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With spring comes budding plants and flowers. (Jeff Meek photo)

an you believe it. Two months of the year 2024 are already behind us. Where does the time go. As has been said, "time stands still for no one."

March is a time when nature gets serious about becoming spring. It's said it typically comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. I believe that's true. I remember, I think it was 2008, when March began with snowfall and ended with an 80-degree day.

More birds are chirping, the grass begins to green up and the days get longer. That said, remember that daylight saving time begins Sunday, March 10. Set clocks ahead 1 hour.

With beautiful spring weather dead ahead, be sure to take care of business like making sure that lawn mower is working properly and removing leaves and pine needles from the gutters.

Dead ahead also are the waves of yellow pollen that will blanket the Village for a month. I remember a time when I was driving down DeSoto Blvd. and the wind was blowing pretty good. I could actually see waves of yellow blow across the road. It was almost a curtain of color.

March has some fun dates in it like St. Patrick's Day on Sunday, March 17 and the official first day of spring on Tuesday, March



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19. And there is Easter on Sunday, March 31.

NCAA college basketball's "March Madness" begins. The Major League Baseball season begins at the end of March. March is also Women's History Month, National Reading Month and a few other such designations.

Did you know that March was actually named for the Latin "Martius" aka Mars, the Roman God of War? And there is the "Ides of March," on March 15.

The U.S. Constitution went into effect on March 4, 1789, and George Washington took the oath of office for the second time on March 4, 1793.

As the days get longer and the average temperature climbs, Villagers hit the trails and courts in larger numbers, get their boats ready for fishing, skiing or just cruising around a Village lake. The fish bite is really good in March and April and overall life begins to renew and burst forth.

Sometimes spring is short and before you know it, the temperatures touch 90 degrees. So get out there on a warm, sunny March day and give thanks for another month of HSV life.

Jeff Meek

VOICE CORRESPONDENT

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ON THE COVER: 1011 Park Avenue. Bill Clinton's boyhood home. (Photo courtesy of Chris Rix)

ALL AROUND ARKANSAS THE HOO-HOO of Gurdon

Fraternal Society for workers in the timber industry

Darrell W. Brown

f you've driven through the town of Gurdon (Clark County), you might have noticed an old log building adorned by a strange black cat with the words, "The International Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo." And unless you're a member or know your Arkansas history, you've wondered who or what the Hoo-Hoo are.

Recently, my wife and I found ourselves in a similar situation in the south Arkansas timber town. Having just visited a couple of nearby state parks, we both noticed the strange name and symbol just off Main Street. I knew I had to learn more.

Turns out, the International Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo is an active fraternal society for male workers in the timber industry that was founded in Gurdon in January 1892.

The story goes that while stuck in Gurdon waiting on a delayed train, Bolling A. Johnson, a writer for The Timberman trade newspaper based in Chicago, and George Smith, secretary for the Southern Lumber Manufacturers Association in St. Louis, discussed the possibility of forming a unified lumber fraternity. The two approached fellow lumbermen George Washington Schwartz, William Starr Mitchell, William Eddy Barns and Ludolph Strauss (who were all waiting on the same delayed train) with the idea.

From that discussion, a new fraternal order was created. The name first suggested for the new fraternity was "The Ancient Order of Camp Followers." But it



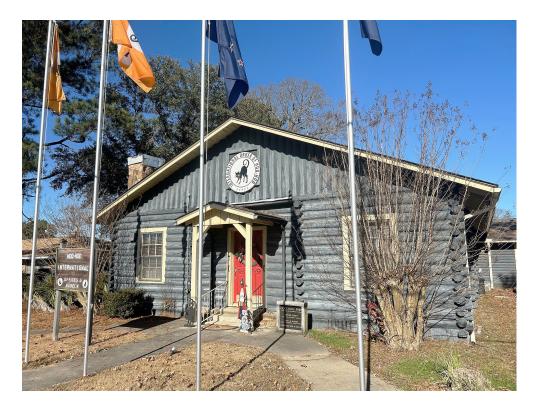
Logo of the Order of Hoo-Hoo.

was decided the name was "uninteresting" and a new name was chosen — "The International Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo." The term "hoo-hoo" had become a nickname for a lumberman. Its emblem — a black cat with its tail curled into the shape of a figure nine — represents a cat's nine lives.

Members of the Hoo-Hoo take an oath that says: "I promise that I will aid in every way possible, in the promotion of the welfare and interest of our country, and of our Order, and of the forest product industry. I will do all in my power, in the promotion of friendship, confidence and education, so that to others as well as myself, there may result health, happiness and long life."

The first regular gathering of the Hoo-Hoo was held Feb. 18, 1892, at the elegant St. Charles Hotel in New Orleans, when 35 of the leading lumbermen of the country were initiated.

Initially, membership in the Hoo-Hoo was limited to white men ages 21 and older who were engaged in the lumber industry as lumbermen, newspapermen



International Order of Hoo-Hoo headquarters in Gurdon.

and railroad workers. Mrs. M.A. Smith of Smithton (Clark County) was initiated before the gender requirement was passed, so she was allowed to remain as the organization's only female member. In the late 1890s, membership had grown to more than 5,000. By the early 1920s, it had grown to about 7,000, and by the 1950s, Hoo-Hoo boasted 15,000 active members.

