
- 39. Marketplace in old Rome
- 40. Subgroup of a religion
- 41. Santa's helper
- 42. Period with little activity
- 43. Cry like a baby
- 44. Big constrictor
- 46. Dangerous

- 49. Candidate for the priesthood
- 52. Jamaican music
- 53. Mutual termination of a contract
- 56. Twofold
- 57. Having a high opinion of one's own achievement
- 58. Agency responsible for Mercury
- 59. Gaelic language
- 60. High IQ club
- 61. At that time
- 62. Certain social gatherings

- 19. Nun's address
- 21. Early Peruvian
- 23. Indefinitely long period of time (*var.*)
- 25. Action by a bank over non-payment
- 26. Nazi threat during WW II
- 27. Told a whopper
- 29. Skier's challenge
- 30. Prayer leader
- 32. Fine, splendid (*Scot.*)
- 33. Throw with great energy
- 35. Half a roadrunner warning

### DOWN

- 1. Capital of Tibet
- 2. Red florescent dye
- 3. Wastefully extravagant individual
- 4. Pekoe, herbal or chai
- 5. General physical condition
- 6. To muddle or confuse
- 7. Etna output
- 8. Give forth or release
- 9. Conciseness
- 10. Controversial candidates for combat billets
- 11. Dined
- 12. Implying the absence of something
- 13. Work appreciated for

- 36. Noises
- 37. Whimper
- 39. Sunshine State
- 40. Red chalcedony
- 43. Hawaiian tree
- 45. Half a magician's exclamation
- 46. Analyze a sentence
- 47. Order by an absolute authority
- 48. Soupy \_\_\_\_\_
- 50. Does not exist
- 51. Ark designer, builder and captain
- 53. 45 or 78, in vinyl
- 54. Before, in poetry
- 55. Male descendant
- 56. Girl being introduced to society

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## Taking a closer look at our community



Aug. 1, 2011  
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What's next?  
Integrity has plans  
for 500 kV line in  
the county

**BECKY GILLETTE**  
The county commission's decision to purchase the property on the Kings River was an...  
The county commission's decision to purchase the property on the Kings River was an...  
The county commission's decision to purchase the property on the Kings River was an...

**THIS WEEK'S INDEPENDENT THINKERS**  
Days at Whetstone High School in Carroll County...  
Days at Whetstone High School in Carroll County...  
Days at Whetstone High School in Carroll County...

**INSIDE THE ESI**  
1. USC  
2. Art Park  
3. Art Park  
4. Art Park  
5. Art Park  
6. Art Park

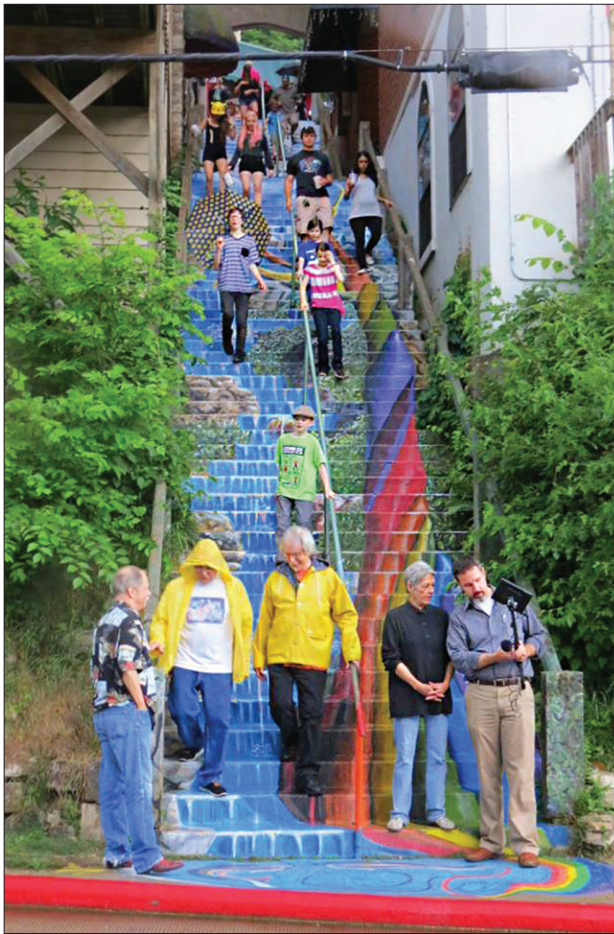
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M	E	N	S	A		T	H	E	N		B	E	E	S



