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SEPTEMBER 2024



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Village Voice

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Seasonal changes, days remembered



Be on the lookout, many times a year Villagers see deer crossing a road, but they're not the only critter out for a walk.

Well, September is just around the corner as of the time of this writing. It's a month filled with holidays, observances and events, both current and historic. I read where it is the only month not named after a Roman deity.

The month includes a celebration of labor on Labor Day, this year on Monday, Sept. 2 and later with the first day of autumn, this year on Sept. 22 when we mark the equinox, meaning the sun is directly over the equator and daytime and nighttime are close to equal.

In between, many special days are remembered, like the official end of World War II on Sept. 2, 1945, known as V-J Day, when Japanese and Allied forces met for surrender ceremonies on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

Patriots Day on Sept. 11, marks 23 years since terrorists crashed commercial airliners into the World Trade Center towers in New York and smashed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

It could have been worse. Thanks to the extraordinary bravery and self-sacrifice of the 33 passengers and 7 crew members on Flight 93, that United Airlines jet didn't make it to its intended target, the nation's Capital, just minutes ahead in terms of time in the air. Instead, they fought back against 4 al-Qaeda terrorists, bringing it down near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. There were no survivors. My guess is you still remember where you were that day in 2001 when you heard the tragic news. For many it reminded them of Pearl Harbor in 1941 and/or



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the JFK assassination in 1963.

But September has other far less tragic days, like Grandparents Day on Sept. 8, Constitution Day on Sept. 17 and several others you've probably never heard of like Great American Pot Pie Day and Redhead Awareness Day on September 23. Oh, and don't ever forget National Chewing Gum Day on September 30.

In Hot Springs Village, typically temperatures begin to cool by mid to late September, the grass grows slower and boat traffic on Village lakes slows considerably after Labor Day.

Transition to fall color begins to appear here and there. Schools are in full swing, daylight decreases, and one can go for a walk on a beautiful Village trail without sweating profusely.

Yes, September in many ways is another treasure, a time to once again get outside more frequently to enjoy the great outdoors, or as we say in Arkansas, the Natural State. Inside the gates will soon be signs of fall, with trees turning colors, adding to a wonderful life in HSV.

Jeff Meek
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

CONTENTS

Seasonal changes, days remembered	4
ALL AROUND ARKANSAS	
Heart of the Grand Prairie	6
HSV PEOPLE	
Hank Jarvis Honors HSV	8
COUSINS' CAMP	
Lasting Memories & Lots of Fun	10
COVER STORY	
Shake Paws with HSVs Newest Officer	14
Aspire Arkansas	18
HSV PEOPLE	
Pioneer Woman	21
COMMUNITY LEADERS	
Hall of Famer	25
September Events	30

ON THE COVER: K9 Officer Nala is the newest addition to the Hot Springs Village Police Department. She and her partner, Officer Elvis Caple, will be ready for search and rescue missions, as well as drug detection. (Submitted photo)

ALL AROUND ARKANSAS

Heart of the Grand Prairie

Stuttgart is the Rice and Duck Capitol of the World



Welcome to Stuttgart sign.

Darrell W. Brown

Known as the “Duck Hunting and Rice Capital of the World,” the city of Stuttgart lies in Arkansas County and serves as one of its two county seats. Situated on Arkansas’ Grand Prairie, Stuttgart is located on U.S. Highway 165, approximately 45 miles southeast of Little Rock. As of the 2020 census, Stuttgart’s population was 9,326.

Stuttgart was founded in 1880 by German native and Lutheran minister, Rev. George Adam Buerkle. Buerkle and family moved to the United States in 1852, originally settling in Woodville, Ohio. Buerkle and his family, along with a group of fellow German immigrants, came to the area which is now Stuttgart in 1878. In April 1880, he was appointed postmaster of the settlement’s new post office and needed a name for it. Buerkle chose Stuttgart in honor of the capital and largest city of the German state of Baden-

Württemberg.

In 1882, the Texas and St. Louis Railroad laid tracks and began operations in the small settlement. In 1884, the city was platted, however, Stuttgart did not initially thrive or prosper. Thomas Leslie, who came to the area in 1887, became a leader in the town and assisted with the start of its economic growth. For example, Leslie opened the first bank in Arkansas County and helped lead the expansion of railroad construction from Stuttgart to Gillett. Stuttgart was incorporated on April 19, 1889.

Shortly after Stuttgart’s incorporation, residents elected Col. Robert Crockett as the city’s first mayor. Crockett was the eldest son of the legendary frontiersman and politician, David “Davy” Crockett. Robert Crockett had moved to Stuttgart from Memphis at the age of twenty-four.

While it had been an agricultural town since its inception, Stuttgart's most popular cash crop of rice was not grown in the area until 1902. As an experiment, local farmer Bill Hope planted a small plot of rice. The small plot yielded 139 bushels per acre. On March 9, 1907, Stuttgart Rice Mill Company was incorporated. The company's mill was completed in October 1907 and reported a profit of \$16,000 on the first season's crops. The success of the mill began Stuttgart's rise as the leading producer of rice in the world.



The Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie

Riceland Foods, the world's largest miller and marketer of rice, was founded in 1921, and is headquartered in Stuttgart. Producers Rice Mill, also one of the world's largest millers and marketers of rice, is located in the city as well. Stuttgart is home to the University of Arkansas' Sen. Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center, which is the largest rice research facility in the United States.

Stuttgart is also home to the Grand Prairie Center, which is located on the campus of Phillips County Community College. The venue hosts several concerts and stage plays throughout the year. Several years ago, my wife and I attended a performance by the country music group, Restless Heart, at the Grand Prairie Center, and it is indeed a great place to hear live music.

Not only is Stuttgart known for rice, but it's just as famous for the great opportunities for duck hunting the area provides. With its abundance of flooded fields, swamps, and buckbrush reservoirs, Stuttgart is considered a prime location for duck hunting in the nation. The World's Championship Duck Calling Contest has been held in the city since 1936 as part of the annual Wings Over the Prairie Festival. Mack's Prairie Wings, a large retail store specializing in hunting and fishing products, is considered a must-see destination by sportsmen when visiting the area.

For history buffs seeking to learn more about the

city, the Museum of the Grand Prairie in Stuttgart features exhibits on pioneer life and notable residents, and of course, rice production and waterfowl hunting.

Whether you're in town for duck hunting or just passing through the state's grand prairie, Stuttgart has something for everyone to see and experience.

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

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HSV PEOPLE

Hank Jarvis honors Hot Springs Village

Sandy Johansen
STAFF WRITER



Representing HSV Kiwanis, Mary Ann and Hank were honored to represent the organization in Hanamaki, Japan. (Photos submitted courtesy of Hank Jarvis)

“When my friends in Hot Springs Village tell me they’re going on vacation, I tell them, no you’re going on a trip. You live in the best vacation anywhere,” said Hank Jarvis sporting a big smile.

Born in East Chicago, Henry (Hank) Jarvis spent summers working steel mills in the area while in high school. He received his B.S. and M.S. degree in Industrial Arts Education and a Driver Ed/Motorcycle endorsement.

Jarvis taught school in Hobart, Indiana, for 35 years focusing mainly on Drafting and CAD (Computer Aided Design), and helping students in the metal, machine and welding shops. Affiliated with Purdue University, he taught pre-engineering and was the local union president and chairperson for the Hobart Teachers Association.

Hank’s background in education inspired him to organize School Clubs in the Hot Springs Village surrounding areas including Grade K Kids, 4th through 6th grade, Builders Club grades 7th through 8th graders, Key Club for high school students. “Both Jessieville and Fountain Lake offer student activities and aid families having difficulties as they offer assisting funds. We want to give back to the community with leadership for each club,” said Jarvis.

Hank and Mary Ann began visiting Hot Springs Village in the late 90’s as they searched for a good place to retire. “We bought a lot in 2001 when Granada course was developing and built our home.”

In 2010, Hank joined the Kiwanis Club of HSV and has served as president, vice-president and Jessieville Key Club advisor. Not only does he work diligently in the club’s popular Brat-Fest and Barbeque, he has inspired other community service activities.

As Kiwanis vice-president 2017-2018, he attended a presentation initiated by members of the HSV Fire Department advising the community about the desperate need for smoke alarms in HSV. “As Kiwanis President, I helped develop the ‘Alarm the Village’ program which provides smoke alarms to our fire department which distributes and installs each of them,” he said.

The HSV Kiwanis yearly golf tournament beginning in 2015 is again scheduled this year, is attended well



and is setting financial records. “Last year we netted \$15,000 for our charitable donations,” said Hank. Jarvis interest in golf started when he worked at Granada as a marshal, Magellan golf course driving range and pro shop attendants.

As a member of Faith Lutheran Church he’s been active as an usher, trustee, audio crew and along with his wife, they chair the Memorial Garden Committee. Hank Jarvis is indeed, an outstanding member of our community.

Dianne Hardin (left) happy in 2019 to present the Yard of the Month Award to Mary Ann and Hank Jarvis. Jarvis’ yard was recently recognized and toured by many in attendance for the Arkansas State Gardeners Association’s state convention held in Hot Springs.



In 2019, Kiwanis President Hank Jarvis (far right) was honored by Fire Chief Jason Miller and Lieutenant Chase Egleston for HSV Kiwanis providing smoke alarms to the Fire Department.

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COUSINS' CAMP

Lasting Memories and Lots of Fun

Suzanne Sweeten
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.—Galatians 5:22-23.

Marc and Janis Bremer strongly believe living by the Fruit of the Spirit can direct a young life toward personal growth. They are so committed to the premise that they've assumed an unusual role in the lives of their 15 grandchildren in a matter of great importance, helping them follow God's promises. To promote strong family bonds and foster their faith development, the Bremers established a "Cousin Camp," ensuring the cousins create lasting memories and deepen their relationships.

