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THURSDAY
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Blaze destroys business

Home also damaged in fire

DON THOMASON
The Sentinel-Record

A business located on Pond Street just off Central Avenue was destroyed by a fire that spread to a nearby residence at around 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, as firefighters labored for several hours in summertime heat and humidity.

The heavy black smoke from the fire was visible for miles.

"It was a pretty extensive fire at the time we arrived on the scene and spread pretty fast throughout

FIRE, PAGE 4A

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

BUSINESS DESTROYED: Hot Springs Fire Department firefighters battle a blaze in a metal building on Pond Street Wednesday afternoon that destroyed one business and damaged a nearby home.

Griffin: Lt. gov. office is important

DON THOMASON
The Sentinel-Record

A vote in the lieutenant governor's race in November will not be wasted, U.S. Rep. Tim Griffin, R-District 2, a candidate for the position, said Wednesday.

"The first thing I want to communicate with folks is that they should take seriously voting for the lieutenant governor. It is an important office, and twice in the last 22 years the governor came from that office," he said during an interview with *The Sentinel-Record.*

Griffin will face Democrat John Burkhalter and Libertarian Christopher Ol-

GRIFFIN, PAGE 3A

Miss Arkansas works to keep program on track

ALISON B. HARBOUR
The Sentinel-Record

The Miss Arkansas Organization is working to maintain the integrity of its scholarship program through its decision to try alternate housing for contestants in 2015, Kelly Bales, the organization's board president, said Wednesday.

Some members of the local hospitality industry had expressed concerns that contestants who traditionally had been housed at the Austin Convention Hotel and Spa for many years might relocate to the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts during the pageant in 2015.

"We are hopeful about (the) negotiation with the math and science school and we feel this is a very wonderful opportunity for our Miss Arkansas contestants who are young women between the ages of 17 to 24 who are competing for college scholarships much like students who attend band camps, cheerleading camps, football camps, chess camps, Odyssey of the Mind camps and are housed at other colleges and universities around the state," Kelly

PAGEANT, PAGE 10A

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

HOG CALL FOR SUPPORT: Kale Gober, assistant athletic director at the University of Arkansas, speaks to the Hot Springs National Park Rotary Club Wednesday at the Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa about the accomplishments of student-athletes in recent years on and off the field.

Official touts student athletes

JAY BELL
The Sentinel-Record

The assistant athletic director of the University of Arkansas highlighted the athletic department's recent academic and competitive accomplishments during Wednesday's meeting of the Hot Springs National Park Rotary Club.

Kale Gober, assistant athletic director for development at Arkansas, spoke to Rotarians Wednesday at the Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa. He previously spoke to the club as athletic di-

ROTARY, PAGE 9A

Water safety stressed on last summer holiday

DON THOMASON
The Sentinel-Record

Residents and tourists will flock to area lakes this weekend to enjoy the last summer holiday weekend, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is stressing water safety while enjoying the final days of summer.

"This time of year, people become complacent because they've been on the lakes time and again this summer, and they kind of let their guard down. They come out here for a vacation and kind of leave their brains at home," said Amy Shultz, natural resource specialist for the Corps of Engineers' Lake Ouachita Field Office.

"We've had a great year so far with zero water-related fatalities, and hopefully we can make it through Labor Day without any accidents," she said in a news release.

Shultz said the Corps of Engineers asks all boaters to make sure they have all the required safety equipment and life jackets on board, and to make sure it is in good shape.

Safety equipment on a boat should include a Type 4 throwable device to help rescue a person who may fall overboard and is drowning.

"We have a saying — reach, throw, row, don't go. If someone falls in and is drowning, they will be so panicked that they will take anyone who goes to them under with them. So it's very important to have something to throw, or reach to them, like a boat paddle, stick, fishing rod, or a throwable. Don't go in the water after them," she said Monday.

"Sometimes over the year, life jackets are stored in compartments and they get rips and tears and aren't in the shape they were in at the beginning of summer. We ask that people check the life jackets and make sure they are in good serviceable condition," she said.

Life jackets should also be the proper size for the person wearing it, Shultz said, noting that each U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket will have a tag in the back showing the size and weight of the people it was

WATER SAFETY, PAGE 9A

The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

SAFETY STRESSED: Amy Shultz, natural resource specialist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Lake Ouachita Field Office, shows a couple of U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets and urges all boaters to have and wear their life jackets as required when out on the water.

Forest Service wants to end prescribed fire restriction

DAVID SHOWERS
The Sentinel-Record

The U.S. Forest Service is soliciting input on a proposal to lift its restriction on prescribed fire in the Ouachita National Forest during county burn bans, one of three changes it's floated to the 2005 document that guides its management of the 1.8-million acre area that covers more than a quarter of Garland County.

An Aug. 15 letter presented the proposed amendments to the Land and Resource Management Plan. The letter states the Ouachita National Forest is the only division in the Forest Service's Southern Region with the prescribed fire restriction. Removing the limitation would aid in a fuller implementation of its management plan, which allows for prescribed fire to be used on as much 180,000 acres a year.

Bill Pell, ONF staff officer for planning and recreation, said the proposal will open up more days for prescribed burns that improve habitats and guard against wildfires. He said it reins in the loose branches, twigs and limbs that

FOREST SERVICE, PAGE 4A

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Weather

SUNNY. HIGHS IN THE LOW 90S. LOWS IN THE LOW 70S.

SUNRISE: 6:42 A.M.
SUNSET: 7:45 P.M.

FRIDAY:
HIGH 91° LOW 73°

SATURDAY:
HIGH 91° LOW 72°

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Subscriber of the Day

Recognizing
Barbara Murphy,
a reader of *The Sentinel-Record*
for 3-plus years