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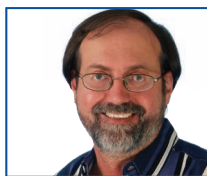
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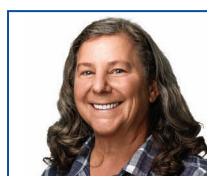
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HSV Life Magazine is a monthly publication of the Hot Springs Village Voice newspaper. For additional copies, visit our office. Please send any questions or comments to us following our "Viewpoints" guidelines.

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Hot Springs Village Voice

Fall is Around the Corner



Fall color can be awesome in HSV.
(Jeff Meek photo)

Well, October is here and with it some welcoming cooler temperatures by the end of the month, not to mention the spectacular fall color that arrives soon thereafter.

October is a full of beginnings like the start of the National Basketball League and the National Hockey league. Many health-related observances take place as well, like Breast Cancer, Lupus, and Blindness awareness.

Columbus Day is around the corner on Oct. 9 and at the end of the month comes Halloween on the 31st. The month is filled with designated special days, like International Beer and Pizza Day, also on the 9th, Southern Food Heritage Day on the 11th and National Boston Cream Pie Day on the 23rd. Sign me up please. Boston Crème pie is one of my many weaknesses.

History also fills the month of October. On Oct. 1, 1908, the Model "T" went on sale to the public for the first time. Oct. 3, 1974, Frank Robinson was hired as manager of the Cleveland Indians, thus he became the first African American major league manager. Oct. 18,



1945, the WW II Nuremberg Trials began.

Oct. 21, 1879, Thomas Edison successfully tested an electric incandescent lamp. Oct. 28, 1886, the Statue of Liberty was dedicated on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor.

Much is happening in the Village in October too. Oct. 3 is the Lady Legends of the '70s performance. Oct. 9 is HSV Entertainment Night. Oct. 12 comes Barcelona Nights and Oct. 28 An Evening with Shannon. Watch the Voice and the POA's Village Digest for these and other fun events in October.

Whatever it is that comes your way in October we at the Voice hope it makes your day. Enjoy the cooler temperatures, the soon to arrive fall color and maybe even take a drive along Hwy 7 to Northwest Arkansas where late October and early November color is usually spectacular as you drive through the Boston Mountains. Safe travel and good health to you all.

Jeff Meek
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

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ON THE COVER: Tina Cooper with one of her furry friends at Royal Sanctuary Therapy Farm.
(Photo courtesy of Tina Cooper)

ALL AROUND ARKANSAS



The Crescent Hotel in Eureka Springs.

Darrell W. Brown

Halloween is the scariest day in our country. It's a day for haunted houses, macabre costumes, the telling of spooky ghost stories and other legends, and of course a scary thing to dentists — lots of candy. So, in honor of Halloween, here's the story behind a few of Arkansas' spookiest places.

The Crescent Hotel — This legendary Eureka Springs hotel is probably the best-known haunted building in Arkansas. The hotel, built in 1836 as a health resort, has been featured on television programs such as SyFy's *Ghost Hunters* and the Travel Channel's *Ghost Adventures*. According to one legend, a construction worker who fell to his death from room 218 still haunts the room. (In its later years, after the Crescent became a women's college, a young student fell — or was pushed — to her death from a top story window.)

Around 1937, Dr. Norman Baker purchased the Crescent Hotel and turned it into a hospital. Baker claimed he could cure cancer and other diseases. But Baker had no actual medical training, and his treatments were often sadistic and painful, including drilling holes in patients' skulls and performing surgeries without anesthesia in the basement.

Along with the construction worker, the hotel is said to be haunted by former patients and staff from the time it served as Baker's "hospital." Throughout the years, there have been mysterious reports of hands coming out of bathroom mirrors, cries of pain, gurneys rattling down halls and doors slamming shut on their own. Some visitors have claimed to see spirits in Victorian dress in the hotel's dining room.

The hotel has been restored to its original condition and offers ghost tours. Contact the Crescent's front

desk at (866) 896-0144 for more information.

The Allen House — The Natural State also has its share of haunted houses, such as The Allen House in Monticello. This mansion was built in 1906 by local businessman Joe Allen, who lived in the home with his wife and three daughters until his death in 1917. His family continued to live there for decades, but in 1949, Joe's daughter, Ladel, poisoned herself with mercury cyanide. Mrs. Allen sealed off her daughter's bedroom for the next 40 years.

After Mrs. Allen's death, her two surviving daughters converted the family home into apartments. Soon afterward, renters began to report strange sounds and witnessed bizarre events. They claimed that objects would fall over by themselves and shadowy figures would move across rooms. Allegedly, those figures would appear in pictures taken by residents.

The Allen House is now a private residence, but is open for tours on the last Saturday of each month from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost of admission is \$15 per person and no reservations are required.

King Opera House — Local legend states that an actor who performed at this historic theater in Van Buren fell in love with a local doctor's daughter at the turn of the 20th century. The young lady's father didn't approve of the relationship, and the young lovers ran away. Unfortunately, the doctor discovered their plans and met them at the train depot, where he beat the actor to death with a whip.

The staff of the King Opera House claim to this day that the ghost of the young actor haunts the theater. It's been said that his ghost has been frequently spotted wearing a top hat and cape and turns the auditorium's lights on and off.

The MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History: The Tower Building of what once was the Federal Arsenal in Little Rock, now home to the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History,



The Tower Building, old Federal Arsenal in Little Rock.

is most famous for being the birthplace of General Douglas MacArthur. Since its' construction in the early 1840s, the building has also been a witness to numerous events in Arkansas history.

It has been said that museum staff experience heavy footsteps on the creaky old wooden stairs when the building is closed to the public, other strange noises which cannot be explained and the persistent presence of a ghost who goes by the moniker, "Sarge."

Reportedly, Sarge resides in the top room of the tower, where he keeps watch over the building and the surrounding area. And if you ask Sarge to speak, he will tell you that he is in charge of the building and instruct you to promptly leave or else.

Have a happy Halloween, and go enjoy some of our state's spookiest places!

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The SCAT board of directors: Back row, from left: Scott Luchesi (vice president), Tom Grasse (vehicle manager), Tom Funk (treasurer), and John Plautz (president). Front row, from left: Carolyn Duncan (office manager), Robyn Williams (rider representative), and Mary Orman (marketing). Not pictured: Chuck Stofer (driver coordinator) and Cindy Schlachtenhaufen (secretary). (Submitted photos)



A Ride Indeed

Mary Eliades
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

SCAT is a life saver for some Villagers

One of the few drawbacks to living in Hot Springs Village has been the lack of public transportation. Back in 2007, however, two Village women, Lynda Grasse and Patty McDonald, decided to do something about the problem and formed a committee to investigate solutions.

