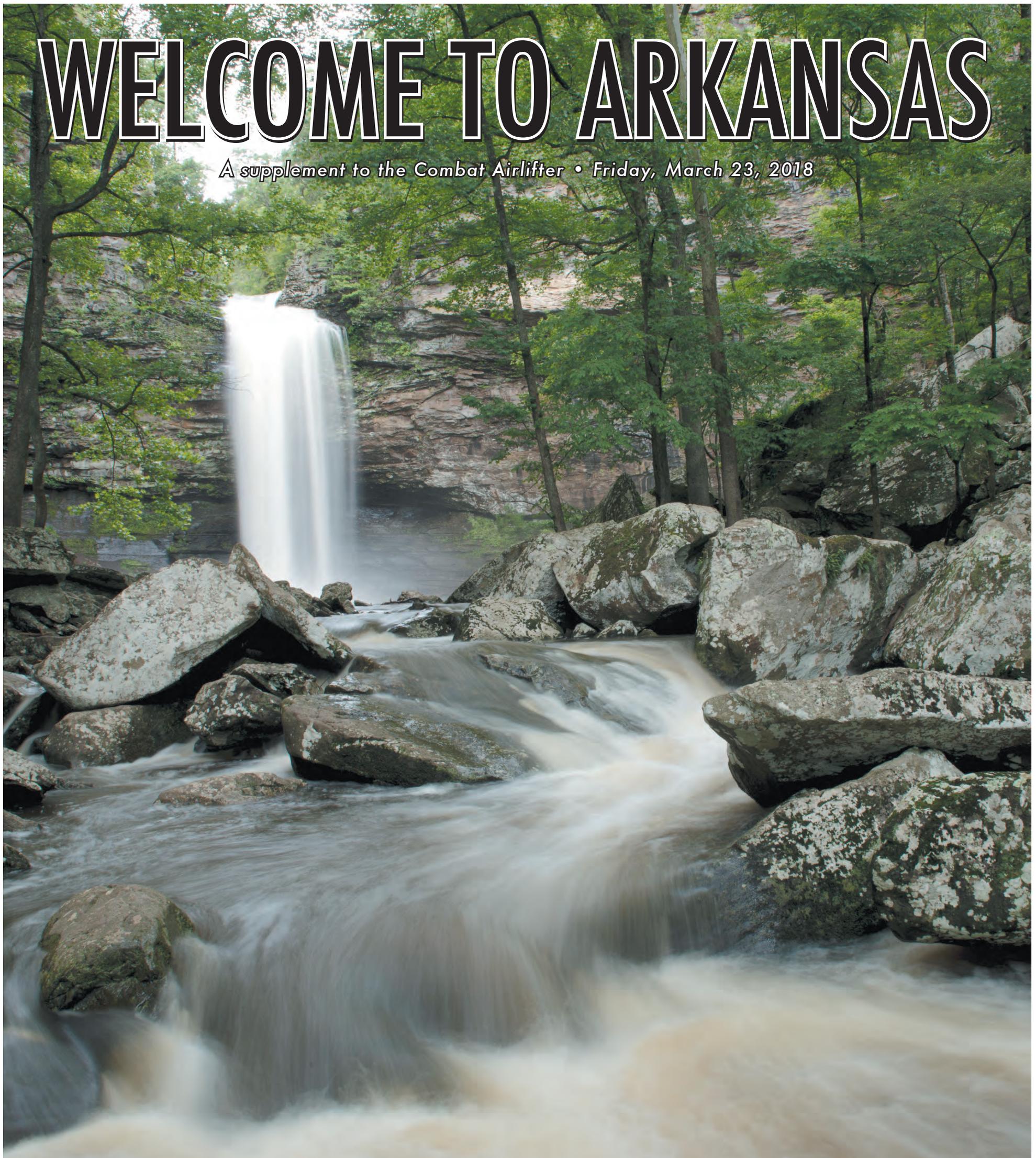


WELCOME TO ARKANSAS

A supplement to the Combat Airlifter • Friday, March 23, 2018





Above, The Rock 'N' Roll Highway 67 Museum, located inside the Newport Economic Development Commission office in Newport, features memorabilia and vintage photos from the nightclubs, juke joints and theaters that were located along U.S. Hwy. 67 in northeast Arkansas and hosted musical legends Conway Twitty, Elvis Presley and Jerry Lee Lewis during their early careers. The museum is open to the public but continues to be a work in progress. Interested individuals can call 870-523-1009 for more information. Sister Rosetta Tharpe (left) is slated to be inducted to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame later this year. She is often referred to as the Godmother of Rock and Roll.

A musical road trip

By Kim Williams

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism

What do Johnny Cash, Louis Jordan, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Conway Twitty, Howlin' Wolf, Charlie Rich, and Al Green have in common? In addition to becoming musical legends in various genres, each of these trailblazers was born or lived in eastern Arkansas. The region's roster of "musical alumni" is impressive: William Warfield, Levon Helm, Albert King, John Weston, Charlie Rich, Robert McFerrin Sr., Sonny Boy Williamson and Sonny Burgess, to mention only a few. Music plays an important part in the history and culture of eastern Arkansas.

February might not be the best time to get outdoors in the Arkansas Delta, but it's a great time to do a "musical road trip" and explore the musical heritage of the region.

Visit the Arkansas Entertainers Hall of Fame Located in Pine Bluff, the Arkansas Entertainers Hall of Fame celebrates Arkansans who made an impact on the field of entertainment, including Sister Rosetta Tharpe, who will be inducted posthumously into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame later this year. Visitors are greeted by an animatronic Johnny Cash when entering the facility. Exhibits include artifacts, costumes and personal memorabilia of the museum's inductees, including Cash, literary powerhouse John Grisham, actors Billy Bob Thornton and Mary Steenburgen, and composer William Grant Still. The Arkansas Entertainers Hall of

Fame is located inside the Pine Bluff Convention Center at 1 Convention Center Plaza. To learn more about the facility, visit www.ArkansasEntertainersHallofFame.com.

