

The Bel Aire Breeze

Vol. 7, No. 3

APRIL 2012

Complimentary copy

Boundaries fall short of city wishes

Bel Aire residents achieve small victories in school district's plans

By Matt Heilman

The Wichita school board cast its vote. As expected, the final decision on next year's district boundary plan didn't sit well with several people gathered at the board's March 5 meeting at Wichita North High School. Protestors voiced their discontent with the decision to close five schools, but at the end of the day, board members

said there wasn't much they could do in the face of reductions to state funding over the past few years.

For the city of Bel Aire, the final decision falls short of what was called for in the \$370 million bond issue that brought two new schools to the city. But considering the unfavorable financial circumstances, Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said resi-

dents could be "happy" with what the board decided.

In Bel Aire, the new K-8 building at 53rd and Woodlawn will serve as a K-5 and include students living in the city, as well as students of Isley Traditional Magnet Elementary just southwest of 21st and Grove in northeast Wichita. Lasher said he was disappointed the city's request to phase in middle school

students from 2013 to 2015 wasn't formally approved, but he was glad the boundary for the K-5 includes all of Bel Aire.

"We now have a neighborhood grade school, which is great," Lasher said.

In one of his meetings with Bel Aire residents, Wichita school board member Lynn Rogers said sixth- through eighth-graders could be incor-

porated into the new school in the next few years if necessitated by area growth and overcrowding concerns worsen at Stucky Middle School near 45th and Hillside.

Several Bel Aire elementary students already attend Isley and could stay in the magnet program when it moves to the new grade school, Lasher said.

See SCHOOLS, Page 7

The secret is out with Sunrise

Private school's basketball program gains national recognition



Matt Heilman

Sunrise Christian Academy basketball coach Kyle Lindstedt talks to his team in a huddle during a March 1 practice. Sunrise received national recognition this season with a No. 9 ranking in one national poll.

By Matt Heilman

It's no secret. The small private school in Bel Aire has one of the best prep basketball teams in the country and the national media is taking notice.

In March, Sunrise Christian Academy's top 10 players or "Maroon team" was ranked No. 9 in the Academy Top 10 Basketball Rankings posted by MaxPreps, a website affiliated with CBS Sports, and was in the running to take part in a tournament to be aired on ESPN networks at the end of the month.

Sunrise was one of 11 prep academy teams in the country hoping for the chance to compete in the March 29-31 ESPNHS National High School Invitational in North Bethesda, Md., a suburb of Washington, D.C. Eight teams made the cut to compete in the tournament.

The tournament is a showcase for some of the most highly recruited players on some of the best high school teams in the country.

On March 12, Sunrise coach Kyle Lindstedt learned his team didn't make the cut, but he said being considered for the showcase was an honor.

"This is something we didn't even think was a possibility at the beginning of the year," he said.

While disappointed to see the season end, Lindstedt and one of his senior leaders have a final trip to make together for Sunrise basketball. Buddy Hield, a 6-foot-4 guard and a Bahamas native heading to play for the University of Oklahoma next season, will participate in the 3-point competition of the American Family Insurance High School Slam Dunk and 3-point Championships. The event will be held during the weekend of the NCAA Tournament Final Four in New Orleans.

Hield was to compete on March 30 at the Alario Center near New Orleans and the event was to air on CBS at 2:30 p.m. April 1. Lindstedt said he and Hield would get to attend the Final Four games while in New Orleans. It will be the first time either of them has been to a Final Four.

Lindstedt said the honor was a "fantastic" way for Hield to wrap up his high school career.

"I'm not mad at him at all for taking me to a Final Four," Lindstedt said. "I'll enjoy that for sure."

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Courtesy photo

Buddy Hield, a senior at Sunrise Christian Academy, dons a jersey as he is announced as a participant in the High School Slam Dunk and 3-point Championships.

Tree board continues planting 'survivors'

Trees come from oak that survived OKC bombing

By Matt Heilman

The Bel Aire Tree Board has done its part to create positives from a tragedy and plans to continue to do so.

Following an April 19 trip to Oklahoma City, the board will continue planting "survivor trees," which are direct descendants of a strong oak that survived one of the worst attacks in American history.

On April 19, 1995, Oklahoma City's Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building was destroyed in a bombing that claimed the lives of 168 people. Across the street from the blast, an oak still stands and has been dubbed, "The Survivor Tree."

In April 2008, several members of the Bel Aire Tree Board visited the National Memorial in Oklahoma City on the 13th anniversary of the bombing.

They picked up seedlings from the Survivor Tree and from them, have planted seven new survivor trees, including three in the city.

Looking ahead to Arbor Day on April 27, board

See TREES, Page 4

Industrial park master plan moving forward

By Matt Heilman

The potential is there, but development isn't. At least not yet.

For the past several months, the City of Bel Aire has been working on a marketing plan for its 800-acre industrial park, running along 53rd North between Webb and Greenwich Road.

Last fall, to help with the effort, the city allocated \$50,000 to hire a consulting team to guide leaders in developing a master plan for the industrial park. The master plan is broken down into four phases, which once complete, will be put together in a report expected to give potential developers all the information they need toward making a decision on building in the park. Among the information provided will be a list of the land's assets, available lot sizes and whether there would be opportunities for industrial and commercial development to co-exist within the 800 acres.

At its March 21 meeting, the city council discussed the master plan and approved the second phase of the marketing strategy.

In the first phase of the plan, consultants sought to identify all of the assets in the area,

See CITY, Page 2

Prepare for severe weather

It's that time of the year again when Tornado Alley is likely to live up to its nickname. South-central Kansas is in the heart of Tornado Alley and although our communities have been spared of serious damage in the past several years, the information and safety instructions provided during Severe Weather Awareness Week, which ran from March 12 through 16, should be taken seriously.

In 2011, the National Weather Service reported almost 70 tornadoes statewide. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment warns "that severe weather can strike anywhere this tornado season."

To prepare for severe weather, the KDHE recommends having an emergency disaster kit ready. The kit should include non-perishable food items, blankets or sleeping bags, a change of clothes, a first-aid kit, prescription medicine if needed, sun block, flashlights and batteries, a weather radio, a car and house keys, a map that marks the counties so you can follow the storm, identification and a credit card or cash.

Of course, what you need would depend on where you are when a severe storm or tornado hits. If you were stuck in your basement, you obviously wouldn't have to worry about having money or sun block like you might if you're on the road and can't get back home after a disaster.

It's important to understand the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning. The KDHE says a watch is issued "when conditions are favorable for severe weather or a tornado to develop." A warning is issued "for areas where severe weather is imminent."

Upgrades to the outdoor warning systems in Sedgwick County will make warnings more specific this year. It used to be that sirens would sound everywhere in the county if there was a tornado threat anywhere in the county. The new system will allow operators to sound only the warning systems in the direct or nearby path of a tornado threat.

So, our best advice this year is that if you hear tornado sirens and it's not a test, seek shelter immediately.

As Kansans, we like to gawk at the skies when severe weather looms. We're not going to stop you from taking pictures or shooting video of "cool clouds," we just ask that you take severe weather seriously and practice common sense.

Severe Weather Safety Program classes are offered throughout the county in March and the first half of April. For a complete list of classes, visit www.sedgwickcounty.org and scroll down to the link posted under the "Severe Weather Safety Classes" heading on the website's front page. Additional information about being prepared for severe weather is available at www.ready.gov.

