

The Bel Aire Breeze

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Photos by Taylor Messick

Maggie Ballard and her son Paxton Burns show the Blessing Box at their home in Wichita.

Box of blessings

Effort to help families in need comes to Bel Aire

By Taylor Messick

The blessings are spreading. Maggie Ballard started Paxton's Blessing Box with her son, Paxton Burns, in October 2016. They have 17 boxes up and functional across the state.

That includes one in Bel Aire. "I actually saw it on social media," said Ballard. "At Table Rock, they have a cabinet by the lake and it's on a much larger scale. I thought it was such a good idea because we live on a busy street with so much traffic."

She said at first people thought it was a book nook. They decided to put a sign on the front telling people to take a blessing and leave one if they could. Within six months, Ballard said she was contacted by cities like Maize and Plainview about getting their own blessing boxes.

Ballard has a few handy friends who are good with construction and woodwork. They are the ones who build the boxes when one is requested by a city. She said she pays for the materials and they are kind enough to volunteer their time to support the cause. Ballard



The Blessing Box in Bel Aire is located at 4300 Bellmore for now.

and Paxton then paint the boxes and prepare them before setting them up. Paxton said he chose red as the color for the boxes because he is a big fan of the Kansas Jayhawks.

All sorts of things can be put in the boxes. Ballard said donations include everything from non-perishable foods and hygiene products to socks and hand warmers. She said it's important to be aware of the weather and that items change depending on the season. For ex-

ample, items with liquid inside can freeze during the winter.

Ballard said she has been interested in taking care of those in need since she was a child.

"It started in the mid-90s for me," she said. "My parents owned an antique store that was connected to The Eaton. That's right next to what is known as 'Bum Park.' There were also veterans and disabled people that lived in the

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Taylor Messick

Zach Haney is thanked by the police department on Feb. 6 for helping a resident in need.

Worker rescues woman in dog attack

At the right place, right time

By Taylor Messick

Zach Haney was pouring concrete in a Bel Aire neighborhood last month when he heard someone yelling.

The Wichita man put down what he was doing, jumped a fence and stopped a vicious dog attack that sent a local woman to the hospital.

"We were moving from one jobsite to another when we heard dogs being aggressive and a woman yelling," said Haney. "I couldn't hear what she was saying so I went over to her and looked over the fence and I wasn't sure if she was going to be able to control this dog. I went to check the gates to get in but they all had padlocks on them; so I just grabbed the top of the fence and hopped over."

Haney said there were four dogs in the yard: three pit bulls and one black, mixed dog. The smallest pit bull was running in circles and barking. The other three dogs were engaged in an all-out brawl as the woman tried to break them up. The mixed dog was the aggressor and was attacking one of the pit bulls — a blue nosed pit. The other pit bull was white and was also involved. When the woman tried to break the dogs up the mixed dog latched onto her arm.

"My supervisor had given her a shovel when I hopped over," said Haney. "She had reached in to try and separate them and that black dog got a hold of her arm. She lost a lot of blood from it and was torn up pretty bad."

Haney tapped the white pit bull on the nose with the shovel and said the dog instantly lost

See ATTACK, Page 2

Threats reported at area schools

By Chris Strunk

In the wake of the Feb. 14 mass shooting in Parkland, Fla., a pair of local school districts have been dealing with threats of violence against their schools.

On Feb. 15, the Bel Aire Police Department

received information about a threat involving Northeast Magnet High School and a school in Oklahoma City. The threat was circulated on social media, police said.

During the investigation, officers were directed to the Oklahoma City Police Department.

The district there had received threats containing the same information.

A suspect was identified in Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma City Police Department took over the investigation and charges are pending against a suspect.

In response, Bel

Aire police and Wichita school district security provided extra presence at the school as a safety precaution.

"The safety and security of the students and staff is of the utmost importance," Lt. Robey Foxx said in a news release. "The Bel Aire

Police Department takes every threat of school violence seriously. ... We encourage anyone who receives information relating to threats or acts of violence at a school to contact 911 immediately and report the information to law enforcement." Threats in the Wichita

area continued Feb. 16 as Wichita police began investigating two incidents, arresting a 17-year-old in one case.

Wichita police said a Bishop Carroll official notified police of a social media post involving

See THREATS, Page 2

Council approves new Tasers for police



Atteberry

By Taylor Messick

On Feb. 6, the Bel Aire City Council unanimously approved the purchase of 10 Tasers from Axon for the police department at a cost of \$19,150.

A similar deal with Axon was denied by the council last April after a heated debate. The department currently has four working

Tasers shared among 14 officers. The Tasers have only been used a couple of times since the department got them eight years ago, but police Chief Darrell Atteberry said in April that the threat of a Taser is often enough to subdue a suspect.

"If it makes them comply, then I'm OK with that," said Atteberry. "Then we don't have to use force. We

don't want to have officers injured and we don't want to have suspects injured. We're a small city and medical costs can get pretty high. If we can get compliance without going to hands-on striking weapons or deadly force, we prefer that."

Atteberry admitted at the time that he chooses to carry pepper spray instead of a

Taser, but said he strongly supports his officers having access to Tasers. Former council members like Ramona Becker and Guy MacDonald encouraged the use of pepper spray after expressing concerns about the effects of Tasers on people with medical conditions or mental illness. Tasers have caused injuries and fatalities in some cases,

and members of the council were also concerned about potential legal issues.

The cost of the Tasers can be paid over five years without accruing interest. The deal also comes with a five-year warranty. Also included in that deal are holsters, training cartridges and unlimited replacements

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HIGHLIGHTS

High-speed chase called off

Police eventually called off a high-speed vehicle chase that started in Bel Aire and ran through Kechi Jan. 21.

Bel Aire police tried to stop a Chevrolet Silverado with an Iowa tag for speeding in the 5000 block of North Oliver. The vehicle stopped and then left at a high rate of speed. Police pursued the vehicle into Kechi and west onto K-254. The vehicle's speed reached 100 mph.

A Sedgwick County sheriff's deputy deployed spike strips at K-254 and Hillside. The vehicle avoided the spike strips and went in the opposite direction on the Hillside on-ramp. The vehicle narrowly missed striking the deputy's vehicle as it was traveling the wrong direction.

The vehicle continued south on Hillside into Wichita at 100 mph. Police stopped pursuing the vehicle after it drove into oncoming lanes, almost striking other vehicles. Police later learned that the vehicle had been reported stolen out of Wichita.

— The Breeze staff

Incident interrupted

A Bel Aire police officer apparently stopped an incident before it happened Jan. 28.

The officer checked a green Kia Rio parked in the southwest corner of the Bel Aire Recreation Center parking lot. Forman approached the vehicle and a male lifted his head up in the back seat. A female was in the back seat with him. The male told police

that "nothing happened yet" and said they were on their way to their friend's house in Bel Aire when they stopped at the recreation center.

The officer told the two that the rec center was closed and they needed to leave.

— The Breeze staff

Police find stolen property

Bel Aire police found drugs and stolen property inside a stolen vehicle Jan. 31.

An officer saw a black Hummer H2 parked on the side of the road with its parking lights on in the 5900 block of East Perryton. A white male wearing a gray sweatshirt and sweatpants was seen walking south across Perryton from a residence. The male saw the patrol vehicle and ran, jump-

ing over a fence into a backyard.

Officer saw two people sitting inside the vehicle and made contact with them. He smelled marijuana. The passengers in the vehicle stated they were with two other males, one of which ran when he saw the patrol vehicle.

