**SPORTS:** 'Q' factors in Honeybee; unbeaten Cox filly favored, **Page 1B** 

# he Sentinel-Record

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

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Sunday, February 23, 2025

Seven sections, 54 pages No. 54, Vol. 148 | \$2.00

## Oaklawn presents Rebel after pause for weather



Oaklawn is shown on Feb. 13. (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/Thomas Metthe)

**BOB WISENER** SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL-RECORD

A winter storm with Arkansas in its crosshairs affected Oaklawn racing this week plus other affairs statewide. Compensation comes with a thaw-out and accompanying warm-up over the rescheduled Rebel Stakes weekend.

in midweek, highs are expected to finishers in each race. reach the 60s on a rare Monday of ly dark on the calendar.

once just a pari-mutuel mansion in race Sunday, the Commodore Over-

"I like being surprised

by things. I'm looking

forward to it. I'm looking

forward to going down to

the South because I love

the South."

— Valerie Bertinelli

Five major races are scheduled today, two on Monday. Stakes buffet for the track's first Rebel Sunday includes the \$1.25 million Grade 2 Rebel and \$500,000 Grade 3 Hon-

eybee — respective Kentucky Derby

and Kentucky Oaks qualifying races

late winter and early spring.

with 50 points to the winners and From near record lows at night 55 more split among the next four The Grade 3 \$500,000 Razorback

racing at the track, that day normal- Handicap, which in 2017 produced Horse of the Year Gun Runner (also With company coming — big the race winner), is for older horstime horses and their connections es and like the other graded races — things should be hopping at 2705 at 1 1/16 miles. The \$150,000 Car-Central Ave. A touch of the old ousel, its conditions changing over South blended with modern tech- the year but still six furlongs, is for nology has produced Oaklawn Rac- older fillies and mares. The \$145,000 ing Casino Resort from what was Trivista Overnight and a companion

night, are for non-stakes winners. The Rebel, counting two Derby winners in the 2000s, is the second seven-figure race of the local season. The track's third million-grander for 3-year-olds is even richer with the Grade 1 Arkansas Derby purse March 29. (Mystik Dan, the 2024 Kentucky Derby winner, sat out the Rebel, won by Timberline.)

Speed King, owned by Hot Springs' Ted Bowman, won the Grade 3 \$1 million Southwest Jan. 25, a surprising outcome only that several contenders were troubled and did not run their best; meanwhile, Speed King got away with an uncontested lead and held on strongly under Rafael Bejarano. Ron Moquett trains the Volatile colt, trying to get

See OAKLAWN, Page 2A

### Grand marshal:

## TV star Bertinelli 'excited' to lead St. Pat's parade

JAMES LEIGH

THE SENTINEL-RECORD Although this will be her first trip to the Spa City, Valerie Bertinelli is "excited" to serve as celebrity grand marshal of the First Ever 22nd Annual World's Shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade.

"I don't think I've ever been a grand marshal in a parade before," she said. "I'm looking forward to it. I love St Patrick's Day. I'm like 16% Irish, so I've always loved it. I have a brother named Patrick.

Her son, Wolfie, "was supposed to actually be born on St Patrick's Day, but he came the day before. So I just love this holiday.

I love this time of year." Bertinelli's son, Wolfgang Van Halen, shares a birthday with the parade's official starter, Flavor

"I'm so excited," she said when she learned of the hip-hop legend being part of the parade. "I've never met him. He's amazing. I'm so excited to meet him."

While she admits she is "going into this blind," Bertinelli is looking forward to spending more time in the South.

"I don't know anything about it, and I kind of like that a lot of times," she said. "I like being surprised by things. I'm looking forward to it. I'm looking forward to going down to the South because I love the South. I lived in Louisiana for a while, and I love meeting new people."

The lifestyle expert for "The Drew Barrymore Show" is not put off by the quirky nature of the parade.

"I really want to get to know everybody in it and just enjoy the quirkiness of it," Bertinelli said.

