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JANUARY 2024

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## Turn The Page To 2024



A snowy road in Hot Springs Village.

**H**appy New Year celebrations are just days away and parties and a few parades will be the order of the day. January 1, 2024, ushers in a new beginning. Jason Soroski may have said it best: "There is nothing magical about the flip of the calendar, but it represents a clean break, a new hope and a blank canvas."

New Year's resolutions are also a part of that calendar flip. "Every year you make a resolution to change yourself. This year, make a resolution to be yourself," wrote an unknown writer.

Here's another take on resolutions by F. M. Knowles: "He who breaks a resolution is a weaking; he who makes one is a fool."

Here's a timely one from Alfred Lord Tennyson: "Ring out the false, ring in the true."



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And from Avina Celeste: “Enter this new year with a gratitude for this new chance to create your dreams.”  
January 1 is also a rather historical day. On Jan. 1, 1776, General Washington unveiled the Grand Union flag, the first national flag of America. Jan. 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln gave the Emancipation Proclamation and on Jan. 1, 1752, Betsy Ross was born.  
Personally, I look forward to 2024 and another year of working at the Hot Springs Village Voice to help, along with my colleagues, bring you the Village news, events, veteran’s stories and more. Enjoy that flip of the calendar and see what it brings your way.

**Jeff Meek**  
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

# CONTENTS

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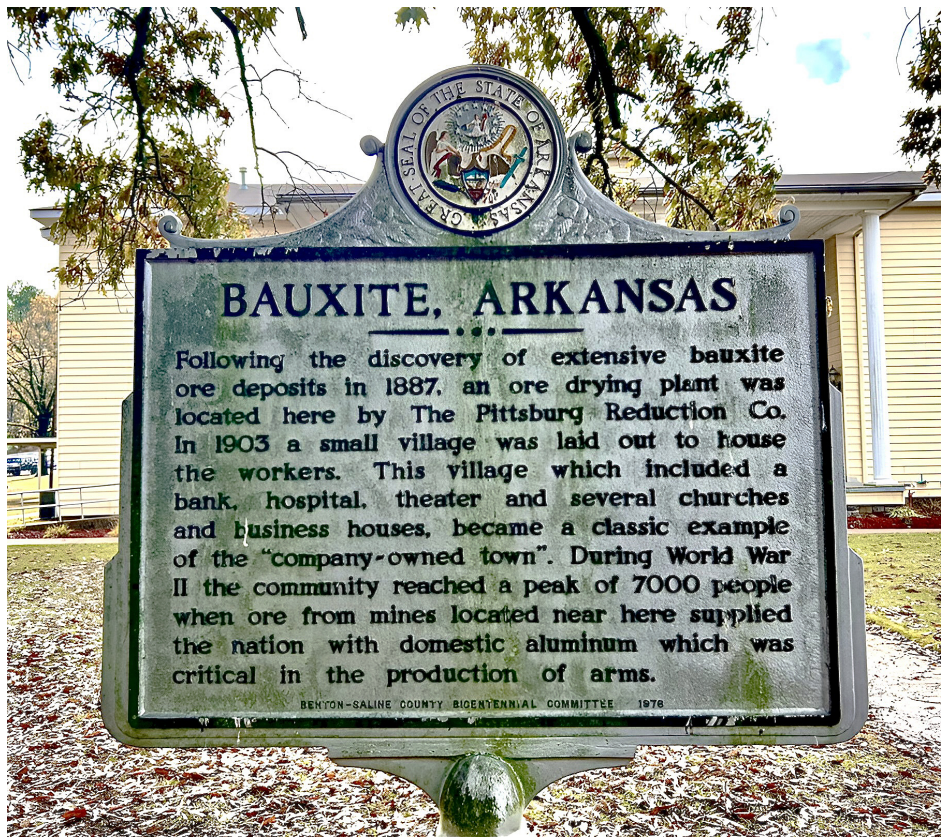
Turn The Page To 2024	4
<b>ALL AROUND ARKANSAS</b>	
Like A Rock	6
<b>HSV PEOPLE</b>	
World Travelers	8
<b>HSV EVENING LIONS</b>	
Hoping For That Fifth Letter	12
<b>HSV RECREATION</b>	
Hiking In Winter	14
<b>COVER STORY</b>	
Paul Day	16
It Takes A Village (Pines Garden Club)	18
<b>HSV PEOPLE</b>	
People, Family & Country	24
<b>AAUW</b>	
100 Years Of Empowering Women	26
Who’s In Charge Now?	29
January Events & New Year’s Brunch	34

**ON THE COVER: Paul Day and Sylvia Barham-Day. (Photo courtesy of Paul Day)**



## Like A Rock

*Bauxite becomes boomtown when valuable mineral is discovered*



Darrell W. Brown

Historical marker commemorating the town of Bauxite.

Years ago, when I worked for Arkansas Parks & Tourism, we ran an ad campaign that featured the slogan, “Go play in your own backyard.”

Today, I live in rural Saline County. But thanks to a new job, I spend a lot of time in Bryant. As a result, the city of Bauxite is my “backyard.” But until recently, I’d never visited the small town. So, during my lunch break last week, I decided to take the short, five-minute drive to Bauxite and, in particular, the Bauxite Historical Museum. The museum, located in the former Bauxite Community House, is truly a hidden gem in the Natural State.

The beginning of the Bauxite Historical Museum starts in 1887, when bauxite was first discovered in Saline County. Mostly made of aluminum hydroxide minerals, bauxite was desperately needed by the U.S. military in both World War I and II, and as a result, the small central Arkansas community became a boomtown.

In 1903, the Aluminum Company of America (later

Alcoa) built an ore-drying plant in the Bauxite area. The company-owned town grew in population, and in 1926, Alcoa built the Bauxite Community House for community events. Alcoa employees funded the project, contributing 25 cents per paycheck until the company recouped the building’s cost.

The community house had a library, reading room, game room and full-service kitchen. It was also home to the town’s Masonic lodge. Clear Lake was built nearby to serve as a recreational area for Alcoa employees and their families.

But with the end of World War II, Alcoa found it most cost-effective to mine bauxite ore overseas, and as a result, the company-owned and operated town of Bauxite nearly went from a boomtown to a ghost town. On June 19, 1967, Alcoa officially notified Bauxite residents that as of July 1, 1969, the company would no longer financially support the town.

Having been run by Alcoa, Bauxite never incorporated. But that changed on Jan. 16, 1973. And



as of the 2020 Census, the town had 629 residents.

The Bauxite Historical Museum is operated by the Bauxite Historical Association. The group began as the Alcoa Employees Descendants Association, which began in 1986 as a nonprofit organization charged with the maintenance and preservation of the Bauxite Community Hall and other properties deeded to the organization by Alcoa.

