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SUNDAY
June 28, 2015

The Sentinel-Record

Four sections,
34 pages
Number 179, Volume 138
$1.25

www.hotspringssr.com

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

Bringing home the Bacons

Bacon Brothers named celebrity grand marshals of '16 St. Patrick's parade

BETH BRIGHT
The Sentinel-Record

The Bacon Brothers, Kevin and Michael, will be the celebrity grand marshals and post-parade entertainment at the First Ever 13th Annual World's Shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2016.

The duo will continue the parade's unbroken string of home-run celebrity grand marshals, according to Steve Arrison, CEO of Visit Hot Springs, and one of the founders of the biggest little parade in the South, that "upward of 30,000 fans of all things Irish" will attend.

"We're ecstatic that The Bacon Brothers will be joining us for our 13th parade," Arrison said. "I think people tend to overlook Kevin and Michael's musical accomplishments and everyone is in for a great time with these guys."

PARADE, PAGE 3A

Submitted photo

MUSICAL DUO: Kevin and Michael Bacon will serve as celebrity grand marshals and post parade entertainment for the First Ever 13th Annual World's Shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2016. The Bacon Brothers Band will be releasing their seventh album, "36 Cents," on Sept. 16, and have been playing together for nearly two decades.

Recreation areas reopen ahead of July Fourth

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Despite additional damage from a storm that swept through the area Friday night, all recreation areas on Lake Ouachita are open with the exception of Twin Creek Day Use Area, which will reopen once its grassy fields dry out more, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says.

"The Lake Ouachita Field Office staff and maintenance contractor, Re-Engineered Business Solutions, have been working to make the necessary repairs to the recreation areas recently damaged by the high-water event and make them available for public use," Bill Jackson, supervisory ranger for the Lake Ouachita Field Office, said in an email outlining the recovery efforts that followed elevated lake levels brought about by heavy rains over the past month.

At Twin Creek, vehicles would damage the area if driven off the roadway, due to the soggy fields.

Campgrounds at Brady Mountain, Crystal Springs, Tompkins Bend and Denby Point began filling up around the first of this week, with only a few RV campsites remaining available Friday, Jackson said.

Visitors began arriving and locating vacant first-come, first-serve campsites to set up their camping equipment in preparation of remaining through the July Fourth holiday weekend, he said.

Campsite availability will be posted on the Vicksburg District-Lake Ouachita Facebook page daily for visitors seeking campsites through the holiday weekend.

At around 8:30 p.m. Friday, a severe thunderstorm packing high winds passed through the Tompkins Bend Recreation Area. Several trees were blown down throughout the campground, causing "major damage" to a 2014 Jeep and a 2013

RECREATION AREAS, PAGE 4A

Friday's storm causes around 5,800 outages

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A line of severe thunderstorms that swept through western Arkansas Friday night caused around 5,800 outages in Garland County, Entergy Arkansas Inc. said Saturday, and damaged a vehicle and a camper at Tompkins Bend Recreation Area on Lake Ouachita.

The number of outages had been reduced to 1,591 by Saturday morning, about a third of which were in the Hot Springs Village-Fountain Lake area, said Mark Hunt, Entergy's customer service manager. The remainder of the outages were mostly in the western part of the county, "although we have scattered outages everywhere."

POWER, PAGE 4A

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

INJECTION POINT: A water main lays exposed June 17 at the Ouachita Water Treatment Plant. The unearthed portion will be tapped to add fluoride as part of the city's fluoridation project.

Fluoridation project starts

DAVID SHOWERS
The Sentinel-Record

MOUNTAIN PINE — Ground at the Ouachita Water Treatment Plant has been cleared for the fluoridation project the Hot Springs City Board of Directors approved last November.

A Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation grant will reimburse the city for project expenses. It stipulates installation be completed within 18 months of the city signing the grant agreement, which took effect last July.

The grant provides that half the approved project costs will be reimbursed 30 days after the start of construction, with the balance remitted when the project is finished. City Engineer Gary Carnahan said one reimbursement request has been submitted, and another one is expected to be issued next month. Fluoridation is one element in the $3 million plant upgrade Carnahan said will be completed by early next year.

The grant amount reflects the cost estimate Crist Engineers, Inc. developed in November of 2012. The $93,750 estimated for a fluoride feed building is the largest expense. It will be situated near the silo that introduces lime to control ph levels in the water.

Fluoridating the Lakeside Water Treatment Plant, the smaller of the two treatment facilities, was estimated at $342,390, but at present installation is only occurring at the Ouachita Plant on upper Lake Hamilton.

Fluoride will enter the treatment process after filtration. The 42-inch main carrying water from the plant's nine filters will be tapped near its connection to the clear well, where chlorine that's introduced earlier in the process is given time to disinfect water before it's pumped to the city's network of storage tanks.

City Utility Director Scott Bundy said baffles inside the clear well will mix the fluoride and water.

Legislation enacted in 2011 requires water systems serving more than 5,000 people to

FLUORIDATION, PAGE 3A

EAST students seek funding for veteran housing

JAY BELL
The Sentinel-Record

A pair of Hot Springs High School seniors are in search of funds for an innovative solution to address homelessness of military veterans.

Environmental and Spatial Technologies students Hunter Murphy and Haley Murray hope to raise funds to repurpose a shipping container into temporary housing for veterans. Murphy has continued to modify the design over more than a year on the project.

Cassandra Dixon, the high school EAST facilitator, established a new page on the Go Fund Me fundraising website. Five donors pledged $140 on the first day.

The account is titled, "Homeless Housing for Veterans." The page can be found at http://www.gofundme.com/shippingcontainer.

A separate sale of Hot Springs High School EAST

HOUSING, PAGE 5A

New officers

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

Incoming Hot Springs National Park Rotary Club President Ernie Hinz, second from right, with his wife, Vicki, right, and outgoing club President Les Warren, second from left, and his wife, Pam, socialize during the club's annual banquet and installation of officers on Thursday at the Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa.

School Choice applications due

JAY BELL
The Sentinel-Record

Applications for the Arkansas School Choice Transfer Program for Garland County schools are due by Wednesday.

Garland County schools began accepting applications on April 1. No applications for the 2015-16 school year can be accepted after July 1.

Student movement through School Choice in Garland County is still affected by the racial demographics of each district despite a 2012 court ruling that declared the practice unconstitutional. Districts are given racial data and a complex formula from the Arkansas Department of Education to determine the acceptance and rejection of requested transfers.

Transfers can be approved when families request for a student to move from a district with a higher percentage of a particular race to a district with a lower percentage. Districts must abide by "acceptable range calculations."

For the transfer of white students, if no single minority race or ethnic category in either of the two districts is 10

SCHOOL CHOICE, PAGE 3A

8 32116 00100 4

Weather

SUNNY. HIGHS IN THE HIGH 80S. LOWS IN THE HIGH 60S.

SUNRISE: 6:02 A.M.
SUNSET: 8:29 P.M.

MONDAY: HIGH 91° LOW 70°

TUESDAY: HIGH 91° LOW 73°

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