Wichita police told Bel Aire police that the Hummer was reported stolen.

Bel Aire police found a large amount of stolen property in the vehicle. The two passengers were juveniles and transported to the Wichita Children's Home after attempts to contact their parents were unsuccessful.

— The Breeze staff

Party involves WSU students

On Feb. 4, Bel Aire police officers responded to a party complaint involving

Wichita State students and athletes in the 5200 block of North Lycee Circle. Officers had responded to this location earlier in the evening for the same complaint.

Officers attempted to make contact with the residents. However, the individuals refused to speak with officers.

While officers continued their attempt to contact the individuals renting the residence, various people inside the residence began yelling, "You don't have a warrant," and other statements.

The father of one of the residents arrived and spoke with his daughter. Officers were allowed in the residence after numerous party-goers left, insuring they were not driving intoxicated. While speaking with the individuals leasing the property, they were informed of the circumstances and given

verbal warnings regarding the inappropriate behavior, party and attendees.

Wichita State police came to the scene and obtained information of student-athletes involved.

— The Breeze staff

Severe weather programs set

Sedgwick County Emergency Management will present a series of free severe weather safety presentations in the area in March and April. The program was developed by the National Weather Service.

There will be presentations at 6:30 p.m. March 8 at the Sedgwick Senior Center, 6:30 p.m. March 27 at Bel Aire City Hall, 6:30 p.m. March 29 at Kechi City Hall and 6:30 p.m. April 12 at Park City City Hall.

— The Breeze staff

PEOPLE

The following area students were named to the dean's honor roll for the fall 2017 semester at Fort Hays State University.

•From Bel Aire: Christopher Michael Jacobs, sophomore majoring in information networking and telecommunications (computer networking); Jamison Bond, freshman; and Keagan Ray Davis, junior majoring in art (graphic design).

•From Wichita: Rachael Ann McCaslin, freshman majoring in psy-

chology; Jennifer Bauserman, majoring in early childhood unified; John E. Egan, freshman majoring in finance; Ciara Jordan Froese, senior majoring in management; Daniel Hubert Kelly, senior majoring in health and human performance (sport and exercise therapy); Rebecca Ann Maholland, majoring in education; Catherine Ellen Pickle, junior majoring in sociology; and Tara Nicole Ritter, senior majoring in organizational leadership.

†††

The following Bel Aire students were named to the dean's honor roll for the fall 2017 semester at Wichita State University: Holly O. Atkeson, Victoria H. Campbell, Nathaniel J. Casey, Maria C. Church, Amanda S. Cockrell, Austin J. Downey, Michael A. Goddard, Elizabeth A. Harp, Kara A. Heizelman, Samantha N. Howell, Katriana M. Kisner, Michael A. Lee, Cody W. Lindsted, Tanat Maichan, Hannah C. Nel-

son, Kanissorn Nimcharoenwan, Jonathan V. Thao, Haley M. Turner, Micah L. Williams and Nicolas C. Young.

†††

Aaron A. Miller of Bel Aire was named to the president's list for the fall 2017 semester at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Ala. To make this list, a student must achieve a grade point average of 4.0 for the semester.

†††

Sara Meek of Wichita

was named to the president's honor roll for the fall 2017 semester at Oklahoma City University. Students must complete a minimum of 12 credit hours and maintain a grade point average of 3.9 or higher to make this list.

†††

Maimouna Dosso of Wichita was named to the fall 2017 president's list at Georgia State University in Atlanta. To be eligible for the president's list, students must earn a 4.0

GPA for the semester and complete at least nine semester hours of academic credit with no incompletes.

†††

Paul Amstutz of Wichita was named to the dean's list for the fall 2017 semester at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill.

To earn dean's list honors at Wheaton, an undergraduate student must carry 12 or more credit hours and achieve a 3.5 grade point average or higher on the 4.0 scale.

Box

Continued from Page 1

hotel. I was only about 10 years old but I would get bored and go talk to them. I learned about mental illness at an early age, and I learned that everybody has a story. It has stuck with me for so long, and it was really important that I learned that at an early age; so it's really important to me that I pass that along to Paxton."

Even before Paxton's Blessing Box, Ballard and Paxton held sock drives and passed out

donations to those in need. Paxton said he has learned how important it is not to waste food or other things that someone else might need. He is active in keeping the blessing boxes stocked and has even helped gather donations at school. As a second-grader now, he has gotten an early start on helping those in need.

"In first grade we got a box at school so people could bring stuff," said Burns. "They would leave it in the box and I would load it up in my backpack and carry it home after school."

Ballard said ideally, she likes locations that

get a lot of traffic. All of the boxes are on private property and she said it helps to have someone who is willing to take donations and keep the boxes stocked. However, she admits that she receives the bulk of the donations because people know how to contact her and she is centrally located on 13th Street in Wichita. She said she drives to the other locations on the weekends to share some of the donations she receives. She said she does see the boxes helping the homeless, but often they're being used by struggling families.

"We keep track of them to make sure people aren't abusing them," she said. "We see the homeless using them a little bit, but people who benefit the most are the working poor. Maybe they got a flat tire or had an unexpected expense and they just need a little help until the next payday. It's been really awesome to watch and it just keeps growing."

Paxton's Blessing Box No. 13 is currently located at 4300 Bellmore Street in Bel Aire. However, Ballard said she is looking to relocate the box to a more heavily trafficked area. The

box hasn't gotten a great deal of use in its current location and she wants to move it to a prime spot so people know it's there. She said she wants to keep the box in Bel Aire and is open to suggestions.

"I'm kind of excited to see if we can get it moved," she said. "I thought this would be a really good spot because it's on the corner of a bus stop; but we are looking for a place that has a little more traffic. We want to keep it in Bel Aire because we don't have anything that far east and I know there are people who need it."

People continue to donate food to the cause as Paxton's Blessing Box grows and spreads. Ballard said the generosity comes in all shapes and sizes and that every little bit makes a difference in someone's life.

"We've seen total strangers come to the house with loads of food," she said. "And that's super cool but we certainly don't expect that. One can of food helps one person and that's just as welcome as someone with a hundred cans. I never want people to feel like they can't participate if they can't bring a whole basket of stuff."

Attack

Continued from Page 1

interest in the fight. Luckily, Haney knew exactly how to handle the situation. He has pit bulls of his own and knows a lot about the dogs' attitudes and demeanors.

"I've raised pit bulls for quite awhile," he said. "What I know is that even if a dog isn't much of a fighter, if a hostile situation breaks out, he's going

to jump in. It's all about dominance with male dogs. They were bred in England to fight bulls and they have a hostile gene in them; but that gene is pretty much erased if they're raised right."

In this situation, the pit bulls weren't the problem. The mixed dog had completely focused its attention on attacking the blue nosed pit. Haney said a little bit more of a difficult time getting him off than he did with the white dog.

"It took me a minute to get the black dog off the other pit," he said. "I kept tapping him on the nose and nothing was happening. I eventually shoved the handle of that shovel in its mouth and pried it off. That pit was in such bad shape; its ear was almost torn off and it had a huge gash on the neck. Then I had to keep the black dog's attention on me because he wanted to go back after him."

Apparently, the dog had a history of hostility,

but nothing quite that bad up to that point. All four of the dogs were owned by the couple. They were all legal, chipped and had their shots. The woman is expected to be alright, but Haney said she was in bad shape after the incident.

