

ROGERS MORNING NEWS

FINDING A FURBABY



STAFF PHOTO SAMANTHA BAKER

Robert Richardson, center, with Rogers Animal Services, holds a leash Friday as Carli Rudder, 10, left, Lilly Rudder, 2, right, and Hannah Rudder, 5, meet Elizabeth, a 13-month old English toy spaniel at the Rogers Animal Shelter. The sisters were visiting multiple shelters in the area looking for a small dog to adopt. The shelter houses dogs and cats from Rogers and Bentonville. The shelter is home to 137 animals including 29 animals taken in this month. Elizabeth was a stray found Nov. 25.

City Mulls Alcohol Fees

ORDINANCE PROPOSES ANNUAL PERMISSION COSTS

By John Gore
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MEETING INFORMATION

LOWELL CITY COUNCIL

Where: Lowell City Hall, 216 N. Lincoln, council chambers
When: Tuesday
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Lowell aldermen are scheduled to review a proposed ordinance Tuesday establishing fees levied on businesses selling alcoholic drinks.

Officials in Benton County cities are writing ordinances dealing with various elements of the retail sale of alcohol in the formerly dry county. Rogers officials, for instance, established various zoning classifications where liquor stores and beer bars will be allowed.

The Lowell ordinance sets a \$750 annual permission fee for a business operating with a wholesale alcohol license, and a \$500 fee for any store that sells liquor, beer or wine for off-premise consumption. Lowell will have the highest permission fees in the area if aldermen approve the proposal.

Additionally, any business in Lowell must pay an annual fee of \$50 plus \$2 per employee for a business permit.

"We talked about this for awhile before we came up with these fees," said Eldon Long, mayor. "We haven't changed our alcohol ordinance since 1982, that's another reason we are

making the change now." "We feel like these fees are justifiable because it will be more work for the city staff and likely more pressure on the Police Department," he said.

Rogers officials haven't determined if the city will have a permission fee to sell alcohol.

"We haven't looked into that yet," said Mayor Greg Hines. "Right now I would say we probably won't add any additional fees for alcohol sales. The increase in sales tax revenue should be enough. That doesn't mean we might not change our minds later down the road."

Rogers requires a business permit a liquor store will need in order to operate. The permit costs \$50 per year, plus \$5 per employee, the same as for any Rogers retail business.

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GETTING STARTED



Lady Mounties Beat Lady Saints

SPRINGDALE — Taylor Strickland pounded the ball down the right side of the court, powering her way to the goal.
FULL STORY, 6A



Birth 2012 Marks New Start

Dec. 21, 2012. What if the date marks not the end of the world, but the beginning of a new era?
FULL STORY, 8A

TODAY'S WEATHER



63/38

BEAVER LAKE

1,109.4 FEET

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Home Sales Stay Strong

MEDIAN PRICES RISE IN REGION, ACCORDING TO FIRM

By Christie Swanson
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Northwest Arkansas home sales are on track to beat last year's total.

Realtors sold 458 homes in Benton and Washington counties in November, up from 414 homes a year earlier, according to MountData, a real estate marketing firm.

Year-to-date sales have been running just above last year, but pending sales are ahead of last year, said Paul Bynum, MountData owner and principal broker.

BY THE NUMBERS

REGIONAL HOME SALES

The recorded home sales in Benton and Washington counties the past three Novembers.

Year	Value Of Homes Sold	Units	Median Price
2010	\$59.51 million	360	\$129,250
2011	\$69.75 million	414	\$127,500
2012	\$81 million	458	\$148,505

SOURCE: MOUNTDATA

"Pending (sales) are a rough leading indicator of future sales," he said in his monthly real estate report. Pending sales are those that did not close in the month

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Woman's Ordeal Ends With Charges Dismissed

By Tracy M. Neal
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BENTONVILLE — Theodosia Hasley sat in court earlier this week waiting for her legal troubles to end.

Hasley, 23, said she was the victim of identity theft, but she was arrested and charged with writing two hot checks.

"The prosecutor said they were going to dismiss it," Hasley said Wednesday. "I've been telling everyone that I did not do it. I'm innocent."

Hasley and her attorney met with A.J. Anglin, deputy prosecutor, on Wednesday and the charges were dropped.

"Overall this was a good outcome for Ms. Hasley," said Tiffany Fields, deputy public defender. "We are happy the charges were dismissed."

Hasley said she moved to Missouri from Benton County about four years ago. While moving out of her apartment, she threw away two blank checks a bank gave her when she opened a checking account. The account had been closed for more than a year so Hasley said she didn't think it was a big deal

"I was 19 and dumb. I'm extremely careful with all my information now. You never think it is going to happen to you."

THEODOSIA HASLEY

Identity theft victim who was arrested and charged with writing two hot checks

to throw the checks away. "I was 19 and dumb," Hasley said as she sat on one of the courtroom pews. "I'm extremely careful with all my information now. You never think it is going to happen to you."

Hasley was arrested twice in connection with hot checks supposedly written by her.

The first arrest was in December 2010. She was driving in Joplin, Mo., and got a speeding ticket. She learned there was warrant in Benton

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Center Gets Big Gifts

JONES TRUST RECEIVES \$23 MILLION IN DONATIONS

By Steve Caraway
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SPRINGDALE — The future of the Jones Center looked much brighter Friday after the Jones Trust received two multimillion-dollar contributions.

The Walton Family Foundation announced a pledge of \$13 million to the organization, with the Care Foundation, a fund of the Endeavor Foundation, committing \$10 million.

The money will be a huge help to the sustainability of the Jones Center, said Ed Clifford, chief executive officer of the Jones Trust and Jones Center.

"This is a million-dollar smile," Clifford said to the group of more than 50 people who attended the announcement.

The Walton Family Foundation grant will be spread over three years with the \$10 million going to the trust to increase its endowment, said Ryan



STAFF PHOTO MICHAEL WOODS

Ryan Hale, program officer at the Walton Family Foundation, speaks Friday during a news conference at the Jones Center in Springdale. The Jones Trust's endowment campaign target is to reach \$30 million to sustain the goals of the Jones Trust and Center.

Hale, program officer at the foundation. Another \$3 million will go for major capital improvements and maintenance projects at the Jones Center, he said.

The Walton pledge includes a challenge for a matching contribution

of another \$20 million. The Endeavor Foundation money will count as half of that, with another \$10 million to be raised over the next year and a half by the Jones Center,

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