

The Bel Aire Breeze

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Complimentary copy

Bel Aire issues first beer license

For Dollar General at 45th and Woodlawn

By Taylor Messick

The Bel Aire City Council unanimously voted Feb. 4 to issue the city's first-ever cereal malt beverage license to Dollar General. Council member Joel Schroeder

said the business has jumped through several hoops in order to be eligible for the license.

"They are required to do so much by the state," said city attorney Jacqueline Kelly. "And then on top of that, Bel Aire also

adds our layer."

Kelly said there was a learning curve for staff since this was the first such license issued by the city. Products must be sold in original, unopened containers. The definition of cereal malt beverages

changed last year from beverages containing no more than 3.2 percent alcohol to beverages containing no more than 6 percent alcohol.

Council member Diane Wynn said she has been hearing from residents

about the desire for a place to purchase cereal malt beverages in town.

Dollar General opened at 4554 N. Woodlawn in the former location of Family Video and Marco's Pizza in September 2019.



Who will fill final seat on council?

Mayor calls botched process an embarrassment for city

By Taylor Messick

Mayor Jim Benage announced Feb. 18 that the appointment of the final member of the council would again be postponed. The council's first meeting this month is March 3.

Benage apologized for what he said was an embarrassment after his appointments of John D. Welch and Ashley Markley failed before the council on Feb. 4. The votes for both candidates failed 2-2 and Benage said he wasn't prepared to nominate a third candidate at that time. Welch was the third leading vote-getter in November with 643 votes (25.5 percent). He missed out on being elected by just one vote to council member Diane Wynn.

"That turned out to be an embarrassment for those I attempted to appoint and for the city," said Benage. "For my part, I apologize to the citizens of Bel Aire. It is not my intention to do anything to embarrass those who are sacrificing their time and energy to volunteer for civic engagement opportunities."

Benage said he would not attempt to nominate another member for the council until there was a consensus on a plan to go forward. The item was added to the council's next workshop for discussion. The mayor said he did not want to put other candidates in an awkward or embarrassing situation again and discourage people from applying for such positions. He said the city's policies are flawed.

"The city has a policy for appointing candidates for these open positions and has had this policy in place before most of us joined the governing body," said Benage. "That policy is flawed and fails to look at all contingencies. For example, in September of 2015, Ken Lee resigned from city council which left a vacancy. Mayor Austin attempted to fill that position and was embarrassed by having two candidates rejected by the council. See-

See COUNCIL, Page 5

Hunting for a good cause

On Jan. 18, Bel Aire Police Chief Darrell Atteberry and Lt. Robey Foxx, along with part-time Bel Aire officer and Benton Chief Braden Moore and his dog Kimber, participated in a charity pheasant hunt for El Dorado SRO Tyson Nielsen. Several Bel Aire residents participated in this event for a good cause. Nielsen was involved in an altercation at the school, suffered a broken leg and found out he has cancer. The leg will have to be partially amputated.

Courtesy photos



City extends land marketing contract

Agreement with John T. Arnold runs through March 18

By Taylor Messick

The Bel Aire City Council unanimously approved a marketing agreement to sell city-owned land at its Feb. 18

meeting. The lone agenda item was an extension to an existing marketing agreement.

"The city did send out requests for proposals for marketing land with four

companies responding," said Mayor Jim Benage. "In order to spend time reviewing the proposals and interviewing prospective firms, we will need another month."

The city entered a two-year listing agreement with John T. Arnold with a unanimous vote on Feb. 21, 2017. The agreement's expiration date was Feb. 19. The council

decided to approve a one-month extension at the Feb. 18 meeting. John T. Arnold will continue listing and marketing the city's land until March 18.



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Mayor's corner

By Jim Benage

The weather has been a bit of a rollercoaster ride with ups and downs. It feels the same at City Hall. We made two attempts to seat a new city council member. Both failed in a tie vote. That was embarrassing.

Rather than continue such an embarrassment for the city, I suspended nominations. We needed to work out how we were going to move forward and stop embarrassing the city while maintaining a certain level of consideration for the applicants.

At our city council meeting on Feb. 18, I gave a full explanation of where we stood, how we got there and what needed to happen in order to move forward with filling the open city council seat. Later that evening, we held a workshop and worked through the process. We determined a path forward and, if all works out, we will be able to agree on a new city council member at our meeting on March 3.

On Feb. 5, we held a meeting concerning the traffic issues on St. James and Isley School. That meeting included representatives from USD 259, Central Park Home Owner's Association, Andrew Reece (the developer of the area), a potential buyer of the vacant lot in that area and Waste Connections. Each of these stakeholders had valuable input.

We worked together to see what solutions we could put into place for the safety of the children and the neighborhood. A high-level plan was agreed upon. More specific details will be discussed at a follow-up meeting scheduled for March 4. Hopefully, having all the stakeholders involved we will have a plan that works for everyone.

During the campaign, I talked with several people about the possibility of having a "Coffee with the Mayor" event. This is an open opportunity to just talk about issues of interest to citizens. An open dialog. City government, with its formal meeting structure, does not provide that opportunity.

At our Feb. 18, meeting I announced that we would do this at 9 a.m. on March 14 at the City Hall. I invited all the city council Members as well. Of course, this is not a mandatory meeting. It is not a formal meeting of the City governing body. As such, there is no agenda.

We will talk about what you, the citizens of Bel Aire, want to discuss. Of course, we are not likely to resolve anything at this meeting, but we will be able to take your concerns and see if we can address those concerns in a productive manner. Feel free to join us.

It is an honor to serve as your mayor.

The Bel Aire Breeze

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City changes pool safety code

By Taylor Messick

Bel Aire City Council unanimously approved changes to the city's pool code on Feb. 4. The code was dated and did not incorporate new technologies used for pool safety.

"I think it's very positive to bring the code up to date to where technology is today and what is commonly practiced in a lot of pools," said Mayor Jim Benage.