According to the official Hoo-Hoo website (hoohoo. org), membership today is limited to people 18 and older who are of "good moral character" and are "engaged in the forestry industry or genuinely interested in supporting the purpose and aims of our order." The group has grown into an international organization, with more than 100,000 dues paying members in the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and South Africa.

The Hoo-Hoo International office and museum share a log cabin built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the early 1930s at 207 Main St. in Gurdon, one block from the site where Hoo-Hoo was founded in 1892. The museum was dedicated on April 11, 1981.

Now you know who the Hoo-Hoo are and so do I.

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.

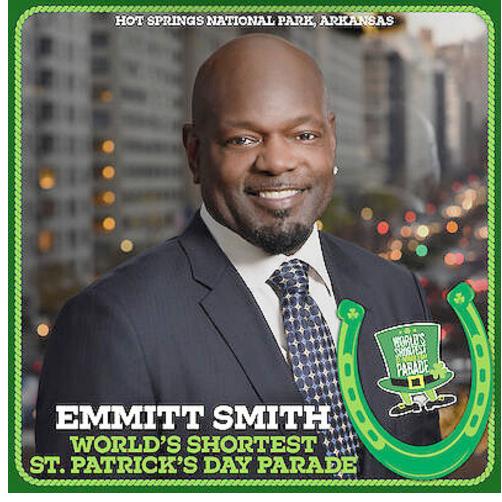


ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Bridge Street Comes Alive!

Don't miss the First Ever 21st Annual World's Shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade

Sandy Johansen STAFF WRITER



Legendary Dallas Football Player Emmitt Smith, this year's Grand Marshall (Photos courtesy of Visit Hot Springs CEO Steve Arrison)

Everyone is welcome to Bridge Street in Hot Springs, Arkansas for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day weekend beginning on Saturday, March 16 as follows:

Saturday, March 16, 2024

3:00 PM - Bridge Street LIVE! Entertainment District Opens

7:00 PM - Live music begins

8:00 PM - FREE Pat Green Concert

Sunday, March 17, 2024

3:00 PM - Bridge Street LIVE! Entertainment District Opens

4:00 PM - Blarney Stone \$100 Kissing Contest

5:00 PM - Pre-Parade Festivities with Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders

6:25 PM - OFFICIAL Measuring of Bridge Street

Parade Route

6:30 PM - First Ever 21st Annual World's Shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade Begins.

8:00 PM - FREE Molly Ringwalds Concert

The history of Hot Springs St. Patrick's Day Parade began 21 years ago on the world's shortest street that is operational every day, Bridge Street! The length of the parade is only 98 feet long, but it is filled with lots of fun and Irish spirits. After the first parade attracted national attention, a couple of other groups maintained that they had shorter parades. Research showed that one of the challengers wasn't so much a parade as a bunch of people wandering around in a city park. The Hot Springs parade organizers notified the second challenger that the title would remain in Hot Springs even if the Arkansas Parade participants had to march in place — or even march backwards — to keep its designation as World's Shortest. Many activities as aforementioned have been added to the parade and attendance has grown to over 30,000.

This year it will be extra green as Country Music Star Pat Green will perform a free public concert on Saturday, March 16, to kick off a weekend of big fun.

"Pat's had more recognizable



Emmitt Smith, the legendary Dallas Cowboys running back who is now a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, will serve as the celebrity grand marshal of St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 17, in downtown Hot Springs.

"Wow," said Arrison. "We are beyond thrilled that Emmitt Smith will be our grand marshal. He is still fondly remembered by millions of fans as one of the greatest ever to play the game. I know 98-foot Bridge Street won't be able to contain all the fans who want to see this legend in person on March 17. But we have Central Avenue and Malvern Avenue before and after the parade route where fans will find plenty of room



Time to officially measure the parade route.





Always celebratory, the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders are excited to join Emmitt Smith.

to cheer this sports icon."

Forrie J. Smith, the real cowboy who rode to fame as the beloved Lloyd Pierce in the insanely popular

"Yellowstone" TV series, will be the official starter, Arrison said. "Forrie is a real cowboy who plays a real cowboy, and he has ridden into the hearts of millions of 'Yellowstone' fans. He'll be perfect for the 21st edition of our parade."

The Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders will join one of their biggest fans, Cowboys legend and Celebrity Grand Marshal Emmitt Smith for their 9th appearance in the parade. "We looked back at the history of our big little parade," Arrison said, "and the Cowboys Cheerleaders are a constant fan favorite ever since they became part of the parade in 2013. Some folks can't recall when they weren't part of our festivities."

There will be a free concert following the parade by The Molly Ringwalds. A New Orleans band loved in Baton Rouge, the group specializes in the songs of such '80s acts as Duran Duran, Boy George and Culture Club, Flock of Seagulls, David Bowie and Adam Ant. Band members also perform in costumes and makeup inspired by the era when Prince, Michael Jackson and Madonna ruled radio and MTV launched stars.

Parking areas are limited so be ready to walk to the Bridge Street celebrations. It is well worth the time as this writer has not missed any of the 20 - soon to be 21 parades and concerts.

For more information go to: https://www.hotsprings. org/events/21st-worlds-shortest-st-patricks-dayparade/

The directions are complete at the site including information that no lawn chairs are allowed as they create obstructions and can be hazardous in the event of any emergency. If it rains the parade may be postponed for a few minutes, but please do not bring umbrellas as they block the view of those around you and other pointy items including signs can be dangerous.

It's time for some of the best fun a parade can offer right here in Arkansas.

