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Inert hand grenades force two evacuations

FROM STAFF REPORTS

About a dozen inert duplicate hand grenades led to evacuations in two separate subdivisions in Garland County on Thursday, until a military bomb squad determined the devices were not explosive.

Shortly before 2 p.m. Thursday, workers at a construction site at 100 Pogue Lane unearthed what appeared to be 12 to 13 "pineapple" style hand grenades, a Garland County Sheriff's Department spokesman said at the scene.

The area was partially cordoned off, with a perimeter established to protect the public, and was partially evacuated, according to a sheriff's department news release.

Sheriff's Sgt. John Schroeder said the 19th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight from Little Rock Air Force Base in Jacksonville was called to the scene to examine the devices.

The incident was followed by the partial evacuation of the 700 block of Elkhorn Loop, after one of the construction workers reportedly put one of the grenades in his vehicle and drove home.

The release said a sheriff's corporal was flagged

GRENADES, PAGE 12A

'Red brick' demolition

The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

A high-reach excavator operator for DT Specialized Services Inc. of Tulsa, Okla., begins the demolition of the Majestic Hotel complex's "red brick" building on Thursday. A mister was placed on the Whittington Avenue side of the site to tamp down dust with aerated water. The "red brick" building was completed in 1926. The Lanai Tower, built in 1958, and the Lanai Suites, built in 1962, have already been demolished.

County may create own animal services

DAVID SHOWERS
The Sentinel-Record

An ordinance advanced Monday night by the Garland County Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee moved the county closer to striking out on its own for animal services.

The committee gave a do-pass recommendation to District 4 Justice of the Peace Mary Bournival's proposal to build a facility jointly operated by the county and the Garland County Humane Society on the 41-acre property of the county detention center. The proposal includes using detention center inmates to help run the facility, which Bournival said could cost as much $1 million to build.

She said the Humane Society would contribute to the cost, most of which would be borne by the county's Ouachita Memorial Hospital Fund. It had an $8.1 million cash balance as of the end of August, according to the county's office of financial management. In lieu of tapping the OMH fund, Bournival said levying 0.2

ANIMAL SERVICES, PAGE 3A

Trial sought in HSCC property tax dispute

DAVID SHOWERS
The Sentinel-Record

Citing concerns about the effect on other country clubs, the Garland County prosecutor's office filed a motion Wednesday to set aside the mediation order entered in the Hot Springs Golf and Country Club Association's property tax lawsuit against the county.

Prosecuting Attorney Terri Harris said negotiating a lower appraisal could require the county assessor's office to lower assessments on other country clubs such as Diamondhead Golf and Country Club and those in Hot Springs Village. The county's contractor appraiser, Arkansas CAMA Technology Inc., raised the issue, Harris said.

"There's a concern that if we made any sort of agreement to reduced the assessed value of the two parcels at issue, it could very well necessitate a reduction for similarly situated properties," said Harris, who's representing the county in the lawsuit the country club filed in December.

Special Judge Tom Smitherman ordered the two sides into mediation in July. The county's motion has asked that a bench trial be scheduled.

Harris said a lower appraisal was negotiated during mediation ordered in the Hot Springs Mall's property tax lawsuit because there are no similar properties in the county that would've been affected. The mediation order entered in August lowered the mall's appraised market value by more than half, appraising it at $8.6 million.

"We had a different situation with the mall," Harris said. "Since there are no other indoor malls in the county, we didn't have to contend with that particular issue."

The country club appealed the coun-

TAXES, PAGE 3A

Concentration

The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

Konnie McCarthy, 60, of Conway, returns the ball during a 2016 Arkansas Senior Olympics table tennis match at First Church of the Nazarene on Thursday. The games continue through Sunday.

National Park College remembers support, plans events

JAY BELL
The Sentinel-Record

National Park College administrators and board members took time on Wednesday to remember and honor past supporters of the school.

NPC President John Hogan noted Wednesday as the first meeting of the board of trustees since the death of Dr. Martin Eisele, 94, who died Sept. 15. The auditorium in the Frederick M. Dierks Center for Nursing and Health Sciences was named in Eisele's honor.

Eisele supported the opening of the college in 1973 and was an NPC Foundation board member with emeritus status. He was instrumental in helping to secure funding for the Dierks building and established an endowment to support scholarships for nursing and health sciences students. His family suggested donations be made in lieu of flowers for his service to various organizations, including the NPC Foundation.

NPC, PAGE 3A

LifeNet acquires specialized cot for large patients

STEVEN MROSS
The Sentinel-Record

LifeNet installed a new bariatric cot and loading system in one of its ambulances earlier this month that is specifically designed to handle large patients.

While it has not been used for a patient as yet, Jason Gartner, LifeNet's general manager, said Thursday that the service transported 16 patients in August alone that were heavier than 350 pounds, so it's just a matter of time until it's needed.

"That's not to say that it will be used in every instance of a patient that is larger than 350 pounds," he said. "There will be operational and clinical considerations to consider on a case-by-case basis."

This system is safer for both the patients and the EMS

COT, PAGE 5A

The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

NEW TECHNOLOGY: LifeNet EMT Rick Dodd, left, and Field Training Officer Nick Brown demonstrate how to load a patient into an ambulance using the company's new bariatric cot and loading system. Purchased and installed earlier this month, it features a cot that is wider than normal, a winch system, and ramps that secure to the floor of the ambulance for the transport of heavier patients. The new cot can carry a maximum of 1,600 pounds.

Dog show draws prized pooches

MAX BRYAN
The Sentinel-Record

Dog lovers in Garland County can get their canine fix this week at Hot Springs Convention Center.

Hot Springs National Park Kennel Club's annual dog show will be free to the public in the convention center from 4-9 p.m. today and from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. This year's show will feature judged events,

DOG SHOW, PAGE 5A

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Weather

SUNNY. HIGHS IN THE HIGH 70S. LOWS IN THE MID 50S.

SUNRISE: 7:06 A.M.
SUNSET: 6:58 P.M.

SATURDAY: HIGH 80° LOW 57°

SUNDAY: HIGH 82° LOW 59°

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