

A monthly publication of the Hot Springs Village Voice

HSV *life*

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AUGUST 2023

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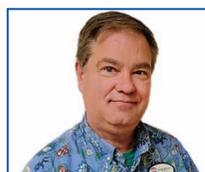
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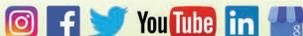
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Publisher

Jennifer Allen

Contributors

Darrell W. Brown

Robin Raborn Burns

Lewis Delavan

Mary Eliades

Sandy Johansen

Jeff Meek

Advertising

Summer Benedict

Stephanie Highfill

Kendall Kegley

Design/Layout

Michael G. Fox

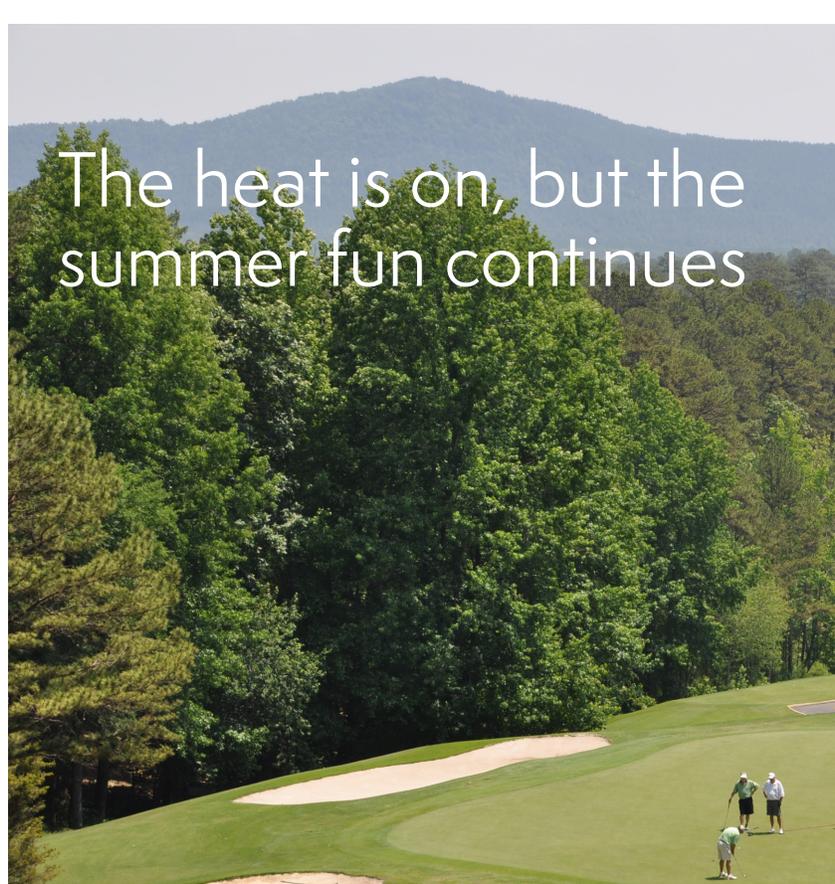
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Hot Springs
Village **Voice**

PO Box 8508 • 3576 N. Hwy. 7
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

(501) 984-6224 or (501) 623-6397
news@hsvvoice.com
advertising@hsvvoice.com
hsvvoice.com

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Hot Springs Village Voice



The heat is on, but the
summer fun continues

Cortez Golf Course, one of the many gems in Hot Springs Village. (Jeff Meek photo)

HSV life in August involves a lot of outdoor fun – boating, fishing, skiing, tubing, kayaking, grilling on the patio, pickleball, tennis, trail hikes, bocce ball, you name it, Hot Springs Village has it. It's an outdoor paradise. Wild animals walking through residents' yards, many beautiful bird species to watch and, oh yes, lots of hot weather and higher electric bills due to all the air conditioning being used to stay cool indoors.

Some people prefer 90+ degree temperatures. The humidity doesn't bother them. As I would go about my day driving here and there within the gates, I remember seeing many golfers out there in the heat, thinking, well, they're tougher than I am. I'm more of an AC and iced tea guy, with lemon please.



As many readers know, when I lived in the Village, I fished a lot and in August my day of fishing would conclude by 8:30 a.m. The bass and I had had enough of that hot sunshine by that time. The door handle on our front door got so hot in the afternoons you couldn't touch it. We had to go out through the garage.

We at the Voice say enjoy your August, but at the same time, stay hydrated, use sunscreen, and limit your hours in the heat as you see fit. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are nothing to fool around with. Know the symptoms and be careful.

Jeff Meek
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

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ON THE COVER: Champion tennis player Rachel Sweatt gets ready to serve.

ALL AROUND ARKANSAS

A Little History in the



Sign at the entrance to the park.

Darrell W. Brown

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson made one of the greatest real estate deals in history when he purchased 800,000 square acres of land west of the Mississippi River from France for \$15 million.

The Louisiana Purchase, as it came to be called, allowed the United States to open up lands in the west for settlement, secured the nation's borders against foreign invaders and gave traders the right to deposit goods duty-free at port cities, especially in the larger port cities such as New Orleans.

In what would eventually become the state of Arkansas, the deal helped end French and Spanish control, as Americans from the East Coast settled the area.

The Louisiana Purchase more than doubled the size of the country and brought all the territory that

would become Arkansas under U.S. ownership. In 1815, President James Madison ordered a survey be conducted to establish a system for distributing free land to veterans of the War of 1812. In November 1815, Prospect K. Robbins led a group of men to survey a north-south line that would be known as the fifth principal meridian, which crossed an east-west baseline that had been surveyed by a party led by Joseph Brown. The crossing of these lines became the inaugural point from which future surveys of Louisiana Purchase lands began. Robbins's party marked two trees in a murky swamp about eighteen inches in diameter as witness trees to delineate the crossing.

While re-surveying the boundary between Lee and Phillips counties in 1921, surveyors Tom Jacks and Eldridge Douglas of Helena-West Helena (Phillips

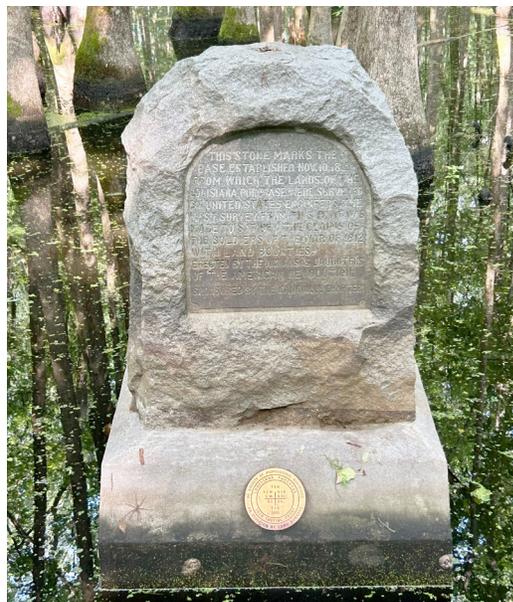
County) discovered those witness trees. As a result, the L'Anquille Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters' of the American Revolution in Marianna (Lee County) placed a granite marker at the site and held a dedication ceremony there on Oct. 27, 1926.