"She only had a few stitches but the puncture wounds were deep enough to cause some massive bleeding," he said. "When she got to the hospital she had lost a lot of blood and was in a state of shock. And she was already in

shock because she had just gotten out of the shower and was in a robe and it was 25 degrees that day with high winds."

Luckily for the woman, Haney was in the right place at the right time. Haney said he would do it again if he had to.

"I'd definitely do it again if the situation ever came up," he said. "Hopefully it doesn't, but somebody's got to try to do something to help in a situation like that."

Threats

Continued from Page 1

a student threatening physical violence at a school. The investigation led to the arrest of a 17-year-old male suspect.

Also, a Southeast High School student notified school administrators of a post on Snapchat that threatened violence. Southeast officials notified police. No arrests had been made.

Meanwhile, the Valley Center school district reached out to students

and parents with a message of comfort and assurance.

In an email Feb. 16, Superintendent Cory Gibson said the district's top priority is to provide a safe and secure learning environment.

"As our nation struggles to understand the tragic events that unfolded in Parkland, Florida, this week, it is only natural to be concerned about the safety of students and staff in our schools," Gibson said. "Rest assured, it is always our

top priority to provide safe and secure learning environments. Anytime we learn of a potential threat, we immediately investigate, involve law enforcement agencies and take appropriate action."

Gibson said the district's leadership team periodically reviews safety measures, including secure buildings, visitor check-in systems, threat assessment and training protocols, safety drills, responsibilities of school resource officers,

and coordination with local and county law enforcement agencies.

"We understand the importance of scheduling safety training and drills and have plans to receive additional school safety training through a collaborative effort between our leadership team and local law enforcement agencies," he said. "Furthermore, additional safety drills are planned for the coming weeks. Families can help us maintain our safe environments by encouraging

their children, should they have knowledge of someone in crisis or is threatening to cause harm to themselves and/or others, to report this to their parents/guardians, principals, and/or law enforcement. The best prevention of a tragedy is a vigilant school community who informs authorities of concerns. There are many resources available explaining how to talk to your child(ren) when tragedy strikes in schools."

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Tasers

Continued from Page 1

for batteries and cartridges. The money is budgeted in the capital equipment fund.

In other business Feb. 6, the council:

•Unanimously approved an ordinance granting conditional use on property zoned R-1 at

4155 N. Battin.

•Unanimously approved an ordinance changing the zoning at 4720 N. Oliver from C-1 to C-2.

•Unanimously approved a conditional use for hermitage housing at the Catholic Care complex.

•Unanimously approved a petition for the deannexation of the intersection of 37th and Woodlawn.

•Unanimously accepted the 2017 community rating system

for the national flood insurance program.

•Unanimously approved an agreement with the Wichita YMCA for summer day camp at the Bel Aire Recreation Center.

•Unanimously appointed Jim Benage as an alternate voting delegate for WAMPO.

•Unanimously appointed Justin Smith to the Public Building Commission.

All members of the council were present. There was no executive session taken.

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Developing potential
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City of Bel Aire



Bel Aire Recreation

THE JAMES NAISMITH BASKETBALL EXPERIENCE
This free activity will celebrate March Madness by offering expedition games played in accordance with James Naismith's original 13 rules of basketball. Ages 9 and up; registration is required. Teams will be grouped according to individual ages by registrations received.

SPRING BREAK
Open gym and activities. March 19 through 22 from 1 to 5 p.m.

SPRING BREAK BASKETBALL CLINIC
The clinic will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon March 19 through 22. Coach Atwater will stress the importance of attitude and hard work in order to produce accountability.

REC BASEBALL & SOFTBALL
Completely recreational and designed to develop youngsters in baseball and softball while installing sportsmanship, respect, teamwork and self-confidence. Registration deadline is April 30, and games begin May 29.

BRITISH SOCCER CAMP
Register for Challenger Sports' British Soccer Camp and join over 150,000 players who will learn the Challenger way this year. Fun kicks and awesome accents! Register at challengersports.com (July 9-13).

BLASTBALL
A coed introductory T-ball program for 4-year-olds that teaches the fundamentals and concepts of baseball while having fun. It's a blast! Played Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning April 17. Register by April 9.

TAEKWONDO (ages 5 & up)
Classes meet from 5 to 6 p.m. Monday and Friday or from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. These are great classes for beginners to black belts.

YOGA
Classes are held from 6 to 7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Participants must provide their own yoga mat. Teens & adults can join at any time.

BARN QUILT WORKSHOP
Bring the beauty of quilts to the city. No skills needed for this class. You will take home a finished project. Space is limited, please call to reserve a spot. Meets the first Saturday morning of each month.

COED INDOOR SOCCER
This is for boys and girls ages 4 through 11. Games will be played on Saturdays beginning March 10. Practices will be set up by coaches on weeknights.

For more info about any Bel Aire recreation program, call 744-2700.

Bel Aire Seniors

All SENIORS 55+ are cordially invited to all events listed below. The Senior Center and library area are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The library has a wide selection of books to check out with neither cost nor time restraints and computers are available for study or research. Any senior can belong to or attend more than one senior center/club in Sedgwick County.

The Bel Aire Senior Center will be closed for all programs when USD 259 schools are closed due to inclement weather. For more information, please call 744-2451, Ext. 135.

Locations

Senior Center/Community Room
7651 E. Central Park Ave.
744-2451

Recreation Center
5251 E. 48th North
744-2700

Weekly Events

- Bel Aire Walkers** – Monday through Friday, 8-9 a.m., Rec Center (indoors)
- Line Dance Class** — Monday 1:30 p.m., Friday, 1 p.m., Community Room
- Dynamic Aging** — Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m., Rec Center. \$40 for four weeks or \$5 per class. Call Chris at 620-640-2104 for more info.
- Bridge Games** – Tuesday, 1 p.m., Senior Center
- Low Impact Aerobics** – Wednesday, 9 a.m., Rec Center
- Senior Breakfast** – Fridays 9 a.m., various locations

Monthly & Special Events

- March 1, 1 p.m.** — Game day, Rec Center.
- March 5, 6:30 p.m.** — Potluck dinner and program: estate planning, Andrew Marino.
- March 7, 10 a.m.** — Volunteer library work time.
- March 8, 9 a.m.** — Caregiver event with Catholic Care Center, Community Room.
- March 14, 10 a.m.** — Open sewing, Rec Center.
- March 14, 2 p.m.** — Coloring and conversation, Senior Center.
- March 20, 6 p.m.** — Ladies dine out, call Anita for info, 744-2840.
- March 21, 10:15 a.m.** — Senior aerobics brunch.
- March 21, 1:30 p.m.** — Book Club meeting, Senior Center.
- March 22, 2 p.m.** — Security on your computer, Cindy Bailey, Senior Center.
- March 23, 11 a.m.** — "Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate," distributing nontitled property, Teresa Hatfield, Senior Center.
- March 26, noon** — Covered dish dinner and program, Rec Center.
- March 28, 2 p.m.** — Coloring and conversation, Senior Center.
- March 28, 7 p.m.** — Bunko (by RSVP), Senior Center.