Janis explained, "Our daughters are married to Godly men, and we will do our best to support them. One daughter is married to a United States Air Force Academy graduate, and they likely won't ever live close to us or to our other daughter's family in Little Rock. We want to pass on our family legacy and Christian heritage to the cousins so that



Marc and Janis Bremer (aka Pops and Grammy) stand in their front hallway, their "Legacy Wall," where pictures of their family, past and present, are hung with great care. (Suzanne Sweeten photo)

when we're gone, they'll know and love one another."

Cousin Camp started in 2012 with our first three grandsons. It was simple at first, with field trips, devotionals, and fun activities to keep the children engaged. Over the years, as the family grew, so did Cousin Camp. That's why Cousin Camp takes place

every two years.

“The children can be no older than 16 to attend, and the younger ones must be potty-trained. Our 18-year-old won’t be attending, and the two-year-old is too young, so we have ten campers between the ages of three and 16,” Janis informs.

How do the grandparents accommodate ten children? The children sleep downstairs on bunk beds, blow-up beds, and cots, lining each one around the room. Pops and Grammy borrow one of their daughters’ 15-passenger vans to transport the tribe. A bonus is Janis’s sister comes in to help, acting as a pseudo-camp counselor.

A detailed schedule includes various activities and events every day. Equipment and props are stored in designated boxes, and two campers are responsible for meal preparation daily. The “Littles” start their day at 7:00 a.m. and end at 9:00 p.m., while the “Bigs” stay up playing board games and finish at 11:00 p.m.

Marc and Janis have planned an exciting Bremer Olympics for Cousin Camp. They organized Olympic competitions where the children could win bronze, silver, and gold medals.

This year, Cousin Camp has added a torch run. Each child selects a country to represent and creates a flag to symbolize it. To ensure accuracy, they use an encyclopedia to look up the flags. The torch run begins with the country farthest away from Hot Springs Village, and athletes pass the torch to one another.

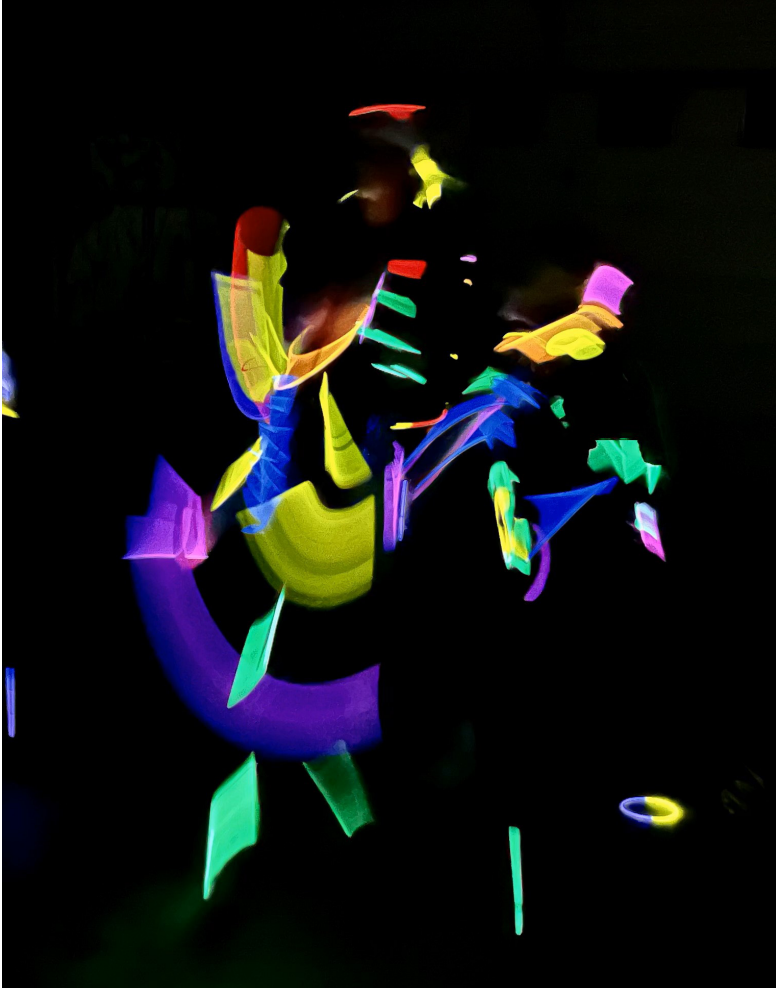
Olympic competition is fierce. Who will triumph in the Raw Egg Race or the Cheeto Head Toss (whoever throws the most Cheetos that stick) or the Ping Pong Ball Toss? Only time will tell. Victors receive a crown and participate in the medal ceremony with music blaring from the boombox. When the camp is over, the parents return, and the children proudly display their medals.