VIETNAM VETERANS



Dr. Walter "Bubba" Smith shares his thoughts with attendees. (Jeff Meek photos)

Jeff Meek voice correspondent

On April 3 Hot Springs Village will again recognize the now fairly well-known "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day." The first such recognition in the Village came 12 years ago and, other than a couple of years lost to Covid, has continued on. Very little was known about the "Day" but when I first brought up the idea with Jeff Hollansworth to have this event he immediately got on board. But how did this special day of recognition come about?

In my opinion it took time for the idea to catch hold. In 2007, both the U.S. Congress and U.S. Senate passed a resolution saying March 30 would be known as National Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. Senator Richard Burr said it best: "This day provides our nation with an important teaching moment. Never again should our men and women serving in the armed forces receive the same treatment as those returning

Happy Easter March 31



A veteran in the crowd honors his comrades with a salute.

from Vietnam."

Then on March 29, 2012, President Barack Obama signed a presidential proclamation designating March 29 as the annual observance of the Day, which marked the 50th anniversary of the departure of U.S. combat troops. Taking it a step further, in 2017, President Trump signed into law the Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, designating in perpetuity, every March 29 as the special day.

During the Vietnam War an estimated 58,156 American troops died, another 303,704 were wounded and over 2,000 missing in action. Politics and the media played a role in the lack of respect for the veterans coming home. I've interviewed many and several shared with me the bewilderment they experienced from angry American citizens when they returned to the U.S. and again when they got to their hometown. Some told me they were aware of unrest at home about the war but didn't realize the degree to which that would be expressed. Name calling, spitting and harassment met many of our nation's finest upon their return.

Once again this year, Dr. Walter "Bubba" Smith and I are hosting a "Welcome Home" day. It takes place at Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church on April 3, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Voices Rising will again be sharing the musical talents with us and we are proud to have Anita Deason as our event speaker. She is retired Army and former military liaison and veterans' affairs officer for Senator John Boozman's office.

If you served during the Vietnam War era you are invited to attend with I guest. Registration is required. To register contact Dr. Smith by phone or text at 1-870-904-4767 or email him at drbubbaque@hotmail.com. Mark your calendar now, contact Dr. Smith and please join us for this special occasion.



Village Vietnam veterans enjoy lunch on their special day.

How to wipe out COLON CANCER Tips from Dr. Jean Salem, board-certified colon & rectal surgeon



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HSV RECREATION



Hear Hits and Grins Bill Whyte, Victoria Venier and Steve Dean perform at Woodlands Auditorium of March 7. Tickets are available online. (Parks and Recreation Department photos).

March no longer 'Off Season'

Lewis Delavan STAFF WRITER

Many outdoor events in the Village this month

Recreation opportunities abound in the spring at Hot Springs Village. From trails to tennis, pickleball to plays, spelunkers and other speakers, many events are coming to the Village in March.

"We are really proud of the amount of events that we have going on through March. It wasn't long ago that it was considered 'off-season,' but we have really changed that perception, says Terry Wiley, HSVPOA Parks and Recreation Department director.

"Once April hits, things ramp up significantly with the outdoor recreation events, trail walks and other activities. We are excited as well for the solar eclipse event coming in early April. We have a multitude of community activities planned working with many of our community organizations."

There's even a tennis free-for-all in March: Yes, the lessons and court time are free.

Here's an overview, with information provided by the Property Owners' Association Parks and Recreation Department:

• The Motown Sound Revue: Tuesday, March 5 – Dinner service starts at 5:30 p.m. Concert starts at 7 p.m. Dinner tickets must be bought in advance.

• Hits and Grins - "Raising the Curtain Series":

Thursday, March 7 - 7 p.m. – The Entertainment Foundation and Lifelong Learning Institute will present Hits and Grins with Bill Whyte, Victoria Venier and Steve Dean, a trio of writers/performers from Nashville, Tennessee, in Woodlands Auditorium. "Hits and Grins," Grammy-nominated songwriters and a Country Radio Broadcast Hall-of-Famer, will showcase "Music City USA." Their unique concert will be filled with stories, hit songs and comedy. Their songs have been recorded by George Strait, Alabama, Rhonda Vincent, Ray Stevens, Colt Ford, Reba McEntire, and more. Not a POA member? Present event ticket for gate access.

• Ouachita Speaker Series' Bill Steel 'Spelunker, modern-day explorer': Tuesday, March 12, 7 p.m. – A cave explorer who has led and participated in expeditions to many of the longest and deepest caves in the USA, Mexico and the People's Republic of China, Bill Steele has explored more than 2,500 caves across North America and Asia and has written two books chronicling his expeditions: "Yochib: The River Cave" and "Hatautla: Thirty Years in One of the World's Deepest Caves." National Geographic Explorer, NOVA and How'd They Do That? have aired programs on his expeditions. Tickets: \$20. Ponce de Leon Center.

• 'Madam's Been Murdered, Tea Will be Late' – March 22-24 – The Hot Springs Village Players present a classic "who done it" play, "Madam's Been Murdered, Tea Will Be Late" by Pat Cook. The comedy murder mystery takes place in an old English manor, converted to a bed and breakfast. Coronado Community Center. Tickets: \$18 each.

