

MUD FORT CLASS TEACHES KIDS ABOUT EARLY SETTLERS

Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department and the Watkins Museum of History partnered this year to offer the 16th annual *Hey, Let's Build A Mud Fort* program in August. Abby Perron, education and program coordinator at the Watkins, oversaw the two-day event. Fifteen youth and their parents learned the history on mud forts and how they were built to protect early-Lawrence. They made a model of a fort with mud and ended the day with a walking tour of historic places downtown. The second day of the program the group constructed two mud forts near the south bank of the Kansas River, which wrapped up the event.



NATIONAL GYMNASTICS DAY HELD

East Lawrence Recreation Center was the site of LPRD's National Gymnastics Day celebration and included activities as free open gym, moonwalks and face painting. More than 300 participants attended the event. There were also performances from LPRD's competitive gymnastics squad KSG Gymnastics Team and the G-Force Jets competitive cheerleading and tumbling squads, as well as visits from Lawrence-Douglas County Fire and Medical Department and the Lawrence Police Department. Free food was also provided by McDonalds, HyVee and Cibo Sano.

GRAVEYARD WALK A POPULAR WAY TO LEARN HISTORY

Local Historian Katie Armitage led a group in late August to nine survivors of Quantrill's Raid on Lawrence. The group was entertained by actors who came to life as those who's graves were visited, including the graves of John Gideon Haskell, Mary Carpenter Rankin and John and Elizabeth Speer.