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NWAONLINE.COM

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2014

Published By Stephens Media  
 AN EDITION OF THE ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

\$1.00

**THE BENTON COUNTY**

**DAILY RECORD**

**Motorcycle Rally Campsite Planned**

By Tom Sissom  
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**BENTONVILLE** — Benton County planners were told Wednesday the Osage Creek Events Center location may be open as a campground this fall in conjunction with Bikes, Blues & BBQ.

Greg Smith, owner, told the county's Development Review Committee the outdoor entertainment project, which has been in the development process since 2004, is still under construction, but he's been contacted about having space available for the annual motorcycle rally.

"We have been approached for that," Smith said. "They are maxed out on space in Northwest Arkansas."

A campground would be on land just south of the center. If the county approves the request for a permit, the area could accommodate several hundred visitors this year and have room to grow, Smith said.

"There's only about two months to advertise," he said. "We won't be full this year, but in the future, it will be."

Smith said later he expects between 500 and 1,000 campsites could be available for the Sept. 24-27 festival.

Smith also gave the committee with an update on the Events Center project. He

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**AT A GLANCE**

**DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Benton County's Development Review Committee was formed in 2013 to facilitate the planning process by providing developers with a forum to discuss planning and development with county staff and representatives of other interested agencies, including the Arkansas Health Department.

SOURCE: STAFF REPORT

**TODAY'S WEATHER**



**81/64**

**BEAVER LAKE**  
 1,120.8 FEET

**BENTON COUNTY DAILY RECORD**

Volume 127, Number 94  
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**Area's Unemployment Drops**

**NORTHWEST ARKANSAS LABOR FORCE ALSO SHRUNK TO 233,800 IN APRIL**

By Christie Swanson  
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Northwest Arkansas' April employment figures send a mixed message — unemployment was down and the labor force contracted.

The area's unemployment rate fell to 4.5 percent in April, down from 5.3 percent in April 2013, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Northwest Arkansas is part of the metropolitan statistical

area that includes Washington, Benton and Madison counties in Arkansas and McDonald County, Mo.

The labor force shrunk to 233,100 from 234,800 over the same time period and by 2,000 between March and April. Labor force includes people employed and looking for work.

Kathy Deck, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Arkansas, called the number perplex-

ing and said it's something to watch going forward.

"We've been seeing consistent labor force growth, and I want to know why we fell," she said. "I don't have the answer."

She said the area hasn't seen unemployment this low since it was 4.2 percent in November 2008.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics does not provide seasonally adjusted unemployment

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**BY THE NUMBERS**

**APRIL 2014 UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**

The following unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

- ▶ Northwest Arkansas: 4.5 percent
- ▶ Little Rock: 5.5 percent
- ▶ Jonesboro: 5.6 percent
- ▶ Fort Smith: 5.9 percent
- ▶ Hot Springs: 6.1 percent
- ▶ Pine Bluff: 8.4 percent
- ▶ State: 6.1 percent
- ▶ Nation: 5.9 percent



SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

**HAVING A FIELD DAY**



STAFF PHOTOS JASON IVESTER



**Hyatt Fox** (above), left, and Tyler Savold, both Ruth Barker Middle School sixth-graders, race down the track Wednesday during the school's field day at the Tiger Athletic Complex in Bentonville. Fifth- and sixth-graders from the school rotated through various stations on the field and track. (Left) Fifth-grader Shae Spear flings a disc to a classmate during the field day.

**Glow Run Kicks Off Race Series**

By Melissa Gute  
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**BENTONVILLE** — The Run Bentonville race series will begin its second season with the Glow Run on Friday night.

The 2-mile race will begin about 8:45 p.m. and circle Memorial Park.

Energizer, the event's sponsor, has donated head lamps and magnetic lights for participants to use. The Parks and Recreation Department will supply runners with glow bands and a glow-in-the-dark shirt, said Layne Moore, Parks and Recreation specialist.

Participants are encouraged to create costumes, and an award will be given to the flashiest outfit, Moore said.

"We want the Glow Run to be a celebration," she said.

It's the first in the seven-race series that ends with the Running Festival, highlighted by a half marathon, March 28.

The race series was created after the Running Festival was established, said David Wright, Parks and Recreation director.

It takes time and training to be able to run a half marathon. The race series encourages people to run

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**Aldermen Approve \$62,000 To Settle Hudlow Case**

By John Gore  
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**ROGERS** — Aldermen approved \$62,000 Wednesday to settle the wrongful termination lawsuit filed by Jerry Hudlow, treasurer and former city finance director.

City officials met with Hudlow and his attorney Stephen Wood most of Wednesday to reach the settlement. The settlement will add \$62,000 to the nearly \$500,000 in damages,

legal fees and other costs associated with the trial and the money the aldermen approved for Hudlow's salary and benefits for one year.

Aldermen met in a special session Wednesday to approve \$62,000 from general fund reserve to add to the money held by the



Hudlow

"I agree the agreement is viable for both parties."

**JERRY HUDLOW**  
 Rogers treasurer and former city finance director

court as the settlement. The appropriation was unanimously approved.

Mark Hayes, director of legal service for the Arkansas Municipal League, represented the city during the mediation and told aldermen it appears the case may be over.

"I think we have worked out an agreement that's fair and agreeable to both parties involved," he said.

"It was a long process today. Mayor Greg Hines and Alderman Jay Kendall did a good job throughout the process. This has been a long and difficult

case. I highly recommend you approve the additional \$62,000 to end this case," he said.

Hayes added he would work with John Everett, the attorney of record for the city, during the wrongful termination case.

"The settlement isn't official until we get all the paperwork and necessary signatures together and send them to the judge to

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