• The Diamonds' 'Bandstand Boogie' – Tuesday, March 26 - 3 p.m. – Hot Springs Village Community Foundation's 18th-annual benefit concert presents The Diamond's Bandstand Boogie. Featuring 25 songs from American Bandstand, the TV show hosted by Dick Clark. The Diamonds, pioneers of the sparkling vocal harmony sounds that were vital in the rock 'n roll days, appeared 33 times. This show will capture four decades of rock 'n roll hits. Reserved seat tickets: \$30.

• HSVCF Pre-Show Dinner – Tuesday, March 26 – Park in the Ponce de Leon Center parking lot and enjoy a meal with baked potato and trimmings, chili, broccoli-and-cheddar soup, green salad, tea, water and homemade cookies and brownies. Dinner tickets: \$17.50 each. Alcohol available starting at 5:30 p.m.; dinner served at 6 p.m.

• The Diamonds' 'Let's Rock Broadway': Tuesday, March 26 7:30 p.m. – The Diamonds, creator of hits including "Little Darlin'," "The Stroll" and "Silhouettes," will bring the Diamonds' "Let's Rock Broadway," with 1950s rock 'n roll songs including hits from "Jersey Boys," "The Carole King Musical," "Smokey Joe's Cafe," and later songs including "Saturday Night Fever," and others. Reserved seat tickets: \$35.

• Tennis Free for All: Monday-Friday, March 25-29, - 6-8 p.m. – Learn or relearn tennis at Coronado Tennis Center in the "Free for All" lesson program. It is for all adults in the Village area who are interested in learning to play tennis, and those returning to tennis. The one-week program aims to take participants from beginner to the joy of playing with friends. Lessons are directed by USPTA elite tennis professional Bob Wagstaff and sponsored by the HSV Tennis Association. Register at https://hotspringsvillage. thundertix.com/events/224178 or call the tennis center at 501-922-5054. The center will even loan a racquet if needed.

• Coronado Fitness Center membership: Insurance Reimbursement Program – Reduced rates and free memberships through certain insurance providers. Call your insurance provider or representative and ask if they participate in a gym membership program or stop by the fitness center for assistance. Bring your POA member card and your insurance company's "fitness identification number" and insurance card to the fitness center. Fill out an application and waiver.

The fitness center receives \$3.75 per visit, up to 12 visits per month. Enjoy the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and help ensure the continued availability of this POA amenity. Call 501-922-1230 for information.

• Pickleball, bocce, mini golf, lawn bowling, DeSoto Dog Park, trails: Interested in one of these activities? Call the recreation department to learn about an amenity pass.

Or POA members can simply hit the trails: No fee required. Learn more at https://www. explore the village.com/amenities/trails-rides.

There's more to come. "It doesn't take long before we are ramping up to the summer season with our Summer Concert Series at the Woodlands, opening of the Outdoor Pool, and running right into the Independence Day holiday," Wiley says.

COVER STORY



1011 PARK AVE.

Robin Raborn Burns VOICE CORRESPONDENT Updating a piece of Arkansas history

Chris Rix does not say that he is an enormous history buff. Nor is he necessarily the most intense spectator of the political arena. He did not personally know the former resident (turned President) of 1011 Park Avenue.

However, Rix does know a thing or two about remodeling properties. Rix, also a Broker/Owner/ Realtor at Rix Realty-Advantage Team Realtors, has, at this point in his life, remodeled or restored countless properties in the Hot Springs area.What was the appeal of purchasing the home where the 42nd President of the United States spent his teenage years (between 1954 and 1961) when he reportedly first identified his political aspirations? "The property had fallen into disrepair, it was an eyesore for the area and a poor reflection of the former president." Rix says. He



National Register of Historic Places plaque.

shares that it was also a move to insulate adjacent real estate holdings.

Thus far, Rix says he has made the following modifications/improvements - updated electrical and plumbing systems, completed surface changes and bathroom modifications, replaced the roof and installed new decking. Two new kitchens are currently in progress. Rix adds that he has also removed countless dumpsters filled with abandoned debris. A sign advertising "The Boyhood Home of President Bill Clinton" is one of the first things that greets all who drive into Hot Springs. Rix wants to ensure the residence (added to the National Register of Historic Places on May 18, 1995) has the curb appeal to render it as welcoming as the sign that ushers visitors and residents alike into Hot Springs.

Rix adds, "The property will be used as an investment and should be accepting tenants in 2024. Other than the property being the home of a former president, it



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1011 Park Avenue.

does not overly contribute architecturally. It was a Queen Anne Victorian but somewhere along the way, was 'bastardized' into a Tudor Revival. It is currently a six-bedroom, five and a half bathroom house, with two kitchens and a four-stall carriage house with a tack room on an acre of land with fantastic Park Avenue, Mountain & Sunset views."

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has termed it the area's finest example of the Tudor Revival style, which was popular in Arkansas from the mid-1910s through the early 1940s. Also known as the Birnbaum-Shubetz House, it was built between 1896 and 1900 by the Birnbaum family. Ohio-born Civil War veteran Charles Birnbaum (1834–1901) and his wife, Catherine Charity (Kate) Birnbaum (1854–1938), came to Hot Springs in the early 1880s. He was listed as a member of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce in 1894 as a wholesale grocer. She was a founding member and long-time supporter of the Interstate Orphans Home (currently the Ouachita Children's Center). The couple are buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

The Birnbaum house was sold in 1938 when the home was remodeled into its present Tudor Revival style. Transformative features include curved half-timbers set in stucco, a curved roof over the porch, and a decorative porch balustrade. Clinton's family relocated from Hope (Hempstead County) to Hot Springs in 1953 after Clinton's mother, Virginia (Cassidy) Clinton Kelley (1923–1994), married Roger Clinton Sr., who was in the automobile business in Hot Springs. They moved into the Birnbaum house in 1954. In Hot Springs, Bill Clinton attended St. John's Catholic Elementary School, Ramble Elementary School, and Hot Springs High School, where he was active as a student leader until his graduation in 1964. The Clinton family moved in 1961 to a home at 213 Scully Street in Hot Springs.

