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Michael Dryhurst has enjoyed a lively and fascinating life



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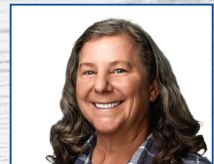
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Signs of Spring

Careful, April Fools Day leads off this month of April. All sorts of shenanigans might be headed your way. I remember a couple of silly jokes that came my way once. Like what did the raindrop say to another raindrop? Water are you doing? I can almost hear you cringing at that one. Speaking of rain, we all know that familiar saying, "April showers bring May flowers."

On a more serious note, April does bring forth beautiful flowers and colorful blooms of all kinds. Gardeners' efforts for spring beauty pop now, or very soon, with explosions of color. There were times I was out fishing on Lake Balboa and really enjoyed all the colorful backyards. National Gardening Day is April 11. And birds seem to be everywhere as they build their nests and prepare for their young.

April is also known as Stress Awareness Month. My guess is most of us could use a little less stress in our lives. Try to be aware of what stresses you out and remember the phrase "accept the things you cannot change, have the courage to change the things you can and the wisdom to know the difference." That's also known as the "Serenity Prayer."

I don't know about you, but many times, after the fact, I realize what I worried about never became an issue and I stressed about it unnecessarily. Speaking of prayer, Easter Sunday comes pretty late this year, arriving on April 20th.



Heavy rainfall events bring forth int



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interesting mushrooms. (Jeff Meek photo)

Being a history buff I must mention April 19, when at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, colonial militia and minutemen faced off against advancing British Redcoats. Maybe take just a minute on Saturday, April 19, for a personal moment of silence in memory of those who were killed during the opening shots that were fired to cause our independence from England.

Okay, one more stupid joke for you before we go. If April showers bring May flowers, then what do May flowers bring? Answer: Pilgrims. Yeah, I know. That's almost too stupid but there it is.

At the Hot Springs Village Voice we hope April is just the beginning of a year that blossoms forth with fun and adventure, family time together and good health. We very much appreciate our readers and look forward to sharing more news, human interest stories and much more in the coming months.

Jeff Meek
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

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ON THE COVER: His Golden Globe, model buses and bus books illustrate the life of Michael Dryhurst, who enjoyed a distinguished career in the UK and U.S. His first love has always been antique buses. (Lewis Delavan photo)

ALL AROUND ARKANSAS

It may be America's Largest Gated Community, but to us it is just...

Home

West Gate entrance area in 1982.
(Jeff Meek photo)



Darrell W. Brown

Located in both Garland and Saline Counties, Hot Springs Village is the largest gated community in the United States, sprawling across approximately 26,000 acres. This remarkable area boasts an array of housing options, ranging from quaint cottages to expansive luxury homes. Just a short drive from Hot Springs (Garland County), residents enjoy a peaceful atmosphere while still having quick access to urban amenities, entertainment, and cultural attractions. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Hot Springs Village is home to 15,861 residents.

While the area's famous thermal waters and rich history attract many, Hot Springs Village has much more to offer beyond its proximity to the Spa City. It serves as a lifestyle hub where residents and visitors can immerse themselves in a rich blend of outdoor and recreational activities, complemented by a vibrant arts scene, making it an exceptional place to live, work,

and unwind.

The inception of Hot Springs Village dates back to 1970, when visionary John A. Cooper, Sr. set out to transform 20,000 acres of land into a lively retirement community. His previous successes with Cherokee Village (Sharp County) and Bella Vista (Benton County) inspired this ambitious project.

After acquiring the land, Cooper began laying the groundwork to bring this vision to life. Before construction could begin, Cooper presented his plan to the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission in January 1970, sharing his vision of a thoughtfully designed recreation and retirement sanctuary, fully equipped with convenient access to modern urban facilities. He painted a picture of a thoughtfully planned recreation and retirement haven with easy access to urban conveniences.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place on

February 15, 1970, and just a few months later, on June 1, 1970, Hot Springs Village was officially opened.

The community is managed by the Hot Springs Village Property Owners' Association, which is a private, tax-exempt group for property owners. The group's leadership consists of a general manager and a volunteer board of directors consisting of seven members, elected to staggered three-year terms.

In the heart of Hot Springs Village lies a treasure trove of outdoor activities that beckons residents and visitors alike. Spanning over 20 miles, the hiking trails cater to adventurers of all skill levels, providing ample opportunities for exploration amidst the beauty of nature. For those drawn to water, the village boasts several picturesque lakes, notably Lake Balboa—the largest of five—where residents enjoy a myriad of activities, from boating and fishing to swimming under the sun.

Golf enthusiasts will find their slice of paradise right in the village, with nine professional-level golf courses designed to accommodate players at every level. If you're up for a challenge, the Ponce de Leon Golf Course awaits, while those seeking a more leisurely round can enjoy the serene atmosphere of the Isabella Golf Course. With such diversity in options, every golfer is sure to find their perfect match.

But Hot Springs Village offers much more than scenic landscapes and golf. It's a community where relaxation and enjoyment are woven into daily life. Residents take pleasure in vibrant clubhouses and a host of social events that foster connections. With amenities that cater to various interests—whether it's taking a refreshing dip in the pool, playing a match on the tennis courts, or indulging in a soothing spa treatment—there's something for everyone.

This beautiful area has become a popular choice for



Lake DeSoto before filling.

retirees, drawn in by its affordable living, pleasant weather, and active lifestyle that promotes outdoor fun. Many are enticed by the low property taxes, excellent healthcare options, and a strong sense of community that fosters social connections and overall well-being.

In Hot Springs Village, you'll find more than just a place to live; it's a harmonious blend of nature, relaxation, and community spirit. Whether you're seeking an adventurous outdoor experience, a peaceful retreat, or a close-knit neighborhood, Hot Springs Village offers a fantastic option for making it your forever home in the Natural State.

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PARKINSON'S AWARENESS

Spark the Night

**HSV group sponsors
'A Beacon of Hope in Our
Fight Against Parkinson's'**

Mary Eliades
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

The Hot Springs Village Parkinson's support group is the largest in the state of Arkansas, and members plan to raise awareness of the disease by participating in "Spark the Night: A Beacon of Hope in Our Fight Against Parkinson's" on World Parkinson's Day, April 11, 2025.