The Arkansas General Assembly authorized a state park to be built at and around the marker's site in 1961. Early development of the park began with the help from local citizens and civic organizations. The monument was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on Feb. 23, 1972. In April 1977, the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission added the swamp in which the stone marker sat to the Arkansas State Registry of Natural Areas and gave money to buy the park site. The Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism granted the commission a conservation easement on the site, which helped provide legal protection for its natural and historical features. Further development of park facilities began in 1977, and was completed in 1980. A 950-foot boardwalk was built from the swamp's edge to the monument.

In June 1981, the boardwalk to the marker in Louisiana Purchase State Park was designated as a National Recreation Trail by the U.S. Department of the Interior. In April 1993, the National Park Service designated the point a National Historic Landmark. In preparation of the Louisiana Purchase's bicentennial celebration in 2003, numerous upgrades and renovations were made to the park.

Not only is the park famous for the stone marker, but it is well-known for the fauna and wildlife that inhabit its swamp. The swamp is home to swamp tupelo, bald cypress, black willow and buttonbush, in proximity with upland species such as sweet gum, mulberry, Nuttall oak and sassafras. Many species of birds such as the belted kingfisher, the pileated woodpecker and the barred owl can often be seen.

Louisiana Purchase State Park sits at the end of



Historic stone marker from 1926.

Arkansas 362, two miles east of U.S. Highway 49, about 19 miles southeast of Brinkley (Monroe County) and about 30 miles northwest of Helena-West Helena. The park has no amenities — there's no visitors' center, campgrounds or picnic areas. But public restrooms were added in April 2021. That same year, state park employees raised the granite monument and set it on a new base, so that it would no longer be submerged during times of high water.

And while the park is a bit off the beaten path, its natural beauty and historical significance not just to Arkansas, but the entire country, is well worth the time you'll spend in the swamp that is Louisiana Purchase State Park.

A proud sixth-generation Arkansan, Darrell Brown is a lover of all things Arkansas. He lives in Saline County with his wife, Amy, and their beloved Boston Terrier, Dixie. Find him on Facebook and Instagram at AllAroundArkansas.

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HSV BUSINESSES

Village Dental Group Staff: (back row, l-r) Patricia Ninke, Laura Springer, Dr. Chelsie Cooper, Nikki Wilson, Kyra Chaney, Dr. Larry Powell, Debbie Walsh, (front row, l-r) Kelly Laws, Esther Coffin, Leslie Furton, Lori Baker, Holly Cantrell, Grace Taylor. (Photos by Esther Coffin)



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The staff at Village Dental Group are

All Smiles

Robin Raborn Burns
VOICE
CORRESPONDENT

The dedicated staff at Village Dental Group are a close-knit, professional, and friendly group who value the care and well-being of their patients. They aim to help their patients feel comfortable by developing positive relationships they are hopeful will be long-lasting. Certainly, a core

element of positive relationships is the desire to share good news! Village Dental Group was proud and pleased to share that on May 3, 2023, Dr. Chelsie Alsup became Dr. Chelsie Cooper. Chelsie and her fiancée Brandt Cooper tied the knot in Sedona, AZ.

Chelsie and Brandt said on their wedding website that they decided to forego the traditional wedding path after calculating the costs, reception plans, and the emotional toll of the natural tendency to try 'people please.' The change of mindset and the change of setting helped them realize that the most important detail in the wedding was the bride and groom.

It is important to Dr. Cooper that patients (existing and new) realize that when they see a new name at Village Dental Group it does not mean she left the practice –and that Dr. Alsup and Dr. Cooper are the same! Dr. Cooper has been in the dental field for more than a decade. She brings her significant experience performing advanced oral surgeries, including

implants, treating medically compromised patients, and tackling complex restorative cases to the talented team of practitioners.

Office Manager Esther Coffin states “One thing that sets Village Dental Group apart is our investment in technology and continuing education. When a single crown is needed, the patient no longer spends weeks in a temporary crown - the patient leaves that day with their permanent crown. Our practice has a CBCT 3D x-ray machine that allows us to evaluate bone levels around teeth, and take a closer look at the canal system inside a tooth. We also have a soft tissue laser that can enhance gingival tissues around a tooth and provide a more comfortable experience during certain procedures.” Each member of the Village Dental Group staff aims to provide the best care for each patient. The practitioners strive to make treatment recommendations based on what they would recommend if the patient was a family member. As family members do, they share the joy of memorable events in their co-workers’ lives. And, when newlywed Dr. Cooper was asked about marriage to another



The Happy Couple - Brandt and Chelsie Cooper.

Dentist, she replied “We talk a lot about teeth.”

Village Dental Group participates in: Most Medicare Advantage plans, as well as Delta, Cigna, BC/BS, Humana, GEHA, and Federal plans.

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It's almost time for...

In its 7th year, the fastest growing event in the Spa City



Sandy Johansen
STAFF WRITER

Beginning in 2016 at the Hot Springs Convention Center, Spa-Con has attracted nearly 20,000 attendees and has reached a wide audience covering 12 states. The celebration features panels, workshops, over 200 vendors and parties. Other activities include laser tag, locked rooms, gaming, film, cosplay, anime and manga.

The term “cosplay” is a combination of costume and play. Cosplayers dress up as characters from pop culture that they’ve drawn from books, comics, movies,

TV and Japanese animated series (anime) and video games.

According to Spa-Con’s definition, “Anime is a Japanese term used to describe animated films (or TV shows), but outside Japan, it’s mostly used to describe Japanese animation. Manga, on the other hand, is the Japanese term for comic books and comic cartoons (short comics) but outside Japan is used to signify Japanese comic books.”

Spa-Con Arkansas is the freshest and fastest growing event in the Spa City. Spa-Con has been a great opportunity to reach a wide audience. Past celebrity guests include; Nichelle Nichols (Star Trek), Sherilyn Fenn and Sheryl Lee (Twin Peaks), Shannon Purser (Stranger Things), Pam Grier (Jackie Brown), Sean Maher (Firefly), Veronica Taylor, Butch Patrick (The Munsters) and Barry Bostwick (Rocky Horror).

Some say Hot Springs is 10 years behind, but Spa-Con is proof positive that we are on the cutting edge of pop culture.

