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M A G A Z I N E

Publisher
Jennifer Allen

Contributors
Darrell W. Brown
Robin Raborn Burns
Lewis Delavan
Sandy Johansen
Jeff Meek

Advertising
Summer Benedict
Stephanie Highfill
Kendall Kegley

Design/Layout
Michael G. Fox

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

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

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February – A month of special happenings

Ice covered bushes in Hot Springs Village, always a possibility in February.

Well, that was fast. It's February already. January seemed to come and go in a blink. It's hard to think about February without Valentine's Day coming to mind. Nice dinners, cards, flowers, and chocolate are all a part of that day. It's my understanding that the origin of this special day is controversial. The day is named after St. Valentine, but opinions differ on who that was.

According to "Good Housekeeping," the day used to be celebrated with the sacrificing of animals to encourage fertility. Really? I don't see the connection, but that was the thinking centuries ago. I also learned that there were 2 St. Valentines, both of them killed for various reasons. Roman Pope Gelasius got all that changed in the 5th Century to what we see it as today – about love and romance. Nowadays an estimated 250 million roses are grown for the day with red being the most common color. It's now big business too. An estimated \$20 + billion is spend on that special someone.

February is also the month of "leap year." Every 4 years Feb. 29



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pops up. It's how we help our calendar match up with the same seasons every year. Our human-made calendar is 365 days, but the solar calendar is 365.2422 days long. I've read that it was Roman emperor Julius Caesar that created the "Year of Confusion" that eventually led to leap year.

Feb 17 is "Random Acts of Kindness" Day. "daysoftheyear.com" tells me the day was first started in Denver, Colorado in 1995 by a small non-profit called the "Random Acts of Kindness Foundation."

The goal of this day is to do something good for someone – a phone call, a compliment, something to make it a good day for whoever you choose. Sounds like a good idea and something sorely missing in today's world of contention and anger.

So, enjoy your February and stay in touch with us at the Voice with your organizational functions and whatever else you're up to.

Jeff Meek
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

ON THE COVER: He counted sunspots on a daily basis while working at the National Hurricane Center, but Peter Trabant's image of the 2017 solar eclipse, captured at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, was his first eclipse photo. Much of Arkansas will have this view come April 8.

ALL AROUND ARKANSAS

The restored Elkhorn Tavern at Pea Ridge National Military Park.



The Battle of Pea Ridge

Darrell W. Brown

Small town site of largest Civil War battle in Arkansas

On March 7-8, 1862, more than 23,000 Union and Confederate troops clashed at the Battle of Pea Ridge near modern-day Rogers in the largest Civil War battle in Arkansas history. The battle decided the fate of Missouri and was the turning point of the war in the Trans-Mississippi Theater. Most Civil War historians agree that Pea Ridge was the most pivotal battle west of the Mississippi River.

The Union forces at Pea Ridge were commanded by Brig. Gen. Samuel Curtis, while Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn led the Confederates. Van Dorn and his men launched a counteroffensive in which they attempted to recapture northern Arkansas and Missouri for the Confederacy. But against all odds, Curtis and his troops held off the Confederate attack, and on the second day drove Van Dorn's forces completely off the Pea Ridge battlefield. By handily defeating

the Confederates, Curtis and his soldiers established federal control of Missouri and much of north Arkansas.

Arkansas lawyer, educator and prominent Freemason Albert Pike served as a senior officer in the Confederate Army at the battle of Pea Ridge and commanded the Indian Territory District (present-day Oklahoma). After the battle, allegations were made claiming that Indian soldiers under Pike's command scalped enemy soldiers. Official records related to the investigation show Pike "regarded [the incident] with horror," and that he was personally "angry and disgusted."

In the aftermath of the Civil War, Union and Confederate veterans held several reunions at the Pea Ridge battlefield, the first taking place in 1887. The reunions helped keep the memory of the dead alive and facilitate healing between the once-opposing soldiers of each army. At the early reunions, money was raised

to help buy monuments to honor the dead, which still stand.

In 1956, the Arkansas' congressional delegation pushed for legislation to make the Pea Ridge battlefield a national military park under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. On July 20, 1956, the U.S. Congress voted to accept a 5,000-acre donation of land from the state. As a result of the donation, the 4,300-acre Pea Ridge National Military Park was officially created by an act of the Congress and was dedicated as a national park in 1963.

To acquire land for the park, the government purchased or used eminent domain on farms and homes in the area. Many houses and other structures were sold and moved off of park property. The National Park Service demolished all other remaining structures except for the Elkhorn Tavern.

The Pea Ridge battlefield was listed on the Department of the Interior's National Register of Historic Places on Oct. 15, 1966.

Pea Ridge National Military Park is considered by experts as one of the best-preserved Civil War battlefields in the nation. Some of the park's amenities include a visitor center and a state-of-the-art museum that houses numerous battlefield artifacts. The park also features hiking trails, a self-guided driving tour and the restored Elkhorn Tavern. A 2.5-mile section of the Trail of Tears is located within the park's boundaries.

Elkhorn Tavern, the park's centerpiece, is a two-story, wood-frame structure that was built in 1833 and served as ground zero at the battle of Pea Ridge. In fact, the battle of Pea Ridge is often referred to as the battle of Elkhorn Tavern. The building is actually a replica built in 1865, as the original Elkhorn Tavern was set ablaze by bushwhackers in January 1863. The replica was built on the original building's foundation and includes the original chimney.

For more information on the park and battle, visit the National Park Service's website at www.nps.gov/peri/index.htm.

While Pea Ridge may not be as famous as other Civil War battlefields as Gettysburg or Vicksburg, it's definitely worth visiting if you're a Civil War buff.

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.



Cannon at Pea Ridge National Military Park.

