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THURSDAY
November 19, 2015

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County recovers after storms

Access to Lookout Point still restricted

DAVID SHOWERS
The Sentinel-Record

Strong winds that raked areas off Highway 7 south Tuesday limited access to Lookout Point as county road crews waited for Entergy Arkansas Inc. to remove downed power lines from toppled trees blocking the roadway Wednesday.

Garland County Department of Emergency Management Director Bo Robertson said access to the Lookout Point area was still being restricted Wednesday afternoon as Entergy contract crews worked to lift downed power lines and replace damaged utility poles. He said

DAMAGE, PAGE 10A

South shore hit hardest by storms

COLBIE WESTFALL
The Sentinel-Record

Tuesday's severe thunderstorms took a toll on residents living near the south shore of Lake Hamilton, leaving many with property damage and a power outage that lasted into Wednesday.

STORMS, PAGE 3A

Garland County spent the day Wednesday recuperating from Tuesday's severe storms.

FROM TOP: Utility crews prepare to move out from a parking lot in the 5300 block of Central Avenue and begin restoring power Wednesday morning; a county employee walks near a camper that was destroyed by a pine tree at 108 Lookout Point; Garland County Road Department employees clear trees from Lookout Point; and a Chain Electric Co. employee works on a utility pole at 235 Long Island Drive.

Photography by Richard Rasmussen of The Sentinel-Record

Entergy crews restore power

DON THOMASON
The Sentinel-Record

Entergy Arkansas Inc. had reduced its outages in Garland County to fewer than 2,400 customers by late afternoon Wednesday, a little more than 24 hours after severe thunderstorms left more than 11,000 residents without power.

Greg Asbell, Entergy Arkansas Inc.'s regional manager for customer service, said early Wednesday that utility crews had reduced the number of outages from slightly more than 11,000 late Tuesday afternoon to 4,310 customers and 111 cases of trouble by 8:45 a.m. Wednesday.

Asbell said 2,382 customers were still without power by 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, and it will be today before power can be restored to all customers.

"We got quite a few customers back on last night, but we've got a lot of broken poles and a lot of wire on the ground," Asbell said earlier in the day.

He said additional repairmen from other electrical companies arrived in town Tuesday and Wednesday to help with the restoration.

"We're still hoping we'll get the majority of customers back on through tonight (Wednesday). I think we said that would

POWER, PAGE 10A

Squall line, straight-line winds hit city

DON THOMASON
The Sentinel-Record

The storm that hit the Garland County area on Tuesday was a "big squall line," producing straight-line winds and 2-plus inches of rain, the National Weather Service in Little Rock said Wednesday.

The squall line stretched from north to south across the state, with the most intense parts forming throughout the morning, and into the afternoon and evening across central to southern Arkansas, into Texas and Louisiana, meteorologist Charles Dalton said.

"The strongest parts were in central Arkansas as it moved east across the state," Dalton said.

"What hit the Hot Springs area was really high winds just off the surface, and by the time you get up to 2,000 to 4,000 feet off the ground, winds were in excess of 70 mph. If you had any kind of storm that was able to push those winds to the ground, you saw tree and wind damage across the state," he said.

Dalton said that from the photographs he had seen, Hot Springs bore the brunt of the storm, but there was also some damage in Grant County and southeast toward Monticello.

SQUALL LINE, PAGE 10A

HSSD back in session

JAY BELL
The Sentinel-Record

Students in the Hot Springs School District will return to their campuses today after dismissing early on Tuesday and missing Wednesday due to outages caused by Tuesday's storms.

The district lost power early Tuesday morning at Hot Springs High School, Hot Springs Middle School, Oaklawn Visual and Performing Arts Magnet School and the Jones Administration Building. Service resumed for school, but a wave of heavy rain and high winds later in the morning caused outages at the same buildings.

Superintendent Mike Hernandez said Entergy Arkansas Inc. originally informed the district that 8 p.m. Tuesday was the target for power to be restored. He said the district planned to return

HSSD, PAGE 3A

Mall, other businesses affected by weather

LINDSEY WELLS
The Sentinel-Record

Tuesday's severe weather shut down many local businesses in addition to leaving a large number of residents in the dark for the majority of the day.

"I stayed in my safe room and did not hear the trees fall. The sound of the wind and rain was as loud as I've ever heard, and I grew up in tornado country," said Hot Springs resident Isobel McQuiston, who lives in the Lake Hamilton area near Highway 7 south.

"There were two trees uprooted and a third stripped; most likely all will have to come down. The smaller pine trees along the fence with my neighbor to the west were also uprooted. They are the same as the one that fell over the driveway."

Hot Springs Mall lost electricity from noon to 10 p.m., according to general manager Scott Green. He made the

BUSINESSES, PAGE 9A

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Weather

SUNNY. HIGHS IN THE LOW 60S. LOWS IN THE LOW 40S.

SUNRISE: 6:49 A.M.
SUNSET: 5:06 P.M.

FRIDAY: HIGH 60° LOW 43°

SATURDAY: HIGH 51° LOW 32°

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