As is typical of many creative types, Rix likes to maintain a certain mystique about his renovation project at 1011 Park Avenue. We get it. We respect it. But we are eager to see the big reveal.

Comm Fixture

Kara's Packing Company has been around for 5 decades

Mary Eliades VOICE CORRESPONDENT

Villagers traveling east on Highway 5 have recently noticed a change in a neighborhood

institution: Kara's Packing Company has just undergone a facelift and is looking better than ever.

John Kara moved to Arkansas from Chicago, following his father, who had bought 40 acres in this



Kara's Packing Company has been a community fixture for over 50 years, through four generations of the Kara family. Adriana Mathews, left, with her son Matthias, along with her mother, Tosha Baggett, right, continue the tradition of serving the community. (Mary Eliades photos)

rural community.

Kara's father had owned a bar in Chicago and John put his experience working there to good use by opening his first business – a combo hamburger joint, dairy bar, and pool hall. This was in 1970, about the





same time the Village was being developed.

At some point, the business was turned into a pawn shop, selling guns, etc. Kara's granddaughter, Tosha Baggett, said her father was a "real rootin', tootin' kind of guy."

Later, the store metamorphosed once again, emerging as a packing company, selling freezer meats and other frozen goods.

Kara died a few years ago, at the age of 92, and Baggett said he came to work every day up until then.

Baggett and her daughter, Adriana Mathews, now manage the store, but still think of Kara every day. "We really miss him," said Baggett, "and wish he could see the store the way it is now."

John Kara probably wouldn't recognize the interior of the store these days. Freezers line the walls, with everything from the original Polish sausage (from a family recipe) to steaks and other cuts of meat (including water buffalo – "super lean," according to Baggett and "100 percent grass fed). Kara's still carries ever-popular tamales, which are available in several varieties.

Cajun food from Lake Charles, alligator, and a variety of seafood (salmon patties – "perfect for the air fryer," crab cakes, catfish and Alaskan pollock, to name just a few selections) round out the inventory.

All of the meat and seafood products arrive fresh and are immediately frozen. Baggett said her family made



a decision long ago not to stock fresh meat because of the sometimes low turnover and the need to ensure the quality of the products.

Baggett said they are always looking for new products – and welcome suggestions – but the shelves are groaning with crackers, jellies, organic granola, snack sticks, and all kinds of gourmet goodies. The management team has kept up the tradition of a dairy bar, with fresh eggs, milk (including oat and almond milks) and butter, and they've started carrying fresh produce. Baggett said they are planning to source farm-fresh produce in the coming months, as well as local honey, and are starting to stock sourdough and other specialty breads.

Lunchtime is popular at Kara's, with daily plate specials (tamales, hot dogs, Polish sausage, etc.) offered from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Plenty of seating is available inside and Baggett said they are hoping to open up the backyard with tables, etc. for picnic-style dining and special events. "We want to keep it fun," she said, "and always family friendly."

In the back room – where Baggett lived as a child – is a small coffee bar and the beginnings of a gift shop.

Two walls are dedicated to photos and other memorabilia from John Kara's long and productive life. Baggett said, "We will always be here – this place is more about memories than anything else."

Kara's is located at 23049 Highway 5, Lonsdale, and they can be reached at 501-939-2252.

ALL CRAWL SPACE-Y

WE FIX THIS



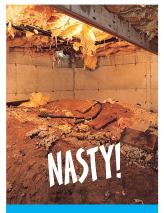
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Left to right, Pre-Injury, Pre-Transplant and Post Transplant (photos courtesy of NYU and Aaron James)

Record setting transplant

Sandy Johansen STAFF WRITER

Hot Springs Village resident Aaron James' accident pioneered a face and whole eye transplant. It has truly been a miracle in progress.

An Arkansas native, Aaron James served in the Army National Guard. His service included being stationed in Kuwait, Egypt, and Iraq. Upon his return in 2021 he worked as a lineman for a local construction company. In June 2021 he was helping transfer wires to a new electrical pole in Oklahoma, when he accidentally hit his face onto a live wire while holding on to a neutral wire and got electrocuted with over 7,200 volts of shock.

"When I was called about the accident, they didn't tell me what had happened, I thought perhaps he had just fallen out of the bucket," said wife Megan. "What I saw when I reached the Tulsa, Oklahoma hospital where he was flown in, was my husband with not only just half of his face, but many injuries too numerous to count."

The electrocution caused the instant loss of one of his

Villager undergoes 21 hour transplant surgery

thumbs, his body got burned inside and out. He was in the hospital six weeks suffering numerous strokes, kidney failure, and with a face with his left eye, nose, and lower part of his face completely missing. Aaron's left arm was also amputated at the time removing the mid-humerous bone, and seven of his teeth were pulled out.

"Doctors kept telling me he would never eat the same, probably never talk and never come off the ventilator. But I knew he was fighting and as long as he was fighting, I'd be there fighting for him," said Megan.