The museum features exhibits and artifacts about the history of bauxite mining and about the lives of those who worked in the mines. One artifact of particular note is made of woven aluminum fabric created by world-renowned Paris designer, Jean Desses. The \$25,000 dress is only one of two known to exist, and it was worn by Miss Arkansas Barbara Banks at the Aluminum Bowl game at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock on Dec. 22, 1956.

There are also rooms in the museum dedicated to the history of the Bauxite school system, World Wars I and II, as well sports memorabilia from local athletes who went on to have collegiate and professional success. Those include Leon “Muscles” Campbell, a football standout at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville who played for the NFL’s Baltimore Colts and Chicago Bears.

In early 2008, the H. Tyndall Dickinson Family commissioned a large bronze statue titled *Unsung Heroes—Bauxite Miners* to be placed on the museum’s grounds. The statue depicts a father, dressed in overalls, saying goodbye to his family as he goes to work in the mines. The sculpture was unveiled on the front lawn of the Bauxite Community Hall in October of that year.

The Bauxite Historical Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays and from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Sundays. Admission is free, and donations are appreciated. The museum is located at 6706 Benton Road in Bauxite. For more information, call 501-557-9858.

*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.*



**Bauxite Historical Association Museum.**



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## HSV PEOPLE



# World Travelers

*HSV Voice Travel Club – seeing the world together*

**Mary Eliades**  
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

**A large group traveled to Ireland, visiting Dublin, Limerick, Galway, Killarney and places in between. (Submitted photos)**

**T**ravelers abound in Hot Springs Village, whether they opt for long, leisurely journeys by car to parts unknown or cruises to exotic or historical locations. Another option, however, for those wishing to have someone else take care of all the planning, logistics, and bag-toting, is a group tour.

Enter the new Hot Springs Village Voice Travel Club! The Voice has partnered with Premier World Discovery to offer a series of trips, ranging from bus and rail tours in the United States to locations in Europe and beyond.

The Travel Club made its debut in 2023, with five



trips: Great Trains & Grand Canyons, Cape Cod & the Islands, Treasures of Ireland, Burgundy & Provence France River Cruise, and, most recently, New York City Holiday. More than 75 Villagers participated in trips in 2023.

“I think there has been an overwhelming response to our trips,” said Jennifer Allen, owner of the Voice, who joined the group on the Grand Canyon tour. “Everything was so easy,” she enthused. “The guide was so informative about the area, and the bus driver was terrific.” This was Allen’s first group tour experience, and she added, “Everything was taken care of, and it’s made me want to do another group trip.”

Allen also had good things to say about Premier: “They have many years of experience,” and were very helpful at all stages.

Premier is an international tour operator, offering 80 varied programs – “group travel for active adults,” according to district sales manager Lanny Landis.

Landis gave a presentation on Nov. 28 with details of the company and trips offered in 2024. Premier works with local partners – newspapers, banks, alumni associations, etc. – and does not advertise to individuals. “The groups are community based,” said Landis.

The cost for the trips includes air and ground transportation, hotels, guides, tickets to attractions and events, and some meals (including breakfast every day and welcome and farewell dinners). Landis said the hotels are generally four-star or better and include high-end chains like Hilton, Sheraton, etc.

The trips are considered “escorted tours,” meaning a tour director accompanies the group from the minute travelers arrive at the first destination airport. The tour director handles all the logistics – “an onboard concierge,” according to Landis.

The tours offer “enriching and inclusive sightseeing,” with some optional activities – “not everyone has to do a bungee jump,” quipped Landis.

There is no fee for the Travel Club, and Premier offers various booking discounts for returning travelers.

Allen provides a personal touch for Village travelers – she always talks to the guides in advance and is in contact with members of the group before each trip. A group meeting is held prior to each departure for distribution of travel documents and answers to last-minute questions.

Allen considers the Travel Club “a great service to



Hot Springs Village Voice Travel Club members on the “Cape Cod and the Islands” tour visited lighthouses and Martha’s Vineyard, among other scenic sites.

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the community,” especially since there is no longer a travel agency in Hot Springs Village. She also mentioned that many single or widowed residents would like to travel, but don’t have a partner with the same interests – “there’s comfort in traveling with a Hot Springs Village group.”

Village resident Mary McCullough traveled with the group to Cape Cod. This wasn’t her first group tour and “I will definitely do another,” she said. “Premier would be my first choice. I definitely got the most bang for my buck.” She traveled with friends and particularly enjoyed the Boston city tour. “I could crush a trivia game on early American history after this tour,” she added.

Landis said Premier is happy to accommodate friends and family members who want to join a trip from other locations, and added that for groups of 10 or more, Premier offers airport transportation from Hot Springs Village.

The Travel Club has a great line-up of trips planned for 2024, starting in March with Highlights of Italy’s Amalfi Coast, including three nights in Rome. Landis said this popular trip is “sold out,” but he’s looking at additional options.

The series continues with Utah’s Mighty National Parks in May. For travelers who prefer to stay in one hotel the entire time and venture out each day to a new destination, this may be the way to go – the first night of the trip will be in Grand Junction, Colorado, but the rest of the nights will be spent in Moab, Utah, with day trips to national and state parks – Canyonlands, Dead Horse Point, Monument Valley, Capital Reef, and Arches.

In June the group will journey on a California Rail Discovery, from San Francisco, through Napa Valley, to Sacramento, and on to Reno and Lake Tahoe. The Sacramento to Tahoe portion of the trip will be an Amtrak Sierra Nevada Rail Journey. The trip could be called “planes, trains and automobiles (as well



**Historic church in Ireland.**

as boats),” since it includes visits to the California State Railroad Museum and the National Automobile Museum, the train journey, a San Francisco Bay cruise, and a cruise on a Lake Tahoe paddle wheeler.

The Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta is next up, in October, with stops in Albuquerque, Taos and Santa Fe, and an up-close-and-personal visit to the balloon festival, including the dawn patrol show, the mass ascension, and the evening glow.

Later in the month, a big trip is planned to Australia and New Zealand. Landis said the trip is a “dream destination” for many, and travelers will visit Sydney,



Cairns (and the Great Barrier Reef), and Melbourne in Australia before moving on to New Zealand, where the excitement continues in Queenstown, Milford Sound, Rotorua and, finally, Auckland.

Also in October, travelers can choose to visit Mackinac Island, the Grand Hotel and Niagara Falls.

The last trip of 2024 will be to historic Savannah and Charleston to see the cities decked out in their holiday finery.

Space is limited on the tours, so travelers should sign up early to be assured of a space.

For those who missed the Nov. 28 information session, another one is planned for early 2024. Meanwhile, for a list of tours and other information, go to the Voice website ([hsvvoice.com](http://hsvvoice.com)) and click on the Travel Club banner. Brochures for each trip can be downloaded to see day-to-day itineraries. Those who fill in the request for information form will receive occasional updates (no advertising) from Premier about added trips or further details on current trips.



