

A trip of a lifetime

Arkansas youth tour nation's capital

Page 8





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CONTENTS AUGUST 2017



GERI MILLER

features

8 **A trip of a lifetime**
Arkansas youth tour
nation's capital.
By Sheila Yount



HALEY MULLANEY

16 **Rare solar eclipse to
darken Arkansas skies**

Tips for viewing
the Aug. 21
partial eclipse.
By Rob Moritz



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on the cover

Arkansas Youth Tour delegates
gather for a group photo at
the iconic U.S. Marine Corps
War Memorial at Arlington,
Va., as part of the 2017 Electric
Cooperative Youth Tour to
Washington.

Photo by Geri Miller



HALEY MULLANEY

in every issue

- 4 Editor's Welcome
- 5 The Cooperative Difference
- 6 Currents
- 7 Trivia
- 22 My Co-op
- 26 Smart Energy Tips
- 28 Reflections
- 32 Gardening
- 34 Recipes
- 38 Crossword Puzzle
- 40 Let's Eat
- 42 Around Arkansas

Arkansas Living (ISSN 0048-878X) (USPS 472-960) is published monthly by Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., 1 Cooperative Way, Little Rock, AR 72209.

Periodicals postage paid at Little Rock, AR, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Arkansas Living, P.O. Box 510, Little Rock, AR 72203-0510
Members: Please send name of your cooperative with mailing label.

An Official Publication of



Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

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Subscription Price:
\$7.00 per year for non-members

Member of Arkansas Press Association



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BY SHEILA YOUNT

It was 15 years ago that I first led a group of Arkansas teenagers to Washington, D.C., for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. I was working in corporate communications for Arkansas' electric co-ops when this job was added to my list of duties. I was excited, but also scared. I had been before as a chaperone, but now I would have the entire responsibility of leading about 44 high school students to Washington for a week. Would I be up to the task?

With the help of wonderful chaperones provided by your local electric co-ops and our dependable bus driver, John Morgeson of Mountain Home Charter in Mountain Home, we had safe and successful tours each year. And we have always had outstanding students. Some were outgoing, while others were shy. It was a joy to watch the introverted students "come out of their shell" and to see the excitement in the eyes of a young person when they saw the U.S. Capitol for the first time. We shared hugs and tears after experiencing the powerful exhibits of the U.S. Holocaust Museum. I have these images of the tour, and many more, in my mind. What a wonderful gift.

As always, I am pleased to showcase the students of the Youth Tour with the cover feature of the magazine. While each group is special, this one will always hold an especially significant place in my heart because it was my last one to lead. A co-worker, J.D. Lowery, who

works in economic and community development for the co-ops' Governmental Affairs Division, served as a chaperone this year and has agreed to take the reins. Meanwhile, I will continue to work with your local electric co-op to provide you with an informative and entertaining magazine each month.

In addition to the Youth Tour feature, please check out the tips about the upcoming solar eclipse on Aug. 21 (page 16). Because August is prime watermelon season in Arkansas, we've shared some mouthwatering watermelon-based recipes on page 34, along with some family favorites from our readers. Janet Carson has tips on growing eggplants on page 32, while Bret Curry discusses window air conditioners and how they've improved over the years (page 26).

This issue also has two crossword puzzles this month, instead of the usual one. That's because we made a mistake in the July issue — we had the wrong grid for the clues. We know that was frustrating and disappointing for our many crossword puzzle fans. So, on page 36, you will find the corrected July crossword puzzle and on page 38, the new August crossword puzzle. We sincerely apologize for the mistake and promise to do better in the future.

Until next month, happy reading.

Sheila

Sheila Yount
editor@aeci.com

Youth Tour students with Sen. John Boozman at the U.S. Capitol.

Looking ahead to a century of electric co-ops

BY DUANE HIGHLEY

The year 2037 will mark the 100th anniversary of electric cooperatives first bringing power to the rural areas of Arkansas.

In 1930, only 3 percent of Arkansas' farms had access to electricity. The first seven member-owned, non-profit electric cooperatives were incorporated in Arkansas in 1937. All seven remain in existence today, along with another 10 that were formed between 1938 and 1945. Together, those 17 local cooperatives later formed and still own the power supply and services companies known respectively as Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation and Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., the publisher of this magazine.

This year, 2017, marks 80 years past that original milestone. The 100th anniversary is still 20 years away, but I wonder: What might the electric industry look like in 20 years? Will there still be a grid? Will there still be electric cooperatives?

Regarding the electric grid, it is my opinion that the "death of the grid" has been greatly exaggerated. Today, one in five kilowatt-hours for Arkansas electric cooperative members is sourced from non-emitting resources, including hydroelectric, wind, solar and biomass. By the year 2037, I expect the majority of your energy to come from these sources. Central-station generating plants, fueled by coal and natural gas, will be utilized less frequently as renewable energy provides a greater share of your power. However, the grid will remain important to move all that energy around, preserving reliability and controlling costs.

Neighborhood-scale "microgrids" have received lots of attention, and over the next 20 years they may develop to integrate local sources of generation. Despite such development, I expect economies of scale to continue to favor a grid that ties those microgrids together, allowing

them to balance supply and demand by buying and selling excess energy from one another.

Energy consumers in 2037 will undoubtedly have greater control over their consumption as most electrical devices, from doorbells to lightbulbs to refrigerators, will have online controls. Self-driving electric cars may become the norm, and charging all those cars would require lots of new infrastructure. When you consider how many cellphone towers have been built in the last 20 years, it is not unreasonable to think that we could build that infrastructure.

The co-op of 2037 may look more like REI (the retail outdoor equipment cooperative) than the old REA (Rural Electrification Administration). Cooperatives have always been focused on meeting member needs, and like REI, co-ops of the future may find themselves offering a wide array of products and services, providing a traditional energy supply for those who want it while offering to build, operate and maintain distributed (on-site generation) energy appliances for those who want to be more involved.

Regardless of their specific functions, I expect electric cooperatives 20 years from now

to remain member-owned, member-controlled, non-profit and community-focused, just as they have been for the past 80 years. Those qualities continue to allow us, partnered with your 17 local electric cooperatives, to provide reliable power, affordably, while remaining responsible to you, our members. I predict that, in 2037, that will still be the cooperative difference. ▀

Duane Highley is president and CEO of Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., (AECI) and Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC). AECI, a statewide service co-op, and AECC, a wholesale power supply co-op, are owned by Arkansas' 17 local electric distribution co-ops, which provide retail electric service to more than 500,000 members.



Be a citizen water science volunteer at Secchi Day on Beaver Lake

For the 12th year, the Beaver Water District is hosting Secchi Day, a free water appreciation science festival for all ages, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Aug. 19. Activities will take place at the Prairie Creek Recreation Area, 9300 N. Park Road, a few miles east of Rogers off of Arkansas 12. Look for signs that will help direct you to the event.

Once there, you can visit the mobile aquarium, test drive a stand-up paddle-board or kayak, participate in the scavenger hunt and win door prizes, make your own water-testing device to take home, make it rain on the watershed, and see how water flows impact water quality in the lake. A new addition this year is the emphasis on engaging the entire community. All ages enjoy this event, which is ideal for scout troops, families, budding scientists, K-12 up to college students, retirees, residents of the lake and individuals from all over the area. About 550 people attend each year.

“We’ll also have mini-concerts and CD giveaways featuring “Water Fun Facts with Papa Rap” (visit www.paparap.net to listen to songs). Children will be making their own handmade shakers (percussion instruments) from plastic water bottles and singing along in English and Spanish to original water songs based on the companion coloring book.

A volunteer lowers a Secchi disk to test water clarity at Beaver Lake.



Kayaking is part of the many family-oriented activities offered at Secchi Day.

Each family will receive a free CD, coloring books and other items,” said Amy Wilson, director of public affairs for Beaver Water District (served by Carroll Electric Cooperative). She added that members of the Marshallese community will demonstrate traditional dance, as well as display some of their native culture and crafts. Northwest Arkansas has the largest population (12,000) living outside of the Marshall Islands.

Secchi Day on Beaver Lake is named for the Secchi disk, a device that measures water clarity. In the early morning, citizen science volunteers, using their own boats, collect water samples and take Secchi disk readings. Beaver Water District’s core partners who make Secchi Day a success include science experts, and volunteers associated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Beaver Lake, the U.S. Geological Survey, the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, Northwest Arkansas Stormwater Education, Hobbs State Park, Arkansas Master Naturalists, Beaver Watershed Alliance, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, Ozarks Water Watch, One Community, the North American Lake Management Society, and Girl Scouts Diamonds of Arkansas. Dan Skoff, chief meteorologist for KNWA, will serve as celebrity emcee. For more information, review the flyer posted at www.bwdh2o.org.



Star City, Yellville-Summit educators named 2017 Arkansas Rural Teachers of the Year

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas and the Arkansas Rural Education Association recently named Leonda Holthoff of the Star City School District and Marilyn Pangle of the Yellville-Summit School District as the 2017 Arkansas Rural Teachers of the Year.

Holthoff is an upper-level science teacher at the Star City School District. She has also taught at Watson Chapel, Dumas and Monticello, where she instructed students in various subjects ranging from English, math, science and technology. Holthoff, who teaches Sunday School and works for the Women's League, said she believes in participating in the community. She has assisted her students in developing their educational independence while realizing that educators must model flexibility in meeting the needs of their students.

Pangle is a third-grade teacher at Yellville-Summit, where she has taught since 1999. In addition, she is the Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Planning chair and is also assistant federal program coordinator. She has chaired AdvancEd processes, supervised student interns, served as a mentor teacher and presented staff development programs. She said her greatest contributions come from her students. She added that it is important for the home, the school and the community to work together to ensure students' academic and social success.

