BASKETBALL
Hogs travel to Mizzou for quick turnaround
SPORTS ■ PAGE 1B

UKRAINE
Pro-Russian rebels reject peace deal, launch new offensive
WORLD ■ PAGE 4A

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Local schools on lockdown for manhunt

CAITLIN LAFARLETTE
The Sentinel-Record

A suspect who was being sought after allegedly shooting at a Fountain Lake School District employee who pursued him off campus following a theft later rammed a deputy's patrol unit and caused a lockdown at two other schools after fleeing into nearby woods.

The suspect, who was not identified, was still at large Friday evening following a massive manhunt around Cutter Morning Star School that involved multiple agencies, including the Garland County Sheriff's Department, Hot Springs Police Department, a helicopter and troopers from Arkansas State Police, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, National Park Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Arkansas Department of Correction.

The Lakeside School District also issued a lockdown after the suspect fled from Garland County sheriff's deputies near Cutter Morning Star.

The day-long incident began at the Fountain Lake School District when an employee discovered the suspect stealing gas from the bus barn around 5:30 a.m. Friday.

According to a news release from Fountain Lake Superintendent Darin Beckwith, the employee followed the suspect several miles down Highway 7 and called the Garland County Sheriff's Department. In a sheriff's department news release, Investigator Scott Hinojosa said the employee stated the suspect fired shots at him after they left the campus.

Hinojosa said Garland County sheriff's deputies located the suspect's vehicle in the 2800 block of Spring Street shortly after 9 a.m. At that time, the suspect attempted to hit deputies on scene with his vehicle and shots were fired at the suspect, the release said. The suspect then struck a sheriff's department vehicle, and wrecked his own near Cutter Morning Star and fled on foot.

The various agencies assisted sheriff's deputies in the manhunt that surrounded Cutter Morning Star. ADC canine units were brought to the scene and the state police helicopter searched the area from the air.

As the search continued through the early afternoon, Cutter Morning Star remained on lockdown, but transitioned to a soft lockdown after a SWAT team cleared the buildings shortly before 2 p.m., according to the school district's website.

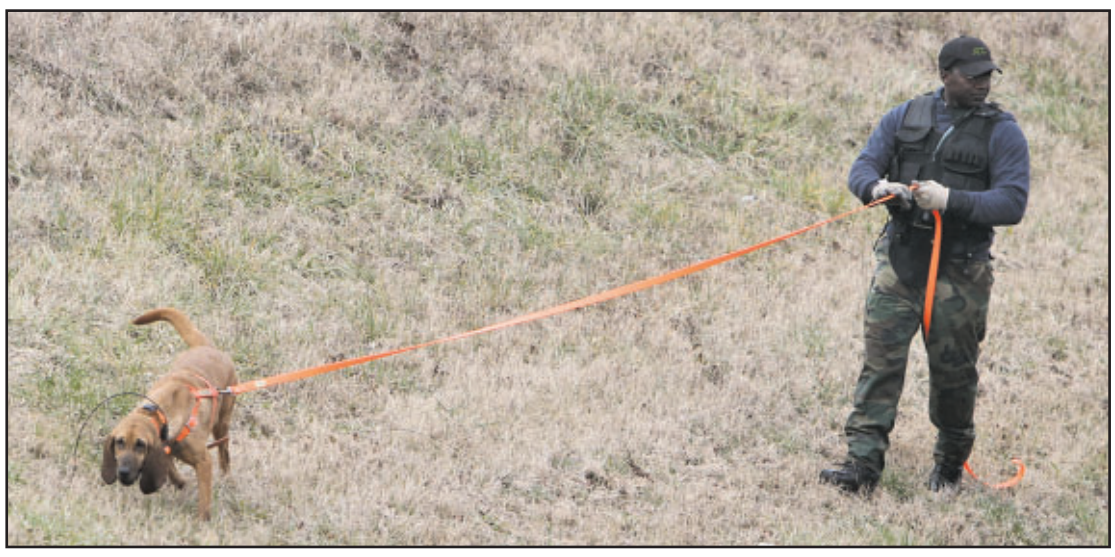
Superintendent Nancy Anderson said the SWAT team members said they believed the students were safe but they were just being cautious.

"A lot of what we did today

MANHUNT, PAGE 4A

The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

MOVING INTO POSITION: Members of the Garland County Sheriff's Department Tactical Response Team move down Spring Street near Cutter Morning Star Elementary School Friday after a suspect fled from deputies and prompted a multi-agency manhunt.