This year’s celebrities include “X-Files” star, Annabeth Gish, “Renaissance Man” Orlando

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Stephanie Hawley

Village Resident 23 Years

Jones, and star of “Black Panther” Janeshia Adams-Ginyard. They will be joining panel discussions and giving individual dialogue about their careers and relation to Spa-Con.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, September 22, 2023

- 5 PM - Registration Opens
- 6 PM - Opening Ceremonies
- Expo Hall Open Saturday & Sunday

Saturday, September 23, 2023

- 9 AM - Registration Opens
- 10 AM - Expo Hall Open
- 12 PM - Q & A with Annabeth Gish
- 1 PM - FREE Photo Ops with Annabeth Gish
- 2 PM - VIP Meet & Greet (VIP Pass Holders Only)
- 3 PM - Annabeth Gish in Expo Hall



Annabeth Gish - “X-Files” star

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6 PM - Expo Hall Closes
 7 PM - Cosplay Club
 Sunday, September 24, 2023
 9:30 AM - Registration
 Opens
 10 AM - Expo Hall Opens
 2 PM - VIP Meet &
 Greet (VIP Pass
 Holders Only)
 4 PM - Expo Hall Closes
 4 PM - SpAcademy
 Awards

Many levels of passes are available:

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Weekend pass holders will receive: Tee shirt ● Tote bag ● Laminate ● Entry into Friday Concert

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ACCESS — Access to VIP lounge ● Advanced access to all panels, workshops, and photo ops.

EVENTS — Meet and greet our guests Saturday



Janeshia Adams-Ginyard - "Black Panther" star, above.
 Orlando Jones - "Renaissance Man," below.

& Sunday ● THREE after-parties hosted by: Superior Bathhouse Brewery, The Porterhouse Club, and The Hotel Hot Springs

Ticket Pricing

Ticket Prices for VIP Pass

Register before 9/22/2023-\$150.00

9/22/2023-\$175.00

Ticket Prices for Weekend Pass(es):

Register before 9/22/2023-\$35.00

9/22/2023-\$45.00

Ticket Price for Concert:

Register before 9/22/2023-\$20.00

9/22/2023-\$25.00

Ticket Price for Day Pass(es):

Register before 9/22/2023-\$20.00

9/22/2023-\$25.00

Children 10 and under are free with purchase of a day, weekend, or VIP pass (must be accompanied by an adult)

For tickets go to: <https://hotsprings.swoogo.com/SpaConTix2023>



BORN TO SERVE



Citizen of the Year finalists help our community in varied ways

Lewis Delavan
STAFF WRITER

Finalists for 2022 Hot Springs Village Voice Citizen of the Year are Colleen Angel, Melanie Pederson and Jan Rowe.

These three women have a long history of service to the community, and are being honored for their continued service to the Village area in 2022. Along the way, they have touched many lives and strived to improve the Village.

All three finalists will be honored at the Hot Springs Village Voice Readers' Choice banquet from 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26 at the Arlington Hotel Crystal Ballroom in Hot Springs. The Citizen of the Year winner will be announced then, along with the Village Voice Man of the Year and Woman of the Year, and winners of more than 100 business categories. Tickets are available for



Colleen Angel



Melanie Pederson

\$75 each through Friday, July 28 at the Village Voice office, 3576 N. Highway 7.

Readers' Choice finalists will be announced in the Hot Springs Village Voice Readers' Choice magazine, to be distributed in August. Each Citizen of the Year finalist will be featured in that magazine.

Staff selects Citizen of the Year finalists and the winner, while Village Voice readers select finalists and winners of all other categories.

Since 2007, the Hot Springs Village Voice has regularly honored individuals who impact the Village in a positive way. Each Citizen of the Year award is for service the previous year.



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CORONADO CENTER LIBRARY

Story Time

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. are special at Coronado Library

Mary Eliades
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

The Coronado Center Library has something for everyone – books, of course, but also DVDs, audio books, jigsaw puzzles, magazines, newspapers, free Wi-Fi, and interesting events.

In summertime, the fun goes up a notch every Thursday morning at 10:30, when volunteers show up with books, crafts, and treats to entertain children (and parents and grandparents) with creative tales and art projects.

Recently, Carol Freeland, known as “Nana” to



AAUW president Carol Freeland reads to an appreciative group of children at the Coronado Center Library. (Mary Eliades photos)

her grandkids, was the star of the show as she entertained the group by reading “The Day the Crayons Quit” by Drew Daywalt, illustrated by Oliver Jeffers. Freeland is the president of the Hot Springs Village branch of American Association of University Women, one of the groups whose members stepped up to continue the tradition of summer story time.

Adults laughed right along with the kids as she read the tale about Duncan, a little boy who just wants to color, but opens the crayon box to find resignation letters from all the colors. They all have complaints – orange and yellow aren’t speaking because they both claim to be the real color of the sun, black is tired of just being used to outline



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Dalea Bee St. Pierre (left) and Ellie Holtz, hard at work on their masterpieces.



Brother and sister Harlyn and Conrad Hedblom, from Houston, enjoyed the story and coloring time.

things, blue gets worn to a nub because of water, sky, etc. – and they have decided to quit. Duncan must figure out how to please everyone – and he does!

Freeland followed up by giving each child a box of crayons and paper to create their own artistic masterpieces, some of which have been displayed in the library.

Story time will continue through July; no reservation is necessary, and children must be accompanied by adults.

The library is fortunate to have two experienced and dedicated librarians – Glenda Ford and Veronica Curioni – as well as many volunteers. In addition to story time, volunteers man the circulation desk, shelve books, organize fundraising events, and perform many other functions to keep the library running in these days of extreme budget cuts.

“I think all the children have thoroughly enjoyed story time,” said Ford. “This is a wonderful addition to library activities, and critically needed during the summer months.”



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COVER STORY



Enjoying every Tuesday morning on the tennis courts are doubles friends, Dominique Kohlenberger, Rachel Sweatt, Mary Harrison and Monita Collins (Sandy Johansen photos)

Tennis Champion

Autism doesn't slow down tennis player Rachel Sweatt

Sandy Johansen
STAFF WRITER

John and Deby Sweatt adopted their beautiful daughter, Catherine Rachel (better known as Rachel) in 2007 when they lived in Hot Springs. “She was without verbal language and extremely frustrated at having no way to express herself,” said mother Deby.

After many attempts to help her with her communication skills, her father, John, thought of an acceptable way for her to “hit something” which she needed to do. He brought home a small racquet and some tennis balls. That was all it took to hook her and from that point on everything her parents taught her was in context of the game of tennis.

Rachel learned to handle frustrations and

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disappointments by being persistent and how to take care of her body and mind and to never give up. This helped her interact with people other than her parents.

As a Junior Tennis Player in Hot Springs John and Deby encouraged Rachel to join the Ike Eisenhower Junior Tournament. “That’s where we met Bob Wagstaff and he along with many volunteers made us feel welcome and our thoughts expanded to ‘what if’s’ for Rachel.

