

arkansas living

DECEMBER 2017

Caretakers of History

New owners of historic
Marlsgate Plantation
have grand plans

Page 8

Merry bicentennial, Fort Smith!

Page 14

Holiday treats

Page 34

CONTENTS DECEMBER 2017



Bass Pro Shops
Lakeside Cottage



BIG CEDAR LODGE

AMERICA'S PREMIER WILDERNESS RESORT

This winter, escape to the secluded luxury of Big Cedar Lodge. Warm up with world-class offerings like the Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum and Cedar Creek Spa. In the evenings, relax by the fire in your own private cabin. Call today to learn how to enjoy these low winter rates!

JANUARY 2 – FEBRUARY 28, 2018
Sunday through Thursday Only

FALLS LODGE DOUBLE QUEEN **\$99*** PER NIGHT PLUS TAX

PRIVATE LOG CABIN WITH LOFT **\$149*** PER NIGHT PLUS TAX

BASS PRO SHOPS LAKESIDE COTTAGE TWO BEDROOM **\$169*** PER NIGHT PLUS TAX

Mention offer code RA1217 when you call to book your stay.

800.225.6343 | BIGCEDAR.COM

*Limited number of discounted accommodations available. Not valid on February 14th. Not valid on current reservations or holidays. Prices do not include resort fee. Not available for online booking.



Private Log Cabins



Cedar Creek Spa



KELLY QUINN

features

8 Caretakers of history
New owners of historic Marlsgate Plantation have grand plans.
By Rob Moritz



COURTESY OF MARINE BELL AND LISA WILSON

14 Merry bicentennial, Fort Smith!
City celebrates 200 years of history.
By Jenny Boulden

40 Arkansas Scrapbook
A Little Rock Christmas
By Jerry Dean



on the cover

The new owners of the Marlsgate Plantation at Scott welcome guests to the stately historic mansion, now decorated for the holidays. Tours, dinners and events are offered.

Photo by Kelly Quinn



BECKIE PASKIEWITZ

in every issue

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

BY SHEILA YOUNT

Christmas will soon be here, and the memories are flooding back.

My parents, especially my mother, loved Christmas. She would decorate our modest home inside and out with lights, garlands and bows. My father worked for Arkansas Louisiana Gas Co. (Arkla), so we naturally had a gaslight in the front yard. Each Christmas, Mom would decorate the pole with plastic strands of holly. She would then wrap a large red ribbon around the white pole, making it look like a candy cane. On top, she would add the decorative Santa Claus head she purchased from Arkla.

My parents have been gone for several years now, but the memories of our time together remain and grow ever more precious. It is in this spirit that we are pleased to share stories that pay homage to the past in this month's Arkansas Living. The cover story, "Caretakers of History," is about the iconic Marlsgate Plantation southwest of Little Rock, where the hills give way to flat cotton fields and cypress-filled oxbow lakes in the transition to Arkansas' Delta region. Rob Moritz, a North Little Rock-based freelancer, recently visited the new owners of Marlsgate — Beau and Martha Ellen Talbot — and reports on their plans for the mansion and grounds (Page 8).

Jenny Boulden, Arkansas Living's associate editor, shares the story of Fort Smith's establishment on Christmas Day 200 years ago. Arkansas' second-largest city, located on its western border with

Oklahoma, has numerous events planned to celebrate the bicentennial. Check it out on Page 14.

Arkansas' capital city has a long tradition of Christmas celebrations and this year is no different. Learn about those events on Page 4. And then go back in time with Jerry Dean, a Little Rock native now living in Tennessee. A veteran journalist and one-time reporter for the Arkansas Gazette, he has wonderful memories of 1950s Little Rock at Christmastime. He shares some of those in the Arkansas Scrapbook feature on Page 40.

The holidays would not be complete without food, and we are pleased to share more delicious recipes with you from the chefs at the University of Arkansas - Pulaski Technical College's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Institute in Little Rock. The institute was featured in the November 2017 issue of Arkansas Living (www.arkansaslivingmagazine.com).

As has become a tradition at Arkansas Living, the 2018 co-op calendar is included with this issue. Along with photos showcasing our beautiful state, it has some valuable energy efficiency tips. We also want to give a special thanks to the readers and fans of our Facebook page who submitted the photos for the 2018 calendar.

Until next year, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

Sheila

Sheila Yount
editor@aeci.com

DECEMBER 2017

VOLUME LXXI, NUMBER 2

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.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Duane Highley | President and CEO |
| Sandra Hochstetter Byrd | Vice President, Public Affairs & Member Services |
| Sheila Yount | Editor |
| Jenny Boulden | Associate Editor |
| Geri Miller | Production Manager |
| Marcia Tabor | Advertising Coordinator |
| Dixie Rogers | Graphic Designer |
| Stacy Rinehart | Editorial Assistant |

ARKANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Mark Cayce | Chairman, Camden |
| Rusty Pendergraft | Vice Chairman, Texarkana |
| Rob Boaz | Secretary, Berryville |
| Rick Love | Treasurer, Jacksonville |

CONTACT INFORMATION

Arkansas Living
1 Cooperative Way, Little Rock, AR 72209
501.570.2311

Email: arkansasliving@aeci.com

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 510, Little Rock, AR 72203

Advertising Department
Marcia Tabor

Email: advertising@aeci.com
501.570.2312

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

Member of Arkansas Press Association



Acceptance of advertising by Arkansas Living does not imply endorsement of the product or services advertised by the publisher or the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas.

Follow us on

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

For co-op members, contact your local electric co-op. For non-members, mail your address change to: Address Change, Arkansas Living, P.O. Box 510, Little Rock, AR 72203, or email arkansasliving@aeci.com.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

For co-op members, contact your local electric co-op. If you are NOT a member and wish to subscribe, please mail a check for \$7 (12 issues) to: Subscriptions, Arkansas Living, P. O. Box 510, Little Rock, AR 72203.

A secret peace

BY DUANE HIGHLEY

As we enter the season between Thanksgiving and Christmas, our culture places a special emphasis on seeking peace. This is ironic for many of us because this season can seem anything *but* peaceful, as we rush to holiday parties, musical performances, religious services and family gatherings! Each of these special events should bring us peace, fulfillment and comfort, and, individually, they all represent good things. However, when taken together, we may find ourselves overwhelmed and missing the beauty of the season.

A former colleague of mine had a favorite saying: "The secret of happiness is having low expectations." So, there's one strategy — just don't expect much from this holiday season and you won't be disappointed! But is that really the answer? What if, instead, we expected the *best* that humanity can offer? What if we demanded the very best — not from others, but from ourselves?

Instead of waiting for the rest of the world to jump up to meet our ridiculously high expectations, maybe we should expect and deliver the very best from ourselves. We can show our neighbors, co-workers, service-providers and family members that we care so much about them and their peace that we are willing to give of ourselves to help their dreams come true.

It has been said that there is no love without sacrifice, that sacrifice is the truest measure of love. So, during this season, how about we sacrifice our pride, our dissatisfaction, our right to complain and our frustration with all the ways the world has let us down? Why don't we instead make our neighbors' happiness our goal?

Many decades ago, the musician James Taylor wrote: "The secret of life is enjoying the passing of

time." This simple, but profound, sentiment is much easier to say (or sing) than do. In today's vernacular, we might practice "mindfulness," an exercise that is similar to what we used to call "counting our blessings."

Whatever you call it, having a focus on the remarkable beauty around us while forgoing a focus on ourselves can help relieve the anxiety of reliving all our daily concerns. Where your mind focuses, there your heart will be. If you focus on all the negative aspects of a situation, you'll most certainly feel anxious. But if you focus instead on the positive, your mood will be brightened. The decision of focus is a choice that is solely within your control. Choose to find peace — your secret peace.

See if your family gathering changes when you arrive with a decision to focus on others, to notice the beauty in every moment and to enjoy the passing of time together. When you treat the drive-through attendant with overwhelming kindness, it will warm your heart and help you feel better about the world. Try it, I promise it works.

In our work at the electric cooperatives, we get to serve our neighbors each and every day with reliable, affordable energy and services. That continual focus on helping *you*, helps *us*. It provides us with deep satisfaction, a sense of purpose and a mission that is beyond ourselves. May peace abide with you all. ■



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 distribution co-ops, which provide retail electric service to more than 1 million members.

Save money on big-ticket purchases

BY ALLISON GOLDBERG

If a penny saved is a penny earned, then saving on big purchases could be a mortgage payment earned. But how? With patience, research and a little negotiation, you can get better deals on the things you need (and want) most.

Household goods

According to Consumer Reports, seasonal savings still exist despite the constant availability of sales online. In order to get the best deal on what you want, try using a savings



calendar (Consumer Reports offers suggestions by month), making a list of features that you want in your intended purchase, tracking sales through email subscriptions to websites and using your patience in order to wait for the best deal.

Check brick-and-mortar store prices as well as online retailers' pricing, look for coupons online and in fliers and newspapers, search manufacturers' websites for rebates and see if your credit card company has any special deals with retailers. You may want to consider buying a refurbished or open-box item, and you might also be able to save money by picking up your online purchase in-store.

Cars

When shopping for a new car, know the absolute maximum you can spend, including tax, tag and title fees, and be prepared to walk away from anything too expensive. Find financing, if you

need it, from a bank or credit union; you'll often get better financing from sources other than the dealership. Check with your insurance provider to find out how the new car will affect your premiums and factor that into your pricing decision.

Plan to purchase at the end of the month, when salespeople are pushing to meet their monthly sales goals. Spend a few months comparison shopping online; email an online salesperson at several dealerships to develop a rapport and get quotes; then, see if the dealers will meet or beat the lowest quote. During this time, go for a test drive at any dealership with the car you want; you are not obligated to buy from a dealership just because you drove a car in their inventory. Buying last year's model is another great option for reducing costs. Negotiate everything, including add-on features and even free maintenance.

If you plan to trade in your current car, do not let the salesperson or dealership know until you've agreed



on the final price for the new vehicle. You can check your current car's value online to have an idea of a fair trade-in value and how the trade-in will affect your monthly car payments. If you think the dealer isn't giving you a fair price for your trade-in, remember you can sell it to any dealership or sell it yourself online.

Don't buy an item you don't want or need just because it's on sale; \$100 kept is better than \$50 saved on something you don't need. With all large purchases, knowing what you want, doing your research and being patient are the keys to getting what you want at a fair price.

Allison Goldberg writes and edits employee benefits-related materials for the Insurance and Financial Services Department of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Christmas in the Capital City

If you are in Little Rock this holiday season, consider partaking in the capital city's annual holiday traditions and activities during your visit.

Kicking off the state's celebrations is the Big Jingle Jubilee Holiday Parade at 3 p.m., Dec. 2. It will begin at Second Street and Broadway, follow Broadway to Capitol Avenue, then proceed down Capitol Avenue, bringing Santa Claus to the State Capitol just in time for the annual State Capitol Lighting Ceremony. Crowds will gather to watch Santa turn on the Capitol's elaborate Christmas lights, then families will flow into the well-decorated Capitol Rotunda with their children for visits with St. Nick in Santa's workshop upstairs. The event is free; bring your camera for pictures with Santa. On the South Lawn of the Capitol, see a life-size Nativity scene hand-carved from Arkansas catalpa wood.

That same weekend, Dec. 1-3, the Arkansas Craft Guild's 39th Annual Christmas Showcase at the Statehouse Convention Center will feature hand-crafted work for sale from more than 100 artists. And that Sunday, Dec. 3, three museums downtown will hold their holiday open houses full of refreshments, caroling, re-enactments and contests: The Old State House Museum at 1-4 p.m.; Historic Arkansas Museum's 50th Annual Christmas Frolic at 1-4 p.m.; and the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center at 2-5 p.m., featuring its annual sweet potato pie contest. A trolley will shuttle visitors between these three museums and the Governor's Mansion, which is also hosting its open house from 1-4 p.m.

Downtown also is home to quite a few impressive Christmas trees, including the annually lit one made of green lights in the window of the Regions Bank building, seen for miles around, and the three-story tree at the center of the Capitol Rotunda. Christmas trees also tower in the Little Rock City Hall and Old State House Museum, visitable during business hours, and an elaborate display at the Capital Hotel delights visitors around the clock. New this year is what is planned to be an annual tradition, a 40-foot-tall Christmas tree outdoors at Second and Main streets.

Elsewhere in Little Rock, the Santa's Wonderland at the Bass Pro Shops off Interstate 30 draws thousands of eager children each year for free photos with Santa through Christmas Eve. Arts organizations throughout the season will be sharing holiday concerts, two versions of the Nutcracker Ballet, plus a variety of Christmas productions. For more information, visit littlerock.com/events or arkansas.com/events. (To learn about past Christmases in Little Rock, read the Arkansas Scrapbook feature on Page 40).