Grasse, who hails from Wisconsin, had organized a transportation program through her church there and brought her experience to the task at hand. McDonald, a long-time Village resident, had the necessary contacts in the area to facilitate the process.

The fledgling committee contacted the Community Transportation Association of America, and its representative, Bob Carlson, spent three days in the Village assessing needs and making suggestions.

He put the committee in touch with SCAT (South Central Arkansas Transit), which is a nonprofit agency under the large umbrella of the Central Arkansas Development Council (CADC). The CADC is a “private nonprofit community action agency” (per its

website), and offers many community services, such as Head Start and Meals on Wheels, as well as programs in money management, food and nutrition, etc.

SCAT saw the need for transportation in Hot Springs Village and provided two handicapped-accessible vans, which hit the road in March 2010.

Grasse and McDonald found office space and started rounding up volunteers. That number currently stands at 62, with 44 drivers and 18 schedulers giving their time to help others in the community.

Grasse said Village SCAT is unique in that there are no paid employees. CADC pays office rent, maintenance, insurance, and gas for the vans – expenses, basically. Since there are no paid employees, there is no payroll, unlike other SCAT branches.

The organization eventually incorporated as Hot Springs Village Transportation Group and obtained 501(c)3 status, and has purchased three vans, one of which is wheelchair accessible. Funds came from donations and grants – Mountainside Church made a

large donation, and a grant from Arvest Foundation paid for a much-needed software upgrade.

Many people ask about transportation to Hot Springs or Little Rock, and Grasse said riders can contact SCAT in Saline (501-315-3686) or Garland County (501-623-2875) – the county of residence – regardless of the destination. The rates vary (depending on mileage), and both branches usually require 48 hours’ notice.

Village SCAT currently provides about 350 rides a month for residents, and president John Plautz said the number of rides has increased by about 20% every year. Three vans run almost every day and volunteers (drivers and schedulers) are always needed to keep them running. Grasse said, “Volunteers work about twice a month, and each volunteer selects the dates they can work.”

SCAT has many regulars, who book the service to go to hair appointments, doctor visits, physical therapy sessions, etc. Plautz said the most popular destinations also include Walmart and the McAuley Center.

Grasse stated the service has “become a lifeline for

a number of residents that previously had to depend on neighbors and friends to get them to doctor appointments and shopping.” Giving up the keys is often a traumatic experience when the time comes to admit that one can no longer drive safely but having a reliable method of transportation available eases the pain somewhat.

The service is available Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., operates door to door, and only costs \$4 one way. Coupon books (for 10 rides) are available for \$36 and include one free ride (a good gift idea). Rides are available anywhere in the Village and to businesses and medical facilities outside the gates. Office hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, and requests can be made by calling 501-915-3303.

For more information about SCAT or to make a donation, contact Lynda Grasse at 501-915-3303. Any donation is welcome and worth the price to keep a reliable, efficient transportation system in place in Hot Springs Village.



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The advertisement features a photograph of a brown leather sofa with two patterned pillows, a coffee table with a magazine, and a vase of flowers in a living room setting. The text is overlaid on a dark red background on the left side of the image.



THE ENTERTAINMENT FOUNDATION

Light & Joy

Robin Raborn Burns
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

*“I still long to laugh and dance
To be heard and to be seen.
These four walls
Don't define who I am inside.”*

From ‘Bring the World To Me’ song lyrics written by Audrey Findlen and Ken Goodman - music composed by Ken Goodman and Doug Lackey

Spend just five minutes with The Entertainment Foundation (TEF) founder Audrey Findlen and her genuine kindness - her commitment to providing joy, encouragement, and warmth shines through. She exudes compassion and generosity.

Findlen has been a performer most of her life - dancing, singing, and acting in various plays



Audrey Findlen, Director of The Entertainment Foundation (Audrey Findlen photos)

and shows. She successfully combined her love of performing with her desire to enrich the lives of veterans, senior adults, and the underserved through quality live entertainment by forming The Entertainment Foundation in 2018. The first show performed by the Entertainment Foundation was on Feb 13, 2018. Findlen believes that adults in nursing homes assisted living, and other long-term medical facilities can feel isolated and forgotten from the world they view outside their windows.

Findlen and her husband moved to Hot Springs Village in 2014. She became a widow a few years later, and her grief forced her to engage in introspection. Findlen shares, “I had to find myself again and discover what made me happy as I started the next chapter in my life.”

Findlen believes that the joy of live entertainment brightens the lives of everyone and that those who could benefit the most from it are people with little

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access to it. Just as homemade gifts can be the most treasured because they come from the heart, the performers of TEF perform from their hearts and give all they have to make a special memory for their audience.

The Entertainment Foundation has enriched the lives of approximately 8,000 veterans, senior adults, and other underserved individuals through its programming. Check out the TEF promotion video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtgRE_tzpZw&t=64s/

The types of programs TEF offers include:

The visitation show (TEF's Signature Program)

A one-hour interactive and engaging show that is performed by one of the talented professional entertainers in the TEF troupe. The show can be performed in a facility or designated gathering place of members.

Just For You

This is a thirty-minute show that is performed in person, or virtually, by the entertainers. The show can be performed in the honorees' home or room, as desired. Friends and family often choose to be included in the experience.

Veterans Blessings

Honoring their courage and patriotism, TEF celebrates the heroism of veterans with a TEF performer who sings and shares stories to celebrate the veteran who is being honored.

Senior Sweethearts

Love is not only for the young! Senior love stories are inspirational and beautiful. A TEF performer will surprise the couple with a song and flowers.

Special Events

If you are planning a special event, consider contacting TEF - they can further enhance your event with a professional entertainer.

Findlen attributes the success of TEF to "the passion of the entertainers and board members."

The Entertainment Foundation
P.O. Box 22754

Hot Springs, AR 71903 (501) 701-9958
TheEntertainmentFoundation@gmail.com
www.TheEntertainmentFoundation.org

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Check out the TEF promotion video: [https://www.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtgRE_tzpZw&t=64s/)



Ken Goodman performing at Village Springs

[youtube.com/watch?v=PtgRE_tzpZw&t=64s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtgRE_tzpZw&t=64s)

The Entertainment Foundation, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit corporation.