Safety regulations for pools in the city previously required them to be fenced off. The intention is to keep children from being able to get into a property owner's pool unsupervised. However, there are new technologies that keep children safe from personal swimming pools that weren't included in the city's previous legislation.

Modern pool covers are deemed a safe and

effective way of keeping pools safe when no one is supposed to be using them. Council member Jeff Elshoff said the city wanted to make sure property owners had options.

"Obviously the priority here is to prevent or take measures that minimize the risk of children drowning in swimming pools," said Elshoff. "That's a great risk, and it's a good concern to have."

Elshoff said the types

of pool covers included in the update are effective. He was supportive of the item.

"We have a code that addresses that concern currently by mandating that a swimming pool has to be completely enclosed by a fence with a gate," said Elshoff. "We have newer technology that includes these pool toppers or covers that give security. These are typically a hard shell-type cover. It's

not like a floating plastic thing on top of the water. It's something that would prevent a child from entering — probably even more effective than a fence some may argue. I think this is a good thing to upgrade. It allows citizens interested in having a pool to not have to go through the additional expense or perhaps limitations that would come with putting up a full fence around the pool."



Public service

Bel Aire Mayor Jim Benage met with this Cub Scout group on Jan. 6 to help them learn about public service and local government.

Courtesy photo

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran-ELCA

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

Worship services are held at 9 a.m. (contemporary) and 11 (traditional). Communion is offered at both services. Sunday School for all ages begins at 10:10 a.m.

Beginning March 4, Lenten worship services will be offered on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. preceded by a potluck meal at 6:15. The theme for Lenten services is "Death, Resurrection and Hope."

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday services will be at 8:30 a.m. (contemporary) and 11:00 a.m. (traditional).

For more information about the church and its activities, find us online at www.christ-lutheran.org, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CLC-wichita/> 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 at 8 a.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade.

The parish/school website is www.resurrectionwichita.com, and the telephone number is 744-2776.

The Rev. Michael J. Schemm 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 phone number is 686-0208.

Sunday worship is at 10:15 a.m. A nursery is provided.

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

Cornerstone Christian Church will host a free family fun event from 4 to 6 p.m. the third Saturday of each month. See you there.

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

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 Michelle Gowin. 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.

Life University/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 Soye. Children's pastor is Nathaniel Thurman. Call the church at 755-2331.

Risen Savior Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Located at 6770 E. 34th North in northeast Wichita.

You can reach us at 683-5538 or via email at postmaster@risensavior.net.

Sunday morning services in our Worship Center are at 8 and 10:30, with a nursery and Children's Church during the 10:30 service. We provide adult Bible classes and children's Sunday school beginning at 9:15 a.m.

Lenten services are from 7:15 to 7:45 p.m. March 4, 11, 18 and 25 and April 1.

During the Lenten season, Wednesday Evening Ministries are from 6:30 to 7:05 p.m.

Palm Sunday services

are at 8 and 10:30 a.m. April 5.

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

Maundy Thursday service is at 7 p.m. April 9.

Good Friday service is at 7 p.m. April 10.

Easter Sunday services are at 8 and 10:30 a.m. April 12.

Each month we provide options to participate in a variety of Bible studies, fellowship and service opportunities for all ages.

Find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter — search RisenSaviorICT! Find out everything Risen Savior has to offer on our website www.risensavior.net.

Senior pastor is Tom Harmon. Assistant pastor is Nick Cordt.

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.

Worship with us Sunday Adult Class at 9 a.m., morning prayer at 9:45 a.m. and Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m., and Wednesday Holy Eucharist at 6 p.m.

Men's Bible study group

meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Monday.

Women's Bible study group meets at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Friday.

Wednesday service is at 6 p.m.

Saturday Vespers are at 4:30 p.m.

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

For more information call 734-6248 or go online www.saintmichaelorthodox-church.com. Email inquiries to jfflora@icloud.com.

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.godsclonet.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.

DEATH

RALPH HIGHT

Ralph W. Hight, 87, of Bel Aire, died Feb. 17, 2020.

He was born Sept. 14, 1932, in Columbus, Ohio, to W. J. and

Margaret G. (Linn) Hight.

He married Armida on July 20, 1957.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Myron and

Don. Survivors include his wife; daughters, Lisa (Rob), Becky (Wes) and Karen (Mark); 13 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren sisters-in-law Shirley Hight and Roselee Hight; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral Mass was Feb. 24 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Memorials may be made to Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church or Sunrise Rotary Club's Ralph & Armida High School Scholarship. Downing & Lahey Mortuary West had charge.

HIGHLIGHTS

Local students on honor rolls

Christopher R. Schrag, of Wichita, was named to the dean's list for the fall 2019 semester in the John Deere Tech program at Southeast Community College in Milford, Neb.

To receive this honor, a student must complete at least six semester credit hours with a minimum grade point average of 3.5.

Elanor Grace Qun Boshers, of Wichita, was named to the dean's list for the fall 2019 semester at Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C.

The dean's list includes students who earned between a 3.3 and a 3.9 grade point average during the semester.

Sarah Figueiredo, of Bel Aire, was named to the dean's list for the fall 2019 semester at the State University of New York (SUNY) in Oneonta, N.Y.

To qualify for the dean's list, a student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher while carrying a course load of 12 hours or more.

Sara Childs and Jordan Ellison, both of Bel Aire, were named to the dean's list for the fall 2019 semester at Barton Community College.

To qualify for this honor, students must have been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours and maintained a grade point average of between 3.5 and 3.99 for the semester.

Paul Amstutz, of Wichita, was named to the dean's list for the fall 2019 semester at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill.

