

SPRINGDALE MORNING NEWS

County Approves Positions

EMPLOYEES WOULD WORK WITH YOUTH, FAMILIES

By Tony Hernandez
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FAYETTEVILLE — Washington County justices of the peace voted to pay for two new positions that would interact with troubled youth and other residents seeking protection at Thursday's monthly meeting.

The Quorum Court OK'd a domestic relations specialist position at the Circuit Clerk's office to help people to file protection orders against household members. Justices of the peace also voted to pay for a new social worker at the Juvenile Detention Center to increase the county's ability to assess troubled juveniles for mental health and substance abuse issues.

The two new positions will cost a combined \$57,660 from the county's reserve to pay for salaries and benefits for the remaining year. Justice of the Peace Ron Aman of Prairie Grove voted against the new positions. The 14 other members voted in favor.

"As a rule I wouldn't support this because what I call the real world, they're not hiring," said Justice of the Peace Rex Bailey, "but (county officials) have convinced me they need these positions."

The process to file an order of protection can be confusing and time-consuming for people, Kyle Sylvester, circuit clerk, said earlier this month.

SEE QUORUM COURT PAGE 2A

GETTING STARTED



Music Festivals Are Hot Tickets

Northwest Arkansas is home to four significant festivals, and our surrounding region hosts several others. Country stars Little Big Town kick off the Arkansas' Music Pavilion's new season with a concert there tonight.

FULL STORY, WHAT'S UP

Har-Ber 'All In' With Bowlin

Scott Bowlin was introduced as Har-Ber's new basketball coach during a team meeting Thursday. He takes over for Adam Simmons, who resigned March 7 after three years.

FULL STORY, 7A

TODAY'S WEATHER



53/35
BEAVER LAKE
1,118.3 FEET

SPRINGDALE
MORNING NEWS

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MAKING WAVES



STAFF PHOTOS ANDY SHUPE

A van plows through deep water Thursday as Fayetteville Transportation Division workers investigate the cause of flooding on North Gregg Avenue after heavy rain covered the road. Crews later closed the avenue.

Rain Pushes Out Of Area

METEOROLOGIST: TEMPERATURES WILL DIP TO 30 SATURDAY MORNING

STAFF REPORT

Northwest Arkansas residents woke to near-freezing temperatures this morning, but conditions should improve during the weekend.

Karen Hatfield, meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said temperatures will dip to the low 30s Saturday morning, but warm to the low-50s by afternoon. On Sunday, highs should be in the mid-60s.

"The temperature on Sunday will be a little warmer with lows in the mid-40s," she said. "There shouldn't be any more rain until early next week."

Heavy rain Thursday morning flooded streets, trails and streams throughout the area.

Most of Benton County and part of Washington were under a flash-flood warning.

According to the National Weather Service, Fayetteville received about 1.5 inches of rain.

A few streets in Washington County, mostly in and around



Alfred DeRoche, a crew leader with Fayetteville's Transportation Division, drags a barricade Thursday to close North Gregg Avenue north of Van Asche Drive in Fayetteville as traffic flows through deep water after heavy rain flooded the roadway.

Johnson, were closed Thursday morning.

Benton County Judge Bob Clinard declared an emergency because of flooding.

Mike Dixon, deputy director of the Benton County Emergency Management Agency, said 53 roads

SEE WEATHER PAGE 2A

Airport Terminal Upgrades Eyed

By Steve Caraway
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SPRINGDALE — Bathrooms and creating more space will be renovation priorities at Springdale Municipal Airport.

The Springdale Airport Commission, at a work session Thursday, prioritized needs for updating the terminal. There have been complaints about the dated feel of the terminal, said Wyman Morgan, city director of administration and financial affairs.

Zach Holderfield, who rents an airplane storage hanger, sent a letter to the commission supporting updates. The building has a dated feel and appearance, he wrote. Other facilities have more of an "upscale and classy" feel.

Commissioners agreed the updates are needed.

"We need to bring the terminal building into the 21st century," said Greg Collier, a commissioner.

"It's like walking into a bus station," said Bill Schoonover, a commissioner. "Let's face it. We are in competition with other airports in the area. Other airports make a better impression."

Bathrooms need to meet federal Americans with Disabilities Act standards and convert or add handicapped stalls, said Greg Willoughby, commission chairman.

SEE TERMINAL PAGE 2A

Highway, Trails Discussed

PANEL RECOMMENDS CHANGES TO TRANSPORTATION PLAN

By Ron Wood
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AT A GLANCE

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The 2035 Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Plan is used to develop highways, trails and transit systems in Benton and Washington counties. It outlines needs, funding strategies, financial constraints, environmental factors and spending priorities.

SOURCE: STAFF REPORT

FAYETTEVILLE — Planners have identified where money for several highway and trail projects will come from and want the 2035 Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Plan amended to reflect the new income.

"In the long-range plan we had clearly identified these needs but didn't have the funding for them," said John McLarty, senior planner.

The Technical Advisory Committee recommended Thursday the full Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission identify in the plan the source of money for a new federal trails program.

Three federal programs, the Transportation Enhancements Program, Recreational Trails Program and Safe Routes to School Program, have been combined into what is now called the Transportation Alternatives Program.

Eighty percent of the money for the program will come from the federal government. The 20 percent local match is

reimbursable. The region should get about \$472,600 this year. The money will be available each year as appropriated by Congress.

The program is expected to provide money for two trail projects this year — the Mercy Medical Center trailhead in Rogers and the Town Branch trail in Fayetteville. There will be an annual application process for future projects.

The committee also recommended adding the source of money for the Connecting Arkansas Program to the plan. The program is using the half-cent sales tax approved by voters in the fall to pay for \$1.8 billion in highway projects statewide, including adding new four-lanes and widening roads. Projects in Northwest Arkansas are expected to receive about \$375 million.

Projects include widening Interstate 540 between Fayetteville and Bentonville and interchange improvements; completion of two lanes of the Bella Vista Bypass; and beginning construction of the U.S. 412 Springdale Bypass from

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