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HSV LEISURE



Zach and Lindsey Smith (left) are the owners of Wine Down, shown here with staff Kyle Rash and Bryan Gillenwater. (Mary Eliades photo)

LOW DOWN ON THE WINE DOWN

Mary Eliades
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

Great food, great views, great music

Wine Down at DeSoto Marina is the perfect place to relax with a cold drink and a good meal, while enjoying live music and views of Lake DeSoto.

Lindsey and Zach Smith opened Wine Down on Feb. 26, 2023, and hit the ground running.

Wine Down has a small indoor space, but a large deck with great views of the lake. Umbrellas and fans keep things cool. The property also includes a large grassy area with picnic tables – a great place to enjoy a burger with friends or a furry companion.

Marina visitors can rent kayaks, paddleboards, and pedal boats, and Captain Billy offers sunset sailboat rides any day of the week. The cruise lasts two hours,

includes wine and a charcuterie board, and rents for \$150 per couple.

Although the marina is a part of the business, Zach and Lindsey are focusing on the bar and restaurant aspects.

The menu is an appealing blend of appetizers, burgers and sandwiches, with freshly made salads and side dishes. “Everything is done from scratch,” said Zach – none of the food is packaged or prepared ahead of time.

One of the most popular meals on the menu is the “low country boil,” which became an “instant hit,” according to Zach. The restaurant sells five or six a

day and goes through about 100 pounds of shrimp every week. The shrimp is boiled with potatoes, corn, sausages and, occasionally, crab, and served with a “come-back sauce” (similar to a remoulade).

Although this is the Smiths’ first foray into the restaurant business, the rave reviews seem to have validated their decision. They received a “neighborhood favorite” nod for best bar from NextDoor, and Lindsey said, “We’ve loved it so far!”

Wine Down has just debuted its all-day Sunday brunch and it’s already a big hit. The special menu includes brunch burritos, bacon, egg and cheese biscuits, and the specialty – brioche French toast with homemade pineapple ice cream. Mimosas and special Bloody Marys round out the menu.

Diners and drinkers can also enjoy live music Thursday through Saturday, and trivia buffs can show off their knowledge on Wednesday evenings from 8 to 10 p.m.

The Smiths have big plans for the fall, when temperatures drop and sitting out on the deck is sheer pleasure. They’re thinking about hosting “movies in the park,” along with a kayak event and a barbecue



Brioche French toast with pineapple ice cream is offered with the Sunday all day brunch. (Submitted photo)

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Look for their signature sign on DeSoto. (Sandy Johansen photo)

weekend. A karaoke competition is coming up Oct. 12, 19, and 26, with finals on Oct. 28 – the winner will take home \$1,000 in prize money, with prizes also going to second and third places.

A liquor license is in the works, but wine and beer are already available. The Smiths are happy to announce that Wine Down is the only bar in Hot Springs Village

to offer beer from Superior Bathhouse Brewery, among others. They also serve wine and frozen wine cocktails, and the “freezer” machine will segue into margarita production once the liquor license arrives.

Off-menu items are sometimes available, so ask about fried fish, shrimp quesadillas, and Italian sausage sandwiches. Zach and Lindsey do all the cooking and are always trying out new items.

While Zach is the head chef, Lindsey is the webmaster and handles graphics and promotional materials.

Wine Down is located at 120 Marina Road; for more information, call 501-226-3100. Hours: Wednesday through Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Lindsey said, “We are trying to be consistent with our hours,” and she and Zach hope to add more days and hours.

Stop by Wine Down for dinner or drinks and to welcome Zach and Lindsey to the Village!



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Serving a Diverse Community

Saline County Library offers a
wealth of resources

Mary Eliades
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

A library used to be a place where patrons could quietly browse and check out books or spend hours conducting research. Modern libraries are all these things but now they are so much more.

Residents of Hot Springs Village are lucky to have easy access to three excellent libraries: the Coronado Center Library (in the Village), the Garland County

The Saline County Library in Benton serves a wide and diverse community. (Photos courtesy of the Saline County Library)

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Library (in Hot Springs), and the Saline County Library, in Benton.

The Saline County Library, with two branches, is a wonderful resource for readers and students of all ages and is only about 20 miles from the East Gate of the Village.

The library was founded in 1931, with a home on the second floor of the Walton Building on Market Street in downtown Benton. The library outgrew that first building – and three more – before a 1998 millage increase and countywide sales tax raised funds for a new library in Benton and a branch in Bryant.

The Mabel Boswell Memorial Library, in Bryant, opened in 2002, and the beautiful, 32,000-square-foot Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library in Benton opened in 2003.

One of the interim homes of the library was in the former office building of Dr. Dewell Gann, on Benton's Market Street. After the library moved on to bigger quarters, the building was turned into a museum – The Gann Museum (218 S. Market Street). The museum houses an extensive collection of items from Arkansas history: Quapaw and Caddo artifacts, Niloak and other local pottery, and Saline County memorabilia (documents, etc.). The museum has now come into the fold of the Saline County Library system and staff members are busy digitizing the historical resources there.

The Saline County Library has thousands of books, including a large and diverse children's section, as well as audio books and DVDs that can be checked out. They also have “nontraditional” items on loan – cake pans, board and video games, mobile hotspots, fishing poles, and costumes, to name a few of the more unusual items. A seed library is also available to members.

The library has a large computer lab, with free Wi-Fi and laptops (for in-library use) and access to dozens of online resources, with assistance always available from the friendly staff.

Resources for students include Brainfuse (which provides live online tutoring, including standardized test preparation and ESL tutoring), ABC-CLIO (database curriculums on a wide variety of historical and cultural topics, including photos, maps, etc.), World Book (an online encyclopedia, with news,

games, etc.), Today's Science (an “infobase” with dozens of topics), and many more.

Mango, a highly rated language-learning app, offers reading and listening activities, and adapts to each student's progress. Online courses in American Sign Language are offered through ASL Gallaudet.

Job seekers can improve their skills and prospects through any of several programs available: Brainfuse JobNow, LinkedIn Learning, Indeed (for job searching), and Coursera (with courses and certificates available from universities and companies).

Other online resources – from Saline County informational databases to Arkansas Law Help – are also accessible.

Makerspace – “a communal space that contains tools, equipment, and materials that allow for people to come in with an idea and leave with a completed project” – is another innovation at the library and allows people of all ages to explore their creative sides. The library provides tools and resources for “crafting and tinkering,” with ideas and talents provided by patrons.