Community Events

- March 6** — City Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- March 7** — Chamber of Commerce meeting, noon, Best Western.
- March 14** — Bel Aire Lions Club, 11:30 a.m., Gospel Assembly Church
- March 15** — Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall
- March 15** — CDAC meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- March 20** — Utility Advisory Committee meeting, 4 p.m., City Hall
- March 20** — City Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- March 22** — CCUA Authority meeting, 4:30 p.m., City Hall
- March 24** — Spring Festival, 1 to 3 p.m., Rec Center
- March 28** — Bel Aire Lions Club, 11:30 a.m., Gospel Assembly Church

CONNECT WITH US!



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2002, the cities of Bel Aire and Park City agreed to create the Chisholm Creek Utility Authority, or CCUA, and to build a plant for producing drinking water and expand a plant for sewage treatment. Plants are located in Park City on the northwest corner of 53rd Street and Broadway. Drinking water capacity is 3.5 million gallons per day and sewer water capacity is 2.16 million gallons per day. Bonds were purchased to fund construction, and payment of these bonds is by the residents of both cities in their water and sewer rates.

Learn from where CCUA gets its raw water for drinking and what happens to processed sewer water and sewage sludge in your next "Did You Know?".

Brought to you by the Utility Advisory Committee

City of Bel Aire 2018 Spring Festival

EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH | 1-3 PM

>>> Egg Stroll:
1:30 - 2:00 pm: 2 & under
A specific area designated to the little ones so they can hunt at their own pace.

>>> Egg Hunt:
2:00 pm: 3-5 years
2:15 pm: 6-8 years
2:30 pm: 9 & up



***DON'T FORGET BASKETS & KITES!**
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BEL AIRE REC CENTER
5251 E. 48TH ST NORTH
www.belaireks.gov



SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY PROGRAM

SEVERE WEATHER SOON WILL BE UPON US

Are you prepared? Sedgwick County Emergency Management presents a program developed by the National Weather Service to help educate Sedgwick County citizens about severe weather and ways to stay safe. The following severe weather safety class is FREE of charge for Sedgwick County residents.

PROGRAM DATE, LOCATION AND TIME

Tuesday, March 27, 6:30-8:30 PM

Bel Aire City Building
7651 E. Central Park Ave.

Presented by Cody Charvat, Training & Exercise Officer, SCEM
Sponsored by Bel Aire Police Department



Sedgwick County...
working for you

Sedgwick County Emergency Management
714 N. Main, Wichita, KS 67203
316-660-5959 - www.sedgwickcounty.org

STORMS CAN BE DANGEROUS. PLEASE TAKE PRECAUTIONS AND STAY SAFE. WEATHER SERVICE CAN HELP YOU STAY SAFE.



Mayor's corner

By David Austin

February may be the shortest month on our calendar, but it was a busy one.

We started by recognizing the Bel Aire Police Department with recognition plaques at our Feb. 6 city council meeting.

We were also excited to learn that Bel Aire was listed as a Top 10 Most Popular Small Town to relocate in by moveBudha. This research group wanted to know which suburb and small towns were experiencing or on the cusp of experiencing an arrival of transplants. They researched thousands of searches people who are planning to move perform each month online using a move pricing tool.

New Castle, DE, was No. 1, but Bel Aire is No. 10 of the most searched towns with populations under 10,000 in America. I should point out four other Kansas towns cracked the top 100 including Maize, Louisburg, Abilene and Lindsborg.

And more growth coming — Bel Aire continues to tell our story. Building on being the fastest growing city in Sedgwick County, we, I believe, are also on the cusp of experiencing growth in retail and commercial. Having the trifecta of being a place to work, live and play is what prompted the city master plan. You will learn more about this in coming months. The governing body got a look at it at its Feb. 22 workshop. This is all based on scientific projections of growth as well as citizen input from surveys, town hall meetings, etc.

Sometime soon, Epic Sports will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony of its brand new state-of-the-art facility in the commerce park. This will be a good chance to see how 125 employees at this local company uses advances in technology to ship sporting goods all over the world.

Family activities — Back by very popular demand is the Bel Aire Spring Festival. Join us for a fun afternoon at the Bel Aire Recreation Center, located at 5251 E. 48th Street North, for face painting, a petting zoo, inflatable obstacle courses, and kite flying. Wings of the Wind Kites & Toys will be on site to sell kites and show some demonstrations. And of course, there will be one of the largest egg hunts in the area with 12,000 eggs! Bring your own baskets to hunt. And you can meet the Easter Bunny. For more information and to see when your child's age group will hunt eggs visit www.belaireks.gov or our Facebook page.

Your governing body also took a deep dive looking at all city fees at its February workshop. Soon, I am excited to report, we will offer bundles for more family savings.

Bel Aire has a pool and recreation center open to the public. Day passes are available as well as annual memberships. Beginning in March you will have the option to purchase an exercise room and gym membership along with an annual pool membership (individual or family) at a discounted rate.

Employee and resident recognition — I am excited to announce that our very own Ted Henry is a 2018 *Wichita Business Journal* honoree as one of the top Chief Financial Officers in the area. Mr. Henry does an excellent job watching the city's bottom line and keeping members of your governing body updated and informed. Congratulations. Also being honored is Bel Aire resident Shelly Hammond with the Greater Wichita YMCA.

City council approves infrastructure inspection

By Taylor Messick

On Feb. 20, the Bel Aire City Council met with a brief agenda. Four agenda items requiring final action were unanimously approved.

One of those items was an agreement with

Garver LLC for inspection in phase two of Rock Spring second addition. The city requires inspection on all public infrastructure projects to ensure that city codes are being met. Garver will be paid hourly for the job and that fee will not

exceed \$17,600.

Also approved were two re-appointments of members to city boards. Connie Cabala was re-appointed to the Bel Aire Tree Board and that term will expire in 2019. Dannielle Fisher was re-appointed to the Com-

munity Development Advisory Committee and that term will also expire in 2019.

The final item of action was to receive and file 2017 Bel Aire Land Bank Annual Report. The land bank has a current balance of \$669,378.38

after expenses were paid. In other business, the council:

•Declared March 2, 2018 National Speech & Debate Education Day.

•Declared March 2018 American Red Cross Month.

All members of the council were present. There was no executive session taken.

DEATHS

THOMAS ENSEY

Dr. Thomas Crawford Ensey, 97, of Marion, died Jan. 23, 2018. He was a retired physician.

He was born Nov. 22, 1920, in McKinney, Texas, to Thomas L. and Martha E. (Cranford) Ensey. He graduated from Carmon (Okla.) High School and Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 until 1945. He married Lila Edith Lindley on Sept. 12, 1944, in Houston. He was a family physician in Marion from 1949 until his retirement in 1982.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; half-brothers Clarence, Lee Harrell and Willis Ensey; and half-sisters Lois Hansen, Mattie Lee Harrell and Hazel Trawick. Survivors include sons Lowell (Leila) Ensey of Bel Aire, Larry (Melanie) Ensey of Marion and Dean (Joanne) Ensey of Erie, Pa.; sister Mary Eunice Crown of McPherson; eight grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and nine great-great grandchildren.

Burial has taken place. A memorial service was held Feb. 3 at Eastmoor United Methodist Church

in Marion. Memorial contributions to either Central Christian College of McPherson or Eastmoor United Methodist Church, in care Zeiner Funeral Home, P.O. Box 6, Marion KS 66861.

ELWOOD ERICKSON

Elwood Willard "Woody" Erickson, 91, of Bel Aire, died Jan. 20, 2018.