See Santa at the Bass Pro Shops in Little Rock. Admission is free.

trivia

- The elves in the movie "Elf" (2003) were made to look tiny using an old camera trick called "forced perspective," without the use of computer-generated imaging (CGI). Their costumes were replicas of the elf costume in the 1964 television classic, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."
- During the Iran hostage crisis in 1979 only the top star was lit on the National Christmas Tree. The following year, the lights were on only 417 seconds, one second for each day the hostages were captive. In 1981, the tree was fully lit once the freed hostages' plane cleared Iranian airspace.
- 2017 marks the centennial of the death of famous ragtime composer and Texarkana native Scott Joplin.
- Actresses Holly Hunter and Frances McDormand were roommates at the Yale School of Drama. They won Best Actress Academy Awards within three years of each other.
- A Saline County railroad conductor, George Thomas Shrader, decided in 1914 to try his hand at making violins using a pocket knife and chisel, though he had never seen one made. The following year, he sent a pair to the Panama Pacific Exposition in San Francisco and won a silver medal.
- "Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love." – Hamilton Wright Mable



Located about 14 miles southeast of Little Rock, the stately Marlsgate Plantation is open for tours and dinners.

Caretakers of History

New owners of historic Marlsgate Plantation have grand plans

BY ROB MORITZ

The Marlsgate Plantation in Scott has for decades provided a gracious historic backdrop for formal weddings and private parties. The new owners of the Greek Revival mansion have added monthly dinners open to the public for “the Marlsgate experience” and are readying four upstairs bedrooms for new life as a bed-and-breakfast in the old Southern style.

The Southern charm is what attracted Beau and Martha Ellen Talbot to buy the 11,500-square-foot plantation house and surrounding 7.5 acres next to Bearskin Lake earlier this

year. Beau, a former banker, contractor and trained chef, and Martha Ellen, an event planner for nonprofits, said they want to honor the history and tradition of the mansion while updating the business plan to make it sustainable for years to come. Also in the works: a supper club and a wine cellar.

“We’re here to preserve the history, preserve the house and perpetuate this lifestyle that a generation does not even have a clue exists,” said Beau. “This is our calling.”

Martha Ellen agreed. “We’re simply the caretakers,” she said, adding that their goal is to learn all they can about the iconic landmark and the people who lived and worked there. “We want to tell the real story. I think people are drawn to it; they are hungry for it, actually,” she said.

Rich history

Marlsgate sits at the center of the old Dortch plantation outside of Scott in Lonoke County, about 14 miles southeast of Little Rock. The stately mansion was designed by

Arkansas architect Charles L. Thompson. Construction of the house, which was home to four generations of the Dortch family, was completed in 1904.

At its height, Marlsgate Plantation was a lucrative farming operation. It covered 7,000 acres and produced cotton, soybeans, hay and corn. More than 100 tenants lived on the property.

The mansion was added to the National Historic Register in 1979, six years before the Dortch family sold the mansion and 7.5 acres to David Garner, who is credited with turning the plantation into a popular events center. The Talbots purchased the property from Garner in February. Garner now owns and operates Choctaw Hall, a bed-and-breakfast in Natchez, Mississippi.

Back in time

Visitors looking for an escape from the 21st century will not be disappointed. From Bearskin Lake Road, one steps through a hedgerow then down a stone path to a two-story front porch with large Doric columns that rise more than 40 feet. A second-floor balcony hangs over the front porch.

The mansion is shaded by old oaks and a grove of 14 pecan trees.

Marlsgate is the size of five average homes, so everything is on a grand scale. The large front room — called the foyer, but much larger than that word normally suggests — has an extraordinary double staircase at the far end. The main floor of the estate includes a large drawing room, dining room, music room, master bedroom, plantation office, and a separate kitchen and service wing.

Upstairs are the four bedrooms that will welcome overnight guests before the end of 2018.

Original beveled glass windows, sliding oak pocket doors, handcrafted woodwork and six marble fireplaces are located throughout the 30 rooms. In all but one room, the 14-foot ceilings are covered with ornate pressed tin.

Much of the antebellum furniture and other antique furnishings, including photographs and paintings, still belong to Garner, Beau said. The chandelier in the foyer, a large “farm table” in the kitchen and a secretary in the first floor bedroom were in the house even when the Dortch family owned it.

The house has a basement, where the wine cellar will be located, and a third floor. Only the main floor and second-floor bedrooms are accessible to the public. There are four more bedrooms on the third floor, where household staff slept back in the day, but they are accessible only by a narrow, European-type staircase.

Outside the house, on the east side, is the old carriage house where the Dortch family kept a carriage, surrey and cotton wagon, and stabled their horses. It has already been retrofitted as a gift shop with a Southern country lifestyle theme in every piece of merchandise: postcards, photographs, paintings, handmade dolls and virgin sunflower seed oil produced at the nearby Wayne Plantation. ➤



KELLY QUINN

The grand staircase, decorated for Christmas, in the front hall of the mansion.



KELLY QUINN

Holiday table decorations complete with candlelight and antique china provide an elegant dining experience.



KELLY QUINN

Holiday decorations adorn the music room.



KELLY QUINN

Next to the carriage house are a series of five “hidden gardens” surrounded by large holly hedges. They were designed by renowned Arkansas gardening and lifestyle expert P. Allen Smith, who also filmed some of his early television shows at the plantation, Beau said.

Ideal for peaceful walks or seated contemplation, the gardens have become central to the wedding experience at Marlsgate. A bride who has dressed in the carriage house then passes through gardens with names like “Garden of First Reveal” and “Bride’s Garden” as she makes her way to the path that leads to the front porch of Marlsgate.

Behind the mansion is a 3,000-square-foot “summer home,” where the Talbots live. There is also a large conservatory where plants can grow in the winter months and Japanese koi swim in a pond. The conservatory, with its glass walls and high ceiling, will eventually be available for small teas and other gatherings, Beau said.

In a field on the west side of the house and visible from Bearskin Lake Road is a large tent, 40 feet by 85 feet, where wedding receptions, parties and other events take place. The 2,035-square-foot kitchen, located at the back of the main house, includes a pastry kitchen, a large cooking area and a prep area.

Bed-and-breakfast

Upgrading the kitchen to handle large dinners and bed-and-breakfast guests is among a number of renovations being made throughout the mansion to comply with current safety codes and improve efficiency. Rewiring is being done throughout the house, and the original newspapers and horse hair behind the walls will be replaced with thoroughly modern, soybean-based insulation.

A much more noticeable change: private bathrooms for the guest rooms on the second floor. Currently, there is only one bathroom in the mansion.

Another long-term project is to obtain a grant for solar energy-generating roof tiles, Beau said.

When the house renovations are completed, work will then continue on the grounds, the couple said.

“After the bed-and-breakfast gets going we’re going to put up a series of geometric raised gardens and ... from the farm to the table we’ll grow the herbs and vegetables,” he said. ➤



GERI MILLER



KELLY QUINN

TOP The Talbots’ dog, Allie, welcomes visitors to Marlsgate.

ABOVE During a recent tour, the Talbots served punch in goblets with cranberry-skewers.

RIGHT The old carriage house now serves as a gift shop.



THE PERFECT FIT

A CUSTOM BUILDING SOLUTION JUST FOR YOU



Mueller steel buildings can be tailored to suit your needs. From small, backyard designs to custom, engineered structures, we have the perfect building to accommodate your lifestyle.

www.muellerinc.com | 877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)



“It will be aesthetically pleasing, and people here with tours or staying at the bed-and-breakfast will be able to get a glass of wine and walk through the raised gardens on a series of paths.”

Dortch influence

William Dortch, the patriarch of the plantation at its height, “was unbelievably successful and creative,” Beau said, adding that Dortch was a pioneer in cross-germination of cotton seeds. The Dortch Cotton Gin exhibit in the Plantation Agriculture Museum in Scott is named for him.

Since moving into Marlsgate, the Talbots have tried to learn as much as they can about the Dortch family. During this process, they discovered that several area residents are Dortch descendants who had not been in the house in years — or ever.

“The Garner family took the house in a direction it had never been. It became an events center for weddings. It was no longer a working plantation, so many of the Dortch family had not been

back in the house in years and decades,” Beau said. “So it was Martha Ellen’s and my quest to find the Dortches.”

They met George Dortch, a 90-year-old grandson of William Dortch, who had not been in Marlsgate for 50 years. In fact, he was so uneasy about returning to the ancestral home that he entered from the kitchen in the back. “He really didn’t have warm and fuzzy feelings about it, but things changed,” Beau said. Once George saw how the furniture, antiques and all the decorations accentuated the old mansion’s Southern charm, he cheered up.

“He came in the back door and left out the front door,” Beau added.

Meant to be

Rediscovery is Beau and Martha Ellen Talbot’s personal story as well. The two Stuttgart natives were high school sweethearts and attended the senior prom together. After high school, they went their separate ways until January 2016, when they saw each other at a Stuttgart restaurant.

The couple instantly reconnected and were married the following September.

The idea of running a bed-and-breakfast was something they had been thinking about, so the newlyweds looked in vain for one to buy. During their search, a mutual friend told them that Marlsgate was for sale. Their first visit to the plantation was on a Friday. Two days later, the Talbots and Garner sat in the drawing room of the estate and drafted



GERI MILLER



GERI MILLER



GERI MILLER

TOP A stately tree stands near the mansion on the east side of the structure. Pecan trees grow here as well and are used to make pralines and other treats for Marlsgate guests.

LEFT A series of five “hidden gardens” featuring holly, boxwood and other plants are especially popular with wedding parties.

RIGHT An 18th-century bench from Italy provides a place of respite within the gardens.

a one-page purchase agreement. Beau said Garner was considering another offer at the time, but he liked their idea of keeping the estate’s current charm while adding the bed-and-breakfast.

“It was meant to be,” Martha Ellen said of their marriage and the subsequent purchase of Marlsgate.

Owning the plantation has allowed them to use their talents in a way that makes them both happy, Beau said. “Her event planning and organization and my mechanical part of the presentation, getting the food out on time, has allowed us to blend our talents.”

In August, the couple began hosting monthly “plantation dinners.” They also have offered holiday brunches, and a monthly supper club will begin in 2018, with members having the opportunity to learn about various nonprofits that are near and dear to Martha Ellen’s heart.

For more information about events and reservations, check out Marlsgate Plantation on Facebook.

Rob Moritz is a North Little Rock-based journalist.

High quality child care looks like

SCIENCE.



A day with playdough is a day of experiments. Yes, mashing, shaping and rolling playdough is fun! It is also a science project!

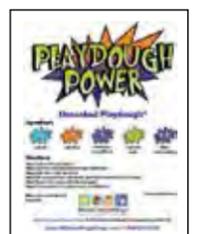
Does playdough roll like a ball – on the table *and* on the rug? Does it bounce if you throw it hard enough?

What color does pink mixed with yellow make? Add just a little pink to the yellow? What about blue? So many colors to make. This is science!

Visit our website to find quality child care that lets your child mix it up.



better beginnings
 EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST
www.ARBetterBeginnings.com
 1-800-445-3316



Learn more at bit.ly/arlsci

Merry bicentennial, Fort Smith!

City celebrates 200 years of history



"The Hayride" by John Bell Jr. (1937-2013) of Fort Smith depicts Christmas time on Garrison Avenue in the early 20th century. A retrospective exhibit of Bell's many popular paintings of early Fort Smith and scenic Arkansas will show Jan. 5 – April 22 at the Fort Smith Regional Art Museum.

BY JENNY BOULDEN

Dec. 25, 1817, was a cold winter's day on the Arkansas River. Far from their families and festivities, about 60 U.S. Army soldiers and four laundresses landed at the site where they would build Fort Smith. Their mission was to keep the peace between the warring Osage and Cherokee tribes, and the site was a rolling hill they called Belle Point, located at the confluence of the Arkansas and Poteau rivers. That afternoon, they commenced setting up "Camp Smith," named for the rifle regiment's commander, Gen. Thomas Smith. Their camp that Christmas Day would grow into a major U.S. outpost and Arkansas' second-largest city.

Fort Smith will honor the bicentennial of the establishment of that camp with an epic birthday party starting this Christmas Day and extending through 2018. At 2 p.m., Dec. 25, locals and visitors will be taking a break from their family festivities to gather at Belle Point, now on the grounds of the Fort Smith National Historic Site. The first of dozens of planned Fort Smith bicentennial events in 2018, the celebration will include a re-enactment of the landing, then birthday cake and hot chocolate at the Fort Smith Museum of History's soda fountain.

"We realize it's a major holiday, but it's also kicking off the biggest celebration in Fort Smith history," said Claude Legris, executive director of the Fort Smith Advertising & Promotion Commission. "If you're in the area, drop by for a Christmas memory you and your kids will never forget. It's a once-in-a-lifetime thing." ➤



A re-enactment of the soldiers' 1817 landing, like this one from 2005, is slated for 2 p.m. Christmas Day.



Experience you can count on.
People you can trust.