After a few months he learned to talk and eat again even though part of his tongue had to be amputated. He was horrified with his face as he was a handsome bearded man before the electrocution.

He was sent from Tulsa to doctors at New York University Langone in December 2021 where a team of specialists led by Dr. Eduardo Rodriguez, performed a 21 hour surgery making it the first time a joint whole face and whole eye transplant was done successfully. The 140 physicians were headed by Dr. Rodriguez, who had also previously conducted 45 face transplants himself and he did not expect Aaron's procedure to be "remarkably exciting." Dr. Rodriguez noted the patient began to move his face, optic muscles, and squint, even though his eyelids were still down. "We noted his movement showed his brain is receiving messages from the eyeball which is still alive," said Dr. Rodriguez in a press conference several weeks following the surgery.

Dr. Rodriguez also said that Aaron James was an ideal transplant candidate he met two months after his accident. He also lauded his support system and said it was because of them that the impossible became possible.

James, his wife, Meagan, and his teenage daughter, Allie, all agreed to continue the fight. Aaron's one request was to get his beard back. "I'm so happy to get my beard back," he said.

Before his transplant, whenever James used to step outside, he used to cover his face with a mask and his eye with a patch to conceal his injuries. Now, he can't go past a mirror without looking at it. Being in awe of his new face, he even flaunted it during the interview, saying:

"I'm just blown away... I can open my mouth, I can eat, I can smell everything, I can taste everything. I couldn't have expected anything better. When I look in the mirror, it almost doesn't even look like I've had surgery. I'm still in shock." James said. He also noted how his close friends and family always kept him motivated and never let him dwell on his condition.

"Following surgery to restore vision to his right eye following cataract removal, I walked into his room and he said 'I see you' which was another miracle happening," said Megan. "Go Fund Me has been critical to the help Aaron's received to restore his face and hopefully soon vision in his left eye transplant."

The donor was a 30-year-old man and the transplants were procured by the organization LiveOnNY. The donor also saved three other lives donating his kidneys, liver and pancreas. Besides his full face and whole eye transplant, Aaron James also underwent other

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reconstructive surgeries over a period of two years, including getting a prosthetic arm.

Doctors are still seeing progress in all areas especially as there is no certainty James will regain vision in his new eye, doctors do not rule out the possibility either. "We don't have sight yet, but I'm an optimist," Rodriguez said in an ABC interview, "The one thing for sure that I can say now is that we are one step closer."

Around 140 medical professionals were involved in his recovery process. His left eye, which was grafted during the transplant, is still blind due to vision, but has functioning blood vessels and a promising-looking retina.

Dr. Vaidehi Dedania became involved in the surgery is an associate professor of ophthalmology and the director of the Vitreoretinal Surgery Fellowship at NYU, is a retina expert who worked to see if the new eye could actually send the right signals to the brain to process an image, restoring James' sight. Dr. Dedania ran a battery of tests. She found expected damage in the light-sensing retina in the back of the eye. But she said in a recent interview, "It appears to have enough special cells called photoreceptors to do the job of converting light to electrical signals, one step in creating vision." Recent examinations have found more sensitivity is developing in the left eye.

Face transplants remain rare and risky. James is only the 19th in the U.S. with eye and face transplants collectively adding more complexity. According to NYU "Today, transplants of the cornea — the clear tissue in front of the eye — are common to treat certain types of vision loss. But transplanting the whole eye — the eyeball, its blood supply and the critical optic nerve that must connect it to the brain — is considered a moonshot in the quest to cure blindness. Whatever happens next, James' surgery offers scientists an unprecedented window into how the human eye tries to heal."



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POA BOARD CANDIDATES Seeking Position

Lewis Delavan STAFF WRITER

Learn more about the four candidates seeking a term on the Hot Springs Village Property Owners' Association. These articles are written by Lewis Delavan from information each candidate sent the POA as part of the application process. Listed alphabetically:

Doyle Baker

"In many ways I see similarities between my work and Hot Springs Village today. The Village has already turned the corner and is making significant improvements. Thisisdue to the employees and leadership currently in place. As we continue to grow and improve there will be challenges ahead like issues I have dealt with in my career."



Baker and his wife and have lived in more than a half dozen states. "We knew what we wanted in retirement and recognized it as soon as we discovered Hot Springs Village."

They bought a Village home in November 2017. He retired and moved here full time in the fall of 2021.

"I have a Bachelor's of Science in Industrial Engineering."

His first job out of college was at Frito-Lay in Texas. His last position before retiring was vice president of U.S operations at Bel Brands Group in Kentucky. "There I was responsible for 3 plants, 800-plus employees, an expense budget of \$355 million-plus, a capital budget of \$5-8 million and distribution across North America.

He spent most of his career in fast growing or turnaround operations.

"Most recently I reduced accidents by over 85% and developed managers in safety leadership to ensure the next generation. I also reduced customer complaints by over 80% and saved the dominant business in a small town from closing. At my prior company, as a regional director of operations, I took my two plants from a ranking of last place to 1st and 2nd out of 13 plants."

"I have always enjoyed serving."

He serves on the Finance and Planning Committee and has become familiar with the flow of money in the Village; volunteers at his church's audio-visual team, and enjoys the Woodworkers Club, serving as vice president.

"As a member of the Woodworkers Club, I enjoy making toys for kids, bookshelves for schools, golf tee markers for HSV, and repairing landscaping for those in need. My wife and I go boating and swimming as we live on Lake Coronado. I have also enjoyed golf, fishing, pickleball and Boomers Rock events. Even with a busy work schedule, volunteering to give back has been important to me.