Parkinson's Disease (PD) is a progressive and debilitating disorder that affects an estimated 11.8 million people worldwide. There is no known cure for the disease, and a wide range of symptoms – both motor and non-motor – often make it hard to diagnose.

According to some sources, Parkinson's is the world's fastest growing brain disease, with 60,000 new patients in the United States diagnosed each year.

Parkinson's symptoms come as a result of decreased dopamine production, but there is no consensus on the causes. Researchers have speculated that the disease is caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors.

"Spark The Night" is an effort to draw worldwide attention to the struggles people living with Parkinson's face on a regular basis – isolation, anxiety, and loneliness, in addition to physical issues.

The "spark" represents dopamine, an electrochemical neurotransmitter, which researchers say is key to

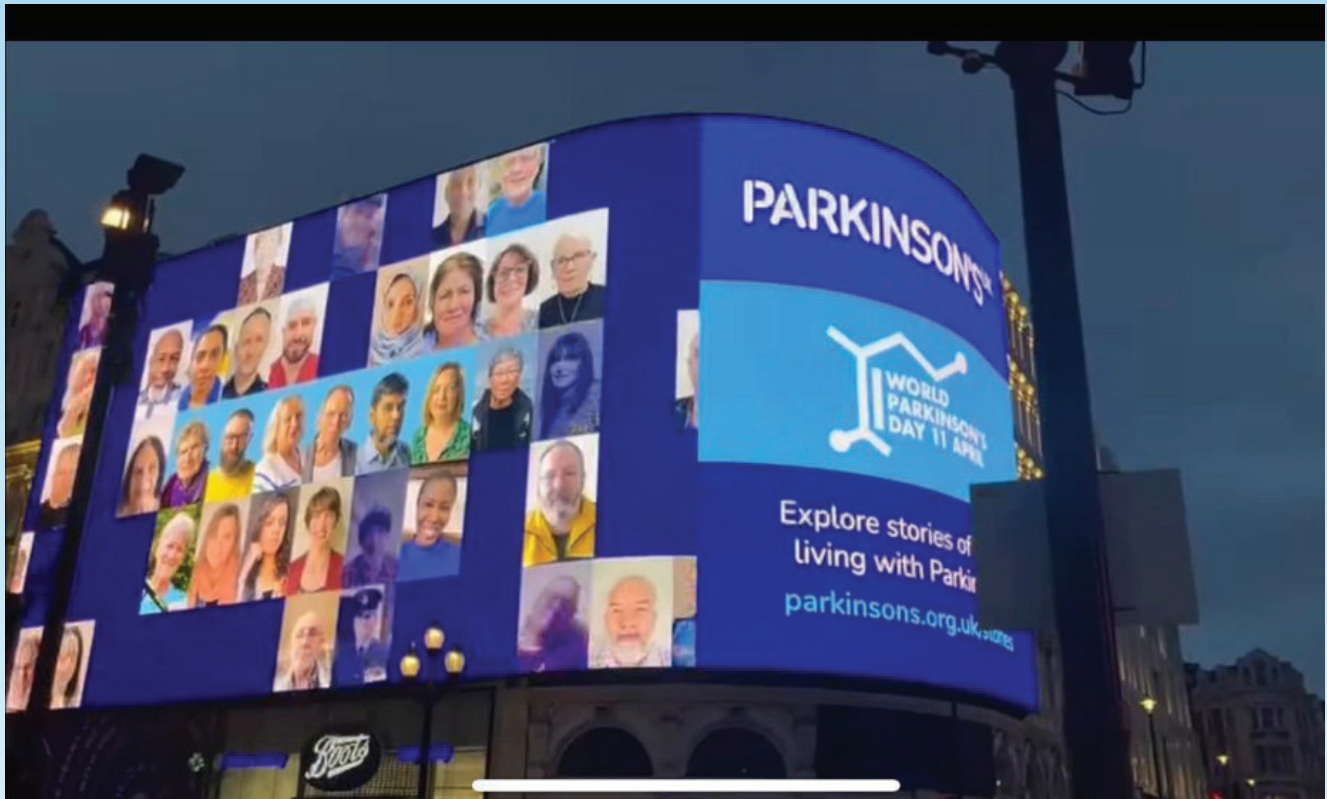


Chicago's Wrigley Tower is lit up for the 2024 event.

motor function, mood, and decision making.

The official website for World Parkinson's Day (<https://worldparkinsonsday.com>) describes "spark" as a "bolt of energy and inspiration for the global Parkinson's community" and "a guiding light: the enduring hope that promises a brighter tomorrow."

The goal is to bathe cities and landmarks around the world in blue light to raise awareness and show unity and support for people living with Parkinson's. The organizers believe that the color blue symbolizes harmony, hope, global unity, and recognition, and have reached out to city leaders around the world for their support in highlighting the need for research and treatments for this insidious disease.



The 2024 event in the U.K.

Participating landmarks this year include the Willis (Sears) Tower in Chicago, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, and One Liberty Place in Philadelphia. Internationally, sites like the Story Bridge in Brisbane and Trafalgar Bridge in Perth will also join in.

The HSV Parkinson's support group will Spark the Day with two special activities on April 11, 2025 – a "sit to stand" challenge and a "dopamine dance." The event will run from 12 to 2 p.m. at Fit for Life, Lake Forest Senior Living (formerly Good Sam), at 903 DeSoto Blvd.

Participants are asked to wear their favorite blue outfits – head to toe – and to bring their best dance moves. Misty Parrish, wellness director at Fit for Life, said, "Help support all those using every muscle every day, every way." For information, contact Parrish at 501-922-8076.

The support group has asked the Property Owners Association to join this worldwide effort by illuminating the fountains in blue or by some other means, but as of press time, no announcement had been made.