Marc, a former youth minister, has planned a summer musical. The musical was written by a group called Candle. Marc originally used the piece in his ministry back in the 80s. “The Music Machine” focuses’ on the Cousin Camp theme of “Fruit of the Spirit.” It occurs in Agape Land, where a Conductor directs two youths to The Music Machine, which creates music based on the Conductor’s ticket information. Each ticket generates a musical number reflecting an aspect



Grandson Seth Kennedy demonstrates what a creative mind can do with a can of shaving cream. (Janis Bremer photos)

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of the “Fruit of the Spirit,” such as patience, self-control, goodness, and joy.

The Bremers created Cousin Camp as a labor of love. They’ve sacrificed time and energy to gift their grandchildren a legacy of faith—one in their family and, more importantly, faith in God the Holy Spirit. They are dedicated grandparents with a drive and devotion to providing their grandchildren with something far more tangible than a summer in the sun, more valuable than silver and gold, lasting lifetimes and beyond.

Janis summarized Cousin Camp’s mission as follows: “It’s great fun, but the real goal is for them to build relationships and create memories. I also want them to understand they come from a very Godly heritage, and I expect to see them in heaven.”

It’s incredible what beauty emanates from a Glowstick Dance Competition.



Cousin Camp allows for the formation of pyramids on inner tubes on Lake Coronado.



Cousin Camp Campers gather for a group shot. (Suzanne Sweeten Photo)

For their wisdom, their guidance, their patience and their love, thanks to all of the grandparents and older adults who touch our lives and make our world a kinder, gentler, better place.

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COVER STORY

Nala recently completed six weeks of intensive training, with Officer Caple joining her for the last two weeks. (Submitted photos)



Shake paws with HSV's newest officer

Mary Eliades
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

K9 Officer Nala joins the team

There's a new police officer in town. She won't be catching speeders, responding to traffic accidents, or taking fraud reports, but if a loved one goes missing, she will be the first one on the scent – literally.

K9 Officer Nala is the newest addition to the Hot Springs Village Police Department and will team up with Officer Elvis Caple to conduct search and rescue operations, item recovery, and drug detection.

Officer Caple joined the department in July 2023,

having previously worked as a K9 officer, and immediately noted the need for a K9 in the Village. Caple sent a proposal to Police Chief Kristi Bennett, emphasizing the benefits a K9 can bring to a police department. "K9s can be utilized in search and rescue operations. Hot Springs Village has an abundance of elderly residents. Some of these residents have dementia and Alzheimer's...and wander away from their residences," Caple wrote, adding, "A K9 would



K9 Officer Nala taking a break

also be an asset in the location of juvenile runaways and missing persons.”

Caple also pointed out the community relations aspects of having a K9 on the force: “A police K9 program within our community will send a strong message to the people we serve. A K9 is effective in promoting interaction with schools, community functions, and other day-to-day contacts, especially with children and the elderly.”

“A K9 presence on scene, whether it be during a traffic stop, a domestic dispute, or a larger disturbance, can also have a calming effect on the parties involved. Citizens observing a K9 on duty is a huge crime deterrent.”

Although the cost of buying and training a K9 is high and HSV budget constraints seemed to put the project on hold, Caple didn’t give up the idea. He continued to look for a potential partner and finally found a promising candidate through a company called Category 5 K9.

The nonprofit organization is based in Texas, with offices all over the U.S., and works “with shelters, rescues, and owners to identify dogs that have the potential to become working canines” (from the company’s website).

Nala, a 2-year-old Belgian Malinois, was in Washington State at the time and had been trained in search and rescue, article recovery, and drug detection. Category 5 K9 donated Nala to the department, for a minimal adoption fee, saving the department thousands of dollars.

Caple traveled to Washington on April 26 to pick up his new partner and, after a month spent getting to know each other, Nala headed to Winona, Texas, on May 31 to undergo six weeks of intensive training at Texas K9 Solutions. Caple joined her for the last two weeks of team training.

In addition to completing the search and rescue training, which Nala passed with flying colors, Officers Nala and Caple were team certified by the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association; Nala can detect a wide variety of illegal substances, including cocaine, marijuana, heroin, meth, and other narcotics.

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K9 Officer Nala is the newest addition to the Hot Springs Village Police Department. She and her partner, Officer Elvis Caple, will be ready for search and rescue missions, as well as drug detection

The police department is very pleased with Nala's training experience. "She picked up scent training immediately," said Chief Bennett. "It takes some dogs years to get it."

Although Caple had previous experience handling a K9, the recent training and certifications have given him a more solid basis for search and rescue operations. "I'm looking forward to this new aspect of my career

with a search and rescue dog. Our goal is to provide exceptional police service to our community and to save lives,” said Caple.

The HSV community has gone all out to make sure Nala is well equipped and healthy. Chief Bennett said, “We are extremely grateful for the outpouring of community support and dedication we have received to provide the very best for our newest officer.”

Arvest Bank recently made a \$20,000 donation to cover the cost of fencing for Officer Nala’s new home, as well as in-vehicle IT equipment for Officer Caple’s K9-equipped car and training travel expenses.

The Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association provided funding for training and certification.

Diamante County Club will host a golf tournament on Oct. 7 to raise funds for expenses such as food, training, certifications, and equipment.