The Rural Teacher of the Year Award winner is selected based on the following categories: professional biography, educational history, professional development, community involvement, teaching philosophy, education issues and the teaching profession.



Leonda Holthoff



Marilyn Pangle



- Cat hair is more electrostatic than dog hair, making it more likely to cling to clothes. Additionally, the types of hair found in cat fur have rough or microscopically barbed surfaces, allowing them to hang on to textured surfaces.
- Local legend says that the settlement that became the community of Peel in Marion County originally was named Need More, as in "need more people." The population did grow, and the new post office was named Peel after the owner of the general store.
- At two stories tall and only six feet wide, the world's narrowest commercial building is the Sam Kee Building in British Columbia, Canada.
- Bubble gum was invented by an accountant, Walter Diemer, who worked for a chewing gum manufacturer. The original "Double Bubble" flavor was a blend of vanilla, wintergreen and cassia. Bubble gum is still often colored pink because that was the only food coloring on hand in Diemer's factory.
- The Hanging Temple of Hengshan is a Chinese temple 246 feet off the ground, supported by thin wooden stilts driven into the cliff face. Despite the precarious pitch of the structure, it has survived for more than 1,500 years because the cliff face provides a uniquely protected position from the elements.
- People who emit more carbon dioxide by heavy breathing or by opening soda or beer cans attract mosquitoes at a much higher rate than do their peers.
- "If you want to avoid criticism, do nothing, say nothing and be nothing." — Elbert Hubbard

A trip of a lifetime

Arkansas students tour nation's capital



GERN MILLER

BY SHEILA YOUNT

ABOVE Arkansas' 42 Youth Tour delegates in front of the Mount Vernon mansion, the home of President George Washington.

They had been hearing for some time that to go on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington would be a “trip of a lifetime.” They saw it in recruiting articles in *Arkansas Living* and heard it from students who had been on the trip before. On June 9-15, 42 Arkansas high school students found out firsthand that the promotion was indeed true.

The 2017 tour began on the evening of June 9 when the 2017 Youth Tour delegates gathered for an orientation dinner at the Embassy Suites in Little Rock. The special guest was Lee Hayes of Beebe, a World War II veteran and 2013 Honor Flight participant, who introduced the theme of the tour — “Freedom is Not Free.” After his presentation, several students from the 2016 Youth Tour, who returned for a “reunion,” shared their thoughts about the trip. Their comments inspired me even more as I began my 15th tour as Arkansas’ Youth Tour director.



Saturday, June 10

We were up and ready to board the bus for the airport by 5:15 a.m. For about half of the students, it was their first time to fly on a plane. With a mixture of nervousness and excitement, the group boarded the Delta Airlines flight with an 8:25 a.m. departure for Atlanta. After a brief layover there, we boarded the flight to Washington Reagan National Airport, arriving late that afternoon. We boarded our charter bus and then headed to our hotel in Arlington, Va. After check-in and dinner, the tour was truly on as we headed out to visit the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, and then walked around the Tidal Basin to see the Jefferson Memorial at sunset.



TOP The present touches the past as Caine Walker of Rector gazes into the etched faces of soldiers on a granite wall at the Korean War Memorial.

ABOVE A group of Arkansas students pause for a photo at the statue of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his dog, Fala, at the FDR Memorial.



GERI MILLER

Sunday, June 11

On Sunday, we had another full day starting at Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington, near Alexandria, Va. From Mount Vernon, we drove south to Quantico, Va., to the National Museum of the Marine Corps where we learned about the sacrifices U.S. Marines have made for our country throughout its history. That evening, after dinner and a break at the hotel, we joined students from other states for a cruise of the Potomac River aboard the Spirit of Washington.

Monday, June 12

We began this day with a visit to the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery where we watched the famous Changing of the Guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Next, we headed to the Newseum, which chronicles the history of America's news media. We concluded our day of touring with a visit to the U.S. Holocaust Museum.

After dinner at the Hard Rock Café, a Youth Tour tradition, we headed to the Youth Day program hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national association for electric co-ops. ➤

TOP After visiting the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Youth Tour delegates demonstrate their Youth Tour pride.

LEFT Members of the Old Guard of the U.S. Army perform a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.



TEHYA HINKSON

In their own words

"The 2017 Youth Tour was definitely a trip to remember. I have lived in many different states, and would have to say seeing Washington, D.C., and being in Virginia was unlike the rest. The trip allowed me to connect on a personal level with the events we learn about in history class by seeing and being where they took place. My favorite parts were touring inside the Capitol, the Lincoln Memorial and the Newseum. It was amazing getting to see all of the monuments and buildings that we see on social media and the television in person. Plus, I was able to meet some great people with whom I became friends from all over Arkansas, as well as other states.

Thank you to all of the chaperones and everyone who helped make Arkansas Youth Tour 2017 a true trip of a lifetime."

— Madison Felts, Forrest City, Woodruff Electric Co-op

"My first trip to D.C. was an unbelievable, once-in-a-lifetime experience where I was able to see, in person, all of the memorials and monuments I've read about, and I was able to attain a stronger sense of patriotism for my country. It was a trip I'll never forget."

— Braden Bateman, Ratcliff, Arkansas Valley Electric Co-op



Here we joined hundreds of students from across the nation to learn more about the cooperative program. We also cheered as Braden Bateman of Ozark introduced himself as part of the Youth Leadership Council. Bateman, sponsored by Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative, was chosen by the 2017 Youth Tour chaperones to serve on the council as Arkansas' representative.

Tuesday, June 13

On Tuesday, Jeanne Fogle, a renowned Washington tour guide and historian, led us as we visited the World War II Memorial and the Korean War Memorial. We then headed to the U.S. Capitol and the Library of Congress for tours. While at the U.S. Capitol, students visited with members of Arkansas' congressional delegation and also had their photos taken with the lawmakers.

That evening we attended the Sunset Parade at the Marine Corps War Memorial featuring a performance by "The Commandant's Own," the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, and the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.



GERI MILLER

An evening cruise on the Potomac River delivered lots of fun and smiles.

After the parade, we headed to the Lincoln Memorial, followed by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. While there, we had one of many "magic" moments when Olivia Schmidt of Pocahontas found the name of her grandfather on the wall. He had died when her father was only 4 years old. With paper and pencil, she made a rubbing of the name to take home to her family.

Wednesday, June 14

The tour continued on Wednesday with a visit to see the White House and have photos taken. But, this tradition was cut short when we were asked to leave by security in the aftermath of the shooting of four people, including a congressman, at a ballpark in nearby Alexandria, Va., where they were practicing for a charity baseball game.

We left the area and headed for the White House Visitor Center. Fittingly, we were wearing T-shirts with the message "Keep Calm and Co-op On." And that is exactly what we did. ➤



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After touring the U.S. Capitol, Arkansas students gathered around the Statue of Freedom plaster model at the Capitol Visitor Center for photos with U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton.



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From the visitor center, we went to the National Mall for photographs before we split into groups to tour the “Big Three” museums of the Smithsonian Institution — the American History Museum, the Natural History Museum and the Air and Space Museum. That evening, the students attended the farewell event, including a dinner and dance with students from other states.

Thursday, June 15

It was another early wake-up call for the last day of this fast-paced tour. We boarded the bus by 5:30 a.m. and arrived at Reagan National Airport by 6 a.m. for check-in. We arrived back in Little Rock shortly before 2 p.m. where family members and friends greeted the weary travelers. There were tears and hugs, and memories that will last a lifetime. ■

More photos are available at www.arkansaslivingmagazine.com.

TOP Arkansas students show their state pride at the Arkansas column of the World War II Memorial.

LEFT Delaney Dodson of Kirby continues the Youth Tour tradition of collecting state stickers and pins for display on her name badge. Students from 44 states attend the tour.



GERI MILLER

2017 Youth Tour Delegates

Clay County Electric Co-op

Caine Walker, Rector
Olivia Schmidt, Pocahontas
Claire Causbie, Pocahontas

Craighead Electric Co-op

Amanda Tyler, Brookland
Grace Allen, Jonesboro

Farmers Electric Co-op

Shianne Neal, Swifton
Catie Mueller, Newport
Taylor Hulett, Swifton

First Electric Co-op

Jared McPeake, Benton
Britney McGlofin, Austin
Tehya Hinkson, Benton
Decatur Austin, Benton

Mississippi County Electric Co-op

Matthew Royer, Gosnell
Brianna Hood, Blytheville

North Arkansas Electric Co-op

Logan Stuart, Salem
Hannah Rios, Horseshoe Bend
Callie Cole, Franklin
Seth McCurley, Oxford

Ouachita Electric Co-op

Wyatt Williams, Fordyce
Jalyn Bounds, Camden

Ozarks Electric Co-op

Avery Smith, Fayetteville

Petit Jean Electric Co-op

Brittany Shannon, Clinton
Emily Payne, Bee Branch

Rich Mountain Electric Co-op

Dylan Dodd, Mena
Laykin Atchley, Cove

South Central Arkansas Electric Co-op

Brittney Smith, Kirby
Delaney Dodson, Kirby

Southwest Arkansas Electric Co-op

Addie Womack, Hope
Kammi Pollard, Gillham
Esme Hernandez, De Queen

Woodruff Electric Co-op

Peyton Reeves, Palestine
Madison Felts, Forrest City

Arkansas Valley Electric Co-op

Braden Bateman, Ratcliff
Larissa Baird, Ozark

Ashley-Chicot Electric Co-op

Frankye Wesson, Hamburg
Hailie Spaulding, Montrose

C & L Electric Co-op

Hannah Taylor, Rison
Jaelle Morrison, Rison
Jaycee Merritt, Star City
Brianna Burns, Star City

Carroll Electric Co-op

Anna Nuttle, Rogers
Abby Vaughn, Siloam Springs

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ASHDOWN Joey Bailey	CLARKSVILLE David Lasater	GREEN FOREST Matt McKinney	MOUNTAIN HOME John Chapman	SALEM Jeremy Stone
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CABOT Paul Killingsworth	GLENWOOD Simon Mack	JACKSONVILLE Scott Everett	PIGGOTT Tonya Coomer	
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We're your Shield. We're your Shelter.