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

The following area students were named to the dean's honor roll for the fall 2019 semester at Wichita State University:

Jacob C. Cantrell, Siya Chen, Jeremy R. Davolt, Chloe N. Demitras, Derek A. DeWerff, Michael A. Goddard, Elizabeth A. Harp, Samuel P. Hays, Tyler N. Heizelman, Lauren E. Howell, Samantha N. Howell, Brett H. Howie, Slate L. Jordan, Nathan C. Kampe, Sania H. Khokhar, Simrun Z. Khokhar, Kaden J. Kisner, Katriana M. Kisner, Youngjae Lee, Cody W. Lindsted, Cynthia E. Matson, Lina N. Nguyen, Kanissorn Nimcharoenwan, Grant P. Sherfield, Jonathan V. Thao, and Lindsey C. Turner.

To be included on the dean's honor roll, a student must be enrolled full time (at least 12 credit hours) and earn at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

The following area students earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2019 semester at the University of Kansas.

•From Bel Aire: Peter Ercolani, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Sarah Brooks, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Dylan Crane, School of

Business; Susanna Hobbs, School of Health Professions; Dylan Jensen, School of Business; and Leanne Tang, School of Nursing.

•From Wichita: Hannah Bachman, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Alexandra Corns, School of Health Professions; Vaughn Craddock, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Cameron Straw, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Andrew Abukalam, School of Pharmacy; Connor West, School of Business; Tarik Aginar, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Stephanie Pham, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Levi Aldag, School of Business; Duncan Bauserman, School of Engineering; Emme Bina, School of Engineering; Madison Cornwell, School of Business; Erin Courington, School of Health Professions; Zara Hassan, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Madison Huynh, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences & School of Business; Zane Issa, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Sura Jaradat, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Mia Kealey, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Zoe Lai, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Stephen Le, School of Pharmacy; Catherine Magana, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Emma Miller, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences & School of the Arts; Rylan Minar, School of Pharmacy; Christian Nassif, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Alexis O'malley, School of Business; Tumi Osunsanmi, School of Pharmacy; Taylor Powell, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Kyeisha Ross, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Tiger Ruan, School of Engineering; and Abigail Wagle, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

The following area students were named the honor roll and dean's lists for fall 2019 at Emporia State University.

•From Bel Aire: Crayton Bina, university honor roll and School of Business dean's list.

•From Wichita: Elia Brown, university honor roll and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences dean's list; Jordan Plank, university honor roll and School of Business dean's list; Jenna Porterfield, university honor roll; and Camille Sowa, university honor roll.

— The Breeze staff

Local students graduate

Two area students completed degree requirements from Kansas State University during the fall 2019 semester.

Andrew Kempf completed requirements for a bachelor of science in business administration. He graduated magna cum laude with a grade point average between 3.85 and 3.949.

Claire Tritschler completed requirements for a bachelor of science in human nutrition.

The following area students received academic degrees from Emporia State University in December 2019:

•From Bel Aire: Megan Carney, master of science in educational administration with concentration in educational administration preK-12; and Janice Heather Smith, master of science, curriculum & instruction with concentration in effective practitioner preK-12.

•From Wichita: Daniel Agbaji Agbaji, master of science, and instructional design & technology, master of library science, instructional design & technology; Tyler Palmer, master of accountancy; Norris Kendall Poole, master of science degree, health, physical education, & recreation; and Scott C. Truman, master of science, school psychology.

The following area students completed degrees at Fort Hays State University during the fall 2019 semester:

Kaylee Anne Hall-Mcdaniel, bachelor of science in nursing; Shelby Lynn Durler, a bachelor of science in psychology; and Tori Anne Rouse, bachelor of social work.

— The Breeze staff

Center receives 'excellence' nod

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) announced that Catholic Care Center in Bel Aire has earned AFA's "Excellence in Care (EIC) Dementia Care Program of Distinction." It is the seventh time the organization has received this distinction. Dementia care settings are eligible to achieve this national recognition after successfully undergoing an extensive evaluation of staff, procedures and environment, ensuring best practices in dementia care.

"Catholic Care Center has demonstrated an ability to raise the bar on dementia care," said Charles J. Fuschillo Jr., president and CEO of AFA. "We are proud to recognize them with the Excellence in Care distinction and look forward to their continued commitment to serving their community."

To earn this distinction, EIC sites must meet certain standards set forth by AFA focusing on the following three areas: facilitating meaningful living, promoting safety and security in the environment, and overall health and wellness of the care community being serviced.

"Our ministry strives each day to know, love, and serve people living with dementia and their families through a variety of programs, care settings and community outreach," said Debra Bilyeu-Hackney, Memory Care Program coordinator for Catholic Care Center.

— The Breeze staff

Victim cited after wreck

The victim of a hit-and-run apparently let his

anger get the best of her.

On Jan. 17, Bel Aire police responded to a hit-and-run crash in the 5300 block of North Lycee. The reporting party said a silver Ford Ranger backed out of the driveway across the street from her residence and struck her silver Ford Fusion.

While working that call, the neighbor across the street returned home and came over to inform the officers that the front door of the neighbor's home had been kicked in. Officers cleared the residence and discovered that all valuables were still in the residence.

It was later determined that the victim of the hit-and-run walked across the street and kicked the door in anger, trying to find out who was responsible for striking her Fusion.

Officers determined who the hit-and-run driver was, and arrested Kasey Matthew Gilpin of Bel Aire on charges of interference with a law enforcement officer and leaving the scene of a non-injury accident.

The victim of the hit-and-run, meanwhile, was cited for criminal damage to property for kicking open the front door of her neighbor's home instead of using the doorbell or knocking on the door.

— The Breeze staff

Pole thief arrested

He wanted a fishing pole pretty badly.

On Jan. 25, a man who was having an estate sale in the 5300 block of East Ashton reported that a suspect was seen stealing a fishing pole and reel during the sale. The suspect remained at the scene until the police arrived and voluntarily surrendered the property. A records check confirmed that the suspect had two City of Wichita bench warrants and that his driver's license was suspended. A check of the license plate on the suspect's vehicle showed a May 2020 sticker belonging to another vehicle.