Sit in for a live broadcast of "King Biscuit Time" The Peabody-award winning "King Biscuit Time" is the longest-running daily blues radio show in the United States. First broadcast in November 1941 on KFFA-Radio in Helena, the show featured future blues legends Sonny Boy Williamson and Robert Lockwood, Jr. In the seven decades since, former listeners and renowned artists B.B. King and Levon Helm have touted the broadcast as an early musical influence. "Sunshine" Sonny Payne has served as the program's host since 1951. Payne, a former bass player for the likes of Tex Ritter, Harry James and Ted Williams, has become a blues legend himself, earning membership in the Blues Hall of Fame and the Arkansas Tourism Hall of Fame. Payne broadcasts "King Biscuit Time" weekdays from 12:15-12:45 p.m. at the Delta Cultural Center Visitors Center, located at 141 Cherry Street in historic downtown Helena. Find out more about "King Biscuit Time" www.deltaculturalcenter.com/Explore/king-biscuit-time.

Explore Regional Museums Many museums throughout eastern Arkansas pay homage to the men and women from the area that made their musical mark on the world. Brinkley native Louis Jordan became a sensation in the 1940s and 50s as a bandleader,

musician, songwriter and performer, and earning him the titles "the Father of Rhythm and Blues" and "King of the Jukebox." The Central Delta Depot Museum in his hometown maintains a permanent exhibit dedicated to Jordan and his career. In historic Helena, you'll find the Delta Cultural Center, a museum dedicated to the history of the Arkansas Delta, including its music. In addition to being home to "King Biscuit Time" radio show, the DCC is home to Delta Sounds, an interactive, state-of-the-art area dedicated to the music of the Arkansas Delta, including blues, gospel and rockabilly. You'll find personal memorabilia from some of the musicians who called the region home, including Conway Twitty's high school yearbook, when he was known by his given name, Harold Jenkins. The Rock 'N' Roll Highway 67 Museum, located inside the Newport Economic Development Commission office in Newport, features memorabilia and vintage photos from the nightclubs, juke joints, and theaters that were located along U.S. 67 in northeast Arkansas and hosted musical legends Conway Twitty, Elvis Presley and Jerry Lee Lewis during their early careers. The museum is open to the public but continues to be a "work in progress." Interested individuals can call 870-523-1009 for more information.

Explore the amazing musical heritage of the Arkansas Delta. Grab some music, jump in your vehicle and sing out loud...and learn why music is the "heartbeat" of this rhythmic region.

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On the cover

Cedar Falls at Petit Jean is one of many waterfalls around the state.

12 cures for cabin fever

By Jill Rohrbach

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism

Baby it's cold outside. But what's that you say? You have cabin fever? No worries. There's plenty of inside fun to be had at these 12 fabulous and free museums that hit interests such as elk, Elvis, art, race cars, wine and history.

Mark Martin Museum in Batesville. Martin is a 2017 NASCAR Hall of Fame inductee. His cars and trophies are showcased in this state-of-the-art museum in the town where the NASCAR legend's racing career started.

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville. The permanent collection spans five centuries of American art from colonial to current day. Amenities include a restaurant, museum store, library, and a Frank Lloyd Wright house preserved and relocated on the grounds.

Museum of Native American History in Bentonville. Walk through America's past by viewing artifacts from more than 14,000 years ago. The adventure begins through the great doors when visitors are greeted by a woolly mammoth skeleton. Exhibit rooms span five different periods arranged in chronological order of Indian history from all of the Americas. Audio wands are available for self-guided tours.

21C Museum Hotel in Bentonville. Located on the northeast corner of the town square and a short walk to Crystal Bridges, this 104-room boutique hotel is also a contemporary art museum, cultural civic center, and home to The Hive restaurant led by award-winning Chef Matthew McClure.

The Walmart Museum in Bentonville. This family-friendly museum includes interactive exhibit galleries,



Artifacts from five different periods can be found at the Museum of Native American History in Bentonville.

a working dime store, and a 50s-style soda fountain. Located on the picturesque square, the museum tells the story of Sam Walton's humble origins and the growth of Walmart to become the world's number one retailer.

Clinton House Museum in Fayetteville. History was made in the living room as Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham wed at their first home in October 1975. Steps away from the University of Arkansas, the 1930s Tudor Revival-style home showcases the life and times of the Clintons Fayetteville years through photographs, memorabilia, vintage campaign materials and a gift shop.

Listed on the National Register.

Chaffee Barbershop Museum in Fort Smith. This restored WWII Army barbershop where thousands of U.S. soldiers received their signature G.I. buzz cuts is most known for being the place where Elvis Presley reported for duty in 1958. Period memorabilia and photographs document the "hair cut heard 'round the world." Other museums in the vicinity include: Museum of Chaffee History and the Vietnam Veterans Museum.

Fort Smith Regional Art Museum in Fort Smith. This state-of-the-art, 16,000-square-foot facility offers traveling exhibitions, permanent collection works, classes for children and adults, artist-led workshops, family days, films, concerts, lectures, and a museum shop.

Miss Laura's Visitor Center in Fort Smith. This restored turn-of-the-century brothel is now the city's visitor center offering family-friendly guided tours.

Hilary Jones Wildlife Museum and Elk Information Center in Jasper. Here you'll find exhibits, video presentations, printed information about elk and other wildlife in Northwest Arkansas, plus a gift shop and loaner fishing poles and tackle. Plus, you'll likely be able to see elk in Boxley Valley right from your warm car.

Arkansas Historic Wine Museum in Paris. This is the only wine museum in the United States dedicated to preserving the wine history of a state. It contains historical information of Arkansas's wine-making industry, a wine press, fermentation tanks, barrels and storage tanks, bottling, and labels.

Shiloh Museum of Ozark History in Springdale. Nestled in a park-like, two-acre wooded setting, the museum offers exhibits, programs, special events, a research library, photos and collections about the Arkansas Ozarks, historic buildings, and a museum store.

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A statue on the grounds of the Arkansas State Capitol in Little Rock pays homage to the Little Rock Nine who integrated Little Rock Central High School in 1957. Left, Little Rock Central High School National Historic site was a major test in 1957 of the Civil Rights act where nine African-American students integrated the all-white school. These sites are among more than 100 attractions across 14 states that debuted on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the 155th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation at the U.S. Civil Rights Trail.

Arkansas part of new U.S. Civil Rights Trail

By Zoie Clift

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism

A U.S. Civil Rights Trail, which includes over 100 attractions across 14 states, debuted this year to coincide with Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the 155th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. On the trail, which is a project of Travel South USA and the National Parks Service, are landmark sites from the civil rights era in the 1950s and '60s. Arkansas is included in the project and below are the sites that are part of the route in the state.

Arkansas Civil Rights Heritage Trail – This trail, which was created in 2011, begins on the sidewalk outside the Old State House Museum at 300 West Markham Street. Each year, a theme is chosen to honor a particular group of people who were active in Arkansas's civil rights movement. New markers are added to it in a public ceremony each year. This is a project of the UALR Institute on Race and Ethnicity.