## Just because...

### June



**Life imitates art imitates life** – As painted water gushed down the Up Project Cash and Boardman Mural steps during the ribbon cutting on May 29, real water began to gush from the sky; but that didn't stop the big crowd of celebrants present for the ceremony from taking the first official trek down the stairs. At bottom, from left, are Steve Yip Vorbeck, Dick Titus, Zeek Taylor, Sandy Royce Martin and Damon Henke.

PHOTO BY JAY VRECENAK

### May



**Really? You wanna pass me?** – Rita Wessel and passenger Lola Carter won't take any guff on the road, but Rita was happy to tell you all about her 2013 Ural replica made in the same Russian factory as the original Red Army motorcycle used in WWII. It certainly was a hit with the Hog riders at the Pig Trail Harley-Davidson Grand Opening Saturday, May 16.

PHOTO BY JAY VRECENAK

### November



**Bert the Peace Dog** – Weazl Gazel dressed her GSHS foster dog, Bert, in his best outfit for the Doggie Style Show on Nov. 14 hoping he'd attract a forever family. Who could resist?

PHOTO SUBMITTED

### July



**Sorry, no drawbridge** – As she approached Little Golden Gate Bridge at Beaver on July 23, photographer Jay Vrecenak heard shouts and happened to see this boat trying to make it under the bridge. Unfortunately, the rains made the job a little worrisome for its passengers. Did they make it?

### PLANNING continued from page 7

At the Nov. 17 meeting, Beacham reported he had received from Weaver the document including their proposed changes and suggested they review it in January.

#### Residential construction review

In April, commissioners began a conversation about the residential construction review process. Commissioner Ed Leswig said he was not aware Planning had ever been involved in review of residential construction.

Concerns being raised included traffic concerns from too many very small houses in a neighborhood, impact on sewers and construction-related drainage problems. Lujan said he would find out what kind of checklist the city employed.

Commissioners discussed their suggestions with Ray at the June 23 meeting, and he said he could update the checklist to cover their concerns.

#### One-way streets

Planning also took on the idea of making certain streets one-way, in particular a section of Armstrong or

the part of Mountain Street between Spring and Main Sts. Police Chief Thomas Achord stated his concerns and observations at the June 9 meeting, but Fire Chief Randy Ates sent Planning a letter in October stating his "grave concerns" regarding redirecting traffic on Armstrong. His primary issues were the fire hydrants are already strategically placed based on traffic flow, plus emergency plans would need to be rewritten and he did not see a problem that warranted the change.

Chair James Morris was not ready to drop the discussion, and as commissioners discussed issues further, they realized the real topic they were struggling with was traffic flow and traffic control in residential areas, not necessarily one-way streets. They agreed further discussion would be about managing traffic flow.

#### CUP instead of rezoning

Beth Martin Smith asked Planning to rezone her property at 4 Armstrong from R-1 to C-1 because she wanted to reopen the home as a tourist lodging as it was for many years. There was opposition to the

rezoning but not the reopening of the property as a tourist lodging. The recommendation was Smith should apply for a CUP instead, which she did at the August 25 meeting. Her request was granted along with two variances to allow her project to proceed.

#### Construction reviews

Construction reviews during the year included a new hotel to be built on Montgomery Street, on the hillside below Center Street and above North Main. The multi-story building would have a 3300 sq. ft. footprint.

Also, there was a preliminary concept review was for a development to be built on East Mountain by David and Carrie Marry, consisting of 16 small homes on small lots, some with a view of the town. They intended the neighborhood to be for residences, not rentals.

Both the construction and concept review were approved.

#### Other matters

Commissioner Tom Buford was seated in June.



Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year  
from your friends at



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