"My sister-in-law used to put on a parade for Mardi Gras in Arizona, and they literally live in this little, tiny cul-de-sac. So I love



TV star Valerie Bertinelli will be the celebrity grand marshal for the First Ever 22nd Annual World's Shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade. (Courtesy Ben Cope)

quirky little parades.

"We would like dress up our car — I think it was like two or three cars in the parade — but we did it for the neighbors because it's fun.

My sister-in-law, Stacy, is one of those people that's just so much fun, so I like people that do quirky things and have fun," she said.

See **PARADE**, Page 2A

## Israel delays prisoners' release, citing 'humiliating' handovers

WAFAA SHURAFA, MOHAMMED JAHJOUH AND MELANIE LIDMAN THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israel says the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners is delayed "until the release of the next hostages has been assured, and without the humiliating ceremonies" at handovers of Israeli captives in Gaza.

The statement by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office came early Sunday as military vehicles that normally move in

and go back in.

prisoners had been delayed for several hours and was meant to occur just after six Israeli hostages were released on Saturday. It was meant to be the largest oneday prisoner release in the Gaza ceasefire's first phase.

Israel's announcement abruptly put the future of the truce into

further doubt. The Palestinian Authority's

advance of the buses carrying commission for prisoners' affairs prisoners left the open gates of confirmed the delay "until further Ofer prison, only to turn around notice." Associated Press video in the West Bank showed prison-The release of 620 Palestinian ers' families, waiting outdoors in near-freezing weather, apparently dispersing. One woman was

> Five of the six hostages freed Saturday had been escorted by masked, armed militants in front of a crowd — a display that the U.N. and Red Cross have criticized as cruel after previous handovers.

shown walking away in tears.

See MIDEAST, Page 4A

## Veterans service officer goes the extra mile for Garland County veterans

DAVID SHOWERS

THE SENTINEL-RECORD Listing duty assignments, rank, job specialties and service time, discharge papers are the coin of the

bureaucracy of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Garland County Veterans Service Officer Mark Aho can help track down a copy of a misplaced DD Form 214, but sometimes even

realm when navigating the tortuous

it's not enough to substantiate a service-connected disability claim. Discharge papers don't include duties veterans get assigned to outside of their regular units. Such was the case for a veteran seeking benefits from asbestos exposure. He had been loaned out to a unit that had been exposed, but it wasn't reflected in his discharge

It took the thank you letter he received from the unit's commander to prove it. Aho submitted the

records.

letter to a senior VA adjudicator after the claim had been denied multiple times, resulting in an estimated \$4,100 monthly benefit for the remainder of the veteran's life.

"The letter mentioned the unit and commander," Aho said. "That's why you always keep every document. One piece of paper can make a difference in a decision. They granted him his 100% special monthly compensation. This is going to greatly change his life and the life of his family."

A widow had discharge papers showing her husband was a veteran of the Vietnam War. His service and campaign medals were part of the record, but the VA said the decorations alone didn't prove he was there during the war. Aho found an order that authorized the woman's husband to travel from Oakland to De Nang, Vietnam, leading to \$25,000 in back pay.

See AHO, Page 2A



Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts student Kelvin Orduna stands in front of the ASMSA Creativity and Innovation Complex. Orduna was recently selected as a Coca-Cola Scholars-Select. (Submitted photo)

## ASMSA senior named Coca-Cola Scholar

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts senior Kelvin Orduna was recently selected as a Coca-Cola Scholars-Select.

Orduna, a senior from Huntsville, was one of 150 high school seniors nationwide to be awarded a \$20,000 college scholarship. Recipients were selected from a pool of more than 105,000 applications.

As a Coca-Cola Scholars-Select, he will attend a Coca-Cola Scholars Weekend in Atlanta in early April where he will participate in the Coca-Cola Scholars Leadership Development Institute.