Don't assume you're immune to tornado damage. The small town of Harveyville was already hit hard this year, and we're only a year removed from the devastating tornadoes that hit Reading and Joplin, Mo. And just five years ago, the western Kansas town of Greensburg was nearly destroyed by a tornado. These towns are all within a four-hour drive of Wichita.

Enjoy the time outdoors this spring, but do yourself a favor and keep your eye on the skies. It's better to be safe than sorry.

— The Bel Aire Breeze

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CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran Church

Contemporary guitar service with communion each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. Traditional service at 11 with communion each Sunday. Sunday school for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

The church is located at 5356 N. Hillside (53rd North and Hillside, across from Heights High School).

Find the church online at www.christ-lutheran.org; e-mail office@clc.kscoxmail.com. Call the office at 744-1242 for more information.

Church of the Resurrection

Church of the Resurrection (Roman Catholic) is located at 4910 N. Woodlawn in Bel Aire.

Masses for the Lord's Day are 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday. Weekday Masses are 8 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; also at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Resurrection Catholic School has students from pre-school through eighth grade.

The parish/school website is www.resurrectionwichita.com. Phone number is 744-2776.

Rev. James F. Weldon is the pastor.

Community Bible Chapel

The church is located at 4551 Auburn, south of 45th North between Oliver and Woodlawn, in Bel Aire.

Worship service and breaking of the bread are at 9 a.m., with Bible study and Sunday school at 10:30 on Sundays.

Wednesday prayer and Bible study are at 7 p.m.

For more information, call Melvan Adair at 744-7091.

Crossroads Friends Church

Crossroads Friends Church meets at Stucky Middle School (east from 45th North and Hillside) at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.

The church has Crossroads Kids and Crossroads Cribs ministry areas, as well as contemporary music, relevant Bible teaching and a laid-back, friendly atmosphere.

Pastor is Jeff Mullen.

Call the church office at 361-0407 or visit it online at www.crossroadswichita.com.

City

Continued from Page 1

looking at the available acreage, how it's zoned and what's already in place with infrastructure.

On March 21, Mayor Harold Smith said the consultants gathered "a ton of information" in Phase 1.

The second phase involves profiling the area to determine what types of industries would be best suited to build in the industrial park.

The third phase will give residents a chance to weigh in on the plans and help to establish a name for the park.

The fourth phase will involve presenting all of the information gathered to potential developers.

The city's consulting team consists of two representatives, Jeff Best, a project manager with Law Kindgon with expertise in landscape architecture, and Jeff Lackey, an engineer with Kansas City-based TranSystems.

Among the factors to consider when establishing the industrial park's master plan is whether a rail spur may be

necessary. A rail spur is a line that runs off the main track to allow for large manufactured items to be loaded directly onto train cars.

With TranSystems, Lackey said his company has done several projects working with rail lines and had worked closely with Union Pacific, which has a line that runs through the 800 acres in Bel Aire.

Last year, a California-based group called "The Energy Tunnel" expressed serious interest in moving to the Wichita area to utilize Bel Aire's industrial park to manufacture alternative-energy generators that don't rely on wind.

Lasher indicated the company's eventual move to Bel Aire might hinge on whether the rail spur is added. To help attract more potential developers from the area and beyond, Bel Aire has also been working closely with the Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition.

GWEDC's managing director of business development, David Bossemeyer, said the industrial park site has been shown about 26 times in the

last couple of months, but there aren't any commitments from builders.

Right now, there are 800 acres of farmland that are far from "shovel ready," Bossemeyer said.

He said quick development is essential for most industries. "Decisions aren't made in years now," Bossemeyer said. "Decisions are made in months and if you're not ready to rock and roll you'll be out of the running."

Lasher said the city is working with the GWEDC to help establish a certification plan for the State of Kansas, which would give potential developers from out of state a better opportunity to hear what Bel Aire has to offer.

In a nutshell, Lasher said having a certification plan would allow the industrial park to be formally identified by the state as a sight that is ready for development. He said he planned to meet with the Kansas Department of Commerce in late March to discuss how a certification plan could benefit the industrial park.

"We can say we have a great work force and the cost

of living here is low, but if a site selector is looking for certified sites and we don't have any, they won't even look at us," Lasher said.

Best and Lackey have attended GWEDC meetings since they got involved with developing the master plan for the industrial park, Lasher said. He said the consultants hoped to have a name and plat established for the park by May or June with the master plan ready to present to developers within the next six months.

Best and Lackey were to present Phase 2 of the plan to the city council at one of its meetings in April. The effort has drawn a lot of interest, Lasher said.

"It's really interesting how this thing has started to snowball based on our master plan," he said.

While the property hasn't attracted developers like the city had hoped and the land isn't shovel-ready, Bossemeyer agreed that the marketing effort should continue.

"It's a really great site," he said. "It's just a matter of finding who's gonna want to build on that site."

Sunrise

Continued from Page 1

Hield was one of six high school players in the country chosen to take part in the 3-point competition. The announcement was made during a March 7 news conference at Sunrise. Six players will also compete in the slam-dunk competition.

Wichita Heights standout and University of Kansas recruit, 6-8 power forward Perry Ellis is also looking ahead to one more competition before his high school career officially ends. As one of the nation's top 24 high school senior basketball players, Ellis was to compete for the East squad in the prestigious McDonald's All-American game March 28 in Chicago.

The game was to air at 8:30 p.m. March 28 on ESPN.

While Sunrise didn't play on television, the Buffaloes turned some heads this season, building off of consistent success in recent years.

Academy schools like Sunrise aren't affiliated with state activities associations. While they're unable to compete for state championships, they have the freedom to compete at tournaments across the country and to bring in the type of talent that allows them to be competitive when they do so.

In early March, Sunrise won its Tri-State Conference Tournament in Bartlesville, Okla., winning three games by an average of 35 points. Sunrise has

dominated the Tri-State tournament against small private schools in Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri in recent seasons.

At Sunrise, Lindsted has built his program primarily with international players he's met through his relationships with international and college coaches. This year, senior guard and Wichita native Vequan Clark is the lone American-born player on the varsity team.

The team includes players from the Bahamas, Estonia, France and Nigeria.

At the small school in Bel Aire, basketball takes a backseat to a faith-based education.

Besides talent, Lindsted has to find athletes with the character to comply with the school's moral standards and to handle a challenging course load.

"When (coaches) get their hands on a kid that they think would fit our style, (players) end up here," Lindsted said. "More now than it used to be, the process is weeding out kids that don't fit our style or don't fit our school."

The Buffaloes gradually built their success over the last several years, but exposure this year has finally brought national attention to Sunrise, which Lindsted said is no longer considered a "flash in the pan" program.

"I think the biggest change for us this year has been our schedule," he said. "We played in three or four national events. And so the competition level that we've played has changed a lot. So, of course you go out

and you do well against some of these national level teams and it's gonna change your lot in life a little bit. I don't know if we are any better this year than we were last year, we're just getting more exposure."

Sunrise finished its season at 25-4 and performed well in tournaments across the country, a year removed from a Division IA National Association of Christian Athletes (NACA) National Championship team that graduated seven seniors.

Instead of rebuilding, Sunrise reloaded with a roster full of players expected to play and contribute for college teams in the next few years.

Hield was one of the seniors on this year's team, averaging more than 21 points per game to lead the Buffaloes.