A sign on Martha's Vineyard, right.

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# HSV EVENING LIONS

## *Hoping For That Fifth Letter*

*Bingo at the Coronado Center helps support the Evening Lions*

Robin Raborn Burns  
VOICE CORRESPONDENT



**Bingo at the Coronado Center. (Photos courtesy of HSV Evening Lions)**

The Hot Springs Village Evening Lions Club proudly serves the HSV community – and they certainly live up to their lion pride! They are responsible for the Balboa Park Playground project. The project celebrated 50 years of service to Hot Springs Village. The HSV Evening Lions Club wanted to create a community project that would provide recreation and playground equipment to the HSV Balboa Beach area. A 200-foot swath of playground area close to the Balboa Beach swimming area is the location of the new park area. The following equipment has been installed: a sand volleyball court, a Baggo court, a merry-go-round, a swing set, a geodome climbing apparatus, a picnic canopy, an integrated play set that includes a slide, and playground benches. The Evening Lions were able to procure and donate equipment to the HSV POA Recreation Department for use at the park. A fundraising campaign was started by the HSV Evening Lions Club in 2022-2023 to raise money for the project. The fundraising efforts yielded almost \$45,000, thanks to the generous support of Lion Club members, donors, and sponsors.

In terms of fundraising, Bingo is the Evening Lion's flagship fundraising activity and funds the majority of

their charitable efforts. Bingo nights are the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at the Coronado Center (150 Ponderosa Lane). Doors open at 6:15 PM and all the fun begins at 7:00 PM. Here are the particulars: There are 18 regular games and one jackpot coverall game with a progressive prize starting at \$400. Packets contain 6 playing cards per game will keep you entertained the entire evening. The cost of the 6 face packets is \$20 each. They also sell packets with 3 playing cards per game for \$15. Daubers are on sale in the main hall for \$2 each and they sell additional Coverall sheets for the final bingo game and 50/50 raffle tickets. Generous donors and sponsors also provide prizes that are drawn from the raffle ticket pool. A concession stand is open at 6:15 pm, selling hot dogs and chili dogs as well as drinks, chips, popcorn, and sweets. Bring some extra cash so you can enjoy the best hot dogs in town. Make plans for a fun evening of bingo, good food, and the camaraderie of your HSV neighbors. And you will be supporting the philanthropic mission of the HSV Evening Lions. The Evening Lions have also devoted considerable time during the last year supporting



Arkansas tornado survivors across the state. The Evening Lions are well-known for their philanthropy – they focus on health, hearing and sight, and diabetes awareness.

So, come on.. let's play bingo. Lions Clubs International is the largest service club organization in the world - with over 1.42 million members in more than 47,000 clubs, serving in over 200 countries and geographic areas around the globe. Since 1917, Lions have strengthened local communities through their humanitarian projects, and they extend their service impact through the support of their Lions Clubs International Foundation. Lions Club International focuses on supporting sight, hunger, the environment, childhood cancer, and our new global cause, diabetes, to help address some of the biggest challenges facing humanity. Lions have set an ambitious goal of helping 200 million people per year so we can bring even more service to more people than ever before. For more information about Lions Clubs International, visit [lionsclubs.org/](http://lionsclubs.org/)

A Thanksgiving Bingo Promotion poster, right.

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## Hiking In Winter

Many opportunities exist for winter hiking in and around HSV

Lake Ouachita State Park hikers enjoy this view from the Point 50 Overlook on the Caddo Bend Trail. (Ouachita State Park, Emily Stubblefield photo)

Lewis Delavan  
STAFF WRITER

Outdoor activities need not stop in winter. Freedom from insects and the heat, as well as fewer crowds are among reasons to enjoy January hikes and outings.

Entering its fifth year is the New Year's Hike at noon Saturday, Jan. 6 at Balboa beach.

To ensure adequate parking, the hike was moved from its home for the first four years, the Mildred and John Cooper Nature Preserve Trail. An estimated 210 took part last year, three times the previous record.

There is no charge to participate. Sponsors are the

HSVPOA Trails Committee and the POA Recreation Department. Check with the recreation department or [www.explorethevillage.com](http://www.explorethevillage.com) to ensure that the event was not rescheduled due to weather.

Members and guests can enjoy the Village's trail system year-round.

Opportunities exist outside Hot Springs Village.

Arkansas State Park offers guided First Day Hikes at many parks, with the state a strong participant in the nationwide event that occurs in all 50 state park systems. "First Day Hikes are focused on healthy





**The 2023 sign-in table offered light refreshments for the one-mile New Year's Hike. (Submitted photo)**

habits and lifelong memories,” the parks division said in a release.

Among free guided hikes will be these:

Lake Catherine State Park – Falls Creek Trailhead, 9 a.m. Jan. 1.

DeGray Lake Resort State Park – Green Heron Trail, easy, 3/4-mile guided starting 10 a.m. Jan. 1 at picnic tables behind the Visitor Center.

Petit Jean State Park – Bear Cave, easy 1/4-mile guided hike.

Crater of Diamonds State Park – Little Missouri Trailhead, 1.5-mile hike, 9 a.m. Jan. 1. Park facilities and diamond hunting will be closed Jan. 1, but reopen at 8 a.m. Jan. 2.

The public is also encouraged to enjoy self-guided walks and hikes on the New Year Weekend, Saturday, Dec. 30-Monday, Jan. 1, for those who would like to explore on their own.

Participants can receive a free “Hike Arkansas State Parks” sticker one of two ways:

Go on a guided hike at a state park on Jan. 1 and receive a sticker at the program.

Self-guided hikers can log their New Year Weekend (Dec. 30-Jan. 1) hikes in Arkansas State Parks by filling out a form. An entry form link will be available starting Dec. 30 at <https://www.arkansasstateparks.com/first-day-hikes>. The division will mail a free sticker to each person in the group.

Both Lake Ouachita and DeGray Lake Resort state parks will offer eagle tours. The cost and other information will be announced.

Arkansas State Parks offers these tips:

- When the parking lot is full, the park is full. The public is encouraged to consider planning hikes on

less-visited trails or off-peak times of the day. Consider having a Plan B in place.

- Dress for the weather. Wear and bring warm layers and sturdy shoes. In winter the breeze can make it seem even colder: Plan to bring extra gloves, hats, and layers even if you think you don't need them.

- Bring water and snacks.

- Avoid hiking if you are experiencing cold, flu or Covid symptoms.

- Stay on designated trails. Shortcuts cause damage and are unsafe.

- Practice “Leave No Trace” principles.

Photos and videos of First Day Hike experiences may be uploaded with the uploader tool at <https://www.arkansasstateparks.com/first-day-hikes>. Or use #ARStateParks and #FirstDayHikes when sharing on social media.

