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Board to eye sewer contract

DON THOMASON
The Sentinel-Record

The Hot Springs Board of Directors will consider awarding a nearly $6.2 million contract Tuesday that will help mitigate sewer overflows in the Stokes Creek basin.

The board will meet at 7 p.m. in City Hall, 133 Convention Blvd.

"Obviously it's the largest project we've awarded to date, and it deals primarily with the Stokes Basin," Larry Merriman, Major Capital Projects manager, said last week.

"We estimate that about 20 percent, which may be low, of our entire (sewer) flow goes through the Stokes Creek system. It goes along McLeod Street, then spreads out and goes up to Woodlawn Avenue and captures a huge portion of our service area," he said.

Merriman said the current pipes in the lower part of the basin nearest the pump

BOARD, PAGE 2A

The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

WALKING IN THE TREES: Xavier Corcoran, 3, and his mother Devon Corcoran, both of Russellville, walk across a rope bridge on the Bob Wheeler Science Skywalk at Mid-America Science Museum on Friday. The Skywalk is among more than 30 contenders for the Arkansas Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture's inaugural People's Choice Award. Online voting ends at midnight on Aug. 31.

Science Skywalk contends for award

BETH BRIGHT
The Sentinel-Record

The Bob Wheeler Science Skywalk is in the running for the inaugural People's Choice Award by the Arkansas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Thirty-two contenders have been nominated by their respective architects, and Wittenberg, Delony, & Davidson Architects, designers of the Skywalk, submitted the project for the award. According to the AIA website, the new award hopes to highlight the level of design excellence of Arkansas architects.

The Skywalk has been a highlight of the newly renovated museum, allowing guests to interact directly with nature. Designed by architect Chad Young, the treehouse-like structure is an architectural achievement. The outdoor platform carries visitors 32 feet above ground, shifting their perspectives to a different view of native wildlife.

Named for "Mr. Hot Springs" Bob Wheeler, Visit Hot Springs CEO Steve Arrison said this was very important to the Hot Springs Advertising and Promotion Commission, which sponsored the exhibit.

"When the museum received the Reynold's grant, we committed the match funds and voted to provide additional funds through the museum's closure," Arrison told *The Sentinel-Record* during the structure's "skybreaking" in September 2014, adding that this one of a kind feature deserved to be named after none other than Wheeler.

"We're excited to be included among the other entries for this year's AIA People's Choice Award," said Diane LaFollette, executive director of the museum, in a news release. "The unique design and function of the structure definitely puts it in a great position to be selected for this year's award."

According to the release, the main focus is to engage visitors in science and mathematics observation in an outdoor setting.

Niles Ellis, director of building and exhibits, said visitors "can examine moiré patterns of light on the circular netting as children run and play along it."

The rope bridges, fog bridge, musical bench and circular net all serve as a platform for discussion regarding science in nature and everyday life.

"We believe the Skywalk will be an icon for the museum to pro-

SKYWALK, PAGE 3A

The Sentinel-Record/Elisha Morrison

GATOR: Jamie Bridges, manager at the Arkansas Alligator Farm and Petting Zoo Inc., shows an alligator similar to the larger of the 13 stolen from the farm Saturday morning.

Alligators taken from business

ELISHA MORRISON
The Sentinel-Record

Twelve 3-inch-long baby alligators less than a year old, and a 2-a-half-foot-long, 7-year-old alligator were stolen from the Arkansas Alligator Farm and Petting Zoo early Saturday.

Jamie Bridges, manager of the alligator farm at 847 Whittington Ave., said security footage showed two people wearing masks and camouflage broke in at 2:40 a.m., placed the 13 alligators in backpacks and left in less than three minutes.

Bridges said he believes the pair had been at the farm some time before the theft, because they knew exactly what they wanted and where the animals were located.

"I can't imagine what they want them for," he said.

According to Bridges, anyone caught with an alligator without a permit can be fined $1,000 by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. He said individuals can't get permits.

After the loss of the 13 alligators, the

ALLIGATORS, PAGE 3A

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

COMMUNITY VISITORS: Motak Abon, Urban Forestry field instructor at the Ouachita Job Corps Center, left, visits with Donald Flemon, Dave Breshears and Clarence Smalley during an open house-type event Tuesday at the center.

Local support may not be enough to save Job Corps

DON THOMASON
The Sentinel-Record

The director of the Ouachita Job Corps Center says an open house-type event held last week to show the community's support for the center went extremely well, and he was surprised by the number of visitors.

"I think it went extremely well and we had a lot of folks from the county and the city here to express a lot of support of the Job Corps program and the Ouachita Job Corps Center itself," said Robert Fausti, center director.

Fausti said the U.S. Department of Labor

JOB CORPS, PAGE 3A

Lake Ouachita State Park hosts 2 kayak camps

BETH BRIGHT
The Sentinel-Record

Lake Ouachita State Park is taking reservations for two fall Kayak Campout Adventures on Oct. 10-11 and Oct. 24-25.

These are overnight camping trips designed for everyone, regardless of kayaking experience.

"This is something we try to do every year, and we're hosting two this fall because it's one program we offer that people really look forward to," said Susan Adkins, park interpreter. "For probably 10 or 12 years, we've been doing these guided camping trips in the spring and fall when the weather is nicer, but the fall is even better because spring is so unpredictable.

"In the fall, the weather is not too hot or too cold, and there aren't as many people on the lake."

The park provides campers with guides, a support barge with a restroom and three meals. Campers are asked to bring their personal items, and if a kayak and camping

KAYAKS, PAGE 9A

Back-to-school carnival

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

Laycee Collier "milks a cow" during an activity Thursday at the 15th annual Dr. Morriss Memorial Carnival on the campus of the Mountain Pine School District. The event is held annually to prepare students for the start of the upcoming school year. Classes begin today in Garland County public schools.

Reception honors ex-state senator

BETH BRIGHT
The Sentinel-Record

Visit Hot Springs is inviting the community to honor former state Sen. Terry Smith during a public reception from 5-7 p.m. Aug. 25 in Horner Hall.

Smith will be honored for his decades of support and efforts for projects that benefited Hot Springs.

"This is a long overdue tribute to a man who did so much for our city leading our delegation, and brought $30.4 million to the (Hot Springs)

RECEPTION, PAGE 3A

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Weather

CHANCE OF STORMS. HIGHS IN THE LOW 90S. LOWS IN THE LOW 70S.

SUNRISE: 6:34 A.M.
SUNSET: 7:59 P.M.

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TUESDAY: HIGH 92° LOW 74°

WEDNESDAY: HIGH 87° LOW 67°

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