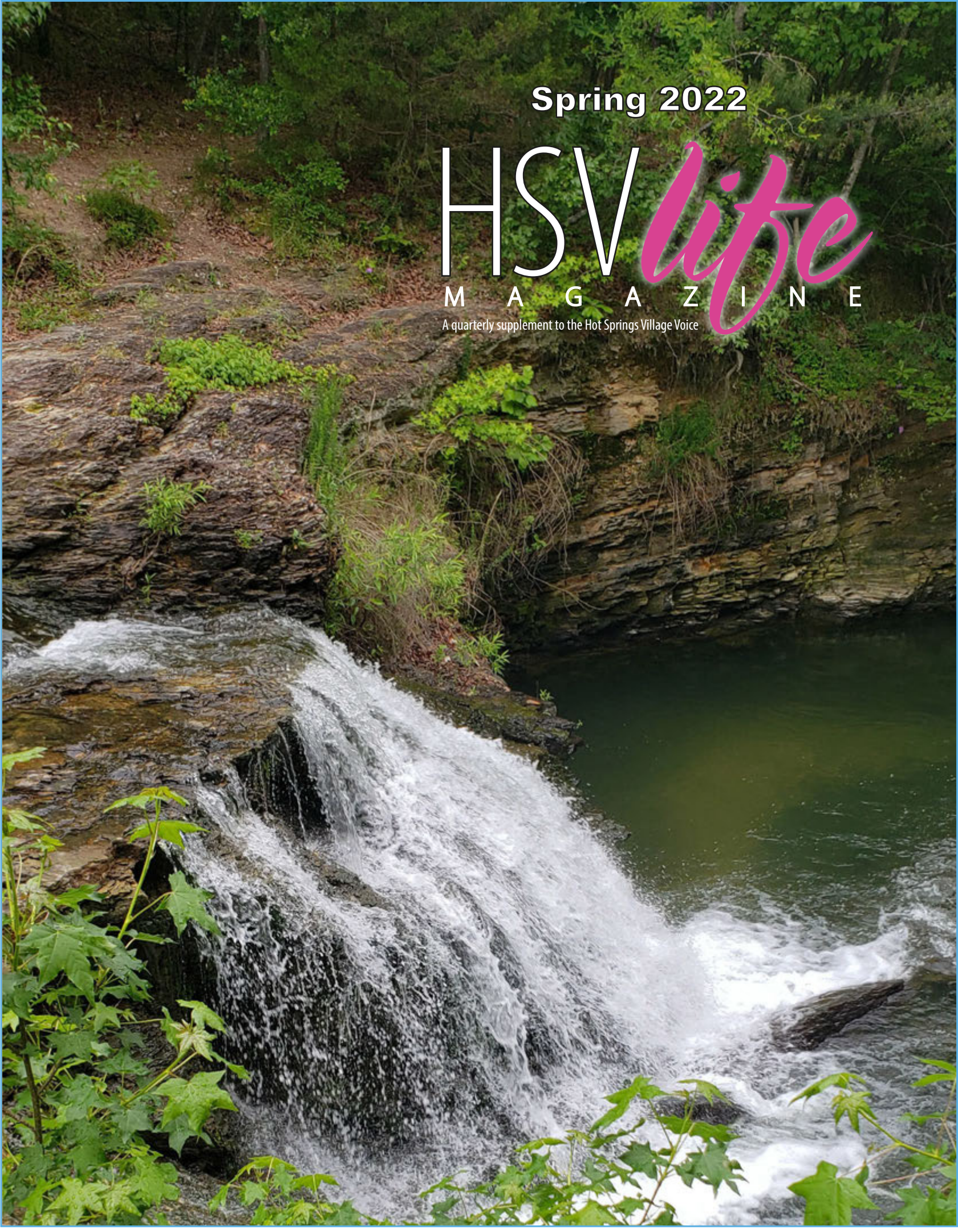


Spring 2022

HSV *life*

M A G A Z I N E

A quarterly supplement to the Hot Springs Village Voice





Spring 2022

HSV *life*

M A G A Z I N E

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Village Voice

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HSV hiking trails are popular in the Spring. (Jeff Meeks photo)

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ON THE COVER: Part of the Lake Balboa spillway. (Jennifer Allen photo)

Another year of Hot Springs Village Life

Introduction

By JEFF MEEK
Voice correspondent

Can you believe it? It's 2022. Seems like yesterday the country was anxiously awaiting news of a Covid vaccine, the U.S. Capital was attacked, President Joe Biden was inaugurated, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers beat the favored Kansas City Chiefs 31-9 and a snow storm descended on Hot Springs Village. With a new year comes new ideas, expectations, opportunities and the soon-to-be-seen beauty of spring in the Village.

Years ago the Village had a very big snow storm and because travel was treacherous for days, I remember going for walks with my camera. The snow resting on tree limbs, ice-covered morning leaves and an occasional deer made for some nice shots. The Village has many different looks and winter scenes are among them. Take time to enjoy the scenery, drive carefully in times of poor weather and don't forget the hot chocolate after a day outside.

Also in spring I find myself wondering what's ahead for the year. Will I stay healthy? Will my family stay healthy? Will the year bring me something totally unexpected? What great people stories might the Hot Springs Village Voice discover? Will our country find some middle ground and function more efficiently? Will the pandemic finally end? Who knows? That's also one of the beauties of a new year, the unknown, the unpredictable.

So whatever comes your way in 2022 we at the Voice hope it's fun and exciting for you. Let us know what your club or group is doing, what interesting neighbor or friend you have met or what trip you went on. Human interest stories are always interesting. 2022, may it be a year of wonder and memories for all of us.



Hot Springs Village lakes attract retirees from all over the country.



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Legislative Update

93rd General Assembly passes slew of new laws; tax relief

By LEWIS DELAVAN
Staff writer

In December, the 93rd Arkansas General Assembly passed income tax bills that will eventually bring nearly \$500 million annually in tax relief for Arkansans.

Despite the economic impact of the Covid pandemic, state government had accrued a record surplus, at least in part because the state started collecting sales tax directly from online merchants, rather than requiring Arkansans to submit the sales tax to the state.

The General Assembly passed more than 1,000 bills in 2021 that led to new laws.

Here's a summary of a few of them:

Act 586 creates the Independent Tax Appeals Commission Act, which creates the Tax Appeals Commission to resolve disputes between the Department of Finance and Administration and taxpayers. The commission will hear disputes beginning Jan. 1, 2023.

Act 807 – A sale by a charitable organization does not compete with a for-profit business and is therefore exempt from sales and use tax when the sales transaction either is not a continuing transaction or is held no more than 10 times a year.

Act 253 - allows Arkansas corporations to hold

annual or special shareholder meetings via remote communication and sets guidelines and procedures governing remote shareholders' meetings. Verified shareholders and proxy holders who are not physically present at a shareholders' meeting shall have a reasonable opportunity to participate in the meeting, be deemed present and be permitted to vote on matters submitted at the meeting.

Act 306 - exempts internet sales by a cottage food production operation from the definition of "food service establishment."

Act 1040 - the Food Freedom Act, exempts certain producers of homemade food or drink products from licensure, certification or inspection.