Joining Hield in the backcourt was another Bahamas native, sophomore Lourawls Nairin, known by his teammates as "Tum Tum." Nairin said he's gotten used to what's expected at Sunrise in his first year at the school and considers it "a blessing" for his team to receive a national ranking.

"It's nice to be recognized," he said.

Lawrence Fejokwu, a 6-9 senior center from Nigeria, is committed to play at St. Peter's University next year, a small NCAA Division I school on Manhattan Island. Rounding out the team was another Bahamas native, sophomore guard Nathan Bain, two more seniors and a pair of juniors who are both expected to be high major

prospects after they graduate from Sunrise in 2013, Lindsted said.

Joining Clark, Hield and Fejokwu in the senior class were 6-11 center JJ Nganga from France and 6-9 Bahamian forward Andreas Bigum. The juniors are 6-7 Estonian forward Janari Joesaar and 6-8 Bahamian forward Andre Sands.

Fejokwu reviewed Sunrise's season and said that each of his team's four losses provided opportunities to grow. Along the way, a low point for Sunrise was a 61-60 loss to Class 6A's Olathe South High School in a December tournament in Olathe. The Buffaloes rebounded from their only loss to an in-state school with an 18-point win over Olathe South at a January tournament in Topeka.

One of several high points was a 65-50 win over Fort Bend Travis (Richmond, Tex.) in the championship of the Neosho Holiday Basketball Classic in Missouri. Travis is ranked No. 36 in the ESPN Fab 50 poll.

Fejokwu said he knew the pieces were in place for something special this season, but the group from different backgrounds and cultures had to get to make a run.

"Coach tells us, no matter how good we are as individuals, if we don't play as a team, we're never gonna get there," Fejokwu said. "So, we told ourselves we wanted to be the best. We wanted to play the ranked teams in the country and beat them."

0203.

Pastor Natalie is at the church from 5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays.

Visit the church online at Greenwichsumc.org.

The church is located about a mile south of K-254 on Greenwich Road.

Kechi United Methodist Church

The church is located at 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi. The Rev. Guy E. Rendoff is the pastor. Phone number is 744-1221, website is www.kechiumc.org and e-mail address is kechiumc@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday worship and praise band is at 9:03 a.m., Sunday school is at 10 and worship is at 11.

Wednesday evening worship services are from 7 to 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. There will be music, prayer time and a short sermon. Childcare is provided.

Park City Church of the Nazarene

Sunday school for all ages is at 9:30 a.m. Worship and children's church are at 10:45.

Wednesday Bible study for adults begins with sandwiches and chips at 6:15 p.m.

The church is located at 2100 E. 61st North in Park City.

Pine Valley Christian Church

The church is located at 5620 E. 21st North. Sunday school is at 9 a.m. with worship at 10:15. For more information call 685-2421.

Risen Savior Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Contemporary Sunday worship services at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Communion on the first and third Sunday. Adult Sunday school and Bible class meet at 9:15 a.m. Children's Church at 10:30. A nursery is provided during Bible Class and second service.

Wednesday evening ministries are from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday evening adult praise choir rehearsal is from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The church is located at 6770 E. 34th North in Wichita. The phone number is 683-5538. The fax number is 683-5536. www.risensavior.net

University United Methodist Church

The church is located across from the Wichita State University campus at 21st and Yale.

Sunday activities include adult and youth educational classes at 9:15 a.m., traditional service at 10:30 and youth group activities from 4 to 6 p.m.

E-mail uumc2220@uumc.net; phone 686-6765. Rev. Charles Claycomb is the pastor.

Send your church's upcoming events and service times to legals@arkvalleynews.com or call 755-0821.

Deadline for the May Breeze: Friday, April 20

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City of Bel Aire



We want to hear from you!

What would you like Bel Aire's budget priorities to be for 2013? The City Council would like to hear from citizens about what is important to them before beginning the 2013 budget process. Resources will continue to be very limited for 2013, but we want to make sure we keep doing the things that our citizens value and look for ways to start doing things that our citizens desire. As discussed during the 2012 budget process, the City does have significant financial obligations for land-related expenses and debt payments which limit the amount of funds available for other areas.

Although we know it will not be possible to accomplish all the things that we would like to, we want to make sure that citizen priorities help guide the allocation of funding to areas of importance.

We thank you so much for your willingness to participate in making our City the best it can be and we look forward to an engaging and productive budget process. Please email financedir@belaireks.gov or click on the link on the Bel Aire home page to tell us what is important to you.

Bel Aire Chamber of Commerce: Member of the Month for April 2012 Chuck May of Schwab Eaton

Schwab Eaton was founded in 1957 as a Civil Engineering firm in Manhattan, Kansas. Since those early days, they have grown to a company of nearly 50 staff members, offering a broad range of services in Civil Engineering, Land Surveying, and Landscape Architecture. Currently, with offices located in Manhattan, Beloit, and Wichita, they provide professional services to both private and governmental clients across the state.

Schwab Eaton's services are primarily oriented toward planning, design, and implementation of Public Works, Site Planning and Development, and Park and Recreation Facility Projects. In addition they offer a full range of surveying and construction support services. As a service provider, Schwab Eaton's greatest resource is our staff. With their Kansas roots and dedication are recognized for providing personal, high quality services to their clients.

Chuck May was born and raised in Kansas. After graduating from Salina South High School, he attended Kansas State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and met his future wife, Marianne. Upon graduation in 1983, they were married and moved to Wichita. Chuck began a lifelong career in the engineering consulting business.

Shortly after joining Schwab Eaton in 2000, Chuck began providing engineering services to the City of Bel Aire, and in 2001 began representing the City as their City Engineer. In 2009, Chuck became a partner in the firm.

Chuck and Marianne raised two sons, who currently reside in Manhattan. They enjoy camping, boating, geocaching and traveling.



Chuck May



Bel Aire Seniors

All SENIORS 55+ are cordially invited to all events listed below. The Senior Center and Library area is open from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Monday through Friday excluding holidays. The library has a wide selection of library books to check out at no cost nor time restraints, along with computers available for study or research. Remember any senior can belong or attend to more than one senior center/club in Sedgwick County.

Locations:

Senior Center/Community Room – 7651 E. Central Park Ave., 744-2451
Recreation Center – 5251 E. 48th St. N., 744-2700

Weekly Events:

Bel Aire Walkers – M-F, 8-9 a.m. at the Rec Center (indoors & climate controlled)
Free for BA Senior members, alternate times available
Men's Coffee & Fellowship – Mondays, 10 a.m. at the Senior Center
Yoga – Mondays & Wednesdays, 6 p.m. at the Rec Center (monthly fee)
Bridge Games – Tuesdays, 1 p.m. at the Senior Center
Low Impact Aerobics – Wednesdays, 9 a.m. at the Rec Center
Braum's Breakfast – Fridays, 9:00 a.m. on North Rock Road

Monthly & Special Events:

April 2nd, 6:30 p.m. – Potluck & Red Tails Presentation (Col. George Boyd) – Community Room
April 3rd, 8:30 a.m. – Breakfast at Jimmy's Egg
April 4th, 9 a.m. – Bartlett Arboretum and Lunch at Luciano's in Mulvane. Meet at Rec Center at 9am (RSVP)
April 9th, 10 a.m. – RS Advisory Meeting at the Rec Center
April 9th, 11:30 a.m. – Lunch at Applebee's in Park City
April 9th, 1:30 p.m. – Tour of Tree Top Nursery in Bel Aire
April 10th, 11:30 a.m. – CS Advisory Meeting at the Rec Center
April 10th, 6:00 p.m. – CS Program Committee meeting at the Senior Center
April 11th, 10 a.m. – Volunteer library work time at the Senior Center
April 13th, 12 p.m. – Senior Housing Program; lunch provided by Catholic Care Center (RSVP)
April 17th, Ladies Dine Out - for info call Anita at 744-2840
April 18th, 10 a.m. – Men's Coffee at Braum's on North Rock Road
April 18th, 10:15 a.m. – Senior Aerobics Brunch at the Cracker Barrel
April 18th, 2 p.m. – Ladies Tea/Coffee at Braum's on North Rock Road
April 20th, 10 a.m. - Senior Dental Care at the Senior Center. Presented by the WSU Dental Clinic. Snacks and drinks provided
April 21st, 10 a.m. – Tanganyika Wildlife Park; meet at Senior Center at 10am; FEE CHARGED (RSVP)
April 23rd, 6 p.m. – Covered Dish Dinner with guest speaker Carol Bacon, retired Juvenile Judge
April 25th, 10:00 a.m. – Open Sewing at the Senior Center
April 25th, 7 p.m. – Bunko games at the Senior Center
April 27th, 7 p.m. – Pitch Night at the Senior Center

Community Events:

TOPS – Tuesdays, 9 a.m. at the Senior Center
April 14th – Red Hat's meeting, for info call Anita at 744-2840
April 16th – Central Park HOA meeting at the Senior Center
April 16th – Bel Aire Heights HOA meeting in Community Room
April 17th, 4-6pm – UAC Meeting at the Senior Center
April 23rd, 7 p.m. – Tree Board Meeting at the Senior Center

FYI: For any possible cancellations due to inclement winter weather conditions, call 744-2700 or 744-2451.

New Senior Participation Forms with Emergency Contact and other information will be needed from each Senior for 2012. Please complete a new form and return to the Senior Director offices.

Deadline for May: Friday, April 20

Bel Aire Breeze

Annual Bel Aire Egg Hunt

Sponsored By:

The Bel Aire Lions Club

Bel Aire City Hall
7651 E. Central
Park Ave.

Date: Saturday
April 7th 11:00 a.m.

Bring your baskets! Don't forget the camera!

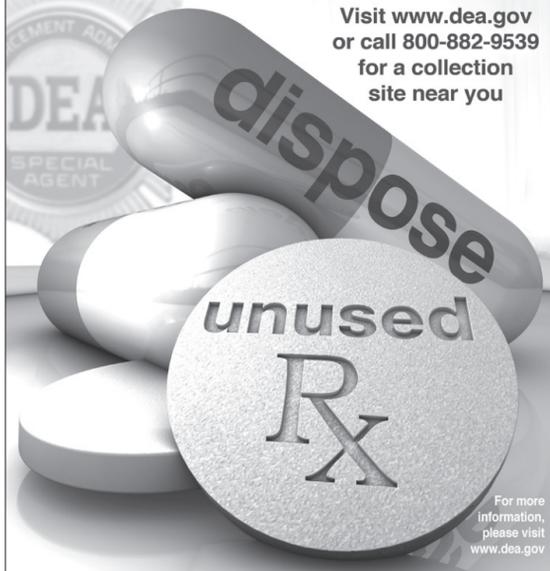
Four Age Groups:



Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal
Saturday, April 28th,
10am – 2pm

Visit www.dea.gov
or call 800-882-9539
for a collection
site near you



For more information, please visit www.dea.gov

THE BELAIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS ONCE AGAIN PARTICIPATING WITH THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA) IN THE "TAKE BACK" INITIATIVE THIS YEAR ON SATURDAY, APRIL 28TH. THE TIME AND LOCATION FOR THIS COMMUNITY PROJECT WILL BE FROM 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM AT CITY HALL IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM.

RESIDENTS OF BELAIRE AND THE SURROUNDING AREA WILL BE ABLE TO BRING THEIR EXPIRED OR UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS TO CITY HALL FOR DISPOSAL. AS IN THE PAST, OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO COLLECT YOUR UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS AND DISPOSE OF THEM FOR YOU. UNUSED OR EXPIRED PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS ARE A PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUE, LEADING TO ACCIDENTAL POISONING, OVERDOSE, AND ABUSE.

TABLETS, CAPSULES AND ALL OTHER SOLID DOSAGE FORMS WILL BE COLLECTED. INTRAVENOUS SOLUTIONS, INDICTABLES, AND SYRINGES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. THIS SERVICE IS FREE AND ANONYMOUS.

Bel Aire Recreation

5251 E. 48th North • www.belaireks.gov • 744-2700
Mon., Tue., & Thur. 8-8 • Wed. & Fri. 8-7 • Sat. 9-3
For more information on these or any Bel Aire Recreation Programs call 744-2700.

BLASTBALL

Blastball is an introductory coed T-ball program for four year olds. The registration deadline is March 10. A \$5 late fee will be charged to all sign-ups after the deadline.

SHORT SPORTS

This instructional program for three year olds will teach basic sports skills including throwing, catching, kicking, and batting. The registration deadline is April 13. A \$5 late fee will be charged to all sign-ups after the deadline.

RECREATIONAL SUMMER BALL LEAGUES (boys ages 5-11 & girls ages 5-12)

Teams will play up to two games per week on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday evening, or Saturdays beginning June 4. Registration deadline is April 21. A \$5 late fee will be charged to all sign-ups after the deadline.

SUMMER DAY CAMP

The Wichita YMCA will again offer a state-licensed day camp this summer at the Bel Aire Recreation Center. Elementary age activities include arts & crafts, games, sports, swimming, field trips, and much more. For more information or to register call the YMCA at 264-1610.

ZUMBA

Zumba is a Latin-inspired, dance-fitness class that incorporates Latin and international music and dance movements, creating a dynamic, exciting, exhilarating, and effective fitness system. Classes are held on Mondays & Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 pm. Teens & adults can join at any time!

TAEKWONDO (ages 5 & up)

Classes meet on Monday & Friday from 5:00-6:00 pm or Tuesday & Thursday from 7:10-8:10 pm. These are great classes for beginners to black belts.

YOGA

Classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:10-7:10 pm. Participants need to provide their own yoga mat. Adults can join at any time! Teens & adults can join at any time!

FITNESS CENTER (ages 16 & up)

The Fitness Center consists of elliptical cross trainers, treadmills, recumbent bike, multi-station weight machine, and free-weights. There is no charge for pass holders, or it is available with the purchase of a daily pass.

For more information on these or any Bel Aire Recreation Programs call 744-2700.

Remain informed... remain engaged. Keep up with City news and events at www.belaireks.gov, Bel Aire Channel 7, or follow us on Twitter (@BelAireKS).

POLICE REPORTS

March 15 — Officer Mavia responded to the report of a missing person. The person was located with a family member.

March 15 — Officer Steele checked a construction site at 5200 N. Woodlawn. There was no suggestion of suspicious activity.

March 15 — Officer Swanson responded to an alarm at 4709 N. Hedgerow. The residence was secure.

March 15 — Officer Agon checked on two suspicious characters at 3900 N. Woodlawn walking in the alley and between building. The two said they were on their way to Dillon's to get something to eat.