For several years the Sweatt’s were welcomed to play on the HSV clay courts in preparation for tournaments around the U.S. Bob Wagstaff was always there to welcome them and help with Rachel’s training.

“The more we came in Hot Springs Village, the more Rachel was welcomed here. The more we knew our retirement here would afford her an independence in a safe and caring atmosphere that would be hard to find anyplace else,” said Deby.

In 2021 the Sweatt’s found two townhouses close to the tennis courts and immediately bought both. During the next year and a half, they used all their savings to adjoin the two units just a block away from the courts.

“Nearly each day we drove here from Hot Springs to let her play on the courts and just as we had hoped, she was welcomed with open arms,” Deby said. Coach Bob began “dropping Rachel’s name” to exceptional women tennis players who immediately embraced her and taught her the art of doubles play. When men were on the courts, they’d start exchanging hits with Rachel and she was learning how to return them with power.

It is not surprising to hear Rachel tell her parents “I’m going to work now, mom and dad,” as she’s dressed for tennis, hair in a bun and bag on her back headed for the courts.

Although Rachel has grown and blossomed in many ways over all these years she is autistic in every way. It takes a constant and daily effort for her parents to keep her healthy and somewhat mentally balanced. Playing tennis is a part of her daily ritual allowing her to express emotions, battle mental fatigue, so she feels she has some control and balance over herself which allows her an opportunity to shine in an area she has chosen for herself.

Rachel’s lifestyle includes therapies neurotypical individuals should probably incorporate but are an

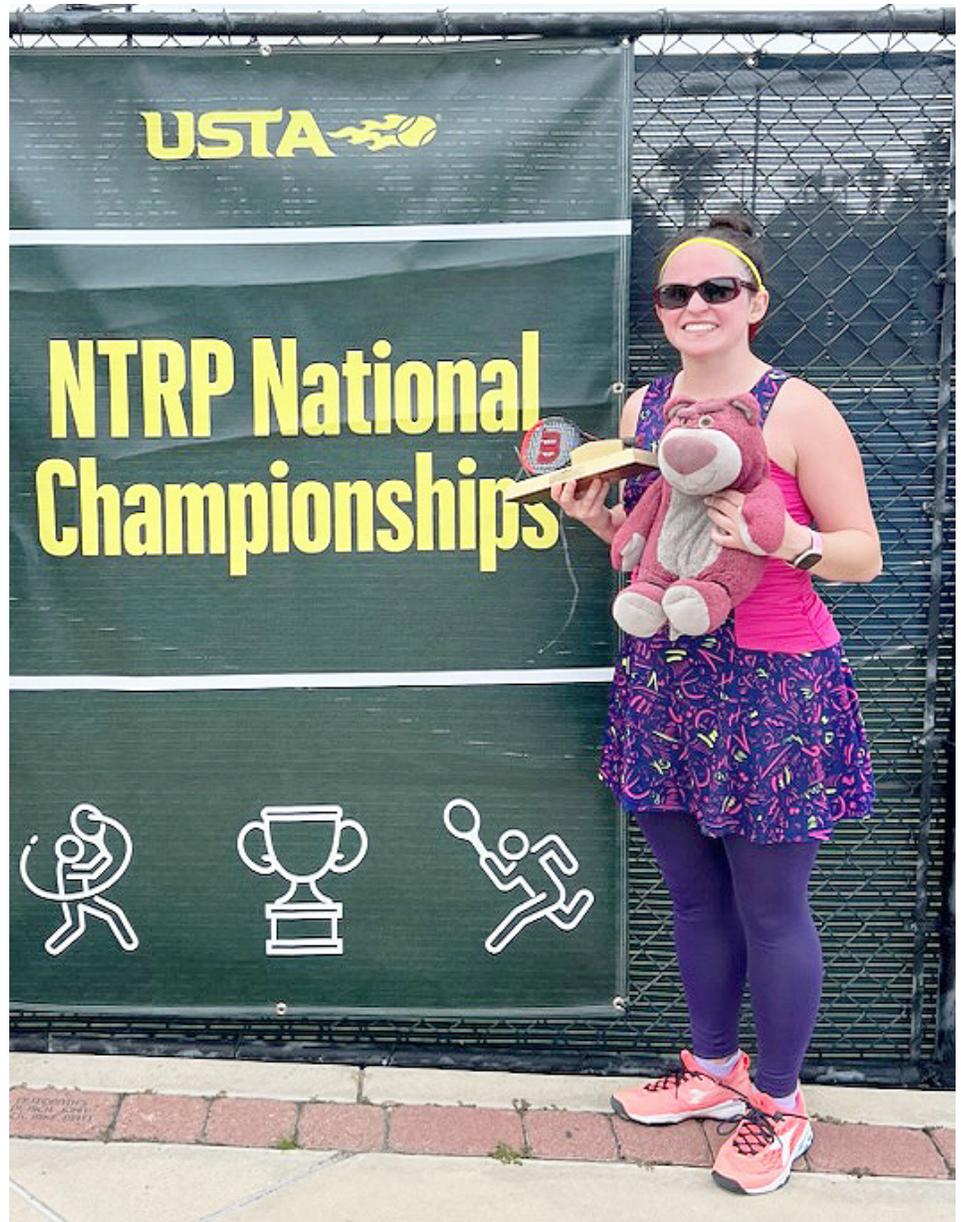


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Sweatt received top place in the United States Tennis Association 4.5 Nationals. (Photo courtesy of Deby Sweatt)



absolute necessity for Rachel. A balanced diet without processed foods, yoga asanas morning and evening, meditation morning and evening. She also has modified brushing therapy twice a day with joint compressions, and a “toolbox” helping her to answer the question, “what do I need right now?”

Rachel must ask and answer this question several times throughout each day in order to understand if she needs to use the bathroom, or if she is hungry, or a host of other questions average people aka. neurotypicals have running in the back of their minds without the need to individually address each one with an answer.

She also has a diagnosed auditory processing and sensory disorder which is somewhat controlled with polarized eyeglass lens and specially made in-ear hearing protectors most times requiring over the ear protectors as well.

Tennis is important to Rachel personally. It is not just a game she plays for fun, but it is what she thinks of as serious “work”...her work. No match or tournament is just another match to her, it is her “work.”

She has imposed on herself a certain diet and rest routine she follows beginning 48 hours before a prematch/tournament.

Rachel has moved up to a level 4.5 in the USTA with a national ranking of 3 in Jan 2023 and this is because of her persistence, determination and hard daily work.

Her parents agree, “We did the right thing! We spent all our pennies and for a year and a half, we struggled though a remodel driving back and forth from Hot Springs. We did the right thing! We and Rachel have been embraced. Rachel is known and safe, and Hot Springs Village is our forever home, our community, our people.”