Rare solar eclipse to darken Arkansas skies

BY ROB MORITZ

Unless you have already reserved lodging, you will most likely not get to view this month's full solar eclipse. Arkansas, like most of the United States, will see just a partial eclipse on Aug. 21.

But be patient, says Darrell Heath, outreach coordinator and host of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock television show "The Night Sky." In seven years, Arkansans will have their chance to be at the center of the eclipse action.

The "path of totality" of the next solar eclipse over the United States — on April 8, 2024 — will cut diagonally across Arkansas as it travels from Mexico to Maine and into Canada.

"There are people known as eclipse chasers who travel from all over the world to converge on these spots ... and Little Rock will be directly in the path of totality," Heath said of the 2024 eclipse. "It is very unique."

This month's solar eclipse will cross the United States from Oregon to the South Carolina coast. According to several national news reports, it is nearly impossible to find a vacant hotel room or an empty campground space in the path of totality.

Where Will You Be on Monday, August 21, 2017?

EXPERIENCE THE 2017 ECLIPSE ACROSS AMERICA THROUGH THE EYES OF NASA <http://eclipse2017.nasa.gov>

NASA Night Sky Network
Find your local astronomy club: nightsky.net

Credit: Tom Ruen
A partial eclipse will be seen from all of North America.

Credit: S. Habbal, M. Druckmüller, et al.
Total eclipse will only be seen in the center line (left) — pulling viewers into total darkness.

NASA

Safely watching the eclipse

BY ROB MORITZ

If you want to safely watch a solar eclipse — this month's partial eclipse or the total eclipse that will be visible from Arkansas in 2024 — you must have special eyewear to protect your vision.

According to NASA's eclipse website, there are just a few eclipse safety glasses or handheld viewers that have met the International Organization for Standardization safety standards for looking at the eclipse.

Known as "solar-viewing glasses," "eclipse glasses" or "personal solar filters," they are readily available online and in some retail stores. Grade 14 welder's glass also works, said Darrell Heath, outreach coordinator and host of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's "The Night Sky" television show.

There are also ways to indirectly watch the Aug. 21 eclipse without specialized glasses, according to Heath.

- Make a pinhole viewer with two white cards. Make a tiny hole in one card and hold it over the other card to allow the sun to project through. The same can be done with two sides of a box.
- Hold a kitchen colander towards the sun and allow the sunlight to project small images on the ground or a wall.

"Nature also provides some interesting ways to observe the eclipse safely," Heath said. "When the sun is filtered through the gaps in the leaves, the gaps act like a pinhole camera so it will project images of the eclipse ... on the ground, the side of a light-colored house or car, something like that. You have all these hundreds of miniature eclipses going on and being projected through the gaps in the trees."

The path will be 70 miles wide and pass over a number of major cities, including: Salem, Ore.; Idaho Falls, Idaho; Kansas City, Jefferson City and St. Louis in Missouri; and Nashville and Columbia, S.C.

"Unless you have already made arrangements to be in the path of totality, it might be too late because millions, literally millions of people, are going to be converging within the path on the day of the eclipse," Heath said. "This is going to cause epic traffic problems, and even the Department of Homeland Security is looking into the logistics of how to accommodate all these people on this narrow line of totality all across the states, and how it might cause problems for emergency vehicles as well as traffic."

Heath said he reserved a campsite outside Lincoln, Neb., last year so he could see the Aug. 21 solar eclipse. He originally looked for a place to stay in Wyoming, but had to settle on the Nebraska campsite because everything was already booked.

"There was a lot of price gouging going on," Heath said. "Hotels were wanting to charge \$1,000 a night, and that was like a Super 8 hotel. Some campgrounds were wanting \$600 a night."

Arkansas cities and communities in the "path of totality" of the 2024 solar eclipse should begin preparing now for the influx of people wanting to watch the event, Heath said. "So a word to the wise ... seven years may seem like a long way off, but you might want to start getting ready for that."

A rare event

A solar eclipse is the optical effect of the moon passing directly between the Earth and the sun.

Total solar eclipses are not that unusual; they occur every year or two or three somewhere on Earth, but often in places where few, if any, people witness them, like over an ocean or over the North or South Pole, Heath said.

This month's eclipse is considered rare because the last time a solar eclipse could be seen just in the United States was 1,581 years ago in 436 A.D., Heath said.

"Of course, the United States didn't even exist yet, but the entirety of the eclipse fell upon the soil of what people of the future now call 'the USA,'" he said. "This won't happen again until Jan. 25, 2316.

"This one is very special because it goes directly over the United States, nowhere else in the world," Heath said. "I hate to use the word astronomical, but it's pretty big."

The last total eclipse visible over the U.S. was in 1979, but that one only crossed the northwest states before moving into Canada. ➤

In the path of totality, the moon gradually masks the disk of the sun, throwing a shadow of complete darkness on the earth, Heath said. "The sun just kind of gradually fades out and it looks like the moon is taking a bite out of the sun."

Darkening skies

As the eclipse progresses, "the temperature starts to drop. And, of course, as the light fades away it will cause birds to start roosting and nocturnal insects are going to come out," Heath said. Total darkness will last, on average, about two minutes in the path of totality.

While the total eclipse will not be visible in Arkansas this month, Heath said, most of the sun will be obscured and the effect will be readily apparent if the weather is good.

"Depending on where you are in the state, the timing of when the event is going to occur is going to be a little different," he said. And less of the sun's disk will be covered by the moon the farther one is from the path of totality.

Prime viewing in Northeast Arkansas

People in Northeast Arkansas, in places like Corning, Piggott and Jonesboro, can expect to see more than 95 percent of sunlight blocked by the moon, Heath said. People in Little Rock will see about 89 percent of the sun eclipsed, and in south Arkansas, in places like Lake Village and El Dorado, the moon will obscure 83-85 percent.

For Arkansans, the moon will begin encroaching the sun at about 11:47 a.m. on Aug. 21, according to the NASA website. The midpoint of the eclipse, when the maximum coverage is reached, will occur between 1:18 p.m. to 1:20 p.m. in Arkansas. The eclipse will be complete by 2:46 p.m.

The path of totality for the 2024 eclipse, according to NASA, will be

about 120 miles wide. It will cross from Mexico into Texas and continue into Maine and Canada, covering such cities as Dallas; Little Rock; Indianapolis; Cleveland; Erie, Pa.; Buffalo, N.Y.; and Burlington, Vt. ▀

For more information visit nasa.gov or UALR's Night Sky at ualr.edu/tv/night-sky.

Rob Moritz is a North Little Rock-based journalist.



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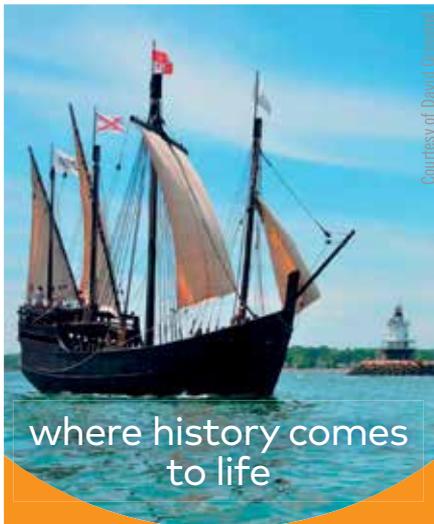
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First Electric Cooperative

Improving Quality of Life

Members fund donations to 14 local nonprofit organizations

Thanks to members who participate in Operation Round-Up, \$15,000 was donated to 14 local organizations in July.

These members volunteer to have their bill rounded up to the next even dollar amount each month. That money — an average of \$6 a year — is used for donations to local organizations and for college scholarships. To date, Operation Round-Up has donated more than \$915,000.

Donation recipients include:

Arkansas County

- Imagination Library of Arkansas County, \$1,000

Cleburne County

- Pine Snag/Lobo Volunteer Fire Department, \$2,000
- Margie's Haven House, \$1,000

Independence County

- Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Independence County, \$500

Lonoke County

- Campground, Sylvania & Mt. Zion Volunteer Fire Department, \$1,500
- Friends of the Cabot Public Library, \$100

Perry County

- Civic Improvement Association of Perry, Arkansas Inc., \$1,000



Campground, Sylvania & Mt. Zion Volunteer Fire Department serves the Austin area with 15 volunteer firefighters. The department plans to use the funds to purchase a thermal imaging camera that will help to identify hot spots during a fire.

Pulaski County

- Pulaski County Council for Communities, Children & Youth, \$1,000
- Women's Foundation of Arkansas, \$500

Pope & Yell Counties

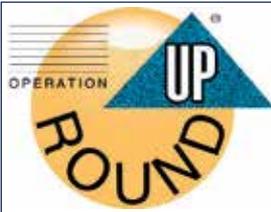
- Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Pope & Yell Counties, \$1,400

Saline County

- Civitan Services, \$1,500
- Court Appointed Special Advocates of Saline County, \$1,000
- Junior Auxiliary of Saline County, \$1,000

White County

- Pangburn Fire Department, \$1,500



JOINING OPERATION ROUND-UP IS EASY!