March 15 — Officer Agon checked on a suspicious character in the 6000 block of East 37th North. When officer attempted to contact the person, he fled on foot. Attempts to locate the person were unsuccessful.

March 14 — Officer Mavia logged and placed a set of keys into property and evidence. The keys were dropped off at the station by a male who said he found them while jogging.

March 14 — Officer Agon observed a missing stop sign at 53rd North and Greenwch. Officer notified Bel Aire Public Works.

March 14 — Officer Agon assisted Wichita police at 4520 N. Westlake Court.

March 13 — Officer Agon was notified that the trunk of a police vehicle was open. Officer checked the vehicle and did not find anything missing. Officer was able to secure the vehicle by closing the trunk.

March 13 — Officer Hutton responded to a call from a person in the 5100 block of East 46th North who said the electric company had her nephew tied up in a basement at an undisclosed location. Officer contacted the person who was supposedly tied up in the basement and found that the calling party has dementia and there was no one in danger.

March 13 — Officer Mavia responded to an alarm at 6300 E. 37th North. Officer contacted employees who were working in the building and was advised that the alarm was self-activated.

March 12 — Officer Steele checked a construction site at 5200 N. Woodlawn. There was no suggestion of suspicious activity.

March 12 — Officer Mavia assisted EMS at 4363 E. Eaglelake Court.

March 12 — Officer Steele checked a construction site at 5200 N. Woodlawn. There was no suggestion of suspicious activity.

March 12 — Officer Steele checked

a business at 6254 E. 37th North.

March 12 — Officer Steele checked a residence at 6210 E. 37th North.

March 10 — Officer Hutton responded to the report of larceny at 3835 N. Hillcrest No. 5.

March 10 — Officer Steele conducted a building check at 5200 N. Woodlawn. There was no suggestion of suspicious activity.

March 10 — Officer Foxx assisted Wichita police with a hit-and-run accident at 3700 N. Rock Road.

March 9 — Officer McCaslin responded to a non-injury accident at 4000 N. Woodlawn.

March 9 — Officer Medlin transported a person from the Butler County Jail to the Sedgwick County Jail.

March 9 — Officer Steele checked a construction site at 5200 N. Woodlawn. No suggestion of suspicious activity was discovered.

March 8 — Lt. Griggs assisted EMS at 4075 N. Parkwood.

March 8 — Officer Mavia responded to a non-injury accident at 4000 N. Oliver. One driver was cited for inattentive driving.

March 8 — Officer Mavia conducted a traffic stop at 3700 N. Woodlawn. The driver was issued citations.

March 7 — Officer Mavia responded to the report of a vehicle attempting to run another vehicle off of the road at 4100 N. Oliver. Officer contacted the suspects who stated that the other driver slammed on his brakes and almost caused their vehicle to rear-end his vehicle. They stated they passed the other driver and made an obscene gesture but did not try to run him off the road. Officers contacted the reporting party who said the suspects were following him very closely and he tapped on his brakes hoping they would go around him. He did not want to press charges he just wanted officers to be aware of the incident.

March 6 — Officers responded to the report of suspicious characters in the 5900 block of East 47th North. Officers located the suspicious characters. They said they were in the area waiting on one of their mothers to call. Officers spoke with a person at the residence where they were located. Officer was advised that two of the people were his grandchildren.

March 6 — Officer McCaslin assisted EMS at 4246 N. Janesville.

March 6 — Officer McCaslin took a call from a resident who reported her black Labrador was missing. The person reported the dog found on March 7.

March 6 — Officer Mavia assisted EMS at 4477 Westlake Court.

'Take Back' prescription drug program set for April 28

The Bel Aire Police Department is again participating with the Drug Enforcement Administration in the "Take Back" initiative this year. The community project will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 28 in the community room at Bel Aire City Hall. Residents from Bel Aire and the surrounding area are invited to bring their expired or unwanted prescription medications to City Hall for disposal. Unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue, leading to accidental poisoning, overdose and abuse, said Chief John Daily. Tablets capsules and other solid dosage forms will be collected. Intravenous solutions, injectibles and syringes will not be accepted. The service is free and anonymous.

— The Breeze staff

March 6 — Officer Mavia conducted a traffic stop at 5800 E. 37th North. The driver was issued citations.

March 5 — Officer Agon arrested Ronald A. Palmer on a Sedgwick County felony warrant at 5116 E. 39th North.

March 5 — Officer Mavia responded to the report of an abandoned vehicle at 6015 E. Carendon. A vehicle hit an unoccupied vehicle and left the scene.

March 4 — Officer Agon responded to the report of a suspicious vehicle parked in front of 3800 N. Woodlawn. Officer contacted the owner of the vehicle and during a check of her identification determined that she had a felony warrant. Officer arrested Tara Stevens on a felony warrant.

March 4 — Officer Swanson responded to the report of a lost vehicle tag at 4036 N. Clarendon.

March 3 — Officer Agon arrested Justin A. Vanley of a Wichita Police Department warrant and a Sedgwick County warrant at 4349 N. Country Lane.

March 3 — Officer Steele checked a construction site at 5200 N. Woodlawn. There was no suggestion of suspicious activity.

March 2 — Officer Agon responded to an audible alarm at 3983 N. Woodlawn No. 2. Officers did not find any signs of theft or burglary. A keyholder responded and secured the building.

March 2 — Officer Agon responded to an audible alarm at 6529 E. Danbury. The residence was secure and there was no sign of theft or burglary. A key holder responded.

March 2 — Officer McCaslin re-

sponded to the report of fraud at 4415 N. Edgemoor Court. An unknown person made unauthorized charges to a credit card.

March 2 — Officer Medlin responded to the report of larceny at 4407 N. Frittillary.

March 2 — Officer Foxx assisted Sedgwick County Fire Department at 4075 N. Parkwood.

March 2 — Officer Steele checked a construction site at 5200 N. Woodlawn. There was no suggestion of suspicious activity.

March 1 — Lt. Griggs conducted a traffic stop at 4800 N. Oliver. The driver was issued citations.

March 1 — Officer Steele checked a construction site at 5200 N. Woodlawn. There was no sign of suspicious activity.

March 1 — Officer Mavia found unsecured trailers at 5550 N. Lycee. There was no sign of suspicious activity.

March 1 — Officer Mavia responded to the report of vandalism at 4842 E. 44th Court North. An unknown person damaged mailboxes.

March 1 — Officer Foxx responded to the report of a suspicious vehicle located in a field at 4500 N. Greenwich. Officer located a vehicle rolled onto the roof. The calling party contacted officers and advised that the occupants were picked up by parents and transported to the hospital. Sheriff's deputies arrived on scene to handle the case.

Feb. 29 — Officer Mavia responded to an injury accident at 37th North and Oliver.

Feb. 29 — Officer Foxx assisted

EMS at 5822 E. Flagstaff.

Feb. 29 — Officer Foxx responded to a barking dog complaint in the 5800 block of East 47th North. Officer checked the area and did not locate a barking dog.

Feb. 29 — Officer Foxx checked a construction site at 5200 N. Woodlawn. There were no signs of burglary or theft.

Feb. 28 — Officer Agon responded to the report of fraud. A person reported being the victim of fraud by a person operating a computer company. Officer attempted to contact the company and was notified that the company moved to Wichita. Wichita police and the reporting party were notified.

Feb. 28 — Officer Agon responded to an accident at 5500 E. 37th North. A vehicle struck a guardrail.