GUARANTEED TOUGH: FULL LIFETIME WARRANTY

PROMOTION VALID 12/01/17 THROUGH 12/31/17 • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

DEWALT HAND TOOLS

WE STOCK OVER 500 INDIVIDUAL DEWALT SOCKETS, WRENCHES & ACCESSORIES

BUY EITHER
(YOUR CHOICE)

SALE \$49⁹⁹

DWMT72167 (601800)
10-Piece Combination Wrench Set
3/8"-15/16"



OR

DWMT72166 (601811)
10-Piece Combination Metric Wrench Set
10mm-19mm



DWMT73801 (601950)
108-Piece 1/4" & 3/8" Drive Mechanics Tools Set
SAE/mm



SALE \$89⁹⁹

DWMT73802 (601951)
142-Piece 1/4" & 3/8" Drive Mechanics Tools Set
SAE/mm



SALE \$109⁹⁹

DWMT73803 (601952)
168-Piece Mechanics Tools Set
SAE/mm



SALE \$144⁹⁹

DWMT73804 (601953)
34-Piece 1/4" & 3/8" Drive Socket Set
SAE/mm



SALE \$39⁹⁹

DWMT73805 (601954)
25-Piece 1/4" Drive Socket Set
SAE/mm



\$29⁹⁹

DWMT73806 (601955)
17-Piece 3/8" Drive Bit Socket Set
SAE/mm



\$19⁹⁹

DWMT73807 (601956)
15-Piece 1/4" & 3/8" Drive Tool Accessory Set
SAE/mm



\$29⁹⁹

DWMT73808 (601957)
70-Piece 1/4" Multi-Bit & Nut Driver Set
SAE/mm



\$29⁹⁹

DWMT73813 (601960)
23-Piece 1/2" Drive Combination Socket Set
SAE/mm



SALE \$44⁹⁹

DWHT10272 (479040)
Folding Pocket Knife



SALE \$11⁹⁹

DWHT36109 (524303)
30' Tape Measure



SALE \$17⁹⁹

BUY EITHER
(YOUR CHOICE)

SALE \$89⁹⁹

DWE305 (575005)
12.0 Amp Reciprocating Saw



REG \$99⁹⁹

OR

DW235G (570008)
1/2" (13 mm) VSR™ Drill



REG \$109⁹⁹

DARRAGH COMPANY LOCATIONS

1401 East 6th St • Little Rock, AR 72202 • (501) 372-2112
406 N. Locust St. • N Little Rock, AR 72114 • (501) 372-3100
1800 Higdon Ferry Rd • Hot Springs, AR 71913 • (501) 520-4440
317 Commercial Ave • Lowell, AR 72745 • (479) 725-0707
4801 Wheeler Ave • Fort Smith, AR 72901 • (479) 648-3930
6201 Mall Dr • Nash, TX 75569 • (903) 793-3822
2919 S Caraway Rd • Jonesboro, AR 72404 • (870) 934-8788

TOOL CENTRAL LOCATIONS

4871 E. Shelby Drive • Memphis, Tennessee 38118 • (901) 795-0705
1240 N. St. Louis • Batesville, Arkansas 72501 • (870) 698-8665
1907 East Kingsway Hwy. • Paragould, Arkansas 72450 • (870) 236-3800
2010 Industrial Drive • Pochontas, Arkansas 72455 • (870) 892-8665

OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY. CALL YOUR LOCAL STORE FOR HOURS OF OPERATION

*With respect to 20V MAX™, maximum initial battery voltage (measured without a workload) is 20 volts. Nominal voltage is 18. *With respect to 60V MAX™, maximum initial battery voltage (measured without a workload) is 60 volts. Nominal voltage is 54. DeWALT's Perform & Protect™ line of Power Tools is designed to provide a high level of one or more of the following: control, dust containment, or low vibration, without sacrificing performance.
Terms and Conditions: This is not a game of chance. Void where prohibited. Offer only available at participating Darragh Company and Tool Central retail locations. Offer valid on purchases made from 12/01/2017 through 12/31/2017, while supplies last. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Redemption items will be provided at the participating retail location following the purchase, after receipt of original invoices. Darragh Company, Tool Central and DeWALT reserve the right to limit number of redemptions per customer and/or transaction. DeWALT reserves the right to provide alternate redemption items of equal or greater value. Offer valid only for product end users. Amounts on flyer do not include taxes. Offer not valid with any other offer or promotion. Trade-In/Discount offer only valid for purchasers trading-in any professional grade non-DeWALT comparable cordless power tool and must include charger and at least one battery. All submitted tools become property of DeWALT, and will not be returned. Offer subject to change without notice. No cash value.

Founding a city

Cody Faber, a park interpreter at the Fort Smith National Historic Site, and his colleagues daily tell stories of the First Fort, Second Fort and the Federal Court era that followed to many thousands of tourists who visit from all over the world. The stories are lively and fascinating, and include tales of Native American wars, the Trail of Tears, Gold Rush, Civil War, Deputy U.S. Marshals, the "Hell on the Border" jail, Judge Isaac C. Parker's court, pioneers and outlaws, hangings and heroes.

Faber tells the story of how the city itself got started. In 1824, mission complete, the Army abandoned that first wooden fort, but settlements had already sprung up. The Army decided in the 1830s that a permanent fort was needed somewhere in the area.

"When the Army left, a soldier named John Rogers stayed and bought a bunch of acres in the area for about \$500. When rumors of a possible fort somewhere in Indian Territory began circulating in the 1830s, Rogers wrote to the War Department, 'Hey, I have a lot of land here I can sell you for a great price!' Rogers then sold his \$500 of land to the U.S. government for \$15,000," Faber said. "Then the town really began to boom."

The Second Fort occupation began in 1838 and lasted through various missions until 1871. The following year the Army was replaced on the site by the Federal Court for the Western District of Arkansas, led most of its early years by Judge Parker. The court moved from the fort's grounds in



This photo of Garrison Avenue in Fort Smith, circa 1881, was one used by the producers of "True Grit" (2010) in re-creating the city for the Oscar-nominated production design.

1896, two years before a massive tornado leveled downtown buildings that had stood for much of the 19th century.

Highlights from the second hundred years

The next 100 years were no less colorful. Pre-Prohibition, more than 40 saloons were operating downtown. In the early 20th century, a row of bordellos sprang up in downtown Fort Smith, where for years they were legal and regulated. One, Miss Laura's Social Club, was restored and converted to serve as the city's visitor center.

Under an alias, gangster Pretty Boy Floyd lived for months two doors from a Deputy U.S. Marshal who was looking for him. Gen. William O. Darby, founder of the U.S. Army Rangers, was a native son. Elvis Presley was processed into the Army at nearby Fort Chaffee, and made international news getting his famous hair shaved off for an Army buzz cut. (That barbershop is now a museum.) The infamous gangster couple, Bonnie and Clyde, hid out in a Fort Smith motel, recovering from a gunfight. The 1970s and 1980s saw Fort Chaffee become one of the nation's primary processing facilities for Vietnamese and Cuban refugees, adding lasting diversity to the population.

Today, most of the downtown's historic buildings are restored and repurposed. Many now have vibrant, detailed murals painted on them by the internationally acclaimed street artists brought in by Fort Smith's award-winning "The Unexpected" project.

The new public art has helped transform the almost 200-year-old downtown into a visually exciting, dynamic destination. Dozens of restaurants, cultural amenities, tourist attractions, parks and miles of trails now are part of the city's appeal. ➤



Infamous outlaw Belle Starr (on horse) was tried for horse thievery by Judge Parker (pictured at left). He sentenced her to rehabilitation in Detroit.



Amazing price breakthrough!

ADVANCED HEARING AID TECHNOLOGY Under \$200

How can a hearing aid that costs less than \$200 be every bit as good as one that sells for \$2,250 or more? Although tremendous strides have been made in advanced hearing aid technology, those cost reductions have not passed on to you - **Until Now.**

An innovative board certified Chicago ENT doctor lowered hearing aid costs significantly.

Since Medicare and most private insurance do not cover hearing aids, ENT physician Dr. Cherukuri made it his personal goal to come up with a game-changing solution that customers could actually afford.

He evaluated other hearing aids and concluded that the high prices were a direct result of layers of middlemen, heavy mark-ups and expensive unnecessary features. The result is - **MDHearingAid®**, with the same kind of advanced hearing aid technology incorporated into hearing aids that cost thousands more at a small fraction of the price.

Over 250,000 satisfied customers agree: high quality FDA-registered hearing aids don't have to cost a fortune.

The fact is, you don't need to pay high prices for a medical-grade hearing aid. **MDHearingAid** gives you a sophisticated high-performance hearing aid that works right out of the box with no time-consuming "adjustment"

MDHearingAid®
DOCTOR DESIGNED | AUDIOLOGIST TESTED | FDA REGISTERED



appointments. You can even access a hearing specialist conveniently-online or by phone—even after sale. No other company provides such extensive support. **Now that you know, why pay more?**

Take Advantage of Our 45-Day Risk-Free Home Trial!

Hearing is believing and we invite you to try this nearly invisible hearing aid with no annoying whistling or background noise for yourself. If you are not completely satisfied with your **MDHearingAid**, return it within **45 days for a FULL REFUND.**



NEARLY INVISIBLE

BATTERIES INCLUDED!
READY TO USE
RIGHT OUT OF
THE BOX!

Call Today to Receive
A Year Supply of **FREE Batteries**
Plus FREE Shipping

Use Code: **DG81**

800-649-4613

MDHearingAid200.com

Doctors and patients agree:

**"BEST QUALITY SOUND"
"LOWEST AFFORDABLE PRICE"**

"I have been wearing hearing aids for over 25 years and these are the best behind-the-ear aids I have tried. Their sound quality rivals that of my \$3,500 custom pair of Phonak® Xtra digital ITE"
---Gerald L.

"I have a \$2,000 ReSound® Live hearing aid in my left ear and the MDHearingAid® in the right ear. I am not able to notice a significant difference in sound quality between the two hearing aids"
---Dr. May, ENT Physician

"They work so great, my mother says she hasn't heard this well in years, even with her \$2,000 digital! It was so great to see the joy on her face. She is 90 years young again."
---Al P.

“People in Fort Smith are engaged and invested in this community,” Mayor Sandy Sanders said. “That’s what’s made our bicentennial planning so fruitful. We’re counting on the whole city’s involvement in the events we have planned for 2018.”

Crafting 12 months of bicentennial

Fort Smith’s 2018 calendar is bursting with bicentennial events. Three years ago, Sanders began inviting community leaders to be part of a Bicentennial Committee. Jim Perry, a seventh-generation Fort Smithian on the committee, said the countless hours have been a privilege, not work. “I love Fort Smith,” he said, “and everything we have planned showcases Fort Smith’s vitality.”

Each quarter is dedicated to a theme. The first quarter explores Fort Smith’s culture of arts and history; the second celebrates its Western heritage; the third is full of homecoming events; and the fourth quarter looks to Fort Smith’s future. Other bicentennial projects are sprinkled throughout 2018. Dozens of “Bicentennial Minutes,” 60-second TV spots to air throughout the year on KFSM, highlight key moments of Fort Smith history.

The committee published a 280-page coffee-table book, “Bridging Borders & Time — A Bicentennial Portrait of Fort Smith,” now available for purchase. A limited edition, Henry .44-caliber bicentennial rifle made by Wellington LTD is also for sale, with historic scenes engraved in 24-karat antique gold and nickel. And Fort Smith’s Umarex manufactured a bicentennial six-shooter pistol.



TOP “Warpaint,” by artist D*FACE brightens a wall at downtown Fort Smith’s The Park at West End.

ABOVE Bronze statues of (left) Gen. William O. Darby and (right) legendary Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves on Garrison Avenue.

Arts, culture and heritage

Starting in January, the bicentennial events include a series of concerts, tours, exhibits, plays, lectures and attempts at two world records (biggest lip-syncing event and largest glass bottle mosaic). A new documentary short, “Alphonso’s Gold,” a jazz tribute concert about the influential bandleader Alphonso Trent, will screen on Feb. 25.

On March 3, the Fort Smith Convention Center will host an all-day cultural event celebrating the Five Civilized Tribes, whose history is intricately tied to Fort Smith’s. Perry said the Five Civilized Tribes Council enthusiastically signed on for demonstrations, performances, vendors and educational programs for the public. All five tribes — the Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw and Seminole — are participating. ➤



This vintage postcard illustrates the 1922 opening of the “Million Dollar Free Bridge” that spanned the Arkansas River from Fort Smith into Oklahoma, allowing toll-free passage for vehicles and pedestrians.

COURTESY OF THE FORT SMITH MUSEUM OF HISTORY

COURTESY OF THE FORT SMITH CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU



Merry Christmas

Thank you for your business and friendship throughout the year.