Clinton Presidential Center – Home of the Little Rock offices of the Clinton Foundation, the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum and the Clinton

School of Public Service. Bill Clinton served five terms as the Governor of Arkansas before becoming the 42nd President of the United States, serving for two terms, from 1993 to 2001. Clinton is the recipient of numerous awards for his approach to civil rights throughout his political career.

Daisy Bates House – A National Historic Landmark, this house at 1207 West 28th Street was the home of Arkansas NAACP president Daisy Bates and became a command post and sanctuary for the nine students involved in the Little Rock Central High School desegregation crisis during 1957-58. It now serves as the L.C. & Daisy Bates Museum. For more details on the museum, visit www.batesmuseumfoundation.org/about-us.

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site – The only active high school in the U.S. that is also a national historic site. This school was a major test in 1957 of the Civil Rights act where nine (the Little Rock Nine) African-American students integrated the all-white school.

The visitor center across the street at 2120 W. Daisy Gatson Bates Drive depicts this moment in history through exhibits and photos.

Little Rock Nine Memorial – A statue on the grounds of the Arkansas State Capitol in Little Rock that pays homage to the Little Rock Nine who integrated Little Rock Central High School in 1957. These nine African American students were: Melba Pattillo, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Gloria Ray, Carlotta Walls, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, Minniejean Brown and Thelma Mothershed. A comment from each of The Nine is found on individual bronze plaques identifying which student is which.

Mosaic Templars Cultural Center – This center was founded in Little Rock in 1882 as a fraternal organization by John E. Bush and Chester W. Keatts. The reconstructed museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving, interpreting and celebrating Arkansas's African American culture and community.

For more information about the trail, visit civilrightstrail.com.

Art in its Natural State is first exhibit of its kind

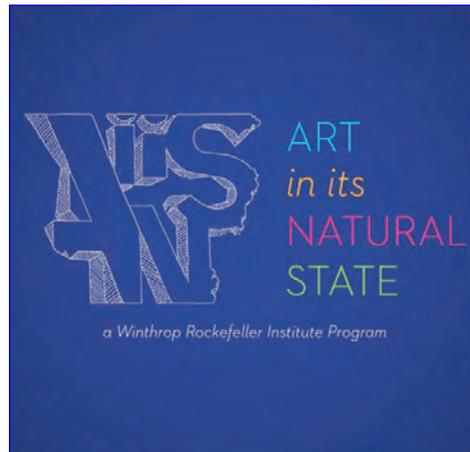
By Zoie Clift

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism

An outdoor art exhibition is set to be showcased among the natural beauty of Petit Jean Mountain. The exhibit, which is called Art in its Natural State, is a celebration of the arts in Arkansas and is the first exhibit of its kind in the state. The featured art will be displayed on the grounds of the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute and Petit Jean State Park and includes 10 original site specific installations that have been created by artists from across the South.

"Events and exhibitions such as Art in its Natural State add to the quality of life here in Arkansas," said Janet Harris, director of programs at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute. "Art, in all of its forms, is something that inspires and connects us. It has the potential to create shared experiences and greater understanding between different kinds of people."

Art has an important tie to the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute. "Many people know about Winthrop Rockefeller's role as a philanthropist and catalyst in advancing the arts in Arkansas," said Harris. "Among other things, he spearheaded the effort to raise funds to establish the Arkansas Arts Center and personally funded the Arts Center's Artmobile. But what many don't know is that Winthrop's love of art was passed down to him by his mother, Abby Al-



drich Rockefeller. Abby instilled in Winthrop the sense that art could serve as a bridge across cultures, across races, across fundamental differences in the human experience. One of the themes of Winthrop's life was his commitment to improving human relations, and art played an important role in that."

To celebrate the launch of the exhibit and reveal the artwork, Winthrop Rockefeller Institute and Petit Jean State Park are hosting a special event on April 28. The festival-type event will include demonstrations and the artists will also all be on hand to give talks throughout the day. A range of Arkansas arts organizations will also be on hand that day to provide various interactive experiences for the public, including Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art; the Arkansas

Arts Center; the Arkansas Arts Council; the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra; the Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre and the University of Arkansas School of Art.

Festivities throughout the day are free and open to the public, though prior registration is required. The day closes with a ticketed evening reception featuring food, beverages, and music by the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra's Rockefeller Quartet and a concert by Bonnie Montgomery. After this, the eight installations on the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute's campus will be on display for one year and the two at Petit Jean State Park will be on display for at least six months.

Harris said the exhibit was designed with long range goals in mind. "By extending the call for artists to all Southern states, we intended to put Arkansas on the map in our region as a state that is committed to supporting artists and creating ways to access their work," she said. "And by working alongside our distinguished list of partners, we hope to create new opportunities for partnership and develop a cooperative inertia among arts-related organizations in Arkansas."

The idea for Art in its Natural State came from a desire to create an experience that would capitalize on the heritage of the area. "The natural beauty

of Petit Jean Mountain has inspired artists for centuries, dating back to Native Americans who once resided atop the mountain and adorned their cave dwellings with artwork that is still visible today," Harris said. "Holding onto the theme of the mountain's natural beauty, Payton [Christenberry, a program officer who oversees arts programming at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute] began researching programs throughout the world that featured outdoor art. The Horizons competition in the Sancy region of France particularly stood out, and Payton was able to structure the artist competition in a similar fashion. Our idea to involve so many partners came from our team brainstorming about how this program could support our overall mission. By having our partners add to the overall experience of our launch-day activities, we are not just inviting people to come see amazing art that we have commissioned; we are providing an opportunity for visitors to engage with a wide variety of arts organizations and learn more about how they each uniquely add to the robust arts scene in Arkansas."

More information about the exhibition, the launch-day activities, the evening reception and the artists themselves can be found at rockefellerinstitute.org/art.

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Fly fishing film night you don't want to miss

By Jill Rohrbach

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism

March is a great month for people who love fly fishing – the annual Fly Fishing Film Tour comes to town.

The original and preeminent exhibition of fly fishing cinema, The Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T), will take place at 7 p.m. Monday, March 26 and Tuesday, March 27 at George's Majestic Lounge in Fayetteville.

With an emphasis on the stories, characters and

fisheries that help make up the vast world of fly fishing, the 2018 F3T will take you from Michigan to Honduras, from Wyoming to Greenland, from the mind of a child to the heart of a musician, from the edge of your seat to the end of the earth and back.