Feb. 28 — Officer Agon arrested Justin A. Vanley on a Sedgwick County warrant and a Wichita bench warrant at 4349 Country Lane.

Feb. 27 — Officer Agon assisted Sedgwick County EMS at 6315 E. Perryton.

Feb. 27 — Officer Mavia took the report of a trash dump at 4801 N. Batin. An unknown person left a computer monitor in the yard.

Feb. 26 — Officer Agon responded to the report of loud music at 3830 N. Oliver. Officer contacted the resident and advised the resident to keep the music down.

Feb. 26 — Officer Agon responded to an audible alarm at 4150 N. Edinburg. The residence was secure.

Feb. 26 — Officer Steele checked a construction site at 5200 N. Woodlawn. No sign of suspicious activity was discovered.

Feb. 26 — Officer Steele checked a building at 6210 E. 37th North. No sign of suspicious activity was discovered.

Feb. 25 — Officer McCaslin contacted a person who had additional information about a burglary.

Feb. 25 — Officer McCaslin responded to the report of a suspicious character in the 4400 block of North Edgemoor. Officer contacted the person who said he was in the area to meet a friend. Officer contacted the friend who verified the suspicious person was there to meet him.

Feb. 24 — Officer Agon took the report of a found bicycle at 4301 N. Janesville. The bike was taken into Bel Aire property and evidence.

Feb. 24 — Officer McCaslin assisted EMS at 5816 E. Hanover.

Feb. 24 — Officer Steele checked a construction site at 5200 N. Woodlawn.

No sign of suspicious activity was found.

Feb. 24 — Officer Mavia assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office at 423 W. Cherokee in Kechi.

Feb. 23 — Lt. Griggs assisted EMS at 4251 N. Woodlawn.

Feb. 23 — Lt. Griggs responded to the report of a suspicious character in the 4800 block of East Ashton taking pictures of a residence. Officer did not locate the person.

Feb. 23 — Lt. Griggs assisted Sedgwick County Fire Department at 4527 N. Frittillary.

Feb. 23 — Officer Swanson conducted a traffic stop at 6200 E. Quail Ridge. The driver was issued citations.

Feb. 23 — Officer Swanson responded to the report of a verbal disturbance between a juvenile and adult in the 4700 block of North Hillcrest.

Feb. 23 — Officer Mavia responded to the report of a disturbance at 4308 N. Rushwood. The disturbance was verbal only.

Feb. 23 — Officer Mavia found a trash dump in the ditch at 11000 E. 45th North.

Feb. 23 — Officer Mavia assisted Wichita police with the report of a disturbance at 3505 N. Rock Road in Wichita.

Feb. 23 — Officer Mavia assisted Wichita police with the report of a burglary in progress at 3650 N. Woodlawn in Wichita. There was no burglary.

Feb. 22 — Lt. Griggs took the report of a lost wallet at 6521 E. Rodeo. The wallet was lost in Wichita.

Feb. 22 — Officer Mavia assisted EMS at 6315 E. Perryton.

Feb. 21 — Officer Agon responded to the report of an accident at 9500 E. 45th North. The driver of one of the vehicles was issued a citation.

Feb. 21 — Officer Swanson responded to the report of a suspicious character at 4570 N. Westlake Court. Officers contacted the person who said he was in the area giving lawn care estimates. Jon A. Smith was arrested on two City of Wichita warrants.

Feb. 21 — Officer Mavia conducted a traffic stop at 4700 N. Webb.

Feb. 20 — Officer Agon responded to the report of a trash dump at 4033 N. Woodlawn No. 1. A person used a commercial dumpster for household trash. The person found documents with a name. Officer attempted to contact the person and left a voice mail.

Feb. 20 — Officer Steele responded to the request to check a building at 4910 N. Woodlawn. There was no sign of suspicious activity.

Trees

Continued from Page 1

member Guy MacDonald discussed the board's accomplishments and its five-year plan to the city council. Over the next five years, the group plans to continue with several projects including public education and beautification efforts. And on April 19, board members plan to revisit Oklahoma City to get more seedlings to dedicate more survivor trees.

One of the trees will be planted on Long Island, N.Y., next summer or fall to honor the son of a family friend to Guy and his wife, Pat MacDonald. The honored Long Island resident narrowly survived the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Another survivor tree has been "tentatively scheduled" to be planted in Joplin, Mo., MacDonald said. The first of the seven survivor trees obtained in 2008 was planted at City Hall and the second was offered as a donation to Botanica in Wichita. A

third tree was donated to the City of Greensburg in recognition of the city's rebuilding efforts after near-destruction in a May 2007 tornado. MacDonald said the survivor tree in Greensburg was planted in front of the Kiowa County Courthouse. At the request of tree board member Stephanie Lentz, MacDonald said the fourth survivor tree was planted at Wichita's Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center to honor veterans. The fifth survivor tree was

planted next to the Memorial '70 sculpture at Wichita State University that honors the memory of those who died in the Oct. 2, 1970, WSU football team plane crashed. MacDonald said the donation was at first met with skepticism from university officials. "I eventually persuaded the university that we sought no recognition," MacDonald said. The sixth survivor tree was planted in Bel Aire Park in honor of longtime Bel Aire resident and teacher Randy

Jackson, who was also a survivor of the WSU football team plane crash in 1970. A couple of months after the tree was planted in his honor, Jackson died, losing his battle with cancer. The final survivor tree from the saplings obtained in 2008 was planted in 2011 in the yard of the rebuilt home of Bel Aire residents Dennis and Cheryl McCallum. A year earlier, the retired couple's home was destroyed in a fire. The board also plans to continue an Arbor Day tradi-

tion of planting trees to honor Bel Aire residents. Last year, the board honored former city employee Betty Martin with a tree planted just north of City Hall.

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Schools

Continued from Page 1

Mueller Elementary, an aerospace and engineering magnet and one of four elementary schools that will close this spring, will make a short move to Isley's current building next year. The other schools slated to close this spring are Bryant, Emerson and Lincoln elementaries and Northeast Magnet High School, which is moving its program from 1847 N. Chautauqua near Wichita State University to Bel Aire's new high school near 53rd North and Rock Road.

Bel Aire was hoping for a comprehensive high school that could include athletics and help alleviate overcrowding at Wichita Heights High School. Likewise, several parents and students of Northeast Magnet wanted to keep the program in Wichita. In late January, USD 259 marketing and communications director Wendy Johnson said moving Northeast Magnet to Bel Aire is a cost-saving measure. It's more expensive to open a traditional high school than a pure magnet and the move will allow the district to avoid about \$24

million in new costs, she said. However, the 2008 bond issue called for Bel Aire's new high school to be a traditional high school and the board did approve a request from Bel Aire residents and city leaders to include some traditional students from the Heights boundary at the school. When school starts this fall, 25 percent of the incoming freshman class at the new school will be reserved for students in the Heights boundary. Lasher and Bel Aire council member Moe Terrebonne said it's unclear what percentage, if any, of the

2013 freshman class will be reserved for students in the Heights boundary. Ultimately, Lasher said he's hoping to see growth continue northeast of Wichita in the next few years that could see the city's new high school open as a traditional school and still include the Northeast Magnet program. The idea is similar to what's established at Wichita East High School, where a tra-

ditional school shares its space with the district's International Baccalaureate Program. From the city's perspective, Lasher said he understood the board's challenges with budget constraints and remains optimistic the intent of the 2008 bond issue will eventually be realized. For now, he said residents could be glad the city's new schools are still going to open this fall. "We've got new schools

here," Lasher said. "You've got to be happy with that."