Act 523 - returns the franchise tax administration and collection to the Secretary of State. In 2019 lawmakers transferred the process to the Department of Finance and Administration, but it had created confusion.

Act 659 – A local government may license home-based work and be restrictive only as to advertising; nuisances; health, fire and safety codes; traffic and parking; building and maintenance codes; and protections for children, elderly and the infirm. It limits the number of staff, customers, and tenants; sets prohibitions or limitations for public health, safety, and welfare; and licenses and regulations that apply to businesses without regard to location. The act does not supersede agreements between a homeowners' association and a homeowner or any reasonable deed restrictions. County zoning ordinances shall conform to the law regarding home-based work.

Act 767 - clarifies the Arkansas Telemedicine Act by specifying that a patient's home may be an originating site for telemedicine and that group meetings may be performed via telemedicine. The act clarifies reimbursement of telemedicine services.

Act 977 - prohibits the state, a state agency or entity, and a political subdivision of the state from mandating a vaccine or immunization for COVID-19 and governs requirements for a vaccine or immunization for COVID in certain situations when approved by the Legislative Council.

Act 1002 - ends mandatory face-covering requirements not imposed by a private business or state-owned or state-controlled health-care facility. It prohibits a state agency or entity, political subdivision of the state, or a state or local official from mandating a face mask, face shield or other face covering.

Act 1052 - sets implied residential quality standards for lease agreements and rental agreements. The implied residential quality standards – such as a functioning roof, running water, electricity, heat and air



Arkansas State Capitol.

– are required when possession is delivered to the tenant and throughout the term of the lease or rental agreement.

Act 362 - creates the Elective Pass-Through Entity Tax Act, allowing pass-through entities to elect to have their income be subject to the pass-through entity tax instead of the state income tax, tax years beginning on and after Jan. 1, 2022.

Act 158 - allows retail liquor, microbrewery-restaurant, and small brewery permit holders to deliver alcoholic beverages to the private residence of a consumer who is age 21 or older in a wet county. Delivery must be during legal operating hours and conducted by an employee of the permit holder.

Act 703 - allows a restaurant holding an alcoholic beverage permit to sell alcoholic beverages to be consumed off-premises or delivered to the consumer off-premises.

Act 652 - allows the Arkansas State Parks Division to set dynamic pricing for events, services and overnight accommodations. The division may increase fees, rates, tolls, charges, and rentals by up to 20% or decrease fees, rates, tolls, charges, and rentals by up to 50% on a seasonal basis..

A new law requiring employers to offer testing options as an exception to employer COVID-19 vaccine mandates takes effect on Jan. 13. Gov. Asa Hutchinson opposed the bill, but allowed it to become law without his signature.

An employer that requires or is mandated to require vaccination or immunization for COVID-19 shall provide a specific exemption process that includes

options to allow the employee to produce either: a negative antigen detection test result or molecular diagnostic test result no more than once per week showing that the employee is not positive for COVID-19; or proof of immunity for the virus that causes COVID-19 or its variants, including, without limitation, the presence of antibodies, T cell response, or proof of a positive COVID-19 or its variants test, on a basis of two times per year, not to exceed once every six months, from a licensed health-care provider.

The law expires July 21, 2023.



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Scenic bypass ahead of schedule



New extension with the base pavement. This is about halfway between U.S. Highway 70 and the new roundabout at Highways 5 and 7. (Submitted photos)

By LEWIS DELAVAN
Staff writer

A new route to Hot Springs is about two months ahead of schedule.

The \$79 million, 5.8-mile two-lane controlled-access Hot Springs Bypass Extension Scenic Highway 5 will link the Fountain Lake roundabout at the junction of highways 5 and 7 to the eastern terminus of the Martin Luther King Jr. Expressway.

U.S. Highway 70 and U.S. 70 Business meet at the eastern terminus, east of Hot Springs.

“The goal is to route through traffic around Hot Springs to allow quicker connections to and from Hot Springs Village and other areas to the north,” Arkansas Department of Transportation District Engineer Mark Headley said last year.

State Rep. Richard McGrew, R-Hot Springs, was the lead sponsor of Act 675 of 2021, creating the Hot Springs Bypass Extension Scenic Highway. All members of the Garland County legislative delegation joined as sponsors.

ARDoT says an average of around 7,000 vehicles drive on the existing Highway 7 daily into Hot Springs, with that number projected to rise to 9,700 by 2039. The department expects the scenic bypass will reduce traffic in the Hot Springs historic downtown.

Garland County contributed \$30 million to its construction. With heavy support from Hot Springs Vil-

lage precincts, voters approved a temporary 5/8-cent sales tax extension in June 2016 – 70 percent paid for the county’s share of the project. Cities collectively shared 15 percent for streets, and the county shared 15 percent for roads.

Villager Tom Arwood chaired the successful Pave it Forward Campaign that led to the tax’s approval. Among various benefits, travel time to Hot Springs’ two hospitals will be cut.

Garland County is asking Garland County voters on Feb. 8 to consider extending the tax another five years, with all revenue dedicated to maintaining county roads and city streets.

Federal transportation funds paid a significant share for the new road. In 2018 ARDOT received a \$20 million federal grant – Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development, or BUILD. The remaining cost was split 80/20 between the federal Department of Transportation and ARDOT.

With change orders the cost rose to more than \$79 million, but ARDOT had pledged to complete the road even if the cost rose.

ARDOT routed the highway to minimize the environmental impact and the number of homes that would be lost.

Hot Springs National Park’s thermal springs recharge in the area, but a U.S. Geological Survey study conducted in July and August 2017 determined the road would not negatively impact the springs if

ARDOT would permanently protect 60 acres at an elevation of 660 feet or higher from development.

The state acquired sufficient right-of-way to expand to four lanes. "When the traffic volume dictates we need to build the other section, we can do more excavation and build the other two lanes," Headley said.

Bowden Specialties of Dardanelle, Arkansas, received a separate \$18.5 million contract to build the Fountain Lake roundabout and widen a 4-mile section of Highway 5.

The roundabout was expected to open to existing highways 5 and 7 before the end of 2021. The new highway will connect to the roundabout later this year.

McGeorge Contracting Co. of White Hall, Arkansas, received the \$75.15 million contract to build the controlled-access road in November 2019, with construction starting Dec. 26, 2019. The contractor started in the middle, near the Mill Creek Road interchange, and built north and south from that point. McGeorge also built the original U.S. 70 between Benton and Hot Springs, as well as the current five-lane U.S. 70.

Crews moved more than 2 million cubic yards of dirt through rugged terrain, and blasted through a novaculite ridge.

After public input during the planning stage, a proposed interchange at Promise Land Road was eliminated after residents voiced concerns.



Saline River tributary bridge under construction at the Highway 5/7 interchange.



An overpass foundation towers over the new highway.



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Buildings at the
Potts Inn Museum
(Jeff Meek photos)



Potts Inn Museum takes you back in time

By JEFF MEEK
Voice correspondent

A friend of mine sent me an email several weeks ago with a suggestion to check out Potts Inn Museum in Pottsville, Ark., just south of Russellville. So I did and was not disappointed. The Museum covers a city block and includes as its main attraction the Potts family house, completed in 1858, the same year as the first running of the Butterfield Trail stagecoach. In the front yard of the house you'll notice a large rock, recently noted with a historical marker. That rock was used by those stepping out of the stagecoach as they made their way to the inn.