Another possibility is the Ouachita National Recreation Trail, which runs from Talimena State Park, near Talihina, Oklahoma, to Pinnacle Mountain State Park, west of Little Rock. The trail crosses Highway 7 north of Jessville, south of the Winona Scenic Drive.

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## COVER STORY

# Paul Day

## A Life of Service & Gratitude

Jeff Meek  
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

If you've paid attention to Hot Springs Village committees and boards over the years, you'll likely recall the name Paul Day. We feature him here in this issue as a reminder of this man who committed to a life of service to the Village, his country, and his many employers covering several decades.

Day was born and grew up in Enid, OK where he attended high school and played football and baseball. In fact, he was offered a few baseball scholarships to small schools, was selected to the All - Oklahoma American Legion team as a centerfielder and Honorable Mention All - State as a left fielder in high school.

He turned down those scholarships and went to Oklahoma State University where he majored in Economics and minored in English, graduating in 1958. Day was listed in Who's Who in American Universities as a junior. He also served as Wing Commander of the Air Force ROTC unit as a senior.

"Next I went into the Air Force for supply school

Paul Day and Sylvia Barham-Day.  
(Photo courtesy of Paul Day)

for 12 weeks, then on to Palm Beach, Florida to close a base so it could be turned over to the city to become their International Airport," Day explained. Then he was off to the Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. "At Kwajalein we monitored air traffic in the Pacific. I lived there for 1 year. While there I learned how to skin dive and started a specimen seashell collection. I still have it. You see those shells now days sold in





jewelry stores,” said Day.

His next assignment was at Okinawa, Kadina AFB where he was an aide to the base commander. Day told of a funny incident when he was on a training mission to Taiwan. “As soon as the plane landed, soldiers quickly rolled out a red carpet. Chaing Kai-shek and his wife were also coming in and they mistook our plane for his. They rolled up that red carpet right away,” Day said.

Day left the Air Force and with help from Oklahoma State got a job with IBM in 1961 as a systems engineer in Oklahoma City. He was among the first to install computers that read checks and banking information. Later in Chicago he led a team that built and installed scanning systems using UPC in retail and supermarkets. “My team wrote the software. That turned businesses around.”

Day retired in 1991 as Director - National Technical Support for Small and Intermediate Systems. Five hundred people in 4 locations were under his supervision. “It was a challenging job and I worked hard at it,” said Day.

Later while living in Dallas, he coached a Little League football team and was appointed a member of the Greater Dallas Community Retailer Commission. The commission was set up to help with racial relations.

Then Day consulted on his own for 2 years, then became Marketing Director of the Outsourcing Division of Computer Science Corporation. The job involved weekly flights to Washington, D.C. and other locations as business required.

Later he was hired as vice president of sales for Amtech Corporation, a company that manufactured and sold toll tags. Still later he opened an Amtech office in Hong Kong and retired, moving to Hot Springs Village in 1997 from North Dallas.

Now in HSV, Day got active right away. He was

elected to the Diamante Advisory Board in 1998, becoming chairman in 2000. He also served on the Government Affairs committee (GAC) for 3 years and was chair in 2007. He received the POA Excellence Award for his work in attracting retirees to Arkansas and the Village. Then he was appointed by the Board to be their representative to Metroplan in 2016.

Day soon learned that Hwy 5 was not in any plans or financing for improvement. Day helped get that situation changed and many Hwy 5 improvements have taken place over the last several years.

Next, he joined the Executive Committee Saline County Economic Development Corporation and was also elected to the POA Board in 2007. “My priority was getting ambulance service in the Village,” Day said. “The Board saved the ambulance service,” he added.

Day withdrew from service activities in 2010 to care for his wife Patty who later died in 2015 after 10 years of battling Alzheimer’s. They had been together since 8th grade and married after college graduation in 1958.

In 2016 he married Sylvia Barham. “We went to the same church and were neighbors for 20 years.”

After that he became a member of the HSV marketing committee and chaired it in 2020 at age 86. But that’s not the end of the story. Day ended up becoming co-chairman of the Benton Chamber of Commerce GAC in 2020.

As our interview concluded we talked about other aspects of life and what he enjoyed. “I love to travel and have been to all 50 states and 45 countries. And this is important – I have committed my life to Jesus and have served as a Deacon at Balboa Baptist Church and churches in Chicago and Dallas.”

Day also helped start the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) in 1998 and has enjoyed watching it grow over the past several years.

Day has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.



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# It Takes A Village

(Pines Garden Club)



Coronado Center Legacy Project.

Sandy Johansen  
STAFF WRITER

Following the recent celebration of Village Pines Garden Club's (VPGC) 50th anniversary, HSV Life Magazine visited with club members regarding their services to Hot Springs Village.

VPGC was organized in 1973 and is now one of the oldest service clubs in HSV.

They organized three special events beginning with a September 20 luncheon at DeSoto Club. Many past presidents shared their experiences and Kelly Hale, HSV General Manager was on hand to recognize the club's dedication to HSV.

The club's second celebration on October 3 was a

normal meeting time and featured Janet Carson, well known speaker on all areas of horticulture. She gave many tips on planting.

The third celebration was the club's selection of a new beautification project at the entrance to the Coronado Center, a monthly club meeting place. Starting with the POA removing large overgrown plantings and reparations to the irrigation system, Village Pines augmented and rearranged river rock around the water feature, along with overgrown juniper were cut back. "The completion of the Coronado Entrance Landscape serves as the club's



Balboa Pavilion Project.





**East Gate Garden Project.**

Legacy for 50 years of Community Service,” said Past President Rosalyn Halbert.

The members work hard at maintaining all the beautification projects, but they also like to have fun. For the past 30 years, each April members have enjoyed a “Champagne Brunch”. For this event, they form

groups to create centerpieces for each table. A special speaker and sometimes a fashion show are part of the program. This event started out being very elaborate at the DeSoto Club with dressy attire and gloves. Members enjoy a delicious brunch and champagne for those who would like it.

Another fun event is the annual Spring picnic at the Cortez Lake Pavilion and Xeriscape Garden. Members bring a potluck of salads and desserts. Every other year, the picnic is a time to install officers on the club’s board. Greeting new members and recognizing special members for their hard work is part of the program at each picnic, and also a fun time to bring and exchange plants and cuttings.

Plant exchanges also happen at several of the monthly meetings. One of the purposes of the Garden Club is to educate not only the members, but the public as well, about plants and planting. Exchanging plants and learning about them is a great education.

To fund the costs of maintaining the beautifications projects, the club has fundraising projects which many in HSV support. In recent years, potted



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**Miss June's Garden.**

chrysanthemums and poinsettias have been their primary fundraisers. Club members and residents appreciate the Villagers' support for these very successful sales.

The Pines meets on the first Tuesday of each month, September through May at Coronado Community Center. The meetings always present something of interest to both outdoor and indoor gardeners. Every meeting has programs given by club members and by special speakers on a variety of topics.