- Call 800-489-7405
- Enroll through the SmartHub app
- Enroll online on the "Community" tab at www.firstelectric.coop

my co-op



HAPPY LABOR DAY!

First Electric Cooperative's offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 4, for Labor Day. Crews will be on hand in the event of an outage. Report an outage at any time by calling 888-827-3322 or using SmartHub.

Membership re-elects Hasty, Maertens to board

First Electric Cooperative held its 79th annual membership meeting June 22 at the co-op's headquarters in Jacksonville. Members returned 11,983 ballots by mail. Voting by mail-in ballot, members re-elected Tom Hasty, Jr. and Robert Maertens to serve six-year terms on the cooperative's board of directors.



Hasty

Hasty represents members in the Stuttgart district, and Maertens represents members in the Benton district.

Members who returned their ballots were entered in a drawing for prizes. (See winners at right.)



Maertens

The 2016 Annual Report, which was mailed to members with the ballot, was presented during the meeting. The cooperative ended 2016 with more than \$490 million in total assets, and \$9.024 million was returned to members in the form of capital credit checks.

A PDF file of the 2016 Annual Report can be found at www.firstelectric.coop/about/annual-report.



First Electric Cooperative Board of Directors — (First row, from left): Karissa Rushing, Larry Wood, Rick Love, attorney John Selig and Robert Hill. (Second row): Tracy Hudspeth, David Luebke, Tom Hasty, Jr. and Robert Maertens.

ANNUAL MEETING PRIZE WINNERS:

\$200 Bill Credit:

- William & Becky Lambert, Alexander
- Grand Isle POA, Fairfield Bay
- Raymond Marecek, North Little Rock
- Mary Smith, Perryville
- Paul & Paula Mitchell, Sherrill

Casserole Crockpot:

- Luther & Nancy Otto, Hot Springs
- Hervey & Rita Madden, Hickory Ridge
- Adrian & Tonda Parmelee, Cabot
- Rick Loyd, Perryville
- Imogene Burris, Almyra

Amazon Fire Tablet:

- City of Shannon Hills, Mabelvale
- Jerry & Jo Selby, Pangburn
- Jason Sharp & Courtney Stiles, Cabot
- Regina McKinney, Bigelow
- Phillip & Marsha Watkins, Humphrey

Youth Tour impacts students for a lifetime



(From left to right): Decatur Austin of Benton, Britney McGloflin of Austin, Tehya Hinkson of Benton and Jared McPeake of Benton served as delegates for the 2017 Youth Tour, an educational trip-of-a-lifetime to Washington, D.C.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial at dusk. Completed in 1982, it chronologically lists the names of more than 58,000 veterans. Photo by Tehya Hinkson

Dream visit to D.C. becomes reality for student photographer

By Tehya Hinkson

To say this trip has changed my life is a vast understatement. Not only did it show me the heart of our country in the most intimate way, it also taught me how to survive on Gatorade and water in scorching weather with only four hours of sleep. And that's something you can only learn through personal experience.

I am a traveler, wanting to follow in my grandfather's footsteps and visit all of the 50 great states in our nation. And Washington, D.C. had long been on my list. I cannot thank First Electric Cooperative enough for the opportunity to realize my dream.

I met people I would never have met otherwise, living hours apart but brought together on this trip. We shared food, time, Gatorade, hours of walking, and a passion for this trip.

As a photographer for my school's yearbook, and this year's photo editor, I have a great love for photography, which

made my favorite attraction fairly easy to decide on — the Newseum. Ever since I heard the name I had been excited, and when the day came to visit, I was beyond thrilled. It didn't disappoint. I shed tears,

"I will forever be inspired by the devotion our country has put into preserving our freedom."



Tehya Hinkson at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.

gained knowledge, and spent too much money, all while growing the love I have for journalism. It was a breathtaking representation of the trials that our country has suffered through and survived, shown through the hard work and dedication of photographers and journalists. It was truly an awe-inspiring experience.

To any students hearing about this trip, I would not hesitate to encourage you to apply. You may be nervous, not knowing anyone is scary, leaving the state with strangers is most certainly scary, flying can be scary, the entire aspect of the entire trip can be scary. But you should allow no amount of fear to rob you of this opportunity. It is truly a life changing experience, that not even the minuscule amount of sleep and buckets of sweat can ruin.

I will forever be inspired by the devotion our country has put into preserving our freedom, and there is no better reminder of this sacrifice than the glorious city of Washington, D.C.

Greatest thanks and gratitude to the members of First Electric who allow this trip and student's dreams to come true. God Bless.

High school juniors whose parents or guardians are members of First Electric can apply for Youth Tour beginning Feb. 1.

Member Basics: Seven Cooperative Principles

First Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative. We operate by these seven principles:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2. Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. Members have equal voting rights — one member, one vote.

3. Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4. Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5. Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public — particularly young people and opinion leaders — about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7. Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.



Decatur Austin is lifted by new friends, Jared McPeake and Braden Batemen in front of the Marine Corps Memorial. Photo by Tehya Hinkson

“Seeing the magnitude of tombstones at Arlington National Cemetery really stressed the fact that freedom really isn’t free. As Americans we hear the phrase often, and Youth Tour just further embedded that phrase into my brain on a more personal level because I got the opportunity to see all of the men and women that risked their lives for this country.”

— *Decatur Austin of Benton*



Britney McGloflin looks at a front page newspaper display at the Newseum. Photo by Tehya Hinkson

“I think the most impactful part of the trip was the Vietnam War Memorial because I have learned a lot about the war through stories in my history classes and hearing facts, but seeing those names on the wall made the war a reality. Seeing the different items their loved ones had left made me realize the sacrifice each of these people made and that freedom truly isn’t free.”

— *Britney McGloflin of Austin*



Jared McPeake with Senator Tom Cotton at the Capitol. Photo by Geri Miller

“I would say the most impactful part of the trip was walking through the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial. At one spot in the memorial there was a homeless Vietnam veteran telling stories of other veterans who had fought and died in the battle. Then he went on to tell us through tears not to forget those who had died for our freedom. That’s going to stick with me for a while.”

— *Jared McPeake of Benton*



The Youth Tour included sites honoring our military. (Above) The sunset parade at the Marine Corps War Memorial, commonly known as the Iwo Jima Memorial. (Top right) Two sentinels from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) perform the changing of the guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. (Bottom right) The wall of Marine-Navy Deaths on Iwo Jima at the National Museum of the Marine Corps symbolizes every soldier lost during the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II. Photos by Tehya Hinkson

Arkansas State Archives to the rescue

BY JENNY BOULDEN

They went in and out of the courthouse over and over again, decked in full protective gear: white Tyvek suits with masks, rubber boots, nitrile gloves. Everyone watching had a theory: “Is there a gas leak?” “What are y’all, beekeepers?” “Look! It’s the Ghostbusters!”

What the curious citizens of Howard County were actually witnessing, though, were librarians: expert archivists from the Arkansas State Archives (ASA) at their most hardcore, rescuing thousands of important records from a courthouse basement filled with mold and muck.

The ASA staff, led by Executive Director Dr. Lisa Speer, was on hand in protective gear for a county-requested special intervention. Among ASA’s responsibilities is helping county leaders preserve the treasure trove of historical information in their care.

Howard County’s records problem

The Howard County Courthouse in Nashville had been built in 1939 directly over a natural spring. The county had installed a sump pump, but the precautions were not 100 percent effective. All that moisture had built up, heavily infesting many of the records with black mold, disintegrating others. ASA’s team quickly determined that the mold remediation would be a very “time-consuming, dirty and expensive” project, Speer said. The reinforcements needed to call for reinforcements.

The fix

Turning to ASA’s parent agency, the Arkansas Department of Heritage (ADH), Speer was able to acquire additional funding from ADH to hire a professional disaster salvage company, Metro Disaster Services in North Little Rock, and to fund their own efforts. The company used a HEPA vacuum, special mold retardant and an ozone treatment on the materials, but determined that in many cases the mold was too advanced for many of them to be salvaged. The solution was to microfilm the records, then dispose of the contaminated originals. Not all could be saved; many volumes were irrecoverable.

Speer said among the “must-save” records she surveyed, she found voter registration records, prisoner lists, land surveys, tax assessments, lists of school district teachers and rare records pertaining to cotton production in the years



COURTESY OF LISA SPEER

ABOVE Ledgers with decades of mold damage.

LEFT ASA’s Dr. Lisa Speer in protective gear, checking the damaged originals against lists of previously microfilmed information. All unique volumes in good enough condition for microfilming will be microfilmed for future research.

after the Civil War.

Today, the rescue effort continues, now from a climate-controlled storage unit. The ASA staff is

working on cleaning and preparing the materials for microfilming, then will send them to an off-site microfilming lab to prevent contaminating the ASA’s permanent collection.

Remember these takeaways

Speer said there are many lessons to be learned from the adventure. First of all, whether you’re a private citizen or running a county courthouse, records you need to keep need appropriate storage, she emphasized. “And when you discover a problem, it’s much quicker and less expensive to fix it right away than waiting. It will only get bigger on its own,” she said. And, although they are tempting “extra” spaces in a building, attics and basements are the worst places for storing important documents. They are more at risk of vermin, fire, leaks and floods there, plus many other hazards unique to those traditional storage spaces, like extreme variation in temperature. Taking the time to find an appropriate long-term storage solution can save a lot of future effort and money.

