

THE MORNING NEWS

FAYETTEVILLE

Also Serving West Fork, Farmington, Lincoln, Prairie Grove, Greenland, Elkins, Summers, Goshen, Hogeys & Durham

TODAY IN NATION & WORLD
FIREFIGHTERS CONCEDE DEFEAT IN CALIFORNIA
IRAQI DEATHS DECLINE

SECTION B

WEDNESDAY,
 OCT. 24, 2007

50¢



BALE BLAZER



J.T. WAMPLER • THE MORNING NEWS

A West Fork firefighter tries to extinguish a hay bale that fell from a trailer Tuesday on Arkansas 265 near Greenland. Delbert Prater was towing the load home when the hay caught fire, said Mitch McCorkle, West Fork volunteer fire chief. Prater was not hurt, but the truck and trailer were destroyed. West Fork and Prairie Grove firefighters also extinguished three fires along Arkansas 265 and Illinois Chapel Road that were sparked when flaming bales fell from the trailer. The highway was closed for about an hour while emergency personnel worked to put out the fires. The cause of the fire was not determined by Tuesday evening.

2008 ELECTION

Officials Anticipate Turnout

COMMISSION SUGGESTS ADDING EARLY VOTING SITE

By Dan Craft
 THE MORNING NEWS • DCRAFT@NWAONLINE.NET

FAYETTEVILLE — Early voting lines in 2004 and 2006 snaked down the stairs, around the hallway and, sometimes, even out the door of the Washington County Courthouse in Fayetteville.

Next year, county election officials want to add a second early voting location in Springdale to cut down on wait times and increase convenience for voters.

The election commission's budget will have to increase slightly next year compared to 2006, mostly because of the second early voting site, said John Logan Burrow, election commission chairman.

AT A GLANCE

POLLING PLACE

Registered voters in Washington County have been able to cast ballots up to two weeks before an election by stopping in the Washington County Clerk's Office. More than 12,000 ballots were cast early in Washington County in 2004 during the presidential election.

SOURCE: STAFF REPORT

"We're looking at a presidential election year, and if past cycles are any indication, we'll see a big turnout in early voting, which is becoming very popular," Burrow said.

SEE BUDGET PAGE 2A

Man Granted New Trial Posts Bond

BARRETT FREE AFTER SIX YEARS IN PRISON

By Robin Mero
 THE MORNING NEWS • RME@NWAONLINE.NET

BENTONVILLE — Roger Dale Barrett thought he'd remain a prisoner forever after being sentenced to life in prison in 2001 for murdering his mistress.

But Barrett is getting a new trial, and he walked free Tuesday for the first time in six years after posting a \$150,000 bond.

Benton County Senior Circuit Judge Tom Keith granted the new trial, ruling Barrett's attorney didn't adequately represent him and that decision recently was unanimously affirmed by the state Supreme Court.

Barrett was released Monday from the Arkansas Department of Correction, and Tuesday after-

noon posted a \$150,000 bond for release from the Benton County Jail.

Prosecutor Van Stone will now pursue the same capital murder charge against Barrett for the murder of Eunice "Yogi" Bradley.

A hearing in the case is planned Oct. 30, when attorneys will argue the status of a bond Barrett posted after his arrest in 2000. Barrett's parents secured that \$150,000 bond with Spencer Bail Bonding using property they owned.

After Barrett went to prison and his conviction was affirmed by the state Supreme Court, his parents asked the property be released.

Barrett's attorney, Joel Huggins of Springdale, will argue Tues-



Barrett

day that bond is still valid since the contract was between the bonding company and Barrett — not the parents.

Attorney Blair Brady, representing the bonding company, will argue the bond is void and unenforceable.

Barrett's family in 2003 hired Huggins to file a Rule 37 petition, saying defense attorney John Gross was not competent.

Keith last year called the case the most troubling of his 20-plus year career on the bench. He sharply criticized Gross, saying Barrett's sentence could have been much lighter had Gross considered plea offers or revealed a trial strategy — or had he not intimidated Barrett from testifying.

Barrett said in a Rule 37 hearing in February 2006 he shot Bradley by accident. He was trying to break off his two-year relationship with her and recon-

cile with his wife. He had been smoking marijuana, drinking tequila and taking methamphetamine throughout that day, he said.

Barrett kept a .22-caliber pistol under the sofa, and he claimed Bradley grabbed it after he told her of his plans. After a struggle, they lost their footing and fell, the gun went off and a bullet hit her in the chest. He burned her body in a panic, he testified.

Keith said in his ruling the jury might have believed that testimony. "He had no prior felonies. He was sympathetic. He was believable," the judge said.