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HSV PEOPLE

For the Love of Theater

Sam Sacco, theater performer, theater director and much more



Sam Sacco along with cast celebrating his first directing of *Wizard of Oz* in Concordia, Kansas. (Photos courtesy of Sam Sacco)

Sandy Johansen
STAFF WRITER

Sam Sacco's love for the theater began at age 60+ at the Brown Grand Theater in Concordia, Kansas. With a background of over 43 years in the agriculture and ethanol fields who would have guessed that following a visit to the Brown Grand, Sam would walk through his front door and tell his wife, "Beth, I want to be an actor."

With a bit of history Sacco shared "They starting building the theater in 1905 when Colonel Brown announced to the townspeople his plans to build a fully outfitted opera house for Concordia. I fell in love with it the first time I saw it," said Sacco.

"When I first joined the Brown Grand Players they had just lost a director for *Mad Breakfast*," he said. "I'd never acted before and never directed and at the time I was the General Manager of an Ethanol Group. I was

lucky because I was again surrounded by a talented group of people and performers."

It was his first directing as he asked himself, "If I'm a member of the audience, what do I want to see?" He surrounded himself with good people and listened to their ideas. It was around 2013 when he first became active in theatrical productions in Hot Springs Village.

"Instead of acting and the options later becoming a director, I went the opposite direction. Feeling like an audience member and thinking about what I wanted to see, I started purely from an audience standpoint." He said he didn't want to be in such control that it was "my way or the highway," but wanted the actors to develop their characters and as a director he would help them grow. His actors have a lot of flexibility.

"When actors are a part of the story and develop



Built in 1907, the Brown Grand Theater, where Sacco made early performance and directing debuts.

the characters themselves their energy seems to be higher.” It was the same thoughts he gave when he began his acting. He played Danny in *Almost Maine* in Concordia. “Here I was 60 in a play having a romantic affair with a 20-year-old. But, we pulled it off as the lady splits off, goes away and comes back 20 years later and the man is now married. The wife calls him from inside the house as he’s talking to his former girlfriend. The lights go out and audience members told me, “We wanted you both to get back together, so we really pulled it off.”

He went on to help on the college set doing *Night of the Chicken* and *Carol Burnett* shorts.

“The hardest play I ever did was *Taming of the Shrew* also at the college in Concordia.” For those unfamiliar with the play, Grumio is Petruccio’s servant and sidekick, and comments astutely on the taming plot. In some plays I could perhaps ad lib a little, but you certainly can’t with Shakespeare,” he laughed. He said if it wasn’t for Beth working with him and his lines, he may never have pulled it off. “I would get

frustrated and she’d say ‘Stop it’ and we would go on.” He said his Shakespearian monologues were easier to do than any conversations with other characters. “As a director I continue to support my actors when they really become the character.” He feels it is important each individual learns all their lines which makes them easier to become their character.

The first play in HSV he directed was *Catch Me*

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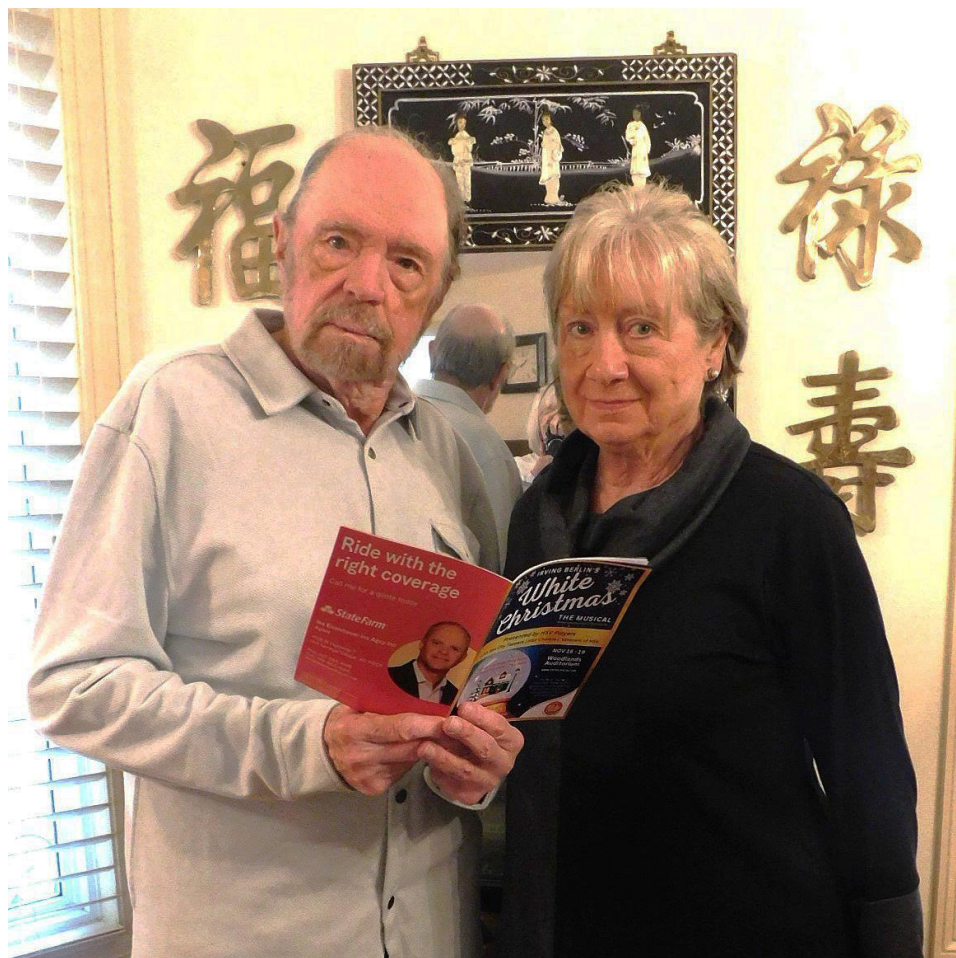
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Celebrating the final night of White Christmas in HSV. Sam and Beth Sacco are getting ready for Christmas Carol scheduled for November 2024. (Sandy Johansen photo)



If You Can as the original director left and he was “rather thrown in it.” It was difficult because many of the players ad libbed their lines. “Every night was different, even if the lines were new, the actors were in character,” he said. Each play he’s directed he tells his cast the last night of performance, “Take your character over the top.”

