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TODAY IN WHAT'S UP!



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PLAYBOY.COM MODEL

Jailer Fired For Nudity

LUNDERBY HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMPLAINT

By Kate Ward
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FAYETTEVILLE — Job performance issues and departmental disruptions led to the termination of Washington County Jailer Jessie Lunderby on Wednesday.

The three-year department veteran was placed on paid administrative leave late last month pending the completion of an internal investigation. The departmental probe aimed at determining if Lunderby violated policies by posing nude for Playboy.com.

"Although we investigated the

policy violations and the weight of freedom of speech, this isn't based on any of those," Washington County Sheriff Tim Helder said. "It's a business decision in determining how we can effectively run this facility. I made the decision to move forward and get another employee who can focus on our mission."

Helder said Lunderby's situation came to light after she filed a sexual harassment complaint against another employee in April. The co-worker, who is still employed by the department, reportedly made a comment regarding a photo



Helder



Lunderby

of Lunderby that surfaced on the Internet. He was later disciplined and received training and conduct education.

"At that point, she had already posed nude for Playboy, but we

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PLAYBOY.COM

Jessie Lunderby was fired Wednesday from the Washington County Sheriff's Office in connection with photos the jailer posed for on the website playboy.com.

Busy Intersection Set For Changes

By Rose Ann Pearce
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FAYETTEVILLE — The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department plans to spend nearly \$4 million to improve traffic flow through one of Fayetteville's busiest intersections.

The state awarded a \$3.97 million contract to Sweetser Construction for major construction at the interchange of Interstate 540 and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, or U.S. 62.

Some 35,000 cars, traveling east and west, go through the interchange in a 24-hour period, according to David Nilles, spokesman for the highway department.

Alderman Sarah Lewis, who represents the City Council ward that includes the project, said the intersection improvement is needed to accommodate heavy traffic. Motorists may be inconvenienced during the construction but the improvement will help traffic management, she said.

Lewis said a representative from the city engineer's office will be invited to attend the next Ward 4 meeting to discuss the project. The meeting is scheduled Aug. 30, Lewis said.

Nilles said northbound traffic on Interstate 540 will see a narrowing of lanes to accomplish the work. There will be outside shoulder closings in the vicinity of the existing and proposed northbound entrance ramps.

The inside lane of the three-lane portion of North Futrall Drive will be closed during one phase of construction. Futrall runs alongside I-540 on the east side.

Other shoulder and sidewalk closures will occur throughout the construction, Nilles said.

The construction is expected to begin in about four weeks, he said. The goal is to improve the flow of traffic in that area.

The scope of the work as outlined by the highway department includes widening Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard from five to six lanes. The widening will occur from west of Shiloh Drive to Futrall Drive. Futrall Drive will be widened from three to four lanes to accommodate a dual left turn for westbound traffic.

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DIGGING UP FUNDING



STAFF PHOTO SARAH BENTHAM

Sean Layne, right, consultant with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, leads a discussion Thursday between local teachers and creators of "Digging Up Arkansas" Kassie Misiewicz, from left, Christy Hall, and Mike Thomas at the Walton Arts Center in Fayetteville. It was announced the Windgate Charitable Foundation awarded the arts center \$75,000 to help bring the play, an interactive show teaching Arkansas history, to students across the state.

Grant To Help Play On History

'DIGGING UP ARKANSAS' WILL BE PERFORMED TO THOUSANDS ACROSS THE STATE

By Kate Ward
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FAYETTEVILLE — The Windgate Charitable Foundation awarded the Walton Arts Center a \$75,000 challenge grant on Thursday to expand an educational play to schools across Arkansas.

Over the next year, the foun-

ation will match donations to support performances of "Digging Up Arkansas" to more than 5,000 students statewide.

The play, which debuted locally last March, was commissioned by the Walton Arts Center and created by Bentonville-based youth theater company Trike Theater. The performance was

developed in response to a 2009 Arts With Education Institute workshop, during which participants spoke about the challenges associated with teaching students about Arkansas history.

"Not everyone learns in the same manner," said Terri Trotter, chief operating officer for the arts center. "By being able to integrate

these new techniques into the classroom, we hope to reach every student."

Trotter said Shipley Motor Co. had already pledged \$2,500 to support the grant challenge.

Thursday's announcement came during the annual Arts

SEE PLAY PAGE 2A

Bank Of Fayetteville Forecloses On Real Estate Venture

By Kim Souza
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The Bank of Fayetteville won judgments worth \$2.17 million from J.B. Hays, Southpaw Development, Robert Higgs and Amy Jamison for five real estate development loans made between March 2002 and 2008.

The borrowers defaulted on the loans in December, according to a

filing in Washington County Circuit Court on Wednesday.

Circuit Judge Mary Ann Gunn ordered the foreclosure and sale of more than 58 acres, which are split into eight tracts primarily east of Fayetteville near Arkansas 16.

The property will be auctioned to the highest bidder with proceeds going to the bank. Gunn also awarded the bank \$30,000 in attorney's fees.

The Bank of Fayetteville modified and extended the five loans multiple times before the borrowers defaulted in December, the filing states.

The default coincided with a lawsuit brought by Hays against the bank on Dec. 7.

Hays sued the bank and its directors and sought \$50 million in damages resulting from the lender's failure to complete funding of

a large project.

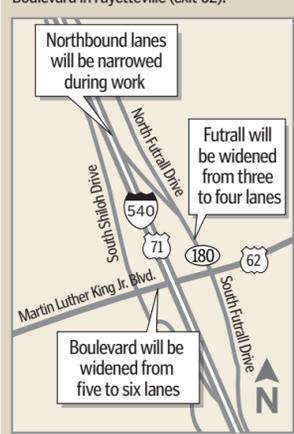
The suit against the bank was voluntarily dismissed in February at Hays' request.

David Fisher, attorney for Hays, attributed the dismissal to a change in case strategy on behalf his client.

He said no settlement had been reached and Hays has a year to refile the lawsuit under the terms of a voluntary dismissal.

Street Widening Set Near Interchange

The Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department has awarded a bid of almost \$4 million for widening and extending of lanes around the Interstate 540 intersection with Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Fayetteville (exit 62).



Source: Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department
STAFF GRAPHIC SHANNON FRAZIER



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