The Animal Welfare League stepped up in a big way

and will pay Nala’s vet bills for life.

Barkansas has offered the department a discount on dog food and other dietary needs for Nala.

Vested Interest in K9s, a nonprofit organization, will provide a custom-fitted bullet- and stab-protective vest for Nala, and funds raised through a plea on social media will cover a cooling vest, which fits under the bulletproof vest, and additional necessary supplies and equipment.

With the wide-ranging community support and dedication of the HSV Police Department, Nala will play an important role in assisting officers in their day-to-day responsibilities.

“We are proud to have Nala as part of this agency and ready to serve. Officers Caple and Nala will make an excellent team and will be a great asset to this community,” said Bennett.



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Jane Browning
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Jane Browning, Executive Director, Hot Springs Village Community Foundation.

Hot Springs Village Community Foundation was founded in 1983 after local leaders joined together to create an organization that would enhance residents' quality of life in surrounding communities. Through the years, the foundation has promoted philanthropy throughout Hot Springs Village and established 50 local endowments that provide ongoing support to local causes.

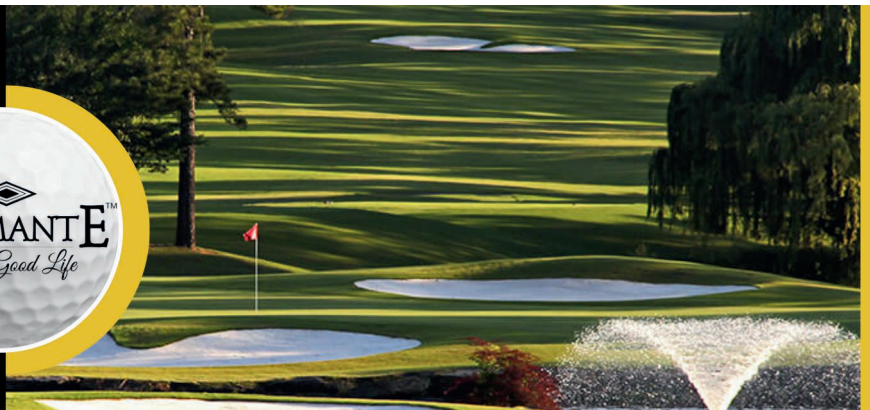
On June 1, 2017, Hot Springs Village Community

Foundation became Arkansas Community Foundation's 29th affiliate. Local endowments are now invested on a statewide basis as part of a pool of nearly \$700 million.

ASPIRE ARKANSAS is a data collection project that Arkansas Community Foundation initiated in the early 2000's and originally published periodically as a hard copy book. ASPIRE ARKANSAS is now an interactive website providing up-to-date statistics in


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a wide range of areas measuring Arkansas's status in health, education, income and more. It is a resource to help make charitable giving in our state a priority and to make it more effective.

Jane Browning, Executive Director of the Hot Springs Village Community Foundation says "ASPIRE ARKANSAS is one of the most important tools the Foundation uses. The data collected generates reports on numerous quality-of-life indicators and can be used as a yardstick to measure where our state currently stands in relation to other states in important areas. The data is reported by county. ASPIRE is also a compass that helps guide decisions that can positively impact the quality of life of communities", ASPIRE ARKANSAS is a very user-friendly matrix that residents can access as an aid to explore and determine where communities need to focus their energies to make life-improving decisions. Equipped with this tool, users will have the information needed to begin to identify the local areas of concern to address.

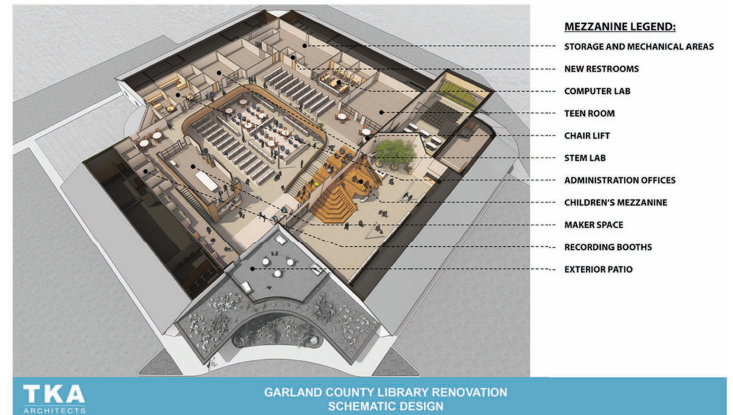
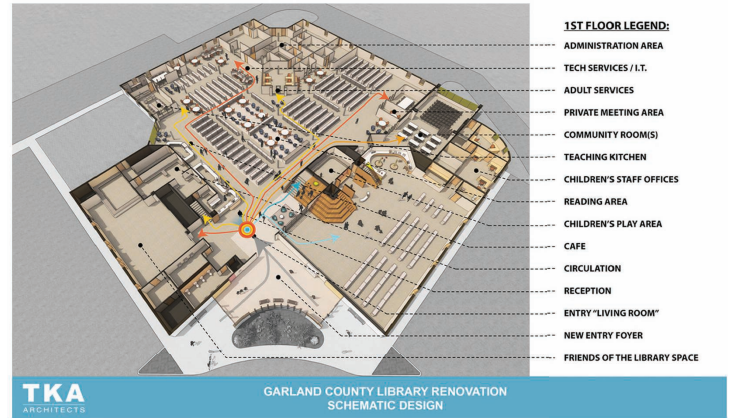
Data is necessary for making decisions because it provides an objective basis for evaluating options, understanding trends, and predicting outcomes. ASPIRE ARKANSAS helps reduce uncertainty, identify patterns, and support arguments with evidence. The analysis of relevant data provides decision-makers with the information they need to make informed choices that are more likely to lead to successful outcomes while minimizing risks. The featured categories contained in ASPIRE ARKANSAS are education, health, families, community, demographics, and racial equity. Each category includes indicators. For example, indicators under the Health topic includes early prenatal care, obesity in students and adults, physical inactivity, smoking rates, oral health, and life expectancy. The multiple indicators within each category enable users to see the movement of trends in Arkansas county-by-county and see how Arkansas ranks nationally.