"My wife and I taught Financial Peace University – financial planning – to over 150 people across the years, I coordinated set up and teardown teams for weekly services, fed the homeless in downtown Portland, worked with local schools to mentor kids, put together outstanding teacher's recognition awards and set up a team of people to collect and distribute supplies and gifts to local teachers."



Edsel Archie Frye Jr.

"I'm running for the HSV POA Board to offer a comprehensive background and knowledge of budgetary management and infrastructure development/sustainment to continue to improve the quality of our community.

He's been a property owner since 1994 and resident since 2012. "I'm pleased with the new, transparent leadership



and the growth of HSV. I've served on many boards. I've successfully managed large scale infrastructure projects with constrained time limits and budgets. I've served on a Chamber of Commerce board and feel attracting new businesses here is vital to our growing community. I'll serve the needs of property owners, ensuring frugal use of funds while considering the personal and financial hardships of our aging community and the young families to best shape decisions for all HSY residents and businesses. While living here, I've been active in caring for our community and our people to include assisting with medical transportation, community clean up and maintenance, advocate for disability claims to include Congressional engagement on others' behalf and worked on charity golf tournaments.

The bulk of his work history comes from an Air Force career, with more than 38 years of service,



include 25 years of leadership, forecasting and executing operational budgets up to \$70 million annually. "I've served on boards including Arkansas Youth Foundation, Sherwood, (Arkansas) Chamber of Commerce, Kansas Governor's Board of Military Affairs, along with numerous military boards. I learned the value of giving everyone a voice and appreciating the needs and limitations of competing interests. I have a history of teamwork, innovation and program development." Selected for program development team to develop a Department of Defense global logistic program. A highlight was negotiating a \$70 million airfield and infrastructure improvement initiative at the Bishkek International Airport, resulting in modernization of the most productive airfield for troop and equipment movement in the Afghanistan war theater, working with their government and private parties.

His service includes board president and mentor, Arkansas Youth Foundation, 2015-2019. The Governor's Board to rescue, educate and reintegrate at-risk youth, ages 13-17 that have committed crimes or dropped out of school, using an in resident program of 3-5 months to educate, discipline and prepare them for a productive life. Raising funds, managing funds and providing follow-up education stipends.

Experience summary: 1977-2015: Commander at various units; senior mentor for Air Force Reserve commander course; board president for national aircrew trainee selection; Aircraft Accident Investigation Board president; flight instrument refresher instructor for national program, aircraft mechanic, flight engineer.

Education: Master's of Aeronautical Science, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University 1990; Bachelor's of Industrial Technology, Southern Illinois University, 1985; Associate's of Flight Engineer Technology, Community College of the Air Force, 1982; Lean Six Sigma graduate, University of Tennessee; military schools and training programs to develop followership, leadership, teamwork, skill/program improvement and innovation.

"Whether elected or not, I will continue to support all things good for Hot Springs Village and be a positive voice for this incredible community."

Marcy G. Mermel

"I believe financial integrity is the first, most important element of managing a community such as Hot Springs Village, from a board member's perspective. Second is developing a plan that incorporates many factors, one of which is land management. I do not agree with any additional assessment increases before we fully



know and are in control of our spending.

"A board director must have an understanding of what a POA/HOA is and are experienced leaders having (or the willingness to acquire) competencies in financial analysis, group/public communications, fair and decisive group decision-making, and an aptitude for strategic planning with measurability and metrics.

"Now in our third year of the previous assessment increase, it is time to review the justification presented at that vote. We need to compare where we are today to what we were told was critical – the 'Big Red Blob.'

Investigation is necessary regarding issues such as why we still do not have commercial assessment rates – commercial buildings/businesses pay the same assessment fee that we do for our homes, per water meter; and what the plan is to access our back-up water supply.

Directors must have the ability to prioritize without prejudice, influence or ego, and possess the integrity to act on promises made, even when difficult; and the fortitude to admit mistakes made, whether in policy or employment, and act swiftly to correct."

With a BS in Business Administration from the University of Illinois (1978), she is CCIM-credentialed and was an Illinois licensed commercial real estate broker from 1984 to 2015 as well as a real estate instructor from 1985-1994. For most of her career, she worked in Small Business Administration lending with two national firms as assistant vice president for Midwest territories. She managed her own consulting firm from 2001-2015.

She bought a home in 2011 and became a full-time

resident in 2013.

She served as a POA board director (2015-2018) and parliamentarian/corporate secretary in 2020, resigning Sept. 16, 2020 due to her mother's death, with an extended stay in Chicago. "I am the creator/facilitator of the original Village Values (2016), and have served as a director on both the library and Chamber boards. I am a trained facilitator in business visioning/goal setting and have been utilized by our F&P Committee's Strategic Planning Workgroup and the HSV Chamber of Commerce.

"The Village deserves the opportunity to once again thrive in the image and intent in which it was created. We all deserve the truth and open, honest communication. Between board members, committee members and employees, we still do not have expertise in every and all areas needed to manage such a large community successfully and efficiently. We need to identify our weaknesses and seek professional help from outside resources."

Contact her at mgmermel@msn.com, or call/text 312-925-2020.



Mark Quinton

"I have served on the Board of Directors since May 2023 and have learned a lot about what we can do to continue to be a better place to live by being fiscally responsible, and updating our infrastructure.