Kirkbridge Potts moved to Arkansas from Missouri where he met Pamela Logan, married her, had 11 children and built the home from money he earned by taking three trips to the California gold mines, driving cattle which he sold to hungry prospectors.

Taking you on your tour will be Kara Bowers. When you arrive, stop in the old office building to meet her. You'll be impressed by her knowledge of the place and love of history.

The Potts home/inn was built by slave labor with a

first floor consisting of a parlor, family room, dining room and the Pott's bedroom.

The second floor has four 20 by 20 foot bedrooms which back in the day each held as many as four full-sized beds for weary travelers. Adjacent to the house is a kitchen with a large fireplace.

The home not only served as a stagecoach stop, but also the first post office in the area. It was called Galla Creek Post Office.

In one of the hallways there is an old 1824 map showing the site. On it, you'll see an interesting way the word Arkansas was spelled back then (Arcansas).

According to old documents there were 14 buildings on the site which included barns for stagecoach horses, a chicken house, smokehouse, and carriage houses. Across the street is Dr. Charles Teeter's office.

A cabin displays his collection of medical items and First Lady Dolls. The doll collection features dolls dressed in replica inaugural gowns of the first ladies of Arkansas and of the U.S. The collection is a 1993 donation from Abby Wiley of Atkins, Ark.

In another building you'll see many examples of original 1800s clothes, hats, boots and more. The collec-

Turn of the century clothing, right.

tion began with a donation by Mike McLean from the Russellville area.

A visit here will take you from 60 to 90 minutes, depending on how interested you are to see and learn about the items. Bowers is very knowledgeable. She can also show you the old 1913 Citizens Bank (owned by the City of Pottsville). If so, when you go inside, the look of things will make you think Bonnie and Clyde may show up at any minute.

To get there I took Hwy 7 North to Hwy 247. Turn right onto 247 and follow it ap-



Jackie Kennedy and Lady Bird Johnson dolls.

proximately six miles to River Road. Turn left onto River Road which takes you to Ash Street and the museum grounds.

On my return trip I took I-40 to Hwy 9 to Pettit Jean State Park and took a look at the Museum of Automobiles there. It will take you about 90 minutes to get to the museum from the Village covering approximately 72 miles.

The museum is located at 15 E. 2nd Street. Tours are available Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission prices are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

Senator John Boozman has pending legislation (SB4404) that would name the Butterfield Trail a National Historic Trail. When that happens the Potts Inn could turn into significant tourist attraction. Look for a related book available on Amazon.com titled, *The Potts Family and Early Pottsville.*

Call 479-968-8369 for more details or visit their Facebook page.

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Restaurant Review

Arlington Hotel offers a **diverse** dining experience



Succulent prime filet mignon.
(Sandy Johansen photos)

By **SANDY JOHANSEN**
Staff writer

Opening in 1875, the Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa is the largest hotel in Arkansas with 500 rooms and suites. Entering the historic lobby, the Venetian Dining Room features many delicacies and culinary perfection.

The writer has enjoyed many dining activities at Arlington including Sunday and holiday brunches, Christmas overnight package and dining experiences in the lobby bar.

The featured dining is offered in the Venetian Dining Room. Venetian was added to the structure in 1924. Most memorable are brunches. Numerous entrees are not just ordinary, but have an elevated preparation. Seasonings on meats, poultry and fish is exceptional. Buffet selections are numerous and recent sampling was especially rewarding including beef tips with top drawer accompaniments along with ideal prime rib. Breakfast included tasty varieties including Eggs Benedict and southern biscuits and gravy.

Salads and desserts were numerous. Especially tasty was the macaroni surrounded by fresh greens and many dressing selections.

The entrees offered included a plethora of meat and when in season, pheasant and venison will be on the

menu. Accompanying main courses are, of course, dining favorites such as baked potatoes, salads and desserts. Especially tasty for this diner was a grilled, buttery prime filet served with a very creative salad of sautéed mushrooms and artichokes graced with red onions.

On other occasions dining was relaxing and tasty in the Lobby Cafe and Bar enjoying signature sandwiches, sides and beverages.

The Venetian, also famous for its Friday Night Seafood Feast, opens for breakfast on weekend and other select days, dining Friday and Saturday nights. A lighter menu is available most days in the Lobby Bar.

The Arlington boasts historic beauty and is the center of activities in Hot Springs. It has hosted hundreds of grand balls. Politicians, dignitaries, actors, gangsters frequented the facility including Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Bush, Clinton. It welcomed Tony Bennett, Barbra Streisand and Al Capone, whose famous room was 443. Capone, his staff and buddies had the entire floor along with many bodyguards. It is said he liked looking out the window to see activities at the Southern Club, now the wax museum.

This writer highly recommends the history and the impeccable dining and service at The Arlington.

For more information and reservations go to: <https://www.arlingtonhotel.com>.



Elegant and cozy Venetian dining room.



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Frequent dining entertainment by local artist, Jacob Flores.



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HSV Fitness

By **MARY ELIADES**
Voice correspondent

Fitness buffs moving to the Village are quick to find a home at the Coronado Fitness Center, a full-service workout facility right in the middle of the Village.

The Center, located at 160 Ponderosa Lane (near the library and tennis courts), is a well-appointed workout facility, with a heated indoor pool, whirlpool, steam room and sauna.

Members have access to extensive cardio and weight equipment, as well as an indoor walking track, and trained staff are on hand at all times to assist when needed or offer personal training services.

Although a new class schedule will be coming out in January, current classes include yoga, step interval, indoor cycling, barre (a combination of dance, Pilates and yoga moves), dance fitness, tai chi and Han Mu Do (Korean martial art).

Three full-time instructors, led by fitness coordinator Felicity White, teach classes, and several former staff instructors will be returning to the Center on a vol-



Members are greeted by the friendly faces of operations manager Amy Holloway and fitness coordinator Felicity White. (Mary Eliades photos)

Coronado Fitness Center is a one-stop workout facility

unteer basis in January. Operations coordinator Amy Holloway – who has been working at the Center for 24 years, starting as a lifeguard – said, “We really appreciate them coming back and helping us. The last couple of years, we’ve leaned on our volunteer help more and more.” Volunteers also teach swimming to school children from

Fountain Lake.

Massage therapists and personal trainers are available by appointment, and the staff partners with

physical therapy company Harris and Renshaw to conduct various classes and workshops at the Center, including,



recently, a free injury screening workshop.

With a shortage of properly trained instructors and the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, the staff and volunteers have had to work hard to continue to offer classes and workshops. Holloway said, "We are always trying hard to find creative ways to make sure our members have classes," adding, "The group here is great – there is lots of teamwork and communication, and we always help each other.

For more information about the Fitness Center, including the schedule of classes, visit the POA website (<https://www.explorethevillage.com/golf-recreation/fitness-pools>) or call 501-922-1230.



The large exercise room at the Coronado Fitness Center has a wide variety of machines and weights, as well as a running track.



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2022 Hot Springs Village marketing goals



Building permits in Hot Springs Village reached 127 in 2021 with a year end goal of 139. The 2022 goal is 150 permits. Village population in the 2020 census was 15,861. This was an increase from 12,807 in the 2010 census.

