

# MORNING NEWS

SERVING NORTHWEST ARKANSAS SINCE 1886

TODAY IN OUTDOORS  
**WATER BEYOND  
'GOLDEN GATE'  
CALLS  
TO PADDLERS**

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50¢

## Officials Table Water Plan Resolution

COMMITTEE WANTS MORE INFORMATION

By Tabatha Hunter  
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**BENTONVILLE** — The Benton County Committee of 13 voted to table a resolution to establish a board of directors to develop a Beaver Lake Watershed Protection Plan during its meeting Tuesday night.

The proposed resolution called for the quorum courts of Carroll, Washington, Madison and Benton counties to select candidates for an organization to develop a regional plan.

The organization is the Northwest Arkansas Regional Council, and it is still in its infancy, said executive director Mike Malone.

A group of volunteers is in the process of drafting the council's bylaws and constitution, which will be modeled after the Illinois River Watershed Protection Plan, Malone said.

Once the bylaws and constitution are in place, the council will be charged with identifying nonregulatory projects to benefit the Beaver Lake Watershed. Some of those projects include educational programs and stream bank stabilization, Malone said.

The purpose of the resolution before the Committee of 13 was to ensure the council's board of directors are made up of residents who live and work within the Beaver Lake watershed, Justice of the Peace Frank Winscott said.

"This (resolution) is what I feel we need in order to give direction from this Quorum Court," Winscott said, "I can speak (to the council) much more authoritatively if I have the whole backing of this Quorum Court."

Other justices of the peace were not convinced the resolution was needed just yet.

"I am a little concerned with saying we are in favor of a (watershed) protection plan when I do not know what that plan is," Justice of the Peace Dan Douglas said.

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GARBAGE PICKUP

# Trash Contract Talks Start

WOMACK CONCERNED RATE COULD RISE

By John Gore  
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**ROGERS** — City officials are beginning contract negotiation for trash pickup in Rogers.

The contract with Inland Services doesn't expire until Dec. 31 but discussions are beginning now because "garbage seems to be a simple thing, but it can be so complex," said Mayor Steve Womack.

Womack said he would like to go out for bids this summer and have a

new contract in place by September to begin Feb. 1, 2011.

The reason for a February 2011 start date is to give the low bidder time to prepare to begin service.

"We learned the last time changing trash service during the holidays is not a good idea," Womack said. "Of course if Inland is the low bidder that won't matter."

The trouble with trash removal is no matter what services the city puts into a new contract, it won't please everyone.

"There are just too many vari-

ables. Some people don't want the rolling trash cans. Some people want more bulk pickup. Some want to choose their own trash service and some want a reduced rate because they don't put out as much trash as their neighbors," Womack said. "You can't devise a system that's going to take care of everybody's needs."

A new contract raises the possibility the trash rate could increase. Womack said it's impossible to know if there will be a rate increase. The city will solicit bids and unless there is a compelling reason not to,

"Garbage seems to be a simple thing, but it can be so complex."



STEVE WOMACK, Rogers mayor

the contract will go to the lowest bidder.

"I'm hopeful we can keep (the rate) at or about where it is right

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## FINE DINING, FAST FLYING



STAFF PHOTO FLIP PUTTHOFF

**Canada geese** take flight after feeding in a field near New Hope Road and Bellview Road in Rogers on Wednesday afternoon. Several hundred Canada geese were feeding in the field behind the Walgreen's store.

# Foreclosures Remain High

1 IN 25 HOMES IN REGION DELINQUENT ON MORTGAGE IN 2009

By Kim Souza  
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Nearly 7,000 households in Benton and Washington counties faced foreclosure in 2009 as one in every 25 mortgages were at least 60 days delinquent at some time last year, according to Realtytrac.

This compares to one in every 78 households statewide and nearly twice the national rate of one in every 45 households.

Benton County reported 3,945 foreclosure filings in 2009, up 20 percent from 2008 and a whopping 308 percent increase from 2007 as the region slipped into recession.

The story was much the same in Washington County with 2,898 foreclosure filings in 2009 — up 51 percent from 2008 and a 378 percent increase from 2007.

Since October 2009 the monthly foreclosure filings recorded in

AT A GLANCE				
FORECLOSURE FILINGS				
The annual foreclosure filings in Northwest Arkansas counties are:				
	2009	2008	2007	2006
<b>Benton</b>	3,945	3,283	966	445
<b>Washington</b>	2,898	1,921	611	289
<b>Madison</b>	42	25	2	3
<b>Carroll</b>	30	31	1	2
<b>McDonald County, Mo.</b>	27	21	4	3

SOURCE: REALTYTRAC

Benton County have improved from 2008 levels.

This is an early sign loan modifications and other foreclosure prevention efforts have kept a lid on the most visible symptoms of the ailing housing market, James Saccacio, CEO of Realtytrac, said in the release.

He said the recent monthly decreases in filings are likely

because of a major clog in the foreclosure pipeline from stepped up government intervention and the large volume of distressed loans still needing modification.

Local economist Kathy Deck agreed, saying a prolonged painful recovery period means foreclosure activity will flatten out but remain

SEE FORECLOSURES PAGE 2A

## GETTING STARTED

IN THE NEWS



### Lady Mounties Like 3-Pointers

**ROGERS** — The Rogers High Lady Mounties are not afraid to shoot the 3-pointer. Rogers hit six of its 18 3-point attempts in its first game in 13 days. Rogers' shooters get a lot of reps in practice, and coach Preston Early expects those players to take those shots in games.

FULL STORY, 6A

## Authorities: Sewer Safe After Leak In Gravette

By Ryan McGeeney  
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Authorities said Wednesday about 1,600 gallons of gasoline that apparently leaked into the Gravette sewer had no impact on the safety of residents or drinking water.

Spill response crews worked through the day Wednesday, using a backhoe to remove large sections of earth around an above-ground fuel storage tank that slowly leaked the fuel over about a day and a half.

The fuel tank is part of the Gravette Shop & Go at 204 First Ave.

Matt Garrity, Benton County director of emergency management,

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