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RAIN TAKES TOLL ON ROADS



STAFF PHOTOS ANDY SHUPE

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.

Chill Comes After Storms

AREA SEES HEAVY RAIN; TEMPERATURES TO WARM INTO WEEKEND

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 Johnson, were closed Thursday



A car passes a series of barricades surrounding a large hole Thursday on Rodgers Drive in Fayetteville. Despite city crews working to repair the area, the damage increases after heavy rain in the recent weeks. The City Council on Tuesday agreed to hire a contractor to make more extensive repairs to the road and to build a retaining wall in the area.

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 were closed and there were

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Positions To Aid Residents

QUORUM COURT OKs PAY

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 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.

Dana Scott, victim assistance coordinator at the prosecutor's office, said this month a person can only file for an order of protection if

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Airport Panel Looks To Update Terminal

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

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TODAY'S WEATHER



58/30
 BEAVER LAKE
 1,118.3 FEET

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Transportation Plan Updates Sought

REGIONAL COMMITTEE IDENTIFIES MONEY SOURCES FOR HIGHWAY, TRAIL PROJECTS

By Ron Wood
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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

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