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FRIDAY
March 18, 2016

The Sentinel-Record

Three sections, 26 pages
Number 78, Volume 139
Seventy Five Cents

www.hotspringssr.com

Published daily in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, since 1877

Bacon & Busey on Bridge

BIG ON FUN: The First Ever 13th Annual World's Shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade festivities kicked off with the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders, top, as they warmed up the crowd. Official parade starter Gary Busey, bottom, made his debut by starting the parade and tossing beads to the crowd with his wife, Stephanie, followed by celebrity grand marshals Kevin and Michael Bacon, center, later on in the evening.

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

Spa City goes green for St. Patrick's parade

LINDSEY WELLS
The Sentinel-Record

The First Ever 13th Annual World's Shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade took downtown Hot Springs by storm Thursday with a sea of green and a side of Bacon and Busey.

Orange-bearded dancing leprechauns, an Irish beach party, and kids Whip/Nae Nae-ing in the street were just some of the evening's attractions.

Academy Award-nominated actor Gary Busey served as official parade starter and the Bacon Brothers — Kevin and Michael Bacon, served as the parade's celebrity grand marshals.

Busey, who grew up in Tulsa, Okla., said during a VIP party held at the Hot Springs Convention Center on Thursday that it was "lovely" to be back home in the South. "You know what V.I.P. Stands for? Very Important Pig — Go Razorbacks!" he added.

PARADE, PAGE 5A

Parade attendees woo Blarney Stone

COLBIE MCCLOUD
The Sentinel-Record

Serenaders and dancers of all ages glossed their lips up and wooed the Arkansas Blarney Stone Thursday as they got just a few seconds to make their best impression on the rock and win $100.

"Otis Fudpucker," who claims to be "the largest leprechaun in the world," gave approximately 20 contestants the ground rules for their serenading of the giant stone that sits in front of the Hot Springs Convention Center.

"We tell them the rules, then forget them halfway through and make them up as we go," Fudpucker said.

Contestants could dance, hug, sing, show off other talents and, of course, kiss the Blarney Stone. They were reminded by the leprechaun hosts to look at the stone as if it was their boyfriend or girlfriend. The family friendly event had contestants ranging in age from 20 months to older.

Rachael Lewis, a "fairy godmother" from Hot Springs, spoke words of admiration to Blarney and said, as far as her technique, "I just went after it."

After hearing about the First Ever 13th Annual World's Shortest

BLARNEY, PAGE 5A

Water tank concerns lead to boil order

DAVID SHOWERS
The Sentinel-Record

MOUNTAIN PINE — The Arkansas Department of Health said Thursday that it didn't receive a May 2014 report showing potential sanitary hazards inside Mountain Pine's water tank until Tuesday.

The revelation, coupled with the discovery that the city had taken no action to address the report's findings, led the department to initiate Wednesday's precautionary boil order. The health department said the inspection revealed debris and hazards in the interior of the 110,000-gallon standpipe tank. The city held an emergency water safety meeting Thursday night.

"The report wasn't provided

TANK, PAGE 3A

FL student earns top EAST project

JAY BELL
The Sentinel-Record

Fountain Lake Charter High School senior Alexa Donley was recognized Wednesday for the best Environmental and Spatial Technologies project submitted from more than 200 programs for the 2016 EAST Conference.

The award was presented Wednesday evening during the Conference Gala at the Hot Springs Convention Center. The annual conference was held Tuesday through Thursday.

The EAST Initiative held an overall project competition this year for the first time. Students could work in any subject area, address any problem and use any software or hardware to address it.

Fountain Lake learned several weeks ago Donley was among eight finalists for the award. The finalists included projects submitted by students from Harrison Junior High School, J.O. Kelly Middle School in Springdale, Joe T. Robinson Middle School in Little Rock, Malvern Middle School, Wynne Intermediate School and two from Helen Tyson Middle School in Springdale.

Donley's submission was based on her project for a mobile application for people recovering from eating disorders. She was diagnosed with anorex-

EAST, PAGE 3A

Submitted photo

FULFILLMENT: Alexa Donley, a senior at Fountain Lake Charter High School, earned first place in the inaugural EAST project competition. Donley was recognized during the EAST Conference Gala Wednesday evening for her project, Fulfill, an app that tracks nutritional data for people with eating disorders without displaying numbers.

Red Cross dispatches aid to flood victims

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Hot Springs Village resident Junior Flora will be among the American Red Cross volunteers who will assist flood victims and assess their needs in flooded areas of south Arkansas and surrounding states.

The American Red Cross is expanding its assistance efforts across Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi by sending supplies and food with two emergency truck teams that were deployed from Hot Springs and Rogers following recent floods that damaged more than 1,000 homes.

Trained disaster drivers from Hot Springs, Fort Smith, Fayetteville and Winslow are among the responders, according to a news release.

Two caseworkers from Jonesboro and Pocahontas will assist with Shreveport, La., victims, and a mental health specialist from Searcy County will provide guidance to victim's emotional recovery in Hattiesburg, Miss.

"Care continues, as well, for Arkansans recovering from recent floods and storms in western and southern counties," said Brigette Williams, American Red Cross Regional Director of Communications. "With the last emergency shelter recently closed, Red Cross teams continue damage assessments in areas now accessible as floodwaters have receded."

Responders are assisting victims in Ashley, Cleburne, Chicot, Desha, Drew, Faulkner, Montgomery, Jefferson, Lee, Lincoln, Scott, Lonoke, Phillips and Pulaski counties in Ar-

FLOOD RELIEF, PAGE 3A

8 32116 00050 2

Weather

CHANCE OF RAIN. HIGHS IN THE LOW 60S. LOWS IN THE LOW 40S.

SUNRISE: 7:19 A.M.
SUNSET: 7:22 P.M.

MORE ON PAGE 2A

SATURDAY: HIGH 59° LOW 35°

SUNDAY: HIGH 55° LOW 33°

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