INSURING ARKANSANS FOR OVER 66 YEARS

Find the agent in your town at ShelterInsurance.com



| | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| ALMA Casey Hess Randy Milam | CAMDEN Matt Gibbs Robert Murry | GLENWOOD Simon Mack | LITTLE ROCK Stefan Elmore Steve Ferguson Dale Lockard Ron Paulson | PINE BLUFF Dee Holcomb |
| ARKADELPHIA Chad Kesterson Jeremy Hughes | CARLISLE Victor Seidenschwarz | GRAVEL RIDGE Candice Alford | MARSHALL Jeff Jennings | ROGERS Keri Earwood Tony Putnam Derek Wardlow |
| ASHDOWN Joey Bailey | CHARLESTON Jim Milam | GRAVETTE Chris Taylor | MOUNTAIN HOME John Chapman | SALEM Jeremy Stone |
| BARLING Brandon Zimmerman | CLARKSVILLE David Lasater | GREEN FOREST Matt McKinney | MULBERRY Tiffany Newman | SEARCY Richard Cargile Frank Likert |
| BATESVILLE Vicki Stephenson | CLINTON Jim Gilliam | GREENBRIER Brock Rowell | NORTH LITTLE ROCK Dan Cook Brian Cress Monica Reiners Curtis Short | SHERWOOD Benny Arnold Becky Bradley Scott Richards |
| BEEBE John Hayes | CROSSETT Dan Pevy Deb Zeigler | GREENWOOD Phil Hicks | NASHVILLE Steve Tate | SPRINGDALE Steve Harp |
| BELLA VISTA Scott Comiskey | DUMAS Stacy Berry | HAMPTON Mark Hodnett | NEWPORT Mark Manning | STAR CITY James West |
| BENTON Todd Matthews | EL DORADO Amber Manning Myers | HARRISON Roger Earnest | OZARK Toby Hogan | TEXARKANA Missy Dickens Kim Wren |
| BERRYVILLE Richard & Mary Lou Harp | ENGLAND Meredith Johnson | HEBER SPRINGS Tim Brewer | PARAGOULD Ty Sims | VAN BUREN Stuart Davis Ted McEvoy |
| BOONEVILLE Jerald Baker | FARMINGTON Griggs Covington | HOPE Trey Wright | PARRIS Jimmy Pannell | WALNUT RIDGE Danny Gibson Sue Gibson |
| BRYANT Laryssa Calley Cory Pratt Matt Steele | FAYETTEVILLE Whit Hensman Drew Trucks Taylor Wethers | HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE Josh Putman | PERRYVILLE Baylor House | WARREN Greg Harton |
| CABOT Paul Killingsworth | FORT SMITH Jeff Clark Brent Lovell Patrick Pruitt | IMBODEN Denny & Kelly Durham | PIGGOTT Tonya Coomer | |
| | | JACKSONVILLE Scott Everett | | |
| | | JONESBORO Paula Graddy | | |

We’re your Shield. We’re your Shelter.



First Electric Cooperative

Improving Quality of Life

Member Spotlight: Rocking H Farm of Houston

What started out as a casual conversation on the benefits of goat milk between two ladies in a hospital waiting room totally changed one of their lives forever.

Kelli Herring was at a hospital in 2004 with her late husband who was receiving a liver transplant. An elderly lady noticed his hands were dry and very chapped which led to a discussion about soaking his hands in goat milk daily to help him, which it did.

In 2005, Kelli had a stroke and goats were brought into her life as therapy, where she milked and cared for them. Today, it has evolved into much, much more.

In 2011, Kelli and her second husband, Mike started Rocking H Farm in Houston, Ark. From selling goat milk and goat-based products such as soaps and lotions to raising a grand champion line of lamancha goats, the work never ends.

Each product is handmade with precise detail and dedication. Kelli and a chemist friend in Oregon created a successful recipe for both the lotion and the soap that she holds close to her heart. With 15 different soap fragrances, there is surely one to fit almost every preference and style.

“Our lives have been forever changed by our goats in the best possible way,” Kelli said. “They have given us many benefits, including financially saving our farm.”

Kelli and Mike share the goat lifestyle to the fullest, making the Rocking H Farm a notable name in lamancha dairy goats. They are proud to support the different programs of Heifer Ranch in Perryville and other local non-profits. They are also especially proud of supporting local 4-H groups and youth interests in farm life.

Rocking H Farm's goat milk soaps and lotions are sold in central Arkansas retail locations. Learn more about Rocking H Farm, and where to buy products at www.rockinghlamanchas.com or on their Facebook page.

Article by Doug Brandon, marketing representative for First Electric Cooperative.



Kelli and Mike Herring of Rocking H Farm with some of their championship-line lamancha dairy goats, which are bred for milk production and disposition.



Rocking H Farm's goat milk soaps and lotions are sold in central Arkansas retail locations.

Recipe

Simple Goat Milk Cheese

1 quart Goat Milk
1/2 cup Lemon Juice
Salt to taste

In a stainless steel pot, warm milk to 180 degrees. Stir in lemon juice and let sit for 10 minutes. Line a colander with cheese cloth. Gently pour milk into cheese cloth. Fold cheese cloth around curds and tie off with a rubber band. Hang over a pot to drain for 90 minutes. Add salt or other herbs to flavor. Roll into a ball and refrigerate a couple of hours before serving. Should stay fresh for one week.



May your days be merry and bright!

First Electric Cooperative's offices will be closed December 25-26 and January 1, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Crews will be on hand in the event of an outage. Report an outage by calling 888-827-3322 or using SmartHub.

A Member-Owned Cooperative

800-489-7405
www.firstelectric.coop

Over \$86.6 million refunded to members since 1940s

Your Money Back to You! *Capital credits to be distributed this month*

First Electric Cooperative began refunding capital credits to our members in the 1940s and has continued that tradition as financial conditions permit.

So far, more than \$86.6 million has been returned, and that amount will increase with the distribution of capital credits in mid-December.

For members whose capital credits are below a pre-determined amount, the refund will be reflected on their December bill. Those with refunds that exceed the minimum will receive a check in the mail.

“Capital credit refunds are one of the major differences between a not-for-profit electric cooperative, such as First Electric, and an investor-owned electric company,” said Don Crabbe, First Electric president and CEO.

Revenue collected that is not needed to cover the cost of providing service is assigned back to members based on the amount of electricity they used during the year.

The First Electric Cooperative Board of Directors reviews the co-op’s financial position each year and determines the amount of capital credits to refund.

Help Support Operation Round-Up



Those who wish to donate their capital credit refund check to Operation Round-Up may endorse the check and bring it to any First Electric office or mail it to First Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 5018, Jacksonville, AR 72078.

The amount of money members receive is based on how much electricity they used during the year or years that are being refunded.

Members of the cooperative have a financial stake in the business. This is called member economic participation and is one of the seven principles on which this co-op was founded. It is important that every person who receives electricity from First Electric understands that they are members of the cooperative, not just consumers.

For more information, please call 800-489-7405 or visit our website at www.firstelectric.coop.



Members since 1972, Myram and Gaylon Sandefur of Concord receive their capital credit check in 2016 from district manager, Karen Southerland.

OUTAGE REPORTING

If unexpected outage occurs, you have three ways to report it

We work to provide you with safe and reliable service. In the event of an outage, help us isolate and repair the problem by reporting it.

Call 888-827-3322

If the automated system doesn’t recognize your number, it will ask for one on file. You may either enter the number using touch-tone buttons or by saying the number aloud. If you wish, you may leave a voice message with your service address and details about the outage. The system will provide an estimated time of restoration if one is available at that time. Remember to call any time your power is out and do not assume that others have reported the outage. Once you make your outage report, please do not report the outage again unless an emergency arises.

Text “OUT” to 85700

To enroll in First Electric’s texting service, just send a text to 85700 with “FECC” in the body. After texting “OUT” during an outage, the system will ask you to confirm your address and then send restoration status updates when you request them. Please note the cell phone you use must be on file. Standard text messaging rates apply.

Use SmartHub website or app

SmartHub, the co-op’s free online bill payment system, also allows you to report an outage. Using www.firstelectric.coop, log in to SmartHub and click on “Report An Outage” under Quick Links. Using the SmartHub app, click on “Report an Outage.” SmartHub especially works well for members with multiple accounts. At this time, SmartHub cannot provide estimated time of restoration or notification once power is restored. Need help with the app? Call 800-489-7405.



Correct contact information helps us serve you better. Call 800-489-7405 to update your records.



smart energy tips

Water heaters 101

BY PAT KEEGAN AND BRAD THIESSEN

Question: How long should a water heater last? And what can you do to make a water heater more energy efficient?

Answer: It's hard to say how long your water heater will last. Certified home inspectors estimate the life span to be about 10 years. Some manufacturers suggest 12 to 13 years, but I had a water tank that lasted more than 40 years before the heating element finally gave out. That said, it's wise to replace a water heater before it fails because sometimes failure includes a ruptured tank or a massive leak that can do a lot of damage.

The lifespan of a conventional water heater (one with a tank) depends on factors such as the volume of water cycled through it, the hardness (mineral content) of the water and the tank's interior coating. Many water heaters come with a warranty as long as 12 years. Presumably, a longer warranty indicates higher quality and the chances of longer life. These warranties usually only cover the cost of a replacement tank; they typically do not include the cost of labor to install it or the costs from flood damage if the tank fails.

There are a few warning signs that your water heater tank or heating element may be failing:

- Water leaking from the tank or pooling on the floor underneath it;
- Rust, corrosion or mineral deposits around fittings or release valves; or
- The water temperature from your faucets is dropping.

Most experts believe that an important water heater maintenance practice is to drain the tank every year or two. Allstate.com provides an excellent step-by-step guide. However, Ken Maleski, the residential energy adviser at Central Electric Cooperative in Pennsylvania, recommends that if your tank has not been drained in the past six to seven years, you should avoid doing so because draining could remove sediment in such a way that a leak could develop.

Here are a few simple steps you can take to increase the efficiency of your water heater:



Mineral deposits on pressure release valves or corrosion on fittings coming out of the water heater are signs of leakage that should be addressed.

- Insulate the first six to 10 feet of easily-accessed hot water line where it exits the tank.
- If the tank is warm to the touch or is in a cold location like your garage, consider insulating it with a heater blanket. But first, check the owner's manual to make sure doing so won't void the warranty. If you have a gas or propane water heater, be careful the blanket doesn't block the unit's air supply.
- Keep your water temperature at 120 degrees or less. This will help you save money on your heating bill and ensure longer life for pipes and gaskets.

Opportunities to save money on your hot water budget abound throughout the house. Showering uses almost 17 percent of our indoor water use, so you can save money by installing efficient shower heads. Replacing older dishwashers and washing machines with more efficient models will also reduce your energy bills. You should repair any leaky faucets, as a drip every second can add up to \$35 a year.

When it's time to purchase a new water heater, there are many options available. Be sure to check with your local electric co-op. Last but not least, check out Energy.gov's excellent article on selecting a new water heater. ■

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on water heaters, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips. For more energy efficiency tips, visit: smartenergytips.org.



JIM TROTH, HOMEINSPECTIONSHO.COM

36 MONTHS

NO MONEY DOWN-NO INTEREST FINANCING!* Or, NO Credit Needed

*On your purchases of \$2,500 or more with your FFO Home credit card. 36 equal monthly payments required.

Receive a 3 DAY-2 NIGHT VACATION GETAWAY! With any purchase of \$750 or more-Ask for details in stores!

Happy Holidays! SAVINGS



Microsuede Recliner Sofa **\$498** Compare at \$899
 Performance Fabric Sofa **\$595** Compare at \$849
 Double-Stitch Sofa **\$898** Compare at \$1,299
 POWER Dual Recliner Sofa **\$998** Compare at \$1,499
 POWER Leather Recliner Sofa **\$1,598** Compare at \$2,199

AMAZING BUYS-JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



Scoop Seat Rocker Recliner **\$398** Compare at \$599
 OVERSIZED Rocker Recliner **\$598** Compare at \$899
 Glazed Microfiber POWER Recliner **\$598** Compare at \$999
 The "BIG MAN" HUGE Recliner **\$675** Compare at \$999
 Deluxe POWER LIFT Recliner **\$898** Compare at \$1,499
 Deluxe POWER LEATHER Recliner **\$998** Compare at \$1,399

Great Selection of Sectionals- Compare and Save, at FFO Home!



Chaise Family Sectional **\$898** Compare at \$1,599
 Grey Family Sectional **\$1,698** Compare at \$2,499
 Metal/Glass-Compare at \$399
 Super Buys on Entertainment/Video Centers
 Wood-Barn Door 60" TV Center **\$498** Compare at \$799
 GREAT GIFT IDEA! Cherry Finish Wood Jewelry Armoire **\$48**
 Home Accents Great Selection, As Low As **\$5**
 ALL WOOD Lift Top Table **\$295**



Serta **\$298** Compare at \$499
 Ultimate Pillow Top **\$598** Compare at \$999
 Ortho Cool Gel **\$898** Compare at \$1,099
 Natural Element Pillow Top **\$998** Compare at \$1,599
 Hcomfort Hybrid **\$1,298** Compare at \$2,599



SPECIAL BUY! Serta perfect sleeper Serta Savings! Queen Size Mattress Set **\$799** Compare at \$1,399
 Twin & Full Size Pillow Top Mattress Values! Twin Matt **\$143** Full Matt **\$148**
 Adjustable Power Base & Queen Mattress Combos Starting at **\$896** Compare at \$1,599
 Head AND Foot Adjusts! Excludes Shadow Creek and Elite Styles

We Have ARKANSAS Covered!