Buy your tickets at www.flyfilmtour.com or support a local fly shop where discount tickets are available: McLellan's Fly Shop in Fayetteville or Dally's Ozark Fly Fisher near Cotter.



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Italian culture showcased at inaugural festival

By Zoie Clift

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism

Italian culture will take center stage at the first annual Arkansas Italian Food & Culture Festival April 20-21 in North Little Rock. The festival is being held at the North Shore Riverwalk.

"In reality I've wanted to do a festival like this for many years," said festival co-founder Patrick Presley. "I've long looked for a way to honor my mother's family who came from Italy. Also, I've always believed that there was far more diversity in the American South than most of the country realizes or the history books have given us credit for. That's also a key motivator for me personally. Part of that diversity is the role of Italian-Americans in Arkansas, which as a state we have a deep and rich history going back to Italians arriving in Lake Village, Tonitown, Center Ridge, Pine Bluff, Marion, Little Italy, and certainly Little Rock and North Little Rock. This is a great way to highlight that culture and history on many levels. And who does not love Italian food?"

Presley said festival highlights will include adult



and youth soccer tournaments, bocce tournaments, a celebrity and kids grape stomp challenge, an Italian car exhibit, live entertainment, Italian music, and "of course food, food, and more food." Food offerings range from lasagna, pizza, and Italian beef to cannoli and zeppole. There will also be wine and beer.

Along with this will be a VIP food tent catered by Ristorante Capeo that will have Northern Italian specialties on Friday and Southern Italian specialties on Saturday. On Thursday (April 19) the festival kicks off with a documentary at the Clinton School of Public Service by Italian-American filmmaker Matteo Zengago called "I Sopravvissuit" (The Survivors) about the lives of Italian Americans in Arkansas and across the Delta.

Admission to the festival is \$5 per person at the Willow Street entrance. Kids five and under get in free. All proceeds will benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Central Arkansas. "The impact of that alone can be potentially huge on so many levels to help kids have a better life and future, which in turns means a better future for our city and Central Arkansas," said Presley. For more details on the festival, visit aritalianfestival.com.

Biking event debuts May 6

By Zoie Clift

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism

The inaugural Little Rock Dirty Fondo debuts this spring on May 6. The biking event will be held the day after the popular Little Rock Gran Fondo and will begin and end at the historic Marlsgate Plantation. "There will be 25 and 50 mile distances," said event founder Ron King. "This is a ride not a race, although there are those who will be trying to set personal records. The ride will be held on farm roads in the Scott area which are mostly gravel and flat."

The event will begin with coffee and pastries at 6 in the morning at Marlsgate with the ride starting at 7. "After completing their chosen course distances, riders will return for a traditional Southern box lunch on the grounds of Marlesgate with champagne and other beverages," said King. There is also set to be craft beer, live music by singer Billy Jeter and more. Marlsgate is located at 2695 Bear Skin Lake Road in Scott. The event is being sponsored by Arvest and all proceeds go to Recycle Bikes for Kids. If interested, you can sign up here.



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Spring guide to the Buffalo National River

By Jill Rohrbach

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism

Do an online search for things to do in Arkansas and the Buffalo National River is always a prevalent suggestion.

In fact, it was recently named the number one Best Arkansas Attraction in USA TODAY's 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards list for 2018.

Why? The nation's first national river has 95,730 acres with three designated wilderness areas. Rushing whitewater is interspersed among sections of calmer water as the river wends its way 135 miles through the lush green valley that is home to elk, deer, black bear, and other woodland creatures. Tall limestone bluffs in earthy hues of gray, tan and brown are defining features of the Buffalo, one of the few remaining undammed rivers in the lower 48 states.

Along its corridor, you'll find canoe and kayak outfitters, campsites, trails, cabin rentals, quiet pools and white-water rapids, an elk herd, ghost town, zip lines, and historic areas such as the Boxley Valley Historic District, the Parker Hickman Homestead, and the Villines Cabin.

There are 100 miles of maintained trails within the river park for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. Rock climbers can find great routes for climbing and bouldering. Anglers will find a fish population of over 60 species, including small mouth bass, largemouth bass, Ozark bass, and goggle-eye.

So, it's no surprise that the Buffalo also ranks high for things to do for Spring Break in Arkansas. Since Spring Break is right around the corner, here's all you need to know to plan a trip to the Buffalo National River.

Call ahead to reserve your kayak, canoe, or raft.

The Buffalo National River is best described in three sections, the upper, middle, and lower. Permitted park concessioners for each section of the Buffalo River rent canoes, kayaks, and rafts, and provide shuttle services. Typically, the float season begins in the upper Buffalo in the spring. More water makes this section attractive for the adventurous seeking a higher level of challenge with whitewater kayaking. The season moves downstream with the months. The middle and lower sections



An overlook on the Buffalo National River trail.

are usually floatable year round, while the upper is sometimes too low in the summer months. Because the Buffalo is largely rainfall dependent, floating opportunities for each section can change not only from season to season, but week to week. For river levels and concessioner information, visit www.nps.gov/buff/planyourvisit/floating.

Plan your stay in a cabin or campsite.

In the Lower District (South Maumee to Buffalo City), Buffalo Point Concession operates the only accommodations within the park boundary. Located at Buffalo Point, rustic cabins built circa 1939 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the four-unit lodge (also CCC constructed) and modern duplex cabins are available for rent. These rentals are very popular and may be reserved 18 months in advance. For more information and

reservations, contact Buffalo Point Concession at 870-449-6206 or visit www.buffalopoint.net.

Other lodging is available through the local canoe concessioners and other local owners of cabins, bed and breakfast inns, and motels located in remote areas or in nearby towns. Check the Arkansas Tourism website at www.arkansas.com, Buffalo River Chamber of Commerce, or local chambers of commerce sites for listings.

Drive-in, walk-in, primitive, group, and backcountry camping options are wide ranging. For many outdoor enthusiasts a trip to the Buffalo National River isn't complete without camping on the gravel bar of the river or in a nearby campground. More than 10 campgrounds are managed by the National Park Service while primitive camping of-

fers visitors several ways to explore the vast scenic backcountry and wilderness areas throughout the park.

Pavilions can be rented too. Buffalo Point is the only campground in the park that has water and electric (30/50 amp) hookups for RVs.