Sam’s been active in Community Theaters since 2010 directing Mad Breakfast, Wizard of Oz (3 times), Catch Me If You Can, Mamma Mia, White Christmas and soon to be added in 2024, Christmas Carol. His acting experience includes Almost Main, Night of the Chicken, Carol Burnett Shorts, Faith Country, War of the Worlds, Taming of the Shrew, Titanic, Mamma Mia, and Alfred Hitchcock Radio.

Sacco served in the United States Air Force from 1965 to 1969. Getting his business degree in Omaha he spent most of his 43-year-career in agriculture and ethanol fields serving as manager for 23. In addition to other public services, he served as Concordia

City Commissioner and Mayor of Concordia. He was happy to serve on boards of directors including Cloud Corporation, Concordia Library, Brown Grand Theater, Brown Grand Players and Kansas Ethanol Association.

Looking forward to Players 2024 Christmas musical he said, “I’m creating a play filled with colorful songs, dances, or better said, pure upbeat entertainment to get Dickens’ point across instead of the normal gloom and doom created in the movie.

If you are interested in auditioning or assisting production with Sam Sacco for the November rendition of Christmas Carol, go to: <https://hsvplayers.com/> and watch for more news in the Hot Springs Village Voice. The musical is scheduled for November evening performances at Woodlands November 21, 22, 23 with a matinee November 24. The musical spotlights over 31 songs and Sacco welcomes auditions beginning most likely May 2024.

Staying Connected

UU-C4K helps bring technology to the lives of community residents,

Robin Raborn Burns
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

The impact of technology and computers on our society and daily life has been profound. They have made communication, work, and entertainment more accessible and convenient. With the simple strokes on the keyboard, entering any subject in the search engine, the internet has provided us with an endless source of information and a new way to connect with others.

Can you imagine your life without access to technology? Bob McCleskey, UU-C4K (c4k+) Founder and Director, wants to do all he can to reduce the number of people who do not have access to computers. McCleskey started UU-C4K in 2008 when he was serving on the Fountain Lake Board of Education. There are currently 16 dedicated volunteers involved in making the program possible. McCleskey became aware of the number of obsolete computers that were being trashed, and he decided to find a way to make them available to the district students and their families who could not otherwise afford them.

UU-C4K is located at Unitarian Universal Village Church, 403 Barcelona Road, Hot Springs Village. The C4K+ program has been a “Microsoft Registered Refurbisher” since its inception. This means it meets strict refurbisher guidelines and enjoys substantial discounts on select Microsoft software. After ensuring that the hard drive is cleaned (the removal of all personal data files and programs), Microsoft Windows 10 Pro, LibreOffice and Linux-Mint are installed on



Bob McCleskey (right) and volunteer Todd Carter work their magic at UU-C4K (in Unitarian Universal Village Church). (Robin Raborn Burns photos)

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Some of the computers at UU-C4K – those with white notes are ready to be refurbished.

most computers along with several useful software applications. The C4K+ program has significantly met a need in the Hot Springs Village Community, and beyond.

Over 1,600 computers have been provided to numerous clients. The Unitarian Universalist Village Church is the primary sponsor of the program – they provide ample workspace, dedicated volunteers, and financial support. C4K+ has formed many successful and enduring partnerships with community organizations, non-profits, and local companies. Organizations that have provided financial support to the program via grants include First Elect Trust, HSV Arkansas Community Foundation, 4imprint, and West Central Arkansas Planning & Development District. The list of clients who have received C4K+ computers is far-reaching, and extensive and includes students in local school districts, colleges, and technical training programs, participants in local Boys and Girls Clubs, as well as in Little Rock, and in the Arkansas Delta. Habitat for Humanity, United Way, Ouachita Children’s Center, Abilities Unlimited, and Webb Community Center are among the non-profits whose clients have received C4K+ computers.

The C4K+ programs outreach extends to clients of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services clients, multiple non-profits who provide “Bridges



out of Poverty” type programs (Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic and Arkansas Adult and Teen Challenge.) Clients of substance abuse and post-incarceration recovery programs have also received computers. UU-C4K (c4k+) requests a nominal donation from computer recipients: all Windows-enabled computers (laptops, desktops, and all-in-ones) are twenty dollars. Adding a peripheral (i.e., a wireless adapter) can increase the donation amount to thirty dollars.

McCleskey says “The program has grown in many ways since its inception.” He adds that in recent years,

substantial federal funding to school districts has reduced the number of computers C4K+ provides to K-12 students. The C4K+ program refurbishes computers donated by individuals, businesses, and schools that can be upgraded, and then given to individuals who need them.

The program began by serving K-12 public education students, and it expanded to include home-schooled students, and college students, as well as various non-profits, organizations, and adults who are involved in formal adult education programs. Additionally, computers to aid work-related training were provided, which necessitated the addition of the “+” sign to C4K+. McCleskey and his dedicated volunteers have helped to change lives by enhancing education, facilitating communication in both personal and professional settings, and introducing different cultures and activities to those who might otherwise not have the opportunities.

Please consider donating your computer or laptop to UU-C4K when they no longer operate at optimal performance, or when you upgrade to a new system. Your donation will help bring the gift of technology



Computers for kids sign.

to someone who would not have the ability otherwise access it. Visit uuvc.org/c4k for information about UU-C4K, including how to donate computers to the program. You can also call Bob McCleskey at 501-781-0598.