"Being selected as a Coca-Cola Scholar is an incredible recognition of the service I have done to create

positive change in my community. I am excited to join a network or leaders and visionaries who are just as committed to transformative change in their communities," Orduna said

in a news release. "The Coke Scholars Program is much more than a scholarship it's a lifelong membership in a community of trailblazers. I'm eager to learn from diverse experiences and perspectives of my fellow scholars, who are spearheading advancements in research, policy, advocacy and entrepreneurship."

Sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, the Coca-Cola Scholars Program is a joint effort by The Coca-Cola Company and

See HONOR, Page 2A



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Weather

#### **Extended forecast**

Sentinel-Record, The (Hot Springs, AR) - February 23, 2025 - page 2 February 23, 2025 | Sentinel-Record, The (Hot Springs, AR) | Hot Springs, Arkansas | Page 2

Today: Partly sunny, then gradually becoming sunny, with a high near 53. Calm wind becoming southwest around 5 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 32. Calm wind.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 62. Calm wind becoming southwest around 5 mph in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 15 mph.

Monday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 41. Southwest wind around 5 mph.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 71. West southwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the afternoon.

Tuesday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 46. Calm wind becoming southwest around 5 mph.

high near 68. Winds could gust as high as 15 mph. Wednesday night: Partly cloudy,

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a

west wind around 5 mph. Thursday: Sunny, with a high near

with a low around 40. North north-

Thursday night: Clear, with a low

around 38.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 65. Friday night: Partly cloudy, with a

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 68.

Sunrise: 6:49 a.m. Sunset: 6:02 p.m.

**Moon phases** 



low around 44.



Moonrise: Moonset: 3:53 a.m. 1:19 p.m.

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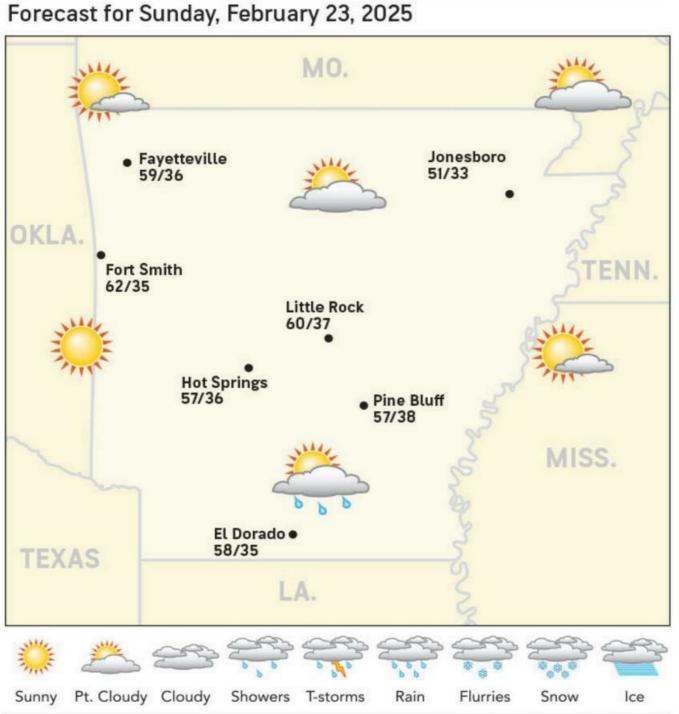
(USPS 490-720) Published daily and Sunday at 300 Spring St., Hot Springs National Park, AR 71901 by Sentinel-Record Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Hot

Springs National Park, Arkansas The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use the republication of all the local news printed in the newspaper as well as all AP news dispatches. Smartphone, iPad and online access are included with all subscriptions.