Visit us online at www.ffohome.com



- Harrison**
1211 HWY 62-65 N.
Mountain Home
1771 HWY 62 E.
Fort Smith
8819 Rogers Avenue & 6412 HWY 71 S.
Van Buren
2308 Fayetteville Rd.
Bryant
22401 HWY I-30
Sherwood
6527 Warden Rd.
W. Little Rock
280 S. Shackleford Rd.
Hot Springs
180 Aviation Plaza
Searcy
405 S. Poplar
Jonesboro
2839 Race Rd.
Fayetteville
1535 N. College
Springdale
3384 W. Sunset Ave.
Rogers
3724 W. Walnut
Russellville
2606 E. Main St.
Conway
580 Amity Rd.
Batesville
1 Furniture Lane!
Siloam Springs
3758 HWY 412 East
AND NOW IN PARAGOULD
1210 Linwood Drive

Top Names- Big Savings



Where Great Quality Lives for Less

WHY PAY MORE?

\$295

BASIC DENTURES (SET)

DENTAL CENTERS

2 Locations:

MID-AMERICA DENTAL & HEARING CENTER-LOOP
558 E. Mt. Vernon Blvd. • Mt. Vernon, MO 65712
1-800-372-4554

MID-AMERICA DENTAL & HEARING CENTER-HWY.
1050 W. Hayward Dr. • Mt. Vernon, MO 65712
1-800-354-1905

www.MidAmericaDental.com

Dr. Hildreth & Associates are Missouri licensed General Dentists. They are not licensed in Missouri as specialists in the advertised dental specialty of Prosthetics.

USA BARN

"Proudly serving our rural communities"
Log on for 24 hour information
www.usabarn.com



Built to fit your needs, Any size or design.
Call and speak with one of our knowledgeable associates today!

We accept:   

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5 * Sat 8-12 Central
1-877-872-2276
Fax: 918-686-5512

Quality Materials By:
Burrow's Post-Frame Supply

Your Nail Fungus Can Be Gone!

(athlete's foot & cracking heel, too)



Herbal Nail Fungus Soak™

The Healthy, Natural Alternative

For Fingernails & Toenails
Athlete's Foot and Cracking Heels

\$16⁹⁵
(price includes postage)

"Dear Jim, I ordered the nail fungus soak for my daughter, and it worked wonders. I have ordered it twice for my father to use on his feet, and he is like a kid. He is so excited to see how well his toenails look after years of fungal infections have misshapen his toenails. We are going to keep using until his nails are completely healed. Thank you so much for your product! Blessings!"
...Debbie B., North Carolina

Your Fungus Can Be Gone! I Guarantee it!

Phone **417-779-5450** Long Creek Herbs
P.O. Box 127-R
Mon. - Fri. 8 - 5 Central Blue Eye, MO 65611

LongCreekHerbs.com

A Veteran-Owned Company

Selling to the Public

\$885 Sky Blue Steel 20 gauge casket
20 Years in Business

\$550 Polypropylene Dome Burial Vault

Prepurchase Plans
\$0 Down, \$35 a month No Interest

Register Book & Thank You Cards included in package

Made in USA

Special Package Price \$1435 PLUS TAX

Call For Brochure 

CaringCaskets

28 South College, Suite 17, Fayetteville, AR
888-443-6414 www.caringcaskets.com

LET US BUILD IT!

"We Build" prices are honored at Benton & Hot Springs stores. Call for a low quote at Ft. Smith*




SUBURBAN SHOP BUILDING W/ 8' COVERED PORCH
• 2x4 wall girts & roof purlins. • Truss design.
• 10' sidewalls. • Treated posts & splashboard.
• 1 - 9'x7' garage door. • Entry door and lockset.
• Color-matched roofing & siding screws.
• Quality 45 year steel roofing and siding. • 2 - windows.
• Nails and hardware. Engineering wet stamp not included (if required).



DELUXE SUBURBAN POLE FRAME GARAGE • Engineer designed trusses.
• Painted metal roofing & siding. • 36" steel walk door.
• 10' sidewalls. • Insulated steel garage door.
• Other options & sizes available

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 18' X 30' | • (1) 9'x7' garage door. 4121364 | W/ ATTACHED 8' SIDE SHED |
| YOU BUILD \$4849 | WE BUILD \$6969 | WE BUILD \$8569 |

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 24' X 30' | • (2) 9'x7' garage doors. 4121521 | W/ ATTACHED 8' SIDE SHED |
| YOU BUILD \$6199 | WE BUILD \$8859 | WE BUILD \$10489 |

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 30' X 40' | • (2) 9'x7' garage doors. 4121604/87 | W/ ATTACHED 10' SIDE SHED |
| YOU BUILD \$7899 | WE BUILD \$11399 | WE BUILD \$13599 |

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 36' X 40' | • (2) 10'x8' garage doors. 0000000 | W/ ATTACHED 8' SIDE SHED |
| YOU BUILD \$10099 | WE BUILD \$14199 | WE BUILD \$16199 |

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 30' X 50' | • 12' sidewalls. • (2) 10'x10' garage doors 8578262 | W/ ATTACHED 12' SIDE SHED |
| YOU BUILD \$10499 | WE BUILD \$14999 | WE BUILD \$18399 |

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 40' X 50' | • 14' sidewalls. • (2) 12'x12' garage doors. 0000000 | W/ ATTACHED 8' SIDE SHED |
| YOU BUILD \$15450 | WE BUILD \$21450 | WE BUILD \$24299 |



TRADITIONAL POLE BUILDING PACKAGE
• Treated posts & splashboard.
• Painted siding. • 10' sidewalls.
(8', 12' & 14' also available).

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 18' X 30' 3635588 | YOU BUILD \$3299 | WE BUILD \$5419 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 24' X 30' 3646379 | YOU BUILD \$3999 | WE BUILD \$6659 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 30' X 40' 3646510 | YOU BUILD \$5599 | WE BUILD \$9099 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|

Sutherland's

FOR MORE INFORMATION DIAL **1-800-66-BARN!**

Prices may vary after December 31st, 2017

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| BENTON (877) 778-8713 (501) 778-8713 | 1209 Military Rd. | FT. SMITH (479) 646-7858 (800) 494-3551 | 1801 South Zero | HOT SPRINGS (501) 321-4354 | 1831 Albert Pike |
|---|-------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|

*Building package prices are approximate and may vary due to daily changes in commodity market conditions. Free estimates on complete or partial building packages are available. Customers should check local building codes before starting building projects. The building packages illustrated are suggested designs and plans are available at Sutherlands store locations. A trip fee may be applied to jobs beyond 100 miles from store location. We reserve the right to limit quantities to the amount reasonable for homeowners and our regular contractor customers. Some items may vary slightly from illustrations. We cannot be held responsible for printing errors, however, we will make every effort to clarify any confusion they may cause. All warranty information is available at the service counter. See store for details.



Snapshots from our readers

Reflections



Little Travis' Christmas joy. Beckie Paskewitz, Mena.



The sun through ice. Mrs. Detsil Turner, Blytheville.



Now that's one proud dog! Charles Hatfield, Bentonville.



Katie and her special time with Santa. Jean Baltz, Paragould.



Kayla loves spending time with her chickens. Jessica McBay, Enola.



Shotsi, waiting on Santa. Regina Dunkerson, Elizabeth.



Fun in the snow. Robert Hopp, Kibler.



Mila's first Christmas. Rosa Farmer, Batesville.



Jaxton and Jordan's SpongeBob snowman. Kristen Sams, Parthenon.



Cowboy and Sunshine kicking up their heels. Felix Bowie, Garfield.



Avery, Easton and Jaxon letting their lights shine! Pam Bourland, Heber Springs.



Cardinals at the feeder. Laurie Raffel, Rogers.

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

Or mail to: Reflections, Arkansas Living P.O. Box 510 Little Rock, AR 72203

Gifts for the gardener

BY JANET B. CARSON

If you have a gardener on your Christmas gift-giving list, you have a lot of great options.

Gardeners never have everything they could possibly need. There are always new gardening gadgets, pruners, hoes and containers. Ergonomic tools for our aging gardeners, hand tools and even kid-size tools are available in many different sizes and shapes. Power tools abound, from mowers to chain saws, mulching machines, blowers and trimmers. You know someone is a serious gardener if a load of compost is on their wish list. And they may need a wheelbarrow or cart to haul it with.

There are plants to purchase, including trees, shrubs, fruit trees, blueberry bushes, houseplants, bulbs and seeds. Holiday plants are always welcome, from the popular poinsettia to amaryllis, red bromeliads, cyclamen, kalanchoe and orchids. Living wreaths or garlands, topiary rosemary plants or other holiday plants are other options.

A subscription to a popular gardening magazine or one of a myriad of gardening books will always be a good choice. Whether their interest is fruits and vegetables, ornamentals, houseplants or herbs, there is a book on that topic. Consider the gift of membership in a local plant society such as the Native Plant Society, Herb Society or Orchid Society. If they love vegetables but don't have room to grow their own, give them a share in a CSA (community supported agriculture) program where they get fresh vegetables each week during the growing season.

If they are new to gardening, get them started with a raised-bed kit. Raised-bed frames come in a range of

sizes and shapes. Just add some soil and seeds to get them growing when the season begins. If mobility is an issue, there are now salad tables and herb beds where you can stand while you garden. Garden scooters and kneeling benches also make gardening more accessible.

The most important input for a garden is water. To help your gardener, there are hoses, drip irrigation kits, spray-wands and nozzles, and sprinklers. A fancy watering can or hose-end sprayer would also be welcome. And to make sure they know what the weather is in their yard, a home weather station or simple rain gauge is a sure hit.

No gardener will ever have enough garden gloves — or be able to find them when they need them. Gloves aren't the only wearable gardening item — safety



Pruners, containers and garden gloves are appreciated by gardeners.



A living wreath makes a great gift.

glasses, mosquito-repellent clothing, sun-repellant clothing, hats, aprons, kneelers and, of course, garden shoes are a favorite.

From clogs to boots, there is a wide range of options in myriad colors and patterns.

For the serious gardener, you could give them a greenhouse. If they already

own one, there are many gadgets that can be added, from automated heaters or watering systems to shelves, storage components and pots.

Hydroponic and aquaponic systems are available for folks to grow plants indoors and in greenhouses. In addition, there are living-wall kits that allow you to grow a green wall. Plant lights have also come a long way. Instead of "grow-light bulbs" there are now specialized LED light kits with many different options, which make growing transplants easy. You can also grow herbs or salad greens year-round on your kitchen counter.

High-tech gardens

High-tech has also hit the gardening world. There are plant sensors that you put in the ground near your plants that monitor water and fertilizer needs. A rain sensor is a smart gadget to add to your sprinkler system to avoid watering when it is pouring down outside, and there are even containers for houseplants that talk to you about the needs of the plant.

There is also an endless array of art for the garden, from statues and fountains to wind chimes and mobiles. Glass objects, metal-works, stone and bronze pieces abound. From small garden flags and rugs to large trellises and gazebos, the list of outdoor living choices is almost unlimited. Think about patio furniture or benches, potting sheds or a garden umbrella. Grills and outdoor kitchens continue to gain in popularity as more people live in their yards, as well as their homes. ■

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

Foundation Problems???

Call Us Today For a Free Estimate!

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

SLAB REPAIR

- ❖ DuraSteel Piers
- ❖ Pilings
- ❖ Mud Pumping
- ❖ Raising & Leveling
- ❖ Brick Repairs

PIER & BEAM

- ❖ Sills Replaced
- ❖ Joist Replaced
- ❖ Rotten Floors Replaced
- ❖ Raising & Leveling
- ❖ Termite Damage Repair

FRENCH DRAINS

- ❖ Wet Basement
- ❖ Wet Crawl Space
- ❖ Poor Yard Drainage

Locally Owned & Operated



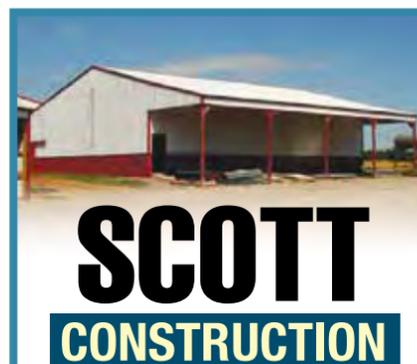
Piers to Stable Clay

Pressed Pilings to Refusal

HOME SERVICES FOUNDATION REPAIR, INC.

www.homeservicesfoundationrepair.com • Toll Free: 1-877-256-7900

HOME SERVICES SAVES YOU MONEY!



SCOTT CONSTRUCTION

**Pole Barns
All Sizes Available**

Business Hours
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Toll Free: 1-800-762-3170
Fax: 1-918-696-6072

www.scottpolebarns.com

We accept:
MasterCard and Visa

**World's Most Powerful
Leaf Vacuum...at a
New LOW PRICE!**



- ✓ Rated #1 in Vacuum Power
- ✓ Now at the Lowest Price Ever
- ✓ Converts to an All-Purpose Trailer
- ✓ Stores Flat in Minutes

DR® LEAF VACUUMS have proven in laboratory testing to achieve the most vacuum power versus competitors. And now, our All-New PILOT Model combines this same amazing yard clean-up power with an equally amazing new price!

