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Area residents honored for aiding police officer

DON THOMASON
AND BRIAN CALDWELL
The Sentinel-Record

Three Hot Springs citizens have been honored for their recent actions that possibly saved the life of a Hot Springs police officer.

Keith Merritt and his wife, Sherry, a former lieutenant with the Pulaski County Sheriff's Department, were specifically honored at a ceremony Thursday night hosted by the Garland Good Government Group, for assisting police officer LeeAnn Clem, who was attacked by a man on the night of Aug. 12.

The couple and Christopher Ware, who made the initial 911 call, received awards and letters of commendation from Hot Springs Police Chief David Flory, Hot Springs Mayor Ruth Carney and

representatives of the Garland County Quorum Court Tuesday night at the Hot Springs Board of Directors meeting.

According to official reports, Ware called the 911 Emergency Dispatch Center around 10:35 p.m. Aug. 12 to report a disorderly man "actively engaged in acts of vandalism and other crimes in the 500 block of Ouachita Avenue."

Clem, who was in the area, responded to the call and was attacked by the man, who attempted to take her weapon away and was heard by the 911 operator making statements that he would kill Clem, Flory said.

According to Flory, the Merritts were driving in the area, saw the encounter between Clem and her assailant, and they, along with Ware,

HONORED, PAGE 5A



The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

HEROES HONORED: Blake Robertson, right, a member of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, presents a plaque to Keith and Sherry Merritt for assisting a Hot Springs police officer when she was attacked. The plaque was presented at the Garland County Library during a ceremony hosted by the Garland Good Government Group.

Shortfall of FEMA funds may hit county

JIM NEWSOM
The Sentinel-Record

Garland County Judge Rick Davis said that with the Federal Emergency Management Agency running low on disaster relief funding, Garland County will likely "get what we get" in reimbursements for springtime tornado and flood damage throughout the county.

"The rest is going to come out of our pockets," Davis said. "We're taking an accounting to see how much has been paid and how much that's actually owed."

He said he understands FEMA's financial situation, the result of millions in federal emergency funds allocated to a spate of weather-related disasters across the country. But he said "it's not going to be a good situation" for Garland County.

"Instead of getting that 75-percent reimbursable, we'll just get what we get," Davis said. "I think

FEMA, PAGE 3A

Local man convicted for rape of minor

STEVEN MROSS
The Sentinel-Record

A local man accused of repeatedly raping a minor over a period of seven years was convicted Thursday after a two-day trial in Garland County Circuit Court and sentenced to life in prison.



Brown

The seven man, five woman jury deliberated for less than 30 minutes before finding Bruce Wayne Brown, 45, guilty of a felony count of rape and then only about 20 minutes Thursday evening before recommending the maximum sentence of life in prison.

"I was very pleased and felt it was a very appropriate sentence based on the evidence," Deputy Prosecutor Michelle Lawrence said Thursday, shortly after the verdict was reached.

A second count of rape involving the sexual assault of the victim's mother by Brown was withdrawn by prosecutors before

CONVICTION, PAGE 2A



The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

FOREVER IN OUR THOUGHTS: Lake Hamilton 10th-graders look on as Assistant Principal Frank Stapleton signs the flag on Thursday.

Schools mark anniversary of 9/11

JENN BALLARD
The Sentinel-Record

Schools in Garland County spent time this week to honor the anniversary of the tragedy that struck the nation on Sept. 11, 2001.

Lake Hamilton High School students in history teacher Denise Miller's class created a flag to honor those who lost their lives that day, and hung it in the school's cafeteria.

"The idea was to have a big giant flag, and everybody could come to the cafeteria sometime during the day

and have it to remind them," she said Thursday. "We put different biographies, so you could see who they were and see what they did."

"It puts faces to it. Two thousand people were killed," she said, adding that students researched and created biographies with pictures of those who lost their lives that day, including children.

Miller said she gave the students the idea to create the flag, but they made it their own while creating it this week.

"They figured out how to do it, they

measured it in the computer and did it themselves," she said of her contemporary American history class, comprised of about 22 sophomores.

"It took a lot of teamwork, a lot of math and logical thinking," she said.

"We wanted everybody (at the school) to sign somewhere on the flag," she said. "We'll start out with my third period and then at lunch, everybody can sign and honor it. Maybe when they come up here to sign, it'll catch their eye about the stories."

SCHOOLS, PAGE 4A

RALLY ARRIVAL



The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

Cliff Andrews, right, of Carthage, Texas, arrives at the Hot Springs Convention Center on Friday for the sixth annual Hot Springs Motorcycle Rally. The rally continues through today with a variety of events including a poker run, motorcycle games and shows, and concerts.

JPs to consider smaller version of land-use policy

JIM NEWSOM
The Sentinel-Record

The Garland County Quorum Court will consider adopting a downsized version of a proposed interim county land use policy it has mulled over for months.

The quorum court will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the Garland County Court House, 501 Ouachita Ave.

The proposed ordinance "expressing a desire to be included in any discussions, before any policies or laws are enacted by the federal government, the state of Arkansas or their agencies," stipulates that all natural resource decisions affecting the county should be guided by the following principles:

- Protecting private property rights.

- Protecting local custom and culture.

- Maintaining traditional economic structures through self-determination.

- Protecting new economic opportunities through reliance on a free enterprise system.

Additionally, the ordinance states "it is the policy of Garland County that federal and state agencies shall inform the county of all pending actions affecting any land in Garland County and its citizens, and coordinate with them in the planning and implementation of those actions."

The proposed ordinance would implement the interim land use policy until a comprehensive plan is developed in the future.

The two-page ordinance is

POLICY, PAGE 6A



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PARTLY SUNNY.
HIGHS IN THE MID
80S. LWS IN THE
LOW 60S.

SUNRISE: 6:51 A.M.
SUNSET: 7:28 P.M.

MORE ON PAGE 2A



SUNDAY:
HIGH 86° LOW 63°

MONDAY:
HIGH 90° LOW 64°

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Quote of the day

"If there is no knowledge, there is no understanding; if there is no understanding, there is no knowledge."
- The Talmud.