He was born in a small Minnesota farm town June 29, 1926. He served in the Army Air Force after World War II being one of the first group of soldiers to arrive for the U.S. occupation of Japan after its surrender.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Nevada and Myron Erickson, and wife of 62 years, Jacqueline "Jackie" Erickson. Survivors include daughter Deborah (Jan Mark) Hoffman; sons William M. "Bill" (Christine) Erickson and Jeffrey M. Erickson; sisters Neva Mae Fundarek and Gloria Gallant; granddaughters Emily Rose Hoffman and Destiny Erickson; grandsons Sean and Jesse (Jennifer) Erickson and Nathan Erickson; great-grandsons Ezra Sol and

Neloh Erickson; nieces, Edye (Wayne) Mizzi, Carrie Fundarek, Cindy Gallant; and great-nieces Dayne and Haley.

A private family service was planned. Memorials to the Alzheimer's Association. Downing & Lahey Mortuary East Chapel has charge.

CHARLES JONES

Charles D. "Buck" Jones, 81, of Bel Aire, died Feb. 3, 2018.



Jones

He was a retired welder for Case-New Holland. He was preceded in death by wife Wilma, parents William and Ruby (Dingus) Jones, brother Darrell Jones and sister Wilma Neal. Survivors include children Larry (Ann) Jones of Peabody, Kenneth (Michele) Jones of Portage, Ind., Vicki (Steve) Weathers of Bel Aire, Brenda Scott of Mulvane, Steven (Sherry) Jones of Valley Center

and Kimberly (Tony) Baldwin of Wichita; sisters Elaine (Delbert) Yokum and Rene Jones, all of Wichita, and Loree Long of Mound City; 18 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. Funeral service was Feb. 10 at Meridian Avenue Baptist Church, Wichita. Webb-Shinkle Mortuary of Clearwater had charge.

FERN LAKEY

Fern Lorana (Mercer) Lakey, 93, of Bel Aire, died Feb. 1, 2018.

She was born in Wichita to William Thomas Mercer and Millie Talitha (Fowler) Mercer and attended North High School. She worked for many years at Crown Drug Post Office and TG&Y. She married Leonard E. Lakey Sr. She was a Sunday school teacher and superintendent for her church. She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; siblings Melissa Turner-Castor, Leona Butterfield, Myrtle Head-Edson, Mable Keefe-Jansen, William Mercer, David Mercer, Gertrude Keller, Virgil Mercer, Robert

Mercer, Belva Moore, Dumah LeMarr-Edson, Carl Mercer, Howard Mercer and Houston Mercer.

Survivors include sons Leonard (Edith) Lakey



Lakey

Jr. of Wichita and Robert (Sharon) Lakey of Park City; grandchildren Michelle (Jason) Armour, Michael Lakey, Jamie Heller, Amanda (Tom) Aikens, Christopher (Tami) Lakey and Andrew (Clarisa) Lakey; great-grandchildren Colton, Dylan, Olivia, Cody, Skyler, Mandalyn, Ashleigh, Austin, Aubrie, Amy, Anna, Abe and Wyatt; and many other family and friends.

Funeral service was Feb. 7 at Baker Funeral Home, Valley Center, with graveside service at White Chapel, Wichita. Memorials to New Foundation Community Church, 3914 N. St. Clair, Wichita KS 67204.

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran-ELCA

Christ Lutheran is at 53rd North and Hillside, across from Heights High School.

Sunday services are at 9 (contemporary), 10:15 Sunday school and 11 a.m. (traditional), with communion at all services.

Wednesday evenings of Lent through March 21, a potluck supper will begin at 6:15 p.m., followed by a Lenten worship service at 7.

During Holy Week, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday services will be at 9 and 11 a.m. Children's activities and a breakfast will be offered between services.

For more information about the church and its activities, find us online at www.christ-lutheran.org, on Facebook (www.facebook.com/CLCwichita) or call 744-1242. Chad Langdon is the pastor.

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, and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade.

The parish/school website is www.resurrection-wichita.com, and the telephone number is 744-2776. The Rev. James F. Weldon is the pastor.

Community Bible Chapel

Community Bible Chapel is located at the corner of 45th North and Arlene.

If you have any questions about our church, please call Amy Smith at 323-2819.

Cornerstone Christian

Cornerstone Christian Church is at 5531 E. 37th

North, Wichita KS 67220-2037. The church phone number is 686-0208.

Easter Sunday brunch is at 9 a.m. with worship at 11.

Sunday worship is at 9:30 and 11 a.m. A nursery is provided.

Wednesday study groups at 6:30 p.m. include adult studies, youth and Awana.

Pastor is Jim Rackham, and youth pastor is Tate Strasner.

Fairmount United Church of Christ

Visit the church at 1605 Fairmount in Wichita, one block south and one block east of 17th North and Hillside.

Sunday worship is at 10:30 a.m., which includes children's church. Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, call 682-1597 or visit at www.fairmountucc.org. Steve Bridwell is the minister.

Gateway

Gateway Church is at 137 N. Oliver, Kechi.

Sunday fellowship with coffee and rolls is at 9:15 a.m., with worship and teaching at 10:15.

We have many small groups that meet throughout the week.

Visit Gateway online (www.gatewaychurchks.com) or on Facebook (www.facebook.com/gatewaychurchks.com). Adam Welty is the pastor.

Gospel Assembly

Located at 4230 N. Oliver in Bel Aire, Sunday services are 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Prayer service is at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Praise and worship is at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Youth activities are on the first Saturday evening of each month.

Phone number is 744-1502. The Rev. Gary D. Green is the pastor.

Greenwich United Methodist

Greenwich UMC at 5500 N. Greenwich Road is one mile south of K-254 and five miles north of 21st North.

Sunday worship is at 9 a.m. with Life Studies for all ages from 10 to 10:30.

Pastor Paula Scott is available at the church each Wednesday for prayer and fellowship.

United Methodist Women meet at 10 a.m. the first Wednesday of each month and host a church brunch quarterly.

Special events are announced on the church sign, Facebook and by mailings. Please call to be added to our mailing list or email shagemeister@sbcglobal.net.

Greenwich UMC missions support large local charities like Open Door, Grace Med or Youthville, as well as small charities like Flint Hills Therapeutic Riding Center and Wichita Children's Home, to name a few.

Like us on Facebook at Wichita Greenwich United Methodist Church. Call us at 744-0203.

Kechi United Methodist

Located at 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi. Sunday worship is at 9:03 a.m. (contemporary) and 11 (traditional), with Sunday school at 10.

Bingo is at 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month.

Men's Bible study is at 6:30 a.m. Wednesdays.

Our pastor is Greg Reed. Find us online at www.kechiUMC.org and "Like" us on Facebook.

The church phone number is 744-1221.

LifePoint

A fellowship of the Assemblies of God, LifePoint is located at 400 S. Abilene in Valley Center.

LifePoint/Sunday school meets at 9 a.m., with

Kids Church at 10:30. There is no regular Sunday night service. For special activities, check online at www.lpcag.org.

Wednesday evening's Launch children's program is at 6:30 p.m., with Velocity Student Ministries for youth meets at 7.

Adult small groups meet throughout the community. Senior pastor is Steve Rains. Youth pastor is Jacob Soyze. Children's pastor is Nathaniel Thurman. Call the church at 755-2331.

Risen Savior Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Located at 6770 E. 34th North, Wichita. Phone number is 683-5538; website is www.risensaviorwichita.net.

Contemporary worship services are at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Adult Sunday school and Bible class are at 9:15 a.m., with children's church at 10:30. Nursery is provided during Bible class and the second service.