Some sites can be reserved in advance at www.recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777. Others are strictly on a first come, first served basis. Payment of cash or check only can be made at one of the self-pay stations in the campground immediately after a site is selected.

Entrance fee and campground fees

Buffalo National River does not charge an entry fee or day use fee and there are no fees or permits required for backcountry camping. However, campground fees and amenities range from \$12 per night to \$30 per night from March 15 – November 14. Water systems are winterized and unavailable from November 15 – March 14. Primitive camping is available at all campgrounds during the winter.

Cell phones and GPS (a.k.a. Pick up a map)

Buffalo National River is a long, narrow park crossed by three main highways. While access to the river can be found at various points throughout its length, access roads may not be paved and in some cases may require a high clearance vehicle with four-wheel drive. Additionally, cell phone service is spotty or non-existent in some places. GPS can be very unreliable as well.

So pick up an Arkansas Highway map and a park map. You can get them online, or at the Tyler Bend Visitor Center, Buffalo Point Visitor Contact Station, or at an Arkansas Welcome Center.

Leave No Trace

Enjoy our natural world in a sustainable way that avoids human-created impacts. Click here to read seven Leave No Trace principles that can be applied in your backyard or in the backcountry of our great public lands, with specific information about the Buffalo.

Ready for the adventure? Want more information about must-do activities and must-see sights? Visit www.nps.gov/buff.

Celebrations around the state

From popular festivals to historic commemorations, Arkansas is ready to celebrate in 2018. Learn more about the festivals, performances and other events that mark a milestone anniversary this year.

80th anniversary of the Great River Road

Region: Upper Delta and Lower Delta
In 2018, the Great River Road turns 80! Arkansas's 362-mile section of the Great River Road National Scenic Byway winds its way through the state's eastern Delta region along the mighty stream. The waterway created a scenic and natural border that has beckoned people to its banks for centuries. Visitors can gaze upon acres of cotton, soybeans or rice as they travel through some of the most fertile land in the country. Along the trek, numerous historical and cultural sites preserve the history of Arkansas and its people and welcome visitors to learn more about this remarkable region. In The Natural State, Old Man River carved its way under its own terms...man tried to control it and failed miserably.

The Great River Road was established in 1938 when governors from the 10 states bordering the waterway decided to develop a network of rural roads and new highways to create a transcontinental parkway along the Mississippi River, crisscrossing the mighty river, totaling 2,340 miles. The Mississippi River Parkway Commission was formed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to preserve, promote, and enhance the scenic, historic and recreational resources of the Mississippi River; to foster economic growth in the corridor; and to develop the national, scenic and historic Great River Road.

CONTACT: Kim Williams, Arkansas's Great River Road, 870-295-2005, kimberly.j.williams@arkansas.gov.

April 19-21

20th Annual Hot Springs Corvette Weekend, Hot Springs

Region: Southwest
This event is hosted by the Central Arkansas Corvette Club and is the 50th Anniversary of the club. A corvette show is indoors at the Hot Springs Convention Center and is free to the public to see. The club was founded by a group of Corvette enthusiasts to promote the ownership, restoration of corvettes and the fun of driving one.

CONTACT: 501-590-3506, www.CentralArkansasCorvetteClub.com.

April 26-29

15th Annual Arkansas Literary Festival, Little Rock

Region: Central
A mixture of literary sessions, panels, book signings, workshops, performances, activities, and special events in downtown Little Rock at various venues. The Arkan-

sas Literary Festival is a project of the Central Arkansas Library System.
CONTACT: 501-918-3098, www.ArkansasLiteraryFestival.org.

May 17-20

35th annual Arkansas Fiddlers Convention, Harrison

Region: Northwest
Stage performances and jam sessions are held May 17-20 at the North Arkansas College South Campus in Harrison. Admission is free.
CONTACT: Carl J. Wills, 870-429-6174.

May 18-19

30th Annual Magnolia Blossom Festival and 29th annual World Championship Steak Cook-Off

Region: Southwest
The enticing aroma of steak grilling over an open fire is sure to get your attention during this event. Cooking teams compete for prize money and tremendous bragging rights during the World Championship Steak Cook-off, which is part of the 30th Annual Magnolia Blossom Festival. Other activities include a 5K race/walk, arts and crafts vendors, the 68th annual art show, a car and truck show, jet boat show, and motorcycle show, free concerts, food vendors, a children's area and more.
CONTACT: www.BlossomFestival.org.

June 12-18

60th Annual Auto Show and Swap Meet, Morrilton

Region: Central
The Mid-America Old-Time Auto Association (MOTAA) hosts this event on the grounds of The Museum of Automobiles. Classic and vintage vehicles from all over the region will be on display. The event is open to the public daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
CONTACT: 501-727-5427, www.motaa.com.

July 4

35th Annual Pops on the River, Little Rock

Region: Central
This free community event in Little Rock is the largest Fourth of July event in the state. The event has expanded to include more activities and a bigger fireworks show. Activities include free children's activities, a shopping marketplace, food trucks and entertainment inside the First Security Amphitheater such as the Oh Say! Can you Sing? contest, live music, and the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. The event takes place in the River Market District and First Security Amphitheater.
CONTACT: www.RiverMarket.info/events.

July 17-21

25th Old Soldiers' Reunion,

Mammoth Spring

Region: North Central
This week of fun starts nightly at 6 p.m. and ends at 10 p.m. Activities includes carnival rides, games, prizes, food, bingo, and more. Free access and parking. Sponsored by VFW Post 7831. The reunion takes place at the Mammoth Spring State park baseball field in Mammoth Spring.
CONTACT: Mammoth Spring State Park, 870-625-7364, mammothspring@arkansas.com.

Sept. 1

35th Antique & Classic Car Show, Mammoth Spring

Region: North Central
Antique and classic cars will be on display and judged by year class. Gates open at 9 a.m. and judging begins at 11 a.m. Dash are given plaques for the first 50

registrants. Classes will be 1894-1930, 1931-1955, 1956-1975, 1976-1998, RAT class. The event is held at the Mammoth Spring State park baseball field in Mammoth Spring.
CONTACT: Mammoth Spring State Park, 870-625-7364, mammothspring@arkansas.com.

Sept. 14-15

30th annual Mountain Bike Race, West Fork

Region: Northwest
Devil's Den State Park in West Fork is known as the place where mountain biking got its start in Arkansas. Its trails are well known and its races are popular. Come and ride in the race or just enjoy watching all the levels of riders compete.
CONTACT: Devils Den State Park, 479-761-3325, devilsden@arkansas.com.