The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

SUSPECT TRACKED: A member of a canine unit from the Arkansas Department of Correction uses a bloodhound on East Grand Avenue to track a suspect involved in an incident with a Garland County sheriff's deputy on the Cutter Morning Star School campus.

Lakeside program to allow students to earn college credits

LAKESIDE LEGACY: Superintendent Shawn Cook speaks about the Lakeside Legacy Program during an assembly on Friday. The program will allow Lakeside students to earn up to 66 hours of college credit and an associate's degree by the time they graduate high school. The program will be offered in conjunction with National Park Community College. The college was represented, from left, by President John Hogan, Executive Vice President Gordon Watts and Connie Poteet, concurrent credit coordinator.

The Sentinel-Record/Beth Bright

JAY BELL
The Sentinel-Record

The Lakeside School District announced a program on Friday that will enable high school students to earn up to 66 hours of college credit and an associate degree by the time they graduate.

The district hosted students, parents and visitors for Friday's announcement in the Lakeside High School auditorium. Many local legislators and elected officials were also in attendance.

"I can't even explain how excited I am," said Superintendent Shawn Cook. "I can't get the smile off my face. Just think about the opportunities we are going to give our kids."

Carla Mouton, president of the school board, said she had previously spoken with Cook about the concept of the program. They expected the process to take several years before it could be made possible.

"Because of the relationship that we have with Garland County's great treasure, National Park Community College, and the alignment of the stars and the heavens, everything came together a lot more quickly than we anticipated," Mouton said.

The Lakeside Legacy Program will work in conjunction with the college. School officials are in the process of checking which other universities will accept the hours as transfer credits. The University of Arkansas in Fayetteville will currently accept the hours students will be able to earn.

The program will begin in the upcoming fall semester. Students will be able to earn the college credit hours on campus at Lakeside with the same teachers in many of the same courses at no extra cost.

The school currently offers the chance for

LAKESIDE, PAGE 4A

Suspect arrested in shooting homicide

DON THOMASON
The Sentinel-Record

A Mountain Pine man was arrested early Friday morning and charged with second-degree murder in the shooting death of a Hot Springs man.

Babb

Matthew Lashawn Babb, 28, was arrested following a short manhunt after Nicholas Rodriquez, 21, was found dead at a residence at 1215 Hobson Ave., around 12:05 a.m.

SHOOTING, PAGE 3A

The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

SHED BURNED: A Hot Springs Fire Department firefighter surveys the scene of a fire Friday morning at 104 Noxon St. No one was injured in the blaze.

Shed blaze becomes fourth fire in a week

DON THOMASON
The Sentinel-Record

Four fires in less than a week have destroyed three homes, displaced at least seven persons, and destroyed or damaged two vacant structures.

The latest fire occurred around 8:38 a.m. Friday at 104 Noxon St., where Hot Springs Fire Department firefighters found a shed fully involved when they arrived. A fire department report said that the fire spread from the shed to an adjacent vacant structure at the rear of the shed and the owner of the property, Judy Ladd, 71, was evacuated for safety concerns.

Hot Springs Fire Marshal Tom Braughton said three engine companies and one truck company comprised of a total of 11 firefighters, and four administrative and support personnel fought the fire.

Braughton said the fire originated at the rear wall of the shed, but the exact cause was still undetermined late Friday. Once the fire was extinguished, Ladd was able to re-enter her home, which had no damage, Braughton said.

On Sunday, a home at 206 Goose Pond Road, located off Highway 5 north, was destroyed in a fire that began around 3:25 a.m., said Fountain Lake Fire Department Assistant Chief Steve Sawyer. James Klink, Tammy Muncrief, and Klink's daughter, Adriana, were not at home at the time of the fire.

Living accommodations, along with funds for clothes and food, were provided by the Red Cross, according to Tom Qualls, disaster program manager for the Red Cross Arkansas Region southwest territory. The cause of the fire was undetermined, Sawyer said.

Around noon Sunday, a fire

FIRES, PAGE 3A

8 32116 00050 2

Weather

SUNNY. HIGHS IN THE MID 50S. LOWS IN THE HIGH 30SF.
SUNRISE: 7:15 A.M.
SUNSET: 5:33 P.M.

SUNDAY: HIGH 61° LOW 36°
MONDAY: HIGH 61° LOW 38°

MORE ON PAGE 2A

Index

Arts, etc.	7A	Lifestyles	6A
Classified	1-6C	Obituaries	9A
Sports	1-5B	Stocks	8B
Features, etc.	9B	Viewpoints	8A
FYI	2A	Religion	6-7B

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