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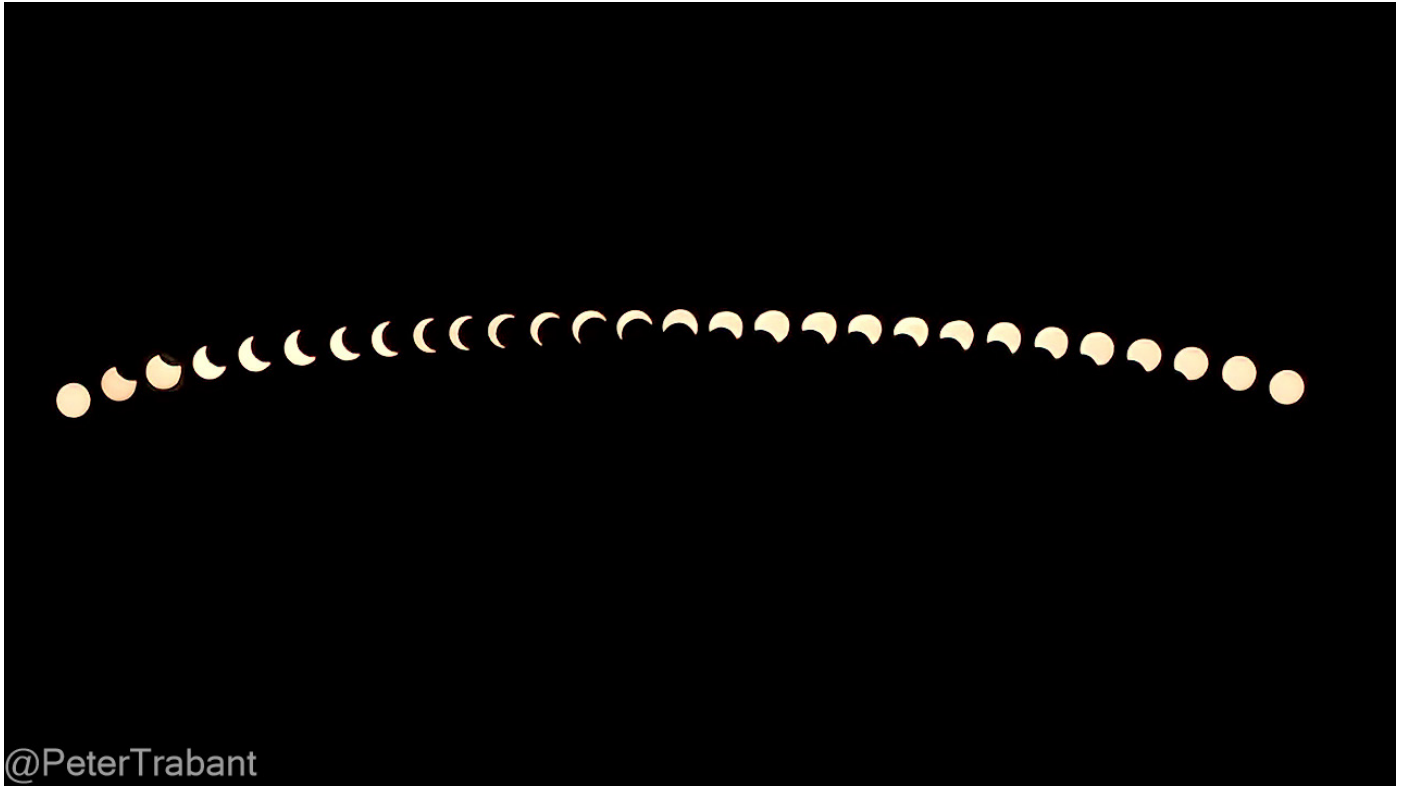


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COVER STORY



@PeterTrabant

The Annular solar eclipse over Lake Balboa last October. (Photos by Peter Trabant)

Eclipse of a Lifetime

Lewis Delavan
STAFF WRITER

April's total solar eclipse will be a once in a lifetime event for some

It's all about timing. For several hours, one can watch as the moon slowly moves across to cover the sun leading to 'totality' in Hot Springs Village early in the afternoon of Monday, April 8, if sky conditions permit.