Police seized the fraudulent sticker from the expired tag and had the vehicle towed from the scene. The suspect admitted he drove to the Bel Aire residence to commit the theft. Byron Wayne Foster was booked into the Sedgwick County Adult Detention Facility on the Wichita bench warrants. He was served with a summons for Bel Aire Municipal Court for the theft, and he was cited for driving with a suspended license, driving without a license in possession and illegal license plate.

— The Breeze staff

Twin sister not the suspect

It was a case of mistaken identity.

In late December, a woman falsely identified herself as her twin sister during a traffic stop investigation in the 4400 block of North Rock Road.

In late January, the innocent sister provided documents proving her identity. She additionally completed a written statement, which reported her sister has used her name on several traffic stops. The suspect sister has a revoked driver's license. The investigation is ongoing.

— The Breeze staff

Driver warned about honking

Though his intentions may have been in the right place, a driver was warned for honking through a neighborhood at 6:30 a.m.

After receiving a complaint of a vehicle honking unnecessarily at Central Park and Remington, a Bel Aire police officer parked his patrol vehicle in the area to listen. At 6:26 a.m., the officer saw a black Nissan Altima traveling north on Remington honking its horn as it approached Central Park.

The officer stopped the vehicle and spoke to the driver, who said he honks his horn every morning as he drives down Remington to avoid hitting dogs. It's not that he sees a dog; he just doesn't want to hit one. The man was advised that he will be cited in the future for improper use of horn should he continue to honk every morning.

— The Breeze staff

Local student in poetry finals

A local student is among those who were to be recognized by the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission through its 2020 Poetry Out Loud Final Competition.

The finals contest was scheduled for Feb. 29 at Salina South High School.

Heights High School student Ashton Conley was among eight students chosen for the contest.

Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest, presented in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, is part of a national program that encourages high school students to learn about poetry through memorization, performance and competition.

The contest begins in the classroom where students select poems from www.poetryoutloud.org to recite and compete for a spot at the state competition. In the 2019-20 Kansas Poetry Out Loud season, 1,499 students and 53 teachers from 20 Kansas high schools participated in preliminary contests leading to the state finals.

The state champion receives \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to compete in the Poetry Out Loud National Finals in April at Washington, D.C., to compete for a \$20,000 scholarship. In addition, the state champion's school receives a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The runner-up receives a cash donation to his or her school library.

— The Breeze staff

Local cities affordable

Two north Sedgwick County cities were ranked among the most affordable places to live in Kansas, according to SmartAsset, a personal finance technology company headquartered in New York City.

Bel Aire was ranked No. 1, while Park City was No. 6.

To find the most affordable places to buy a home, SmartAsset considered closing costs, real estate taxes, homeowner's insurance and mortgage rates in the analysis. The analysis included all cities with a population of 5,000 or more. SmartAsset measured the total cost of owning a home (using the average home cost) in each city over a five-year period. That five-year cost was then measured as a proportion of median household income in each place to determine affordability.

The most affordable places were those in which total housing costs were smallest compared to the median income in each area. Each city was indexed on a scale from 0 to 100, with the most affordable location receiving a score of 100.

Though the average annual mortgage payment was the highest among the Top 10 cities (\$8,151), Bel Aire was on top because its median income (\$95,250) was much higher than the rest of the Top 10, making housing more affordable as compared to other cities. By contrast, Park City's median income was \$69,921 with an annual mortgage payment of \$6,386.

— The Breeze staff

ANIMAL HOSPITAL
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heartlandpetcenter.com

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City of Bel Aire



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

- Pickleball** — Monday, Thursday, Friday, 9 to 11:30 a.m., Rec Center, \$2/ person
- Bel Aire Walkers** — Monday through Friday, 8 to 9 a.m., Rec Center (indoors)
- Line Dance Class** — Monday and Friday, 1 p.m., Community Room
- Sew "N" Sew More** — Monday, Wednesday & Friday, noon, Rec Center.
- Dynamic Aging** — Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m., Rec Center. \$40 for four weeks or \$5 per class. Chris at 620-640-2104 for more info.
- Bridge Games** — Tuesday, 1 p.m., Senior Center, must RSVP.
- Low Impact Aerobics** — Wednesday, 9 a.m., Rec Center
- Open Sewing** — Wednesday, 10 a.m., Rec Center
- Senior Breakfast** — Fridays, 9 a.m., Leeker's, Park City

Monthly & Special Events

- March 2, 6:30 p.m.** — Potluck and program — Chris Quintd, Active Living Everyday, City Hall
- March 4, 10 a.m.** — Volunteer library work group, Senior Center
- March 5, 1 p.m.** — Hand and foot canasta card game, Senior Center, RSVP
- March 12, 2 p.m.** — Open card and board games, Senior Center
- March 17** — Ladies dine out, call Anita 744-2840 for more info
- March 18, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.** — Blood pressure check (sponsored by Catholic Care), Rec Center
- March 18, 1 p.m.** — Book Club meeting, Senior Center
- March 19, 1 p.m.** — Hand and foot canasta, card game, Senior Center, RSVP
- March 23, noon** — Covered dish dinner and program, Rec Center
- March 26, 2 p.m.** — Open card and board games, Senior Center

There has been some interest in organizing a bus trip to the Golden Years Spring Festival on April 2 in Salina. For more information, visit <https://lindd.adobe.com/view/71e21932-1a4e-4ced-8817-a330656bd747> If interested, please contact the Rec Center.

Bel Aire Recreation

HELP WANTED

We are accepting applications for pool manager and lifeguards and dance instructor. Pool opens May 23. Please apply at ksgovjobs.com.

We are also accepting applications for dance instructor. Classes can be held on Thursday evenings and/or Saturdays. Contact Ashley Sherwood at asherwood@belaireks.gov if interested.