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Bel Aire hears optimism in marketing new homes

By Matt Heilman

The overall housing market is down, but a representative from Weigand New Homes gave the Bel Aire City Council a reason to be optimistic that a turn for the better can be expected in the city's Central Park housing community.

Speaking March 6, Richelle Knotts with Weigand New Homes reported 702 housing starts from Weigand last year, down from more than 900 in 2010. Weigand is expecting about the same number of housing starts in 2012 as it saw in 2011.

While adjusting to a "new norm" that is below what Weigand used to see, Knotts said Central Park is one of the best communities it markets. She highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of what Central Park has to offer and said there has been increased interest in Central Park's new homes since the start of the year.

Some of the strengths for Central Park include its location and unique community environment. Knotts said Central Park has "great community amenities" including a pool, walking paths and playground.

Another strength she highlighted was the support from the council to aid Weigand's marketing efforts. In overcoming a steep land debt, Bel Aire has often acted as its own developer with land sales in the city. The efforts have Bel Aire in a better position today than it was in a couple of years ago.

"Developers feel like this is a stable environment up here," Knotts said.

The weaknesses in Central Park are primarily tied to the overall down housing market, Knotts said.

This includes the facts that

there aren't many builders working in Bel Aire and "consumer confidence is still low."

However, Knotts said there are opportunities for Central Park with hopeful economic conditions as developers and builders express interest in the community.

Also, Knotts briefly discussed a new homebuyer incentive program she believes could have a positive influence throughout the Wichita area called the New Home Ownership Made Easy Program. In the program, developers or builders would step up to pay for the first few years' worth of

special assessments after a new home is sold.

The program has been approved by Wichita and was presented to the Park City council Feb. 28. Knotts said the program will be presented to Sedgwick County next week.

The finalized Wichita school district boundary plan could also help with home sales in Central Park. Bel Aire's neighborhood grade school at 53rd North and Woodlawn sits less than a quarter mile from a few homes on the west end of Central Park.

Since Jan. 1, Knotts said

traffic has picked up in Central Park and the quality of potential homebuyers has improved. As a result, the start of 2012 has seen the start of three new contract negotiations for home sales in Central Park and one pending sale.

The marketing effort in the housing community will take center stage in April with the spring parade of homes, which spans three weekends starting on April 14.

"We're going to go out and we're going to deal with the market the way it is and we're going to move forward," Knotts said.

NLAR to begin work by end of year

By Matt Heilman

The National Institute for Aviation Research will begin operating its testing facility at the former Britt Brown Arena at the Kansas Coliseum complex by the end of the year, a NIAR news release said.

At the former entertainment venue, NIAR, owned by Wichita State University, will

test aircraft components.

Last month, WSU officials and developer Johnny Stevens signed a 10-year lease agreement that will pave the way for NIAR to remodel the arena.

Once remodeled, the facility will include about 100,000 square feet of lab space and 30,000 square feet of office space on two levels, the news release said.

"The facility has a clearance height of 48 feet and clear span of more than 240 feet," NIAR said. "This will allow testing and research on aircraft, including unmanned aerial vehicles, business jets, commercial aircraft and military aircraft."

In late December, Stevens said "on the conservative side," 40 employees could work for NIAR at the former arena. At

its Dec. 27 meeting, the Park City council approved a letter of intent to issue up to \$5 million in industrial revenue bonds for the project.

The issuance of the IRBs was contingent upon Park City annexing the property. Now, the Coliseum property, including the former arena and the Kansas Pavilions, has a Park City address.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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Valley Center City-Wide Garage Sales
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Preliminary hearing for murder suspect postponed to May 29

By Matt Heilman

A preliminary hearing for a man facing 39 criminal charges, including first-degree murder, has been pushed back a second time from March 8 to May 29.

Sedgwick County District Court Judge Warren Wilbert set the new hearing date for 52-year-old Daniel U. Perez, who is charged with the 2003 murder of Patricia Hughes in rural Valley Center. Perez also is charged with sex crimes against



Perez

children, providing false information to apply for auto credit and collection on life insurance, aggravated assault and making criminal threats.

At the time of Hughes' June 2003 death at a home in the

9500 block of North Oliver, it was believed she had accidentally drowned in a pool on the property. Authorities have yet to shed light on what new evidence was presented to reopen the case as a homicide.

Perez was Hughes' neighbor in rural Valley Center in 2003. He lived in the 9500 block of North Oliver until late 2009 or early 2010 under the alias of Lou Castro.

Perez was arrested in January and is in custody on \$2.1 million bond.

DEATHS

TERENCE PURCELL

Terence C. "Terry" Purcell, of Frisco, Colo., formerly of Wichita, died Feb. 12, 2012.

He was born April 27, 1959. He was preceded in death by his father, Bob.

Survivors include his mother, Jean; sister, Rhonda; and brother, Mark all of Wichita.

An open house and final farewell was held at the family home in Bel Aire.

Contributions in his name may be sent to First Bank, P.O. Box 5750, Frisco, Colo. 80443, or the charity of your choice.

KYLA LAPORTE

Kyla LaPorte, 52, died Feb. 27, 2012, in Wichita.

She worked for USD 259 for 23 years. She taught at Allison Middle School and Northwest High School and was assistant principal at Heights High School.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Mildred LaPorte.

Survivors include brothers and sisters-in-law, Kerry and Denise LaPorte of Yukon, Okla., Kirby LaPorte of Hennessey, Okla.; two nieces Kacie and Hadleigh LaPorte;

special cousins Debra, Dustin and Derk Holder and families; Aggie, Pete and Max of the home.

Memorial service was March 3 at Heights High School Auditorium. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made in her name to PALS Animal Rescue of Wichita.

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Bel Aire explores ideas for downtown district

By Matt Heilman

The City of Bel Aire has a vision for a downtown district. The vision shows shoppers and diners enjoying an evening in the city northeast of Wichita at a location where undeveloped land sits today.

The proposed downtown district starts just northwest of City Hall in the Central Park development. Right now, there aren't many businesses in Bel Aire and there's not a Main Street.

City leaders first discussed plans for a downtown district about two years ago when Dennis Edelman, a shopping center development consultant, approached them with the idea to turn undeveloped land into a retail destination for the city.

Edelman has been working toward getting commitments from retail and dining establishments and has worked with developers to partner the retail and dining with entertainment options that could attract visitors to Bel Aire from within

and outside of the state, Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said.

There's a long road ahead before construction of a downtown district would begin and it remains to be seen specifically what stores, restaurants and entertainment options could land in the city. But city leaders got a glimpse of what could be possible during a March 12 council workshop, attended by consultants, engineers and Bel Aire's bond counsel.

At the meeting, Tim Austin, a project manager for Wichita-based Poe and Associates, said plans for the 400-acre downtown district call for retail-entertainment, which, as the name implies, provides a combination of retail and entertainment opportunities.

Someday, Bel Aire's future downtown could resemble what's in place at The Plaza in Kansas City, where multi-story buildings house popular shops and restaurants.

Such a retail and entertainment district could flourish

in Bel Aire, drawing shoppers from across the area, Edelman said.

"What makes this such an interesting site is its location," Edelman said. "People don't necessarily want to drive to Old Town. They're looking for something like this on the fringes (of Wichita)."

