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WEDNESDAY
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Walton Family Foundation commits \$450K to Cedar Glades

BETH REED
The Sentinel-Record

The Walton Family Foundation has decided to continue to support Hot Springs' Northwoods Trails System project with a \$450,000 grant to improve the trails at Cedar Glades Park, Visit Hot Springs CEO Steve Arrison said Tuesday.

The grant will allow the International Mountain Bicycling Association, which has been constructing the Northwoods Trails System, to continue to build trails that will be accessible to riders staying in downtown Hot Springs.

"They gave us a grant of \$450,000 to continue to build world-class trails in the Northwoods and these funds will be used to improve the trails in Cedar Glades," Arrison told *The Sentinel-Record* Tuesday. The Walton Family Foundation is working with IMBA on what improvements will be made, he added.

"It's really exciting news for us that Tom Walton and Stuart Walton are continuing to support our trail system. It's just great news for us," he said.

Arrison said the Cedar Glades trails are intertwined with the Northwoods system, and the cooperation between Visit Hot Springs, the city of Hot Springs and Garland County continues to be a good relationship striving for a common goal.

"We all work together. We've got a great relationship, the city and county," he said. "Our bike czar, Traci (Berry), working with A.J. Johnson over running Cedar Glades, it's a great relationship. We're just real excited that Tom Walton and Stuart Walton are continuing to support us and that they do see us as an asset in their mission to have Arkansas as the most recognized mountain bike destination

CEDAR GLADES, PAGE 8A



The Sentinel-Record/Jami Smith

ENDURO: Chris Mills competes in Stage 2 during the Northwoods Enduro, held Sunday at the Northwoods Trails System. Northwoods and Cedar Glades Park was the second stop on the Southern Enduro Tour, a multistate, multi-weekend mountain bike competition.

Senior tower project nears completion

DAVID SHOWERS
The Sentinel-Record

The Mountain View Heights senior tower on Spring Street is expected to receive a certificate of occupancy April 10, the senior project manager for the Louisiana-based construction company awarded the \$22 million contract to renovate all of the city's public housing stock said Tuesday.

Stewart Smith of B.A.S Construction Co. told the Hot Springs Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners renovations have been completed or are underway on eight of the 11-story high-rise's 10 residential floors, a milestone he said puts the project comfortably ahead of the April 28 deadline. The housing authority has said the penalty provision in the company's contract will trigger if all 365 public housing units do not meet U.S. Housing and Urban Development Housing Quality Standards by the deadline.

The housing authority said about 70 to 75 residents have been residing in the 120-unit tower during construction. Renovations have been completed on the seventh, eighth, ninth, 10th and 11th floors. Smith said the sixth floor's certificate of occupancy should be issued today. Installation of the variable flow climate control system that's replacing the hot water system is nearing completion on the fifth and fourth floors, he said.

Smith told the board last month the new workflow system he implemented had improved coordination between his crew and subcontractors and put the renovation back

SENIOR TOWER, PAGE 2A

Cherry Blossom Festival raises \$12K to send students to Japan

GRACE BROWN
The Sentinel-Record

The Hot Springs National Park Sister City Foundation's student scholarship fund reached its fundraising goal Saturday during the second annual Cherry Blossom Festival, which raised more than \$12,000 to help supplement the cost of sending a student delegation to Hanamaki, Japan, in June, the program's director said.

About 175 guests and student volunteers gathered inside St. Luke's Episcopal Church and enjoyed authentic Japanese cuisine, a silent auction, live performances, and authentic sake tastings for Saturday's event.

"One thing that is unique about this fundraiser is that it not only acts as a fundraiser for the scholarship program but is also a Japanese cultural event. We had a taiko drummer, a koto player, and there were Japanese crafts. It's fun for children as well as adults. There is something for everyone," Mary Zumick, executive director of the Sister City Program, said Tuesday.

CHERRY BLOSSOM, PAGE 8A



Submitted photo

CULTURAL EVENT: Traditional Japanese dancers from Hot Springs Village, Rose Kutsch, Kaz Finney and Carole Fields, perform during the second annual Cherry Blossom Festival at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Saturday. Photo is courtesy of the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts.