But most of all, Speer said, “Don’t be afraid to ask for help when you need it. That’s what we are here to do.” Local officials, she said, often don’t get the training they need to know the rules and laws they are supposed to follow. “Please reach out to us, like Howard County did, whenever you have questions or you need help with an operation like this. We’re a resource you have; use us.” ■

Farm Safety Coloring Sheet

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A window AC primer

BY BRET CURRY

Through mid-July, Arkansas experienced the fewest 90-degree days in the past decade. Many folks were enjoying comfort with minimal or no air conditioning. But, the dog days are here, and normal summertime temperatures have arrived. Thanks to the modern marvel of air conditioning, we can seek relief from the heat by the flip of a switch. Fortunately, window air conditioners make cooler homes possible for homeowners who do not have, and possibly cannot afford, central heating and cooling systems.

Window units have been around for a long time. The original patent date for a window-ledge air conditioner dates back to 1931. However, post-Great Depression economic barriers, limited power availability in rural America, and the efforts and sacrifices to support World War II thwarted access and popularity until the 1950s.

Today, nearly 25 percent of Arkansas' electric co-op residential members seek relief from summertime heat with one or more window air conditioners. That is because window units offer many benefits. For instance, they are easily accessible from most retail or home supply box stores. There are many sizes available to accommodate a variety of spaces and rooms. Most are easy to install and, if you choose, removable after the cooling season.

Comfort comes with a cost, and much like a space heater, window units require a significant amount of energy for operation. Older, residential models can cost approximately \$3 to \$4 daily, or over \$100 per month if operated 24 hours per day, seven days per week. However, newer models run more quietly and are more energy efficient. Some are equipped with a remote control, have oscillation distribution vents and more!

If you are in the market for a new unit or replacing an older model, it's important to gather some information before shopping. Confirm the electrical outlet chosen for the unit and its corresponding electrical circuit can accommodate the operating wattage requirement. Overloaded electrical outlets and circuits can trip breakers, blow fuses and unfortunately, in rare cases, may cause a fire. When in doubt, always contact a licensed electrician to inspect and confirm that the outlet and circuit can handle the electrical needs of the window unit. In some cases, the electrician may need to install a dedicated line to assure safe and proper operation.

Also, you'll need to know the square footage of room to be cooled. Simply measure and multiply the room's length and width. For instance, a room 14 feet by 12 feet equates to 168 square feet. Also, measure and jot down the height and width of the window and carry these figures to the store. Manufacturers now utilize a package labeling index on each box that includes the information gathered from your home.

Simply look on the label to confirm the room's square footage and window size. Then, verify your selection accordingly. A smart energy tip when shopping for window units is to always look for the Energy Star® logo on the box. Like all Energy Star® appliances, window units with this designation are more energy efficient than their older counterparts.

Proper installation is important for efficient operation and health and safety. As unlikely as this may seem, window units can and do fall out, so be sure the unit is safely anchored per the manufacturer's instructions.

To cap off an energy-efficient installation, seal out unwanted air leaks around the unit, window sill, sash and frame with foam gasket material. Also, seal out unwanted heat gain around the uninsulated expanding or accordion side-curtains by installing foam panels. This is a brilliant and custom-fit solution for insulation, and air-sealing the



Foam kit to seal expanding, or accordion-style side panels.



Foam gasket material to air-seal window sash, jamb and sill.

uninsulated area between the unit and window frame. These do-it-yourself items are available from home supply box stores or online.

In September, we'll reveal the winners of our 10th Annual Energy Efficiency Makeover contest, the Great Light Giveaway, where 170 winners will be receiving an LED lighting retrofit kit containing over 70 LED bulbs generously donated by General Electric. Please feel free to contact me at smartenergytips@aecc.com with any energy efficiency questions. Also, be sure to follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/smartenergytips.org as well as listen to our podcasts. ▀

Bret Curry is the residential energy marketing manager for Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC), which provides wholesale power to Arkansas' 17 electric distribution co-ops.

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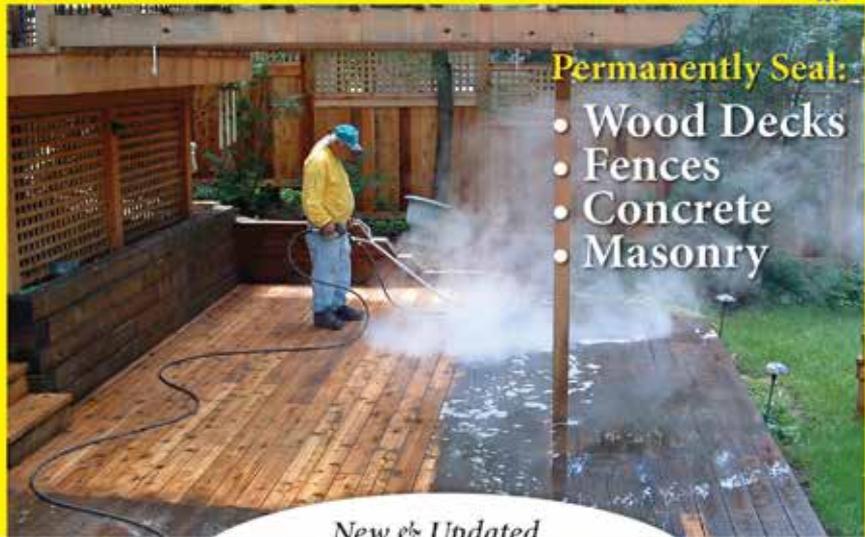


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Snapshots from our readers

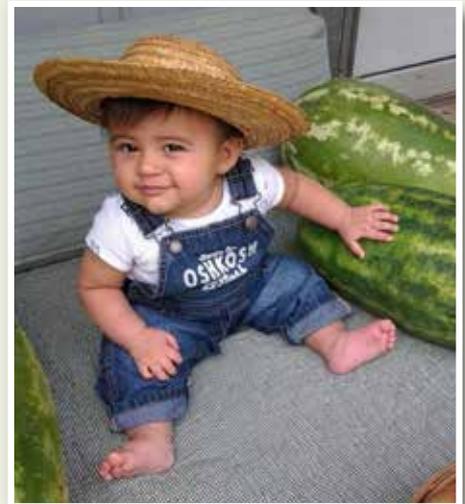
Reflections



Leliana, enjoying a cool slice of watermelon.
Haley Mullaney, Salem.



Kipton, enjoying his first taste of a Cave City watermelon. He couldn't get it in his mouth fast enough! Jennifer Brown, Hoxie.



Andrew, selling melons at his stand.
Taken by his Grammie in Mena.



Case, having a cool time on a hot day.
Wendy Wynn, Bono.

Presley, enjoying the sweet summertime.
Lindsay Harvey, North Little Rock.



Tennessee's horse, Charlee, wanted some watermelon, too! She is with her Great Papa Kenny.
Jessica Trulove, Green Forest.



Jack and Erin, counting the turtles on the log.
Ron Brooks, Cabot.



Tyler, picking flowers for his baby sister. Paul Daws, Hamburg.



Gage, eating watermelon by Papaw's pond. Tammy Pennington, New Edinburg.



Neighbor's dog saw us bringing in the watermelons and wanted to help! Rodney Grant, Arkadelphia.



Carter and Ava, picking daisy bouquets on the farm. Twila Tackett, Japton.



Maddox, in his new cabin at Gramma and Pop's house on Turkey Mountain. Melissa Eddy (Gramma), Clarksville.



Jaxon, having some watermelon after a swim. Courtney Wells, Fayetteville.

Share your photos with your fellow Arkansas Living readers! Please send high-resolution photos with detailed information about the pictures (who took it, where, who is in it, etc.) to: Dixie.Rogers@aeci.com

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---	---

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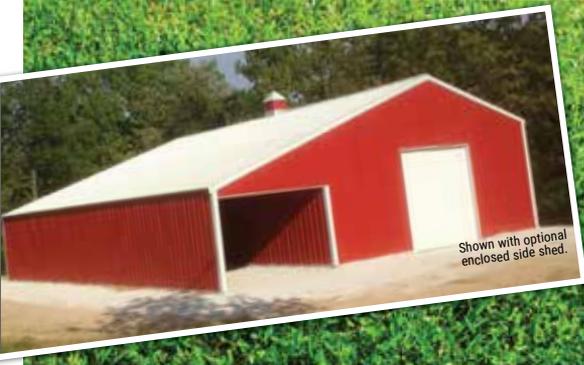
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---	---



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It's eggplant time!

BY JANET B. CARSON

One of the heat-loving vegetables in abundance right now is the eggplant. It is believed that Thomas Jefferson introduced the eggplant, which is native to Asia, to the United States in the 1700s. But eggplants have only become common in our gardens and kitchens in the last decade. Now, the large-fruited purple varieties are a staple and available year-round in the grocery store.

Their plants, flowers and fruits make them an easy ornamental edible, as well as a good garden plant. Eggplants belong to the nightshade family, which includes tomatoes, peppers and potatoes. Unlike tomatoes, eggplants thrive in the hottest parts of summer, continuing to set fruits even on hot, humid days. They grow on a short, stalky bush, like peppers, and rarely need staking unless the plants are loaded with fruit. Some gardeners use tomato cages; others use perennial stakes.

Most people are familiar with the larger-fruited dark purple to black varieties such as “Black Beauty” and “Dusky,” but the oriental varieties with long, tapered fruits such as “Ichiban” and “Little

Fingers” are gaining ground. Most of us today are familiar with eggplant parmigiana, moussaka, ratatouille or baba ghanoush — all eggplant dishes that are more common in our diets these days. As our palates and food culture grow, we begin to learn about new varieties.