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HSV NIGHT LIFE



Team members at Beehive Neighborhood Hangout, l-r; Christian (Ambassador of flavor), Sophia (Culinary Concierge), Destiny (Hospitality Hero) and Alonso (owner/Hive Keeper). (Robin Raborn Burns photos)

Where Good Times Are Always on Tap *A look at some popular Hot Springs Village watering holes*

Robin Raborn Burns
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

Downtown Hot Springs may be known for its vibrant restaurants, bars, and pubs, but you don't have to leave the Village to find a lively nightlife scene. Whether you're in the mood for a handcrafted cocktail, live music, or a laid-back evening with friends, there are plenty of local spots ready to keep the fun going.

The Beehive Neighborhood Hangout has a new owner, Alonso Saavedra, formerly of El Jimador. He plans to keep the popular menu while introducing a few signature dishes, all with a commitment to sourcing locally. Known for its friendly atmosphere, the Beehive serves handcrafted cocktails, local craft beers, and an impressive wine list. Live entertainment fills the air every Friday and Saturday night, sometimes even on Thursdays, with bands like Living the Dream, Encore Band, Highway Harmony, and Bad

Habit. Trivia lovers can join Crazy Dave's "Catch the Mania" trivia on Thursdays. The Beehive's cozy, rustic décor and inviting patio make it a favorite local gathering spot. Saavedra also plans to start making their famous flatbreads in-house.

220 Minorca Road, HSV (501)777-8176
<https://beehivehsv.com/>

At The Sand Trap Sports Bar, a recent remodel has expanded the space, making room for a larger bar, ample seating, and plenty of TVs for sports fans. Owners Mickey and Sandy Wells take pride in the welcoming atmosphere, which regulars say has a "Cheers" vibe. Guests can enjoy delicious fare like cheese curds, steak sandwiches, and smashburgers,



along with ice-cold draft beer and signature cocktails. Music Bingo is a hit on Thursday nights, while Karaoke with Crazy Dave and live bands like Living the Dream, Encore Band, and Brass Tacks keep the energy high...

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<https://www.facebook.com/SandTrap.hsv/>

The MidKnight Tavern will be bringing a medieval flair to the HSV nightlife. This brand-new "Axes & Ales" venue is a labor of love, offering a unique mix of entertainment, food, and drinks. With over 20 TVs and a 140" screen, it's a go-to spot for sports fans. The venue also features a stage for live music, pool tables, pinball, shuffleboard, darts, and Golden Tee golf. Future plans include axe-throwing lanes, making it a truly one-of-a-kind experience.

110 Calella Road, HSV

<https://www.facebook.com/people/MidKnight-Tavern/61556306756952/>

For a mix of sports, great food, a scenic setting, and live entertainment, The Tavern at the Balboa Club is a top choice. Overlooking the golf course, this newly remodeled sports bar offers everything from prime rib and catfish to burgers, sandwiches, and flatbreads. The upstairs tavern and restaurant provide a cozy retreat, while the downstairs bar should have renovations completed soon.

Logan McGear, known for his success at the DeSoto Club and Waypoint Marina, has taken the helm at the Balboa Club, bringing his expertise and passion for hospitality to this beloved hotspot. With breathtaking views, a friendly staff, and a menu packed with delicious options, the Tavern at the Balboa Club is the perfect place to catch the big game, enjoy great food, and unwind with friends.

The upstairs tavern and restaurant offer a warm and welcoming atmosphere, while the downstairs bar is set for a remodel in the coming months. Whether you're a die-hard sports fan or just looking for a great place to relax, the Tavern has you covered. Don't miss 'Catch the Mania Trivia' every Wednesday at 7 p.m. for a night of fun and friendly competition.

111 Balboa Way, Hot Springs Village, AR (501) 881-4868

<https://www.instagram.com/the.tavern.at.the>



The Tavern at Balboa.

balboa.club/

Rhino's Den blends a laid-back atmosphere with a lively spirit, making it a favorite gathering place for locals and visitors alike. Whether you're enjoying live music, chatting with friends, or soaking in the welcoming vibe, this hotspot captures the essence of community and local flavor.

With live entertainment and a menu featuring mouthwatering burgers and classic bar bites, Rhino's Den is more than just a bar—it's a home away from home. Owner Scott Greene proudly keeps the kitchen open until closing, so late-night cravings are never a problem. And if you need an extra boost, they even serve coffee. The bar also boasts a certain fun 'edginess.' Stop by and experience it for yourself!

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Little Free
Library at
Balboa Park.
(Mary Eliades
photos)



Mary Eliades
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

A few years ago, the Hot Springs Village Property Owners Association got together with the Village Woodworkers to create two Little Free Libraries for readers, young and old, to enjoy. Since that time, two more little libraries have been added, expanding access even further.

Little Free Library, a nonprofit organization, started out in St. Paul, Minnesota, with a vision of “a Little Free Library in every community and a book for every

reader,” per the organization’s website. The boxes are open seven days a week, 24 hours a day and accessible to all.

Many studies have shown that literacy rates in the United States are declining, and the Little Free Library program is dedicated to putting books in the hands of children and adults in areas where books are scarce.

The concept is simple: Take a look at the books in the box, borrow whatever looks interesting, and leave

one or more in its place.

Although Hot Springs Village is blessed with three excellent libraries in the area – the Coronado Center Library, the Saline County Library in Benton, and the Garland County Library in Hot Springs – the Little Libraries expand access to books to an even wider community.

One of the little libraries on stilts is at Grove Park, near the parking area, and another at DeSoto Park near the pickleball courts and recreation center. Although the books were originally supplied by the Coronado Center Library, the “book inventory now is kept up by the ‘take a book, share a book’ philosophy,” per the POA’s Parks and Recreation director, Terry Wiley.

Another library box, monitored by North Garland County Scenic 7 Rotary, contains books for children and resides at the Boys and Girls Club.

The most recent addition, a joint effort by Friends of the Coronado Center Library, Parks and Recreation, and HSV Woodworkers, is a beautiful little library at Balboa Park, in the children’s playground area.

Visit one of the boxes in the Village – you may find a hidden treasure – and leave an old favorite for someone else to discover.



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The Promise of Easter

Suzanne Sweeten
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

Easter is a celebration of new life. As winter ends and spring approaches, children eagerly anticipate the arrival of the Easter Bunny, colorful Easter eggs, and new clothes. For Christians, this time is an opportunity to reflect on Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. It is both a solemn and joyful occasion.