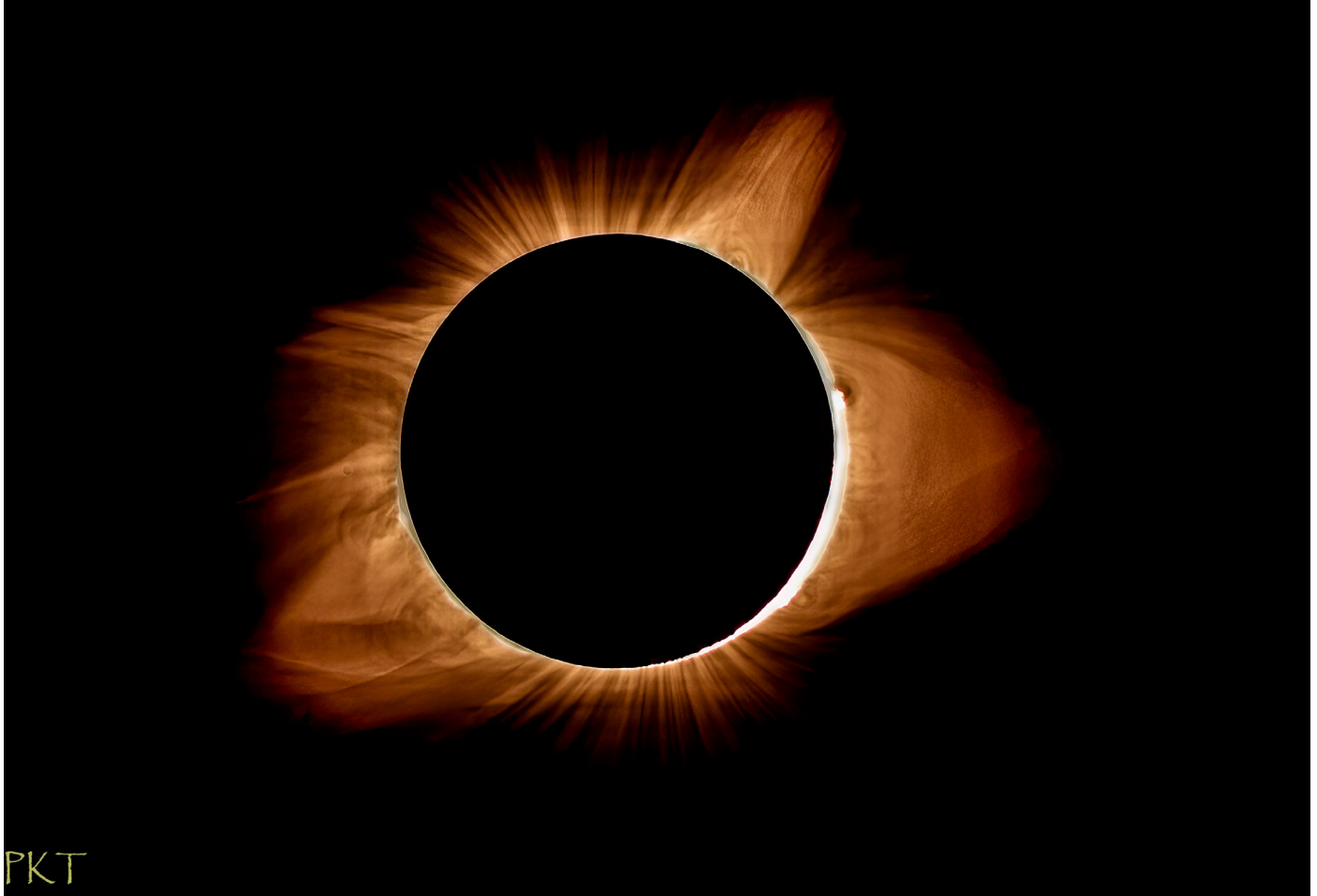
Villager Peter Trabant will share ways to safely view and photograph the April 8 total solar eclipse, addressing the Hot Springs Village Camera Club at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 12.

Photography was a natural for Trabant. "All my aunts and uncles were photographers," he said.

Growing up in the U.S. and postwar Europe, young Trabant photographed a multitude of experiences, from Munich, Germany, to Salzburg, Austria, from Paris and the French Riviera to Italy.

From Uncle Robert Capa, a famed war photographer and photojournalist, Trabant inherited an old, beat up Rolleiflex that enjoyed many adventures with its new, young owner.

Trabant's photographic forays include crossing the Atlantic Ocean in a small sailboat. From 1983-1988, he lived and sailed aboard the sloop IONA, starting



in Galveston, Texas, taking the Seine River to Paris.

Back to the start: In 1943, his mother moved back home to Carmel, California, where his stepfather was elected mayor in 1946.

Young Trabant moved to Munich, Germany that year, where his father served as photo editor of the Deutsche version of LIFE Magazine "HEUTE."

Father and son moved to France in 1951, where the elder Trabant worked for the Marshall Plan.

In the summers of 1959-60 young Trabant worked at Villa Zamir in the French Riviera, as assistant Maitre'D to jet setters.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1961, specializing in radar and electronics.

Enrolling in the University of Miami in 1965, he graduated with a bachelor's of science degree in geology in 1968, then worked as a geophysicist for AMOCO Oil & Gas in 1968 and 1969.

From 1969-1979 Trabant worked as research associate at Texas A&M University, obtaining a

He counted sunspots on a daily basis while working at the National Hurricane Center, but Peter Trabant's image of the 2017 solar eclipse, captured at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, was his first eclipse photo. He used a 100-400mm lens with a doubler, shooting at 800 mm, f/11, 1/250th for the monumental shot. Trabant continues to challenge his photographic skills, and will share them with the public.

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Photo of last October's partial eclipse, left and of observers on Lake Balboa, far right.

doctorate in oceanography.

The multi-year Atlantic sailing adventure preceded work from 1989-2007 as a geophysical consultant to the oil and gas industry.

He retired to Austin, Texas in 2007, then retired to the Village in 2011.

As he approaches his ninth decade, Trabant's adventures continue. Trabant recently captured the Orion Nebula, including Orion's dark Horsehead Nebula, and he continues to experiment and hone his skills.

A key to capturing the moving sky is stitching together multiple photos. Trabant used freeware software, Deep Sky Stacker, to create celestial

wonders. He looks forward to sharing details with Villagers.

The total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States and Canada. The path of totality will arrive at Hot Springs Village in the afternoon.

The HSV Camera Club and Village Stargazers have produced articles covering how a solar eclipse occurs, the phases and timing, observable effects including temperature drops, nightfall, running shadows and bird and insect behaviors, where to view, how to prepare, do's and don'ts in viewing, and how to observe or capture the event through binoculars, telescopes and cameras.

Hot Springs National Park is one of two national parks in the path of totality. A total eclipse occurs when the moon appears to totally obscure the sun. Arkansas has only been in the path of totality for an eclipse two other times in history – in 1834 and in 1918, the park says. The next total solar eclipse in Arkansas will be in 2045.

The beginning of the partial phase of the eclipse will begin in HSNP at 12:32 p.m. Totality in HSNP will begin at 1:49 p.m. and will last 3 minutes and 39 seconds, ending at 1:53 p.m. The moon will continue moving over the sun until the end of the partial phase at 3:10 p.m.

The totality centerline crosses Highway 7 near Plainview, Arkansas, north of HSV, which means the site will have a few more moments to watch the solar eclipse.

NASA offers key viewing and safety tips at <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/where-when/>.

HSV Camera Club: <https://www.hsvcameraclub.com/index.html>. Meets second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Village Church of Christ for programs.

