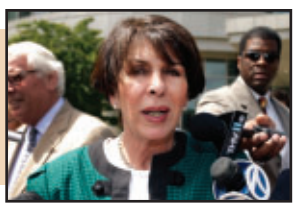
TREASURER
Judge rejects guilty plea from former treasurer
STATE ■ PAGE 2A



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SATURDAY
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County begins storm recovery

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

HAZARDOUS CROSSING: A Garland County road crew clears debris from a low-water bridge Friday afternoon on Brady Mountain Cutoff. Heavy rains Thursday afternoon and early Friday morning caused the flooding.

Entergy: Outages could stretch into Sunday

MARK GREGORY
Managing editor

Outages created by a succession of storms that moved across Garland County Thursday night and early Friday morning could last into Sunday, Entergy Arkansas Inc. said.

In Garland County alone, 5,400 customers were without power as of Friday morning, according to Greg Asbell, regional manager of customer service for Entergy.

"Some of the damage is inside the city, but the majority appears to be in the county. High winds, fallen trees and lightning are the main causes of this storm's power interruptions," Asbell said Friday.

The same storms also produced at least one tornado, locally heavy rains and subsequent flooding, according to National Weather Service reports.

Entergy's Hydro Operations activated the "non-failure high water event" portion of its Emergency Action Plan at around 11:30 p.m. Thursday.

The plan was deactivated around 3:30 p.m. Friday, Entergy said in an email, after lake levels stabilized and releases from Remmel Dam dropped below 20,000 cubic feet per second of water.

Friday morning, the flow from Remmel had reached around 35,200 cfs, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers halted the release of water from Lake Ouachita through Blakely Mountain Dam until the high-water event ended (see related story).

Entergy's email said Blakely will not make releases until the flow release from Remmel drops below 13,000 cfs.

"We will be monitoring lake levels and adjusting flow accordingly. Our release schedule should be returning to its normal schedule as soon as the

STORM, PAGE 4A

'Just in time'

Residents took shelter in closet

MANDIE GOBER
The Sentinel-Record

Storm victims are cleaning up debris after a possible tornado on Thursday damaged a number of homes, downed power lines and ripped apart trees.

"We saw it coming and had about three minutes to seek shelter," said Billy Vuncannon, who lives on Nubbin Ridge Road. "We made it to the closet just in time."

It was his daughter who called to warn her parents that the storm was right on top of them.

"She called and said that we needed to get to a safe place," said Vuncannon. "She had just enough time to stand in our sunroom and she saw it coming."

Much of the beauty on Vuncannon's property, which is home to six horses and 14 head of cattle, was damaged, along with a large barn and several horse stables and sheds.

"When we were sure the storm had passed, we looked out into the kitchen and saw the bright sunlight," said Vuncannon. "My wife immediately knew something wasn't right. The backside of our house sustained heavy damage. Our sunroom was completely gone. Along with the stables and 60 bales of hay."

He said it's hard to know where to start. The Vuncannons and their family members said they have been finding all kinds of things on their property from the back of a camper shell to teddy bears that were scattered throughout the area.

"So many things that need to be done," he said. "We have been out here working for hours hauling off brush and debris from everywhere. But we are safe; that is the main thing."

A little farther down the road, Harold Thompson and his family are also clearing debris, downed trees and power lines.

Thompson said no one was hurt when the tornado hit.

"It was real quick," he said. "All I heard

VICTIMS, PAGE 4A

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/Benjamin Krain

VIEW FROM ABOVE: Fallen trees surround the home of Harold Thompson on Nubbin Ridge Road in Pearcy on Friday. The home was damaged by a possible tornado Thursday night.

Sections of roadways washed away by flood waters

DON THOMASON
The Sentinel-Record

Tornadoes and heavy rain that swept through western and northern Garland County Thursday afternoon and night left washed out roads and downed trees in their wake.

"We had tornadoes last night, floods last night and today, and many roads were washed out in the area, " County Judge Rick Davis said Friday morning.

Davis estimated that western Garland County could have had as much as 6-plus inches of rain during the storm period.

Ragweed Valley Road, Old Dallas Road, Brady Mountain Road Cutoff, and Meyer Creek Road, all in the western part of the county, had sections of the roadway washed away, Davis said.

By early Friday, much of the water had started to recede, he said, but noted that Big Mazarn Creek on North Pearcy Road had about a 4-foot rise in the water level between 4:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m.

"At 4:30, it wasn't bad, but at 6:30, it

DAMAGE, PAGE 4A

Gaines named executive editor of *The Sentinel-Record*

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Eliza Gaines, assistant publisher of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, on Friday was named executive editor of *The Sentinel-Record* by Walter E. Hussman Jr., the newspaper's publisher and CEO of WEHCO Media.

Gaines succeeds Melinda Gassaway, who on Friday announced her intention to retire Aug. 30 after 39 and a half years as executive editor.

Gary Troutman, general manager of *The Sentinel-Record*, also announced the promotion of Mark Gregory, the newspaper's managing editor, to the position of editor.

"We're really indebted to Melinda for her career here and 39 and a half years in leadership in making *The Sentinel-Record* a better newspaper and adding tremendous value for our readers," Hussman said Friday.

"We're really fortunate to have had somebody like Melinda to put in that kind of loyalty and tenure. That's the main thing we want to emphasize," he said.

"Also, we're real excited about Eliza coming over to be executive editor and having somebody as experienced as Mark Gregory to work with her and help her and put out a great paper.

NEWSPAPER, PAGE 3A

The Sentinel-Record/Beth Bright

LEADERSHIP CHANGES: Leadership changes were announced Friday at The Sentinel-Record by Gary Troutman, left, general manager. From left are Walter E. Hussman Jr., the newspaper's publisher and CEO of WEHCO Media, Melinda Gassaway, the newspaper's executive editor, who announced her plans to retire effective Aug. 30, Eliza Gaines, assistant publisher of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, who will become The Sentinel-Record's executive editor on Sept. 3, and Mark Gregory, managing editor, who will become the newspaper's editor on Sept. 3.

Pilot marks 90th birthday with memoirs

JEFF SMITH
The Sentinel-Record

On the heels of this week's Memorial Day tributes, Hot Springs resident and combat pilot Jack Benton turns 90 years old today. On May 2, his friend and fellow fighter pilot from Korea, Lawrence Alley, celebrated his 90th birthday in Douglas, Kan.

Benton's son drove him to Douglas to help Alley celebrate his birthday, and at that time, Alley announced the release of his memoirs, "My Generation, 1923-2013: Memoirs of a Marine Pilot in World War II and Korea."

Benton flew 50 missions in World War II in Douglas SBD dive bombers and 89 in Korea in a Douglas Sky Raider. Several of those Korea missions are documented in Alley's book,

PILOT, PAGE 4A

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Weather

STORMS LIKELY. CLOUDY. HIGHS IN THE HIGH 80S. LOWS IN THE MID 60S.

SUNRISE: 6:01 A.M.
SUNSET: 8:19 P.M.

MORE ON PAGE 2A

SUNDAY: HIGH 81° LOW 59°

MONDAY: HIGH 82° LOW 61°

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Subscriber of the Day

Recognizing
Lee Sowerbutts,
a reader of The Sentinel-Record for 11-plus years