How did Easter originate? Constantine the Great was a Roman emperor from AD 306 to 337 and the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity. His conversion significantly elevated the status of Christianity in Rome, leading to the decriminalization of Christian practices and the end of Christian persecution. Constantine established that Easter would be celebrated on the first Sunday following the first moon after the spring equinox, which can occur between March 22 and April 26. This is why Easter is celebrated on Sunday.

Christians recount the Last Supper during Easter, where Jesus told of his impending death and Judas betrayal. Soon after, Jesus was crucified; he sacrificed his body and blood at Golgotha, only to rise from the

tomb three days later. From a devastating loss emerged great joy and renewal. Christians base their faith on these core beliefs, making Easter a precious and sacred holiday for those who believe.

The tradition of Easter eggs originates from the blending of Pagan cultures with early Christianity. In the 13th century, eggs came to symbolize birth, which led Christians to adopt them as a representation of Christ. The yolks of the eggs signified Christ's emergence from the tomb, while the eggs were often painted red to symbolize the blood he shed on the cross.

The Easter Bunny became a part of tradition because it is often seen as a symbol of new life. During the 16th century, parents told their children that the "Easter Hare" would come on Easter Eve to lay colorful eggs for them if they had been good. In anticipation of this occasion, children made nests in their homes, which is how the Easter Bunny and Easter basket became associated with the holiday.

By the 19th century, chocolatiers sold chocolates and

candies to fill the baskets. A tradition still practiced today.

Children of the 21st century search for jelly beans and solid chocolate bunnies in their nests or baskets. The tradition of boiling and dyeing Easter eggs is quickly fading due to the popularity of plastic eggs, which are used to hide candy or money.

Families gather to share a special meal at Easter, and grandparents hide Easter eggs for their grandchildren. Parents marvel at their children's discoveries, taking pictures and videos to capture the moments. People laugh and reminisce about their own Easter memories from the past. They enjoy the food, fun, and festivities.

Easter will be celebrated this year on Sunday, April 20, 2025. Hopefully, it means a joyous celebration, whether it involves a special meal with family, an Easter egg hunt in the backyard, or attending a church service filled with prayer and song. May your life be blessed by the promise of Easter and all it represents.

Memories of Easter past. The author and her young brother Mark were decked out in their finest for church on Easter.



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COVER STORY

Hope & Glory

Michael Dryhurst has enjoyed a busy and fascinating life

Lewis Delavan
STAFF WRITER

Born into a movie family, Michael Dryhurst enjoyed a distinguished career as a screen writer, movie director and producer.

But before entering show business, Dryhurst dreamt of operating a bus. “Before I owned a car, I owned a bus,” he says. A bus he acquired at age 21 remains in operation, along with 6 other buses that he saved from demolition.

He’s written books – about London buses and a novel about producing a movie in South America – and today he’s not shy about sharing his opinion in letters to the editor.

He has just completed writing another book, but



His Golden Globe, model buses and bus books illustrate the life of Michael Dryhurst, who enjoyed a distinguished career in the UK and U.S. His first love has always been antique buses. As well as writing books about buses, he has bought antique buses to save them for renovation. (Lewis Delavan photo)

must find a publisher. “The idea just came to me one evening and I started writing, and now 450 pages later, it’s finished,” he said. “I find writing totally enjoyable.”

Dryhurst urges aspiring writers to join the Village

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Writer's Club. Learn more at <https://villagewritersclub.blogspot.com/>.

"Hope and Glory" won him a 1987 Golden Globe for Best Motion Picture. Dryhurst co-produced John Boorman's film about a boy coming of age in the World War 2 blitz of London.

Born in March 1938 in London, England, Dryhurst was less than age 3 when German aircraft arrived, but retains vivid memories of aerial bombings around his childhood home in London.

Sadly, it was life as normal for young Dryhurst and other London children. Deutsche Luftwaffe bombers would strafe London every night.

Dryhurst expressed empathy for the German children of his era, as UK and U.S. bombers took turns bombing Deutschland around the clock.

Boorman's semiautobiographical "Hope and Glory" tells the story – starting on 3 Sept. 3, 1939, the day Britain declared war on Germany – of young Bill Rohan in a London suburb. From September 1940-May 1941, The Blitz left nightly fireworks and ruins in London. Among other Boorman films are Deliverance and Excaliber.

Dryhurst is also well-known for many other movies.

Entering movies as a clapper boy at age 17, during more than a half century in the industry Dryhurst worked with international talent both on-screen and behind the camera, including Frank Sinatra and Sean Connery.

He now lives with his wife, Karen, a former movie production accountant, in Hot Springs Village.

Later known as a clapboard loader, in early movie production sound and video were not joined at the same time during filming. Post-production editing joined sound and video in that era. The clapboard was the editing department's guide.

After five years in the camera department, Dryhurst transferred to production as a third-assistant director.

Published in 1979, his 128-page "London Bus and Tram Album: 2nd Series" includes many photos in a history of London transport.

His second book, "Bus Portfolio No 2 : London Trolleybuses," published in 1987, delves into the capital city's trolleybuses.

In "Check the Gate! Movie Making in the Amazon While Dodging Alligators in Hollywood," Dryhurst presents the trials and tribulations of film-making, mostly in an imaginary South American country. Along the way various adventures befall the crew. The internal politics of film-making, coupled with



Young Michael Dryhurst with model buses, April 1946 in Brighton, England. (Submitted photos)



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external matters such as drugs, all conspire to make a story in which something is always happening, every time it appears that all obstacles have been overcome, more arise.

His mother was a screen extra. His father eventually became the first independent producer in the U.K. and his late brother Chris was a first assistant director.

His dad – an English writer/producer – entered films in the 1920s, later working as a gag writer for Hal Roach in Hollywood, before returning to Britain in the 1930. Over the years his father owned and operated production companies, Edward Dryhurst Productions and Hall Productions Ltd.