Sweatt, always ready to return. Watch out gals on the opposite side of the net.



Just another day of tennis, celebrating their daughter Rachel's winning game, John and Deby.

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Trials & Triumphs

The Spa City has a long and colorful history

Mary Eliades
VOICE CORRESPONDENT



Liz Robbins, executive director of the Garland County Historical Society, entertained a large crowd at the Coronado Center with her stories of Hot Springs in its heyday. (Mary Eliades photos)

When many non-native Arkansans hear about Hot Springs Village for the first time, they think of the resort town of Hot Springs. And for good reason - Hot Springs has a long and interesting history and was at one time one of the premiere resort destinations in America.

Liz Robbins, executive director of the Garland County Historical Society (GCHS), was recently the guest speaker at the Coronado Center for a program sponsored jointly by the Coronado Center Library, the GCHS, and the Garland County Library. Robbins spoke to a full house on “Hot Springs: The Trials and Triumphs of a Resort City,” illustrating her informative presentation with rare photos from the Garland County Historical Society.

Robbins, an energetic and entertaining speaker, said the area had been designated as “Hot Springs Reservation” by President Andrew Jackson in 1832, predating the formation of the National Park Service by many years. Congress, however, did not pass legislation to administer the site, and by the 1840s, many settlers were arriving to build homes and businesses near the springs.

The town of Hot Springs was incorporated in 1851, and by 1854, welcomed 3,000 visitors every year. In 1860, it was the most popular vacation destination in Arkansas, with more than 71,000 people every day “taking the waters.”

Robbins said two main factors combined to hold back growth of the city: difficulty of travel and disputes over land ownership.

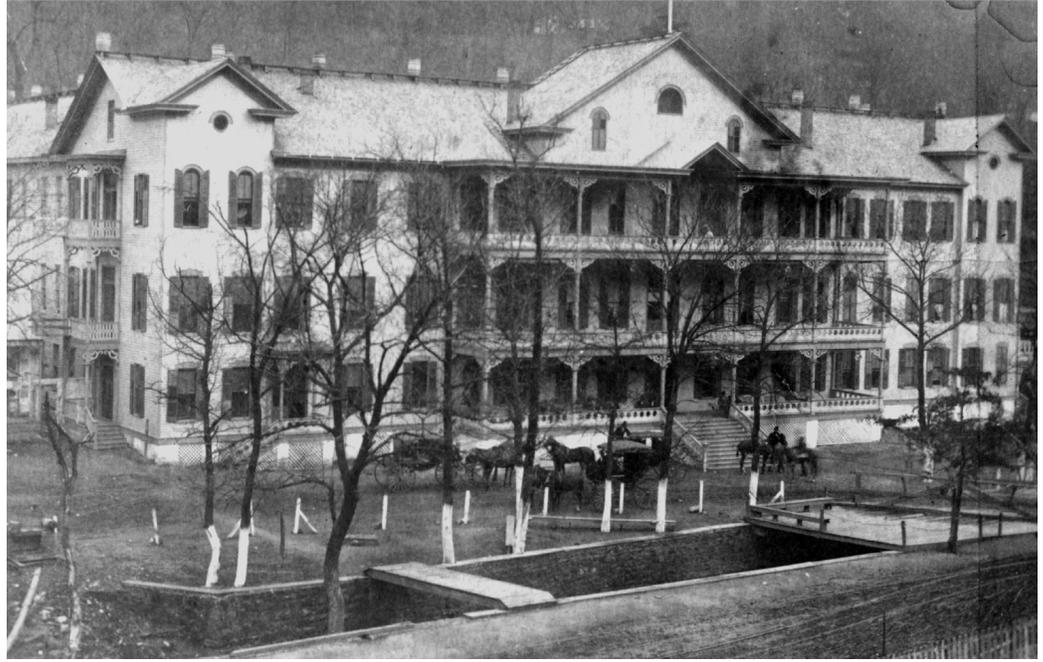
Hope for a cure brought travelers more than 60 miles from Little Rock, enduring a 15-hour stagecoach ride to get to the healing waters.

Because there were no controls set by the federal government, other than language from the initial legislation (to set aside “...four sections of land including said (hot) springs, reserved for the future disposal of the United States [which] shall not be entered, located, or appropriated, for any other purpose whatsoever”), three families squatted on the land, creating, according to Robbins, “massive confusion and some violence.” These disputes kept people

from investing in the area, because “everything was temporary.”

During the Civil War (1861-1865), there was “skirmishing all over the county,” with “jayhawkers and bushwhackers” - “... lawless bands of men who joined neither army, but roamed the area robbing, burning, and even murdering,” from a quote by W. Richter - chasing most people out of town. Robbins said by 1865, “all but three homes and one small boarding house had burned.”

Robbins’ talk focused on the “trials and triumphs” of Hot Springs,



The first Arlington Hotel was built in 1875 and was the largest, grandest hotel in the state.



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and she kept returning to the themes of resilience and rebuilding. She said Hot Springs “might have disappeared” after the war, but “we still had the thermal waters.”

Many settlers, including soldiers from both sides, came to Hot Springs after the war to start new lives, and a “new city was starting to arise from the ashes.”

To alleviate one of the main factors holding back growth, in 1875 the Hot Springs Railroad was built, linking Hot Springs to Malvern. The railroads began advertising and the land claims were resolved, paving the way for the next boom. The first Arlington Hotel was erected in 1875.

In 1876, a ruling by the Supreme Court that the springs and the land around them were owned by the federal government began creating order out of chaos. A superintendent was hired, trails were created, a park headquarters was built, and regulations governing the use of the waters were issued. A city commission was established, and fire and police departments were created. The first ordinance enacted was aimed at “getting pigs out of the streets.”

A fire in 1878 “reduced downtown to ashes and smoldering ruins,” but the determined residents of Hot Springs rebuilt once again. City managers took the opportunity to decree that bathhouses would be on one side of Central Avenue and all other businesses on the other.

Changes came quickly, with new buildings popping up all over - the Majestic Hotel in 1882, the Army/ Navy Hospital in 1887, and the second, “unburnable,” Arlington Hotel in 1893. A grand park entrance was built in the early 1900s, followed by Oaklawn in 1904.

A 1905 fire destroyed 40 city blocks, and floods in 1910 damaged many businesses.

A major fire on Sept. 5, 1913, destroyed 60 city blocks,



Bathhouse Row, in the late 1870s/early 1880s before the completion of the Hot Springs Creek tunnel in 1884.

700 homes, and 155 businesses, and has been called the biggest fire in Arkansas history.

More trials for the resort city came in 1923, in the form of a huge flood downtown and a fire that burned the “unburnable” Arlington Hotel. The next “new Arlington Hotel” was completed in 1924, across the street from the original site.