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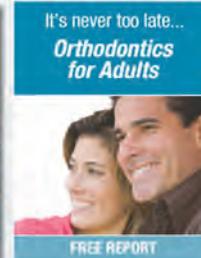
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What's new around the state for 2018

Central Arkansas

The Arkansas Cinema Society

The Arkansas Cinema Society launched in late 2017 with a mission to connect filmmakers, film enthusiasts and future film industry workers with a series of intimate, carefully curated screenings, talks and education programs.

With award-winning (and native Arkansan) filmmaker Jeff Nichols heavily involved and longtime industry insider Kathryn Tucker at the helm, the society aims to be a year-round, statewide Little Rock Central High School source of entertainment and inspiration for filmgoers and filmmakers alike. The inaugural "mini-festival" featured a series of screenings and discussions with the likes of actor Adam Driver (*Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, *Paterson*) and director David Lowery (*Pete's Dragon*, *Ain't Them Bodies Saints*); future plans promise similar events and more.

CONTACT: info@arkansascinemasociety.org, www.ArkansasCinemaSociety.org.

Arkansas Delta

Arkansas City trailhead, Delta Heritage State Park
Region: Lower Delta

The Arkansas City Trailhead of the Delta Heritage Trail State Park will soon include a multi-use building designed in the style of historic rail depots. The building will house administrative functions for the park's southern operations, bathhouse facilities and an open pavilion. Site development of the trailhead will include parking improvements, picnic areas and two large tent pads for overnight camping, as well as interpretive wayside panels. Estimated completion of the trailhead is summer 2018.

CONTACT: 870-572-2352, deltaheritagetrail@arkansas.com, www.ArkansasStateParks.com/delta-heritagetrail.

Flag Plaza and Memorial Park, Blytheville

Region: Upper Delta

Flag Plaza and Memorial Park at the former Eaker Air Force Base in Blytheville opened in the summer of 2017 and features a restored B-52 memorial and flags of all 50 states, the nation's capital and five branches of the military.

CONTACT: 4701 Memorial Drive, Blytheville, AR 72315.

White's Mercantile, Wilson

Region: Upper Delta

White's Mercantile in Wilson, owned by Holly Williams, granddaughter of the legendary Hank Williams and daughter of Hank Williams, Jr., brings her immensely popular store to downtown Wilson. It's the first time Williams has opened a store outside her home state of Tennessee.

The well-curated shop is stocked with Holly's favorite items that she's found while spending much of her life on the road.

CONTACT: 17 Cortez Kennedy Avenue, Wilson, AR 72395, 870-655-3040, www.WhitesMercantile.com.

Northwest & North Central Arkansas

8th Street Market, Bentonville

Region: Northwest

Foodie fun continues to grow in this region as well. The 8th Street Market in Bentonville is a community-focused food hub where the anchor tenants and merchants serve each other, as well as the larger community. It is committed to becoming a model for creating economic growth by supporting small and midsize local farmers and real food entrepreneurs.

Here, you'll find Brightwater: A Center for the Study of Food, Bike Rack Brewing, Hello Cocoa, Yeyo's Mexican Grill and a vendor market with more

market partners on the way. Culinary summits and food events are a big part of the offerings as well.

CONTACT: 801 SE 8th Street, Bentonville, AR 72712, info@8stmarket.com, www.8StMarket.com.

Developments in Batesville

Region: North Central

A recent resurgence of downtown Batesville means more storefronts to visit for eateries, antique shops and other specialty stores. Main Street also underwent a major beautification project with many live plantings.

The newest attraction is a \$22 million Community Center/Aquatics Park that opened in 2017. It houses a large outdoor water park, indoor aquatic center, volleyball/racquetball courts, walking track, convention space and more.

CONTACT: Batesville Area Chamber of Commerce, 870-793-2378, www.MyBatesville.org.

Unexpected Project, Fort Smith

Region: Northwest

New additions include a modern art mural trail that blends nicely with Old West history in Fort Smith. Eight more murals were painted on buildings last year during the Unexpected Project, a week-long festival held each summer that lets folks watch talented international artists create urban contemporary art downtown.

In its third year, the festival has resulted in more than 30 murals.

CONTACT: info@unexpectedfs.com, www.UnexpectedFS.com.

Southwest Arkansas

Bubba Brew's new locations, Hot Springs

Bubba Brew's on Lake Hamilton is 8,000 square feet and can be accessed by land or water. The menu

Please see NEW, Page 11

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New

Continued from Page 10

includes burgers etc and the venue has live music every Friday and karaoke every Saturday.

Bubba Brew's Brewing Co. Spa City Taproom is located in the former Bank of America building in downtown Hot Springs.

This is a brewery and grill.

CONTACT: Bubba Brew's on Lake Hamilton, 1252 Airport Road, Hot Springs; Bubba Brew's Brewing Co. Spa City Taproom, 528 Central Avenue, Hot Springs. www.BubbaBrewsBrewingCo.com.

Evans Children's Adventure Garden, Hot Springs

Also in Hot Springs, phase two of the Evans Children's Adventure Garden at Garvan Woodland Gardens includes a \$1.5 million treehouse built to teach children about nature.

The anticipated opening date for this project is 2018.

CONTACT: 550 Arkridge Road, Hot Springs, AR 71913, 501-262-9300, www.GarvanGardens.org.

Klipsch Museum of Audio History, Hope

In Hope, you can visit the Klipsch Museum of Audio History. Klipsch is currently one of the leading loudspeaker companies in the nation. The museum tells the story of the company and Paul Klipsch (1904-2002), a Hope resident, audio pioneer and founder of the company.

CONTACT: 136 Hempstead 278, Hope, AR 71801, 833-794-5287, contact@klipschmuseum.org, www.KlipschMuseum.org.

Maxwell Blade at the Malco Theatre, Hot Springs

In Hot Springs, illusionist Maxwell Blade is a well-known fixture of the entertainment scene. A new location to catch his performances is the historic Malco Theatre at 817 Central Avenue, which has been completely remodeled to host his shows.

CONTACT: 817 Central Ave., Hot Springs, AR 71901, 501-623-6200, magic@maxwellblade.com, www.MaxwellBlade.com.

Murphy Arts District, El Dorado

The Murphy Arts District, a \$100 million project in El Dorado that centers on a state-of-the-art music, entertainment and restaurant complex, is a major development in Southwest Arkansas.

CONTACT: 870-863-4547, www.ElDoMAD.com.