HSV Stargazers: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1819682104958783/> meet the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Hot Springs Village Church of Christ for programs. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call vice president Jay Williams, 501-922-8353.



Deep Sky Stacker software: <http://deepskystacker.free.fr/english/index.html>

Hot Springs National Park eclipse: <https://www.nps.gov/hosp/planyourvisit/solar-eclipse.htm>

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Shining Like a Diamond

*Coming to the
Woodlands
on March 26*

Sandy Johansen
STAFF WRITER

Why Do Fools Fall in Love, Little Darlin', The Stroll, and One Summer Night, to name just three of their countless hits not just in the USA, but all over the globe.

The Diamonds continue to tour to this day with the line-up of Gary Owens (baritone), Dan Vissers (tenor), Julian McCleary (lead) and Jeff Dolan (bass).

Little Darlin' was released in 1957 and represents the durability of classic rock and roll music as it is as much about the future as it is the past. The Diamonds' many accomplishments over the years include:

3 Gold Records (Silhouettes, The Stroll and Little Darlin')

33 appearances on American Bandstand



The Diamonds then.

Soundtrack- American Graffiti

Soundtrack – Happy Days

Vocal Group Hall of Fame

Doo-Wop Hall of Fame

The Diamonds received national attention once again in 2000, when the original members were invited to sing in TJ Lubinsky's PBS production of Doo-Wop 51, and again in the PBS production entitled Magic Moments - The Best of '50s Pop in 2004.

This great group of entertainers will be presenting

two fabulous concerts Tuesday, March 26 at Woodlands Auditorium for the HSV Arkansas Community Foundation's 18th annual benefit concert, sponsored by Ike Eisenhower's State Farm Insurance Agency.

The first concert entitled "Bandstand Boogie" starts at 3:00 p.m. featuring 25 songs from American Bandstand, the all-time favorite TV show hosted by Dick Clark. The Diamonds appeared on his show 33 times. They'll be performing the magic and charm of 4 decades of the greatest Rock 'n' Roll hits ever recorded.



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LET'S ROCK BROADWAY
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EVENING CONCERT at 7:30 PM ~ \$35.00

The evening concert entitled “Let’s Rock Broadway,” starts at 7:30 p.m. and switches to many Diamond hits featured on Broadway with 50’s Rock ‘n’ Roll hits from Jersey Boys, The Carol King Musical, Smokey Joe’s Café, and Saturday Night Fever along with many others.

Evening concert kickoff begins with dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Casa de Carta at Woodlands provided by Melinda’s Coffee Corner & Cafe and sponsored by RE/MAX of Hot Springs Village.

For tickets to matinee (\$30) or evening tickets (\$35) and dining (\$17.50), go to: hotspringsvillage.thundertix.com or visit the Woodlands Auditorium Box Office.

Founded in 1983, Hot Springs Village Community Foundation is an affiliate of Arkansas Community Foundation and serves Hot Springs Village and Saline county. Hot Springs Village Community Foundation has been instrumental in promoting the arts in Hot Springs Village, outfitting the community library and granting scholarships to area youth. Small, immediate grants were given in the early years. The first endowment was established in the late 1990s.

In 2005, the Foundation became associated with the Arkansas Community Foundation for the professional management of endowment funds. By 2017, the foundation had over \$1 million in endowments and became the 28th affiliate of Arkansas Community Foundation. In 2023, the foundation has \$2.5 million in endowments.

The foundation’s endowments help area children and education, animal welfare, the arts, veterans, emergency medical services and more. The organization sponsors a growing Giving Tree endowment that allowed them to grant over \$60,000 to organizations that improve our community and so desperately need our assistance. For the past 39 years, HSVC has been awarding grants to local organizations and disbursed more than \$2,500,000 to local non-profits like Cedar Mountain Boys and Girls Club, Garland County Imagination Library, Faith Fellowship Food Pantry and many others in HSV and surrounding area.

For more information on the HSVC visit their website at: <https://www.arcf.org/affiliates/hot-springs-village/>.

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*—Kelly Hale, General Manager
Hot Springs Village POA*

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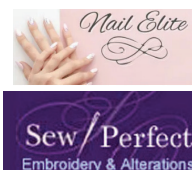
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THANK YOU DONORS!

Contributions to the VEBF from Village residents show our POA hourly employees their hard work is appreciated. See a list of 2023 donors at www.VEBF.org

Loving Hearts



Lewis Delavan
STAFF WRITER

Kennel director Kaye Gilder walks Stella, a sweet basset hound available for adoption. (Lewis Delavan photos)

Caring people have brought long-term improvement to the Humane Society of Garland County.

A decade ago, the shelter at 1321 Highway 128, Lonsdale, faced serious challenges. A new board and kennel director Kaye Gilder arrived in 2014 and brought vast changes. The headquarters' building offers a welcoming environment for visitors and resident animals alike. Even more importantly, special rooms help resolve needs for grooming, surgery and recovery.

Less visible are kennels and grounds that are easily cleaned and stay cleaner. Three rows of separate play yards will help keep dogs entertained, healthy and boost cleaning.

Basset hound Stella exemplifies the transformation that volunteers and staff perform in the lives of cats and dogs. Found as a stray, an owner came forward but later agreed that he was unable to care for the dog.

Long-term volunteer Dana Parker, who helps 5-6 days weekly, with Stella. After the society rescued the purebred basset hound, a veterinarian who works with the society performed hip surgery and removed a very-large tumor that dragged the ground.

Equally important are staff members David Johnson, who has served 10 years, and Angel Weston, with more than a year's service. "They help keep these dogs happy," Gilder said. I couldn't do it without them."

Many volunteers assist, including a number

from the Village. Some of these include Sharon and Larry Ziegler, who foster animals, cats and kittens; Jessica Neaville, Annette Cicerone and Kim Bradshaw, who has served as a board member since 2014.