Communion is the first and third Sunday.

During the Lenten season, Wednesday evening ministries will be from 6:30 to 7:05 p.m. There will be activities for all ages.

King's Kids is for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Confirmation class is for children in grades six through eight. IMPACT! is for grades nine through 12. There will also be adult Bible classes. A nursery will be available for preschool age children.

Wednesday Lenten services will be from 7:15 to 7:45 p.m. March 7, 14 and 21.

Palm Sunday services will be at 8 and 10:30 a.m. March 25.

Easter Family Fun will be from 3:30 to 5 p.m. March 25.

Maundy Thursday Service will be at 7 p.m. March 29.

Good Friday service will be at 7 p.m. March 30.

Easter Sunday services

will be at 8 and 10:30 a.m. April 1.

Senior pastor is Tom Harmon.

Saint Michael Western Orthodox Christian

Saint Michael's Orthodox Christian Church is at 2710 E. 61st North, Park City. It is a congregation of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

Sunday worship has Matins at 9:45 a.m. and Divine Liturgy (Mass) at 10. Adult class at 9 a.m. studies the Biblical Journey of Faith.

Our Lenten Study Program based upon the Saint Innocents book, "Indication of the Way into the Kingdom of Heaven," will be each Wednesday of Lent. Presanctified Liturgy is at 6 p.m. potluck at 6:45 and the program at 7:30.

Saturday Vespers are at 4:30 p.m.

For more information, call 734-6248, go online at www.saintmichaelorthodoxchurch.com or email inquiries to jflora@cox.net.

The Very Rev. Dr. John Flora is archpriest and pastor. The Rev. Father Basil Anderson is deacon. Frank Tritschler is head chanter. Readers are Moses Rothenberger and James Finneran. Mrs. Sally Buxon is organist.

Wichita Three Angels Seventh-day Adventist

Located at 4558 N. Hydraulic, Wichita.

Birger Draget is pastor. Sabbath school at 9:30 a.m. with worship service at 11.

For more information, go online at www.godsclotet.com or on Facebook (Gods Closet - Wichita).

For God's Closet, call 778-0474.

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

BEL AIRE POLICE REPORTS

Jan. 15 — Police responded to a burglary in the 5300 block of North Cypress. Taken were construction supplies, electrical equipment and miscellaneous property, which reportedly was valued at \$6,563.

Jan. 15 — Police responded to a burglary in the 5700 block of North Lycee. A man reported that while he was running errands in Wichita, taking no longer than 45 minutes, he came back and noticed his lunch box had been tampered with. Upon further inspection, his work-issued iPad and Otter Box valued at \$650 was gone. Doors to the clubhouse were unlocked while he was running errands.

Jan. 16 — Joseph Stallings was arrested in the 4200 block of South Dover on warrants.

Jan. 17 — Jenise Reinkens was arrested at the station on a warrant.

Jan. 17 — Officer Roney pulled up to a non-injury accident at the intersection of 45th and Webb Road.

Jan. 18 — Officer Forman stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5700 block of North Oliver. Audrey Anne Kisner was arrested on a charge of DUI.

Jan. 19 — Officer Crice took a phone report of a fraud from the 3900 block of North Woodlawn. The victim reported two checks being cashed from the UFCW Local 2 bank account. The victim believes the checks were stolen from a Kansas City office. The victim stated the checks look similar to the style of checks they used to use to issue refunds to customers. The victim was not aware of the checks until they closed out their end-of-year books.

Jan. 19 — A juvenile and her father came to the station to report her mother battered her, broke her cellphone, and took her cellphone in the 4500 block of Westlake Court. The victim had visible marks on her face and neck. Officers located the suspect at her apartment in Wichita. The suspect exited her apartment holding an umbrella and yelling at officers. Officers informed the suspect she was under arrest, and she began to advance towards the officers with the umbrella. Officers displayed their Tasers and informed the suspect she needed to drop the umbrella. The suspect became distracted and the officers were able to take her into custody. Angela Gilmore was booked into the Sedgwick County Jail.

Jan. 19 — A resident from the 5700 block of Odessa reported that the tag on his truck was swapped. Police determined that the tag had been reported stolen.

Jan. 19 — Police took a report of a woman from the 6200 block of East Woodlawn received harassing text messages and phone calls over a rental deposit from her landlord.

Jan. 20 — Police received a report that two vehicles were parked in handicapped accessible parking without the required license plate or plaque at Chisholm Trail State Bank, 3813 N. Woodlawn. The vehicles belonged to employees of the bank. The employees advised the bank lobby is closed on Saturdays and only the drive-thru is open until noon. The officer issued written warnings to the employees.

Jan. 20 — Officer Trumbull stopped a vehicle in the 5900 block of East 37th North and discovered the driver's license was revoked. Oanh Nguyen was booked into the Sedgwick County Jail.

Jan. 21 — Officer Crouse observed a Chevrolet Silverado with an Iowa tag speeding and made a traffic stop in the 5000 block of North Oliver. The vehicle then left at a high rate of speed. Officer pursued the vehicle into Kechi and west onto K-254. The vehicle's speed reached 100 mph. A Sedgwick County sheriff's deputy deployed spike strips at K-254 and Hillside. The vehicle avoided the spike strips and went in the opposite direction on the Hillside on-ramp. The vehicle narrowly missed striking the deputy's vehicle as it was traveling the wrong direction. The vehicle continued south on Hillside into Wichita at a speed of 100 mph. Officer stopped pursuing the vehicle after it drove into oncoming lanes, almost striking other vehicles. Officer learned after he stopped pursuing that the vehicle had been reported stolen out of Wichita.

Jan. 22 — Officers responded to a call of a runaway in the 6600

block of East Rodeo Court. The juvenile ran away from her residence after an argument with her parents over her cellphone being taken away. The juvenile was located at the Quick Trip at 37th and Rock Road after she called home from the store phone. Officers picked her up, and she was returned to her parents.

Jan. 23 — A school district security officer was notified of a computer that was discovered missing from the music room. It was described as an Apple MacBook Pro.

Jan. 23 — Officer Trumbull stopped a gray Honda Accord in the 3800 block of North Oliver. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license.

Jan. 24 — A citizen from the 4300 block of North Edgemoor called the station to report the possible theft of his Kansas license tag. The reporting party last saw the tag on his vehicle on Jan. 9.

Jan. 25 — A resident from the 4400 block of North Mission reported that her 16-year-old daughter ran away from the residence through her bedroom window after the mother took her cellphone. The mother found her daughter at her cousin's house. The grandfather retrieved her from her cousin's house and transported her back home.

Jan. 25 — Wichita police requested Bel Aire to go to a residence in the 4200 block of North Mission to make contact with a person in regards to a child in her care. The woman was unable to provide necessary legal paperwork and the child was turned over to Wichita police.

Jan. 27 — Officer Trumbull was traveling behind a white Chevy Cobalt driving westbound on 45th Street and conducted a records check of the registration that showed the sole occupant's driver's license was suspended. In the 6600 block of E 45th St, the driver failed to dim its headlights to oncoming traffic. The driver was issued a citation for the violations.

Jan. 27 — Breahna Edwards was arrested in the 6500 block of East 45th North on a warrant.

Jan. 28 — Officer Forman checked a green Kia Rio parked in the southwest corner of the Bel Aire Recreation Center parking lot. Forman approached the vehicle and a white male lift his head up in the back seat along with a black female. Forman made contact and was informed by the male "nothing happened yet." The male stated they were on their way to their friend's house in Bel Aire when they stopped at the recreation center. Forman told the two that the rec center was closed and they needed to leave.