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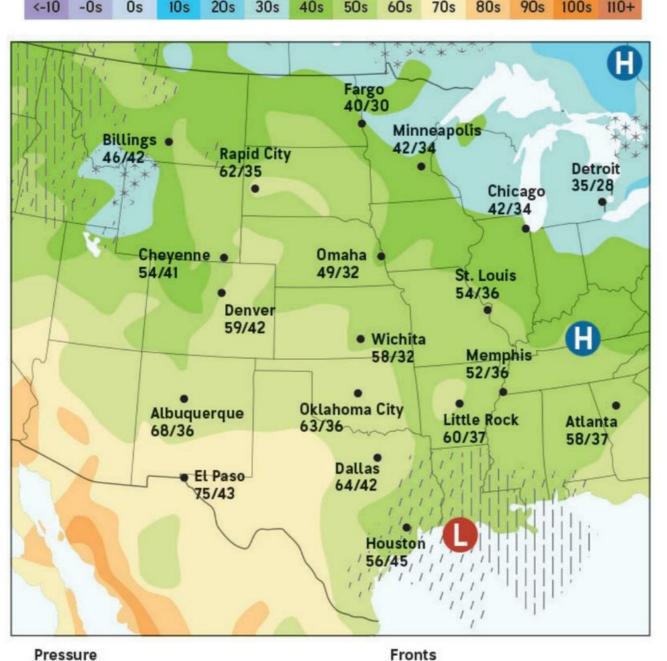
Forecast for Sunday, February 23, 2025 Bands separate high temperature zones for the day. 56/45 Minneapolis 35/28 San Francisco **New York** 44/33 Washington Denver 59/42 Kansas City 53/35 Los Angeles Atlanta 58/37

Houston

56/45

Stationary Pressure 50s 60s 70s

El Paso 75/43



Pressure Fronts High Stationary Showers Flurries Ice T-storms ©2025 AccuWeather, Inc.

### **Quote for the day**

"Everyone wants to be Cary Grant; even I want to be Cary Grant." Cary Grant, British-born American actor (1904-1986)

## Continued from Page 1A

**Oaklawn** 

back to the Kentucky Derby nine years after taking future sprint champion Whitmore. Speed King has 25 points for

the Derby from winning the Southwest and placing second in December's Springboard Mile at Remington Park in Oklahoma City. Coal Battle, with 20 points

for sweeping the Springboard and Southwest, represents trainer Lonnie Briley and Alabama owner Robert Norman. The Coal Front colt drew the rail post in the original 14-horse file, whereas Speed King goes from the inside to post 11.

"How often do you get a colt that you can play with like this and have fun?" said Briley, emphasizing that Coal Battle is not for sale and that Oaklawn racing secretary Pat Pope's influenced coming to Hot Springs.

"I think it's one of the tion.com reported. toughest meets in the coun-Report website. "But I like it

the track. I like it all." A tense time for horsemen is complicated by the weather's effect on training including two batches of snow since Jan. 1. On top of that, racing a tepid 4-1 early favorite. The was shortened to one day on Mark Casse-trained Tapit colt a December Saturday because of torrential rain and some

break from post 10 today, has Madaket Road, each with 6, been scratched after spiking a and Admiral Dennis (Brad temperature, co-owner West Cox) with 2. Asmussen has a Point Thoroughbreds report- second Rebel starter in Southed in a statement. The Gun west also-ran Publisher, the

racing dates were juggled before this week's changes.

Runner colt, trained by Mike Hall of Fame trainer regroup-McCarthy, defeated Madaket ing for the Derby after an Road, another Rebel entry, in ankle chip sidelined last-out the Grade 3 Bob Hope Stakes Fair Grounds Grade 2 winner at Del Mar. Bullard hasn't Magnitude for the May 3 clasearned any Derby points sic at Churchill Downs. but was 33-1 in Las Vegas

Bob Baffert, record eighttry," Briley said on the Paulick time winner of the Rebel, trains Madaket Road, making here. I like the people. I like his first start outside California and hoping to bump his 6 Derby points.

Sandman, a troubled second in the Southwest after breaking in the air, was made has 14 Derby points.

Other Rebel starters with Derby points are Tiztastic (Steve Asmussen) with 14; Bullard, scheduled to Innovator (Wayne Lukas) and

First post is noon and the future books this week, Lou- Rebel, 11th of 12 races on the

isville-based Horseracingna- card, is 5:23 p.m.