Memberships and donations of many kinds are vital for the animals. Harrison said the society holds two major fundraisers each year. On Oct. 14 members held the first Howl-o-ween costume contest and dog walk, and hope the fundraiser will be an annual event.



David Johnson and Angel Weston, with Faith and Hope, described as “very sweet, good dogs.” The dogs are comfortable together, and it is hoped they can be adopted together.

Many remember the society in their estate planning. And the thrift store in Hot Springs offers bargains and income to help the shelter’s animals.

HSGC works to educate each member on the complexities of operating the kennel facility, how to properly care for an animal, the importance of a spay and neuter program, how to spot and report animal abuse and other issues.

“Volunteering can be a very rewarding experience. You can volunteer with needed fundraisers, socialize animals, help with office tasks, find people to foster or adopt our animals and help with adoption follow-ups,” Gilder says.

Staff and hours are 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. It is closed on Monday.

As well as adopting dogs or cats, help is needed: Donations, urgent needs, reporting animal cruelty, foster parenting, donations of Amazon, Walmart, Kroger, Petsmart or Petco gift cards, fundraisers, volunteering at the kennel or other areas we set up such as Petco, Farmers Market or others. Other needs are sponsors and recruitment.

List of urgent needs:

These products are used daily in the kennel; the

need is constant. Among these are:

- Cat litter
- Bleach
- Paper towels
- Dry dog, cat food
- Canned cat, dog food
- Fabuloso
- Dog treats
- Straw or hay
- Kong toys
- Contractor black trash bags
- Metal buckets
- Metal food bowls



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Artwork at the society reflects a love of cats and dogs.

- Dog houses; all sizes
- Animal crates
- Latex surgical gloves
- Towels/sheets
- Toilet paper
- Reams of printer paper
- Postage
- No. 10 envelopes
- Pens/Sharpies
- Ink cartridges for printer
- Laminate sheets
- Hand tools
- Lawn tools
- Working vehicles

Donors may earmark the programs and purposes the donation supports by printing, completing and mailing the donation form along with a check or money order payable to the Humane Society of Garland County to: Humane Society of Garland County, P.O. Box 1484, Hot Springs, AR 71902

One may also donate to the HSGC by shopping at

stores online. Go to www.iGive.com and select HSGC as the favorite cause. A portion of every purchase will be feed and help animals at the HSGC. At iGive.com one can shop at more than 650 online stores such as Barnes & Noble, Circuit City and Home Depot. Or sign up on Amazon Smile, and the society will receive a portion of sales. HSGC is also registered with Kroger as the Garland County Animal Welfare League.

Advice for spaying and neutering: Most dogs and cats should be spayed or neutered at an early age. Animal shelters are crowded with unwanted pets that often are the result of accidental or poorly planned breeding. Most of these unwanted pets are never adopted.

Altering a canine or feline companion results in better health and longer life for the animal and peace of mind. But many owners do not spay or neuter their pets.

Spaying or neutering is recommended for the general dog population, but purebred dogs shown for conformation cannot be spayed or neutered. Spayed or neutered dogs are eligible for obedience and field trials,



Long-term volunteer Dana Parker, who helps 5-6 days weekly, with Stella.

hunting tests and sighthound lure coursing trials.

Spayed or neutered cats have a special category in shows and do not compete against unaltered cats.

Low-cost spay/neuter vouchers: Humane Society of Garland County collaborates with Hot Springs Village Animal Welfare League in providing spay/neuter services. For more information, call HSV AWL at 501-915-9337.

To volunteer or for more information, call 501-623-5012 or visit <https://hsgconline.org>.

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On the Grow: East Gate Village Centre'

Sandy Johansen
STAFF WRITER

Many residents have observed the building expanse created by Renaissance Homes at the east end of Hot Springs Village, adjacent to the East Gate. The development is The East Village Centre' is a 30+/- ACRE commercial development with the new road

additions of Main Street and Commerce Drive.

"We are looking forward to helping to develop homes, neighborhoods, commercial spaces, rental areas and more. Hot Springs Village is such a special place, we are looking down the road many years with plans and ideas that we think will add to this wonderful community. I am honored to be a part of Hot Springs Village and look forward to the future," said Brandon Tedder, founder of Renaissance Homes.

Tedder is a Certified Green Professional (CGP), serves on the Board of Directors for the Home Builders Association of Greater Little Rock (past president 2012), serves on the Board of Directors for the Home Builders Association of Arkansas (past president 2016), builds many Energy Star®-rated homes in Arkansas, Is a DOW High Performance Builder Award Recipient, and is a CAPS (Certified Aging in Place) specialist.

Tedder is the owner of Renaissance Homes in Hot Springs Village. Renaissance Homes was founded in

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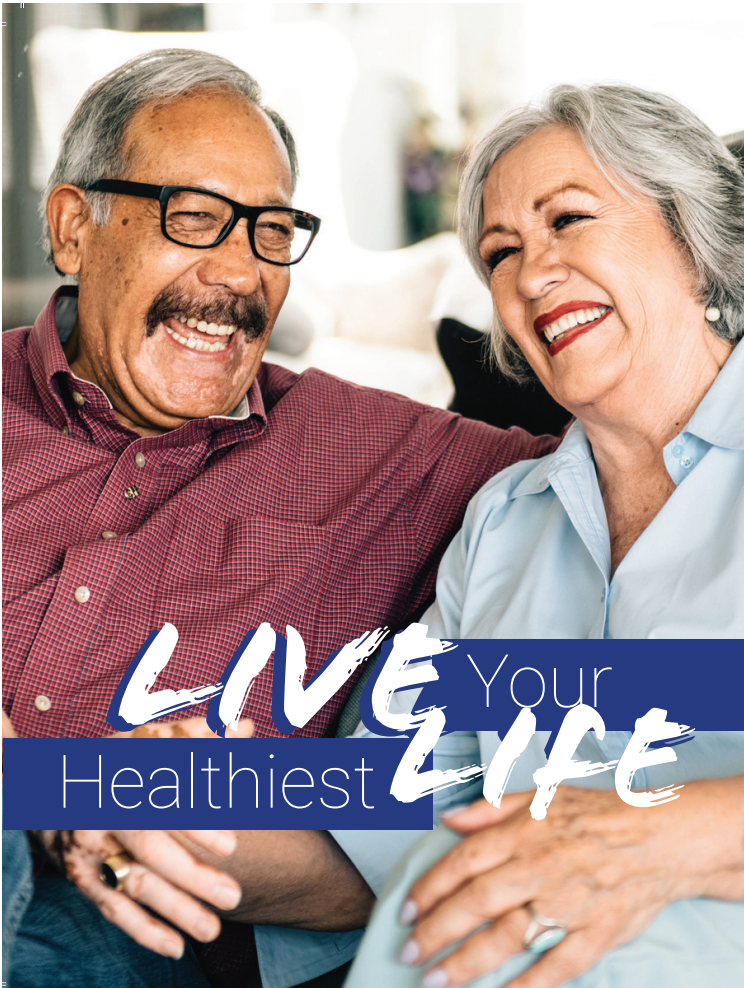
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- Housekeeping & laundry services
- Transportation with arrangement