Annual Reports published by the Hot Springs Village Community Foundation reflect data from ASPIRE ARKANSAS and are a snapshot in time that highlight the financials, activities, and programs of each fiscal year.

ENGAGE is a quarterly magazine published by the Arkansas Community Foundation that



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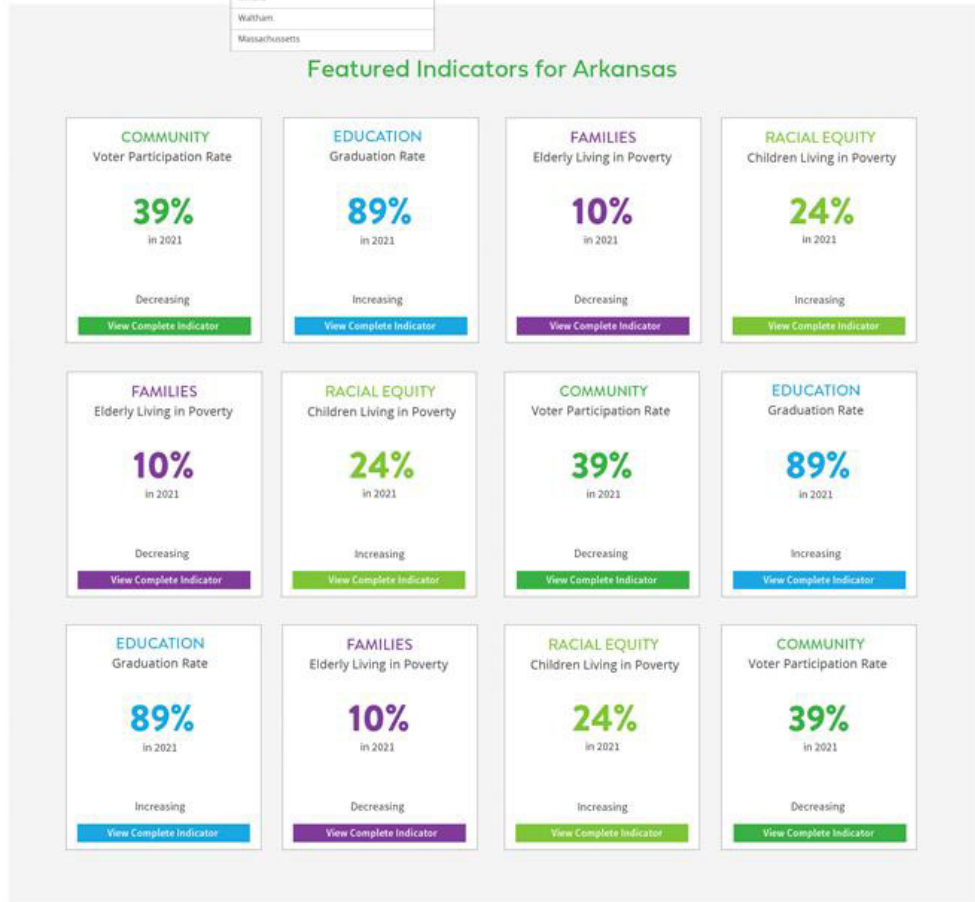
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Filter

Filter by Indicators

The ASPIRE ARKANSAS dashboard provides a quick, at-a-glance graphic summary of indicators for a variety of geographies and populations. Select a county of interest and display all indicators with available data. Or build your own Dashboard by selecting just those indicators you care about.



highlights issues and causes in Arkansas. Each edition of ENGAGE explores a different topic from the ASPIRE ARKANSAS report and shares stories that demonstrate how research and data come to life. ENGAGE Magazine helps readers stay informed of issues and discover programs that can potentially help to move the numbers in the right direction and provide ways to take action for the purpose of improving the quality of life for communities.