New Mountain Bike Trail Project, Hot Springs

A planned 44.6-mile system of mountain biking trails on the city-owned Northwoods/Cedar Glades properties in the northern section of town. The first phase of this project has started and encompasses 16.6 miles of singletrack mountain bike trail.

The first phase is expected to be finished fall of 2018 and the second phase of the project will start after this.

The project is being collaboratively financed by the Walton Family Foundation and Visit Hot Springs and is being built by the International Mountain Biking Association's (IMBA) Trail Solutions program.

CONTACT: Visit Hot Springs, 501-321-2027.

Sake brewery, Hot Springs

Ben Bell is aiming to take Arkansas's natural re-

sources (including a rice infrastructure that already produces the best variety of sake rice) and put the state on the map for sake.

Bell is currently lining up investors and has an ideal location in Hot Springs for a new sake brewery. His current plan is to be operational by the time the 25th Anniversary of the Hot Spring's Sister City Program (their sister city is Hanamaki, Japan) is celebrated in October of 2018.

CONTACT: Ben Bell, 501-920-0926, mrbenbell@gmail.com.

Splash Pad at Carnes Park, Camden

In Camden, a new splash pad is located in Carnes Park, which also features a pool, walking trail, baseball and softball fields, tennis courts and a playground.

CONTACT: Carnes Park Drive SE, Camden, AR 71701, 870-836-6426, www.Facebook.com/carnes-sparkpoolar.

SQZBX Brewery & Pizza Joint, Hot Springs

A family run, independently owned brewery and pizza joint located at 236 Ouachita Avenue.

CONTACT: 501-609-0609, www.Facebook.com/SQZ-BX-Brewery-Pizza-Joint-596410087219737.

Trace Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail, Camden

A two-mile rails-to-trails project has also opened in Camden called the Trace Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail. The trail is dotted with pocket parks, outdoor exercise equipment, playgrounds and mass daffodil plantings.

CONTACT: www.Facebook.com/camdenconnectionsfoundation.

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Notable attractions around the state

Argenta Arts District

This arts district in downtown North Little Rock is located along the banks of the Arkansas River and is home to Verizon Arena, Dickey-Stephens Ballpark and several art galleries and restaurants as well as a community theater and eclectic shopping. The Argenta Farmers Market takes place every Saturday beginning in late March from 7 a.m.–noon. All products sold are certified as coming from Arkansas family farmers.

CONTACT: www.ArgentaArtsDistrict.org

Arkansas Arts Center

Located in Little Rock's historic MacArthur Park, the Arkansas Arts Center is a first-class facility with a renowned permanent collection of drawings, paintings, photographs, prints and contemporary craft with works dating from the Renaissance to the present. It is also home to top-notch exhibitions spread throughout seven galleries as well as the nationally-recognized Children's Theatre and the Museum School. A casually elegant restaurant – Canvas -- and a museum gift shop are on site.

CONTACT: 9th & Commerce, MacArthur Park, Little Rock, AR 72203, 501-372-4000, info@ArkansasArtsCenter.org, www.ArkArts.com.

Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum

The Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum includes the USS Snook Memorial, the USS Scorpion Memorial, the Beacon of Peace and Hope sculpture as well as four Arkansas vessels. The newly added USS Hoga is best known for its involvement during the Pearl Harbor attack on Dec. 7, 1941 when it spent 72 continuous hours fighting fires. The USS Razorback is also located at the museum and was present in Tokyo Bay at the signing of the Peace Treaty ending World War II. This submarine is the only vessel to have earned battle ribbons in World War II and the Vietnam War.

CONTACT: 120 Riverfront Park Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72114, 501-371-8320, info@AIMMuseum.org, www.AIMMuseum.org.

Arkansas River Trail

Creating an expansive 88-mile loop, the Arkansas River Trail winds its way across the entire Little Rock metropolitan area connecting 38 parks, 12 museums and the towns of Little Rock, North Little Rock, Marmelle and Conway. The trail is popular to hikers, cyclists, skaters and joggers and crosses over four major bridges including the 1,600-foot long Clinton Presidential Park Bridge, the 1,162-foot long Two Rivers Park Bridge, the 100-year-old "lift-span" Junction Bridge and the 4,200-foot long Big Dam Bridge, the longest pedestrian/bicycle bridge built specifically for pedestrians and bicyclists and the second longest in the U.S.

CONTACT: www.RiverTrail.org, www.PulaskiCounty.net/junction-bridge, www.BigDamBridge.com.

Arkansas Symphony Orchestra

Led by conductor Philip Mann, the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra (ASO) performs more than 60 concerts per season including their popular Masterworks series and Pops Concerts as well as statewide touring, chamber music and educational performances. The ASO collaborates with Ballet Arkansas and the Arkansas Repertory Theatre and features its members in the Rockefeller and Quapaw Quartets, the ASO Brass Quintet, the ASO Big Band, the Arts Partners Quartets and the Arkansas Symphony Youth Ensembles. Distinguished guest artists that have performed with the orchestra include Itzhak Perlman, Yo Yo Ma, Mignon

Dunn, Marilyn Horn, Andre Watts, Maureen McGovern, Bernadette Peters, Maya Angelou, and Doc Severinsen.

CONTACT: 2417 North Tyler Street, Little Rock, AR 72207, 501-666-1761, www.ArkansasSymphony.org.

Bayou Meto Urban Canoe Trail

Two-mile shaded waterway provides canoers and kayakers a view not seen from any other location, including large cypress trees, beaver dams and a profusion of wildlife. Ramps are located at Dupree Park and Reed's Bridge Battlefield Heritage Park.

CONTACT: Jacksonville, AR 72076, 501-982-4171.

Central Arkansas Nature Center

The Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center is located in Little Rock's downtown River Market district and features exhibits and programs highlighting the variety of outdoor recreational opportunities that the state's fish and wildlife resources provide. Located on the Arkansas River, watchable wildlife programs are available within this urban setting. An exhibit hall, aquariums, a gift shop, theater and special educational programs are also offered by the center.

CONTACT: 602 President Clinton Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72201, 501-907-0636, www.CentralArkansas-NatureCenter.com.