Jan. 28 — Officers were dispatched to a report of three neighbor children throwing things, such as jewelry and fingernail polish, in the backyard in the 6700 block of East Perryton. The next-door neighbor was spoken to and denied any wrongdoing by his children.

Jan. 30 — Officer Trumbull stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5200 block of North Oliver. The driver had a suspended license. The driver was issued a citation and given a court date.

Jan. 31 — Officer Forman located a black Hummer H2 parked on the side of the road with its parking lights on in the 5900 block of East Perryton. A white male wearing a gray sweatshirt and sweatpants was seen walking south across Perryton from a residence. The male saw the patrol vehicle and began to run and jumped over a fence into a backyard. Forman observed two people sitting inside the vehicle and made contact with them. Forman detected the odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle. The passengers in the vehicle stated they were with two other males, one of which ran when he saw the patrol vehicle. Forman contacted Wichita police and asked them to make contact with the registered owner of the Hummer. The registered owner reported the vehicle stolen. Forman located a large amount of stolen property within the vehicle. The two passengers were juveniles and transported to the Wichita Children's Home after not being able to make contact with the parents. Forman identified two female juveniles inside the vehicle. Forman attempted to contact the parents of the juveniles and was unsuccessful. Forman transported both to the Wichita Children's Home as runaways.



Courtesy photo

Safe city

Lt. Robey Foxx and the Bel Aire Police Department are recognized with a plaque, given by Mayor David Austin Feb. 6, after Bel Aire was named the safest city in Kansas.

Officer Crouse assisted.

Jan. 31 — Larceny to two vehicles was reported in the 5800 block of East Clarendon. Nothing was missing.

Jan. 31 — Vandalism to a vehicle was reported in the 4400 block of North Gunnison. A vehicle was parked in the driveway. Its window was broken with a brick. While taking the reported, Officer Steele located a black and red Easton bag as well as other baseball equipment and a brown pillow that did not belong to the victim.

Jan. 31 — Burglary to a duplex under construction in the 8700 block of East Chris was reported. The suspect(s) used an unknown prying instrument to force entry through a door of the residence. Taken were construction material and miscellaneous tools, a 12-inch Rigid chop saw with a stand and property belonging to a painter.

Jan. 31 — A resident in the 4400 block of North Gunnison reported discovering miscellaneous items in the gutter across the street from her residence, which she thought looked like items thrown or stolen from a car. The items included a green jacket, an electronics manual, a sock, hand lotion, a marker, a mechanical pencil, a car charger, a Logitech case and two napkins.

Jan. 31 — Officer Crice responded to the Wichita Children's Home in reference to one of the juveniles taken there by third-shift officers. The juvenile had provided a fake name to the third-shift officers. The real name of the juvenile had arrest warrants for burglary and auto theft. The juvenile was arrested and transported to the Juvenile Detention Facility.

Jan. 31 — A larceny to two vehicles was reported in the 4400 block of North Gunnison. Items missing included a laptop, bag with papers, watch and an empty prescription bottle. All items were found on other calls and returned.

Feb. 1 — An employee of Sunrise Christian Academy reported an unknown person(s) breaking out the driver's side window of a vehicle and removing a tan backpack that was in the front seat.

Feb. 2 — A woman reported that her common-law husband struck her in the face and threatened to kill her.

Feb. 2 — Officer Trumbull stopped a maroon Ford Ranger for speeding in the 4700 block of North Oliver. The odor of burnt marijuana was emitting from inside the vehicle. A search of the vehicle led to negative findings. The driver had difficulty answering simple questions, denied being a smoker and denied any knowledge of marijuana. The driver was advised to thoroughly clean his vehicle.

Feb. 2 — Officer Trumbull stopped a vehicle with no visible tag and for speeding in the 4900 block of North Oliver. The driver stated he was adjusting his radio and not paying attention to his speed and stated his tag was affixed to his back window. The driver displayed a Kansas ID card and stated the license was restricted. A check of the license showed it to be expired and restricted for non-payment of child support.

Feb. 2 — Officer Forman stopped a vehicle for a defective tag light in the 4200 block of North Woodlawn. The driver was cited for expired vehicle registra-

tion and driving with a suspended license.

Feb. 3 — A resident in the 4800 block of North Battin reported that someone entered his house, which is being renovated, and stole tools, a trailer, a mower, a drill, batteries, a chain saw, a weed eater and three gas cans. Loss was valued at \$9,805. A neighbor reported seeing a blue truck backed into the driveway.

Feb. 4 — Officers responded to a party complaint involving Wichita State students and athletes in the 5200 block of North Lycee Circle. Officers had responded to this location earlier in the evening for the same complaint. Officers attempted to make contact with the individuals who reside at the residence. The individuals refused to speak with officers. While officers continued to attempt to contact the individuals renting the residence, various individuals in the residence began yelling, "You don't have a warrant," and other statements.

A father of one of the residents who arrived on-scene spoke with his daughter in the residence. Officers were allowed in the residence after numerous party-goers were allowed to depart the residence insuring they were not driving intoxicated. While speaking with the individuals leasing the property, they were informed of the circumstances and given verbal warnings regarding the inappropriate behavior, party and attendees. Wichita State police came to the scene and obtained information of student athletes involved.

Feb. 4 — Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 5800 block of East Denise. The reporting party stated her son's girlfriend was drunk, belligerent and wouldn't leave. Officers made contact with both parties who stated they are in a relationship, have a 7-month-old son together, have been drinking, and had a verbal disagreement, which led to one party requesting leave for the evening. Both parties agreed to stay in the residence in separate rooms for the child's sake.

Feb. 4 — A resident in the 5500 block of North Lycee Court reported to police that she saw an outline of what she thought was a man by her fence. The surrounding area was searched but nothing was found. The yard was searched and nobody was found.

Feb. 5 — Officer Toomey stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5000 block of North Greenwich. Toomey contacted the driver who stated, "I wasn't speeding, I was clearly doing 55! I want to see the calibration on radar." The driver was arrested on warrants. The suspect's name was not available.

Feb. 6 — Lt. Foxx responded to disturbance between a mother and her adult daughter in the 5100 block of East Ashton. The mother reported her daughter living with her for the last month and being disrespectful to her and her property. The mother asked her daughter to move out and a disturbance between the two ensued. The daughter alleged her mother slapped her in the face for being "mouthy" and the mother alleged her daughter chest-bumped her. The daughter packed her belongings and moved out.

Feb. 7 — A man in the 5700 block of North Lycee reported that a company-owned trailer was taken from the parking lot of

the apartment complex that is under construction. About \$15,415 worth of tools and equipment was taken, including the trailer. There were no serialized markings on the tools. However, the company name was written on many of them.

Feb. 7 — A construction company reported that someone forced entry through the patio door of a residence in the 8700 block of East Chris Court, causing damage. Taken were two large paint sprayers.

Feb. 7 — Zoe King was arrested in the 7600 block of East Central Park on a court commit for three days after failure to comply with her probation presentencing investigations.

Feb. 7 — While working at municipal court, Officer Roney was approached by a female who said she found a \$20 bill in front of the entrance to the police station and did not see who dropped it. The money was submitted to evidence as found property.

