

THE BENTON COUNTY DAILY RECORD



Fishing's Fast Lane

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High School Homecoming Court Named

Queen Will Be Announced Friday At Game
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Plenty Of Story Lines At Halfway Point

Will Tigers Face Resistance In Second Championship Quest?
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Officials Wary Of New Fuel

QUESTIONS LINGER ABOUT CONVERSION

By Tom Sissom
TSISSOM@NWAONLINE.COM

BENTONVILLE — Benton County's vision of using compressed natural gas to power its vehicle fleet hit a speed bump Tuesday night with some justices of the peace asking for more information before they sign off on the project.

Richard Redfearn, county grants administrator, reported to the Finance Committee on the application for a \$350,000 grant from the Arkansas Energy Office. Redfearn told the justices of the peace the application is pending, but an answer is expected by the end of the month or early November.

Tom Allen, justice of the peace, interrupted Redfearn's report with a question about the county's readiness to accept the grant.

"The intent of the Quorum Court, as I recall, was to allow you to apply, then to bring it back to us before you accept," Allen said.

Frank Winscott, justice of the peace, also had reservations about accepting the grant, pointing out the project would require matching money.

"\$350,000 is not pocket change," Winscott said.

Redfearn said he had been working

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Parking Deck Plans Progress

By Joel Walsh
JWALSH@NWAONLINE.COM

FAYETTEVILLE — Mayor Lionel Jordan's Parking Deck Committee raised more questions Wednesday than city leaders were able to immediately answer.

How big will the deck be?

What will it look like, and how much will it cost?

Will the city have to purchase land to accommodate construction?

Issues related to the basic look and feel of an entertainment district parking deck won't be finalized until the city hires a design team for the project early next year.

But the third question, raised by Carl Collier of Collier Drug Stores, may be decided before then.

The committee has suggested the best location for a deck would be the 65-space paid lot at Spring Street and West Avenue, a block south of the Walton Arts Center.

Collier and Brian Swain, administrator of Central United Methodist Church, said Wednesday more space would likely be needed than available on the city-owned lot,

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CAPITAL MURDER CHARGE

Judge OKs Interviews

PROSECUTORS CAN USE WINTERS' DISCUSSIONS WITH POLICE

By Tracy M. Neal
TNEAL@NWAONLINE.COM

BENTONVILLE — Prosecutors can use a murder suspect's police interviews as evidence at his murder trial, a judge ruled Wednesday.

Attorneys for Michael Shane Winters previously filed a motion to exclude the interviews at trial.

Circuit Judge Robin Green listened to testimony during a suppression hearing in September and issued her ruling Wednesday.

"I find that there was no intimidation, coercion or deceptive practices to cause the statement to be anything other than voluntarily,

knowingly and intelligently given," Green said.

Winters, 30, and Nicholas Johansen, 20, are charged with two counts of capital murder and aggravated robbery in connection with the murders of Louise Bishop, 81, and Christina Bishop, 40. Johansen is Christina Bishop's son and Louise Bishop's grandson.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.



Winters

THE SUSPECTS

BISHOP MURDER CASE

- Nicholas Johansen is being held without bond in the Benton County Jail. His trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 18.
 - Michael Shane Winters is being held in the Cummins Unit of the Arkansas Department of Correction. His trial is scheduled to begin Nov. 1.
- Each man could receive a life sentence or death if convicted of the murders. They could be sentenced from 10 to 40 years or life for each count of aggravated robbery.

SOURCE: STAFF REPORT

The men will be tried separately. Winters' trial is scheduled to begin Nov. 1.

The Bishops were reported missing June 21, 2009. They were

last seen at Sam's Club in Bentonville. Their bodies were found Feb. 1, 2010, in a shallow grave at

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READY FOR THE CHALLENGE



STAFF PHOTO J.S. WEDGERTH

John Kennedy of Midway, Tenn., answers questions Wednesday during a vehicle electrical challenge at the Walmart National Technician and Driving Championship at the John Q. Hammons Center in Rogers. Competitors, including 18 technicians and 24 drivers with Walmart, qualified for the national event through local and regional qualifiers throughout the year.

Law Tightens Regulations On Gold

NEW REQUIREMENTS CALL FOR MORE BOOKKEEPING IN BUYING, SELLING PRECIOUS METAL

By Bob Caudle
BCAUDLE@NWAONLINE.COM

ROGERS — A new law dealing with buying and selling gold may help get stolen property back, but it can leave local gold buyers financially strapped during a mandated holding period.

Capt. Hayes Minor, head of the Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division, said the law requires more bookkeeping for gold buyers but provides recourse to help people get stolen items back.

"Prior to this, people who keep

gold were not required to keep a lot of paperwork and only required to hold an item for three days,"

Minor said. "By the time a theft gets noticed, reported and investigated, that's not enough time. Now, we get

a list and can compare that to some of the items we've had reported stolen."

Buyers now have to hold gold 15 days from the date law enforcement is notified, Minor said.

Rick White, owner of White's Jewelry in downtown Rogers, said the law is a good one. His only qualm with it is the 15-day holding period.

"Fifteen days ago, gold was selling for almost \$1,800 an ounce," White said Tuesday. "Right now,

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