The state Supreme Court agreed with Keith that that Gross' performance was deficient because he failed to develop any trial strategy, adequately question potential jurors, or present a discernible defense.

GETTING STARTED

IN THE NEWS



Shock Kills Drunken Elephants

GAUHATI, India — Six Asiatic wild elephants were electrocuted as they went berserk after drinking rice beer in India's remote northeast, a wildlife official said Tuesday.
 FULL STORY, 7B

Siloam Springs Sweeps Fayetteville

FAYETTEVILLE — Siloam Springs continued its momentum into the 5A state tournament with a win against a Class 7A Fayetteville team 3-0 (25-20, 25-16, 26-24) in high school volleyball Tuesday.
 FULL STORY, 5C



Baby Battering Results In 40-Year Sentence

THE MORNING NEWS

FAYETTEVILLE — A Fayetteville man, Richard Lewis Bradbury, 21, pleaded guilty Monday to two counts of first-degree battery for harming his four-month-old son who died May 30 at the family's home.

Prosecutors said there appears to be no relationship between the injuries, which appeared to be healing, and child's death.

But, according to an arrest report, Bradbury admitted to fracturing his infant child's ribs and striking the child's head against a crib rail. He said he was frustrated.

A preliminary medical examiner's report indicated a skull fracture and several

fractured ribs were probably several weeks old.

Prosecutors said they went with battery charges because there's no immediate link between the injuries the child suffered and the subsequent death.

Police were called to Bradbury's apartment on Melmar May 30, where they found the baby dead on the living room floor.

Washington County Circuit Judge William Storey sentenced Bradbury to 40 years at the Arkansas Department of Correction with 20 years suspended.



Bradbury

Judge Plans Hearing In Museum Deal

CRYSTAL BRIDGES SEEKS SHARED OWNERSHIP OF FISK UNIVERSITY COLLECTION

By Richard Dean Prudenti
 THE MORNING NEWS • RPRUDENTI@NWAONLINE.NET

BENTONVILLE — Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art will wait a few months before knowing if it can share Fisk University's prized art collection.

Davidson County Chancellor Ellen Hobbs Lyle of Nashville, Tenn., decided Tuesday she will hold a trial to determine whether the financially strapped Nashville university can accept the Bentonville museum's \$30 million proposal to co-own the 101-piece Alfred Stieglitz Collection.

Lyle said in a Tuesday hearing she would determine an appropriate trial date by early this morning, said Michael Norton, one of Fisk University's attorneys handling the case.

Time is of the essence for

VIRGINIA GROUP SEEKS TO DELAY SALE OF PAINTINGS PAGE 15A

the historically black liberal arts university. Fisk University requested an expedited trial to obtain the \$30 million before Dec. 15. Without this "cash infusion," the school risks a negative cash balance and ceasing to exist, according to the Fisk University's motion to set an expedited trial.

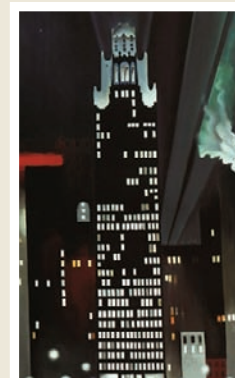
The university will continue "looking for ways to survive longer," Norton added.

Alice Walton, founder and president of the Crystal Bridges board, has promised the funding to purchase a 50 percent interest in the collection. If the judge favors the partnership, Crystal Bridges and Fisk University each will have the right to publicly display the collection

on an equal time basis, an earlier news release said.

The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, N.M., challenged the proposed agreement and claims a right to the entire collection, which includes paintings by Georgia O'Keeffe, photographs by her husband, Alfred Stieglitz, and works by other artists.

Saul Cohen, president of the O'Keeffe Museum board, said the Santa Fe museum is the "successor" of O'Keeffe's estate and claims right to the entire collection because Fisk University violated the terms of O'Keeffe's donation to the school in 1949. O'Keeffe stipulated the university could not sell the collection whole or in part, he said.



FAST FACT

AMERICAN REALISM

Georgia O'Keeffe's 1927 oil painting "Radiator Building — Night, New York" is among the pieces in the collection.

SOURCE: STAFF REPORT



INDEX

THE MORNING NEWS

Volume 13, Number 358, 70 Pages
 © Stephens Media LLC, 2007

Business	Section D	Food	Section E
Classifieds	Section F	Nation & World	Section B
Comics	6-7E	Region & State	11A
Crossword	5E	Sports	Section C

WEB WATCH

GET ALL THE LATEST HEADLINES, 24 HOURS A DAY.

WWW.NWAONLINE.NET

WEATHER, 8B

62/36

BEAVER LAKE
 1,115 FEET