Visit arcf.org and explore ASPIRE ARKANSAS for yourself. Browning and the countless volunteers of Hot Springs Village Community Foundation are optimistic you will appreciate the readily accessible data. Browning shares, “You can’t figure out where you want to go if you don’t have an accurate starting point.”

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Pioneer Woman

Janet Rowe recalls highs and lows

Lewis Delavan
STAFF WRITER

“**W**hat happened?” the driver asked the Arlington police officer.

Seconds earlier, Janet Rowe thought she would die when a fleeing driver would plow into her police cruiser.

Instead, as it rounded a curve the speeding car flew into the air, landing on the roof of another car during rush-hour traffic in the Washington, D.C. suburb.



Janet Rowe holds two baby bear cubs while wildlife workers examine the bear den in the Ouachita National Forest. (Submitted photos)



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Still mortified, Rowe was sure the innocent driver had been killed, until the woman got out to ask what happened.

Rowe feels certain someone was watching over motorists on the packed highway that day. “There’s no reason that car should have flown into the air,” she said. “It was just like the movies, except that they use a spring to do that in the movies.” Her father worked as a Job Corps counselor, and the family moved to a Wisconsin farm. I had my own horses and chickens and went to a two-room school,” she said. But her mother had enough of the rural life and within two years the family moved back to California.

As an only child, while growing up in California Rowe knew she wanted a law-enforcement career after watching her father at work. Accompanying her father on hikes and outdoor adventure, Rowe developed a love of nature.

Upon graduating college, Rowe joined the County of San Luis Obispo Sheriff’s Department, serving two years before relocating to Arlington, Virginia. “You go



Holding a baby hawk in the Village.

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through the academy, they teach you stuff; and then you get out on the job where anything can happen,” she said.

Rowe had met her future husband, Neil, on the police force, and they shared challenges of work.

Neil Rowe later joined the State Department, serving presidents from George H. Bush through the 2000s.

A pioneer policewoman, Rowe today sees more and more females in law enforcement; a good thing, she feels. While she met bad people and people who had made poor decisions, it was very satisfying being able to work with people to improve their future. “Those little things helped offset the bad stuff. I still hear from some of the people that I helped to this day.”

Early in her career, Rowe worked on the investigation of the Air Florida Flight 70 crash into the Potomac River, killing 78 on Jan. 13, 1982. Recovery was a sad, necessary business.

Later, the area was on high alert after a hijacked

airliner hit the Pentagon, shortly after terrorists had flown two airliners into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, changing the world forever.

And the Beltway sniper attacks in October 2002 terrorized the Washington, D.C. suburbs, placing Rowe and all other officers on high alert. The closest attack was just two miles from Arlington. John Allen (Williams) Muhammad, 41 at the time, was sentenced the next year and executed in 2009 for the killings. Lee Boyd Malvo, 17 at the time, received six life sentences in Maryland and three in Virginia for the killings. (A Virginia court vacated the state's three sentences without parole in 2017.)

In another incident, fellow Arlington Police Department officers had spiked the shoulder to stop a errant driver, Rowe earlier thought the pursuit would end well. "But they told me, 'He made a U-turn and he's coming your way,'" she recalls. Rowe sat a short distance from the blind curve and knew she would die. But moments later, innocent lives remained safe. It was just another day in her career in the Arlington

police force and remains in touch with those that she worked with.

After retiring the Rowes moved to Hot Springs Village, where they became active in committee service. They served on the HSVPOA Trails Committee and Janet Rowe chaired the POA Architectural Control Committee.

Site visits were her favorite ACC activity. When a project could not be approved as the owner originally envisioned, she worked with the owner to reach a solution, sometimes returning for another visit.

Serving as Village Audubon Society for two years was rewarding, with interesting monthly speakers and many field trips. "We just had a field trip to Lake Ouachita," she said in late July.

After an earlier Village Audubon Society program, she was soon invited to accompany Arkansas Game and Fish Commission staff on a bear survey, a memorable adventure. Biologist checked on a bear den to count the young, check on the bears' health and tagged female bears, allowing GPS tracking.

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“Momma kicks out the male bears and keeps the female bears,” Rowe said. The males wander for a new home, sometimes walking through the Village. There is little to fear if people respect the bears, remain a safe distance and do not leave food out, an easy meal for a hungry young bear. Primarily vegetarians, bears are opportunists and do eat meat when available, she says. The “huffing” noise that people hear may be scary, but it’s simply a noise that curious bears make, she added.

She’s also active in the Camera Club of HSV, working on field trips. Keeping a camera at hand for the next photo, Rowe is always ready for the next adventure.

An avid photographer, Janet Rowe enjoys taking photographs of animals, left.

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Neil, grandson Jacob, in back and Janet Rowe. Jacob and his mother live in the Village, and the Rows get to see him often. Two other grandchildren live in Virginia.