Many historic buildings from this period were later renovated and repurposed, including the Woodmen of Union Building, a center for Black social life before the Depression, which was eventually refurbished as a bathhouse and hotel. Integration put the hotel out of business, and the building was later purchased by a management group.

The old Opera House is now a parking deck.

“Medical tourism was the foundation of our economy,” said Robbins, and in the 1920s and 1930s, many came to Hot Springs to “chase the cure” for syphilis. “Hot Springs was a mecca for syphilis patients,” according to Robbins, but when better treatments, including penicillin, became available, the demand for these treatments died out.

Of course, no story about Hot Springs in its heyday is complete without a discussion of the illegal gambling



The Medical Arts Building (on the right), built in 1929 and the tallest building in Arkansas until 1960, towers over Central Avenue, facing the third Arlington Hotel, which opened in 1924.

industry that brought gangsters, politicians, and celebrities to the city.

Leo McLaughlin, the larger-than-life mayor of Hot Springs from 1927 to 1947, welcomed the gamblers and “controlled the city and county with an iron hand,” said Robbins, often through “thuggery,” bribes and fraud. The famous clubs and gambling houses - including the Tower Club, the Belvedere Club, and the Southern Club - thrived during this time, and in 1939 Liberty Magazine called Hot Springs “the wickedest city in the United States” in an article titled “Hell in Hot Springs.”

In 1946, a group of former GIs, including Sid McMath, who became governor of Arkansas in 1949, banded together to bring changes to their hometowns and the state of Arkansas and challenged McLaughlin and his cronies at the polls. They were successful in Garland County, but the movement (the “GI Revolt”) eventually died out.

Gambling came to an end in 1967, when Gov.



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Winthrop Rockefeller used the state police to shut down the gambling houses in Hot Springs - “they burned and smashed and destroyed” gambling equipment and made it impossible to replace, enacting a ban on transporting gambling equipment across state lines.

The bathhouses eventually began to lose popularity because of better medicines and lifestyle changes - patients lost faith in the efficacy of the baths. Hot Springs then entered a “sleazy” phase, with porn shops, strip clubs, blue movies, etc.

In the mid-1980s, however, young leaders in Hot Springs started taking control to restore Hot Springs to its former glory. When word came down that the Hot Springs National Park designation was going to be removed, they got to work and restored the Fordyce Bathhouse as a visitor center. Residents got into the act and began restoring other historic buildings.

In 1985 the city went to a city manager form of government and started touting itself as a “city of the arts,” while also “welcoming light industry.”

Hot Springs now boasts two modern hospitals, National Park College, Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, a convention center, a still-thriving Oaklawn, Magic Springs amusement park, the Mid-America Museum, Garvan Woodland Gardens, and many more attractions.

“The recent triumph of Hot Springs,” said Robbins, “is its resurgence as a family resort destination, thanks to the ordinary people of Hot Springs.”

The city still faces trials, including homelessness, city vs. county issues, and abandoned buildings, but “we meet our challenges with the same determination as we have through the years.”



Looking north on Central Avenue in 1936: Vehicles coming to Hot Springs via the “old Little Rock Highway” stream past Bathhouse Row on their way to opening day at Oaklawn Racetrack.



A 1940s postcard highlights the Southern Club, a premiere gambling establishment from 1893 until the end of illegal gambling in 1967.

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Highway 7's recycling center also collects clothing and shoes.

Lewis Delavan
STAFF WRITER

Think green, Garland County's Highway 7 Recycling Center's sign urges.

Recycling cuts the amount of materials sent to landfills, extending the landfill's life and making better

use of resources, including money.

Hot Springs Village Property Owners' Association accepts recyclables at 218 Minorca Road -- hours and days are listed below.

Garland County operates a large recycling center at 585 N. Highway 7, near the north end of the northbound passing lane near Fountain Lake. It offers many more hours than the POA: open 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

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weekdays for a wide variety of recyclables. Its phone is 501-623-7499.

The Highway 7 sign succinctly summarizes what is collected: Plastics No. 1 and No. 2, newspaper, white office paper, corrugated cardboard, glass, batteries, metal items, aluminum cans and phone books. Remember phone books?

Garland County's adjacent waste transfer center is for contract wastehaulers only.

HSVPOA accepts metals for recycling during all normal hours of operation at 218 Minorca Road.

The POA accepts No. 1 and 2 plastic from 8-11 a.m. Tuesdays.

From 8-11 a.m. Thursdays the POA accepts aluminum, glass, newspaper, paper, No. 1 and 2 plastics.

Other area recycling sites:

Hot Springs Recycle Center, 218 Runyon St., Hot Springs. The Recycling Drop-Off Center, at the corner of Valley and Runyon streets, is accessible 24 hours a day.

Saline County Recycle Center, 18511 Sardis Rd., Bauxite.

Following basic guidelines for recycling helps ensure materials can be reused, not ultimately sent to the landfill:

Aluminum - No tin or steel cans, foil, siding or pie pans.

Crush cans to save space. If in doubt, test with a refrigerator magnet. If the magnet sticks, it is not aluminum.

Corrugated cardboard - Corrugated board only. No non-corrugated board accepted, such as cereal or shoe boxes. Corrugated is a wavy, fluted cardboard layer between two flat layers.

Flatten boxes. Labels, tape and staples do not have to be removed.

Glass - Bottles and jars only

No window glass or mirrors. Labels do not have to be removed.

Newsprint - Newsprint only; if it comes in the newspaper, it can be recycled.

Newsprint must be dry, clean and unsoiled - free of wax, plastics and other contaminants. It should not have been exposed to the sun for long periods of time. No glossy magazines, catalogs or junk mail.



Crush bottles to save space. Labels do not have to be removed.

Plastic resin identification code 1 - Two-liter drink bottles, water bottles, any plastic container with "1" inside the chasing arrow triangle.

Plastic resin code 2 - Milk jugs, laundry detergent bottles, bleach bottles, any plastic container with "2" inside the chasing arrow triangle.

Sorted office paper - Office paper, notebook paper, magazines, catalogs, junk mail and phone books. Hot Springs accepts colored office paper; Garland County accepts only white paper.