Trump says he has 'absolute right' to declare emergency

CATHERINE LUCEY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump declared Tuesday that he would prevail over a multistate lawsuit challenging his emergency declaration to pay for a U.S.-Mexico border wall.

Speaking to reporters at the White House, Trump said he expected to do "very well" against the suit, adding that he had an "absolute right" to make the declaration.

"I think in the end we're going to be very successful with the lawsuit," Trump said. "I actually think we might do very well, even in the 9th Circuit, because it's an open and closed case."

A group of 16 states, including California, New York and Colorado, filed a lawsuit Monday against Trump's emergency declaration. The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, alleges Trump's declaration is unconstitutional.

All the states involved in the lawsuit have Democratic attorneys general.

Using a broad interpretation of his executive powers, Trump declared an emergency last week to obtain wall funding beyond the \$1.4

EMERGENCY, PAGE 8A

Two home invasion robberies under investigation

STEVEN MROSS
The Sentinel-Record

The Garland County Sheriff's Department is investigating two apparently unrelated home invasion robberies that occurred late Saturday and late Sunday, including one involving multiple suspects.

The first incident reportedly occurred around 10:30 p.m. Saturday at a residence in the 3300 block

of Park Avenue that involved six suspects, including two juveniles and a 19-year-old reportedly known by the victim.

According to an incident report, shortly before 11:30 p.m., sheriff's Deputy Stacy Morgan responded to the residence regarding a theft that had already occurred and spoke to the victim, 15, who stated he heard someone beating on the front

door of the house and when he looked to see who it was, six suspects opened the door and came in.

He said two of the suspects pointed "what appeared to be handguns" at him while two others went into a rear bedroom and the other two stood behind the two with the guns. The victim said he recognized three of the suspects, including a

HOME INVASION, PAGE 6A

MISS VICTORIOUS Annual pageant empowers girls to be advocates, spread awareness

EMILY BACCAM
The Sentinel-Record

Through community service projects, public speaking engagements, presentations over relevant issues, and encouragement, the Miss Victorious Pageant empowers girls to be an advocate for themselves and for the community with the slogan of "bully no more."

For Wilda Hughley, pageant director and Hot Springs Intermediate School French and Spanish teacher, the pageant is far more than a beauty contest.

She told *The Sentinel-Record* that while her daughter was in middle school, she discovered via Facebook her child was being bullied so relentlessly that she contemplated suicide. Counseling and a restraining order became necessary.

Hughley decided to take action and from this, the Miss Victorious Pageant to end bullying was born.

"I found so many parents who had lost their child to suicide because of bullying, and I decided I wanted to be a voice for these parents, for them to know that we still have a chance to save our kids' lives," said Hughley.

The pageant takes girls that have been bullied, or that are bullies themselves, and trains them to change themselves and not to bully others, she said.

"It's not a beauty pageant. It's for those girls that are not the ones who are popular, being around other people. It's for the one in the corner; no one sees them. They feel like 'I don't fit with this group.' These are the girls I am looking

MISS VICTORIOUS, PAGE 8A

HANDS-ON LEARNING



The Sentinel-Record/Grace Brown

From left, Jacob, 6, Estera, 7, and Anna Sertiu, 10, interact with an exhibit at Mid-America Science Museum on Tuesday. The museum houses more than 100 hands-on science exhibits divided into individual galleries throughout its 65,000 square feet, with more planned as part of an expansion later this year.



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MOSTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS IN THE MID 50S. LOWS IN THE LOWER 30S.
SUNRISE: 6:50 A.M.
SUNSET: 5:56 P.M.



MORE ON PAGE 2A

Weather

THURSDAY:
HIGH 52° LOW 42°
FRIDAY:
HIGH 54° LOW 51°

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Quote of the day

"The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous."
— Frederick Douglass,
American abolitionist
(born circa 1817, died this date in 1895).