

THE MORNING NEWS

ROGERS

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TODAY IN SPORTS
MOUNTIES WIN OWN MEET IN CONVINCING FASHION

PAGE 5C

WEDNESDAY
OCT. 24, 2007

50¢

CAMPUS ANNOUNCEMENT



SARAH BERRETT • THE MORNING NEWS

Susan Barrett, president of Mercy Health System of Northwest Arkansas, announces the name of Mercy's new hospital and chapel on Tuesday in Rogers. The campus has been named Mercy Medical Center and its chapel will retain the St. Mary's name. The announcement was made during a news conference at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Rogers.

New Name To Adorn Hospital

MERCY MEDICAL CENTER WILL REPLACE ST. MARY'S IN MARCH

By Brandon Marcello
THE MORNING NEWS
BMARCELLO@NWAONLINE.NET

ROGERS — The St. Mary's insignia won't adorn the new \$145 million hospital complex set to replace St. Mary's Hospital in Rogers.

However, the new hospital's chapel will hold the St. Mary's name.

Officials with Mercy Health System of Northwest Arkansas announced the new campus near New Hope Road and Interstate 540 would be called Mercy Medical Center.

The center is set to open some time in mid-March, said George Flynn, chief execu-

tive officer of Mercy Health System of Northwest Arkansas.

"We're very excited and can't wait for the 150 days to pass by," Flynn said.

Its chapel, named St. Mary's Chapel, will continue to bear the Catholic roots of the new hospital, said Susan Barrett, president of Mercy Health System of Northwest Arkansas.

The campus will replace the 59-year-old St. Mary's Hospital at Walnut and 13th streets.

St. Mary's Hospital has been served by Catholic faith groups since 1951, beginning

SEE MERCY PAGE 2A

AT A GLANCE

MERCY MEDICAL CENTER TIMELINE

- **1998:** St. Mary's Hospital receives gift of 72 acres of land from Evelyn Rife.
- **2002:** The 72-acre land donation combined with another 3 acres donated by the Pete Walsh family allows Mercy Health System of Northwest Arkansas to announce the land near the intersection of New Hope Road and Interstate 540 as the site of a new regional medical campus to replace St. Mary's Hospital in Rogers. Additionally, the goal of raising \$40 million was approved by the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation's board in July, starting the largest capital campaign in Benton County's history.
- **2007:** The new 350,000-square-foot hospital complex is named Mercy Medical Center. The center's chapel, St. Mary's Chapel, and physicians' offices, Mercy Physician Plaza, are also announced.
- **2008:** New campus slated to open mid-March 2008.

SOURCE: MERCY HEALTH SYSTEM OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

ROGERS CITY COUNCIL

Rezoning Request Rejected

RESTAURANT SIGN CONCERNS RESIDENTS, OFFICIALS

By John Henley Jr.
THE MORNING NEWS • JHENLEY@NWAONLINE.NET

ROGERS — The "not in my backyard" mentality reared its head in Rogers during the City Council meeting Tuesday.

The Rogers City Council denied 6-2 Ken Fugitt's rezoning request of 3.44 acres along Pleasant Grove Road between 43rd and 44th streets from agricultural to residential single family with five units per acre. Aldermen Bob Goodwin and Jim Clark voted to approve the request.

Troy O'Neill, 5204 S. 43rd St., lives in Emerald Heights, which abuts Fugitt's property to the east. O'Neill spoke against the Fugitt's request based on the density.

O'Neill's residence sits on a one-quarter acre lot, according to the Arkansas County Data Web site. The Emerald Heights subdivision is zoned residential single family with five units per acre. Ridgecrest Meadows, which is south of Fugitt's property, is also zoned residential single family with five units per acre.

David Land lives at 5207 S. 44th St. in The Manors. Lang told the council that residents in his neighborhood were not against development in southwest Rogers, but, "things need to go where they need to go."

SEE CITY PAGE 2A

AT A GLANCE

WHAT HAPPENED?

The Rogers City Council on Tuesday agreed to:

- Appropriate \$500,000 for the parking lot at The John Q. Hammons Center.
- A contract with the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad for improvement to the railroad crossing at Eighth and Easy streets.
- A contract with Delta Airport Consultants for design and bidding services for the Parallel Taxiway Project at the Rogers Municipal Airport, and appropriating \$226,017 for Capital Expenditures Project 25.
- A contract with Otis Elevator Company for \$90,667 and waive competitive bidding.
- A contract change order with Crafton Tull Sparks and Associates for engineering services for widening the Olive Street Overpass.
- A contract with New World Solutions for \$220,100 for public safety software and services for the Rogers Police Department.

SOURCE: STAFF REPORT

PACKETS TO EDUCATE CITY ON WASTE PROGRAM

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GETTING STARTED

IN THE NEWS



Electrocution 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**

California Firefighters Concede Defeat

SAN DIEGO — Faced with unrelenting winds whipping wildfires into a frenzy across Southern California, firefighters conceded defeat on many fronts Tuesday to an unstoppable force that has chased an estimated 1 million people away. **FULL STORY, 1D**



Wal-Mart Alters Expansion Plan

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. reduced its domestic sales forecast, while also cutting capital expenditures over the next three years, company executives announced during a teleconference late Tuesday. **FULL STORY, 1D**



Bourdain Shares Strategies For Culinary Adventures

FAYETTEVILLE — Anthony Bourdain wants to change the way you eat. His "No Reservations" food adventure series featured on the Travel Channel was shown before his presentation and book signing. The episodes showed the chef interacting with cooks in Iceland and New Zealand. **FULL STORY, 1E**

Mayor Threatens To Veto Budget

WOMACK DOESN'T WANT \$10,000 RAISE PROPOSED BY ROGERS ALDERMAN

By John Henley Jr.
THE MORNING NEWS • JHENLEY@NWAONLINE.NET

ROGERS — Mayor Steve Womack threatened Tuesday morning to veto the 2008 city budget if it includes a salary increase for him.

Alderman Larry Daniel proposed a \$10,000 increase in Womack's salary, which Womack doesn't want. His salary is \$100,000 per year.

"If there is any attempt to amend this budget that is beneficial to me, I will veto

the budget," Womack said, adding he appreciated the sentiment.

City officials established a policy two years ago for elected officials' salary increases, which are addressed in the spring of even-numbered years. Pay increases take effect Jan. 1 of the next year.

Womack said city officials need to adhere to that policy.

The Rogers City Council approved the 2008 city administration budget during its second day of budget hearings.

MEETING INFORMATION

ROGERS CITY COUNCIL

When: 7:30 a.m.

Where: City Council chambers, Rogers City Hall, 301 W. Chestnut St. Enter through the door on the northeast side of the building.

What: The council will meet Wednesday and Thursday to discuss different departments' proposed 2008 budgets.

Below is a listing of when each department's budget will be discussed.

Today: Parks and Adult Wellness Center, Planning, Streets and Airport.

Thursday: Inspections, Codes, Animal Services, Library and Museum.

Administration is the largest city department with a proposed 2008 budget of \$25.63 million. The proposed overall Rogers budget is \$35.47 million.

Pay raises for city employees interested everyone at the hearing.

Womack said he wanted city employees to receive at least a **SEE BUDGET PAGE 2A**

Man Granted New Capital Murder Trial, Posts Bond

By Robin Mero
THE MORNING NEWS • RMERO@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



Barrett

of Correction, and Tuesday afternoon 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 Tuesday, 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 Tuesday that bond is still valid since the **SEE BARRETT PAGE 2A**



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