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FRIDAY
January 8, 2016

The Sentinel-Record

Three sections, 26 pages
Number 8, Volume 139
Seventy Five Cents

www.hotspringssr.com

Published daily in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, since 1877

Fire heavily damages 70 West Plaza

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

FULLY INVOLVED: Firefighters work to save the Lake Hamilton Hair Center from a fire that broke out Wednesday night at 70 West Plaza at 1550 Airport Road. Officials said the blaze likely originated in Lake Hamilton Cleaners, which, along with the beauty shop, Discount Boots, Stoddard's Pet Shop and Puppy Love Pet Grooming Salon, was ultimately consumed.

The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

END OF AN ERA: Lake Hamilton Hair Center owner Barbara Blackwood surveys debris Thursday morning after Wednesday night's fire destroyed her beauty shop. She said she's likely to relocate after being at 70 West Plaza for 36 years.

5 businesses destroyed in blaze

DAVID SHOWERS
The Sentinel-Record

Five businesses, including a pet store, were destroyed late Wednesday night by a fire that rolled through the east end of 70 West Plaza on Airport Road, prompting a response by 56 firefighters from eight different departments and closing Airport Road for several hours.

Business owners whose livelihoods were reduced to a charred tangle by the fire took

FIRE, PAGE 7A

The Sentinel-Record/Mark Gregory

HELP FROM ABOVE: An aerial truck from the Hot Springs Fire Department applies water to 70 West Plaza Wednesday night. Twelve city firefighters assisted 14 from the 70 West Department, which was the first arrive shortly after 9 p.m. 70 West Chief Autumn Carlisle said 56 firefighters from eight departments were on the scene.

HSIS students learn of state's 'Haunted Houses'

JAY BELL
The Sentinel-Record

Sixth-grade students at Hot Springs Intermediate School learned the history behind three of the state's most haunted houses Thursday during a presentation by Shelle Stormoe, education coordinator for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

"Arkansas' Haunted History" is by far the AHPP's most popular program. Stormoe delivers presentations in schools throughout the state.

Thursday marked her first haunted history program of 2016. She discussed the Trail of Tears with students in Springdale on Wednesday.

The theme of the haunted series changes every year. Stormoe discussed haunted colleges and universities during the 2014-15 school year.

The process of developing the program takes Stormoe six to seven weeks each summer. She conducts her own research, writes the programs and compiles the video presentations.

"It takes me probably about a month every summer to actually do all of the research, because I have to go to

'HAUNTED HOUSES', PAGE 3A

The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

RETIRING: George Downie, airport director at Hot Springs Memorial Field, said Jan. 29 will be his final day on the job after a 25-year career with the city.

Airport director to retire

DON THOMASON
The Sentinel-Record

George Downie, airport director at Hot Springs Memorial Field, says Jan. 29 will be his final day on the job after working 25 years for the city, all at the airport.

Downie, 66, said he was originally hired by former City Manager Gus Pappas as the property manager for the former National Rejectors facility, and he helped facilitate the sale of that building to the city, and was named airport

AIRPORT, PAGE 3A

Arts study unveiling set for late January

BETH BRIGHT-REED
The Sentinel-Record

The feasibility of a performing arts center in Hot Springs will be presented in a public meeting at 4 p.m. Jan. 26 in City Hall.

Market & Feasibility Advisors LLC will present its recommendations, based on a study conducted in July, during the Hot Springs Board of Directors' regular agenda meeting. Dan Martin, managing principal with the company, will present the results of the feasibility study.

The study was commissioned by the Hot Springs Advertising and Promotion Commission in August when Martin, with Christian Vetter, conducted inter-

STUDY, PAGE 3A

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Weather

MOSTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS IN THE LOW 60S. LOWS IN THE MID 40S.

SUNRISE: 7:20 A.M.
SUNSET: 5:17 P.M.

MORE ON PAGE 2A

SATURDAY: HIGH 50° LOW 29°
SUNDAY: HIGH 40° LOW 23°

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