Now Starting at Just **\$999⁹⁹** with **FREE SHIPPING**

FREE SHIPPING 1 YEAR TRIAL

SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY

Call for **FREE DVD and Catalog!**

TOLL-FREE
877-200-6254
DRleafvac.com



Setting the Standards **HIGHER** for Over Sixty Years



SMITH STEEL has been an innovative leader in the metal building industry since 1950. We continually strive to supply you with the highest quality metal building at the most competitive prices. Whether it's a manufacturing facility, warehouse, farm shop, equipment shed, retail store, mini-storage, or that back yard shop that you always wanted, we have the right building for you. All of our buildings are custom designed to fit your exact needs using our state of the art computer design technology. We use the highest quality metal building components and materials insuring you many years of quality service.



SpecSmith.com | 800-831-3837



Bigger Buttons

“My friends all hate their cell phones... I love mine!” Here's why.

FREE Car Charger

No Contracts

Say good-bye to everything you hate about cell phones. Say hello to the Jitterbug Flip.

“Cell phones have gotten so small, I can barely dial mine.” Not the Jitterbug® Flip. It features a large keypad for easier dialing. It even has a larger display and a powerful, hearing aid compatible speaker, so it's easy to see and conversations are clear.

“I had to get my son to program it.” Your Jitterbug Flip setup process is simple. We'll even program it with your favorite numbers.

“What if I don't remember a number?” Friendly, helpful Personal Operators are available 24 hours a day and will even greet you by name when you call.

“I'd like a cell phone to use in an emergency.” Now you can turn your phone into a personal safety device with 5Star® Service. In any uncertain or unsafe situation, simply press the 5Star button to speak immediately with a highly-trained Urgent Response Agent who will confirm your location, evaluate your situation and get you the help you need, 24/7.

“My cell phone company wants to lock me in a two-year contract!” Not with the Jitterbug Flip. There are no contracts to sign and no cancellation fees.



| Monthly Plan | \$14.99/mo ¹ | \$19.99/mo ¹ |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Monthly Minutes | 200 | 600 |
| Personal Operator Assistance | 24/7 | 24/7 |
| Long Distance Calls | No add'l charge | No add'l charge |
| Voice Dial | FREE | FREE |
| Nationwide Coverage | YES | YES |
| 30-Day Return Policy ² | YES | YES |

More minute plans and Health & Safety Packages available. Ask your Jitterbug expert for details.

“My phone's battery only lasts a short time.” Unlike most cell phones that need to be recharged every day, the Jitterbug Flip was designed with a long-lasting battery, so you won't have to worry about running out of power.

“Many phones have features that are rarely needed and hard to use!” The Jitterbug Flip contains easy-to-use features that are meaningful to you. A built-in camera makes it easy and fun for you to capture and share your favorite memories. And a flashlight with a built-in magnifier helps you see in dimly lit areas. The Jitterbug Flip has all the features you need.

Enough talk. Isn't it time you found out more about the cell phone that's changing all the rules? Call now! Jitterbug product experts are standing by.

Available in Red and Graphite.

Order now and receive a **FREE Car Charger** – a \$25 value for your Jitterbug Flip. Call now!

jitterbug flip

firstSTREET
for Boomers and Beyond
1998 Ruffin Mill Road
Colonial Heights, VA 23834



IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Jitterbug is owned by GreatCall, Inc. Your invoices will come from GreatCall. ¹Monthly fees do not include government taxes or assessment surcharges and are subject to change. Plans and services may require purchase of a Jitterbug Flip and a one-time setup fee of \$35. Coverage is not available everywhere. 5Star or 9-1-1 calls can only be made when cellular service is available. 5Star Service will be able to track an approximate location when your device is turned on, but we cannot guarantee an exact location. ²We will refund the full price of the Jitterbug phone and the activation fee (or setup fee) if it is returned within 30 days of purchase in like-new condition. We will also refund your first monthly service charge if you have less than 30 minutes of usage, a per minute charge of 35 cents will be deducted from your refund for each minute over 30 minutes. You will be charged a \$10 restocking fee. The shipping charges are not refundable. There are no additional fees to call GreatCall's U.S.-based customer service. However, for calls to a Personal Operator in which a service is completed, you will be charged 99 cents per call, and minutes will be deducted from your monthly rate plan balance equal to the length of the call and any call connected by the Personal Operator. Jitterbug, GreatCall and 5Star are registered trademarks of GreatCall, Inc. Copyright ©2017 GreatCall, Inc. ©2017 firstSTREET for Boomers and Beyond, Inc.

We proudly accept the following credit cards:



47669

Call Toll Free
MAPBC
Other Sizes Available

MID-AMERICA Pole Barn Co.

30 x 50 x 10 Galvalume

SPECIAL!

Price includes material, delivery, construction, factory trusses, screws.

Open Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

866.456.0959

H&H TRUSS & SUPPLY / H&H CONSTRUCTION



We Have the Most Competitive Prices in the Business!

HIGH QUALITY ENGINEERED WOOD ROOF TRUSSES
Complete Roof Truss Packages for Residential, Commercial and Agricultural Applications.

STEEL ROOFING & SIDING

Galvanized • Galvalume • Wide Selection of Colors

We sell everything you need to build a metal or wood building: roof trusses, metal, insulation, posts, screws, hangers and more.

FREE BUILDING QUOTES

1-479-754-4999 • 1-800-607-4999 • Fax 1-479-754-4899 • www.hhtruss.com



Grow half-dollar size Muscadines and Blackberries. We also offer over 200 varieties of Fruit and Nut Trees plus Vine and Berry Plants.

Ison's Nursery Since 1934
PO Box 190
Brooks, GA 30205
1-800-733-0324 • isons.com

Visit **arkansasliving** online at:



arkansaslivingmagazine.com





Holiday Treats

We are pleased to bring you more holiday recipes from some of the executive chefs who teach at the University of Arkansas - Pulaski Tech's Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management Institute in Little Rock. These chef-inspired twists on traditional favorites will delight your guests' taste buds and round out your holiday meals. Discover more at arkansaslivingmagazine.com. We wish you all a very merry season of delicious cooking and baking!



Homemade Green Bean Casserole

Homemade Green Bean Casserole

- 2 pounds fresh green beans, cut into thirds
- 4 oz. unsalted butter
- 1/2 yellow onion, diced small
- 3 stalks celery, diced small
- 4 oz. all purpose flour
- 2 quarts chicken stock
- salt and pepper to taste
- french-fried onions, as needed to top



Heat the oven to 375 F. Bring heavily salted water to boil in a large saucepan. Add the green beans and cook until they are just tender. Drain and shock in ice water. Set them aside.

Melt the butter in a heavy-bottomed saucepan and sauté the onions and celery. Add a little salt and pepper.

When the vegetables are soft, stir in the flour to make a roux. The roux should be almost but not quite pourable. If the roux is dry and lumpy, add some more butter. If it is too liquid, add some more flour. Cook the roux for a few minutes, but do not brown it.

Whisk in the stock a little at a time to prevent lumps from forming. Continue adding the stock until the sauce is fairly thin. Simmer the sauce until it has thickened to a nice consistency. It should easily coat the back of a wooden spoon. Taste and adjust salt and pepper as necessary.

Put the green beans in a large casserole pan and pour the sauce over the beans. Mix well. Bake at 375 F for about 30 minutes.

Remove the casserole from the oven and top with your favorite french-fried onions. Or you can make your own onions by slicing them very thin, tossing them in seasoned flour, and frying them in hot oil.

By William Ginocchio, CEC

Chocolate-Chai Cheesecake

Crust

- 2 cups of Oreos, crushed
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 6 tablespoons butter, melted

Heat the oven to 375 F.

Bring heavily salted water to boil in a large saucepan. Add the green beans and cook until they are just tender. Drain and shock in ice water. Set them aside.

Melt the butter in a heavy-bottomed saucepan and sauté the onions and celery. Add a little salt and pepper.

When the vegetables are soft, stir in the flour to make a roux. The roux should be almost but not quite pourable. If the roux is dry and lumpy, add some more butter. If it is too liquid, add some more flour. Cook the roux for a few minutes, but do not brown it.

Whisk in the stock a little at a time to prevent lumps from forming. Continue adding the stock until the sauce is fairly thin. Simmer the sauce until it has thickened to a nice consistency. It should easily coat the back of a wooden spoon. Taste and adjust salt and pepper as necessary.

Put the green beans in a large casserole pan and pour the sauce over the beans. Mix well. Bake at 375 F for about 30 minutes.

Remove the casserole from the oven and top with your favorite french-fried onions. Or you can make your own onions by slicing them very thin, tossing them in seasoned flour, and frying them in hot oil.

By William Ginocchio, CEC

Chocolate-Chai Cheesecake

Crust

- 2 cups of Oreos, crushed
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 6 tablespoons butter, melted

Filling

- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 2 cups (12 oz.) semisweet chocolate, chopped
- 1 teaspoon instant coffee powder
- 24 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 4 eggs, room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

Chai Whipped Cream (start day before)

- 2 chai* tea bags
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 2 cups (12 oz.) white chocolate, chopped

To make Chai Whipped Cream, heat 2 cups heavy cream just until it starts to steam. Steep with chai tea bags for 5 minutes. Remove tea bags and squeeze to remove excess cream. Reheat cream just to a boil and remove from heat. Add white chocolate, let sit for 30 seconds to melt the chocolate, then whisk until smooth. Chill overnight.

*Flavor of chai whipped cream can easily be changed — try different flavors of tea, such as Earl Grey or instant coffee or a coffee pod for a mocha flavor.

Cheesecake

Heat the oven to 375 F. Lightly grease a 9" springform pan and line with parchment paper for easier removal.

Process chocolate cookies in food processor with melted butter and powdered sugar. Press mixture firmly into the bottom of the pan and up the sides if desired. Reserve a small amount for garnish.

Bake the crust 10-15 minutes.



Chocolate-Chai Cheesecake

Remove it from the oven.

Reduce the oven heat to 350 F.

Combine the cream and chocolate chips in a microwave-safe container. Heat, stirring at 30 second increments, until the chips melt and the mixture is smooth. Add the coffee powder and set aside.

Beat together the cream cheese and sugar at low speed (use paddle attachment with stand mixer), until thoroughly combined. Scrape the bottom and sides of the bowl and beat again on low until smooth.

Add the eggs one at a time, scraping mixture with rubber spatula after each addition.

Add vanilla, then the flour.

Add the chocolate/cream mixture, beating slowly until thoroughly combined. Scrape the bowl with rubber spatula, then mix again until smooth.

Pour the batter atop the crust in the pan. Bake the cake at 350 F for 45 to 50 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the cake 1 inch from the outside edge comes out clean. You can also check the temperature with a thermometer — it should read 175 F, 1 inch from the outside edge.

Turn off the oven, crack the door open several inches and allow the cake to cool in the oven for 1 hour. Remove the cake from the oven and allow to cool completely. Refrigerate it until chilled completely or overnight.

Take chocolate chai whipped cream

top of cheesecake and smooth with an offset cake spatula. Sprinkle with reserved chocolate crumbs. Chill in fridge until ready to serve.

By Jan Lewandowski, CEPC

Bacon Jam

- 1 pound bacon, chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, smashed
- 1 stem of thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 teaspoons ground black pepper
- up to 5 cups of water
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon Cajun or Creole Seasoning
- 1/4 cup black coffee, brewed
- 3 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- salt (if needed, depends on the bacon's saltiness)

Chop bacon and add to a heated sauté pan. Render until halfway crispy, then add onions, garlic, herbs and pepper. Sauté until bacon is crispy and onions are tender. If necessary, remove any remaining fat from the pan. Deglaze by adding 1 cup of water. Adjust heat to a simmer, being sure the mixture continues to bubble but not boil. Allow to reduce by half, then add brown sugar, seasoning, coffee

and vinegar. Allow to reduce again by half. You will continue this process of reducing until all the water is used up, 1 cup at a time, and the mixture has reduced to a syrupy consistency. You can serve it a little bit chunky, or it can be smoothed into a spread using an emulsion blender, regular blender, or food processor. Serve as a spread on crackers or cheese or as a topping for burgers or sandwiches.

By Jill McDonald, CEC

Chocolate Pecan Pie

- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2s cup chopped pecans
- 1/3 cup mini semi-sweet chocolate chips



Chocolate Pecan Pie

Heat oven to 400 F.

In a large bowl, beat eggs until foamy, and stir in melted butter. Stir in the brown sugar, white sugar and the flour; mix well. Last add the milk, vanilla and nuts.

Pour into an unbaked 9-inch pie shell that has the chocolate chips already spread evenly on the bottom. Bake 10 minutes at 400 F, then reduce temperature to 350 F and bake for 30 to 40 minutes, or until done.