The Ways and Means committee has a fun raffle of interesting items. Some months instead of a meeting a field trip is organized to places of interest for gardeners. "Guests are welcome at any meeting and membership is open to anyone who lives in Hot Springs Village," said President Reta Osmond.

Having celebrated 50 years doesn't mean Village Pines Garden Club is finished. They are certainly looking to the future and another 50 years! The projects

are a vital part of our community, and the viability of the Pines is visible in the work done. The entire club is proud of the beautification and maintenance of all the garden areas members have been designed and created over these 50 years and will continue to do so without hesitation. Strong leadership, education, and dedicated members are the reasons for the longevity of Village Pines Garden Club.

#### **Ongoing VPGC Beautification Projects**

##### **National Arbor Day**

VPGC chooses a deserving place needing shade from a beautiful tree. The club is helped by POA staff to locate and plant the special tree every year in honor of Arbor Day.

##### **Cortez Road Gravesite**

Adopted by VPGC in 1987, is the only historic site in the Village and is the oldest beautification project





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still being maintained by the garden club. The original project saw the installation of low growing junipers, crepe myrtles, and river rock around the perimeter. In 2013, stone steps and flagstones, plus more river rocks and gravel were added to the perimeter. They have added a new historical plaque. Members add annual flowers, and maintenance. This site is the recipient of two first place awards from Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs for landscape and design. In addition, a first-place award was received from Southwest District and a special recognition received from National Garden Clubs.

### Butterfly Memorial Garden-Ponce de Leon Center

This garden was created in 2002 as a memorial for deceased members of the club. It was designed with benches and seasonal plantings. In 2009, an installation of a decorative metal fence, steppingstones, and a rock retaining wall raised bed were added and still in place today. This garden site is a recipient of the Arkansas Federated Garden Club award. Presently the educational garden is planted with native flowers, flowering vines, and assorted grasses which attract all types of butterflies and other pollinators.

### Lake Balboa Pavilion

The VPGC designed the landscaping at Balboa Pavilion in 2003. Due to the size of the area to be landscaped, the project was divided into two phases to complete the project. The first phase was the installation of a fence and gated front side of the Pavilion. The second phase added plantings of trees and other hardy materials to both ends of the Pavilion. This project received a Phyllis Byrum Landscape



Planter urns at Ponce de Leon Center.

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Design award. A second renovation and new design was undertaken in the spring of 2017. Plants were selected to provide a cohesive landscape, while emphasizing seasonal color and low maintenance. Large plantings of Crepe Myrtles, Butterfly Bushes, and Azaleas make a big impact in the landscape. “The Pavilion continues to be a beautiful place to celebrate any club’s achievements,” said Aundrea Tidwell, publicity director.



### Coronado Fitness Center

In 2006, the Village Pines Garden Club chose Coronado Fitness Center as a beautification project.

The building had undergone a remodel and the entrance area needed landscaping. The first phase was completed in 2007. Again in 2009, needing to correct a major drainage problem, the Pines replaced plantings damaged by the drainage issue. Today, the site is planted with hardy perennials, ornamental trees, and various ground covers.

### East Gatehouse Island

Starting in 2001, the Pines began maintaining large container gardens at East Gatehouse Island.

The site was chosen again as a landscape beautification project in 2012 when the Village altered the East Gate entrance to improve traffic flow from Hwy 5. Designed by a member of the Pines, the new landscape incorporated flagstone paving, irrigation system, and low maintenance landscape plantings. In 2013, the National Garden Clubs, Inc. bestowed a first-place award for Community Landscape Design. The maintenance is ongoing and new plants added as needed.

### Woodlands and Ouachita Rooms Planter Urns

In 2005, the POA purchased 6 concrete urns to beautify the entrances to both the Ouachita Rooms and Woodlands Auditorium. The urns beautification and maintenance were entrusted to the HSV Designing Women's Club, which maintained the planters over 13 years.

The Pines were given the care of the urns in 2018 and two years ago purchased 6 new black urns and pedestals to replace the older crumbling concrete planters. The urns ongoing maintenance involves designing displays of seasonal flowers and live greenery several times a year to beautify the entrances to the buildings.

### Miss June's Garden

Miss June's Garden was adopted in 2020 to be an ongoing beautification project. The original garden, located at the entrance to the Coronado Center Library was completed in July 2008 by friends of Miss June

Snow. Miss Snow managed the center for 10 years and had expressed a desire to see a butterfly garden site at the center. She passed away in 2008 and the garden site was created to honor her. A Master Gardner as well as a Pines member designed and cared for the garden for many years, bringing in hardy perennials to attract butterflies.

At one point, the garden site care reverted to the responsibility of the HSV Parks and Recreation Department. When the Pines again took over the care, the site was cleaned up and planted with new plants such as coneflowers, butterfly bushes, blue bells, and salvias.

The Hot Springs Village Life Magazine is grateful to the many members of the Village Pines Garden Club for their contribution to our community as well as sharing the detailed history, information and photos of their projects. Many thanks for their in depth, comprehensive and meticulous information shared by Rosalyn Halbert, Reta Osmond, and Aundrea Tidwell.



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# HSV PEOPLE



Beautician Lidia Pricop. (photo courtesy of Lidia Pricop)

## People, Family & Country

Robin Raborn Burns  
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

Walk through the front door of East Gate Salon, located at 110 La Plaza West, in Hot Springs Village, and you will be met by a striking, dark-haired woman. Her name is Lidia Pricop. She is a beautician at the salon, and she will greet you with a warm and inviting smile.

Since 2008, many of Lidia's clients have grown to value her friendship as much as her talent as a beautician. For many years, one East Village resident would visit the East Gate salon several times a week. These were not hair appointments - she would visit to chat with Lidia while she tended to her clients. She enjoyed sitting in the salon, sipping the warm cappuccino that Lidia offered, and savoring the friendly conversation that happened naturally between them. She was always welcome and was never regarded as an interruption, as both women looked forward to the visits. Also, a Hot Springs Village couple who enjoy holiday visits from their



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granddaughter who lives out of state, knows that the granddaughter only trusts Lidia to highlight her hair.

Until recently, Lidia was not only a beautician at East Gate Salon, but she also managed it. While she appreciated and learned from the opportunity, she is enjoying the decreased responsibility. She is spending more time with her large family, which includes her 19-year-old son. Family time is a huge priority - the family spends holidays together and often travels together. Lidia possesses a natural joy for life, and she has a strong sense of patriotism and love for the United States.

Lidia was only eight years old when she and her family came to America from Romania. She remembers vividly how life in Romania was vastly different than her life in America. At the time Romania was a communist country. The government controlled all things. Lidia says "Our grocery store shelves were empty most of the time. We would wait in line one day of the week for hours just to receive a few eggs and a loaf of bread. Warm water was granted to Romanians once a week for just one hour."