How did the Dryhursts find Hot Springs Village? After selling everything in California and retiring to Ireland, after 12 years they were ready to relocate. Karen's friend living in Nachitoches, Louisiana, suggested the Village. So here we are," he added.

Sitting on his deck in the woods overlooking Lake DeSoto in the summer is totally enjoyable. "This is perfect for us," he says.



Co-producing 1987's "Hope and Glory" with John Boorman, they received a Golden Globe for best musical/comedy. Young Sebastian Rice-Reynolds is the boy running in the image. (film poster screenshot)



Michael Dryhurst standing beside his first bus, 1959 at age 21.

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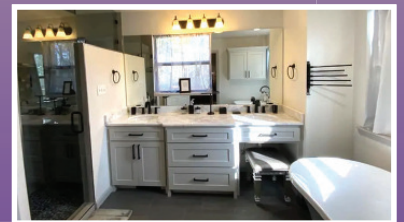
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HSV PEOPLE

'I've had an amazing life thanks to God'

Carrie Thomsen gives credit where credit is due

Jeff Meek
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

Some of our readers may remember a time when Village resident Carrie Thomsen wrote a beauty tips and tricks column for the Voice. Our editorial staff thought it would be a good idea to learn more about Thomsen and as you will see here, she has an amazing life story.

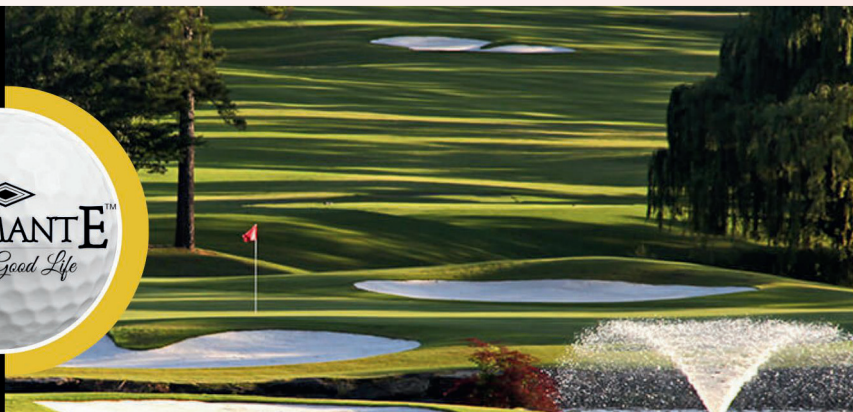
She was born in Hollywood, California where her father Jack Willey worked as a commercial airline pilot. Just 18 months old, she and the family moved to Peru because her father had been offered the rank



Thomsen and her husband Marshall.
(Photos courtesy of Carrie Thomsen)

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of captain for Panagra Airlines at the young age of only 26. Living there meant Thomsen first learned Spanish because she was basically raised by what we in America call a nanny.

Where the family lived was among the affluent Peruvians and social life was a big deal. She remembers the kids getting together for parties, supervised by adults, as they drank Coca Cola and danced the jitterbug.

Thomsen said about 1,500 Americans lived there working as teachers, in the military and in other vocations. She attended Franklin D. Roosevelt private school where wealthy Peruvians sent their children so they could learn English before going to college in the U.S. All these years later, Thomsen is still in touch with classmates.

The family also owned a house in Coral Gables, Florida and would live there for a year at a time so her brother would not be put in the Peruvian Army. Now in the U.S., one day at Ponce DeLeon Junior High, a man walked in and wanted to know her name. "He said meet me in the dean's office after school. I thought I was in trouble," Thomsen said. Later at the

dean's office she saw a line of several girls and learned that the man was from Cosmopolitan Magazine doing interviews. When it was her turn, she was asked if she liked to cook and work in the kitchen. She said no. Then she was asked what she liked to do. Play football and baseball with the boys, climb trees and be outdoors, she replied. Apparently, the man was impressed because in the October 1955 issue of the magazine, Thomsen was put on the cover and a full 10 page spread in the magazine talked about this young lady. They titled the piece "Tomboy Lady." In her cover photo you can see that she has a black eye.

Back in Peru a few years later it was learned that Vice President Richard Nixon and wife Pat were coming there so her entire school went to the airport to welcome them. The school gave each student a small American flag. The students stood behind a rope and as Nixon and Pat passed closely by, Thomsen ducked under the rope, ran up to Pat Nixon and asked her to autograph her flag, which she did. "No one did anything about me doing that. No one approached me. Oh, by the way, it was during this trip that Nixon was spit on," Thomsen recalled.



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Thomsen said her father, who she adored, always wanted to show her off. A friend of his was in the local Florida Lions Club that was organizing a beauty contest. Her father suggested Thomsen as the representative of their local club. Fifteen girls interviewed at a contest set up at a dinner dance. Six judges asked questions. Thomsen was asked if she wanted to go to college. "I said yes, I want to be taught to be a smart wife and mother," Thomsen said. Well, she won the contest and was then sent to, of all places, Trujillo, Peru for the International Lions Club contest. Other than Thomsen, all the other girls were contest winners from all South American countries. She represented the United States and won again. There in Trujillo the local club had a contest to see who the most popular contestant was. Thomsen won again and was titled Queen of Queens.

Then came other titles like Miss Miami, Miss Dodge Girl, Miss Photo Flash and for Pure Oil Company in Chicago, she was chosen as a "Truck Stopper." Pure Oil owned many truck stops and she and 3 other girls would show up at newly opening truck stops. "They



Carrie Thomsen as Miss Dodge Girl in her white uniform and boots.

had us get up on ladders and clean the truck windows and have our picture taken. All the girls were previous contest winners including a Miss USA," Thomsen said.

She also won Miss Photo Flash as the most photogenic and Miss Dodge Girl, wearing a white uniform with white boots as she traveled all over the U.S. to shows. She also met and was photographed at Wrigley Field with Chicago Cubs future Hall of Famer Ernie Banks.

While working for Pure Oil she was in a photoshoot with the famous Green Bay Packer Paul Hornung, known as "the Golden Boy," and was seen as a real catch for some lucky lady. This eventual NFL Hall of Famer asked her for her phone number and Thomsen

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wouldn't give it to him. So Hornung contacted Pure Oil to get her number. Pure Oil then contacted Thomsen and said they wanted her to go on a date with him. "I told them no and that was the end of it. I had a reputation to keep because I represented a lot of people. I was a strong Christian," she explained.