By JEFF MEEK
Voice correspondent

It was a much improved year for Hot Springs Village in 2021 when it comes to growth, home permits and golf generated revenue in particular. The 2022 marketing plan looks to capitalize on that fact and continue to seek even more improvement.

Several 2021 goals were met, but the one that stands out the most comes from golf. In 2020, golf “stay and play” package revenue generated a total of \$434,000. In 2021, as of late October, that number soared to \$781,000. “That’s a tribute to our director of golf Tom Heffer, Matt Lewarrn and the golf department,” said HSV marketing manager Paul Sage.

The number of “roof tops”/building permits has also steadily increased as follows: 2018 – 62, 2019 – 60, 2020 – 90 and as of Nov. 2021 the number reached 127 with a projected year-end total of 139. That’s also a great indicator according to Sage who said the 2022 goal is 150.

At a December POA Board of Directors discussion, Sage and Mike Sells of Sells Agency out of Little Rock, presented what they see as 2022 marketing goals;

- *Continuing to build the Village brand among those considering relocating to an active lifestyle community in order to create strong demand for existing and new construction homes.

- *Reach 200 multi-day Discovery Packages.

- *Expand Discovery Package options to include additional amenities.

- *Grow amenity usage and revenue from current residents.

- *Drive growth in golf revenue from guests, primarily through package sales.

- *Grow organic traffic to website by improving SEO.

- *Continue to build photo and video library assets.

- *Leverage the MLK bypass to attract Hot Springs residents.

Sells told the Voice, “One of the reasons Sells Agency decided to submit a response to the POA’s RFP for a marketing agency partner was our two-part belief that, 1-HSV is an incredible product for people looking to relocate to an active lifestyle community, and 2- the past marketing efforts were not deploying modern marketing techniques to effectively reach, or be found by, the actual target audience interested in relocating.”

Sells Agency’s major initiatives are:

- *to improve the POA website and the target audience’s ability to find it.

- *to utilize digital marketing channels to reach the targeted audience with as little waste as possible and compel and persuade them to give HSV a look.

- *to generate more leads in the form of Discovery Packages so the outstanding real estate partners can work with more prospects who are interested in buying or building homes in the Village.

- *to generate more revenue from non-resident golf packages, which has been a major success, especially considering the relatively small marketing budget.

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Celebrated Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort continues to **GROW**

By **SANDY JOHANSEN**
Staff writer

Founded in 1904, Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort is one of the premier Thoroughbred racetracks in the country — home of the \$1.25 million Arkansas Derby and so much more. The expansion project costing over \$100 million, began construction in 2019 lasting 28 months.

“You’ll find that throughout the whole facility, racing is in some way, shape or form, involved in the design, and what we want people to recognize is we are a racetrack first, and then we are a hotel and casino next,” said Wayne Smith, Oaklawn General Manager.

Oaklawn Hotel is eight stories tall, featuring 198 rooms including two presidential suites. Each room offers luxurious amenities such as fine linens and large-screen televisions. From the hotel’s location adjacent to the racetrack, patrons can watch thoroughbred racing from the comfort of their rooms and enjoy many scenic views.

Each room is named after the area’s recreational lakes: Catherine, Hamilton, Ouachita, and DeGray. Outside, patrons and guests enjoy a swimming pool with food and drink service poolside or to a guest’s private cabana.

The world-class Astral Spa has unique offerings such as a needle shower, representative of the iconic Bathhouse Row at Hot Springs National Park, an infrared sauna and a Himalayan Salt wall, seen nowhere else in Arkansas. “The expansion has been absolutely wonderful. We are fully opened with the resort.



Oaklawn entertainment center is generating room for large private events and is a stellar concert venue. (Sandy Johansen photos)

We wanted to create an experience not like any other in Hot Springs and also in Arkansas. The luxury spa is not like any other offered in this region. It is phenomenal,” said Smith.

The expanded gaming center represents the first phase opened in early 2020, creating space for more than 1,500 slot machines and 33 gaming tables. Guests can explore the new high limits area with more than 80 slot machines, three high-limit blackjack tables, and a private outdoor patio.

Several new food and beverage venues have also been opened including The Bugler, which is a signature fine dining restaurant overlooking the Oaklawn racetrack and infield, the First Turn Bar (also overlooking the track), and a Food Court.

The Oak Room, the most recent, quiet dining experience, was designed with oak surrounding the venue. “It has a unique menu and a wonderful experience to enjoy, for sure,” said Smith.

The event center continues to offer high

quality entertainment and community affairs. According to Smith over 800 were in attendance for Lauray’s Ice on Ice festival. “Martina McBride staged her Christmas show in the event center selling out to over 1,400 and putting everyone in the Christmas spirit.”

Smith said there’s always opportunities with having HSV team members working on site. “Hot Springs Village supports Oaklawn on a daily, weekly, monthly basis. We recognize it with our HSV Day every week. We want to give Hot Springs Village more exposure too and HSV has not disappointed us.”

“The expansion will en-

hance the entertainment experience at Oaklawn, in Hot Springs and throughout Arkansas, which will further elevate Hot Springs' status as a leading tourism and recreation destination. In a recent quote Steve Arrison, CEO of Visit Hot Springs, called the new facility a major step forward for the city and the state. "Oaklawn's investment will enhance the menu of attractions that annually bring millions of visitors to Hot Springs and Garland County, which is good for everyone," Arrison said.

The expansion offered new jobs for hundreds of Hot Springs and Garland County residents. Charles Cella, owner, said the expansion strengthens Oaklawn's economic impact on Arkansas through the creation of approximately 400 new jobs, generation of state and local tax revenue and related commerce activity, Cella said, "While horse racing alone continues to attract tourists to our state early in the year, the resort and expanded gaming center will draw visitors



Hotel rooms face Oaklawn's amazing track and add views of historic Hot Springs.

throughout the year. Our wonderful team members here at Oaklawn did outstanding work to navigate the inherent challenges that come with a massive construction project. On top of that, they had to manage a pandemic and a historic winter storm,

and they did so with grit and determination."

For detailed information, schedules, reservations for the numerous venues go to: <https://www.oaklawn.com/racing>.



The Oaklawn Hotel and Spa is dramatic throughout, but especially striking and spectacular when entering the lobby, left.

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Diamante Club
House, right.



Course/clubhouse upgrades on track; continue in 2022

By **SANDY JOHANSEN**
Staff writer

Acting Diamante Board President, Dennis VanLeeuwen, recently expounded on new improvements to the Clubhouse kitchen. The remodeling is a proposed enhancement to preparation and service areas surrounding the main dining room. It follows many new features added to Hot Springs Village's only private club. Upgrades began in 2017 when members purchased the establishment from Club Corp and Cooper Inc.

"10 years of deferred neglect we have been lucky to repair, reorganize and accomplish," said VanLeeuwen.

Strategies the membership developed in 2017 included ending lawsuits, implementation of different membership classifications and bringing in Kemper Management Company.

Within the last 48 months all bunkers were renovated into exceptional Billy Bunkers. The #14 pump house was also renovated and river pumps rebuilt. Cart paths totaling 1,200 linear feet were restored. Surrounds on greens were lowered to improve drainage and other drainage problems addressed. New maintenance equipment was purchased. Permanent forward tees have been accomplished.