Lidia says it was extremely tough for her parents to feed their ten children. When her father was granted political asylum, Lidia's parents and she and her nine siblings were able to come to America. Lidia recalls the joy and excitement of having rights they had never before experienced - freedom of speech and freedom of religion. It was the first time in the life of her family that they felt hope for a better quality of life and the opportunity for a prosperous future.

As for her chosen career path, Lidia says that she used to babysit for her neighbor who was a beautician. On weekends, Lidia would help her at her salon, styling client's hair into updos. She saw how much happiness it brought her neighbor's customers, and she also learned that a good hairstylist could use her vision to advise what cut, style, and color would most complement their clients' features, to make them look and feel more beautiful. That was when Lidia decided she wanted to be a hairstylist. She has never regretted the career choice she made years ago. She says she has enjoyed meeting all the people she has met throughout her career. "I value getting to know who my clients are and becoming a little part of their lives," Lidia says. "It makes me feel grateful, loved, and blessed because they mean so much to me. I have the best clients! They all make my heart so full."

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# 100 Years Of Empowering Women

*Hot Springs/Hot Springs Village AAUW*

Two of the 2023-2024 AAUW scholarship recipients spoke to members at an annual luncheon held at Diamante Country Club recently. From left, scholarship recipient Hailey Stauder, National Park College president Dr. John Hogan, scholarship recipient Sonia Lopez, and NPC Foundation executive director Nicole Herndon. (Mary Eliades photos)

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Mary Eliades  
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

The long history of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) had its beginnings in 1881, when a small group of female college graduates met to explore and advocate for career and educational opportunities for women.

As the number of women graduating from colleges grew over the next few decades, rights for women increasingly came to the forefront in the national consciousness, and the group officially organized as the American Association of University Women in 1921.

Arkansas AAUW was soon to follow, in 1923, composed of branches in Hot Springs, Little Rock, and Fayetteville. The Hot Springs branch started out with 10 members, and one of its first projects was providing textbooks for rural schoolteachers.

From its earliest days, AAUW has conducted research and actively proposed and supported



legislation on women's issues.

In 1885 researchers published a paper disproving a widely circulated myth that a college education impairs a woman's fertility; in September 2023, AAUW concluded an analysis of U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics gender pay gap data, which revealed little progress in the 60 years since pay discrimination was made illegal.

AAUW has been instrumental in helping push through important legislation regarding gender equity and economic security, including the Equal Pay Act (passed in 1963), Title IX (1972), the 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, and the Paycheck Fairness Act, still awaiting action in the U.S. Senate.

While the national organization of AAUW works tirelessly to promote equity for women and girls, local branches, such as Hot Springs/Hot Springs Village, focus more on educational opportunities for female members of the local community.

When Hot Springs Village was established in the early 1970s, interested residents initially joined the Hot Springs branch; in 1989, in light of their growing numbers, they formed a satellite in the Village, while still retaining membership in the Hot Springs branch.

The satellite was disbanded in 1996 and, at some point, the branch was renamed Hot Springs/Hot Springs Village; today, most of the members reside in the Village.

Meg Koziar moved to the Village in 1992 and joined AAUW shortly thereafter. She was asked to serve as administrative assistant to the state president, who lived in Hot Springs Village, and later served as branch president, from 1998 to 2002 (along with many other offices, both local and state). One of her many achievements was compiling a history of the branch, which is housed at the Garland County Historical Society. In 2019 the branch created a \$20,000 endowment in her honor.

Koziar said, "Over the years, the branch has done a lot of good things for the community and has been very active in promoting education for women."

The national organization formerly required all members to contribute \$25 to an education foundation (a part of AAUW), which to date has awarded more

than \$135 million in fellowships and grants to more than 13,000 individuals and groups, making it one of the largest scholarship programs for women in the world. In the 2022-2023 academic year alone, more than \$6 million was awarded in fellowships and grants.

This requirement prompted the local branch to organize its first book sale in 1995 to raise the necessary funds. The success of the sale began a long tradition, and many residents of the Village still remember the annual book sale, when thousands of gently used books found new homes.

After an anonymous donor contributed \$5,000 to set up a scholarship fund in 1997, the annual book sales increased the coffers and allowed the branch to begin awarding scholarships every year.

The first scholarship was awarded in 1987, in the amount of \$100, to a "displaced homemaker," and the amounts have increased yearly, up to this year's \$3,000 per student (although the amount varies, depending on funds raised).

When the book sale was discontinued in 2015, the

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**The Hot Springs/Hot Springs Village branch celebrated its 100th anniversary at a recent scholarship luncheon.**

branch turned to alternate fundraising strategies – dinner galas and a travel raffle. In addition, individuals – members and nonmembers alike – continue to donate to the AAUW scholarship fund.

The fund is part of the National Park Foundation. National Park College has partnered with AAUW to find scholarship candidates and monitor their compliance with scholarship requirements.

Recipients can be students either at National Park College or transferring to other colleges or universities within the state of Arkansas.

The branch recently celebrated its centennial

anniversary in conjunction with a luncheon to honor the 2023-2024 scholarship recipients. The guest speaker was AAUW state president Maria Jones, who shared highlights of AAUW history and discussed AAUW efforts to influence legislation currently affecting Arkansans.

Jones said AAUW Arkansas is heavily involved in legislation to alleviate “period poverty” (lack of access to feminine hygiene products) in the state. The Arkansas Attorney General has approved a ballot title to exempt period products and diapers, both child and adult, from sales and use tax. Petitions were circulated to include the title on the Nov. 2024 ballot in an effort to collect 71,000 signatures. Jones emphasized the importance of this bipartisan issue to those who struggle to afford these products.

Today, the local branch of AAUW organizes programs and socials, and hosts two active book clubs, with some participation in events at the state and national levels.

For more information on AAUW, visit the national website at <https://www.aauw.org> or the branch website at <https://hshsv-ar.aauw.net>.



# Who's In Charge Now?

Tamhra Hutchinson-Frye and Edsel Frye retire to HSV after long careers in the U.S. Air Force

Brigadier General Tamhra "Tammy" Hutchins-Frye and Colonel Edsel A. "Archie" Frye, Jr. (Submitted photos)



Sandy Johansen  
STAFF WRITER

This writer was privileged to again honor members of the United States Armed Forces now retiring in Hot Springs Village. To include the complete biographies of Brigadier General Tamhra L. Hutchins-Frye and Colonel Edsel A. "Archie" Frye Jr. would cover countless pages. A general listing follows each officer, but the real story comes from their hearts and dedication to their country.

