ISLAMIC STATE
2 appear in NY court on charges they sought to join IS group
NATION ■ PAGE 5A

SPACE STATION
Spacewalking astronaut safe after water leaks into helmet
SPACE ■ PAGE 12A

THURSDAY
February 26, 2015

The Sentinel-Record

Two sections, 24 pages
Number 57, Volume 138
Seventy Five Cents

www.hotspringssr.com

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

Snow day

Bills give schools flexibility in bad weather

DON THOMASON
The Sentinel-Record

As a heavy snowfall blanketed Garland County on Wednesday, forcing local schools to close for a third day, local superintendents voiced support for two pieces of legislation that will give schools more flexibility regarding inclement weather.

House Bill 1313, if enacted, would allow school days to be made up in 60-minute increments. Senate Bill 180, which was signed by Gov. Asa Hutchinson Wednesday morning, will provide school districts with flexibility in determining whether or not to declare

SNOW BILLS, PAGE 4A

SNOW FALL

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

Wyatt Thomas, 17, left, Kyle Lightsey, 18, and Blake Spilker, 17, sled down a hill in the Fairplay Estates neighborhood on Wednesday. Youths across the county enjoyed a number of wintertime activities, including snowball fights, building snowmen and sledding, on Wednesday after a heavy snowfall blanketed the area.

City, county help employees in winter weather

CAITLIN LAFARLETTE
The Sentinel-Record

The Garland County Sheriff's Department has worked through the snow and ice to provide updates on Facebook to citizens, but officials also reach out to county employees to keep them safe in inclement weather.

Sheriff Mike McCormick said the department only requires people with essential positions, such as patrol deputies, to come in during adverse winter weather conditions. For required personnel who can't make it, McCormick said the county sends out vehicles to pick them up, "especially for civilians."

"We'll take whatever measure we need to get staff in," he said.

McCormick said Wednesday's snow-covered roads were not causing many problems, but if temperatures dropped overnight, the department might have to look at sending out county vehicles to pick up employees.

Even though Wednesday's snow marked the third round of winter weather for the Hot Springs area in the past week, McCormick said the same procedure has remained standard for handling county staff.

"We don't want to put employees in danger," he said.

Cpl. McCrary Means said the Hot Springs Police Department also assists employees who can't make it to the office when travel conditions worsen.

"If they can't drive in, we'll call them or they'll call us, and we'll pick them up," he said.

Means said only a few employees living outside of the city limits have not been able to drive in since snow and ice moved through the area. Civilian personnel left at noon Wednesday when city offices shut down, and Means said around 30 personnel, including dispatchers, detectives and officers, remained at work.

Both the police and sheriff's departments reported there had been no major issues with accidents.

Quarreling officials concern chamber

DAVID SHOWERS
The Sentinel-Record

The Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce's Executive Committee convened a special called meeting Tuesday to address proposed legislation that would bear on the city's water policy, but the discussion veered toward a strained city-county relationship that hasn't worn well with the business community.

The initial discussion centered on Senate Bill 405 introduced earlier this month by state Sen. Alan Clark, R-District 13. It would put water service requests in unincorporated areas that have deeded their lines to a municipal water system on a par with requests emanating from inside a city's boundaries, amending a current law that doesn't obligate cities to provide service outside their boundaries.

Its introduction was borne out of one of many issues complicating relations between Hot Springs and Garland County officials, a division chamber CEO and President Jim Fram said is bad for business. He said the committee didn't reach a conclusion on Clark's bill during the hour and a half discussion but did express concern over the city-county estrangement.

"There continues to be an issue with the city and county on several fronts," he said. "That was what a lot of the discussion was about. I think we can probably recap our conversation in one sentence: The entire community is getting frustrated with that."

Clark's bill responds to a policy that gives priority to city-based requests for new service, a practice that owes to a water supply city officials said reached 80 percent of its roughly 30-million-gallon-a-day capacity 55 times in 2012.

City Attorney Brian Albright said capacity concerns are at the fore of what city representatives of the Community Water Committee want addressed. Albright and Garland County Attorney Ralph Ohm serve in an advisory role on the nine-person body of county and city officials, which convened last year at the chamber's urging to determine if a compromise exists between the city's conservation-centered position and the county's desire for

WATER, PAGE 5A

COOL CAT

The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

Izabella Braun, 4, of Hot Springs, uses a cat umbrella as a hat for a snowman she made at Whittington Park on Wednesday.

Museum completes renovations despite snow

BETH BRIGHT
The Sentinel-Record

Despite wintry weather that began earlier this month, Mid-America Science Museum is still on track for its grand reopening on March 7, according to Executive Director Diane LaFollette.

"The only real issue we've had is it's delayed some deliveries of final touches for some of the exhibits," she said on Wednesday. "Other than that, we're actually walking around doing what we call a punch list checking off things that need to be done as we're gearing up to open next week."

LaFollette said representatives from the Exploratorium in San Francisco, who have been developing and building exhibits specifically for the museum, will be finishing up through Saturday when teachers across the state are welcome to visit for a preview day with a valid teacher ID.

"This is for teachers only, though," she said. "I think it's supposed to be cloudy on Saturday so not many people will want to go out on the (Bob Wheeler Science) Skywalk. But you can

MUSEUM, PAGE 3A

Parolee charged with assault

Man allegedly attempted to run over ex-girlfriend

STEVEN MROSS
The Sentinel-Record

A local man recently paroled from prison was arrested late Tuesday after allegedly trying to run over his 18-year-old ex-girlfriend and another teen with a pickup.

Alexander George Gilliana, 21, was taken into custody by Hot Springs police shortly after 11 p.m. and charged with a felony count

ARREST, PAGE 3A

SNOW BOAT

The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

James Burleson, of Hot Springs, uses a fork lift to move a boat into the Hot Springs Convention Center on Wednesday during a heavy snowfall. Burleson and others were setting up for this weekend's 29th annual Hot Springs Boat & RV Show. The show is open Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

'Conscience protection' measure fails in committee

ANDREW DEMILLO
The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK — A proposal to prevent state and local governments from infringing on a person's religious beliefs failed before an Arkansas legislative panel Wednesday after facing mounting criticism that it was an attempt to justify discriminating against gays and lesbians.

The Senate Judiciary Committee rejected the "conscience protection" measure, a day after retail giant Wal-Mart said the measure sent the wrong message about its home state and Re-

PANEL, PAGE 3A

Weather

MOSTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS IN THE HIGH 30S. LOWS IN THE HIGH TEENS.

SUNRISE: 6:46 A.M.
SUNSET: 6:05 P.M.

MORE ON PAGE 2A

FRIDAY: HIGH 31° LOW 21°

SATURDAY: HIGH 38° LOW 32°

Index

Arts, etc.	8A	Lifestyles	5B
Classified	8-11B	Obituaries	11A
Sports	1-3B	Stocks	11A
Features, etc.	7B	Viewpoints	10A
FYI	2A	GC West	9A

Subscriber of the Day

Recognizing
Frank Blake,
a reader of *The Sentinel-Record*
for 20-plus years

8 32116 00050 2

• 300 Spring St. Hot Springs, AR 71901 • To subscribe or place an advertisement, call 501-623-7711 or 922-0979 in Hot Springs Village •