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Hall of Famer

Former Fountain Lake Athletic Director inducted into AAA Hall of Fame

Suzanne Sweeten
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

In the sporting world, an impact player is an athlete who makes a difference in the outcome of a game. The term isn't used lightly. In the game of life, Marc Davis is an impact player because he's devoted much of his life to nurturing young men and women. He encourages and promotes doing the right thing in the classroom or a field of competition. He's impacted the lives of youngsters and coaches and made a difference.

On Friday, July 12, 2024, Davis was one of three high school athletic directors inducted into the Arkansas Activities Association's Athletic Director Hall of Fame. The ceremony, held at the Hot Springs Convention Center, was a special evening that celebrated his many years of hard work as a high school coach and affirmed his status as an impactful sports administrator.

Davis shakes his head in wonder about his induction into the AAAAD HOF, but he has an idea: "I think they knew I cared about the children and my coaches. As an athletic director, I was always the first in line to help where and when I could. I'd do the small things for my coaches. If it meant taking out the trash, I took out the trash. It should be the norm for high school athletic directors and not the exception."



Deon Birkes, president of the Arkansas Activities Association, presents Marc Davis (former Fountain Lake High School Athletic Director) with a plaque at his recent induction the AAA Athletic Director Hall of Fame. (Submitted photos)

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Larry Powell, DDS
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The Davis family turned out in force at Marc Davis' recent Hall of Fame induction, Left Nathaniel Snyder, Ally Snyder, Marc Davis, Theresa Davis and Natalie Snyder.

The biggest surprise since his induction into the AAAAD Hall of Fame has been the phone calls. "It's been very emotional, overwhelming, and humbling, and it's been awesome," he relays with a huge grin. "I've heard from a lot of players. I think there were a few tables of my former players and coaches on the night of the ceremony." Impact—Davis served as a mentor.

He becomes philosophical about his career, saying, "You're with them (students) every day of their lives. You're trying to be a good role model because, well, sometimes children don't have that at home. Coaches support them and honestly grow to love them. We know who they are, and we witness their struggle. But it's a huge win for a coach or teacher when you see them improving or excelling." Impact-Davis was an educator.

Coach Davis graduated from Arkansas Tech with a degree in education and also earned a degree in administration. He coached and taught at Fountain Lake School District for 38 years, 14 of which were as the athletic director. Listening to his stories

about his students, teams, and colleagues is like watching a Ken Burns documentary. They're chock-full of funny anecdotes and heart-breaking moments, victories and defeats—the yin and yang of high school athletics.

In the years leading up to his retirement, Davis served as the AAA Membership Chairman. During this time, he focused on expanding his network of contacts. "I made it my goal to reach out to everyone in the state, encouraging their participation in the clinics organized by the AAA. Initially, only coaches from large schools attended, and I



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aimed to change that by involving coaches from smaller schools. I was committed to working hard, driving membership growth, and extensive networking.”

Thirty eight years in education provides Davis with schooled perspective. He’s passionate when the topic of his students is brought up. He knows the impact of parents and family. “Show up. When parents show up, it shows support. Watch the students participate in activities, even if it’s not athletics. It could be a choir event or a school contest. Come and participate in their lives. The public can back the school, coaches, and students by volunteering or attending games and special events. The support of parents and community members means a lot.” Davis’s impact is an encourager.

His self-reflection regarding his induction into the AAAAD HOF has further reawakened his eyes and heart to the role his wife, Theresa, has played in the teamwork it takes to sustain a marriage and family. Davis taps the table with his index finger to emphasize



Marc Davis displays the ring presented to him at his recent induction into the AAAAD Hall of Fame.



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Joanna Horton

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his point, “None of this would be possible without Theresa. Being a coach’s wife was bad enough, but being an AD wife means living sports 24/7, 365 days a year. Theresa has put up with a lot over the years, but she’s remained by my side the whole way. I couldn’t have done my job without her.” Impact –Davis is appreciative.

Davis gets ready to leave, turning and adding one more comment: “I want you to thank the people of the Fountain Lake community and the Fountain Lake Schools for their help and encouragement through the years. Thank my athletes, their parents who trusted me with their children, and my coaches. They are the reason I received this honor. I want to thank them all. Be sure to thank my family, especially Theresa. Especially Theresa.”

The young athletes of today will most likely not recognize the impact their coaches made in their lives until they’re older. Some may never look back at athletics with any feelings whatsoever. However, when they do remember their days under the lights or on the court, it will be with some melancholy for their lost youth. But guaranteed is the memory of a supportive coach, a diligent teacher, and yes, the often unseen, unheralded athletic director who were the true impact players of the game.



Coach Marc Davis (far right), along with his mentor John Utley, assistant Coach Jerry Clay in 1984.

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Opera Classics Mix presented by The Muses
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 Sept. 13 at 7 p.m.

Gin Blossoms at Oaklawn
 Oaklawn Casino Resort
 Sept. 13 at 7 p.m.

Artrageous - Art and Music Circus
 Coronado Center
 Sept. 19 at 7 p.m.

Spa Con Infinity
 Hot Springs Convention Center
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 Coronado Center
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by ALBERT CLEM

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