Dickey-Stephens Park

Dickey-Stephens Park is the third home of the Minor League Baseball Team the Arkansas Travelers, the Class AA affiliate of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim since 2001. The stadium tradition from historic Ray Winder field, the wooden "bleacher bum" section, is now behind the first base line and consists of aluminum bleachers. It's located next to a draft-beer garden. The park is named for the Stephens family who donated the land and Arkansas natives and brothers Bill Dickey and George "Skeeter" Dickey, the former a Baseball Hall of Fame catcher for the New York Yankees and the latter a catcher for the Boston Red Sox and Chicago White Sox. Upon its completion, Dickey-Stephens Park was named the best new ballpark of 2007 by Baseball-Parks.com and BallparkDigest.com.

CONTACT: 400 West Broadway Street, North Little Rock, AR 72114, 501-664-1555, www.Travs.com.

Historic Arkansas Museum

The Historic Arkansas Museum, located in Little Rock's downtown, is a historic site museum depicting Arkansas's early history. The site includes five pre-Civil War houses that have been restored to antebellum appearances including the oldest building still standing in Little Rock, the Hinderliter Grog Shop. Visitors encounter actors portraying original residents. The center's museum features several permanent exhibits including "Arkansas Made: History of the Bowie Knife," a collection of more than 100 historical and modern knives, including the Bowie No. 1. Also on display is the exhibit "We Walk in Two Worlds," depicting the story of Arkansas's first people, the Caddo, Osage and Quapaw Indian tribes. There are also a living history theater and educational areas. The compound has been honored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of the most significant museum villages in the nation and has been called a "little Williamsburg" by travel writers.

CONTACT: 200 East Third Street, Little Rock, AR 72201, 501-324-9351, www.HistoricArkansas.org.

Petit Jean State Park

This flagship of the state parks system encompasses 2,658 acres of rare natural beauty -- an abundance

of unmarred woods, ravines, streams, springs, spectacular views and interesting ecological formations preserved almost as French explorers found them 300 years ago. In addition to cabins and the park's Mather Lodge, the park has a restaurant, swimming pools, campsites, boating, fishing, several hiking trails and the spectacular 95-foot Cedar Falls.

CONTACT: 1285 Petit Jean Mountain Rd, Morrilton, 800-264-2462, www.PetitJeanStatePark.com.

Pinnacle Mountain State Park

A day-use park dedicated to recreation, environmental education and conservation, Pinnacle Mountain State Park hosts activities including interpretive programs, festivals, exhibits, canoe and kayak rentals and floats, barge tours, technical rock climbing and star parties. Facilities at the park include picnic sites, pavilions, launching ramps, hiking trails, mountain bike trails, horseback riding concession, the Arkansas Arboretum and paddle boat rentals; a visitor center overlooks the Arkansas River.

CONTACT: 11901 Pinnacle Valley Road, Little Rock, AR 72223, 501-868-5806, www.ArkansasStateParks.com/PinnacleMountain.

Toltec Mounds Archeological State Park

Comprising one of the largest and most impressive archeological sites in the Lower Mississippi River Valley, this unique mound complex was the cultural center of the Plum Bayou people. Three mounds remain where 18 once stood surrounded by an earthen embankment eight to ten feet in height, a portion of which is still visible today. These sites are the remains of a large ceremonial complex and are rich with historical artifacts. A visitor center, pavilion, museum, guided tours and special events are also available at the park.

CONTACT: 490 Toltec Mounds Road, Scott, AR 72142, 501-961-9442, www.ArkansasStateParks.com/Toltec-Mounds.

Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

The Mosaic Templars of America was founded in Little Rock in 1882 by former slaves John E. Bush and Chester W. Keatts as a black fraternal organization to provide services such as burial and life insurance to the African-American community. The former headquarters is now a reconstructed museum that collects, preserves, interprets and celebrates Arkansas's African American culture and community from 1870 to present. It also informs and educates the public using interactive exhibits about African-American achievements, especially in business, politics and the arts.

CONTACT: 501 West 9th Street, Little Rock, AR 72201, 501-683-3593, www.MosaicTemplarsCenter.com.

The Old Mill at T.R. Pugh Memorial Park

An authentic reproduction of an old water-powered grist mill, this striking structure was built in 1933 and appears in the opening scene of the classic film *Gone with the Wind* and is believed to be the only building remaining from the film. The park is decorated with sculptures of toadstools, tree stumps, and a tree branch-entwined bridge that connects the mill to the rest of the park. Senor Dionico Rodriguez, a sculptor and artist of Mexico City, was responsible for all the details of each piece of concrete work made to represent wood, iron or stone, as well as the designing of the foot bridges and rustic seats. In 1991, Rodriguez's work at the Old Mill was renovated by his grandson, Carlos Cortes. The Old Mill is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and tour guides are available by appointment for groups.

COMBAT AIRLIFTER

CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE COMBAT AIRLIFTER CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT will take ads by phone from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday 982-9421, or you may mail your ad to 404 Graham Rd., Jacksonville, Ark. 72078. You may also e-mail them to combatairlifter-classifieds@arkansasleader.com Deadline to advertise in Friday's issue is 5 p.m. Tuesday.

CONWAY, AR - GUN SHOW - March 24th & 25th, 2018, Faulkner County Fairgrounds Expo Center, Sat, 9am-5pm, Sun, 9am - 4pm. Guns, Knives, Ammo, Militaria, Lg. Selection new/used rifles, shotguns & handguns. G&S Promotions, 1-918-659-2201. \$2.00 OFF admission w/this ad. \$2 OFF for Active Duty & Retired Military w/ id.**

WANTED 10 HOMES In your county needing METAL ROOFS, SIDING OR WINDOWS. We are opening a branch office and will be using these homes for our 2018 brochure. SAVE HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS! No money down. Payments \$89/Mo.* Senior/Military discounts. wac. 866-668-8681.**

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AUCTION
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TEST ADMINISTRATORS needed! To administer state required exams for 1st-11th graders on the following dates: April 16th-27th. AR Certified teachers only. Email testing@arva.org with copy of license & resume for more information.**

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719 S. Redmond, Jacksonville, 2 Br, 1 1/2 Ba, \$595/mth
5901 Allen, North Little Rock, 3 Br, 2 Ba, \$950/mth
126 Ridgecrest Sq., Cabot, 3 Br, 2 Ba, \$1,150/mth
27 Ridge Road, Cabot, 3 Br, 2 Ba, \$975/mth
1033 Ferrell, Jacksonville, 3 Br, 1 1/2 Ba, \$850/mth
Phillip Drive, Jacksonville, 2 Br, 1 Ba, \$475/mth
217 Jackson Park, Cabot, 3 Br, 2 Ba, \$1,250/mth
214 Fair Oaks, Jacksonville, 3 Br, 2 Ba, \$1,200/mth
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