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First full month of parking adjustments pays off for city

DAVID SHOWERS
THE SENTINEL-RECORD

A smaller, simplified managed parking program returned a 62% increase in year-over-year revenue during the first calendar month it was in effect.

According to revenue reports the city provided, the \$102,895 reported in March revenue surpassed last July as the most lucrative month for the managed parking program that went live downtown in February of last year.

March 14 was the most lucrative day, taking in \$6,263 through the city's park-

ing kiosks and mobile parking app it licenses from parking services vendor IPS. The \$6,025 collected March 21 was the second highest daily total, with the \$5,414 from March 20 the third highest. The city enforces overtime parking from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

"So far the data shows a more focused paid parking program generates higher total revenues and better efficiency than the previous model," City Manager Bill Burrough told the Hot Springs Board of Directors at its April 7 business meeting.

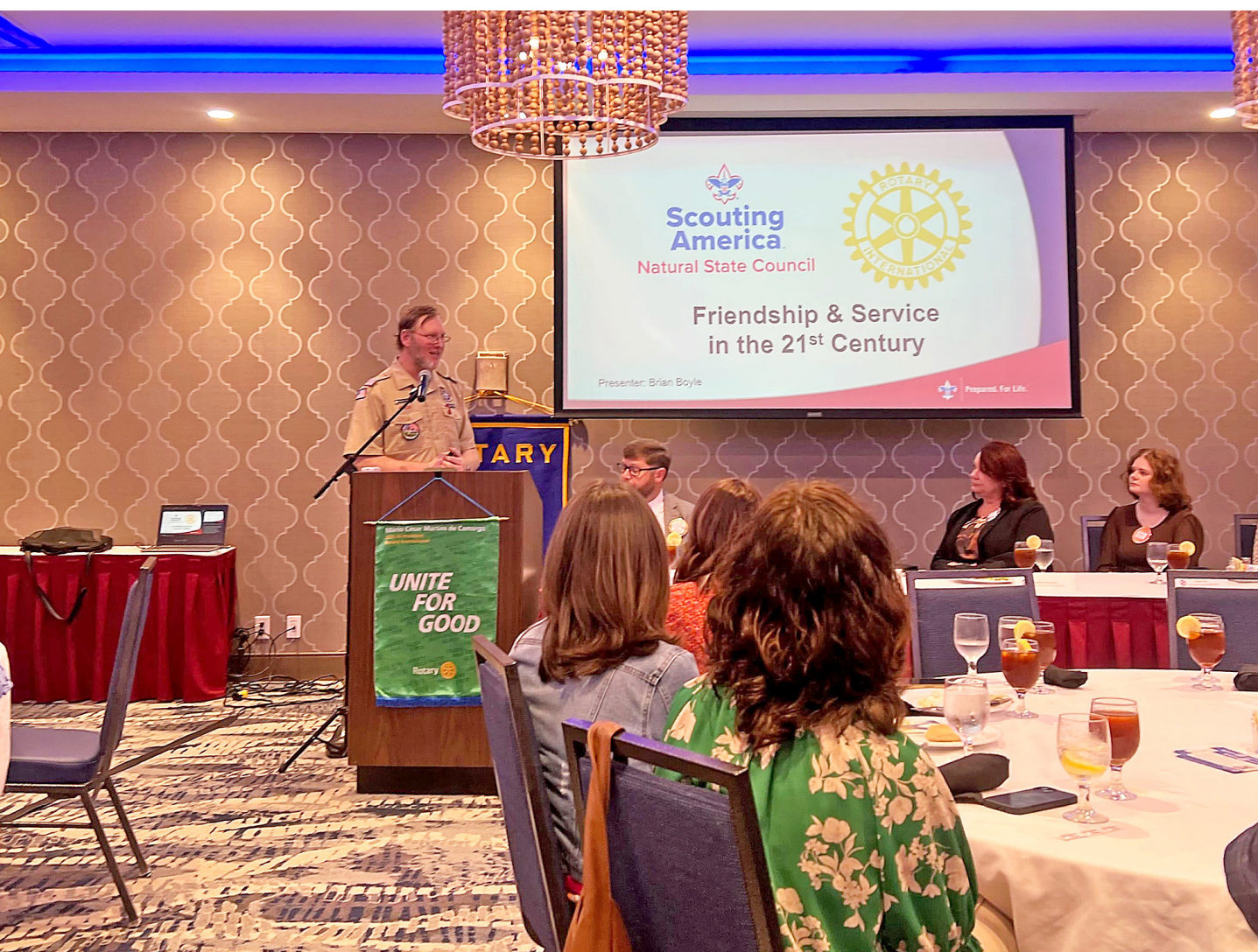
March collections were 17% of the \$600,000 the program took in all of last year, beating the previous March by almost \$40,000. July, \$78,763, and October, \$69,165, of last year were previously the highest revenue months.

The more than \$800,000 parking fund budget, which included \$240,000 in depreciation for the Exchange Street Parking Plaza and the city's other parking assets, the board adopted for 2026 projected \$650,000 in parking fee revenue.