Feb. 7 — The Sedgwick County Fire Department responded to a house fire in the 4400 block of North. There were no visible flames. The owners stated the fireplace seemed to be burning rather large when a neighbor contacted them and advised there were flames coming from the top of the chimney. The owner put out the fire in the fireplace with a fire extinguisher and then noticed a glow coming from further of the chimney flu. Firefighters put out the smoldering insulation with minimal property damage. The owners were able to return inside their residence.

Feb. 8 — Officer Roney who was off duty and behind a driver that was failing to maintain its lane in the 4600 block of North Woodlawn. Officer Trumbull responded and observed the vehicle at the location traveling south with an inoperable headlight. A traffic stop was conducted in the 3800 block of North Woodlawn. The driver had a suspended driver's license and a bench warrant through Sedgwick County. The driver was arrested for the warrant and issued a citation for driving with a suspended driver's license. The suspect's name was not available.

Feb. 8 — Lynn Mack was arrested in the 3800 block of North Woodlawn on a Sedgwick County warrant.

Feb. 8 — Officer Roney stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation in the 5600 block of North Lycee. The driver displayed a Kansas driver's license that expired in 2015. The driver was issued citations and released at the scene.

Feb. 8 — Officers Gibson, Trumbull and Roney, and Lt. Foxx responded to what was dispatched as an injury accident with a vehicle that rolled into the calling party's yard in the 4200 block of North Edgemoor. The calling party advised that the driver was unresponsive. The driver appeared to be having some medical complication. The driver refused medical treatment at the scene. The driver's wife was contacted and she came to the scene and transported the driver and his vehicle back to their residence.

Feb. 6 — A 16-year-old female student in the 5500 block of North Lycee was questioned by school staff after a school Crime Stoppers reported that she was in possession of marijuana. Upon school staff searching her and her car she was found to have a very small amount of green leafy substance and cigar wrapping papers. Discipline was handled in school.

Feb. 9 — Isely Elementary reported a student having suicidal thoughts. The student made the threats the day before, and a crisis intervention was done. School staff wanted the child evaluated but the custodial father was unable to pick up the child until 8 p.m. He wanted to send his girlfriend to pick up the child, but she was not listed on

the emergency contact. They wanted advice. The mother still has rights to the child and agreed to have him evaluated at Com-Care. They were advised to release him to the mother.

Feb. 10 — Officers responded to a suspicious character report in the 5600 block of North Lycee, which involved smells of marijuana emanating from two apartments. The dispatched call comments indicated a black male and a black female with a 3-year-old were involved as well. Officers attempted to make contact with several apartments and nothing was discovered.

Feb. 11 — Officer Crouse stopped a silver Hyundai Sonata for speeding in the 3900 block of North Oliver. The driver was arrested on a charge of DUI. The suspect's name was not available.

Feb. 11 — Officer Gibson assisted Park City Police with a domestic disturbance in the 1500 block of East Frontenac. A subject was arrested on a charge of domestic violence.

Feb. 7 — The assistant principal at Northeast Magnet High School reported a subject that came to the school requesting a tour where he could take photos of the school. He was evasive when she requested to know why he wanted to tour the school. His demeanor made her feel uneasy. They wanted a report in case he returns.

Feb. 12 — Parents of a student at Isely Elementary were directed to come to the police station to make a report regarding an ex-wife not following the court-ordered agreement. Both parents live in Wichita and were referred to the Wichita Police Department.

Feb. 13 — Officer Steele took a report at the station of a possible animal hoarding problem from the 4100 block of North Harding. The calling party was passing on information she had obtained from her boyfriend who was the ex-boyfriend of the alleged hoarder. After speaking with the boyfriend, it was determined that the resident houses approximately five cats that are well taken care of.

Feb. 15 — Officers responded to a disorderly conduct report involving a possible threat via social media to students and faculty at Northeast Magnet High School. During the investigation, officers learned the Oklahoma City Police Department was actively investigating a similar threat to Northeast Academy and John Marshall High School in Oklahoma City. This was a verified incident occurring in Oklahoma City. As a safety measure, the principal at Northeast Magnet High School requested extra security measures during the school hours on Feb. 16.

Feb. 16 — Officers responded to a suspicious character with a weapon in the 4500 block of Eagle Lake. Lt. Foxx contacted the calling party who reported a man carrying a small caliber black and gray handgun knocked on his door and then left walking towards Edgemoor. Officers circulated the area and were unable to locate a subject matching the description. Due to the proximity to Sunrise Christian Academy, the school was placed on a modified lockdown.

Feb. 18 — Niki Jo McGuire was arrested in the 11300 block of North 63rd east on a charge of violating a court no-contact order.

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FEATURING: FABRAL

Kechi, Bel Aire to establish K-254 Corridor Committee

By Taylor Messick

Kechi and Bel Aire are neighbors and now the cities are planning to become even more neighborly.

They're making an effort to start communicating and working together on certain issues. The first step they will take in that initiative is to form a K-254 Corridor Committee.

"We felt that a united force of communities along 254 could meet monthly or quarterly," said Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher. "K-96 has a corridor committee and it's very popular and has a large membership. We're hoping to get the lady who is the administrator of that one to come over and talk to us about how to get that formed, have meetings and those types of things. We want to be able to go to the Legislature when it comes time to make improvements and be heard. A lot of times a large voice can get farther than one city requesting improvements."

Kechi and Bel Aire hope to recruit Andover, Augusta and more communities along the highway to join the committee. The cities are interested in developing their respective sides of the highway. The point of a committee would be to communicate with neighbors while planning for those developments. The cities also want to work together to look at ways of making the highway safer to travel.

"The K-96 Corridor Association has a vibrant group of cities and businesses that want to emphasize economic development and highway safety," said Kechi City Administrator Bob Conger. "We'd like to do something similar along 254. At this point, we're trying to organize a meeting with all the cities between El Dorado and Wichita to come together and see what common causes we might have."

K-254 has seen a

number of fatalities. Many students use the road to get to school. An intersection near Towanda was the site of the death of a 17-year-old Circle High student just last month. Bel Aire council member Jeff Hawes has a son who attends the school and was a friend of the victim.

"My son went and stayed with the girl's boyfriend the night it happened," said Hawes. "No high school student should have to go to a funeral for their classmate and definitely no parent should have to bury their kid because a road is fundamentally flawed. This isn't the first time this has happened and I'm told 254 is one of the most dangerous roads in the state of Kansas. My kids drive on that road every day and I worry about them. I

worry when I drive it too because I've almost been hit and had to swerve out of the way. I couldn't imagine being a highway patrolman or state trooper on that road. If they're driving up to an accident, they are probably expecting the worst."

Safety on 254 is a concern among Bel Aire and Kechi residents. The hope is that this committee will work together and support action that will be good for economic development while also improving safety. The respective mayors of the cities are excited to be supporting each other in the project and look forward to working together.

"To look at a vision that benefits all of us together is exciting," said Bel Aire Mayor David Austin. "This is the very beginning and we're only in the informa-

tion gathering stage so it's all on the table. Each city along there has had bumps in the road and has been in survival mode at one point or another — but now we're able to look to the future as a collective voice."

"Everything is pretty new," said Kechi Mayor John Speer. "But, in principle, we're agreeing to work together. Mayor Austin and I have talked for a long time and have a mutual respect for one another. Each town is unique but there are also things we can do together. We want to treat each other like part of a big family as opposed to family feud. I think we all win if we think of ourselves as the northeast corridor while also being proud of the differences in our individual towns."

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