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Shazam!

Maxwell Blade celebrates 2 decades of Spa City magic

LORIEN E. DAHL
The Sentinel-Record

On a sweltering August afternoon in downtown Hot Springs, a stream of children poured out of Maxwell Blade's Theater of Magic, gathering on the sidewalk to have a group photo taken with the magician they'd just seen perform. Each clutched an autographed image of Blade and every visible face appeared lit with an excitement from within.

Celebrating 20 years of wowing crowds in the Spa City this month, it's that audience reaction that drew Blade

MAGIC, PAGE 4A

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

SEA OF MAGIC: Children on a YMCA field trip surround magician Maxwell Blade for a photo opportunity, while holding up pictures of him given to each attendee of his show that day. Blade will celebrate 20 years of performing feats of illusions in Hot Springs on Aug. 28.

Minutes of silence, march mark Ferguson anniversary

JIM SALTER
AND JIM SUHR
The Associated Press

FERGUSON, Mo. — One year after the shooting that cast greater scrutiny on how police interact with black communities, the father of slain 18-year-old Michael Brown led a march in Ferguson, Missouri, on Sunday after a crowd of hundreds observed 4½ minutes of silence.

Those who gathered to commemorate Brown began their silence at 12:02 p.m., the time he was killed, for a length of time that symbolized the 4½ hours

FERGUSON, PAGE 4A

State extends application period for shelters

DAVID SHOWERS
The Sentinel-Record

The state reopened the acceptance period for storm shelter rebate applications Aug. 4, contradicting an earlier announcement that said it had stopped accepting applications as of July 1 for the program that partially reimburses the cost and installation of storm shelters.

The reversal owes to the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management receiving numerous applications for storm shelters installed before June 30, according to an ADEM news release. Last month, ADEM representatives said applications received during the 2015 fiscal year, which ran from July 1, 2014, to last June 30, exhausted the $1.25 million appropriated from the Governor's Disaster Fund for the program's fiscal year 2016 funding.

The imbalance between available funds and application submissions led the governor, at the recommendation of ADEM, to discontinue the program, according to the release.

Only storm shelters installed on or before June 30 are eligible for the extended application period, which runs through Jan. 29, 2016. ADEM representatives said last month that 1,939 of the 2,781 applications received during the last fiscal year had yet to be processed.

A similar backlog caused by the receipt of 1,517 applications in fiscal year 2011 and 1,367 in fiscal years 2012 suspended the program in fiscal year 2013. With rebates capped at $1,000, ADEM is typically limited to processing 1,250 applications per fiscal year. It received 1,800 applications in fiscal year 2014.

SHELTERS, PAGE 2A

Birth of an Artist

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

Artist Nicholas Oates, above, left, and his brother, Brandon, both of Center Ridge, browse the art on display Saturday evening at the Hot Springs Convention Center during the Birth of an Artist event. Alijah Yancy, 4, of Hot Springs, right, examines his artwork during the event, which benefited Cutwell 4 Kids, a nonprofit organization for children ages 4-12. The hands-on program allows children to play while learning.

Oaklawn adds to accolades with award

BETH BRIGHT
The Sentinel-Record

Readers of Group Tours magazine recently voted Oaklawn Park Best Casino in the South, adding to the accolades Oaklawn has received since opening its 58,000-square-foot, $20 million expansion on Jan. 9.

Bus tour operators, travel agents and group tour operators voted on the award in Group Tours. Oaklawn was selected as one of the five finalists, which included The Greenbrier, in West Virginia; Beau Rivage and Gold Nugget, both in Biloxi; and Seminole Hard Rock, in Florida.

Oaklawn was also voted Best Casino/Gaming Center by the readers of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* during its annual Best of the Best awards for 2014. Readers of the *The Sentinel-Record* also named Oaklawn's new Silks Bar and Grill as the best sports bar in Hot Springs.

"Pretty much since we opened the expansion, we've received award after award from our state publications, and that recognition we've been so excited about," said Brandon Scott, assistant director of marketing. "And the Group Tours award, we couldn't be more excited about.

"We were up against and recognized among our peers on a national level, which is something we haven't really had before. It's a different level for us, and any time we receive an award, it's really the city of Hot Springs that helps make that possible as the city has become known and maintains their

OAKLAWN, PAGE 4A

Extension office seeks increase to budget

DAVID SHOWERS
The Sentinel-Record

A state directive compelling county extension offices to solicit more money from their respective county governments will bring the staff chair for the Garland County Cooperative Extension Service before the quorum court tonight.

Jimmy Driggers, who is also the office's agriculture agent, requested a $40,700 increase from the Garland County Quorum Court Finance Committee last week for 2016 operations. According to information Driggers provided the committee, the county has contributed $79,269 annually since 2002.

Martha Ray Sartor, assistant director-county operations for the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, said the county share of a funding formula that includes state and federal contributions hasn't changed since 2002.

"That's the last time we got an increase from county government," she said. "We haven't been back to ask for money. A few counties have automatically given more money, but that's the exception and not the rule."

The Garland County share contributes to personnel expenses, costs Sartor said higher employer health insurance contributions have increased.

"Health insurance costs, M and O costs and everything to do with running a county extension office have gone up," she said. "The funding plan needs to be adjusted, so we'll be able to keep the same number of staff in every office. We're committed to working with our county extension offices to have the best program possible for the

OFFICE, PAGE 3A

Charred remains

The Sentinel-Record/Caitlin LaFarlette

A wildfire at 163 Cory Canyon Trail burned around 2 acres early Sunday evening. Fountain Lake Fire Chief Jason Curtis said the fire was reported around 5:30 p.m. The cause was still under investigation Sunday night, and no injuries were reported. "It just rushed through the mountain back here," resident Alton Blocker said. He added that the fire started by his shed and burned the side of his truck.

Weather

SUNNY AND HOT. HIGHS IN THE LOW HUNDREDS. LOWS IN THE HIGH 70S.

SUNRISE: 6:29 A.M.
SUNSET: 8:07 P.M.

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TUESDAY: HIGH 95° LOW 72°

WEDNESDAY: HIGH 92° LOW 67°

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