In addition, interior of the clubhouse was repainted and new flooring placed in the Diamond room. Light

fixtures throughout the clubhouse were replaced, accomplishing better lighting and newer design.

An amazing new outdoor garden/patio/waterfall/firepits, along with new furniture graces the exterior of the club near the practice green.

"We're continuing these improvements and plan more landscaping projects and will work on adding two pickleball courts. These courts have happily been member driven," said VanLeeuwen.

Plans for 2022 include not only the kitchen renovation, but upgrades to tennis courts, parking lots, swimming pool, exterior painting and reevaluation of POS software.

Current combined membership at various levels is over 400. "We welcome new members and our Membership Director Teri Socha is always willing to give tours and delineate our membership levels," he said.

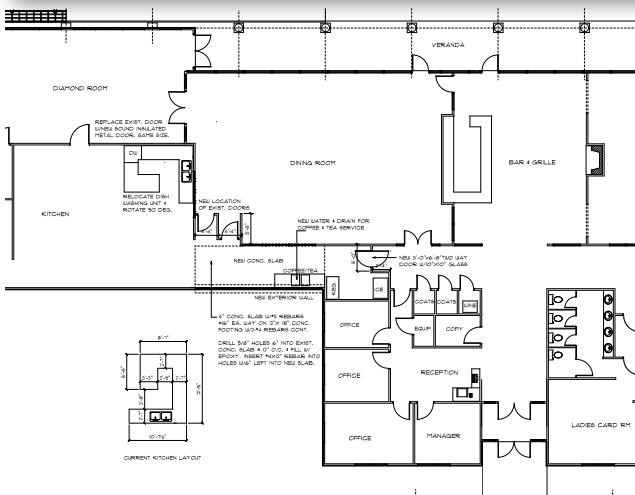
Diamante is home to an 18-hole track currently ranked #3 in Arkansas. Membership is open for residents and non-residents. Club amenities include tennis, swimming and a wide selection of dining and social events. The club is open to host weddings, outings and other special events on a space available basis.

A Diamante property owner also has access to other HSV amenities including 8 other superb golf courses, 11 lakes, natatorium, fitness center, cultural events at Woodlands Auditorium, 25 miles of walking trails and an RV park. For more detailed information about Diamante Country Club, go to <https://diamantecc.com>.



All bunkers on the Diamante track have been upgraded to the exceptional Billy Bunker design, drainage and sand levels, above. (Sandy Johansen photos)

The addition of a glamorous garden is suitable for warm or cool weather, left.



Preliminary design for renovation and for the kitchen and addition of dining delivery areas to bar grille club seating. (Larry Brocaw designer)

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HSV Police Department – true community policing

By MARY ELIADES
Voice correspondent

Hot Springs Village is in the unique position of encompassing 26,000 acres and about 15,000 residents, without being a city. It straddles two counties – Garland and Saline – and has a wide variety of public safety needs. The HSV Police Department meets those needs by using a true community policing approach – they deal with violent offenders one day and take calls from residents needing a snake removed the next.

The officers are deputies of both counties and enforce traffic laws throughout the Village. They are often called upon to assist county law enforcement with activities outside the gates.

There are 21 positions in the department and Police Chief Ricky Middleton said it is difficult to find applicants. “It takes about a year to get a new recruit up to speed,” added Middleton. After background checks and a 13-week course at the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy (in Camden), officers undergo 12 weeks of field officer training. Two new officers have just graduated from the Academy and will begin field training.

The department offers many programs to inform and assist residents, including vacation watch and additional patrols.

The Smart911 system is a major help to law enforcement because information entered by users helps pinpoint locations and assist officers and other emergency workers who respond to calls. When a 911 call comes in, sometimes precious minutes are lost gathering information; this system allows households to enter information on the number of people normally in the house, number of bedrooms, hidden key location, door/gate access codes, vehicles and even pets. Information can be entered for each resident – medical conditions, allergies, medications, etc. License plate information that is readily available can put officers onto the trail of a stolen vehicle immediately.

Smart911 is a nationwide system and can be very useful for travelers. Although it is not a geographical system – meaning the call cannot be traced through Smart911 to a location – if a cellphone is tied to the



HSV Police Chief Ricky Middleton heads a department of community police officers. (Mary Eliades photo)

user’s profile, all information will be available to dispatchers.

Another community service is the disposal of unused medications. The department sponsors two “Drug Take-Back” days a year, usually in the spring and fall, and has a box available at the station 24 hours a day, seven days a week. No liquids are accepted, and the department asks that loose pills be put in a bag for disposal (i.e., without the bottles).

Several years ago, the department began a “Coffee with the Chief” program, which takes place the second Tuesday of each month, at 8 a.m., at the Police Training and Event Center on Balearic Road. Each

month a speaker will address a public safety issue; the sessions are free and open to the public.

Another popular program offered by the department is the Citizens Police Academy, a free eight-week course designed to share information with attendees on all aspects of public safety in the Village. The syllabus includes sessions on traffic laws, POA policies, gate and patrol operations, fire department operations, criminal investigation division, dispatch, and animal control. The Academy ends with a session at a firing range and a citizen ride-along with an HSV officer. Graduates who are interested in supporting the police department through various activities can join the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association. This group sponsors many activities, including a Trunk or Treat at the police station every Halloween, an annual golf scramble, a blood drive, and a rummage sale; funds raised are used purchase needed items for the department. The next academy will be offered the last week of March 2022.

The department frequently has to explain the difference between laws and policies to residents. Officers enforce state and county laws, but often respond to calls that involve noncompliance with HSV policies.

Middleton said, “This is a true community police department. Everybody here is important, and our job is to treat people with dignity and help with problems.”

To keep up with the latest information and news from the department, visit the Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/HotSpringsVillagePoliceDepartment/>.

SAR honors local hero

By **MARY ELIADES**
Voice correspondent

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) recently honored a heroic Arkansas Game and Fish Commission officer for his quick thinking in saving the life of a young girl last summer.

The officer, Lt. Adam Baker, was attending a baseball game at Bishop Park in Bryant on Aug. 16, 2021, when he heard choking sounds behind him and turned to see a young girl choking and pointing to her water bottle, indicating that she had swallowed the bottle cap. He immediately performed the Heimlich maneuver and successfully dislodged the cap. Emergency personnel arrived on the scene but determined that no further action was necessary because of Baker's quick response.

The ceremony took place at Bishop Park, where Baker was awarded a medal and certificate for his heroic act. Gene Rasure, president of the DeSoto Trace Chapter of SAR, made the presentation, with other SAR members, Game and Fish officers, Bryant Mayor Allen Scott, and Baker's family in attendance.

Rasure said that awards are given for public service and the chapter was very pleased to honor Baker.

SAR is the largest male genealogical society in the U.S., with more than 550 chapters here and abroad, and the Hot Springs chapter boasts about 55 members. Members are required to prove direct blood lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. The overall mission of the organization is "promoting patriotism, preserving American history and teaching American history to future generations."

Many chapters participate in community events, dressing in Revolutionary War uniforms to illustrate the founding principles of the country. Awards are presented to Boy Scouts, ROTC members, law enforcement and public safety officers and others who "exemplify the best traditions of our nation." The organization also works to honor and support U.S. veterans, especially those in Veterans Affairs facilities.