To go along with the business development, Bel Aire has an emphasis on continued residential growth. Last summer, the council approved a letter of support for a 148-unit, market-based apartment complex near the proposed retail and entertainment district.

Lasher said the residential units, proposed for about 18 acres, would likely resemble town homes more than typical apartments.

There is no timetable on when the residential construction would begin.

After discussing what's possible with the vacant acreage in Central Park, the council discussed how the large project could be funded. Lasher said

the downtown development could potentially be funded with the help of state sales tax revenues through STAR bonds.

There are several qualifiers for the state to approve STAR bonds, Lasher said. Primarily, the development would have to bring in a certain level of out-of-state funds.

To pay its share of the project, Lasher said the city could establish a Capital Improvement District, where a portion of an area's sales tax could go toward the development, or establish a transient guest tax where a local sales tax on hotel rooms could help fund the development.

Currently, there aren't any hotels in Bel Aire.

Lasher said Bel Aire would have to have "some skin in the game" to get developers committed to building in the city.

"The interest is there," Lasher said of the downtown district. "What we're looking at is, what can we do to take away some of (the developers') risk and make them comfortable to pull the trigger and start building."

HIGHLIGHTS

Carl Snider, a senior economics major from Wichita, has been named to the University of Dallas Dean's List for the fall 2011 semester.

Simone Cosper of Wichita was honored during the First-Year Scholars Reception on Feb. 28 at Emporia State University. The inaugural event honored more than 140 first-year students at ESU who earned a 3.5 or higher grade point average in their first semester.

More than 4,500 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2011 semester. Area students include: Tessa Katlin Aldag of Wichita, sophomore in pre-medicine; Alexandra Katherine Elizabeth Alvis of Wichita, junior in linguistics; Alex Charles Applegate of Wichita, senior in French and marketing; Beatrice Anne Black of Wichita, junior in nursing; Aaron Christopher Boswell of Wichita, junior in pre-law; Elizabeth Ann Brittain of Wichita, senior in sport science; Taylor Marie Broadfoot of Wichita, junior in Slavic languages & literature and history of art; Jessica Michelle Lyn Clawson of Wichita, freshman in pre-medicine and pre-business; Macy Gillian Colson of Wichita, sophomore in pre-engineering; Kelley Lynn Courington of Wichita, sophomore in pre-pharmacy; Maurice Deonta Cox of Bel Aire, junior in African & African-American studies; Coulter Payton Cranston of Wichita, junior in chemistry and pre-medicine; Sadegh Eftekhari of Bel Aire, Prof 1 in pharmacy; Marcus Alexander Florez of Bel Aire, sophomore in biochemistry; Alexandra Louise Gealy of Wichita, junior in elementary education; Katherine Marie Gilbaugh of Wichita, sophomore in news and information; Jama Adair Glenn of Wichita, sophomore in pre-education elementary; Samuel Lawrence Gurney of Wichita, senior in accounting and finance; Nicholas Grant Harbert of Bel Aire, senior in communication studies; Yasser Rizwan Hassan of Wichita, senior in biology; Elizabeth Ann

Hastings of Wichita, senior in pre-optometry and human biology; Meer Salman Husain of Wichita, sophomore in global and international studies; Catherine Ann Huslig of Wichita, senior in sport science; Brian Joseph Kempin of Wichita, senior in pharmacy; Maureen Lاهی of Wichita, senior in sport science; Stephen Phong Le of Wichita, senior in biology and pre-medicine; Tan Van Le of Wichita, senior in human biology; Jordan Caroline Leiker of Bel-Aire, senior in communication studies; Stacy Amanda Mar of Wichita, junior in computer engineering; William E Marsh of Wichita, sophomore in pre-sport sciences and community health; Kara Ash McKinney of Wichita, senior in undecided and film and media studies; Clayton Ma Nguyen of Wichita, senior in mechanical engineering; Pavel Pavolovich Panko of Wichita, sophomore in psychology; Tony Park of Wichita, sophomore in business administration; Jennifer Ann Rider of Wichita, sophomore in pre-medicine and pre-physical therapy and pre-sport sciences and community health; Annica Lynn Snyder of Wichita, sophomore in pre-education; Danielle Mary Valliere of Wichita, junior in strategic communication.

The Newman University fall 2011 commencement ceremony was held Dec. 17 at Central Community Church in Wichita. A total of 178 students graduated. Area graduates include: Denise Farris, Bel Aire, bachelor of arts in interdisciplinary studies; and Jeannette Blackwell, master of science in education, curriculum and instruction emphasis in ESL.



National Honor Society

Courtesy photo

The Sunrise Christian Academy conducted its National Honor Society induction ceremony March 1. Pastor Michael O'Donnell was the speaker. The school now has 52 NHS members after 23 were inducted. Students have to have an unweighted GPA of 3.4 or higher, along with meeting the National Honor Society pillars of leadership, service and character, to qualify. Inductees are senior Micaela Haig, juniors Holly Atkeson, Corey Doan, Nicole Heizelman, Monica Lewis, Sierra Skillen and Sharea Swartzendruher and sophomores Chelsi Cox, Briana Dusenbery, Morgan Eckley, Kathlyn Gomendoza, Kara Heizelman, Jada Hinderberger, Anna Klein, Daniel Lee, Michael Lee, Kari Schmidt, Zachary Sleppey, Rebecca Stopp, Marissa Thelen, Haley Turner, Sydney VanScyoc and Abigail Wilson.

Student's efforts lead to Senate resolution

By Matt Heilman

Valley Center sixth-grader Aaron Coash had hoped to introduce legislation to the Kansas Senate that would create something positive from a tragedy. Although it was too late in the legislative session to introduce a new law, the Senate passed a resolution on March 7 in Topeka that recognizes the dangers that antifreeze can pose to pets and children.

Sen. Carolyn McGinn, representing District 31, which includes north Sedgwick County and Harvey County, said Coash will return to the Senate next year to introduce a bill that would require an additive to antifreeze that would give it a bitter smell and taste.

Without the additive, antifreeze has a sweet taste that pets enjoy, Aaron said. And just a teaspoon of antifreeze can be deadly.

In late January, Aaron's dog, a Shiba Inu named Nikko, died from antifreeze poisoning about one week after he ventured from home and drank the toxic liquid somewhere.

Nikko became a statistic spelled out on a website Aaron created with the help of his mother and grandmother, www.stopantifreezepoisoning.com.

The website says, "Ten-thousand needless deaths of animals and 1,400 children deaths occur each year due to poisoning by antifreeze."

On the website, Aaron has

collected more than 3,000 signatures on a petition visitors are encouraged to sign. The name count, which includes signatures from all over the world has shattered Aaron's goal of 1,000 signatures.

McGinn said she's impressed with Aaron's efforts and looks forward to him returning to the legislature next year to help push the resolution into a law, which Aaron has called "Nikko's Law."

"Here he's had a great opportunity to be exposed to the process and he's taken advantage of that," McGinn said.

Currently, 17 states have laws in place that require the additive in antifreeze to make it smell and taste bitter.

"We want to do some research and find out why it hasn't been done nationwide," McGinn said of the antifreeze law.

A couple of weeks after Nikko died, Aaron said his mission was to apply a lesson he learned in 4-H of "how to turn something bad into something good."

"I want to carry on Nikko's honor and prevent other children from having to lose their best friend," he said.

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