In addition to purple-fruited varieties, there are small, egg-shaped varieties in mature shades of white, yellow and orange, along with striped and spotted ones. Some popular white varieties include “Ghostbuster” and “Casper,” with the truly egg-shaped white “Easter Egg” variety. “Fairytale” is a purple- and white-striped variety, “Brazilian Oval Orange” has a beautiful orange fruit and “Italian Pink Bicolor” is white with pink stripes. And not to be overlooked are the golf ball-sized Thai eggplants in green, white or purple. An eggplant grown more as an ornamental is “Pumpkin on a Stick,” which produces small orange pumpkin-shaped fruits born along the stems of a 3- to 4-foot-tall plant. Many farmers’ markets now carry an array of these harder-to-find varieties.

All eggplants need warm conditions to grow, so don’t plant too early in the spring. Planting in late April to early June will allow the soil temperatures to warm up. Eggplants will continue



Eggplants thrive in the hottest parts of summer.

to grow, bloom and set fruit until the really cool days of fall. Eggplants like a well-drained soil with plenty of organic matter and ample nutrition. Once established, they are often more drought-tolerant than many other summer vegetables, but don’t let them get too dry or the fruits may turn bitter. The main pest problem is the flea beetle, which can cause small holes in the leaves and a stippling effect on the fruit. If the fruits grow large and are exposed to the sun, they have been known to get a sunburned spot on the fruit, turning it tan.

The flowers are self-pollinated, but bees can help with fruit set. Unlike tomato and pepper blooms, which are only good for one day, individual eggplant flowers remain open for two to three days. Because they need warm conditions to grow well and take between 50-75 days to mature from seed, most gardeners plant transplants instead of seeds. If you want to try the more unique varieties, you will need to start your own plants from seed indoors under artificial light in February to March. It takes six to eight weeks to get a quality transplant.



Thai eggplant.



JANET B. CARSON

Farmers' markets are a great place to find different varieties of eggplants.

Although eggplants can be harvested from small-sized fruits up to larger ones, under-ripe or over-ripe fruits can be a bit bitter. For the larger-fruited forms, the outer rind should be deep, dark purple and have shiny skin. If the skin begins to turn dull or the color begins to fade, they are getting too ripe. The smaller-fruited forms will usually stop growing larger, and the outer skin will get glossy. Although we have all done it, try not to pull the mature fruits off by hand since they are firmly attached, and you can damage the plant. Use pruning shears to harvest and leave a short stem attached. When you cut into the fruits, a perfectly ripe fruit will have a sprinkling of soft, well-formed yet immature seeds. Fruits with no visible seeds are immature, while hard, dark seeds are found in overripe eggplants.

Eggplants will last for about a week in the refrigerator and can be grilled, fried, sautéed or roasted. If you start having too many to eat at once, roast them along with peppers, garlic and tomatoes in the oven, then puree in the blender for an outstanding dip. ▀

Janet B. Carson is an extension horticulture specialist for the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

EVERYONE CAN HELP!

Invasive Species are not wanted in Arkansas. They can destroy the woods we have come to enjoy. So when you are out in the forest, be on the lookout for these invasive species. Please report any suspected findings.



Emerald Ash Borer



Gypsy Moth



Asian Longhorned Beetle



Cogongrass

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HOW YOU CAN HELP!

- Leave firewood at home – buy local firewood at or near your destination, or collect firewood on site when permitted.
- Buy or collect only what you'll need, and burn it all completely by the end of your stay.
- If you have already moved firewood, use it immediately. Do not take it home with you, and do not leave any excess firewood on site.

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Slice up a Watermelon!

Watermelon Lemonade

- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 2 1/2 cups water
- 2/3 cups agave syrup
- 2 cups watermelon chunks

Place all the ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth. Serve over ice. Makes 5 cups.

Blue Watermelon Walnut Salad

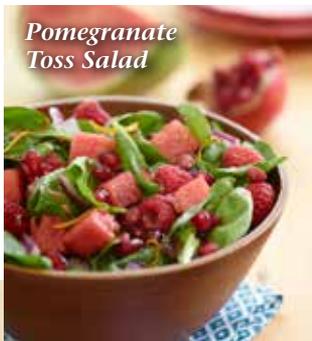
- 1 cup walnut pieces
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- 2 cups inexpensive balsamic vinegar
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 sprig fresh rosemary
- 4 oz. fresh baby greens
- 2 oranges, seedless, peeled and sectioned
- 4 cups seedless watermelon cubes
- 2 cups seedless grapes, halved
- 2 cups fresh, trimmed and sliced strawberries
- 1 cup crumbled blue cheese

Heat the walnuts in a seasoned wok or heavy non-stick sauté pan over medium heat for a minute

and stir in the sugar and soy sauce. Adjust heat to prevent burning while constantly stirring the nuts until the sugar melts. Continue to stir and cook until the nuts begin to stick and the mixture is getting sticky. Spread the nuts over a sheet of waxed or parchment paper and cool. Break apart into small pieces and crumble. Set aside.

Heat the vinegar in a heavy non-corrosive saucepan over medium heat and stir in sugar. Continue to stir and adjust heat to bring the mixture to a simmer. Add the rosemary sprig to the pan. Continue to simmer until the contents of the pan reduces by 1/2 its original volume. Set aside.

Divide the greens among 6 or 8 salad plates and arrange the orange sections, watermelon, grapes and strawberries over the greens. Drizzle the balsamic syrup over the fruit and the cheese crumbles over that. Top with the candied walnut pieces. Serves 6-8.



Pomegranate Toss Salad

Pomegranate Toss Salad

- Dressing**
- 1 cup pomegranate juice
 - 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar (pomegranate vinegar is the best)
 - 1 1/2 tablespoons

- orange zest
- 1 tablespoon agave syrup
- 1 small minced shallot
- 1/8 teaspoon stone-ground mustard
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- dash of salt and pepper to taste

Salad

- 8 cups (6 oz.) baby spinach
- 3/4 cup diced red onion

- 2 cups diced watermelon (placed on paper towel to drain excess fluid)
- 6 oz. fresh raspberries
- 1/2 cup pomegranate seeds

Place juice in a small saucepan over medium-high heat and simmer until reduced to about 3 tablespoons and liquid is a thick syrup. Set aside. When cool, add remaining dressing ingredients, from vinegar to salt and pepper. Whip. Set aside for flavors to blend.

Place spinach in a large serving bowl. Top with onion, watermelon, raspberries, and pomegranate seeds. Divide onto 4 salad places and drizzle with dressing. Serves 4.

Firecracker Guacamole

- 1 mini seedless watermelon
- 8 ripe avocados, peeled, seeded and coarsely mashed
- 1/4 cup minced green onions
- 2 tomatoes, seeded and diced
- 4 habanero chiles, stemmed, seeded and minced (or to taste)
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- dash salt (to taste)

Roll the watermelon to find the flattest side; place that side on bottom. Slice the top third of the watermelon off. Wrap and set aside. Hollow out the red watermelon from the remaining watermelon section; reserve fruit for another use. A rice paddle works well for this task. Make sure all of the red part of the watermelon is removed. Pat dry with paper towels, then sprinkle with salt. Place upside down

Grilled Watermelon and Pineapple Skewers



Blue Watermelon Walnut Salad





on a rimmed tray lined with paper towels and refrigerate overnight.

For the guacamole, gently combine all ingredients in a medium serving bowl. Let sit for at least 10 minutes for the flavors to blend.

With paper towels, rub inside of watermelon bowl to remove salt and thoroughly dry. Fill with Firecracker Guacamole, serve and enjoy! Serves 16.



Firecracker
Guacamole

Grilled Watermelon and Pineapple Skewers

- 12 1"x1" fresh seedless watermelon chunks
- 12 1"x1" fresh pineapple chunks
- 1/2 cup unrefined granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon sugar
- 1 cup warm fudge sauce of choice

Alternate 3 of each cube of watermelon and pineapple on skewers and sprinkle the fruit skewers with the unrefined sugar and cinnamon sugar. Grill over medium hot coals on all four sides about 30 seconds per side. Arrange on a platter and drizzle with warm fudge sauce.

Source: Watermelon.org



Reuben Casserole

- 32 oz. sauerkraut (rinsed and drained)
- 12 oz. corned beef (crumbled)
- 8 oz. Swiss cheese, shredded
- 3/4 cup Thousand Island Dressing

Mix all ingredients together and place in casserole dish. Bake at 350 F for 30 minutes.

Leftovers will make a good sandwich, either hot or cold!

LaRoyce Arnold, Shell Knob

Peach Cobbler

- 3/4 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/2 cup butter
- 2 1/2 cups fresh sliced peaches
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract (optional)
- 1/2 cup sugar

Sift together flour, salt and baking powder. Mix with 1/2 cup sugar, slowly stir in milk to make batter.

Melt butter in 8x8x2-inch baking pan. Pour batter

over melted butter. DO NOT STIR. Mix the peaches and 1/2 cup sugar thoroughly and carefully spoon over the batter.

Bake for 1 hour at 350 F. Serve hot or cold with ice cream, if desired. Serves 6.

Janice R. Hooton, Bella Vista

Dreamsicle Pie

- 1 graham cracker pie crust
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1 cup orange juice
- 4 oz. package instant vanilla pudding mix
- 4 oz. package of orange Jell-O (dry)
- 16 oz. Cool Whip, divided

Mix the cream cheese until creamy. Add orange juice, pudding and Jell-O, mix well. Add 1/2 of the Cool Whip to mixture. It will become thick. Pour into graham cracker pie crust. Top it with remaining Cool Whip. Add orange slices and mint leaves on the top. Let cool in refrigerator for 2 hours before serving.

Sarah Wheeler, Clinton

Submit your favorite recipes!

If your recipe is selected for printing, we will send you a set of measuring cups!

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Entries must include your name, phone, address and origin of recipe.