Volunteers Needed

Want to be volunteer to be a part of Bel Aire Community Events?! Our Spring Festival is April 4. Contact Ashley Sherwood (asherwood@belaireks.gov) if interested.

ActivStars Cheerleading

Come cheer at Bel Aire Rec! Sign up at www.mw.activstars.com starting at \$9 per class on Tuesday evenings. Deadline has passed; limited openings remain.

ActivStars Tumbling

Come tumble at Bel Aire Rec! Sign up at www.mw.activstars.com starting at \$9 per class on Monday evenings. Deadline has passed; limited openings remain.

Indoor Soccer

For ages 4 through 11. Practice began the last week of February and games are scheduled to begin March 7. The deadline has passed, but limited openings remain.

School's Out Camp

Need something for the kids to do during spring break? Sign them up for our School's Out Camp! A day full of sports, games, arts & crafts and more activities. March 16 through 20 from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Register by March 2.

Recreational Baseball, Softball, T-ball

For boys ages 5 through 11 and girls ages 5 through 12. **Registration deadline is April 27.**

Taekwondo (ages 5 & up)

Classes meet Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Great classes for beginners to black belts.

Breakfast with the Bunny

April 4, 9 to 10 a.m. Bel Aire Rec Center. \$3 per person. Come join our Bunny and have doughnuts, muffins, juice & coffee! Avoid the line before and after the 1:30 p.m. egg hunts. RSVP to 744-2700 or asherwood@belaireks.gov.

Dynamic Aging

Geared toward individuals age 50 and above. Practice a variety of movements in a safe environment. Classes meet at 9 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Adult Pickleball

Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in the Rec Center gym. \$2 drop-in fee.

Yoga

Classes held Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. Participants need to provide their own yoga mat. Join at any time.

Senior Aerobics

Includes fat burning cardio aerobics. Low-impact exercises designed to reduce stress on your joints and back while using all major muscle groups. Meets Wednesdays from 9 to 10 a.m.

Fitness Center

Need a place to work on your New Year's resolutions? Check out our fitness center. The Fitness Center consists of elliptical cross trainers, free weights, multistation weight machine, recumbent bike and treadmills.

FREE Senior Programs

Line dancing, senior aerobics, Bel Aire Walkers, gameday, potluck dinners, sewing, blood pressure checks and more. Please call Bel Aire Rec for more information.

For more info about any Bel Aire rec program, call 744-2700, visit www.belaireks.gov or follow us on Facebook @BelAireRec.

Community Events

- March 3** — City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall
- March 4** — Municipal Court, 7 p.m., City Hall
- March 11** — Lions Club, 11:30 a.m., Gospel Assembly Church
- March 12** — Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m., City Hall
- March 16** — Utility Advisory Committee, noon, City Hall
- March 17** — City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall
- March 19** — Municipal Court, noon, City Hall
- March 23** — Tree Board, 7 p.m., City Hall
- March 25** — Lions Club, 11:30 a.m., Gospel Assembly Church
- April 4** — Spring Festival, noon to 3 p.m., Rec Center
- April 11** — City brush site open, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 53rd North between Rock and Webb

More information can be found at 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 17, 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, and the Sedgwick County Local Emergency Planning Committee	

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Census data matters to your community.

An under count in Bel Aire means our community could miss out on approximately **\$54,548.40** in federal funding (over 10 years) for each household that is missed in the 2020 census.

Census Day is April 1, 2020. Households will receive a letter with instructions for completing the census beginning in March 2020. The Census Bureau will not call or email you.

How can you respond?

Online

Computers are available in the Bel Aire Senior Center during business hours.

Phone

Mail

For more information about the census, visit kansascounts.org.

BEL AIRE POLICE REPORTS

Dec. 24 — A woman falsely identified herself as her twin sister during a traffic stop investigation in the 4400 block of North Rock Road. In January, the innocent sister provided documents proving her identity. She additionally completed a written statement, which reported her sister has used her name on several traffic stops. The suspect sister has a revoked driver's license. Investigation is ongoing.

Dec. 27 — Officer Steele responded to the call of a robbery in the 4100 block of North Auburn. The reporting party said he had been using cocaine with two friends, John and Christy. The reporting party didn't know if he gave the two money or if they took the money.

Jan. 16 — A resident in the 5300 block of East 37th North reported an unknown person broke the front passenger-side window of her vehicle and stole her purse that was sitting on the front passenger seat.

Jan. 16 — Two residents in the 4100 block of North Auburn reported an unknown man rang the doorbells of their residences. Officers located the man and determined he was having some psychological issues. The officers worked with the man and got him back to his home.

Jan. 17 — Chief Atteberry stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5500 block of East 53rd North. The driver was cited for no driver's license in possession and no proof of insurance.

Jan. 17 — A woman in the 4800 block of Farmstead Court received an email from an unknown person that had her bank, routing number, legal name and current address. The woman made a report to document the incident.

Jan. 17 — Chief Atteberry stopped a vehicle for speeding in a school zone in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn. The driver was cited for no insurance and driving with a suspended license. Relatives came to give the driver and her two children a ride. Relatives removed the vehicle after securing insurance coverage.

Jan. 17 — Officers Crouse and Manuel were dispatched to a hit-and-run crash in the 5300 block of North Lycee. The reporting party said a silver Ford Ranger backed out of the driveway across the street from her residence and struck her silver Ford Fusion. While working that call, the neighbor across the street returned home and came over to inform the officers that the front door of the neighbor's home had been kicked in. Officers cleared the residence and discovered that all valuables were still in the residence. It was later determined that the victim of the hit-and-run kicked the door in anger in an effort to find out who struck her car. Through the investigation, it was determined who the hit-and-run driver was. Kasey Matthew Gilpin of Bel Aire was arrested on charges of interference with a law enforcement officer and leaving the scene of a non-injury accident. The victim of the hit-and-run was cited for criminal damage to property for kicking open the front door of her neighbor's home instead of using the doorbell or knocking on the door.