### Honor

Continued from Page 1A

Coca-Cola bottlers across the country to create the largest corporate-sponsored, achievement-based scholarship program in the United States, a news release an- Scholar Foundation with an nouncing the 2025 recipients update. "But all I said was, said. This is the 37th year of 'I just won \$20,000.' Out of the program.

"It took a moment for the percent were chosen, and to 'You are a 2025 Coca-Cola be chosen from Arkansas was Scholar!' message to sink in," a reminder of the incredible Orduna said about receiving talent that exists within our an email from the Coca-Cola state.

105,000 applicants, only 0.14

#### of review, victories are hardevery way we can." Claims proceeding from

Continued from Page 1A

Aho

"That was nearly a year on that one," Aho said. "It's always going to be a battle of some sort. Fortunately for me, I'm wired for it."

He has submitted documents on behalf of 600 veterans since County Judge Darryl Mahoney hired Aho in the summer of 2023 and referred many more to services outside the VA or forms they need to file a claim.

"Mark has done an unbelievable job at getting our veterans claims caught up and recovered a great deal of funds as well," Mahoney said. "He is doing a fantastic job, and we support his efforts in

the 2022 passage of the PACT

Act kept him busy during his first year on the job. Called the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history, the law added numerous illnesses and diseases eligible for benefits without veterans having to prove they were caused by exposure to burn

pits, Agent Orange and other

toxic substances. "The military doesn't necessarily tell you anything about the VA process," Aho said. "They don't go into great detail, so a lot of people didn't know these conditions were presumptive illnesses."

With claims taking months and even years to move through the VA's multiple administrative layers and levels garlandcounty.org.

earned.

"This can be a tough job," said Aho, who rose from avionics apprentice to flight chief during his 23 years, seven months and 25 days in the U.S. Air Force, retiring in 2012 as a master sergeant.

"You have to be a little crazy and little nerdy to do it, but it's a rush knowing I helped change someone's life. That gets me through the tough times and makes it all worth it," he said.

The county office on the first floor of the courthouse is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m to 4 p.m. Appointments are required. Aho can be reached at 501-622-3795 or at maho@

#### **Parade**

Continued from Page 1A

Bertinelli said she met Barrymore sometime around April of last year, and they "just connected."

"We felt like we were old kindred souls that had finally found each other," she said.

Having been part of Rachael Ray's show several times, Bertinelli told Barrymore she would enjoy and "do stories for her and come by."

"She actually has this big thing where she has these Drew Crewers, and I get to now be a part of it," Bertinelli "She's always wanted a

team there for her, and we're all there to support Drew and make the best show possible. "I love that people are fi-

nally catching on to her show,

and the real, authentic people

**Today in History** 

President

that love her authenticity and show. her honesty and her vulnerability. And we all just love surrounding Drew," she said.

Bertinelli will be hosting "Bingo Blitz," a new halfhour show set to premiere on Game Show Network in April. The show is described as "a dynamic blend of trivia and bingo."

"It's one of those shows you know you're going to want to play at home," she said. "If you love trivia, you're going to absolutely adore this show. You're going to want to guess all of the answers. It's so much fun, and I had so much fun making it. We were in Georgia, and we spent two weeks there, and we just had the most absolute best time. And I hope everybody watches it, so I can do more and

more and more episodes." While she has done othand she's finding her audience er competition shows, this is her first chance to host a game

"I get to emcee and ask questions and find out things about the contestants," Bertinelli said. "It definitely stretched some muscles that I'm not used to doing, and I just loved every second of it."

Bertinelli is also involved in an animated show on Disney Junior that started airing last month called "Robogobo." "This is a children's car-

toon I've been doing for Disney Junior for a couple years now because they really start these far out," she said. "I play Chef Polly, who

runs the Pet-zeria, and it's about all of these adopted pets that become superheroes with these suits that they put on. And they all come into Chef Polly's Pet-zeria to have pizza and talk about their day," Bertinelli said. "They go around saving the

world. It's really a lot of fun."