Later Thomsen moved to Dallas with her mother and her new husband who worked for Sears, Roebuck & Company in Chicago. In Dallas, and divorced, Thomsen wasn't dating anyone because she had twin 14-year-old sons at home. She was a tennis enthusiast at that time and playing at Brookhaven Country Club and this guy spotted her. His name was Marshall. At a tennis party they met, and he asked her to dance, walked her to her car and did not ask for her phone number. "I thought, such a gentleman." Through the tennis group, Marshall learned her phone number and a few days later called her for a date. They met at a nearby restaurant, each had one drink, and she said it was time to go. They parted and met a few more times at other locations. "On the 4th date I thought he was safe enough and I gave him my address. Seven months later we were married in Cozumel Mexico by the mayor of the town. We've been married 35 years in March."

More about tennis: while living in Dallas, she and Marshall entered tennis tournaments, including one at the Hot Springs Country Club. She and her sister Carmen Wiley won the ladies doubles



Thomsen with Chicago Cubs star Ernie Banks.



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Thomsen as Miss Miami.

championship, she and Marshall won mixed doubles and Marshall won men's singles, a complete sweep by the family.

In Dallas she got a part-time job working for a jean company and did promotional shows for them as a representative. Marshall, a geophysicist, was transferred to Houston and 5 years later they retired and moved to Hot Springs Village in 2003. In HSV she continued playing tennis until sidelined by 4 brain surgeries, all dangerous but successful. "I never had one moment of fear. I knew where I was going to end up, in heaven," she said.

In 2019 Thomsen took third place in the Ms. Senior Arkansas contest and now plays some golf and enjoys life in HSV. For 2 years she wrote a column on beauty tips and tricks for the Voice. "I would meet people at Walgreens, and they'd ask me questions about makeup and foundation," she said with a laugh.

Summing up her amazing life and career Thomsen said, "I've had the best life that any girl could have. My best friend is my brother, and I have the best girlfriends. I think my life has been amazing because at age 12 I turned my life over to Him (God)."

Yes, amazing to say the least, and we thank Carrie Thomsen for sharing it here in our HSV Life magazine.

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Thomsen poses in front of a Hot Springs Village fire truck.

Community Boutique

All Under One Roof: A hub for fashion, creativity, learning, and growth

Robin Raborn Burns
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

Sometimes in life, there are decisions that just feel right - decisions that completely align with your values, interests, and faith. Linda Ballard, owner of All under One Roof Boutiques and Workshops, recalls waking up early one morning, three years

Linda Ballard, owner of All under One Roof Boutiques and Workshop. (Robin Raborn Burns photos)



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Madison, of Madison's Market, shows off some of her handcrafted designs

ago, with a flash of inspiration and insight. Ballard says it was on her heart that she was going to open up a business in the HSV community. She wanted to open up a boutique. Not just any boutique - one that would help her reach out to people in the community. Ballard and her husband went out looking at available properties, and when she looked at 121 DeSoto Center

Lane, she says she knew that she had found the place. "The building needed a lot of work.....seriously a lot of work. I mean there were naysayers that thought I was out of my mind, and they said so, but I was up for the challenge" Ballard shares.

Ballard understands challenges. She is a life coach with a BA in Corporate Psychology and a Masters in Christian Counseling. She shares that her own personal journey has consisted of MANY obstacles and experiences that she has processed and moved on from, and this was the inspiration for starting a coaching business. Did she think the concept of combining retail with her life coaching business would be a tough sell, or would be difficult to combine? No, Ballard shares that "I came up with the name, 'All under one roof' and knew I could make it work."

The mission of All under One Roof Boutiques and Workshops is 'Making a Difference in our Community.' Ballard adds that "So much has gone on at "All under One Roof Boutiques and Workshops" this year.... painting, remodeling, and the new workshop room!"

Ballard rented the building next to her Boutique and made it into a workshop where they have classes."

Ballard says she and the women who rent space from her in the boutique are residents of Hot Springs Village or surrounding locations. They are artisans, authors, inspirational speakers and more, and by displaying their products and services in the Boutique, they realize their dreams of marketing, selling their creations, and showcasing their talents.

The vendors, whom Ballard affectionately calls "my ladies" include Making it real by Gigi (Jewelry design), Deb Krajicek (beauty consultant), Madison's Market (Custom Designed apparel), 8:28 Artistry by Colleen L. (up-cycling of items to create mixed media art - decoupage, resin art), Laura Moore (Artist and Custom Jewelry Designer), Sharon Keathley (author), Sharon Young (inspirational author), Kecia Hauber (Spill the Tea), Kim Green (All Things Scentsy), Nancy Baddaker (Watercolors by Nancy), Betty Hollinshead (inspirational author), Donna Hoffman (Dream Team Crafts), and Nancy Helgeson (Nancy's Crafts). And, of course, Linda Ballard (Celebrate Life Coaching). The group has regular team meetings where they offer inspiration to each other, and share ideas for future workshops and classes, based upon what they have

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When is the last time a sign above a mirror made you feel so good?

heard from customers. If they have heard of a need in the community, they discuss that as well.

In addition, the following events are regularly offered:

Game Day - 3rd Monday of every month at 12:00 PM.

Pour Paint Class with Ana Maria- 2nd Thursday of every month 10:00 AM - 12 PM. \$35.00 dollars, All supplies included. (Call 501-356-0161 to pre-pay. Classes limited to 10 students)

Bunco Girls - 1st and 3rd Tuesday of month at 11:30 a.m.

Cindy's Diamond Painting Workshop - 3rd Thursday of every month at 11:30 a.m.

DoTerra Essential Oils Class - every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. open to public.

And, there is the fashion. The boutique offers stylish clothing at affordable prices. They have a fantastic selection of everything from jeans and sweaters, cocktail/after five accessories to golf apparel. The ladies golf wear is in a separate room with a sign

over the door that reads 'Courts and Courses, Sports Apparel, Exclusively for Her.' There are regular fashion shows.