Jan. 19 — A white Mitsubishi Eclipse was observed traveling west on 37th Street North. A check showed the registration expired and removed on a SAAB. The vehicle

was stopped. The driver explained he recently purchased the vehicle and was using an old license plate to drive on. The driver was served a notice to appear in court.

Jan. 19 — Officer Manuel saw the driver of a red Chevy Cobalt commit several driving infractions in the 7000 block of East 45th North. Manuel attempted to stop the car, but the driver would not pull the car over and stop. When the driver finally stopped the vehicle, the driver was moving around a lot in the vehicle and failed to comply with commands from the officer. After a third officer arrived, the officers attempted to remove the driver from the vehicle. The driver actively resisted by holding onto the steering wheel and resisted being handcuffed. During a search of the vehicle, several grams of marijuana and scales were found. At the conclusion of the investigation, the driver was arrested on charges of distribution of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, attempting to evade and elude, interference with law enforcement officers, operating a motor vehicle without a valid license and no proof of insurance.

Jan. 19 — A resident in the 5500 block of North Lycee Court reported his 2010 GMC Sierra and wallet were stolen by his roommate. He said his roommate could be headed to Emporia or Hiawatha. Officer Steele issued a be-on-the-lookout notice to state law enforcement agencies.

Jan. 19 — A man in the 3800 block of North Oliver reported the passenger-side back window of his work vehicle had been broken and items were missing. Unknown suspects.

Jan. 19 — Bel Aire officers assisted the Kechi Police Department and Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office with a suicidal person call in Kechi. A man was located on the front driveway of a property. The man made several "suicide by cop" statements, and he stated he had multiple weapons concealed on his person. After Sedgwick County utilized less lethal weapons to subdue the man, he was taken into custody and transported to a hospital for evaluation.

Jan. 20 — A woman in the 6700 block of East Rodeo reported she had a temporary restraining order against a man that had not been served. The man left before officers could serve the protection-from-abuse order on him.

Jan. 21 — Officer Steele stopped a car for running a stop sign in the 5400 block of North Lycee. The driver had a bench warrant through the City of Wichita. The woman was arrested. She also received a citation for running a stop sign and driving with a suspended license. The suspect's name was not available.

Jan. 21 — A student in the 5500 block of North Lycee was found to be in possession of a green leafy substance, i.e. marijuana, and related marijuana paraphernalia, while at school.

Jan. 21 — A man in the 4800 block of North Indian Oak reported his credit union banking information had been compromised and was used to make charges, deposits and a manufactured check between Nov. 22, 2019, and Jan. 17, 2020. The man reported the bank had reimbursed him for most of the loss.

Jan. 24 — Chief Atteberry received a call regarding some

puppies and adult dogs running at-large and being left outside all night in the 5000 block of North Remington. The owner of the dogs was contacted and acknowledged at least one 4-month-old German short hair/border collie mix was getting out regularly. The dog owner also indicated her adult male dog was not registered in Bel Aire. The woman was warned and given time to remedy the situation.

Jan. 25 — Officers Toomey and Steele responded to a domestic violence disturbance in the 6300 block of East 37th North. Officers found no evidence of a disturbance.

Jan. 25 — A man having an estate sale in the 5300 block of East Ashton reported that a suspect was seen stealing a fishing pole and reel during the sale. The suspect remained at the scene until the police arrived. The suspect voluntarily surrendered the fishing reel. A records check confirmed that the suspect had two City of Wichita bench warrants and that his driver's license was suspended. A check of the license plate on the suspect's vehicle showed a May 2020 sticker belonging to another vehicle. Officer Trumbull seized the fraudulent sticker from the expired tag and had the vehicle towed from the scene. The suspect admitted he drove to the Bel Aire residence to commit the theft. Byron Wayne Foster was booked into the Sedgwick County Adult Detention Facility on the Wichita bench warrants. He was served with a summons for Bel Aire Municipal Court for the theft, and he was cited for driving with a suspended license, driving without a license in possession and illegal license plate.

Jan. 26 — Officer Crouse found a dark blue Nissan Versa blocking the road with flashing hazard lights on in the 4200 block of North St. James. Kabika Mujjima of Bel Aire was arrested on a charge of DUI.

Jan. 26 — Officer Steele responded to a call of a lost nonverbal adult with Down Syndrome in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn. Steele requested assistance from Sedgwick County Fire Station No. 37 and Kechi police. Shortly after beginning a search of the interior of Resurrection Catholic Church, the man was located in a restroom inside of the building. He was safe.

Jan. 27 — Chief Atteberry cited a driver for expired vehicle tag from October 2019 in the 4000 block of North Woodlawn.

Jan. 27 — A student in the 5500 block of North Lycee was found to be in possession of marijuana while on school property.

Jan. 27 — A homeowner reported a burglary to his residence in the 5600 block of East 39th North. The man said toolboxes and tools had been removed from inside of the garage. Additional property had been taken from outside of the garage. There were no signs of forced entry and no suspect description was provided.

Jan. 29 — A woman in the 5600 block of North Lycee reported finding dog feces on her car. It may be related to an ongoing disagreement with a neighbor.

Jan. 29 — A resident from the 4600 block of North Krueger came into the police station to report that a tree-trimming company drove on the vacant lot adjacent to their property to cut trees for the electric company and left large ruts

in the grass and dirt. A report was made for documentation.

Jan. 29 — Officers were dispatched to the report of a suicidal patient at Bel Aire Recovery Center in the 4900 block of Tierra Lakes Parkway. The patient did not wish to speak to officers and did not appear to be a danger to herself or others.

Jan. 29 — A man reported three unknown juvenile males spray painted playground equipment in Denise Park.