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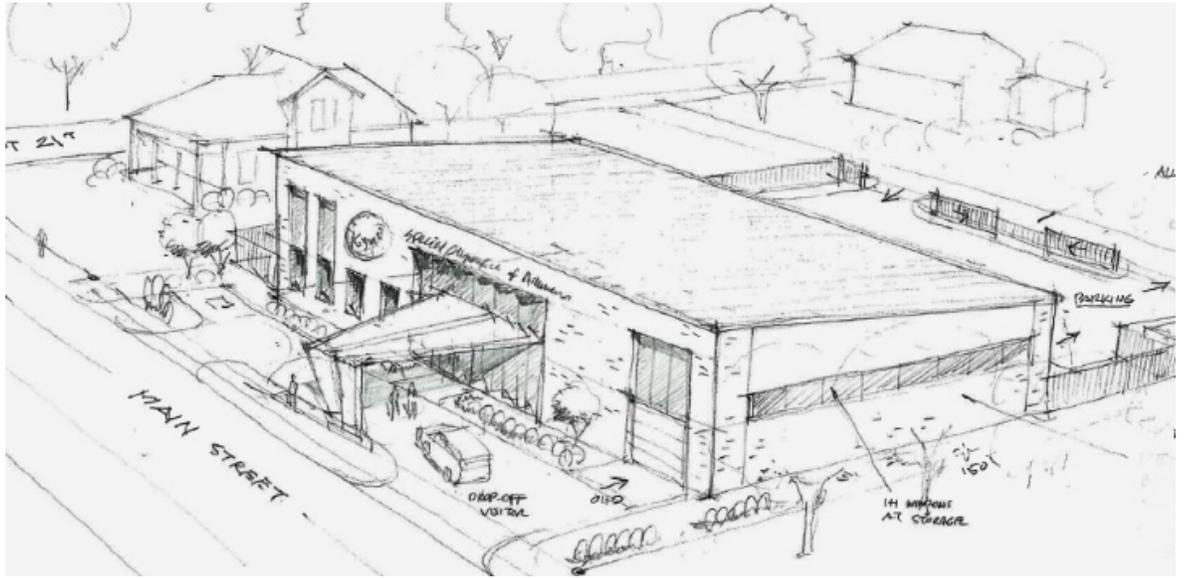
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Special Olympics - Special Athletes

Artist's conception shows building planned for SOAR's existing site in North Little Rock.



Lewis Delavan
STAFF WRITER

Special athletes have transformed their lives through Special Olympics Arkansas for more than a half century.

Each athlete promises, “Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”

Special Olympics Arkansas’ mission is “to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for all children and adults with intellectual disabilities – giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their

families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.”

Garland and Saline counties are both in Special Olympics Area 10. Representatives are Rene Prewett, 20 Eastwood, Bryant, 501-658-1287, and Rheanna Webber, 208 Morphew Road, Hot Springs, 501-463-8234. They share an email address, areal0soar@gmail.com.

Services are provided at no cost to athletes or their families. Funding comes from individual donations, private and corporate sponsorships, state appropriation, grants and fundraising events. Donations pay for training, equipment and competition for athletes.

SOAR serves 19,500 athletes age 8-older and 25,000 athletes age 2-7. More than 200 competitions in 15 different sports and 9 unified sports take place annually. It offers year-round opportunities in health, leadership, Unified Champion Schools and Young Athletes.

Unified sports involve athletes without intellectual disabilities who participate to encourage the special athletes.

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Special Olympics Arkansas hopes to build a new home at the site it has owned for 24 years, 2115 Main St., North Little Rock. In the winter of 2020 flooding damaged many rooms and the building's structure.

In a statement, Special Olympics Arkansas tells why a new home is needed:

“It is essential that we ensure another 50 years of Inclusion and opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities in Arkansas. Join us as we Launch a Legacy for Inclusion with a permanent home for Special Olympics Arkansas. Since then Special Olympics Arkansas has been operating in a temporary space that is not meeting the needs of our growing program. While much of our programming is not held within the walls of the home office many relate to the building as their home. It is where everything comes together and it is where the future of the program will be visualized and implemented.

“The new Legacy Building will host an additional 4,680-sq.-ft. of office space. This additional room



Special Olympics Arkansas

allows for expansion of our athlete leadership program. There will be plenty of space for athlete leaders to truly help grow the program on a daily basis through internships and employment. The building hosts a 13x24 conference room to increase athlete voices, encourage collaboration, and welcome community members to see the heart of our mission.

The building will have approximately 3,000-sq.-ft of secure storage space.

“Safely storing the massive amounts of equipment for health, sports, and Unified Champion schools is vital to our legacy. The Legacy building will allow us to expand opportunities, events, and resources for athletes and their families across the state.”

Special Olympics serves athletes around the globe. The 2023 international games kicked off June 18 at Olympiastadion in Berlin, with 6,500 athletes from 176 delegations.

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FOOTBALL

New Turf

Lewis Delavan
STAFF WRITER

Football squads in both Fountain Lake and Jessieville will play on new turf fields for the 2023 season.

FL Superintendent Dr. Michael Murphy said the old turf field was past its expected lifetime. Title sponsor Tillery Chevrolet Buick GMC and other sponsors helped defray the cost.

“We’re looking forward to a great season on our new turf field,” says Coach Kenneth Shelton.

Facing smaller numbers last year, the Cobras entered a two-year commitment for 8-man football. “This will be our last year in 8-man football as our numbers have

Fountain Lake, Jessieville start 2023 gridiron season with all new turf fields

continue to grow and get better. Last year we finished the year 7-3 and lost to Mountain View in the state championship game.”

Fountain Lake hosts neighboring district Mountain Pine on Sept. 1, then travels east to Brinkley on Sept. 8 and heads north on Sept. 15 to Center Ridge.

Mountain View, which dealt two losses last season, visits on Sept. 22.

The conference season opens Sept. 29 at Genoa. That’s Genoa, Arkansas, not Italy. Genoa is east of Texarkana in Miller County.

Parkers Chapel visits Oct. 6; visit Subiaco Oct. 13



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The Cobras will enjoy a new iteration of their turf field, left. (Lewis Delavan photos)



The Lions will play on turf at home for the first time this August, right.

and host Cutter-Morning Star Oct. 20 to close out the conference season.

Playoffs will be Oct. 27 at a site to be determined.

For Jessieville, the new turf field followed a devastating Jan. 2 tornado. Initially, stadium lights and the press box appeared to be the stadium's main victims, but insurance adjusters determined the field had too much debris to be cleaned up for safe play.

Jessieville opens the season with three home games: Mineral Springs on Aug. 25, Mount Ida on Sept. 8 and Atkins on Sept. 15.

The Lions travel to Hot Spring County to play Bismarck on Sept. 22, then return to the county on Sept. 29 to play Glen Rose. The Beavers have won the conference for several years in a row.

Paris (Arkansas) visits Oct. 6. Cobras hit the road Oct. 13 for Centerpoint, then host Magnet Cove Oct. 20.

The team heads north to Danville Oct. 27, and hosts Two Rivers Nov. 2.

