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Paranormal researchers hear voices on tapes; schedule return visit

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Alan Smith, T-H Staff Writer

The Arkansas Paranormal and Anomalous Studies Team (ARPAST), has released its findings from their recent paranormal investigation of the St. Francis County Museum, and what they found has interested the team enough to schedule a return trip to the facility.

The team visited the museum in January to gather evidence of the alleged ghostly goings on there. Larry Flaxman, ARPAST president and senior researcher, says that after reviewing hours of videotape and audio recordings, they found two abnormalities in the form of "Electronic Voice Phenomena" or EVPs.

"The traditional thoughts on EVPs is that they are the voices of the deceased," said Flaxman. "They are collected on tape recordings. We ask questions and wait for a response. Many times the responses cannot be heard at the time, but are recorded on the tape.

"There are three classifications of EVPs: A, B and C. An 'A' is the highest classification. With a Class A, the voice is clear and when more than one person hears it, they can clearly make it out. They can identify the same words that someone else does. The Class B EVPs are a little less clear, and the Class C EVPs are thrown out. Class C EVPs generally have too much static," said Flaxman.

"We did collect two EVPs that night that we would classify as Class A EVPs," stated Flaxman. "One was a voice of a woman, and one was the voice of a child."

While Flaxman did state that no other evidence was recorded, the team plans to return to the museum in November.

"With the evidence that we collected, we are hopeful that we can find more," Flaxman said. "But we cannot make a conclusive decision on whether there is paranormal activity there based on the evidence. The museum requires more research. We have been working with a local group there in Forrest City called PRUPH (Paranormal Researchers of Unexplained Phenomenon). They have been doing investigations there too. They've asked us to come back, and we are planning on coming back in November. Wayne Parker, the museum curator, also has invited



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This week's question:
What qualities would you like the Forrest City School Board to look for in its next superintendent?
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us back to do a charity event there to allow people to come along with us during an investigation.”

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