The library is a member of the Mid-Arkansas Regional Library Consortium (Mid-Ark), comprised of Cleveland County Library, Dallas County Library, Grant County Library, Malvern-Hot Spring County Library and Saline County Library. Patrons can visit any of the branches to check out and return books, and a bookmobile also visits “outlying communities” of Saline County.

The library hosts at least two book clubs – an “adultish book club” (for adults and young adults) and a local author book club, where writers from the area often make appearances to discuss their books.

Seriously Chatty Librarians is an “unofficial” podcast of the library, where librarians chat about books, movies, television shows, popular culture, current events – and whatever else they feel like!

For those who prefer a Kindle or other e-reader to an actual book, the library offers “reading on the go” through Libby, Hoopla, and Kanopy. Patrons can download books and other resources from anywhere in the system.

Friends of the Saline County Library was organized in 2017 to raise money for special projects at the library.



Thousands of books and computer access throughout the library allow patrons to browse or conduct research.

Two years later, they opened a used book store at the library, which is open during regular library hours.

Hot Springs Village residents can obtain a free library card by showing a photo ID and proof of current address. In addition to the benefits and resources available at the library, patrons also receive a monthly newsletter with interesting articles, a calendar, book

reviews, library news, etc.

The Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library is located at 1800 Smithers Drive in Benton (501-778-4766) and the Mabel Boswell Memorial Library at 201 Prickett Road in Bryant (501-847-2166). The website – www.salinecountylibrary.org – is a wealth of information and lists resources, programs, books, etc.

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COVER STORY

Tina Cooper with one of her furry friends at Royal Sanctuary Therapy Farm. (Photos courtesy of Tina Cooper)

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Therapy animals make Royal Sanctuary Therapy Farm a special space



Robin Raborn Burns
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

The impact of COVID-19 in 2020, in combination with the bleakness of winter weather, caused Tina Cooper to feel a sense of isolation and uncertainty that resulted in a deep depression. By June, darkness began to overtake her. A friend sent her a video by Karen Wheaton; “Have faith, expect miracles.” A phone call came in under an hour; a neighbor looking to re-home a miniature horse and donkey. Tina enthusiastically said yes! The caller said, “These two would be great therapy animals.” Tina’s heart skipped a beat, and Royal Sanctuary Therapy Farm began.

When Tom and Tina Cooper bought the land that became Royal Sanctuary Therapy Farm, it was completely wooded. They cleared the land but used the trees to build their farmhouse and all the standing structures. They believe in repurposing natural resources, just as they believe in helping people who may be lost or struggling to reclaim their joy. Royal Sanctuary Therapy Farm is the perfect place for veterans to seek serenity and healing, for youth who are in the juvenile corrections system to feel less stigmatized, for children with developmental



Pedro (l) and Trigger.

disabilities to feel like they can run and play like typical children, for seniors who are in assisted living facilities to feel like they are part of the world at large, and for law enforcement, and other first responders, to feel that someone understands the stress and personal trauma their service to others can cause.

A variety of loving and content animals roam free or live a content life in their combines as this farm is now their sanctuary. They have been rescued, and they now help humans benefit from the healing environment of Royal Sanctuary Therapy Farm. There are indoor and outdoor areas ideal for private visits with a therapist. Tina says she is “a strong advocate for suicide prevention because, as she shares, “if feeling low, helpless, and hopeless can happen to me, it can happen to anyone. I have been a Christian my entire life. I was a worship leader, I was a Sunday school teacher. I would have never imagined that I would

experience such a profound sense of desperation.” Since Tina experienced a miracle in the form of a video that she needed to see at precisely the right time in her life, she hopes her tranquil home, loving animals, and serene environment can be the miracle others need. As is the hope and mantra of many people who possess a profoundly generous spirit, Tina says, “If I can help just one person, it is worth it.” The reality is that Royal Sanctuary Therapy Farm, a safe and loving therapy venue in a farm environment with amazing animals, certainly has impacted and will continue to impact the lives of many. “We had both First Step and AARP visit in June and it was so moving to watch these animals put smiles on the faces of our visitors” Tina adds.

There is a lovely little shaded area in the back of the Coopers’ farmhouse with a table (and some bunnies in their cages) where Tina and Tom have a fan and play soothing music. This is where they discuss ideas and plans for Royal Sanctuary Therapy Farm. Tina hopes to enlist the services of Chuna Grace Rai-Nelson, a Yoga Trainer for the Central Arkansas Veteran Healthcare System, (part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.) to offer yoga classes for veterans at a future date. Yoga, with its combination of physical posture, breathing, and meditation techniques, can contribute to improved mental health, sleep, and quality of life outcomes for Veterans suffering from PTSD. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7880235/>)

A certified dementia practitioner, who runs a memory support community at the Atrium at Serenity Pointe, an independent living, assisted living, and memory-care facility in Hot Springs, brought a group of residents to Royal Sanctuary Therapy Farm and Tina said: “They had the time of their life.” The therapist said that during the bus ride back, there were poignant conversations about past memories on farms.

Located in Royal, their address is

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A Life of Service

Bob Shoemaker finds joy in helping others

Lewis Delavan
STAFF WRITER

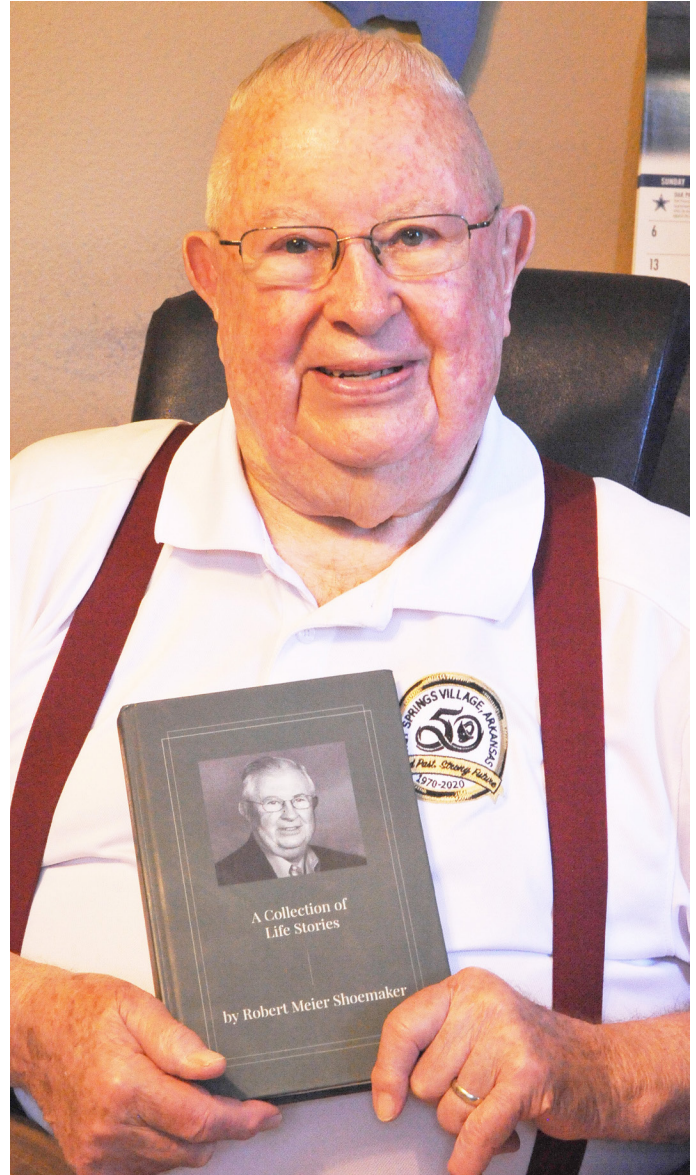
As a young man Bob Shoemaker planned a life of service. He expected to be a Methodist minister, but life took another route.

