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NPR NEWS

NOON: This is Ozarks at Large for Friday, December 3rd, 2021, I'm KK. Ahead this hour...a mint in West Fork where official coins for the Game of Thrones franchise and more are created. Ozarks at Large's Matthew Moore has that story. In about three minutes, our weekly look at some of the news of the week with Michael Tilley from Talk Business and Politics.

Another day of increases when it comes to COVID-19 in Arkansas. The Arkansas Department of Health today counts more than 12-hundred new cases of the virus...the highest single-day count in weeks and the third consecutive day with at least 9-hundred new cases. As a result, active cases in the state number more than 65-hundred...up nearly 700 since yesterday. The ADH also reports six additional deaths and a net increase of nine hospitalizations. Governor Asa Hutchinson tweeted this afternoon that the rise in cases this week is a reminder for the need for Arkansans to get vaccinated.

In Oklahoma, more than 16-hundred new cases were diagnosed in the most recent 24 hours of testing.

The new Greenhouse Outdoor Recreation Program will be led by Phil Shellhammer. The University of Arkansas Office of Entrepreneurship selected Shellhammer to head the project that is housed at the Collaborative in Bentonville, Shellhammer has an engineering degree from the University of Cincinnati and an MBA from Harvard. He's lived in Arkansas since 2009 when he accepted a job with Sam's Club. The Greenhouse Outdoor Recreation Program is designed to provide broad small- and startup-business support for outdoor recreation entrepreneurs. It is supported by a four-point-one million dollar gift from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation.

The average gallon of gas in Arkansas is two-and-a-half cents cheaper than this time last week according to gas-buddy-dot-com. The survey of more than 18-hundred gas stations in the state places the average gallon at three dollars.

The University of Arkansas Athletic Department is marking a second consecutive year with the highest graduation rate in the history of the department. A press release this afternoon places the school's athletic graduation rate at 85 percent, tying the rate from last year.

STING

SEVEN: This is Ozarks at Large for Friday, December 3rd, 2021, I'm KK. Ahead this hour...a mint in West Fork where official coins for the Game of Thrones franchise and more are created. Ozarks at Large's Matthew Moore has that story. In about three minutes, our weekly look at some of the news of the week with Michael Tilley from Talk Business and Politics.

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STING

TILLEY

UNDERWRITERS---WAC ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL 14144, ITC SCREEN (0)

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MINT STORY

You can share any story or interview you hear on Ozarks at Large. We have links at Ozarks-at-large-dot-com that let you send any piece of our show through email or social media.

WEEKEND EDITION PROMO

Weekend Edition, tomorrow morning from seven to nine on KUAF...you can listen to KUAF anytime, anywhere with the KUAF App.

Cheri White, a long-time resident of Eureka Springs and a retired print and broadcast writer, is celebrating her first children's book, "Seven Lucky Bunnies and the Magic Muffin Dance."

Cheri1: The story is seven lucky bunnies who think there's a recipe for magic muffins ... or did they? You will have read it to find out."

Illustrated by Fayetteville artist, Christina Smith, White says the book is the product of myriad magical encounters. It also contains a recipe for magic muffins as well as a CD of two children's songs, composed and performed by the late Christie Simpson.

Bunny song

White says all proceeds from production and sales of her self-published book will be donated to help fund construction of a new public library in Berryville. She'll be signing copies of "Seven Lucky Bunnies and the Magic Muffin Dance" tomorrow in Eureka Springs.

Cheri2: "The Story Maker Book Fair, the Writers Colony at Dairy Hollow is hosting it at the Eureka Springs Community Center from 10 - 2 p.m. along with ten other local artists and writers, and Christina Smith will also be there ... looking at everybody else's books too."

Other authors on hand will be John Two-Hawks, Woody Barlow, Catherine Buercklin, Lea Ann Crisp, Harrie Farrow, Sean Fitzgibbon, Peggy Perry-Hill, Keith Scales, Zeek Taylor, Wendy Taylor Carlisle, and Charles Templeton.

"Seven Lucky Bunnies and the Magic Muffin Dance" is also available for order online from Berryville Public Library, and at the Back Porch on the Berryville Square.

And speaking of -- the Berryville Public Library is hosting a Christmas Cheer Challenge this month to raise \$10,000 for the new library fund. Two secret Santas are matching \$1 for every good deed done, or holiday movie watched.

SHADES OF JAZZ PROMO

BECCA

GIVING TREE PROMO

Monday on our show, another update from the journalists Arkansas COVID, an audio trip to December, 1968 with Randy Dixon from the David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History and more. Ozarks at Large each weekday at noon and seven pm...and available for free through our free podcast available through all podcast distributors.

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This is KUAF, 91.3...Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Bentonville and Lavaca. Ozarks at Large is a production of KUAF. Today's show produced by Timothy Dennis and contributors today included Timothy, Matthew Moore, Michael Tilley and Becca Martin Brown. Ozarks at Large's Jacqueline Froelich provided the information and sound about the Seven Lucky Bunnies book by Cheri White. We're with you Sunday morning at nine for Weekend Ozarks at Large and start a new week of daily shows Monday at noon. I'm KK...have a safe weekend.

FRIDAY PROMO: They're making coins in West Fork...special, licensed coins:

Cut

The official money maker for Game of Thrones and more on today's Ozarks at Large.