A sign that is strategically placed over a mirror, reads "You're like, really pretty." Ballard, as a life coach, and a woman of kindness, is guided by a strong belief in the power of encouragement, and wants every woman who walks through her doors to see and celebrate her own beauty and value.

Ballard has realized her dream. It was one of the best and most meaningful decisions of her life. All under One Roof Boutiques and Workshops is a retail business that supports local artisans and offers customer-driven workshops. It is just what she hoped for, and more, It has become a vital part of the community by positioning itself as a hub for creativity, learning, and community support, All Under One Roof has become more than just a store—it is a cornerstone of local culture, engagement, friendship and growth.

www.AllUnderOneRoofHSV.com - All Under One Roof

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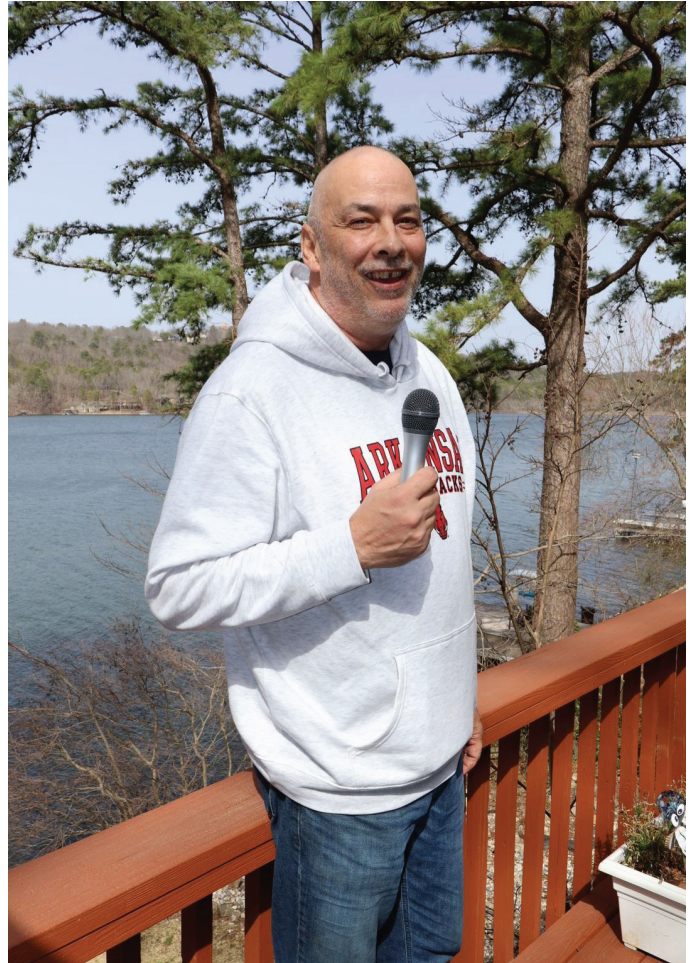
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Crazy about Dave

Lewis Delavan
STAFF WRITER

From singing in the family's chicken house to weekly trivia sessions in Hot Springs Village and emceeing at Fat Jacks, "Crazy Dave" David Ellis Grim says life has never been better.

Life has been a journey, figuratively and literally, for the Hot Springs native. now 54, from singing and sports writing in Arkansas to delivering phonebooks



"Crazy Dave" David Ellis Grim feels very lucky to be keeping busy as an emcee in Hot Springs Village and at Fat Jacks Bar and Grill in Hot Springs. (Lewis Delavan photo)

in western states, he also worked 10 months in New Orleans and enjoyed a stint as a Garland County justice of the peace.

Music launched Crazy Dave's path. "I have been singing my whole life. I grew up on a farm working in a chicken house every day. I would walk though that chicken house singing; so much that it annoyed my family," Grim recalls.

During his 1989 senior trip to Six Flags over Texas, Grim entered a recording booth and crafted his version of Poison's "Every Rose has its Thorns." His classmates had no idea he could sing. "I only sang at home, but their response was encouraging."

After that he was looking for things to sing and accidentally found it at Hot Springs nightclub Dockers



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Larry Powell, DDS
Chelsie Cooper, DDS

one night in 1993. "I sat in with the band, singing with them on some numbers. My buddy there was opening a club and he wanted me to audition for him. Charlie Sconyers and his father were opening the Rhythms club."

Auditioning with Elton John's "Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me," Crazy Dave got the gig. "About that time George Michael had covered it, and I loved that version of the song."

Grim performed at Rhythms for four years, from its original site on Central Avenue near the King Expressway, then at Royal Vista Inn and later at the Clarion (now the Double Tree Inn).

Crazy Dave enjoys conducting three trivia nights each week in the Village, as well as entertaining twice weekly in Hot Springs. "Now is my favorite time. I'm staying busy and getting to entertain people nearly every night of the week. If it wasn't for Hot Springs Village, and their addiction to trivia it wouldn't be that way."

Performing as Crazy Dave, Grim began his career in 1989 while a Henderson State University student. Hot Springs Village Voice readers have twice honored Crazy Dave as Best Entertainer in the Readers' Choice competition. And the Hot Springs Sentinel-Record named him Entertainer of the Year in 1994. Sonny Hodges received the honor in 1995, followed by a string of years for Tom Wilkins, Grim recalls.

After attending Bismarck School District from the 6th grade through graduation, he took on disc jockeying at campus radio station KSWH and covering Bismarck school sports for Arkadelphia's Daily Siftings Herald newspaper the very same week.

In later years he was a radio personality for Arkadelphia station KGAP-FM, then was an internet radio personality.

Starting with spinning large discs on a Pioneer twin platter player, the industry moved later in the decade to small CD-sized discs on twin platters; then in future years evolved to digital.

His very first show was in Hot Springs in 1995.

Grim was elected JP in 1996, represented downtown Hot Springs south to Belvedere at the time that Garland County adopted its solid-waste program. He did not seek a second term as he was moving to Paragould to write sports.

Living in Paragould for 13 years, he was the northeast

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Arkansas lead play-by-play sports writer for Your Prime Time Sports.