A New Jersey native, Shoemaker graduated from Princeton University and entered Southern Methodist University to prepare for the ministry.

While a Princeton sophomore, Shoemaker met his future wife, Norma, on a blind date in her freshman year. Few women attended college in those days, but she valued education highly.

In seminary, mentors at his church in Dallas guided him to the Boy Scouts of America after he expressed doubts that he was cut out for the ministry.

Although he had never been a Boy Scout as a youth



"A Collection of Life Stories" by Robert Meier Shoemaker contains reflections from nine decades of life and service. (Lewis Delavan photos)



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or a Scouting volunteer, Shoemaker found his passion in supporting the Boy Scout program as a professional Scouter. He and Norma had four sons.

Boy Scout service took him around the country – from Dallas, Texas; to Corpus Christi, Beaumont and later Texarkana; then a stint on the national staff at White Plains, New York; CEO at San Antonio, Texas; and Detroit, Michigan; and a return to national staff in New Jersey.

A sense of accomplishment comes from helping other professional Scouters develop and advance. “I’m a people person,” Shoemaker said. He saw overlooked potential and helped enhance their skills and confidence. “I helped men and women who had the potential to be doing much more.

Shoemaker long dreamed of public service. The opportunity came after moving to Hot Springs Village. But as it was for Abraham Lincoln, the path to public office was not easy.

He ran for the HSV Property Owners’ Association Board of Directors in 2001 and 2002, losing both times. Later in 2002 when a vacancy opened, president Tom Arwood asked Shoemaker if would join the board, and he won three-year terms in 2003 and 2006. “I served six full years and most of a seventh,” he said.

Shoemaker served as vice president and succeeded Dick Breckon as board president.

The Village’s proximity to medical care in Little Rock was fortuitous for the Shoemakers after Norma was diagnosed with a blood issue around 2002. Around 100 trips to the medical center ensued over the next decade, with Norma succumbing to the disease on Dec. 12, 2012.

The Bob and Norma Shoemaker Endowment for Education provides college scholarships and honors the Shoemakers’ committment to education.

After 58 years of marriage, Shoemaker felt empty.

But a month’s visit with son, Joe, and wife in Michigan proved refreshing. He returned to HSV. “On Feb. 1 I was ready to hit the ground running,” he recalls. While participating in the Repertory Theater he soon met his future wife, Connie, and on April 15 she agreed to a date, although she did not want a relationship after losing her husband. “Reluctantly, she said yes,” But engagement came on June 6. They

married that Aug. 12 and have now enjoyed a decade of marriage.

A founding member of the POA Governmental Affairs Committee, Shoemaker had earlier served on an ad-hoc committee to study the POA’s long-term needs. After leaving the board he has served as an ex officio GAC member. He has also served the Village Employee Benefit Fund, the Ouachita Speaker Series Board and was active in planning the Village’s golden anniversary celebration, which came right as the Covid pandemic hit. He is also a member of Rotary Club of HSV.

He and Connie are active members of Village United Methodist Church.

Service runs strong in the Shoemaker household. Retiring after 40 years of nursing, Connie remains an active volunteer in the Village, running the blood donation drive at Village UMC and serving at the HSV Animal Welfare League shelter.



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Lewis Delavan
STAFF WRITER

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Community First Trust was charged by the Arkansas State Bank Department as the state's first independent, fully staffed trust company. CFT does not make loans or accept deposits. "We are focused on providing you with very specialized financial services, in a very personal manner," Harper says.

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Senior vice president/trust officer Cindy Harper and Becki Elderton are ready to provide personalized service at the Hot Springs Village office. (Lewis Delavan photo)



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estate services are needed.

Harper says that everyone needs a will and many will need a trust, with the recommendation that the documents be drawn up by an attorney specializing in estate planning.

"Our job is to administer the trust or the estate per the legal document that the client has drawn up," she said.

Blended families are among many clients who may benefit from a trust.

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Harper joined Community First Trust in 2007 as a personal trust officer. In 2017, she was named senior vice president of trust administration. She is licensed with the Arkansas State Department of Insurance for life, long-term care and annuities.

CFT also has branches in Hot Springs, Little Rock, El Dorado and Russellville. It is a fully owned subsidiary of Farmers Bank and Trust Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas Community Bank. Farmers is headquartered in Magnolia.

For more information or to make an appointment, call the Village office at 501-915-1000. It is located at 1398 DeSoto Boulevard, Suite B, west of the Ponce de Leon Drive intersection.



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Haunted Hot Springs

Amanda DeBoef
SPECIAL TO HSV LIFE

Who doesn't love a good ghost story.... or five?! I know I do. My 10-year-old son humored my desire for chilling entertainment last night in Hot Springs, Arkansas. We took part in a 'Morbid Haunted History Ghost Tour' on the historic streets of downtown Hot Springs. I learned so much, I really don't know where to begin.

First, I want to say that Hot Springs (rather, historic Hot Springs) has a very New Orleans feel. There was a notable mob/gambling presence in the city in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Unfortunately, with gambling, often comes prostitution, which there was a healthy level of in the area as well. With gambling and prostitution, not to mention WWI and WWII injured and convalescing veterans, there was a myriad of grisly murders, chilling haunts, and intriguing stories, many of which were told (in explicit detail) on our tour just last night.