Maintaining memorials and preserving records are also goals of SAR, as well as genealogical research and presentations.

Education is another important role of the society, which distributes materials to schools around the county and sponsors programs based on "historical and patriotic themes."

For more information about the national organization, visit <http://www.sar.org>; to learn more about the DeSoto Trace Chapter, go to <http://spikehsv.wixsite.com/desototracesar>.



Lt. Adam Baker was recently honored by the DeSoto Trace Chapter of SAR for his quick actions in saving the life of a young girl. Shown here are Bryant Mayor Allen Scott, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Capt. Matt Flowers, DeSoto Trace president Gene Rasure, Game and Fish Asst. Chief Jacob Dunn, Lt. Baker, and SAR members Wayne Shewmake, Dale Lovell, Charles McLemore and Rick Martin. (Mary Eliades photo)



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Coronado Center Library – something for everyone

By MARY ELIADES
Voice correspondent

The Coronado Center Library – right in the heart of Hot Springs Village – is a popular spot for readers. Although Amazon and other online booksellers have made it easy to obtain the latest bestsellers or old familiar classics, those who grew up visiting the local library know that nothing can beat browsing the shelves and selecting just the right book.

With a collection of more than 25,000 items – featuring the latest bestsellers, popular mysteries, and thought-provoking nonfiction books – the Coronado Center Library has something for everyone. For those with dimming eyes or fading hearing, the Library has an extensive collection of large print and audio books.

The shelves of the library are also filled with DVDs and jigsaw puzzles, and a magazine rack holds a large selection of current newspapers and periodicals, including Barron's and the Wall Street Journal (both of which are donated by Friends of the Coronado Center Library).

Two professional librarians run the library, with help from a dedicated group of volunteers.

Librarian Glenda Ford brought her 28 years of experience as a public school librarian to the Village in October 2015, and Roxie Wright joined the staff after serving as library director in Bella Vista.

Volunteers supplement library chores by assisting patrons, shelving books, and other library tasks, and they are much appreciated by staff and visitors. Thirty regular volunteers work shifts each week, and another 15 are available as substitutes.

Forty new leased books are added to the collection each month and are usually available before the official publication date. In addition, large-print books and other specialty items are purchased throughout the year.

The library subscribes to the Voice, as well as the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and the Hot Springs Sentinel-Record (which are available on iPads at the library),

For those who prefer the convenience of an e-reader (Kin-



dle, etc.), the library has made arrangements with the Saline and Garland county libraries to access e-books through their online catalogs. Staff from both libraries periodically visit the Coronado Center Library to sign up members and demonstrate the process.

In addition to books and other resources, the librarians work year-round to offer programs of interest to the community.

There are many book clubs in the Village and there is a dedicated area for “book club books” (titles that have been submitted to the librarians). The library has also started its own book club, led by Nancy Smith.

The summer children’s program is packed with activities for children, including regular story hours and various hands-on activities.

The librarians often act as Village ambassadors, showing visitors around the library and answering questions about everything under the sun.

The library receives funding from the POA, but the budget is supplemented through the activities of the Friends of the Coronado Center Library (FOCCL). FOCCL sponsors two very popular Trivia Nights per year,



Professional librarians Glenda Ford and Roxie Wright are in charge of library operations, including books, programs and volunteers, left. (Submitted photo)

which will return soon after a hiatus due to Covid-19.

Book sales have also generated funds in the past, but the group has elected to discontinue the sales. Only very recent books are accepted now (within two years of publication) and are displayed on a corner shelf for purchase.

FOCCL also organizes author talks at irregular intervals, offering a platform for local and regional authors to showcase their books.

Annual membership in FOCCL is \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families, and a lifetime membership is \$100. For more information about FOCCL, contact the library.

Whether you are interested in reading the latest "whodunit," selecting just the right audio book for that long car journey, or browsing the new arrivals shelves, the Coronado Center Library welcomes you. Stop by between 9 and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or 9 to noon on Saturday, or call 922-3555 for more information.

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Superintendents forecast for HSV courses 2022

By **SANDY JOHANSEN**
Staff writer

The Hot Springs Village Course superintendents have handled staffing and weather issues very well in 2021. Each course superintendent was contacted and offered their updates for their track. Some began in January and February and others are planned for the remainder of 2022.

BALBOA AND CORONADO

Juan Nuñez, overseeing two tracks, Balboa and Coronado, has been on HSV grounds keeping staff since 1985 and named superintendent at both aforementioned courses since 2006.

"We've been working rigorously on the many upgrades approved for Balboa. At this time we've handled some of the easier

drainage difficulties, but we'll be correcting many more of those problems in the upcoming months," said Nuñez.



Juan Nuñez - Balboa & Coronado.

Many golfers have noted Balboa cart paths are steadily improving. "We've finished 1,200 linear feet to date and plan to finish 1,200 more in the next few months," he said. "This is a two-year work in progress and we're making fine headway."

In the early planning stages, it was believed it would need greens to be resurfaced at an 18 depth inch level. With technical review, it was determined the depth needed would be 6 inches. Not only will it save time in reconstruction, but also dollars spent.

Bunkers will be overhauled and much

easier not only to play from, but also easier to maintain.

"I thank Tom Heffer for giving us the freedom to do what we need to do to keep our courses in fine condition," said Nuñez.

GRANADA

Keith Christner has been on staff since 2011 working at several tracks, Balboa, Ponce and now in charge of Granada.

"We've had to roll with the punches due to staff shortages which moves you from major projects to making sure daily work is accomplished," said



Keith Christner - Granada.

Christner. "We are working on drainage problems and under brushing and normal dead tree removals.

Bunker renovation is Christner's biggest project. They will be changing to Billy Bunkers or capillary concrete. "Capillary bunkers are very similar to Billy Bunkers. Rather like gravel that is sprayed with polymer which allows water to get through the drain line at the bottom." He said the sand level at edges will be 3" and 6" at the bottoms. "It will certainly help lessen the time for clearing after a heavy downpour as some of ours have very heavy edges."

"We're looking at several bunkers for reshaping and also by creating grass bunkers which are within standards," Christner continued. "We're looking at bunkers that aren't even in play."

He said they've completed two draining problems already and they have enough time to do one more.

MAGELLAN

Donald Jones has been at Magellan since 2017 and shares the same pros and cons most golf course superintendents have encountered.

"Obviously, staffing has become a problem for everyone. It is a driving factor and we really hope to get the pay where it needs to be. We're competing with other courses in the area," said Jones.

His plans for 2022 is detail work. "Some of the weed eating we plan to challenge doesn't meet the eye right off, but it is what we want to make more attractive next year and tackle any drainage problems we have."

He said his staff of 5 have done the work of 12 and was so appreciative of their dedication to the course. "They really knocked it out of the park."

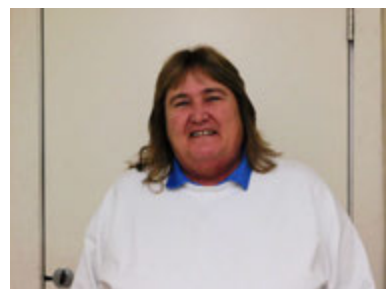
"We do have some rocks in bunkers, but not nearly as bad as in some of the courses and we continue to clear as many as we can and have plenty of sand in all of them." When he first started at Magellan, they rebuilt #17 greenside bunker, but he doesn't have the number of staff to start a major project as was #17.