Animation of the new East Gate Village Centre under construction by Renaissance Homes, left and at right.



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Village Golf & Physical Therapy to open in East Gate



Animation of the new East Gate Village Centre under construction by Renaissance Homes, left.

Sandy Johansen
STAFF WRITER

Village Golf & Physical Therapy owner Lee Sowerbutts was motivated to start his practice on one basic premise, “To provide the highest quality physical therapy on an individual basis.” The practice has grown over the past ten years and is now expanding even more in the Hot Springs Village area.

Village Golf & Physical Therapy’s vision of helping patients reach their physical potential has remained

constant. Their team of expert physical therapists and licensed orthopedic manual therapists specialize in treating a variety of conditions including back pain, sciatica, neck pain, headaches, shoulder pain, knee pain, hip pain, foot pain, ankle pain, elbow, wrist or hand pain, sports injuries and more. Treatment techniques include physical therapy, orthopedic manual therapy, sports injury rehabilitation, massage therapy, therapeutic exercise techniques, golf fitness, and kinesio taping.

The new facility will be very large at roughly 6,500 sq feet. The address will be 6 Commerce Lane and it will be replacing the existing clinic at 110 Este Way, Suite 3 now at the corner of Ponce and DeSoto.

The clinic at 100 Calella Rd, Suite A in HSV will remain open to serve residents of the West side. “This new facility on the East side will be the largest of our 5 clinics, with space to accommodate a fitness center and a multi-bay golf simulator in addition to the physical therapy clinic,” said Allen Lonas, Director of Business Development.

For more detailed information go to the website at: <https://spacitytherapy.com/>

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Lee Sowerbutts, Owner of Village Golf & Physical Therapy, anxious for completion of their newest site at the Hot Springs Village's East Gate Centre, at this time scheduled for opening March/April 2024. (Sandy Johansen photo)

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BLACKBERRY CRUNCH MUFFINS

Serves 12

- 2 1/4 cups self-rising flour
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup canola oil
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 3/4 cup full-fat buttermilk
- 1 1/2 cups fresh or frozen blackberries
- Zest of 1 lime

Crunch topping

- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 cup self-rising flour
- 1/2 cup quick-cook oats
- 1/4 cup sweetened shredded coconut
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 5 tablespoons butter, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon



- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

Glaze

- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Juice of 1 lime

Preheat oven to 375 F. Grease or line a 12-hole muffin tin. In a mixing bowl, whisk together the flour and sugars. Add the oil, eggs, vanilla, and buttermilk, and stir to combine. In a small bowl, toss the blackberries with 1 tablespoon flour, then add the berries and zest to the batter and lightly fold them in. Place the crunch topping ingredients in a bowl and mix with a fork until large crumbles form. Divide the batter evenly into the muffin tin, and sprinkle tops with crunch mixture. Bake for 22 to 28 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Remove from oven and place on a cooling rack. Place the glaze ingredients in a bowl and whisk until combined. Drizzle over cooled muffins.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

[Hamilton Loomis](#)
Woodlands
February 2 at 7 p.m.

[Murder & Macabre Mystery Dinner Theater](#)
The Porterhouse
February 9 & 10 at 6 p.m.

[Rebel Stakes](#)
Oaklawn Casino Resort
February 24

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Albert's Furry Facts!

- 🐾 66% of U.S. households have a pet. That equates to 8.69 million households.
- 🐾 \$58.1 billion dollars was spent on pet food & treats in 2022.
- 🐾 71% OF SOCIAL MEDIA USERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO PURCHASE PRODUCTS THEY'VE SEEN THERE.

~ An Ode to a New Year ~

by ALBERT CLEM

Years come, and they go,
Too fast, as you know.
Things change in the blink of an eye.
The good times, the bad,
The happy, the sad...
As memories swiftly go by.

Those days on the streets,
I remember them well,
Now to days in the store,
With stories to tell.

I've made many friends,
Two-legged and four.
How in the world
Could a dog wish for more?

So as we welcome
In twenty-twenty four,
I wish you the best.
This year & evermore.

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I rescued Webster eight years ago. Last year he developed diabetes and now gets 2 shots of insulin daily. For at least nine months I couldn't regulate his blood sugar. I went to Barkansas and spoke to Lisa. She researched his condition on the computer and came up with a low carb diet. His blood sugar went from 340 to 106. Since Webster has been on this diet, his blood sugar has maintained. He developed cataracts from diabetes and had surgery last October. During surgery his sugar was monitored every 15 minutes. It stayed perfect throughout the procedure. He is the Best of the Best and I owe his good health to Lisa. She spent over 2 hours researching his condition and I can't thank her enough."

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