The first stop centered on the large blonde, brick Army Navy Hospital which sits high upon a hill and menacingly overlooks the town of Hot Springs. This was the first building I noticed when we drove through town the first time. The building is huge, looks very dilapidated yet strangely beautiful, and of course, it



Old Army Navy Hospital.

has an imaginary 'I'm Haunted' aura written all over it.

Occasionally referred to as 'The Hospital of Death', this was a military health unit where many WWI and WWII veterans were taken after their active-duty service. Most notably, this expansive past hospital/treatment center contained the first refrigerated morgue in the country. Prior to that time, blocks of ice were used, which obviously was a major under-taking that required continual freezing and switching out of the ice for the deceased.

Before the refrigerated morgue was invented and incorporated to the facility, an unnamed veteran was admitted to the hospital in 1941. He entered with a

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slightly swollen ankle and a low-grade fever. By the next morning, he was so sick he could barely get out of bed. He died within a week. Whatever infection he carried with him to the military unit came to be known as: 'The Great Kill Out of 1941'. Within three weeks, 90% of the hospital (including staff) had contracted the infection and died as well. This equaled hundreds of dead bodies, which was far more than the facility had the ability to store.

The hospital was converted to a rehabilitation facility in 1960. In desperate need of rehab assistance, many locals volunteered their services. One such volunteer was the well-known deaf and blind historic figure, Helen Keller. Having no sight or hearing, she was ultra-sensitive to the left-over scent the years of decaying bodies left behind. She also spoke of frequently feeling 'brushings' against her bare skin and even through her clothing. It is well-known that Ms. Keller refused to stay at the hospital and rather secured her own lodging at a nearby hotel during her time of service to the wounded soldiers.

To this day, those inspectors that visit the building have mentioned sightings of 'shadow people', feeling cold drafts out of nowhere, and sensing putrid smells which seem to come and go with no rhyme or reason. This is a federal building, so chances are it will not be completely demolished anytime soon. Yet, there is so much work to be done to restore its former glory, that it is presently sitting there vacant.... or is it?

Our second stop of the evening was at a popular soap store named Bath House Soapery and Caldarium, conveniently located on the main strip downtown. Historically, this present soap store was a popular Tea House known for its most famously beautiful hostess, Violet Boules. Violet's beauty captivated many, but none more than Elmer Jones, who came to be known as a stalker to the Tea House's beloved hostess, Ms. Boules. He visited daily, hoping to catch a glimpse of the beautiful woman. He continually attempted to form a relationship with her. She had no interest and turned him down time and time again.

One day, Mr. Jones was sitting at the bar, staring at Violet in his usual creepy manner, when he (as typical) was politely asked by the manager of the popular Tea House to leave. He complied. Only a short time later, he returned to the tea house, walked right up to Violet, and shot her in the neck. Once fallen, he shot her two more times, ensuing her grisly death. He then turned the gun on himself and landed right on top of her



Bathhouse Soapery.

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murdered body, closer to her than he had ever been, only because she lacked the ability to escape, avoiding his menacing presence.

Of course, Violet's family was devastated by her murder and had her buried on the edge of town, in the local Greenwood Cemetery of Hot Springs. Elmer, however, had no family and the city's Chamber of Commerce agreed to bury his body in the very same cemetery. Only they did not adequately check the burial records and unwittingly buried him right next to Violet's somewhat fresh grave!

Unfortunately, being the victim of this stalker's macabre illness in life was not enough, now he is buried right next to her. One cannot help but wonder if her restless spirit doesn't haunt the former tea house turned soap store she so adored. Or perhaps the cemetery where their bodies lie side-by-side, at first glance like a loving married couple. But for those that know the twisted back-story, this is a macabre turn of fate for Violet's final resting place. Many have witnessed a dark shadow in the back corner of the soap store where Violet met her violent fate. Perhaps she is stuck in that time before she was brutally murdered, or reaching out from beyond, with a simple plea to move the body buried next to her, so she can finally rest in peace.

Our third stop brought us to a quaint little park called, 'Adair Park', just off the popular row of shops and restaurants downtown. My family had unwittingly been in the same location earlier in the week and taken pictures, having no idea of the macabre history this specific area of town held.

This particular hotel was built by a man from Dallas, Texas in 1910, who visited the Hot Springs area, fell in love with the quaint town, and wanted to brand his own little part of history with a wooden hotel, complete with a stagecoach entrance and pick-up for hotel residents. It was quite swanky for the time and very contemporary-looking.

Our tour was told that the building to our left, with the boarded-up windows and stage-coach bricked-over entrance used to be a grand wooden hotel. One recurring theme of the evening was that wood burns. We soon found out that this independently owned hotel was no exception to that rule.

The night of the fire, twelve residents died. Eleven died peacefully in their sleep from smoke inhalation. The 12th resident, who happened to be on the top floor of the hotel, suffered a more torturous death. His



Adair Park.

remains, from the notable Room 7, on the top floor, were found plastered to the window pane, once the smoke had finally dissipated and a clear view was seen to the top floor windows.

It was thought that this gentleman woke up in the middle of the night, realizing the hotel was on fire. The end table in his room was pushed up against the door. Possibly, he stumbled into the table and inadvertently blocked himself in. He then scrambled to the window, despite the massive amount of smoke. He unwittingly put his hands on the window to try and press the pane out and jump from the burning room, but instead, he was burned beyond recognition.

The violent kickback from his hands being burned resulted in his whole body falling against the burning windowpane. The man was found glued to the window, from head to the mid-portion of his body. That is how he died, screaming out in torturous pain, for help that would never come. To this day, many visit Adair Park between midnight and 3:00 a.m., in attempts to hear the screams, moans, and horrified



Medical Arts Building.

sounds of the man in room 7, who tragically burned to death against the windowpane of his hotel room.

Our next stop was to a building not rumored to be haunted, but the guide asked all members of the tour to stand just underneath the skyscraper and asked if we recognized the building (Medical Arts Building.). He then told us that a man in the entertainment business, as an artist for the Superman series, once stayed in the infamous Arlington Hotel just across the street. One fateful night, he looked out his window and was mesmerized by the sight of the tall building standing opposite his own temporary residence. He was then inspired, between this building and an unnamed building in New York City where he lived full-time, to bring forth the well-known version of the Daily Planet from the cult-classic series that graced my own generation, Louis and Clark.