Today is Sunday, Feb. 23,

#### Spring St., Hot Springs, AR 71901 the 54th day of 2025. There The Sentinel-Record

**Statement of core values** without fear or favor." (Adolph

Ochs, 1858-1935) Impartiality means reporting, editing, and delivering the news honestly, fairly, objectively, and without personal opinion or bias. Credibility is the greatest asset of any news medium, and impar-

tiality is the greatest source of

To provide the most complete report, a news organization must not just cover the news, but uncover it. It must follow the story wherever it leads, regardless of any preconceived ideas on what might

be most newsworthy. The pursuit of truth is a noble goal of journalism. But the truth is not always apparent or known immediately. A journalist's role is therefore not to determine what they believe at that time to be the truth and reveal only that to

their readers, but rather to report

as completely and impartially as possible all verifiable facts so that readers can, based on their own knowledge and experience, determine what they believe to be the

When a newspaper delivers both news and opinions, the impartiality and credibility of the news organization can be questioned. To minimize this as much as possible there needs to be a sharp and clear distinction between news and opinion, both to those providing and consuming the news.

"A newspaper has five constituencies, including first its readers, then advertisers, then employees, then creditors, then shareholders. As long as the newspaper keeps those constituencies in that order, especially its readers first, all constituencies will be well served." (Walter Hussman, 1906-1988)

— Walter Hussman, Jr./ Publisher 1989-2022

are 311 days left in the year. Today's highlight in his- secretly in Washington to

On Feb. 23, 1945, during World War II, U.S. Marines on Iwo Jima captured Mount Suribachi, where they raised two American flags. (The second flag-raising was captured in an iconic photograph by Joe Rosenthal of The

Associated Press.) On this date

• In 1836, the siege of the Alamo by Mexican troops began in San Antonio, Texas. • In 1861, President-elect



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#### an agreement with Cuba to lease the area around Guantanamo Bay to the United States. • In 1942, the first shelling

in Baltimore.

In

of the U.S. mainland during World War II occurred as a Japanese submarine fired on an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California. • In 1980, American Eric Heiden completed his sweep

1903,

Theodore Roosevelt signed

of the five men's speed skating events at the Winter Olympic Games in Lake Placid, New York, by winning the men's 10,000-meter race in world record time; Heiden was the first athlete to win five gold medals in a single Winter Olympics.

 In 2011, in a major policy reversal, the Obama adminis-

Abraham Lincoln arrived tration said it would no longer defend the constitutionality of take office, following word of the Defense of Marriage Act, a possible assassination plot a federal law banning recognition of same-sex marriage.

> In 2020, Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man, was a year earlier on racketeering fatally shot on a residential Georgia street; a white father and son had armed them-

> other charges and were sentenced to life in prison.) Woods was seriously injured Sen. Angela Alsobrooks of when his SUV crashed into a Maryland is 54. Country singmedian and rolled over several times on a steep road in Macdonald is 49. Rapper

suburban Los Angeles.

producing child sexual abuse materials and federal sex trafficking charges., but said he would serve nearly all of the sentence simultaneously with a 30-year sentence imposed

charges. Today's birthdays

Football Hall of Famer selves and pursued him after Fred Biletnikoff is 82. Actor seeing him running through Patricia Richardson is 74. their neighborhood. (Greg Singer Howard Jones is 70. and Travis McMichael and Japanese Emperor Naruhito neighbor William "Roddie" is 65. Actor Kristin Davis Bryan were convicted of mur- is 60. Business executive der, aggravated assault and Michael Dell is 60. TV personality-business executive Daymond John is 56. Actor • In 2021, golfer Tiger Niecy Nash is 55. Democratic er Steve Holy is 53. Actor Kelly Residente, born René Juan In 2023, a federal judge Pérez Joglar, is 47. Actor Josh handed singer R. Kelly a Gad is 44. Actor Emily Blunt 20-year prison sentence for is 42. Actor Aziz Ansari is 42. his convictions that include Actor Dakota Fanning is 31.

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credibility.