Editor's Note: In our July issue, the crossword puzzle mistakenly was printed with the wrong grid. We offer our sincere apologies, and have included that puzzle, corrected, in addition to the August puzzle on page 38.

july's crossword puzzle

BY JULIE K. COHEN

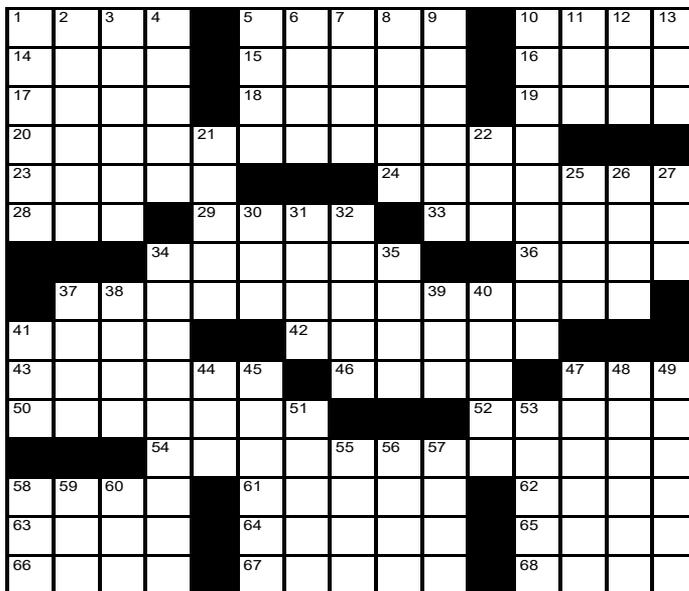
ACROSS

- 1. Tolkien creatures
- 5. Sir or _____
- 10. Vacation site (not just for kids!)
- 14. Spick-and-span
- 15. Not just fat
- 16. Fried vegetable
- 17. Decorative pitcher
- 18. Arkansas' cotton region
- 19. Sail holder
- 20. Failure to follow rules
- 23. Altus ___ Festival
- 24. Arkansas River's Six Bridges _____
- 28. Always, poetically
- 29. Use a surgical beam
- 33. Equip
- 34. Spreads out
- 36. Top-of-the-line
- 37. Appointing beforehand
- 41. La __, a cold event

- 42. Salem's County
- 43. Spews lava
- 46. Cancun coin
- 47. Columbus Day mo.
- 50. Hopelessness
- 52. Hitler and Göring
- 54. Use to calculate currency conversion
- 58. Style of poker
- 61. Tobacco holder
- 62. Courage
- 63. Type of Drive?
- 64. Type of cleanse
- 65. Luau strings
- 66. Kennel cry
- 67. Medicated
- 68. Purse Museum in Little Rock

DOWN

- 1. Anxious
- 2. Upgrade electrically
- 3. Roman emperor
- 4. Razor sharpener



- 5. Math calculation
- 6. Not up yet
- 7. Kosher _____
- 8. Daisy like flower
- 9. Not as nice
- 10. "Huh?"

- 11. Letters before an alias
- 12. "___ Doubtfire"
- 13. Philanthropist __ Walker
- 21. Contradict
- 22. Movie animation tech.
- 25. Warner Bros. creation
- 26. Mao Tse-____
- 27. Chowed down
- 30. "Much ___ About Nothing"
- 31. A lord's worker
- 32. Eventually become
- 34. Involved in
- 35. After-Christmas event
- 37. Wild destructive force in forests
- 38. Burden
- 39. "___ magic!"
- 40. Who might be to blame?
- 41. Beatty of "Deliverance"
- 44. Paycheck deduction
- 45. Set a dog on someone
- 47. Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma mountains
- 48. Little Rock, Fort Smith and Fayetteville: Arkansas' biggest _____
- 49. African fly
- 51. Zoo heavyweight
- 53. Debate
- 55. Matures
- 56. Most people have a first and last one
- 57. Alum
- 58. Farm area
- 59. "What's ___ matter?"
- 60. Dot-com's address

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Crossword answers on page 41

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*Stan W. US war veteran
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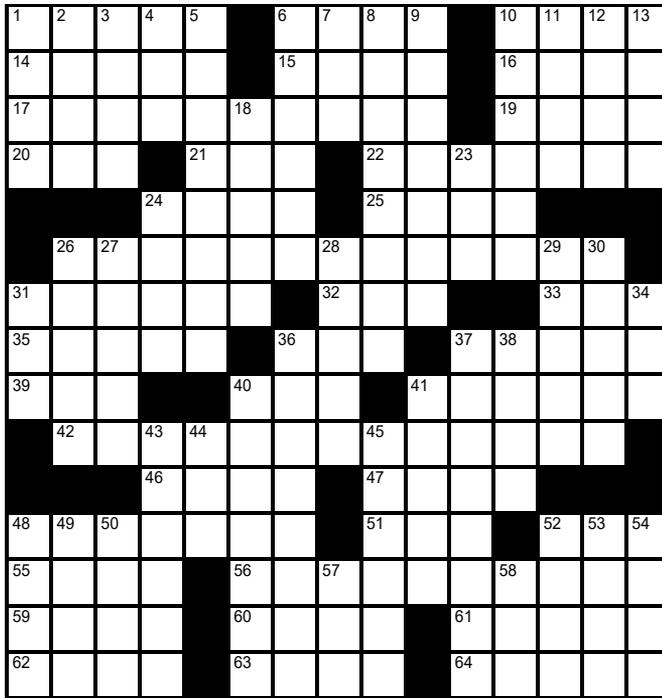
82821

crosswordpuzzle

BY JULIE K. COHEN

ACROSS

1. Battery Type
6. Metal fastener
10. Arkansas state tree
14. Whack-___ (game)
15. Banned orchard spray
16. Shade of black
17. Located in Washington and Benton counties
19. Not yet final, at law
20. Question
21. Green or Earl Grey
22. Fixed up
24. What Raye, Twitty and Cash like to do
25. Desperate
26. Animal used for heavy work
31. Ozark Regional Arts & ___ Festivals
32. Ewe's mate
33. Homer Simpson's cry
35. Drills into
36. Calendar abbr.
37. Newbie, of sorts
39. Our sun
40. A Loony club in Little Rock
41. Dept. of Correction Unit in Newport
42. Not functioning properly (i.e. some families)
46. Dunderheads
47. Own
48. Gives a bird a lift
51. Chemical ending
52. Landscaper's need
55. Close
56. Person who decides a dispute
59. County that held German prisoners during World War II
60. Lecherous look
61. Endure with lack of shame
62. Downhill racer



63. Cutlass or Delta 88
 64. Spread around
- ## DOWN
1. Space org.
 2. Little devils
 3. Wine plug
 4. "Prince ___" ("Aladdin" song)
 5. They help create toothy smiles
 6. Took a stab (at)
 7. ___ mode
 8. Self-serve restaurant area
 9. Gas grade
 10. Confined (as in pigs)
 11. Bibliographical abbr.
 12. Cyrano's was large
 13. Oklahoma city
 18. Ladies' companions
 23. "To ___ is human ..."
 24. Umpire's call
 26. Bunch of little ones
 27. Time to rise on a farm?
 28. Former French coin
 29. Tomato blight
 30. Peace prize
 31. Big Brother's TV station
 34. "For ___ a jolly ..."
 36. Kind of show
 37. Old Testament book
 38. Zip ___ (e.g. way to tour Hot Springs)
 40. First National River designated in the United States
 41. Economy-size
 43. Put in piles (e.g. laundry)
 44. XNA, LIT, and FSM regulator
 45. Not ours
 48. Mail org.
 49. Television Dr.
 50. Glenwood born, actor Clark ___
 52. ___ City, Lincoln County seat
 53. Move like molasses
 54. Monticello's county
 57. Place for breakfast?
 58. Crystal Bridges Museum of American ___

Crossword answers on page 41



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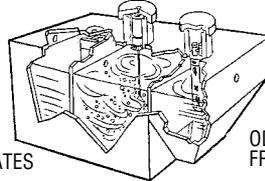
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55	16.19	31.28
65	31.06	68.47

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Atkinson's Blue Diamond Café is an Arkansas gem

BY ROB ROEDEL

Located just off U.S. Interstate 40 north of Conway, Morrilton is the county seat of Conway County in the heart of the Arkansas River Valley and the home of a treasure, Atkinson's Blue Diamond Café.

The café was originally opened in the early 1970s and has been owned by Gary and Karen Atkinson, and Earl and Pat Eichenberger since 2004.

"We've been at this for 14 years and we have met many great people," said Karen, who serves as the restaurant manager. "We love serving our customers and being a part of this great community."



Atkinson's Blue Diamond Café is a Morrilton landmark.



The Breakfast Burger merges breakfast and dinner. It is a brinner!

She said the great restaurant staff can often predict what regular customers will order before they say a word. And, I don't doubt that as on the day of my visit many regular patrons were enjoying lunch and talking to the attentive staff.

The Blue Diamond Café offers many appetizers, but the top sellers are their fried dill pickles and fried jalapenos. Both are made fresh and never frozen.

The fried pickle breading recipe was handed down from Myron Sweeden, a previous owner of the restaurant. The fried pickle chips have a great spicy flavor. The order is served with a side of house-made ranch dip that accentuates the pickles' great flavor. The fried jalapenos had a unique sweet flavor, followed by a spicy kick. These little treats are served with a side of Blue Diamond

are varied and include sandwiches, hamburgers, hot dogs, plate lunches, salads, nachos and ice cream treats.