Next, we walked a short distance to an abandoned parking lot, with a very large rock wall surface at the back of the lot. Our guide asked us to stand as close to the rock as possible. My son and I stood in the middle

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Arlington Spa and Hotel.

of the group. The tour guide pointed at my son and said that in the very spot he was standing, in the late 1980s, a family was vacationing in Hot Springs. They had parked their car in the very spot where my son stood. As they were packing up their car after a day of adventuring in Hot Springs, the rock face that used to be there, with no warning, violently fell from where it stood above the parking lot. The adults managed to escape the heavy plummet of rock. But the family whose car was parked in this spot, had just secured their small baby in the car seat. The young child was killed by the collision no one saw coming. It is rumored

that at quiet moments, often late at night, in the very spot where my son stood, folks can still hear the horrible, scared and mournful cries of the innocent baby that was killed on that fateful day.

Our next stop was the infamous Arlington Hotel, which has a distinct Spanish architecture, both inside and out. The top pillars of the hotel glowed a ghostly bluish hue in the darkness. The Arlington boasts a rich and varied history. Several guests have reported unexplained phenomena in the rooms of the hotel. One particular couple were staying with a baby in their room. They put the bassinet on one side of the bed and when they awoke in the morning, the bassinet was on the opposite side of the bed. Neither of the parents had moved it. Which obviously begs the question, who did?

Several folks have admitted that when staying on the street side of the hotel, they will close their curtains at night, to shield their room from the bright city lights. The curtains are wide open in the morning, with no other explanation than an otherworldly presence that opened them.

The Arlington was no stranger to disaster. It, too, originally provided a wooden facade. It burned in 1923 and a new building was completed in 1924 and is often referred to as the 'Big Grande Tombstone', due to the number of deaths the hotel has seen over the course of history.

At one point, the Arlington was considered the most premier hotel in the nation. It was built with a rare sophistication of high society that is still evident to this day. My family was given a key to the Babe Ruth inspired suite where the historic baseball player once stayed. While nothing otherworldly happened during our brief visit, during the day, it was quite inspiring just being in the same room as one of the nation's greatest athletes.

Next, we walked a short distance to a parking lot near a wooded area leading to one of Hot Springs most famous hiking trails. At first the guide began to tell us of the bizarre burial ground located on a plateau-like plane off the main hiking trail. Apparently, when gambling debtors refused, or were unable to pay their mounting debts, the town's gangsters and prostitutes would walk them to the trail, deep into the woods, and they would never again return to civilization.

As if that little tidbit of information was not creepy enough, the guide went on to tell a far more macabre

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account of the history on this particular hillside of Hot Springs, overlooking the quaint, family-friendly, touristy town below. Several years ago, when our guide's boss (the current owner of the company) was giving a tour, he indicated a spirit rumored to make contact with hikers, but no one knew who the spirit belonged to in life. One of the patrons on the tour loudly said: 'I know. It was my son.' Obviously, he had gained the attention of not only the tour guide, but every single person on that tour (not to mention the tour my son and I were on some number of years later).

The man went on to tell a hauntingly tragic story that is still weighing on my heart, days later. He and his wife had one son who happened to have schizophrenia. They put their beloved son in a psychiatric hospital, in hopes that his condition would improve with time. While his condition never improved, he never showed any signs of harming himself or others. He just continually complained about the voices that refused to give him much-needed peace.

One day, while the parents were meeting with the psychiatric manager where their son lived, he said



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that since the boy had posed no threat to himself or others, they should take him for a brief outing from the hospital. Give him some freedom, adventure, fresh air, and see if they noticed a difference in his solemn and maudlin behavior.

The parents decided to take their son to the local hot spot, named Hot Springs. They shopped, they ate delicious meals, they tried everything to see a spark of life in their young son. He continued to remain quiet and depressed on the trip. Just when they were about to give up hope and return their son to the institution, the small family walked by the entrance to this particular hiking trail. The boy's spirit suddenly changed. His face alighted with a spark his parents had never seen. He ran to the beginning of the trail and continued up the hill, laughing, running, jumping, even chasing a squirrel at one point. The boy's parents were overjoyed to see a semblance of normalcy in their typically reserved son.

Several days later, they returned him to the institution, with fresh hope that nature could possibly

be a cure-all for his bizarre behavior and the mental demons he faced. The boy grew into a young man at the institution. One day, when the parents were visiting their son, the manager again approached them and said: 'Your son has never posed a threat. We feel it might be good for him to live outside of the facility and see if independent living makes a difference in his mental health.' His parents agreed and moved their adult son back home with them.

One day, the father had gone into town, leaving his son at home with his mother. When the father came home hours later, he walked into the kitchen and saw a sight that he would never forget. The kitchen walls and floor were covered with blood, his wife lay lifeless on the floor, and his son sat at the table, holding a knife covered in blood. His only statement: 'I couldn't make the voices stop'.

Obviously heartbroken at this act of tragic violence, the father buried his wife and placed his son back in a psychiatric hospital. This time with no option for release. The young man ended up hanging himself in his room with the belt from his pants soon after being placed back in psychiatric care.

The father, once again heartbroken, had his son cremated and spread the ashes on a hill halfway up the trail where our tour group stood. The father declared that the day he discovered the trail and saw how happy it made his son, was the only day he ever saw him with a smile upon his face. He wanted him to rest in the peace of nature that obviously had the greatest and most positive impact on his young life. And so, the unnamed spirit roaming the woodsy hiking trail, leading up the mountain from Hot Springs, finally had a name. And a story to go with it.

Our final stop was Candy Corner, an old-fashioned candy store. In fact, the very same my family had visited earlier in the week. Little did we know what a wild history the store held. Turns out, the store was known as a 'drive-by mortuary' back in the days of gambling, gangsters, prostitution, and all else Hot Springs history holds near and dear.

The town's leaders, gangsters, and law-enforcement devised a plan to sell the fresh spring water to invalid visitors as a 'remedy for all health ailments'. The store acted as a sort of pharmacy, where a visitor would

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Outside the Candy Corner.

present their malady and then be given a script to bathe in the fresh spring water two to three times a day (depending on how severe the illness). This was rumored to cure any and all ailments. Of course, it didn't work and before the town knew it, they had a pile of dead bodies and no way to properly identify and lay them all to rest.

Thus, they stored the bodies on display and asked the friends and family of the visitors to stop by to identify their family member and take them to be buried. The funds from the prescriptions were used to further support the gambling and prostitution jobs, which ran the town of Hot Springs. The more these jobs were supported, the more law enforcement was paid from the revenue. The whole 'healing by bath house' was a rouse which killed hundreds of innocent and very ill

people. But it garnered a huge revenue for the town and its underbelly of financial means.