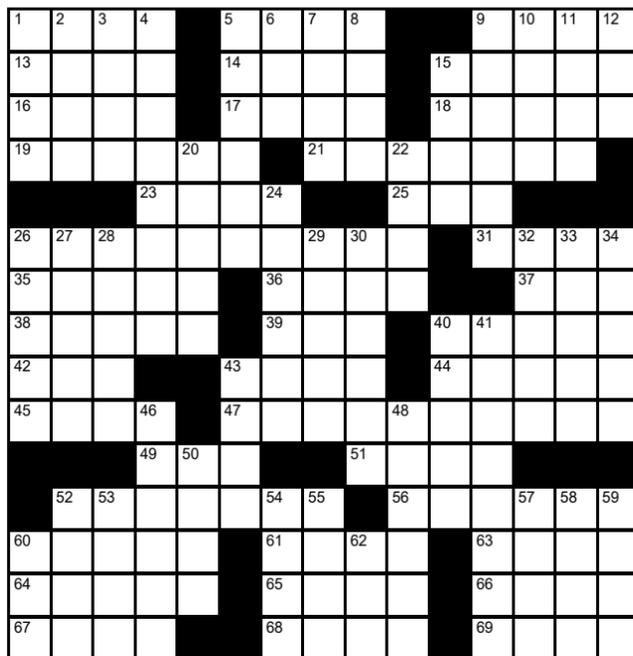
By Robert Hall, CEC

crosswordpuzzle

BY JULIE K. COHEN

ACROSS

1. Radio station 100.3 in Little Rock
5. Hugo __ menswear
9. Answer an invitation
13. Cousin of a gull
14. Aware of
15. Widow's inheritance
16. Famous cookies?
17. Essential
18. Quartz found in Crowley's Ridge
19. Arkansas Trail of Holiday __
21. "X-Men" villain
23. Mideast money
25. Not a Civil disagreement?
26. Energy __ Arkansas
31. Wiped out
35. Sound heard on New Year's Eve
36. Grammar subject
37. "That feels good!"
38. Types of cabbages
39. __ for tat
40. He's everywhere in Arkansas in December
42. __ out a living
43. Climb
44. Take the Pajama __, A&M Railroad
45. Razorbacks' color and some wines
47. Christmas activity at Lawrence Plaza, Bentonville
49. And so on
51. Abominable Snowman
52. Show of affection
56. Poisons
60. San Diego baseballer
61. Christmas song
63. Door sign
64. Historic __ French House near Clover Bend
65. Robe for Caesar



66. Like a desert
 67. Feel sorry for
 68. Fragrance
 69. Need this for a white Christmas
- DOWN**
1. Bibliographical abbr.
 2. Moore of "Empire"
 3. Hinderliter __ Shop (or a rum drink)
 4. Put in a Hall of Fame
 5. Little Japanese tree
 6. Arkansas Nuclear __
 7. Science Technology Engineering Math
 8. Grapette from Camden
 9. Hawkins House location
 10. Special Weapons And Tactical
 11. Say 'no' to
 12. Opposite of post-
 15. Comedian Carvey
 20. Virus-carrying biters
 22. Actress Nell
 24. Relating to still water
 26. Air Force Base (Lights of Delta Festival location)
 27. Bit of 69 Across
 28. Put away
 29. It may be white?
 30. Precious
 32. Hawaiian veranda
 33. Like some kitchens
 34. Loud, resonant sound
 40. Arkansas is the 25th in the U.S.
 41. Decorative skill
 43. Queen Wilhelmina State Park, __ Mountain
 46. Town that hosts Nativity display with 200+ volunteers
 48. Vest used by 10 Down
 50. Buy one at Motley's, Geisler's or Bradbury's before Christmas
 52. Island near Java
 53. Modify
 54. "Do __ others as..."
 55. ' __ Day Sunshine' by The Beatles
 57. Plow pullers
 58. Dali contemporary
 59. Beaver Tail dish
 60. Empty words
 62. Alter __ (e.g. Banner to Hulk)

Crossword answers on Page 37

NEW PRODUCT

Arm Protection- for Home and Work

- Comes in various Sizes and Colors.
- Website shows nearly 100 uses for this product.
- Helps prevent Bruising, Cuts, Scratches, and Burns.
- Ideal for those who Bruise Easily or have Thin Skin.
- Protection from thorny/needled plants & trees.
- Easily worn under regular gloves or over sleeves.

Helps prevent this!!

651.492.4830
www.armchaps.com

Arthritic Knee Pain?

Painless, Non-Surgical Cold Laser Treatment Is Now Available In North Little Rock and Hot Springs.

If you're suffering with severe chronic knee pain or facing knee replacement, there may be hope. A knee pain therapy program is now available that offers a comprehensive system of treatment, which includes Class IV Cold Laser Therapy. This non-surgical treatment has helped thousands become pain free. A **Free Knee Pain Information Packet** is now available that reveals how this non-surgical, painless approach can end knee pain, as well as stimulate healing of damaged degenerated knee tissue. If you suffer from knee pain, you need to order this **Free Information Packet** while supplies last. Already had surgery and still in pain? Our program has also helped pain from failed surgery. **To receive your Free Information Packet Call Toll Free (888) 281-2292. Hurry, supplies are limited. (24 hour recorded message)**

© 2017 RMG

marketplace

You Want It? We'll Build It!
ANY PHASE FOR YOUR BUILDING NEEDS.

FLOYDS
EST. 1969
Berryville, Ar

Metal Building Sales,
Construction & Manufacturing
www.floydssales.com
(870)545-3568

No Job Too Big or Too Far!
STEEL TRUSSES, BUILDING KITS, TURNKEY CONSTRUCTION

ASK US ABOUT DO-IT-YOURSELF KITS **888-545-3769**

Agricultural Buildings • Garages • Workshops • Warehouses

Call the **Roof King** for your Mobile Home Roofing Needs!

1-800-748-0645

Established 1982

Mobile Home Super Insulated Roof Over Systems
40 Year Warranty

Factory Direct from Roof King

www.roofking.net

VISA

POLE BARN

30' x 50' x 10' Enclosed \$7400.00
30' x 50' x 10' w/15' Shed . . . \$9200.00
36' x 50' x 10' Horse Barn . . . \$9400.00
30' x 40' x 10' Enclosed \$6600.00

DT Construction

Office: (918) 489-5764
Fax: (918) 489-2268

Colored Metal Available
Free Estimates
All workers fully insured
P.O. Box 795 • Gore, OK 74435
In the Pole Barn business for over 40 years
www.dtbarns.com

INDIVIDUAL HOME SEWAGE TREATMENT

SINGULAR[®]
by NORWECO

FREE ESTIMATES

ODOR FREE

501-517-7198
CLEAR FLOW
CABOT, AR

crossword answers



WATER PROBLEMS ??

NO MORE SAND!

NO MORE IRON!

NO MORE HARDNESS!

NO MORE SULFUR!

NO MORE BACTERIA!

PROBLEMS SOLVED WITH NO SALT & NO CHEMICALS

FREE BROCHURE~1-800-392-8882
MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!
VISIT US AT www.waterproblems.net

ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Mobile Home Roof Problems?

- Leaking • Rumbling
- Having Expensive Utilities

PERMANENT STEEL RE-ROOF SOLVES THE PROBLEM!

26 and 29 Gauge Steel in 10 Colors
2" and 3" Insulation
12" Overhangs

LIFETIME WARRANTY

CUSTOM STEEL ROOFING
1-877-230-6874

Steel Mobile Home Roofing

Leaks? High energy bill? Roof rumble?

Contact us at 800.633.8969
or roofover.com

PERMA-ROOF[®]
from Southern Builders

Mobile Home Roofover Systems
Since 1983

arkansasliving 37

The Hole in the Wall Cafe delivers Southern comfort

BY ROB ROEDEL

Conway is a very progressive central Arkansas city with colleges and rapid growth of commercial development, but the Hole in the Wall Cafe is preserving a piece of the community's past by occupying a former cotton gin and delivering small-town, down-home comfort foods day in and day out.

Owner Toni Burrows was raised in east Arkansas, where she helped her grandma and mom prepare genuine Southern comfort food. Her daughter, Erica Holland, is following in her footsteps and helping serve the crowds of loyal customers at the Hole in the Wall.

The restaurant building, located in Conway's thriving downtown revitalization area, ginned its last bale of cotton in 1971. In 2011, Burrows



The restaurant is located in a repurposed cotton gin.

the eating essentials

HOLE IN THE WALL CAFE

1016 Markham
Conway
501-205-1325

Hours of Operation

Tuesday - Friday: 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



opened the Hole in the Wall and began utilizing the massive floor space to serve meals and host civic club meeting, weddings and other special events. Their motto is "real Southern cooking and home of skillet fried cornbread."

"I enjoy the people and being able to provide them with home-cooked meals that bring back childhood memories," Burrows said. "We cook everything from scratch daily to ensure freshness and perfect flavor. I'd rather cook than eat. I love to experiment with new recipes and develop new items for our guests to enjoy."

The restaurant offers a cafeteria-style service with a daily feature deal that includes a meat, two sides and cornbread or a roll. The meat and side options are plentiful, as are the desert choices.

I wanted to try everything. Luckily, I brought two co-workers on the visit.

The Hole in the Wall staple is the Chicken Parmesan. This is not your Italian-style dish, but a Southern-style take on it that has a delicious white wine sauce and plenty of fresh Parmesan cheese coated around a tender chicken breast. It absolutely melts in your mouth. The Chicken Parmesan was served with a side of rice, great northern beans and black-eyed peas. I won't waste words explaining the flavors as I can do that in one word...perfect! And, the skillet-fried cornbread is the bomb.

The crispy outside and the sweet butter flavor resulted in me begging for a second piece to make sure I had tasted it correctly.



The hand-breaded chicken breast, real mashed potatoes and turnip greens is the perfect plate of comfort food.

One of my colleagues opted for a veggie plate that included macaroni and cheese, hashbrown casserole, broccoli casserole and real mashed potatoes. It must have been great; she cleaned her plate as I was taking photos of the other plates. Seriously, it was a plate of pure Southern comfort.

The third plate featured a huge, hand-breaded chicken breast that was deep-fried to golden perfection and topped with white gravy. Additionally, the plate had real mashed potatoes and some of the best smoky-flavored turnip greens that I have had in quite a while.

As Toni and Erica selected desserts for my party to try, we learned that the Hole in the Wall is a local favorite, while some customers drive from neighboring cities twice a week on the days their favorite specials are served. However, Thursday is the mystery special day, with Toni surprising guests with a variety of meats and vegetables.



The Hole in the Wall Pecan Carmel Cheesecake.

The peanut butter pie was a creamy piece of goodness that I thought was the ideal way to top off the great items that we had tried, until the strawberry cake arrived. This super-moist creation is two layers of sweetness, just like eating fresh strawberries without having to prepare them. Then Toni brought us one of her creations, pecan caramel cheesecake, which featured chopped pecans atop a fluffy, chopped pecan-loaded cheesecake, drizzled with caramel in a homemade crust. We called it a three-way tie as all three were yummy!

If you've never seen a cotton gin, if you have a hankering for Southern comfort food and if you want to be treated like an old friend, make sure to visit Toni, Erica and the team at the Hole in the Wall Cafe in Conway. ▀

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

MANAGER OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Help improve the quality of life for more than 1.2 million electric cooperative members.

Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC) is searching for a Manager of Energy Efficiency to plan, develop, coordinate, implement and evaluate residential energy efficiency and services programs for AECC and its 17 member systems.

Make a difference.

The candidate selected will assist member systems with their residential energy efficiency programs to promote the efficient use of electricity.

Be a part of a great team.

Based in Little Rock, AECC is one of the top generation and transmission electric cooperatives in the United States with assets of more than \$1.7 billion.

Applications received via www.aecc.com. If you need application assistance, please contact our recruiter at 501-570-2200.



Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation

EE01A/AF/NETS/DISABLED



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wishing you and your family a blessed holiday season and happy new year!

800-444-3276
ARFarmCredit.com



Let us warm up your Christmas!



CONGO
SINCE 1920
FIREPLACE & PATIO

19650 I-30 • Benton AR
Monday - Saturday 8-6
501-316-4328 • 1-(800)-421-4447
I-30 Between Exit 118 & 121 North Side of Freeway

A Little Rock Christmas

BY JERRY DEAN

Snows all seemed deeper, crisper back then. The air, somehow chillier.

Savory aromas, wafting from that Franke's Bakery delivery truck pulled into our driveway, seemed sweeter, more poignant.

And the twinkling lights in a lively downtown Little Rock seemed brighter by far than they ever have since.

They've written volumes about Christmas in New England. Holidays in a frozen Midwest. In balmy Texas and California. But what was it like in 1950s Arkansas? In that state's growing capital city of 100,000 souls? Well, like nowhere else, that's for sure.