As far as drainage, some of them have been crushed over the years and some are simple to find, but and put in a new section and a good winter project, he added. "We recently repaired one that was not only a crushed pipe but a drainage leak."

Another task mentioned for winter/spring would be patching any problem areas in the cart paths especially between #12 and #13.

DeSOTO

Tami Jones started in 2018 and was named superintendent at DeSoto in December. She is the only female golf superintendent in the state of Arkansas and is on the board of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and is vice-president of the



Tami Jones - DeSoto

Arkansas Chapter.

"There's always a lot to work on drainage at any course," she said. She explained a drainage problem on #1 was not a course system difficulty but what is called an "Argentina well" which is water coming from a completely different source and collecting where there's never been a problem in the past.

"When clearing properties for building homes or other issues, it changes the water table and we are faced with unexpected drainage issues."

There are plans to eliminate a bunker on the side of #15 as it is rarely hit and could be transformed into a grass fairway bunker.

"We've removed quite a few trees this year and next year we'll review and remove what is necessary."

She said they are putting in more butterfly areas



Donald Jones - Magellan

which helps the environment. "It helps the pollinators to stay and we're looking for other non-playing damp areas to establish those butterfly gardens. "In addition, these no-mow areas are saving us time and labor, so we can do more with less."

She also described a new small plug called a Viper Nose which is added to the aerification equipment. "It won't even shut down play as we can get onto a green and players can actually follow as we finish." It will save on labor and golfers can play without the usual aerification bumps on the greens.

ISABELLA

Long time staffer and recently elevated to Isabella Superintendent, Darrin Baker, has many goals set for 2022 maintenance and upgrades.

"It's in the budget for 2022 for a new pump station, which should help a great deal,"

said Baker. There are also plans for #6 Santa Maria as there is a problem with wet areas across the fairway, and they plan to



Darrin Baker - Isabella



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level it off, so the pipe under the ground will help it drain easier.

He explained there are areas not mowed but they plan to add in more places to accommodate home owners. "We also have 4 trees that were struck by lightning, that we know of, and plan to get them down quickly."

Aerification is scheduled for March 28 through the 31 and he hopes the weather is favorable for quick healing and comfortable playing conditions.

"We're scheduled for 2024 for a complete bunker renewal, so at this time our plan is to continue to add sand but there's a couple bunkers we need to improve the drainage on before the complete renewal of all of them on the course."

He said they'll be working on any cart path problems to keep them in good shape on all 3 tracks.

PONCE de LEON

Henry Falgout, superintendent at Ponce, also stated past year's difficulties with staffing. "We were planned for 8 full time and lost 2 so we only ran 5 or 6 for full time and as far as summer staff some either didn't show up or quit before summer's end." Falgout said. He indicated in 2022 they are scheduled for 6 full time and only 2 seasonal. "Our staff has done a stellar job considering all the obstacles they have confronted." he added.

"They have been clearing drains and plan to continue in 2022," he said. "We're working on a couple of bunkers with drainage problems and will continue to check on those and others in 2022."

He said they are very happy their track does not have

any major problems and will continue to stay ahead of difficulties in 2022. "We built a nursery green near #13 tee box which gives a little glamour to the area and ease of play." Falgout is very happy the track

does not need any major renovations at this time and proud his staff is keeping up with maintenance issues.

CORTEZ

"I'm very pleased at this time to say I have a pretty full staff," said Superintendent Johnny Hargrove. "Although we were a bit short this summer, they've accomplished a lot."

He said his primary target will be to enlarge the tee boxes on #6 and #12. "They are small and need to be upgraded."

"We have a particular seepage issue on #18 tee box and will be working on it."

"I'm so happy this track doesn't have many major issues and other than cart paths on #14 and #15, we're all set to keep up the strong maintenance on our course."



Henry Falgout - Ponce



Johnny Hargrove - Cortez



Cortez Golf Course, left.

Gee Gee's **Apricot Chicken Salad**, a mother-in-law's favorite

BY SUZANNE SWEETEN
Voice contributor

Gee Gee was the name given to my mother-in-law Clynora Sweeten by her "perfect" grandchildren.

Gee Gee participated in a regular canasta card group and she utilized this chicken salad as a go-to for fine eats and plenty of compliments. She presented the salad on a bed of romaine lettuce with Melba toast served in her very best china. Her beverage choice was peach tea, lemon water, and coffee. Dessert was usually lemon ice box pie made from a recipe she'd used time after time throughout her life.

My daughter makes this recipe often and uses a rotisserie chicken. A working mother with a seven year old son, she doesn't waste time cooking the chicken at home. She thinks the use of Greek yogurt makes her grandmother's special recipe richer tasting.

When I've over committed and need to make it fast, I pop the top off canned chicken and use whatever flavor of yogurt sits inside my refrigerator. I take out my kitchen shears and cut up the dried apricots, I like

tiny bits scattered within the entire mixture.

Whenever we dine on Gee Gee's Apricot Chicken Salad it takes us back to a lady who loved to entertain with a swanky, special recipe for the most mundane of culinary offerings. Enjoy making, eating and offering a dish with a twist.

Gee Gee's Apricot Chicken Salad

1 ½ cup plain yogurt (Greek yogurt gives it a rich taste)

¼ cup Mayonnaise (not Miracle Whip)

3 tbs Apricot preserves

2 tsp. Ginger

½ tsp. salt

½ tsp. pepper

*Mix the first six ingredients together in a large bowl.

1 cup Slivered almonds

1 bag (6 oz.) Dried apricots (chopped)

3 cups shredded chicken

*Add the almonds, dried apricots and chicken and refrigerate.

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Fishing HSV Lakes

Early springtime bass fishing - as good as it gets

By JEFF MEEKS
Voice correspondent

Spring is around the corner and it won't be long until bass move shallower. Bass fishing in Hot Springs Village lakes in spring can be awesome and it's also a great time of the year to catch that big one.

After spending 100-plus days a year for 14 years on Village lakes, I thought I'd share with you what's worked for me. These aren't the only baits and techniques that will work, but they sure caught me a lot of spring bass.

First, let's talk location. If I were heading out to fish cold water I'd focus on main lake points. If such a point has some wind blowing on it, well, that makes it even a better spot to try. I'd also try a few steep banks and creek channel drop-offs. I won't say it happened often, but there have been several times that I've pulled up on such areas and caught as many as nine bass in a single spot.

Second, let's peek at lure selection. With water temps in the 50 degree range I'd be casting a few favorites. First, I'd throw a suspending jerk bait and try my best to be patient and let it sit motionless for at least five seconds before twitching it after cranking it down a few feet. Twitch it on slack line to get the best action. Twitch, pause, twitch, pause the lure back to the boat. With this technique I've caught bass slightly over six pounds.

Next, for me, would be the Fluke. It's a good bait to try all year, but it's at its best in spring in my opinion. Use the same type of retrieve: twitch, pause, twitch, pause. And try letting the Fluke sink to different depths until you contact fish. I've caught several five pounders with the Fluke during springtime.



Craig Schilling with a 10-pound, 7-ounce largemouth bass caught in Lake Coronado.