The Cuban sandwich is a Blue Diamond Café special recipe featuring the restaurant's on-site-smoked pork, sliced ham, Swiss cheese, pickles and mustard on a pressed and grilled hoagie bun. This sandwich sounds different and it is. Different and great!

The grilled chicken wrap is an option that is lighter than a sandwich, but big on flavor. The wrap's warm, grilled flour tortilla is loaded with delicious cubed chicken, bacon, cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato and spicy ranch dressing.

I had never tried an egg on a hamburger until my visit to the Blue Diamond Café. Wow. The café's Breakfast Burger is a must-try. The tasty burger was topped with a fried egg, pepper jack cheese, Petit Jean bacon and chipotle mayonnaise on a fresh Kaiser bun. Customers have been known to tell the servers to "bring on brinner" (breakfast merged with dinner) when requesting this tasty creation.

The restaurant proudly serves Petit Jean hot dogs and Italian sausages. A favorite is the Dandy Dog, a Petit

Café cheese dip that is perfect for dipping.

The restaurant's cheese dip and salsa were developed by testing recipes with the Atkinson's church group. "Everyone in our group would prepare different dip recipes, and we would decide which one we liked best," Gary said.

The offerings at Blue Diamond Café

the eating essentials

ATKINSON'S BLUE DIAMOND CAFÉ

1800 East Harding St.
Morrilton
(501) 354-4253

Hours of Operation

Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.





ROB ROEDEL

Ice cream treats, like a banana split, are very popular at the café.

Jean hot dog hand-dipped in the restaurant's secret batter and deep fried until golden brown. I was told it is the ultimate corn dog.

Daily specials are offered at lunch and range from Mexican chicken to chicken-fried steak to chicken spaghetti. Vegetable choices include fried squash, fried okra, corn nuggets, baked beans, a side salad, green beans, creamed potatoes, a baked potato and coleslaw.

The Blue Diamond Café recently began offering select “take and bake” meals for customers to enjoy at home. Karen said they are very popular.

Ice cream treats are huge sellers at the café. Gary enjoyed a banana split when we talked. Karen made me a chocolate shake and a cookie butter shake to go. I consumed both tasty, ice-cold treats with a smile on my drive home, as they were the perfect way to top off a delicious meal.

If you are looking for a diamond in Arkansas, then search no farther than Atkinson's Blue Diamond Café. They have a little bit of everything and a whole lot of good food! ■

Dining recommendations? Contact Rob Roedel at rroedel@aecc.com



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july crossword answers for puzzle on page 36

1	R	O	C	S		2	A	D		3	M	A	D		4	A	M	P		5	C	H	A		6	S	E		7	E	R		8	A	P		9	E	R		10	A	P		11	R	A	P		12	E	R		13	E	R		14	E	R		15	E	R		16	E	R		17	E	R		18	E	R		19	E	R		20	E	R		21	E	R		22	E	R		23	E	R		24	E	R		25	E	R		26	E	R		27	E	R		28	E	R		29	E	R		30	E	R		31	E	R		32	E	R		33	E	R		34	E	R		35	E	R		36	E	R		37	E	R		38	E	R		39	E	R		40	E	R		41	E	R		42	E	R		43	E	R		44	E	R		45	E	R		46	E	R		47	E	R		48	E	R		49	E	R		50	E	R		51	E	R		52	E	R		53	E	R		54	E	R		55	E	R		56	E	R		57	E	R		58	E	R		59	E	R		60	E	R		61	E	R		62	E	R		63	E	R		64	E	R		65	E	R		66	E	R		67	E	R		68	E	R		69	E	R		70	E	R		71	E	R		72	E	R		73	E	R		74	E	R		75	E	R		76	E	R		77	E	R		78	E	R		79	E	R		80	E	R		81	E	R		82	E	R		83	E	R		84	E	R		85	E	R		86	E	R		87	E	R		88	E	R		89	E	R		90	E	R		91	E	R		92	E	R		93	E	R		94	E	R		95	E	R		96	E	R		97	E	R		98	E	R		99	E	R		100	E	R	
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august crossword answers for puzzle on page 38

1	N	I	C	A		2	A	D		3	M	A	D		4	A	M	P		5	C	H	A		6	S	E		7	E	R		8	A	P		9	E	R		10	A	P		11	R	A	P		12	E	R		13	E	R		14	E	R		15	E	R		16	E	R		17	E	R		18	E	R		19	E	R		20	E	R		21	E	R		22	E	R		23	E	R		24	E	R		25	E	R		26	E	R		27	E	R		28	E	R		29	E	R		30	E	R		31	E	R		32	E	R		33	E	R		34	E	R		35	E	R		36	E	R		37	E	R		38	E	R		39	E	R		40	E	R		41	E	R		42	E	R		43	E	R		44	E	R		45	E	R		46	E	R		47	E	R		48	E	R		49	E	R		50	E	R		51	E	R		52	E	R		53	E	R		54	E	R		55	E	R		56	E	R		57	E	R		58	E	R		59	E	R		60	E	R		61	E	R		62	E	R		63	E	R		64	E	R		65	E	R		66	E	R		67	E	R		68	E	R		69	E	R		70	E	R		71	E	R		72	E	R		73	E	R		74	E	R		75	E	R		76	E	R		77	E	R		78	E	R		79	E	R		80	E	R		81	E	R		82	E	R		83	E	R		84	E	R		85	E	R		86	E	R		87	E	R		88	E	R		89	E	R		90	E	R		91	E	R		92	E	R		93	E	R		94	E	R		95	E	R		96	E	R		97	E	R		98	E	R		99	E	R		100	E	R	
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Calendar



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Aug. 1-5

Tontitown Grape Festival

Tontitown
One of Arkansas' oldest festivals. Homemade spaghetti dinner Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 4:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. www.tontitown-grapefestival.com.

Aug. 3-5

130th Annual Old Soldiers Reunion Parade, Beauty Pageant and Carnival

City Park, Heber Springs
Celebrating all veterans. 501-607-4708; www.arpost64.org.

Aug. 4-5

45th Annual Pine Tree Festival

Jack Clawson Park, Dierks
Parade on Saturday morning, events, food, craft vendors, rides and games. Saturday night bull riding and bull fight. 870-286-2911.

Aug. 5

Donny Edwards Live "A Tribute To Elvis"

The Center for the Arts, Russellville
7-9:30 p.m. www.russellvillecenter.net.

Aug. 5-12

Sevier County Fair

Sevier County Fairgrounds, De Queen
Fair, livestock show and rodeo. 870-584-6281.

Aug. 6

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette Fall Bridal Show

Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock
www.arkansasbridalcommunity.com.

Beautiful Birds of Arkansas

Hobbs State Park Visitor Center, Rogers
Mike Martin, wildlife photographer, will give a presentation on the beautiful birds he has photographed. 12 a.m. 479-789-5000.

Aug. 7-12

124th Old Soldiers Reunion

Mammoth Spring State Park Ball Field
Carnival rides, games, prizes, food, bingo and more. 5-10 p.m. 870-625-7364.

Aug. 10-12

41st Annual Hope Watermelon Festival

Fair Park, Hope
Arts and crafts, watermelon eating contest, seed spitting, 5K, giant melon auction, kids' activities and ice-cold Hope watermelon by the slice. www.hopemelonfest.com.

Aug. 12

Rackensack Folklore Society Concert

Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock
A concert of old-time acoustic folk music. www.arkarts.com.

Aug. 10-13

18th Annual Mack's Prairie Wings Fall Festival

Mack's Prairie Wings, Stuttgart
This exciting schedule of activities is packed! 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. www.mackspw.com.



Aug. 11

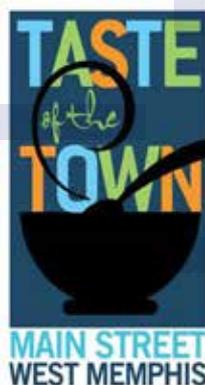
Pinnacle Mountain State Park's Meteor Shower Mania Cruise

Jolly Rogers Marina, Little Rock
Join a park interpreter on a guided cruise to view shooting stars from the lake. Advance payment and registration required. 9-11 p.m. 501-868-5806.

Aug. 15

15th Annual Taste of The Town

Southland Park Gaming and Racing, West Memphis
Local restaurants, chefs and caterers bring their specialties for everyone's tasting. www.broadwaywestmemphis.com.



Aug. 18-19

Mountains, Music and Motorcycles

Court Square, Mountain View
Biker games, poker runs, bike and car show. Concerts on the square. www.yourplaceinthemountains.com.

Aug. 19

Johnson County Fair

Main Street, Clarksville
www.thejohnsoncountyfair.org.

Aug. 21

Total Solar Eclipse Watch Party

Mid-America Science Museum, Hot Springs
www.midamericamuseum.org.

Aug. 25

Kingston Music on the Square

Town Square, Kingston
7- 9:15 pm. 479-957-1089.

Aug. 25-26

33rd Annual Frisco Festival

Downtown, Rogers
Selected by the readers of Celebrate Arkansas magazine as the best annual festival. www.mainstreetrogers.com.

Aug. 26 - Sept. 3

32nd National Championship Chuckwagon Race

Bar of Ranch, Clinton
www.chuckwagonraces.com.

Aug. 29

Summer Concert

Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, Fayetteville
Gates open at 5 p.m., concert at 7. Picnics and lawn chairs welcome. www.bgozarks.org.

Aug. 31 - Sept. 3

26th Hot Springs JazzFest

Various Local Venues, Hot Springs
www.HSJazzSociety.org.

For an extensive listing of events around Arkansas, visit www.arkansas.com/events

To submit a listing for consideration go to: www.arkansaslivingmagazine.com
or mail to: Arkansas Living, P.O. Box 510, Little Rock, AR 72203.

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