Jan. 30 — A resident in the 5700 block of North Lycee reported her upstairs neighbor has two dogs that constantly bark late at night and early in the morning, disturbing her and her young son. The woman said when she attempted to speak to her neighbor, the neighbor yelled and screamed obscenities at her. While speaking with the reporting party, Officer Smithwick could hear the dogs upstairs barking loudly. Smithwick contacted the dog owner and educated her on the Bel Aire city ordinance of nuisance animals and given several options to alleviate the barking.

Jan. 29 — After receiving a complaint of a vehicle honking unnecessarily at Central Park and Remington, Officer Manuel parked his patrol vehicle in the area to listen. At 6:26 a.m., Manuel observed a black Nissan Altima traveling north Remington honking its horn as it approached Central Park. Manuel stopped the vehicle and spoke to the driver. The driver said he honks his horn every morning as he drives down Remington to avoid hitting dogs. It's not that he sees a dog; he just doesn't want to hit one. The man was advised that he will be cited in the future for improper use of horn should he continue to honk every morning.

Feb. 1 — Officer Manuel stopped a gold Cadillac DTS for a defective headlamp in the 3800 block of North Woodlawn. The driver did not have a driver's license and her proof of insurance was expired. The driver was issued a citation.

Feb. 1 — Officer Steele responded to a disorderly conduct report involving barking dogs in the 5700 block of North Lycee. After confirming the dogs were barking, he attempted to speak to the owner, but could not make contact.

Feb. 1 — Officer Crouse and a Kechi officer were dispatched to a domestic violence call in Kechi. While in the residence on the call, Kechi police saw marijuana. The woman was arrested.

Feb. 3 — Officer Manuel saw a gold Toyota Avalon speeding in the 4500 block of North Woodlawn. Manuel went after the vehicle and saw the driver run the stop sign at 45th and Woodlawn at about 55 mph. The vehicle left the road at 4600 N. Woodlawn, went into the grass and improperly used turn signal multiple times. When the vehicle finally stopped, Manuel contacted the driver and attempted to do standard field sobriety testing. The driver was unable to complete the tests. The driver did not have a driver's license. Luis Eduardo Diaz-Tovar of Wichita was arrested on a charge of DUI and all the associated traffic charges.

Feb. 3 — A woman in the 3800 block of North Hillcrest reported that she was contacted by email by a subject she believed to be her boss. At their request, she purchased eight \$200 gift cards for Target and sent the information for them to the subject. The information for only four cards

went through. She is working with her bank to see if she can get some of her money back. It was a scam.

Feb. 4 — Four boys reported a fifth boy had locked them out of his residence in the 5700 block of East Flagstaff. The boy in the residence punched his brother, forcefully banged his brother's head into a cabinet and chased him with a knife. The agitated boy also chased one of the other boys with a pair of scissors and then threw the scissors at the boy. The agitated boy cut himself with the knife. The agitated boy was transported by his mother to the hospital for an evaluation.

Feb. 5 — Officer Steele responded to the report of a damaged fire hydrant in the 4900 block of North Indian Oaks. Steele located tire marks in the area, but it was not apparent what specifically damaged the fire hydrant.

Feb. 5 — Chief Atteberry cited a woman for speeding, driving with no driver's license in possession, and driving without proof of liability insurance.

Feb. 6 — Officer Crice was contacted by an administrator regarding a student who was found in possession of a vape pen with marijuana liquid in the 5500 block of North Lycee. The student was cited, given the informational folder to contact the Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center and was released to his grandfather.

Feb. 6 — Officers Gibson, Smithwick and Stearns responded to an assist EMS call in the 4800 block of North Farmstead. A resident at the location has a history of being combative with emergency response units and has access to swords in the residence. The male resident was having an episode and walked away from EMS and fire units. After a considerable struggle, officers were able to get the man subdued and EMS was able to start an IV and bring his medical condition under control.

Feb. 7 — A green GMC Sierra pickup displaying an obstructed plate was observed failing to maintain its lane of travel in the 5200 block of North Webb. The operator of the truck was found to be driving with a suspended driver's license. He was cited for the violations.

Feb. 7 — Lt. Foxx went to assist Kechi Chief Woodrow on a suspicious character who was seen on private property walking out of a tree row in the 5700 block of North Woodlawn. They located the subject who refused to identify himself. The subject was identified by the use of a Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office Rapid ID. The man has severe mental health problems and is homeless. He was not receptive to police intervention into his life. The man was transported by a sheriff's deputy Clopton with Sedgwick County Sheriff to St. Joseph Hospital for mental health evaluation. Lt. Foxx

Feb. 7 — Officers took a report of some damaged outdoor artwork in the development in the 5000 block of North Rock Road. The property owner was contacted and didn't know if they wanted to make a report yet.

Feb. 8 — Officer Manuel assisted the Kechi Police Department during a DUI investigation in the 4700 block of East 61st North.

Feb. 8 — A 2017 Subaru Outback was traveling north on Oliver when it collided with the 2013 Buick Regal that was traveling east on 53 North. No injuries were reported.

Feb. 9 — Officers Gibson

and Stearns responded to a domestic violence incident in the 5700 block of East Odessa. A woman got into a disagreement with her son about what to watch on TV. During the disagreement, the woman's son took his mother's phone when she threatened to call 911. The adult son was given a Bel Aire Municipal Court date for criminal deprivation of property. The son, Christopher A. Anderson, also had a City of Wichita bench warrant, so he was arrested.

Feb. 10 — A woman reported an unknown individual threw an egg on her 2017 Jeep Wrangler parked in the driveway in the 4900 block of North Hedgerow. Multiple eggs were located broken in the driveway near the vehicle. No damage was reported to the vehicle. No other vehicles appeared to be vandalized in the immediate area.

