



**TEAMING UP
ON CRAPPIE**

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GETTING STARTED

IN THE NEWS



**Fayetteville Duo
Dynamic At Golf**

FAYETTEVILLE — Their styles on the golf course differ, with Olivia Lavy hitting powerful tee shots and Micah Radler relying on her solid short game. They also differ in size, with the 5-foot-9 Lavy towering over the 5-foot Radler. Not much about them seems similar, except the handful of state championships they've won together as Fayetteville teammates. **FULL STORY, 9A**

SEPTEMBER FILINGS PEAK

296 Homes Repossessed

OFFICIAL SAYS LENDERS FORECLOSE ON RECORD NUMBER OF PROPERTIES

AT A GLANCE

FORECLOSURE FILINGS

July 1 to Sept. 31, 2010, compared to third quarter 2009

Benton County: 1,155 filings, down 4.9 percent

Washington County: 952 filings, down 5.6 percent

Madison County: 20 filings, up 11 percent

McDonald County: 16 filings, up 100 percent

Statewide: 5,753 filings, up 11 percent

Nationwide: 930,437 filings, down 0.7 percent

SOURCE: REALTYTRAC

By Kim Souza
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One in every 82 households in Benton and Washington counties moved closer to foreclosure in the third quarter that had 2,107 filings, RealtyTrac reported Wednesday.

Lenders foreclosed on a record number of properties in the period, said James Saccacio, chief executive officer of RealtyTrac.

He said active bank repossessions in September helped take a bite out of the backlog of distressed properties delayed by foreclosure prevention efforts over the past 20 months.

Banks took back 296 local homes in September, up 36.4 percent from

a year ago. Bank repossession is the final phase of the foreclosure pipeline.

In the full quarter, banks reclaimed 789 homes in the two counties, which accounted for 43 percent of the state's total bank repossessions, according to RealtyTrac.

Another 1,084 local households got a notice of pending trustee sale during the quarter, up 6.7 percent from the year ago period. A trustee sale is the second phase of foreclosure. Also in the quarter, 234 local households moved into the first phase of foreclosure with a 90-day default notice. This is 21.8 percent more defaults than the counties recorded a year ago.

Saccacio and other foreclosure experts expect to see a dip in the number of foreclosure filings in the next quarter as several major lenders have halted foreclosure actions in several states because of document processing irregularities.

"We have yet to see any impact from lenders who say they are addressing the document issues. We recently underwent additional training with Chase in an effort to streamline the application process, but documents are still being lost," said Marisela Tapia, housing counselor at the Economic Opportunity Agency of Washington County.

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Dickson Street Walk Of Fame Proposed

By Ron Wood
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FAYETTEVILLE — Dickson Street may soon be home to an Entertainer's Walk of Fame, honoring Arkansas natives who went on to national and international acclaim in the fields of music, literature and film.

Arkansas music promoter Butch Stone said Wednesday the Walk of Fame will be based on the stars on Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles. Those inducted will be recognized with bronze emblems placed in the sidewalks along Dickson Street.

"I got to thinking about it and Arkansas has this rich history of people who were born here but have gone on either in the movies, recording music or literary worlds — the arts — and distinguished themselves. There's a long list of people who have done that," Stone said. "We have a story to tell but it's not really getting told."

Potential inductees range from Levon Helm and Maya Angelou to Harry Thomason and Trout Fishing in America, from Glen Campbell to Billy Bob Thornton, Stone said.

Stone said he approached Steven Butler of Butler Entertainment, Brian Crowne of George's Majestic Lounge, Steve Clark, executive director of the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce, and others in Northwest Arkansas who were supportive of the idea.

"I think it will be great for us," Clark said. "There are some outstanding Arkansans that could be recognized and it would help focus attention on the artistic contributions those Arkansans have made nationally and internationally."

SEE WALK PAGE 2A

BLOCK AVENUE DECISION



STAFF PHOTO ANDY SHUPE

Chris Brown, engineer for the city of Fayetteville, center right, speaks Wednesday to a group of business owners, city staff, City Council members and residents near the Spring Street intersection during a tour of the ongoing construction on Block Avenue prior to a Street Committee meeting in Fayetteville. Go to photos.nwaonline.com to see more photos.

Parallel Parking Removed

CHAIRMAN: DECISION WILL FREE UP SPACE FOR LOADING ZONES DURING DAY

By Kate Ward
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FAYETTEVILLE — Fayetteville Street Committee members voted to remove parallel parking during the day along Block Avenue.

Their decision followed a public input session Wednesday in which business owners expressed concern over the proposed changes, which initially included the removal of parallel parking from Dickson Street to Meadow Street.

Brenda Thiel, a Fayetteville

alderwoman and street committee member, said it would be more consistent to remove all parallel parking.

Street Committee Chairman Bobby Ferrell, who's also an alderman, said the removal of parallel parking will free up space for loading zones during the day and will be used for parking at night.

The last couple spots along Block, closest to Dickson Street, will continue to accommodate parallel parking.

"As the development of Block Avenue occurs, some of the

AT A GLANCE

APPROVED CHANGES ALONG BLOCK AVENUE

- ▶ Reduce length of parking space lines by 1 foot
- ▶ Reduce the size of islands
- ▶ Replace parallel parking with loading zone during the day, except for last two spaces near Dickson Street
- ▶ Replace Postal Service drop box near Dickson Street

SOURCE: STAFF REPORT

largest things we've heard as a committee was to remove the parallel parking," he said. "Is this the best possible way in the world for that street? No. Is the

money the city spent to change this going to make the property worth more money? Yes."

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State Says 17 NorthWest Arkansas Community College Raises Invalid

By Tabatha Hunter
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BENTONVILLE — Seventeen pay increases given by NorthWest Arkansas Community College since July 1 were in violation of state policy, according to the state Department of Finance and Administration.

"There have been some errors in

the way (the college) administers pay," said Kay Terry, state personnel administrator.

The employees who were awarded pay increases may have to pay back all of the additional money they received since July 1 as a result of the unauthorized pay increases, Terry said.

College president Becky Paneitz

referred to the incident as a communication failure.

"Regarding these compensation issues with classified employees, it became clear through this process that we failed to communicate with the state regarding additional duty pay to certain employees," Paneitz said in a prepared statement. "Better communication on our end would

have prevented these problems from occurring, and we will heighten our efforts to ensure these mistakes don't happen again.

"While their findings do exonerate the college from many of the claims initially reported, we take full responsibility for the errors they did find with our practice of additional duty pay."

The pay increases came under scrutiny because they followed a May 26 memorandum freeing all state employee salaries.

Richard Weiss, director of the state Department of Finance and Administration, issued the memorandum freeing salaries effective July 1.

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