Brigadier General Tamhra "Tammy" Hutchins-Frye (Ret)

Hutchins-Frye talks easily about her background growing up in Lavaca, just down the road from Fort Chaffee. "There were only 36 in my class and I worked in neighbors yards, helping with the hay, and babysitting," she said. "Kids in my neighborhood always had something going on basketball, football, baseball, tetherball, riding bicycles, and we built Tonka Truck Roads." She played with older boys as she was tall and none of them treated her differently

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because of her gender. If I wasn't one of the best, I practiced to improve. "My early years prepared me both mentally and physically for a military career."

She received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Arkansas Tech University in 1983 and began teaching. Because of the low teaching salary, she spent the summer as a lifeguard at a public pool. "I couldn't keep my eyes off those jets taking off and landing at Fort Smith Regional Airport, and that's what led me to the recruiting office," she said.

She enlisted as an Airman First Class and made it her goal to become an officer. She received her officer commission in five short years. "A superior officer asked me, "What's your goal as an officer?" Her answer was she wanted to be a general. Hutchins-Frye has held many assignments in Arkansas and in Kabul, Afghanistan, working with NATO. Her last assignment was her dream job as the Director of Personnel, Manpower and Services at the Air National Guard Readiness Center, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.

Spending most of her career in personnel, she relates to people of any background. "It was my goal to assist airman both military and civilian to be their best. Honest formal and informal feedback, helping them reach their full potential, to be compassionate, pay it forward with others, motivate and build strong teams based on trust and respect. As a leader, I worked hard to make everyone feel welcome and a part of the team."

Brigadier General Hutchins-Frye's abbreviated assignments, awards and many others follow. One of her most challenging and interesting assignments was in Afghanistan. In 2013, she volunteered to deploy to Kabul, Afghanistan, where she served as the chief



**Catching a ride on the escort Blackhawk to Bagram Air Base to get another Anthrax immunization for General Hutchins-Frye.**

of staff on a NATO task force commissioned to ease the Afghan government into sovereignty. Senior leaders received extensive training prior to going to Afghanistan. "If you were an officer, with blond hair and blue eyes, you were a target, jeopardizing yourself and those around you," she said. She cut her hair very short and dyed it brown to not stand out or draw attention.

When she landed and there was an up armored vehicle waiting for her. As soon as she entered the vehicle, she was given magazines of ammunition for her weapons before they drove through Kabul enroute to the NATO International Security Assistance Force Compound. She arrived on Friday morning, Holy Day. "As we drove through Kabul, there were no women or girls present along the streets, only men and boys.

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There were people on the roof tops overlooking our compound, people outside our gates with AK47s, watching our movements and actions trying to find patterns in what we were doing.” “Walking the streets in Kabul was like the wild west with as many guns as people.” she said “deploying to Afghanistan and working with NATO was a great learning experience. I wish every American that has not been to a third world country, would go and visit to realize how blessed we are to be Americans.”

She received an unprecedented honor when The Arkansas Air Guard, for the first time in its history, pinned a general’s star on a woman. At the end of her career, she said she’d would have loved to get two stars on her uniform, but a health scare led her to the decision to retire. She says she’s happily married, satisfied and thankful.

**Brigadier General Tamhra “Tammy” Hutchins-Frye (Ret) (abbreviated biography)**

Graduated from Lavaca High School, Lavaca, Arkansas in 1979

Graduated Arkansas Tech University, 1983 with Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education

Graduated Webster University, 2012 with Master of Art in Human Resources Management

Joined November 1984, 188th Fighter Wing, Personnel Specialists as an Airman First Class

Retired August 2023, Air National Guard Readiness Center, Director Personnel, Manpower and Services as Brigadier General

**Noted Accomplishments:**

First female commander, 188th Fighter Wing, as the Mission Support Flight Commander

First female Brigadier General Arkansas Air National Guard

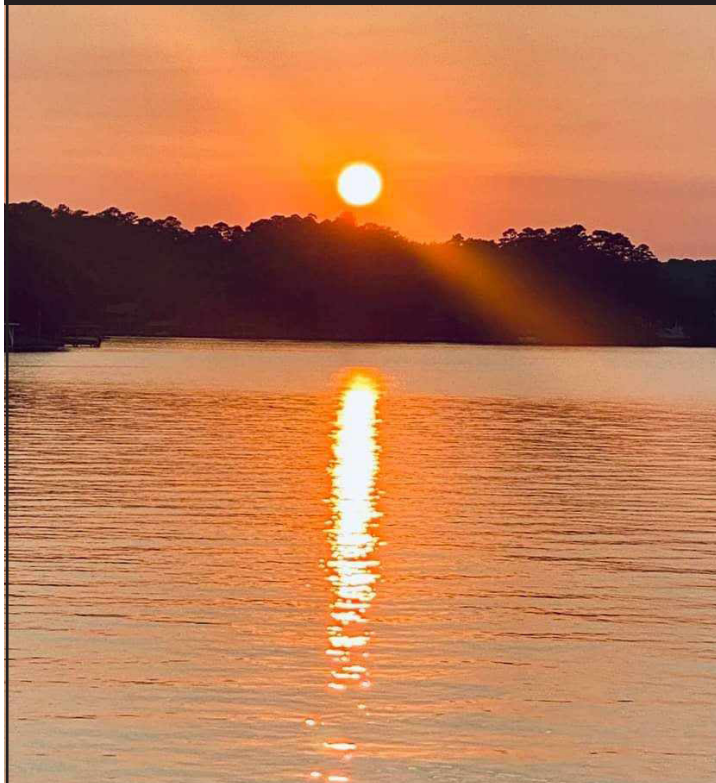
First female Director of Joint Staff Arkansas National Guard

Deployed 2013, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Afghanistan Transformation Task Force, then Non-Security Ministries Ministerial Advisory Group, Headquarters International Security Assistance Force, Kabul, Afghanistan

**Significant Awards and Decorations include:**

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**Colonel Edsel A. “Archie” Frye Jr.(Ret)**

Edsel Frye Jr. was born in Saltville, Virginia, historically the salt mine for Confederate soldiers. As a youngster, Frye lived in the small town with many family members. Frye started working at age 15 making car batteries from scratch. “ I was always working to help support our family, but in spite of working 50 hours a week, I knew I needed to do well in high school. I didn’t have time to study, so I wrote notes in class and when I took the test, I could remember the whole page.” He said he was in class to make nothing but 100’s and to be a pilot.

“I was 17 years and 3 months old when I enlisted,” he said. Starting as an aircraft mechanic in the US Air Force, he wanted not only to be the top in his group, but wanted to know everything about aircraft to become a better pilot. His hard work in



Colonel Frye ready to take off just adding to a total of over 4,000 flying hours.

flight maintenance grew him into crew chief, phase inspector and flight engineer.

Frye said he “almost lost his footing” when he was flying on missions to Athens, Greece, as a flight engineer. He was in his 20’s at the time and “I was living a life I never thought I’d know. It was a bit too much, too fast. What changed my direction was when an engine blew up departing Athens and our crew had to wait there for 10 days until the parts came in so we could fly home.”