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A parking kiosk on upper Central Avenue is one of the roughly two dozen in the city's managed parking area. The more than \$100,000 in parking fees the city collected in March was the most since managed parking took effect in February of last year. (The Sentinel-Record/David Showers)



Scouting America Natural State Council Field Director Brian Boyle speaks to the Hot Springs National Park Rotary Club Wednesday about scouting in Garland County and the surrounding area. (The Sentinel-Record/Anna-Claire Butler)

Oklahoma man charged in alleged armed robbery at 2025 house party

STEVEN MROSS
THE SENTINEL-RECORD

An Oklahoma man was arrested on a felony warrant Wednesday stemming from his alleged involvement in the armed robbery of a Hot Springs man at a house party last year.

Qwontril Trenell Williams, 20, who lists a Broken Bow, Oklahoma, address, was taken into custody around 10:30 a.m. in Idabel, Oklahoma, on a warrant for one count of aggravated robbery, punishable by up to life in prison, and was extradited to Hot Springs, where he was booked into the Garland County Detention Center around 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Williams, who lists no prior criminal history in Arkansas, was being held on zero bond with a Garland County District Court date to be set. Jonathon Earl Stewart Gonzalez, 26, of Lockesburg, was arrested on Dec. 10, 2025, on the same charge stemming from the incident, but the charge was withdrawn by prosecutors on Dec. 29, 2025, "for further investigation," and the case against Gonzalez was listed as closed.

See **ARREST**, Page 2A



WILLIAMS

Scouting America seeks local support to expand youth programs

WILL LIVINGSTON
THE SENTINEL-RECORD

Brian Boyle, field director for Scouting America's Natural State Council, on Wednesday urged Hot Springs community leaders to help expand the organization's reach across southwest Arkansas, telling the Hot Springs National Park Rotary Club that growth in underserved counties depends on strong local partnerships and volunteers.

"Scouting America is an organization

that serves both boys and girls from the age of 5 all the way until they are 20 years old," Boyle told Rotarians at the Double-Tree by Hilton Hot Springs. "Our mission is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and law.

"We accomplish that mission through our four aims, and those are character development, citizenship development, personal fitness and youth leadership, which

becomes adult leadership as they get older."

The Natural State Council consists of most of the state of Arkansas. Boyle serves most of the council's Ouachita District, which encompasses Garland, Saline, Montgomery, Hot Spring, Clark and Pike counties.

He said the Natural State Council has just over 6,000 youths and around 2,000 adults. In 2025, he noted, they combined for 96,000 hours of community service

See **SCOUTING**, Page 3A

Tina Turner tribute coming to Woodland Auditorium

JAMES LEIGH
THE SENTINEL-RECORD

Lori Mitchell-Gay will be bringing the look and sound of Tina Turner to Woodlands Auditorium on April 21 at 7 p.m. for a fundraising event for The Entertainment Foundation.

Mitchell-Gay, who has performed all over the country, gained recognition with her win on E! Entertainment Television.

"Lori Mitchell-Gay has performed with Legends, was a winner on a TV show doing a Tina Turner tribute," Audrey Findlen, the founder and president of The Entertainment Foundation, said. "She also does Diana Ross and Whitney Houston. ... She's flying in from Vegas, doing a show in Vegas, flying here to perform for us."

Findlen said Mitchell-Gay will be bringing "two backup dancers and singers" for the performance.

"I'm looking forward to having them here, because I think it's going to be a phenomenal show," Findlen said. "She's phenomenal. Anybody who is any kind of Tina Turner fan will want to be there."

The concert benefits The Entertainment Foundation, which performs for veterans and seniors.

"The first show was Feb. 13, 2019, and since that time, we have probably entertained almost 14,500 just through our programming, not through our fundraisers or anything like that — just through our programming where our money goes out

See **TRIBUTE**, Page 3A

Lori Mitchell-Gay performs as Tina Turner in this undated handout photo. Mitchell-Gay will be bringing her show to Hot Springs Village on April 21 to benefit The Entertainment Foundation.



(Submitted photo)

Vance: Iran must not 'play' U.S. ahead of negotiations

MICHELLE L. PRICE
AND AAMER MADHANI
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Vice President JD Vance on Friday warned Iran not to "play" the U.S. as he headed overseas for negotiations aimed at ending the war.

President Donald Trump has tasked the member of his inner circle who has seemed to be the most reluctant defender of the 6-week-old conflict with Iran to now find a resolution and stave off the U.S. president's astonishing threat to wipe out its "whole civilization."

Vance, who has long been skeptical of foreign military interventions and outspoken about the prospect of sending troops into open-ended conflicts, set off Friday to lead mediated talks with Iran in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad.

"If the Iranians are willing to negotiate in good faith, we're certainly willing to extend the open hand," Vance told reporters before boarding Air Force Two to make his way to the talks in Pakistan. But he added, "If they're gonna try and play us, then they're gonna find that the negotiating team is not that receptive."

Vance's trip comes as a tenuous, temporary ceasefire appears to be on the precipice of collapsing. The chasm between Iran's public demands and those from the U.S. and its partner Israel seems irreconcilable. And in the U.S., where Vance might ask voters in two years' time to make him the next president, there is growing political and economic pressure to wrap it up.

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