Several years ago I did a once a year interview with former bass fishing pro George Cochran at his Hot Springs home. I remember he told me he loved to use the color black in spring, so of course I gave the suggestion a try and it worked. Try a small black worm or jig (a hair jig is best in cold water). A few years back while fishing with my buddies Dave Keith and Bob Brannan, I caught a Lake Sophia bass in very early spring on a black hair jig with no trailer. It was close to five pounds, a real beauty.

Speaking of worm fishing, you can rig it two different ways – Texas rig style or on a jighead. With a small four inch worm I like a 1/0 wide gap hook and a worm sinker anywhere from one-eighth to one-quarter in size, depending on the depth I'm fishing. (Usually I'll go with three-sixteenths). Same with the jighead. I'd



Mike Crews with a nine pound Lake Coronado largemouth bass.

suggest the Texas rig in cover and jighead in open water. In my opinion you get more bites on the jighead. That's my experience anyway. One more thing. As previously said, this time of year can produce the heaviest fish you'll catch all year. When that 'biggin' is caught, please practice C-P-R: catch, photo and release. Let that big mama swim again to be caught another day.

When you get this issue of HSV Life it will still be cold outside, but it won't be long until the bass will begin to move shallower and some of the best fishing of the year will take place. I've caught a few nice bass as early of the second week of February, so the fun is around the corner.



In 2005, this 12-pound, 7-ounce largemouth bass was caught by Carolyn Hill in Lake Balboa, left. (Photo courtesy of Hill).



Former HSV resident Bill Tyler with a 12-pound, 4-ounce Lake Cortez largemouth bass caught several years ago, right. (Submitted photo)

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From left: Akansa Daughters Susan Veal, Linda Overton, Kathi Mielke, Peggy Cara, Nancy Patton, Diane Daniel, Betty Weetman, Alice Cox, and Peggy Johnson on Memorial Day at the Field of Honor Memorial at Cedar Vale Cemetery for the planting of the flags at veterans' graves.

By MARY LOU MORAN
Voice correspondent

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) has been connecting one generation to another since 1890. With over one million total members and 3,000 chapters, the organization is the largest genealogical society in the country. NSDAR volunteers serve millions of hours annually toward their mission of patriotism, education, and historical preservation.

The Akansa Chapter NSDAR was chartered in Hot Springs Village in 1986. Akansa is an Indian name meaning people of the south wind. The chapter has expanded from 17 members to over 100. Akansa Daughters are active in the community by volunteering for numerous projects supporting the NSDAR mission.

Akansa supports the military and veterans with many worthwhile projects. The Veterans Holiday Shoebox Project reminds veterans in hospitals, nursing homes, and other facilities that they are not forgotten during the holidays. Volunteers fill festively wrapped boxes with simple gifts, Christmas cards, and some surprises. Project Patriot supports active-duty military stationed abroad by supplying care packages. On Veteran's Day and Memorial Day vol-

unteers place over 350 flags on veterans' gravesites at a local cemetery. Local World War II veterans are honored with a certificate, pin, and a large dose of gratitude for their service. Other special projects include the female veteran baby showers and the Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran luncheon.

Education is another favorite area of interest for Akansa. Project Community Classroom provides history books to local school libraries. Programs are presented about the meaning of the flag, and Constitution Week. NSDAR offers multiple scholarships to students in a variety of areas of study.

This year, the NSDAR Library in Washington D.C. recently celebrated 125 years since its establishment in 1896. It is one of the nation's top genealogical research centers and contains thousands of books, research files, manuscripts, and special collections. The Patriot Records Project Index allows DAR volunteers to help index names, ranks, locations, and other information from Revolutionary War records. The information becomes a part of the Genealogical Research System (GRS) at the NSDAR Library. The NSDAR Library is free and open to the public.

The Akansa Chapter meets at 9:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month September through May at the Woodlands Presbyterian Church, 11 Ecuestre Drive, Hot Springs Village, AR. Meeting dates may change due to holidays or other conflicts. Guests are always welcome. Contact Regent Diane Daniel at arhogfans@icloud.com to confirm the date, time, and speaker for the month you would like to attend. For information about how to join the NSDAR and begin a treasure hunt for your family history, contact Akansa Registrar Nancy Patton at pattonn@aol.com.

The Akansa Daughters are enthusiastic and passionate about what they do for their country and community. Regent Diane Daniel says, "We are one in a million." Discover the reason why by visiting www.dar.org and the Akansa website at www.arkansas-dar.org/arkansas-chapters/chapters-a-d/akansa.

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Message from Village True Value

Get Ready for cold weather this year.....

Hello, it's Jeff from Village True Value Home Center!

Brrr! Its getting cold again! We're local so we experience the same weather and its effects on our homes and lifestyles as you. We strive to carry the products our community needs and to employ local people who understand the needs of our customers. We know that when you need something for your home you need it now. We're preparing our store and homes for this cold weather, so we know our neighbors are too. It is our hope that these tips help you make it thru winter season in perfect fashion!

Let's begin with your home. A few simple, do it yourself maintenance items can help keep your family snug and warm during these cold months.

Your heating system- Nothing impacts your wallet like high utility bills! A clogged air filter is usually the biggest culprit and its a simple fix. You should do this easy exercise every month. Filters are inexpensive and can save you many dollars in utility costs. Plus changing them often can add years to the life of your heating and AC unit. Locate the air filter screen door on your wall. Twist the toggles to get to your filter. Remove the old filter and replace with a new one. Remember to check the little arrow showing which way the air should flow so you install it correctly. It should point in. A simple two- minute job can save you hundreds!

Setting your thermostat a little lower can also amount to big savings. Throw on a sweatshirt and save. It also never hurts to get a seasonal check up on your unit from a pro. Most offer great prices on this service and they can find problems before they become serious.

Window coverings help block out the cold and help the heater work a little less often.

Sealing doors and windows keeps out the cold. Threshold and door seals are very inexpensive and easy to install. If yours are cracked or missing replace them. Doors are a huge source of heat loss. Door seals are also very inexpensive and easy to replace.

Protect your pipes-Broken pipes can be one of the costliest home repair jobs and they always happen



when you least expect it. Faucets are the easiest to protect. Grab a faucet cover at our store and simply place it over your outside faucet. Wrap all exposed pipes with easy to install insulation. If we experience several days in a row of freezing temperature you might consider leaving a tiny trickle of water running in your kitchen sink. Moving water has trouble freezing!

Use that Fireplace or Wood Burning Stove- Not only do you create a great atmosphere, but you help the heater work less. Keep your wood dry by covering it or storing inside. Don't use paper to start the fire. Pick up kindling around your house. There is plenty available. Getting your chimney cleaned by a professional every few years will guarantee your fireplace or stove working more efficiently and lessen the chance of a chimney fire. Remember safety! Keep a fire extinguisher handy!

Keep that Garage Door Closed- It protects your vehicles plus keeps cold air out of your house. It also keeps the critters out that are also looking to get warm!

Attend our new Ask a Pro Speaker Series. Top area professional will give seminars on local topics every third Thursday of each month. Watch Facebook for details.

We hope these tips prove helpful and that you will look to us everyday for your home improvement and maintenance needs. Whatever your needs, we're here to help. We're local!

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