Feb. 10 — Chief Atteberry cited a man for driving with an expired registration tag in the 4600 block of North Rock Road. The man said he was aware the license plate was expired and he would resolve the matter soon. The registration had been expired for months.

Feb. 11 — Bel Aire officers responded to assist the Kechi Police Department with a rolling disturbance that ended at 9000 E. 61st North. Bel Aire officers took custody of a suspect for domestic battery.

Feb. 12 — Chief Atteberry cited a driver for speeding in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn. The driver was also cited for expired driver's license.

Feb. 12 — A man reported a Netflix DVD had been removed from his mailbox in the 4700 block of North Oliver. He reported the DVD "The Girl in the Spider's Web" had been put in the mailbox last night. The man reported that he observed tire tracks in the snow and the mailbox flag had been raised. There was no specific suspect description or surveillance footage provided as of the time of the report.

Feb. 12 — A woman reported a white GMC truck rear-ended her blue Lexus NX300 in the 4600 block of North Woodlawn. The driver of the truck said snow fell from the vehicle's roof onto the windshield. He couldn't see and he struck the Lexus. Neither driver was injured, and both vehicles were driven away from the scene.

Feb. 12 — A woman reported her ex-boyfriend arrived at her residence to reconcile their relationship in the 6500 block of East Rodeo. The woman said she told him she did not wish to reconcile the relationship, and the man placed his firearm under his chin and threatened to kill himself. The man left the residence before the officer's arrival. Sgt. Davis was able to make contact with the man by phone. The man said he did not wish to harm himself anymore, and refused to disclose his whereabouts to officers.

Feb. 13 — A man from the 5800 block of South Kansas was arrested, transported and booked into Sedgwick County Adult Detention Facility for a Bel Aire warrant.

CLASSIFIEDS

8 For Sale

1 plot at Resthaven Gardens of Memory in Rose Garden. Lot 3C with vault. Individual marker with vase opening and closing 316-518-3868.

Council

Continued from Page 1

ing our scenario starting to begin in that direction, I stopped the nomination process on February 4."

Benage said he originally received seven applications for the open council seat and one dropped out. Benage asked council members to review their applications and meet with them personally. Council members were asked by the mayor to provide their personal rankings of the candidates.

"I thought this would protect the privacy of the candidates and allow council to make a more informed decision when it came time for me to actually present them a nominee and also allow

me to be more inclusive to the council members' thoughts in my nomination decision," said Benage. "I preferred this process because it would protect the interests of the nominees who weren't selected and allowed a smoother information-gathering process for myself and allowed council members to be prepared for discussion and confirmation."

The mayor said he was disappointed that more discussion regarding the votes didn't take place. He said he expected council members to share more about the reasoning behind their votes. Later in that meeting, a request was made to have members explain their votes and some reasons were given. However, Benage said he is not confident that he knows what the council

wants.

"There has been ample opportunity for all council members to voice their opinions on any and all candidates," he said. "I have no clear sense of how this council will vote on any candidate I would put forward. ... My fear is that there is not one single candidate that could garner a majority vote — further embarrassing the city. As much as I am able, I will have no part in further embarrassing the city."

The council could vote on a new city council member at its March 3 meeting.

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Meeting with the governor

Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher, Bel Aire city council member Diane Wynn and Park City council member Tom Jones and the rest of the REAP Executive Committee met with Gov. Laura Kelly and Kansas Department of Labor Secretary Delia Garcia at the Feb. 13 quarterly REAP meeting.

Courtesy photo



Rescue Mission

Courtesy photo

Byron West from the Union Rescue Mission of Wichita was a guest at the Bel Aire Lions Club meeting on Feb. 12. He presented an overview of the rescue mission for men. Presenting a gift of appreciation to West is Lion President Ken Fischer.



Super Bowl giveaway

Courtesy photo

Katie Bing won the Bel Aire Recreation Center's Super Bowl giveaway Jan. 31. It included a number of snacks and Kansas City Chiefs gear.

National wheelchair b-ball tournaments to be held in Bel Aire

By Randy Fisher

The National Wheelchair Basketball Association will hold its 2020 NWBA Toyota Adult & Junior Wheelchair Basketball National Championships March 12 through 15 at Wichita Hoops, 5260 Toler Drive, in Bel Aire.

Founded in 1948, the NWBA's 73rd annual national tournaments will have 48 teams from its three adult divisions playing March 12 through 14. Forty-eight teams from the junior division will compete March 13 through 15. Ticket prices at the gate are \$32 for adults

all sessions and \$19 per single session (\$10 with Kansas driver's license). Children 11 through 18 are \$12 all sessions and \$10 per single session (\$5 with adult with Kansas driver's license). Children 10 and under are free.

For more information on the 2020 NWBA Toyota Wheelchair Basketball National Championships go to www.nwba.org/2020nationals.

Go to www.signupgenius.com/go/9040e44aba92aabfa7-2020 to volunteer for the tournaments, which are being hosted by Visit Wichita.

Council approves Rock Spring improvements

By Taylor Messick

The Bel Aire city council approved three items related to Rock Spring Phase 6 on Feb. 4. Each of the items was unanimously approved.

The first action taken by the council regarding the development was to accept revised paving petitions. The final price came back as more than the engineer's estimate. "State statutes require

a petition to be submitted whenever a public infrastructure needs to be installed," said Mayor Jim Benage. "In the petition, the engineer establishes an estimate that caps the amount to be spent, thereby protecting the property owner. In this case, the developer requested concrete streets and as a result, the bids came in \$18,000 higher than the estimate." The developer was

fine with the additional cost and approved of the revised petition.

The next action was to select a bid for paving improvements to Rock Spring Phase 6. The city got five bids and selected the lowest, which

was Kansas Paving at \$233,042.50.

Also accepted was a bid for water main improvements to Rock Spring Phase 6. Council again picked the low bid, which was Dondlinger Construction at \$31,494.

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Bluestem Communities Resident

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