"My unique blend of creativity, analytical skills and directness with diplomacy have allowed me to resolve issues thought to be insurmountable.



"With no personal agenda, I am prepared to continue to commit my time and talent to representing all of HSV's property owners by addressing the challenges ahead to preserve what we have for generations to come. I am respectfully asking for your vote."

"I have lived in Hot Springs Village since 2018, when I relocated from Louisiana. Although my wife and I have experienced 7 different states and 8 moves from promotions. Arkansas and HSV top them all. My best friend and my wife Tammy currently owns and operates a dog-grooming business here in the Village."

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education and a Masters Degree in Kinesiology (exercise movement). He had a 20-plus year career as a sales, marketing and training professional in the pharmaceutical and health-care industries, reaching a national director role with AstraZeneca.

He honed management and leadership skills as the chief executive officer of a collections services bureau, and as the owner of a commercial hockey arena.

"Those 6 years as a business owner were particularly meaningful, acquiring skills in business plan development, the art of securing individual and corporate investors, and financing and constructing a \$2M facility. During this time. I volunteered in the community as the Better Business Bureau president, United Way chairman, and Rotary member.

"I have been a pro staffer for Hoyt Archery for 25 years, winning tournaments all over the U.S.

Even more important in my candidacy for a seat on the POA Board is my exposure to the wants and needs of Hot Springs Village."

In May 2023, he was appointed to the HSV Board of Directors for a one-year term that he is currently serving and has immersed himself in all aspects of the governance of the Village. He is the Board of Directors liaison for the Architectural Control Committee.

"I began serving on the HSV Recreation Committee in 2018, ultimately moving into the co-chair role.

More recently, I served on HSV's ad-hoc land committee, evaluating Cooper Communities' land holdings and the potential impact on HSV. "The board's recent decisions to execute on our recommendations evidences what we accomplished."

He served on the planning committee for the 2023 Urban Deer Hunt and played a key role in bringing HSV's Archery Range into operation.

Contact him at mquinton@hsvpoa.org.





MARCH EVENTS

American Craft Sake Fest 2024

Bridge St. Entertainment District Saturday, March 2 from 5 to 10 p.m.

Archeology Day at Lake Catherine State Park

1200 Catherine Park Road Saturday, March 2

Arkansas Cherry Blossom Festival

Hot Springs Convention Center Sunday, March 3 from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Arkansas' First Sumo Wrestling Exhibition **Hot Springs Convention Center** Sunday, March 3 at 6 p.m.

The Muses Celtic Spring - Irish Harp, Flutes,

Drums, Voices and Dance The Woodlands Friday, March 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

World's Shortest St. Patrick's Zero K

Bridge Street Saturday, March 16 at 4 p.m.

First Ever 21st Annual World's Shortest St. Patrick's

Day Parade **Bridge Street** Sunday, March 17

Artist Gallery Show at the Heist Lounge

The Heist, 723 Central Ave. Thursday, March 28 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Arkansas Derby

Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort Saturday, March 30

Free Easter Egg Hunt

The Venue by Fancy Schmancy, 4010 Park Avenue Saturday, March 30 from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

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ZESTY BRAISED BEEF WITH NEW POTATOES

Serves 8

- 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 2 ounces chunk pancetta, preferably hot pancetta, diced
- 2 pounds trimmed stewing beef, cut into 1-inch cubes and patted dry
- 2 onions, finely chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cracked black peppercorns
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 2 pounds small new potatoes, scrubbed and thinly sliced (about 30 tiny ones)
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper, dissolved in 1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1/4 cup finely chopped parsley leaves.

1. In a skillet, heat 1 tablespoon of the oil over medium-high heat. Add pancetta and cook, stirring, until nicely browned, about 3 minutes. Transfer to slow cooker stoneware (31/2 to 5 quart).

2. Add beef to skillet, in batches, and cook, stirring until browned, about 4 minutes per batch. Transfer to stoneware as completed.

3. Reduce heat to medium. Add remaining tablespoon of oil to pan. Add onions and cook, stirring, until softened, about 3 minutes. Add garlic, thyme, salt and peppercorns and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Add wine, bring to a boil and boil, stirring and scraping up brown bits from bottom of pan for 2 minutes. Add stock and potatoes and bring to a boil. Simmer for 2 minutes.

4. Transfer to stoneware. Cover and cook on low for 8 hours or on high for 4 hours, until potatoes are tender. Stir in cayenne solution.



Cover and cook on high for 10 minutes. Transfer to a server dish and garnish with parsley. Serve with a big platter of roasted carrots.

IRISH SODA BREAD

Yields 11/2 loaf (20 servings)

- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup margarine, softened
- 4 tablespoons white sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1/4 cup buttermilk

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Lightly grease a large baking sheet.

Mix flour, softened margarine, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, and salt together in a large bowl. Stir in 1 cup of buttermilk and egg. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead slightly. Form dough into a round and place on the prepared baking sheet.

Combine melted butter with 1Ú4 cup buttermilk in a small bowl; brush loaf with this mixture. Use a sharp knife to cut an ÔXÔ into the top of the loaf.

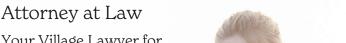
Bake in preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center of the loaf comes out clean, 45 to 50 minutes. Check for doneness after 30 minutes. You may continue to brush the loaf with the butter mixture while it bakes.

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