2023 Ft. Lake Cobra Football Varsity Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
Sept. 1	Mt. Pine	7:00	Home
Sept. 8	Brinkley	7:00	Away
Sept. 15	Cedar Ridge	7:00	Away
Sept. 22	Mt. View	7:00	Home
Sept. 29	*Genoa	7:00	Away
Oct. 6	*Parkers Chapel	7:00	Home
Oct. 13	*Subiaco	7:00	Away
Oct. 20	*CMS	7:00	Home
Oct. 27	Playoffs	7:00	TBA
Nov. 3	Championship	7:00	TBA

Denotes Scrimmage Game
* Denotes Conference Games





Jessieville School District

Senior High Football 2023

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION
August 25	Mineral Springs	Home
September 8	Mt. Ida	Home
September 15	Atkins	Home
September 22	Bismarck	Away
September 29	Glen Rose	Away
October 6	Paris	Home
October 13	Centerpoint	Away
October 20	Magnet Cove	Home
October 27	Danville	Away
November 2	Two Rivers	Home

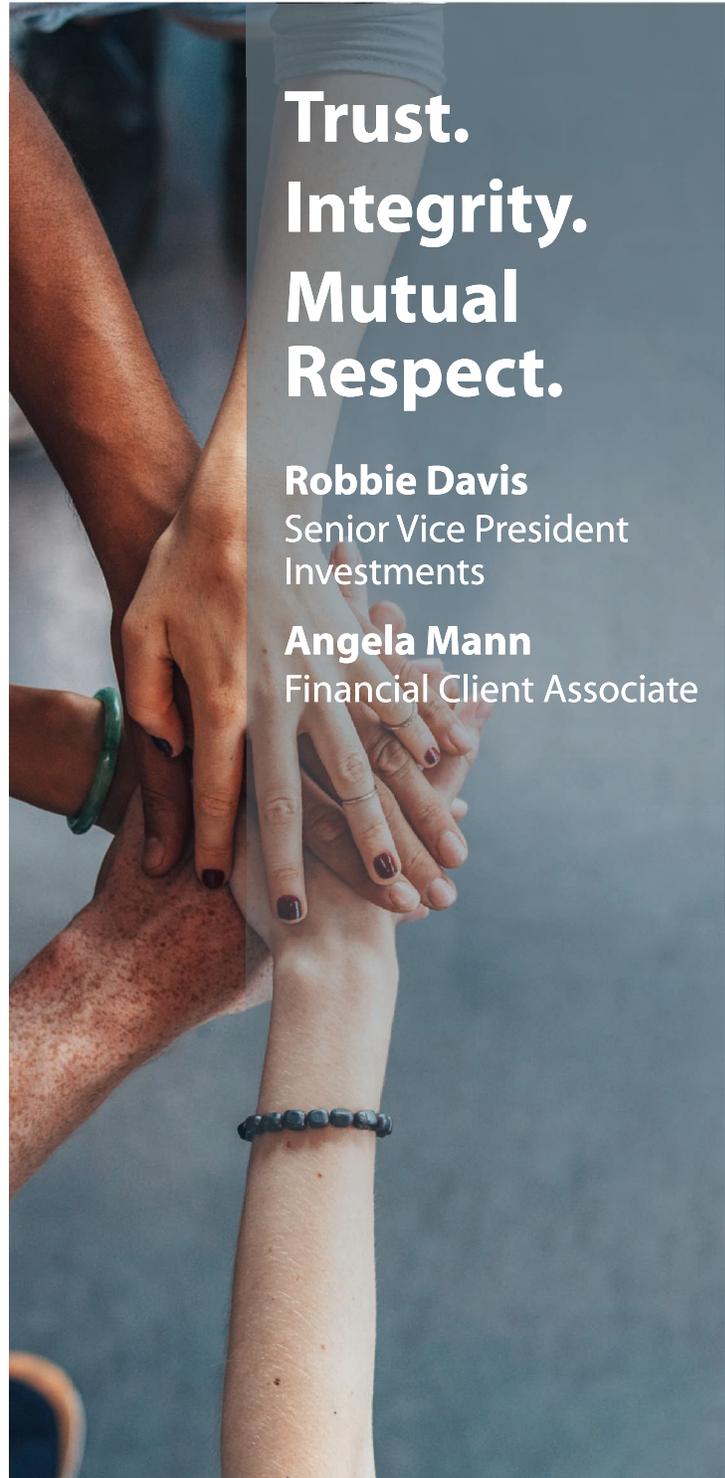
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Rod Stewart - The Tribute
Woodlands Auditorium
August 17 at 7 p.m.

Shakespeare Abridged
Vapors
August 18-20

7th Annual Car & Bike Show
Woodlands Auditorium
August 19 at 9 a.m.

Beboppers Dance
Coronado Center
August 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Capitol Offense
Woodlands Auditorium
August 22 at 7 p.m.

The Four Tops at Oaklawn
Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort
August 25 at 7 p.m.

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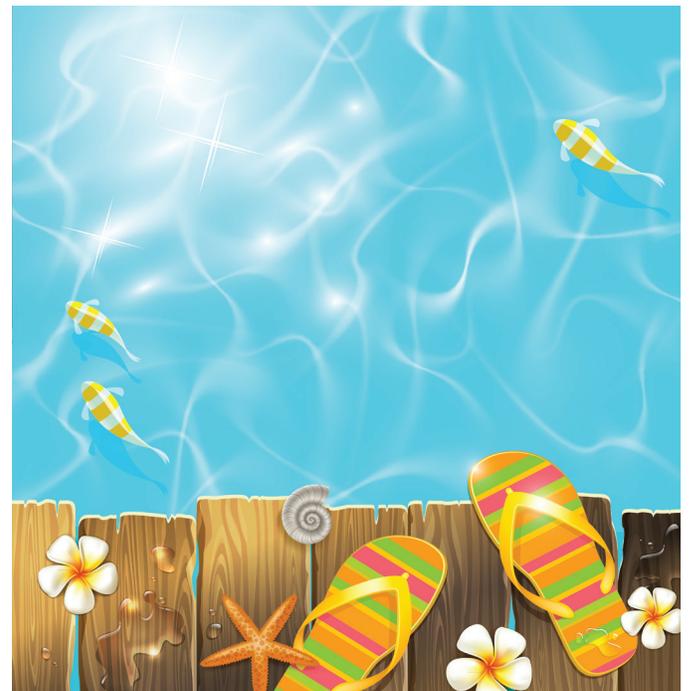
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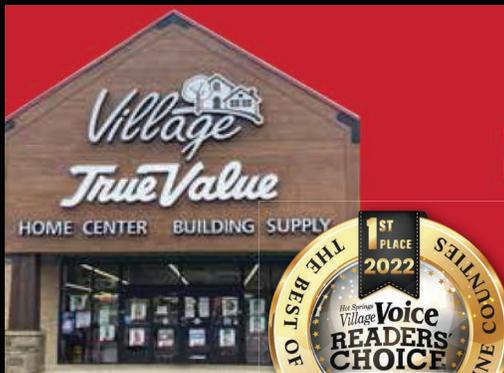
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