He said he had the time to think about refocusing on the path to becoming a pilot. “It was then I asked to go back to maintenance, which was a step down from being on an air crew. I was back to being an aircraft mechanic, completing college and finally receiving an opportunity for pilot training.”

He was then selected for and graduated from Officer

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Training School and entered Undergraduate Pilot Training in 1986. During his career he has flown A-10, B-52, KC-135, C-141 and C130 aircraft, fulltime, at various Air Force Reserve units across the country. He has served in many positions within the Air Force Reserve Command and has deployed repeatedly in support of such Operations as Deny Flight, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom to name a few.

“My goal as an officer was to be more inclusive. I’m most proud of pushing young men and women to achieve their goals that were both in the Air Force’s interest and their own personal desires, even if it meant leaving the Air Force. “As a Commander, I felt I needed to be ready to engage and encourage every unit member, every single minute. Done right, leading is physically and emotionally exhausting. I had walked in their shoes so I had an easy time relating to both the officer and the enlisted force.” He said his unit would not succeed without all members feeling a purpose and worth for the unit’s mission. “I’m happy to say after 38 years, it was time to retire. I couldn’t be happier to retire here, with my wife, in Hot Springs Village.” Frye is a command pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours.

**Colonel Edsel A. “Archie” Frye Jr. (Ret)**  
(abbreviated biography)

Dec 1976-Mar 1986, Enlisted, serving as an Aircraft Mechanic, Crew Chief, Aircraft annual Phase inspector, Aerial Repair Specialist, Flight Engineer. Reaching Rank of Technical Sergeant.

1987-1989, Barksdale AFB, LA, A-10 Pilot, Assistant Weapons Officer, Instructor Pilot, Maintenance Functional Test Pilot

1989-1993, A-10 Formal Training School Instructor Pilot, Barksdale AFB, LA, Chief Instruction Systems Development, Augmented USAF A-10 Test and Development Program.

1993-1997, B-52 Pilot, Barksdale AFB, LA, Chief of Scheduling

1997-1999, Kc-135R Pilot and Chief of Current Operations, Seymour Johnson AFB, NC, Member of Transcom Tiger team to design and implement the Single Mobility System to schedule and track all Department of Defense Global logistics systems and assets, still used today.

1999-2001, A-10 Formal School Instruction, Academic

Chief, Senior Officer Course manager and instructor. Chosen for A-10 simulator design, A-10 Night Vision Program, Forward Air Control Instructional Program and Combat Search and Rescue Program.

2001-2004, C-141 Pilot, Andrews Chief of Current Operations, Squadron Director of Operations, Operations Group Commander

2004-2011 KC-135R pilot and Group Commander at Tinker AFB, OK and McConnell AFB KS

2010-2015 C-130 Pilot and Group Commander Little Rock AFB



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# JANUARY EVENTS

**The Rocket Man Show: Tribute to Elton John**  
**Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort**  
**January 1 at 7 p.m.**

**4th Annual New Year's Trail Walk**  
**Balboa Beach Trailhead**  
**December 6 at noon**

**Artist Gallery Show at Vault & the Heist Lounge**  
**723 Central, Hot Springs**  
**January 17**

**Hot Springs Half Marathon**  
**369 Central, Hot Springs**  
**January 20 at 8 a.m.**



## TIPS FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH

New Year's Day unofficially marks the end of the holiday season. After the turkey and trimmings of Thanksgiving and the gifts galore of Christmas and Chanukah, New Year's presents one final chance to toast to fun and fortune.

Brunch is a meal eaten in the late morning or early afternoon generally between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. It consists of a blend of breakfast and lunch foods. Historical evidence suggests that brunch originated in the British upper classes in the late 19th century. Many upper-class people gave servants partial or full days off on Sundays. Staff would set out buffet spreads in the morning before leaving, enabling homeowners to graze among breakfast and lunch items.

- Send invitations early on. The holiday season is a busy time and people often commit to invitations early on. If you want to host certain guests at the brunch, send out those invitations several weeks in advance.

- Keep it intimate. Individuals will be feeling the effects of a late night of partying and it's likely you will be as well. Make things easier on yourself by keeping the guest list on the small side. In turn, there will be less food required and perhaps less mess to clean up afterward.

- Serve familiar foods. Brunch combines the best of breakfast and lunch. Guests will be expecting some of the standards, including omelets, French toast, bagels, deli meats, and salads. If you want to get creative, change up these recipes in subtle ways, such as serving French toast stick dippers with a warm maple-caramel dipping sauce or bite-sized omelets baked in small ramekins.

- Keep the coffee flowing. Coffee, teas and hot chocolate are great at brunch. It's easier to recover from New Year's Eve overindulgence with a warm jolt of caffeine. Set up a nice beverage bar, and be sure to include other drinks that enable guests to rehydrate after a night of revelry.

- Keep it simple. Soft music and nice conversation may be all that's needed to entertain during a New Year's brunch. Another low-key option is to queue up a light-hearted movie or play a relatively easy trivia game.



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HAPPY NEW YEAR

2024

*Wishing You All the Festive Feels*

*May your hopes and dreams come true, and your heart  
be filled with joy and contentment!*



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## BARGAINS OF THE MONTH<sup>®</sup> Good Jan. 1-31, 2024

<p>Drain Opener, 32-oz. <small>Master plumber, 32 oz, drain opener, safe for plastic, pec, metal pipes</small></p> <p><b>\$2.99</b></p> <p>197360</p>	<p>Antifreeze, 50/50, 1-Gallon <small>Peak, Gallon 50/50 Antifreeze, 10X more scale fighting inhibitors</small></p> <p><b>\$12.99</b></p> <p>128693</p>	<p>Antifreeze/Coolant, Prestone, Gallon, Yellow, Antifreeze/Coolant, Helps a vehicle's</p> <p><b>\$12.99</b></p> <p>363507</p>	
<p>Outdoor Power Stake, 3-Outlet, <small>Master Electrician, green, power stake, with 3 outlets</small></p> <p><b>\$8.99</b></p> <p>140743</p>	<p>Reader Safety Glasses, Clear, 2.0X <small>Ztek, 2.0x reader safety glasses, clear, 2.0x lens</small></p> <p><b>\$6.99</b></p> <p>241007</p>	 <p><b>40% Off All Christmas</b></p>	

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Village True Value Community Calendar

**January Charity:**  
Donate your change in January & we'll match it to benefit **Altrusa of Hot Springs Village**




**Guest Speaker:**  
Shelby with **Leopards & Lace Boutique**  
**JANUARY 4th, 2024 • 10am**

Shelby with Leopards & Lace Boutique will be here to share with you about her wonderful prints and how to order you or someone else a great shirt and other cool items!