

ROGERS MORNING NEWS

TODAY IN WHAT'S UP!

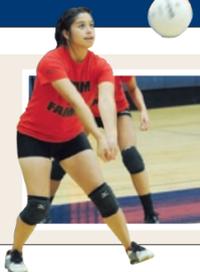
Collectors Seek Sale Treasures



TODAY IN SPORTS

Pea Ridge Ready For Volleyball

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TODAY IN WHAT'S UP!

Canoeing Buffalo A Dream



Hudlow Sues City

FORMER TREASURER CLAIMS WRONGFUL TERMINATION

By John Gore
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ROGERS — Jerry Hudlow, fired from his position as city treasurer and chief financial officer earlier this year, filed suit Thursday against the city and Mayor Greg Hines in U.S. District Court in Fayetteville.

Hudlow claims he was wrongfully terminated because Hines and city officials didn't follow state statutes regarding termination of appointed employees.

Hudlow said Thursday, following advice from his attorney, he wouldn't discuss the case.

In the complaint, Hudlow, through attorney Stephen Lee Wood, states Hines and the council violated city ordinances and a state statute regarding firing an appointed employee.

Wood was out of the office, according to a spokesman and was unavailable

for comment.

The complaint states Hines used a statute regarding dismissing a department head to justify the termination.

Hudlow claims in the suit he wasn't a department head but an appointed treasurer and not subject to the statutes used by Hines to fire him.

The suit further states a treasurer can only be removed from office by a majority vote of the City Council, according to state statute. A city ordinance also



Hudlow

NWA online

HUDLOW LAWSUIT

To read the complaint, go to www.nwaonline.com/documents

SEE LAWSUIT PAGE 2A

UNITED WE STAND



STAFF PHOTOS SAMANTHA BAKER

(Above) The United Way's Holly Hill, from left, vice president of community impact, Gwen Wiley, manager of donor relations, and Teresa Smith, manager of 2-1-1, place backpacks donated by Walmart into boxes Thursday outside of the company's store on Pleasant Crossing Boulevard in Rogers during the kickoff of the annual Stuff the Bus event. (Left) Holly Hill loads a school bus Thursday with the boxes of donated backpacks.

AT A GLANCE

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Jerry Hudlow, former city treasurer and chief financial officer, was fired in May by Mayor Greg Hines.

- Hudlow was appointed treasurer Oct. 1, 2002.
- He was reappointed in 2007 and 2011.
- He was fired May 14.
- Hudlow filed a civil suit of wrongful termination Thursday in U.S. District Court.

SOURCE: STAFF REPORT

Kruger Seeks Council Re-Election

By John Gore
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ROGERS — Alderman Mark Kruger said he wants to continue to protect the quality of life in Rogers if elected to another term on the City Council.

Kruger, who has served 22 years as an alderman, is seeking another term in his Ward 1, Position 2 seat.

"I enjoy being part of the group that has helped develop Rogers. I feel like I still have something to give to the city. Now that I'm retired, I can devote more time and



Kruger

SEE CANDIDATE PAGE 2A

Alcohol Petition Unchallenged

CLERK'S OFFICE GETS INQUIRIES; NO OPPOSITION FOLLOWS THROUGH

By Misty Gittings
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BENTONVILLE — The debated alcohol issue in Benton County is headed to a vote in November after Thursday's deadline to challenge the initiative passed without a court filing.

Opponents had 10 days after the County Clerk certified 43,307 signatures July 23 to challenge the validity of the petition in Circuit Court. The 10 days passed Thursday, according to Dana Caler, deputy county clerk.

Several people contacted the Clerk's Office to ask how to go about filing a challenge, staff said. None followed through the filing, however.

An appeal would have cost \$165 to file, according to Pamela Dyer, deputy circuit clerk. A judge would have had 10 days to hear the case and 30 days to decide, accord-

ing to Arkansas law.

Any opponent would have had to prove more than 2,000 of the signatures gathered by Keep Dollars in Benton County were invalid to have the certification overturned. The group needed 41,171 signatures to make the ballot.

Marshall Ney, spokesman for Keep Dollars in Benton County, has said the group will focus on getting voters to the polls on election day. He said after the signatures were submitted last month the number of signatures gathered, 41 percent of the county's voters, is a strong statement of support.

Letter Reveals Firing Details

PARSONS COUNSELED ON LANGUAGE INSUBORDINATION, LOW MORALE

By Teresa Moss
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BENTONVILLE — A North-West Arkansas Community College administrator was counseled on nine issues a week before being fired, according to college records released Thursday.

Marty Parsons, senior vice president for administrative services and chief financial officer, was fired by Becky Paneitz, college president, Wednesday, according to a letter from Paneitz in Parsons' personnel file.

"As President of North-West Arkansas Community College, it is my responsibility and duty to exercise strong leadership for the best interests of the college and its students," Paneitz said in a statement Thursday. "At times, this requires making difficult but necessary decisions, including those associated with college personnel."

Parsons was counseled on issues including insubordination, failure to complete the budget in a timely manner, inappropriate language and low morale in his department, according to July 25 memorandum. Parsons had 30 days

to improve and "further inappropriate behavior could result in his termination."

"Mr. Parsons has shown insubordination and disregarded the proper channels by directly contacting Board of Trustees' members to criticize Dr. Paneitz," according to the document.

Parsons contacted the Attorney General's Office regarding the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act in April, and again three months later, though he was asked not to by Paneitz, according to the memorandum.

"Mr. Parsons was also counseled about the budget not being completed in a timely manner, delaying approval of the budget until the June Board of Trustees' meeting,"



Parsons

NWA online

MEMO

nwaonline.com/documents

SEE LETTER PAGE 2A

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TODAY'S WEATHER



96/76
BEAVER LAKE
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