I have been on numerous ghost/history tours and this one hour and twenty-minute walking tour of Hot Springs is at the peak of my list! The guide was ultra-entertaining, and the stories truly took on a life and character of their own. I only wish our group wasn't so large so we could have had more individual attention and the opportunity for questions to flow. I will definitely take the tour again when in Hot Springs, and I am told you can arrange for a private tour as well.

Hot Springs is a town with a diverse and entertaining history worthy of learning. The stories I shared today are just the tip of the iceberg. I will never look at the town the same way again. By day, it is a bustling, loud, fanciful place to shop, dine, and imbibe. By night, I would take extra caution, you never know which of these restless spirits, or others unheard of, are out roaming around, trying to right the wrongs of their macabre, violent, and tragic deaths.

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4 cups diced mushrooms
2 tablespoons chopped parsley
1 tablespoon chopped sage
1/2 cup Spanish white wine

Heat the oven to 350 F. Open the tenderloins with a full-length cut that goes about 3/4 of the way through the meat. Flatten out the ten-

derloin and season it on both sides with salt and pepper. Set aside.

Heat the olive oil in a skillet, and sauté the onion and garlic on medium heat for 12 minutes. Add the jamón, mushrooms, parsley, and sage; continue cooking for 20 minutes. Add the wine and cook for 5 more minutes. Remove from heat and allow to cool. Spread the mixture over the flattened tenderloin. Roll the tenderloin around the filling and set it on a sheet pan with the seam side down. Roast in the oven for 25 minutes. Remove from the oven and cut into 1-inch slices. Serve 2 slices per plate.

GRILLED GULF LUMP CRAB CAKE

1 pound Gulf lump crabmeat, picked
1/3 cup red bell pepper, diced small
Juice and zest of one lemon
1 scallion, thinly sliced
Aioli or mayo, just enough to combine
1 pinch Old Bay seasoning
Couple dashes of hot sauce (Louisiana or Cholula)
Salt and pepper to taste

1. Place all ingredients in metal ring, or loosely form into a patty. Place in hot cast iron.

2. Flip once until browned on both sides. Serve immediately. Garnish with grilled lemon and either tartar or remoulade.

Tip: For a fall or winter meal, serve crab cake on a bed of mashed potatoes and parsnip or carrot puree.



POMODORI FARCITI ALL'ERBETTE

Makes 6 to 8 servings

1/2 cup finely chopped fresh Italian parsley
1/2 cup finely chopped yellow or white onion
1/4 cup finely chopped fresh sorrel (or substitute arugula or spinach
with a squeeze of lemon)

4 ounces prosciutto

2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh mint

Salt

Freshly ground black pepper

8 ounces Provatura cheese (or fresh mozzarella)

3 large egg yolks

6 to 8 medium fresh tomatoes

2 or 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

Ham broth or crusty bread, if desired, for serving

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.

2. Mix the parsley, onion, sorrel, and mint together in a medium bowl. Tear the prosciutto into small pieces, then mix into the herbs



and add salt and pepper to taste. Grate the cheese into the mixture, then add the egg yolks and mix together to form a paste.

3. Slice off the tops of the tomatoes and scoop out the inside with a spoon, discarding the tops and insides of the tomatoes. Stuff the hollow tomatoes with the herb mixture until full but not packed too tightly. The filling should be flush with the top of the tomato.

4. Add enough olive oil to cover the bottom of an oven-safe frying pan and set over medium heat. Pan-fry the tomatoes, bottom down, for 2 to 3 minutes, then use tongs to quickly flip them over and to prevent the filling from falling out. Pan-fry top down for 2 to 3 minutes. Then place the frying pan into the oven and bake for 10 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven and serve hot.

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ROASTED PUMPKIN SOUP WITH PUMPKIN CRISPS

Serves 6 to 8

- 3 to 3 1/2 pounds pumpkin
- 6 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 onions, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 3-inch piece of fresh ginger root, grated
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric
- Pinch of cayenne pepper
- 4 cups vegetable stock
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon sesame seeds
- Fresh cilantro leaves, to garnish

For the pumpkin crisps
Wedge of fresh pumpkin, seeded
1/2 cup olive oil

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F. Prick the pumpkin around the top several times with a fork. Brush the pumpkin with plenty of the oil and bake for 45 minutes or until tender. Leave until cool enough to handle.
2. Take care when cutting the pumpkin, as there may still be a lot of hot steam inside. When cool enough to handle, scoop out and discard the seeds. Scoop out and chop the flesh.
3. Heat about 4 tablespoons of the remaining oil (you may not have to use all of it) in a large pan and add the onions, garlic and ginger,



then cook gently for 4 to 5 minutes. Add the coriander, turmeric, and cayenne, and cook for 2 minutes. Stir in the pumpkin flesh and stock. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat, and simmer for about 20 minutes until tender.

4. Cool the soup slightly, then puree it in a food processor or blender until smooth. Return the soup to the rinsed out pan and season well.

5. Meanwhile, prepare the pumpkin crisps. Using a swivel-blade potato peeler, pare long thin strips off the wedge of pumpkin. Heat the oil in a small pan and fry the strips in batches for 2 to 3 minutes, until crisp. Drain on paper towels.

6. Reheat the soup and ladle it into bowls. Top with the pumpkin crisps and garnish each portion with sesame seeds and cilantro leaves.

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OCTOBER EVENTS

Beach Boys

Oaklawn Casino Resort
October 1 at 7 p.m

Tour the Vines

Arlington Resort and Spa
October 5 at 4 p.m

2023 Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival

October 6-14

45th Annular Wisconsin Picnic

Balboa Pavilion
October 12 from 4 to 7 p.m

Drink & Think

Ozark Bathhouse
October 12 at 5:30 p.m.

HSV Country Two Steppers

Coronado Center
October 14 at 7 p.m.

Family Fun Day at Coleman Crystal Mine

Ron Coleman Crystal Mine in Jessieville
October 14 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Beboppers Dance

Coronado Center
October 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Memphis Soul Review at Bridge St. Live!

Bridge Street
October 27 at 7 p.m.

Paralandra at Vapors Live

Vapors
October 27

Celebrate Fall at Garvan Woodland Gardens

Garvan Woodland Gardens
October 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Haunt Hot Springs Halloween Weekend

Hot Springs National Park
October 27 - 31

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Hot Springs Village Police Department

Come on out Friday, October 20th from 10am-1pm to have your picture taken in our pumpkin patch!

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