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Members of the Hot Springs World Class High School JROTC present the colors at the Garland County Veterans Memorial Observation. (The Sentinel-Record/Beth Reed)

Annual Memorial Day observance calls for unity and reflection

WILL LIVINGSTON
THE SENTINEL-RECORD

The Garland County Veterans Memorial Committee honored fallen Garland County servicemen and servicewomen Monday during its annual Memorial Day observance at Garland County Veterans Memorial and Military Park.

The Hot Springs World Class High School Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps presented the colors, and Shari Bales sang the National Anthem. Veterans of Valor President Rocky Hall presented the wreaths honoring the fallen of past American wars, and Lieutenant Colonel Lucas M. Coston read the memorial brick names.

Master of ceremonies for the Memorial Day Observance was retired Chief Master Sergeant USAF Richard Green, who said Memorial Day has a particularly special place in his heart.

"My granddad was killed in World War I on October 1, 1918," Green told *The Sentinel-Record*. "The war was over about a month and a half later, so I obviously nev-



Addison French sets up a wreath to remember the fallen of various American wars during the Memorial Day Observation. (The Sentinel-Record/Beth Reed)

er got to meet him. That's in my heart, but I've also had a lot of folks I served with that passed in active duty and in combat in my 35 years in the Air National Guard and the Air Force. We honor these people that served, particularly on Memorial Day, and say thank you to those that gave that full measure."

Keynote speaker at the event was Hot Springs City

Manager Bill Burrough, who spoke on how Memorial Day and remembering and honoring the fallen should supersede any divisions in America.

"There's been so many over the years, from the Revolution to today that have sacrificed their lives so we can have the freedoms we have today," Burrough told the newspaper. "I think it's very

important we continue that and never forget that sacrifice. For me, it's teaching my children and grandchildren what Memorial Day truly means, and what so many have gone through so that we can be free.

"For Hot Springs, I think the same. Everything we do, from going to church to rais-

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Israeli opposition leader Lapid says Trump's emerging deal with Iran is 'bad for the region'

MELANIE LIDMAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — The deal being discussed between the U.S. and Iran fails to achieve any of Israel's goals for the war, Israel's opposition leader Yair Lapid said on Monday, as he accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of failing to influence a better agreement.

Lapid, who is part of an alliance attempting to unseat Netanyahu in elections this year, said details of the emerging deal are "disturbing."

"The deal is bad for Israel, bad for the region, bad for the citizens of Iran," Lapid told reporters in Jerusalem.

Israel and the U.S. launched the war on Feb. 28 vowing to destroy Iran's ballistic missile program, end its support for proxy militant groups across the region and end Iran's ability to pursue a nuclear bomb. Both Netanyahu and U.S. President Donald Trump also said they hoped to create conditions to topple Iran's government.

According to regional officials, under the current deal

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President Donald Trump speaks during the 158th National Memorial Day Observance coinciding with the nation's 250th anniversary, at the Memorial Amphitheater in Arlington National Cemetery, on Monday in Arlington, Va. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

Trump: Iran deal should include additional countries joining accords

LINDSAY WHITEHURST
AND MUNIR AHMED
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Monday that any agreement to end the Iran war should include a requirement for several additional countries,

including Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, to join the Abraham Accords, the U.S.-brokered agreements from Trump's first term aimed at normalizing relations with Israel.

Trump said in a social media post that negotiations are "proceeding nicely" but

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Rangers talk importance of USACE lakes

JAMES LEIGH
THE SENTINEL-RECORD

Two park rangers with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers discussed the importance of the organization's lakes at last week's Hot Springs National Park Rotary meeting.

Amy Shultz and Renea Guin, who are both natural resources specialists at Lake Ouachita, have both worked with USACE for more than two decades, and Guin worked at DeGray Lake for 20 years before she was transferred to Lake Ouachita.

Guin said while the organization's name makes people think all its employees are engineers, there are many different kinds of jobs in the Corps. She said the main purpose for the three lakes the Corps manages in Arkansas is to mitigate flooding.

"We're not just engineers," she said. "We are biologists, forestry, budget folks, finance folks. We do a little bit of everything, but our main reason why we built the dams is flood control, because if Ouachita wasn't there, ... Hot Springs would be flooded. Same thing with DeGray, Arkadelphia would be flooded. Flood damage reduction was the number one thing that we, the Corps of Engineers, was doing."

Lakes Greeson, DeGray and Ouachita are all part of USACE's Vicksburg District due to them all being part of the Ouachita River basin. Ouachita is the largest of the three lakes and gets approximately 2.5 to 4 million visitors each year while DeGray gets approximately 2 million visitors.

Recreation is a big part of what the rangers do, Shultz said.

"That's probably what you will see us do the most of out there," she said. "You'll see us in the white trucks, or you'll see us out on the lake. A lot of people think we're cops, because we do see that, and there is some aspect of that. We have to go by Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, but we do not generate money from our tickets. It doesn't come back to us. We're visitor assistance. We don't want to spend our time writing citations. That's not what we like to do out there on the lake. We are there to make sure everybody's safe."

Guin said volunteers are key to making sure things run smoothly.

"If we didn't have volunteers, we wouldn't be able to do what we do," she said. "These three lakes, DeGray, Greeson and Ouachita, 2,300 volunteers in 2025, \$1.5 million value. It takes volunteers to help us out."

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Mountain Pine man sentenced to life in prison for 2023 murder after jury trial

STEVEN MROSS
THE SENTINEL-RECORD

A Mountain Pine man was sentenced to life in prison Friday after a five-day jury trial for the 2023 shooting death of a Hot Springs man apparently resulting from a gang greeting or "handshake" between the men that was done incorrectly.

Kendrick Cordell Burris, 28, who listed a Buckthorn Lane address at the time of his arrest, was found guilty of capital murder for the May 17, 2023, death of Jamar Smith, 34, after the six-man, six-woman Garland County Circuit Court jury deliberated for about four hours. The jury then took only about 10 minutes before recommending the life sentence plus an additional 15 years in prison because he used a firearm, to be run consecutively.

Chief Deputy Prosecutor Caitlin Bornhoft told *The Sentinel-Record* late Friday that Burris was initially charged with first-degree murder in Smith's death, but she later upgraded the charge to capital murder while waiving the death penalty, so life in prison was the only option for the jury on the charge. She noted there is no parole for a life sentence in Arkansas.

According to the probable cause affidavit on the case, which had been under seal until the trial, on May 18, 2023, shortly before 2:30 a.m., Hot Springs police were notified of a possible homicide at a residence in the 200 block of Maryland Street.

Upon arrival, they spoke to the resident, Rickey Ware, 33, who told them Burris had shot Smith while inside the residence. Officers located Smith on the floor of a back bedroom, and he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Ware told them there were several people inside the residence during the shooting, including Travon Coleman, 26, who provided a corroborating statement, confirming a man he knew only as "Kendrick" was responsible for the shooting.

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BURRIS



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