Typically, Mom began holiday preparations after Thanksgiving, assembling our cards, envelopes and addresses. Using her excellent penmanship, she'd address each envelope to distant relatives in places I then thought exotic. To those up in chilly Ohio, where she'd once lived. To others in Hollywood, where movies were made. Or sunny Florida, where our well-to-do Dean kin had retired to fancy places like Sarasota, St. Pete or Boca Raton.

Early in December, Mom and I would hike a few blocks up to our trolley line. We'd wait in a queue inside a tiny Hillcrest branch post office while middle-aged men with eye-shades puffed smoke as they efficiently weighed and stamped packages and bundled our stacks of Christmas cards. If a card then was destined for a local address, one just wrote CITY on it, no Zip codes. Leave that flap unsealed and you'd save a penny off each 3-cent first-class postage!

From there, we'd saunter down to Spatz's Bakery, where a friendly German couple daily baked heavenly bear claws, eclairs, Long Johns and cherry danishes — each done up in festive holiday wrap. Just open that door, hear that bell jangle and holiday aromas poured out past your nose onto the sidewalk! Next door, the huge picture window at Bush's Barber Shop revealed men patiently getting holiday trims and shaves, perhaps from the gregarious Barnwell



The Arkansas State Capitol in the 1950s and 60s was decorated in red and green lights. A Nativity scene featuring hand carved figures is pictured at the top of the Capitol steps.

brothers. A bootblack, meanwhile, buffed men's dress shoes to high luster, then proudly displayed his handiwork in the picture window for passersby to admire. A block down Kavanaugh Boulevard, friendly Carroll Stegall greeted each holiday shopper entering his variety store, its shelves stocked with notions to make anyone a fine Christmas gift. After shopping, one could sashay back up the street to Leo Whisenant's cozy drive-in — a former Tastee-Freeze — where meaty cheeseburgers, fries and thick chocolate malts were daily fare. Just plug some change into Leo's Rockola juke box and you might hear Gene Autry sing about "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" or hear Mel Tormé croon about chestnuts roasting.

Looking for the special gift

Sometimes, suburban Hillcrest shops lacked special gifts required for close friends or family. Mom and I then hopped a South Main bus, 25 cents fare, for a half-hour's ride into town. We'd pass a busy Christmas tree lot at Stiff Station, then admire bright lights atop the Arkansas School for the Blind's Parnell Hall. Crossing the Third Street viaduct, we'd see our State Capitol, its dome festooned in blinking red and green lights! At Broadway, we'd glimpse the 555 Auto Center where young men sometimes drove a Model T Ford along its roofline crest, five stories up! That was a mere prelude to Main Street, where silver aluminum tinsel was strung across

streets, one sidewalk to the other. Huge silver metal stars dangled above intersections. Traffic lights flashed what seemed a seasonal red, then green. Some intersections had "Denver lights" to stop traffic in all directions at intervals, so avid shoppers legally could jaywalk, "scrambling" across crowded intersections.

Downtown offered those shoppers a dizzying array of retail — cozy Allsopp & Chapple bookstore and Moses Melody Shop for records. Main's west side had a parade of hotly competing department stores — M. M. Cohn's, Gus Blass, Kempner's, Penney's, Sears and Pfeifer Bros., each courting shoppers' holiday dollars. Show windows abounded with fine clothes for adults and toys for us hopeful kids. Miniature American Flyer and Lionel trains whizzed about. Animated Santas with attendant elves hammered away in a polar toy shop. One store boasted upstairs a huge miniature circus

layout — its midway and sideshows fully lit and animated. It was feast enough for adult eyes. But for us kids, it was a fantasy paradise!

Downtown magic

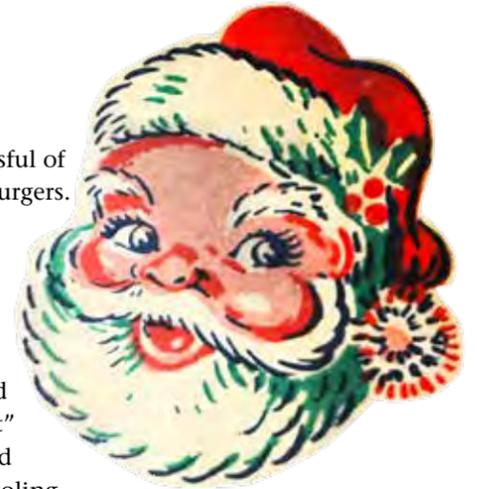
Just across Capitol Avenue stood iconic Walgreen's, a pharmacy boasting arguably the world's finest soda fountain-dinette! A roast turkey dinner with all trimmings set you back 79 cents. All city buses converged at Capitol and Main streets transfer point, beneath Walgreen's colossal rooftop neon that advertised Finkbeiner's "Arkansas Maid" frankfurters and "Capitol Pride" meats. That sign, unlike seasonal Christmas lights, was a year-round fixture, radiating its dazzling red, white and blue Capitol-dome image into moist evening air every night.

Just up Main, toward the Manning Hotel, floated an eerie green neon proclaiming it as the upstairs studio for KTHS-AM 1090. The station had moved from Hot Springs' fine, old Arlington Hotel, where call letters had stood for Kome To Hot Springs! In a few more years, that station would become "The Mighty 1090," beloved KAAY, known far and wide to all us young rockers!

Nearby, three major downtown theaters offered first-run holiday entertainment. The old Royal on Main had become the Center Theater. The former Pulaski on West Capitol Avenue was renamed the Capitol. And the fine, old Kempner Opera House on Louisiana had "Arkansas Theater" on its marquee. In their midst stood Franke's excellent cafeteria with its hallmark eggplant casserole, and the cozy Krystal

dinette that sold sacksful of 12-cent mini-cheeseburgers.

Visit downtown at just the right time and you'd be stalked by a huge papier-mache chap sporting a top hat and monocle. "Mr. Peanut" moseyed and sashayed up and down Main, doling out silver teaspoons of hot, salted peanuts — samples for youngsters who'd then eagerly coax parents into the store to buy holiday nuts. Cashews. Pecans in volume. Mr. Peanut somehow KNEW which kids already had enjoyed his largesse. No seconds! Yet his meandering presence was all part of the intangible holiday spirit downtown.



A grand parade

So what could possibly add more holiday charm? Salvation Army bell-ringers? How about a Christmas Parade? Down south toward the Southern Maid Doughnut shop, we heard the blare of high school bands, their ground-shaking drum corps yet blocks away. Anticipation rose gradually until musicians, rank and file, hove into view. Some wore red and green holiday garb as they played traditional Christmas music. Between bands marched lively Spirit groups — cheerleaders, drill teams — carrying banners, shaking pompons or twirling batons. Drum majors wore fancy shakos and spats, and strutted as they led musical masses marching down Main Street, its sidewalks jammed with gawking spectators. Mounted horse patrols clopped by. Shriner clowns honked horns or roared past playfully, stunting in noisy miniature cars as they passed. The last band played "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town." And, as if by magic, a sleigh-like float appeared with a jolly Santa at its helm.

Many families used to end their fest with a visit to the Capitol's east steps and the manger scene erected there. In 1992, the state divested itself of that tradition, but the private Foundation to Protect and Promote the Nativity still erects a similar display annually. It's moved to the south mall near West Seventh Street. There's still a parade with Santa, and the Capitol is covered in lights, although they are now clear and not red and green. It is heartening to see the old traditions remain as new ones begin. ■

Jerry Dean grew up in Little Rock in the 1950s and worked at the Arkansas Gazette as a reporter and later the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. He now resides in Tennessee.

Calendar

Dec. 1

Greater Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce Parade of Lights
Eureka Springs

A magical light parade in the Historic Loop of Eureka Springs. 6 - 8 p.m. www.eurekaspringschamber.com.

Dec. 1-2

26th Annual Festival Of Christmas

Jones Performing Arts Center, Arkadelphia

Musical production that rings in the Christmas season.

7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Dec. 1-3

The Arkansas Craft Guild 39th Annual Christmas Showcase

Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock
Hand made fine art and crafts by members of the Arkansas Craft Guild. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. www.arkansascraftguild.org.

Dec. 1 - Jan. 6

Stewart Family Christmas Lights

4423 E. Wyman Rd., Fayetteville
A walk-through display with over 750,000 lights, more than 300 inflatables and a train for adults and children. 5:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Dec. 1 - Jan. 13

A Fertle Holiday

The Joint Theater and Coffeehouse, North Little Rock
Arkansas' profession comedy company puts on their holiday show. Fridays and Saturdays. 8 - 10 p.m. www.thejointargenta.com.

Dec. 1-31

21st Annual Enchanted Land of Lights & Legends

Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Regional Park

The state's largest drive-through display of holiday lights. 6 - 9 p.m. www.pinebluffcvb.org.

Holiday Lights at Garvan Woodland Gardens

Garvan Woodland Gardens

4.5 million brilliant bulbs transform approximately 17 acres into a memorable animated holiday display. 3 - 9 p.m. www.garvangardens.org.

Enchanted Forest Trail of Lights

Sherwood Forest, Sherwood

Beautiful Christmas displays. Donations and nonperishable food items welcome. 6 - 9:30 p.m. www.cityofsherwood.net.

Dec. 2

Big Jingle Jubilee Parade and State Capitol Lighting

Broadway and Capitol Ave. and Arkansas State Capitol

The state's annual Christmas parade leads to Santa turning on the Capitol lights and visiting with kids. 3 p.m. www.littlerock.com.

Holiday Craft and Bake Sale

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Mountain Home

Handmade crafts, candy and baked goods. Free coffee and spiced apple cider. 8 to 2 p.m.

Bells and Baa-aas

Heifer International Campus, Little Rock

Don your ugly sweaters and bring the whole family for children's activities, shopping and our fuzzy animals. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. www.heifer.org.



26th Annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk For Arthritis

Clinton Presidential Library Park, Little Rock www.jbr.org/LittleRock.

21st Annual Wood Turners Show and Sale

Baxter County Fairgrounds, Mountain Home

Something for everyone: Pens, vases, bowls, salt and pepper shakers and grinders, duck calls. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. www.ozarkwoodturners.com.

6th Annual "Celebrating Arts and Crafts" Festival

Historic Langley Gymnasium, Langley
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Dec. 4-15

Festival of Trees

Fairfield Bay Conference Center

Explore this special holiday forest of decorated trees. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. www.ffbchamber.com.

Dec. 9

City of Ward Christmas Parade

Downtown, Ward

2- 4 p.m.

Home for the Holidays Marketplace

Veteran's Park Event Center, Cabot

Gather your family for a day of shopping, fun and holiday spirit! 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. 501-749-3174.

Dec. 10

Mooseltoe

EACC Fine Arts Center, Forrest City

A magical and whimsical musical production for all ages. 3 p.m. www.eacc.edu/pages?id=198.

Dec. 15

Christmastime in Arkansas

Hot Springs Convention Center

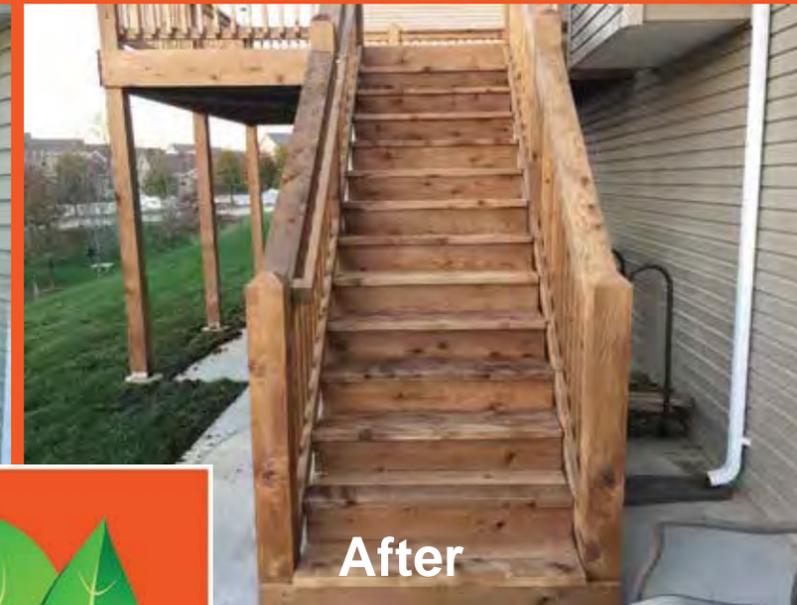
Concert featuring Joe Diffie, The Ned Perme Band, Ryan Couron and Bonnie Montgomery benefits the Arkansas Food Bank. www.hotsprings.org

Never Seal Your Wood or Concrete Again

PERMANENT ONE-TIME SOLUTION



Before



After



Before



After



25% OFF with this ad

Free Estimates

Call PermaSeal Today
844-481-6862



www.permasealusa.com
Backed By Technology

- We clean, restore and permanently preserve your product.
- Prevents wood from rotting, warping and further damage from moisture.
- Retards mold, mildew and fungus growth.
- Prevents concrete from pitting, flaking, dusting, cracking and scaling.
- Prevents salt and alkali damage.



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.



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

*From your local
electric cooperative*