Auditioning for a speaking part in a film being shot in Paragould, he ended up getting a singing part.

"That was like getting bitten by the bug. I started seeking out Arkansas independent films and was in several more, with speaking parts. I went to New Orleans about 10 months and tried to break in; all I got were extra roles," he said, adding that both the Crescent City and Atlanta, Georgia have become big filmmaking towns.

Stopped entertaining completely for 3 years, he became district manager of phone book distribution in western states, from north Texas, western Oklahoma, New Mexico and Colorado to Idaho and Washington.

"I would go into towns and recruit their people to put phone books out. I'd never find enough people, so I would deliver books myself. I lost 70 pounds from the time I started to the time I stopped, from all the walking. I was walking 20 miles a day.

"I would intimately learn a town while living there 4-8 weeks. I might still be doing it if phone books were still a thing," he said. But in December 2018 the owners got out of the business and started growing medical cannabis in Oklahoma.

"I had to completely start over. I had been gone from here (Hot Springs) for 17 years.

When I got back here, barely anyone remembered me. Nobody knew who I was.

"I got my name out in public while doing free karaoke shows downtown Adair Park, two doors from dad's restaurant, Granny's Kitchen. All spring and summer of 2020 he performed free karaoke shows.

The pandemic year was tough, but performing



Crazy Dave performing live.

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outside lead to gigs. "People would see me and ask, 'Can you do this show?' I did a bunch of different ones. And taking empty spots in the city's Parks and Recreation Department's schedule led to more gigs. Among the clubs he's appeared at include Crosswalk, Grateful Head Pizza, the Trough, and Wagonwheel, all during the Covid pandemic.

"I was so lucky to work all through Covid -- I'm so lucky."

Now in his fifth year at Fat Jacks, Crazy Dave

performs from 8:30 to nearly 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday nights. The bar and grill is at 101 Central Ave.

"My show won 'best karaoke show' in the Sentinel-Record for 3 years in a row," he said.

He'd done trivia shows at four HSV venues.

"I got the first one at the Beehive by accident. My day job at the time was as a vending machine service man," he said, adding that the machines included gum candy and toys.

Placing a new gumball machine at the Beehive, he heard a man talking about starting trivia and they needed someone.

"And I said, 'I know a guy,'" he recalled. "I got Fat Jacks and Beehive literally the same week in 2021. Working on vending machines kept me on the road the first part of the week. I was staying in motels every night and couldn't book anything. Over two years ago I stopped working for that company and immediately

my schedule filled up. I was tired of being gone all the time."

"I was in the right place at the right time."

He's been doing trivia at the DeSoto Club at 6 p.m. Tuesdays for two years, but currently has no karaoke show in the Village. Earlier this year he performed at the Balboa Club at 7 p.m. Wednesdays, and now has a show at 6 p.m. Sundays at the Sunset Grill.

A self-described comic book nerd and science fiction fan, he compared himself to Screech in "Saved by the Bell" in the 1980s.

His younger siblings included brother Lawrence and sister Leah. His mother died in 2004, but his father, Steve, and stepmother Sheri also own Higdon Square Cafe.

Grim has five children and eight grandchildren.

And Crazy Dave hopes you will come enjoy his trivia or karaoke shows.

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RECIPE CORNER

TWICE-BAKED SWEET POTATOES

(Serves 4)

- 2 medium sweet potatoes, scrubbed
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons pure maple syrup
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, plus a pinch
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 3/4 cup coarsely chopped pecans

Preheat the oven to 400F.

Massage the olive oil onto the sweet potatoes and set them on a small baking sheet. Bake for 1 hour or until a knife glides through effortlessly. Let cool until safe to handle. Keep the oven on.



Halve the sweet potatoes horizontally and carefully scoop out the flesh into a medium bowl. Set the skins aside. Add the butter, maple syrup, chili powder, cinnamon, and 1/4 teaspoon of the salt and use a potato masher to mash the filling until smooth.

In a small bowl, combine the honey, pecans, and a pinch of salt.

Place the skins side by side in a small baking dish. Spoon the filling in, dividing it evenly, and top with the honeyed pecans. Bake for 5 minutes. Serve warm.

INDIAN LAMB CURRY

8 servings

- 2 pounds boneless leg of lamb, trimmed and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 14.5 ounce can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 cups finely chopped white onion
- 2 tablespoons grated peeled fresh ginger
- 2 tablespoons mustard seeds





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- 2 teaspoons garam masala
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground red pepper
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 4 cups hot cooked basmati rice
- 1/2 cup plain fat-free yogurt
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro

1. Heat a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add lamb; saute 5 minutes or until browned. Remove lamb from pan; place in a 4-quart electric slow cooker.

2. Drain tomatoes, reserving juice. Place flour in a small bowl; gradually add tomato juice, stirring with a whisk until smooth. Stir tomatoes, tomato juice mixture, onion, and next seven ingredients into lamb. Cover and cook on low for 8 hours or until lamb is tender. Serve lamb curry over rice; top with yogurt, and sprinkle with cilantro.



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All Star Sumo
Hot Springs Convention Center
April 11 at 6:30 p.m.

American Craft Sake Fest
Bridge Street Entertainment District
Saturday, April 12

Arkansas Cherry Blossom Festival
Hot Springs Convention Center
April 12 at 10:30 a.m.

Apple Blossom Handicap at Oaklawn
Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort
April 12

Jacob Flores - One Man Band
Woodlands Auditorium
April 19 at 7 p.m.

Broadway Our Way - Entertainment Foundation
Woodlands Auditorium
April 22 at 7 p.m.

Arts & The Park
Hot Springs National Park
April 24-May 4

HSV Night of Wishes
Coronado Center
April 25 at 5 p.m.

The Petersens in Concert
Woodlands Auditorium
April 25 at 7 p.m.

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Woodlands Auditorium
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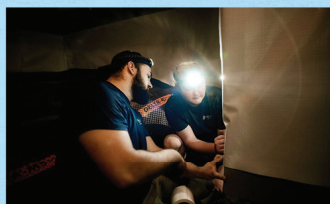
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