

The Bel Aire Breeze

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Cities seek growth and safety on K-254

By David Dinell

With an eye on the future, local city leaders gathered recently with officials from the private sector to examine issues along the K-254 corridor, which runs between Wichita and El Dorado.

Representatives from Kechi and Bel Aire, along with officials from

Benton, Towanda and El Dorado gathered at the meeting, held on Sept. 30 in Benton, to discuss topics such as traffic safety and future development.

Other topics included a re-examination of the 10-year-old K-254 corridor plan, technological changes that have occurred since then and their effects on transportation.

There also was discussion on differences between the corridor 20 years ago compared to current times.

Formally titled "K-254 Corridor - A Growth and Safety Discussion," the meeting was organized by Trans-Systems, a Kansas City, Mo.-based engineering firm with a Wichita office, and attracted about 30 people. At this time, there is no formal

group organized to deal with the corridor, but those attending said it was a good first step and could lead to future action — and the possible formation of a permanent K-254 association.

"It was really about bringing everyone to the table and identifying the fact that if we're all there, we'll make better decisions for the corridor," said

assistant Bel Aire city manager and finance director Michelle Meyer. "It was a chance for everyone to introduce themselves."

A major aspect of the meeting was safety. A number of accidents along the road, including several fatalities this year, have led to concern.

See K-254, Page 4

Bel Aire Fall Festival



Gracelyn Liggett, 4, of Bel Aire gets her face painted by Meghan Nipper. There was no shortage of children who wanted a facial decoration at the Bel Aire Fall Festival Oct. 17.

Photos by David Dinell

Community comes together for festival fun



Veteran country caller Lanny Reichert takes part in the line-dancing activity put on by the Bel Aire Senior Center.

By David Dinell

Nicole Rucker made a new friend at the Bel Aire Fall Festival: A fuzzy, fun-to-touch alpaca named Jade.

Jade patiently took in 1-year-old Nicole's affection at the petting zoo, although they both played a little game of tag, too.

It was part of the community celebration Oct. 17 at the Bel Aire Recreation Center, an event that attracted about 800 people.

For many residents, such as the Ruckers, it's not to be missed. "We come out each year," said Nicole's father, Robby Rucker.

It's convenient for them,



Mike Carrell shows off the decorations with his 1953 Chevrolet. "I want to make it entertaining," he said of the whimsical decorations.

too, as they live right across the street.

Along with the animals, the festival featured train rides, a car show, a bounce house, face painting, games and live music.

Except for the vendor fair, which was in the center, everything else was outside in the crisp, cool — and sometimes quite breezy — fall day.

"We could have used a touch more warmth," laughed Bel Aire community development specialist Tristin Terhune, who was in charge of organizing the event.

The chill led at least one festival-goer to wrap herself in a blanket, but others came well prepared with jackets and lined vests — or moved about quickly, such as the Bel Aire seniors in the line-dancing event.

By noon, the sun had warmed things up, much to the relief of Donna Graham, who was belting out tunes on a keyboard as husband Frank played guitar.

The duo, who call themselves "Timeless," featured dozens of rock 'n' roll hits from the 1960s and 1970s.

They were providing background music, so the Grahams didn't have a formal audience, but they said they were having as much fun playing as the festival-goers strolling by.

Next to the Grahams were 53 vehicles of all makes, models and colors in the "Cruise into Bel Aire Car Show."

Among them was Mike Carrell and his somewhat plain Jane 1953 Chevrolet.

"I can't compete with all these



Joe Yates drives the wagon train. "Everyone loves it," he said of the ride, which made its way across an open field and back.

others," said Carrell, waving to the line of expensive, tricked-out vehicles, "so I make it entertaining."

Carrell outfitted his vehicle with accoutrements of a 1950s drive-in, including a window tray with a burger, fries and Coke.

"I have fun doing it," he said with a smile as a girl toyed with the meal display.

Another popular attraction was the wagon train rides sponsored by the Bel Aire Chamber of Commerce.

The activity featured small covered wagons that were driven across a field with all the spirit of the days of yesteryear — ex-

See FESTIVAL, Page 6

Divided council approves member

By David Dinell

The Bel Aire City Council has a new member — but the selection occurred only after some sparked discussion.

Mayor David Austin had two nominees in mind for the council to consider: Jennette Clement and Jeff Oldenettel. They finished third and fourth, respectively, behind Ken Lee and Betty Martine in the spring election.

However, a council coalition of Martine, Guy MacDonald and Ramona Becker didn't want either candidate in the slot and instead went with the third person who expressed interest, Diane Wynn.

The council approved her selection and she will be sworn in at the Nov. 3 meeting.

She will replace Lee, who resigned Sept. 1, citing increasing personal and professional duties that didn't permit him time to perform the job.

In years past, the mayor and council would have had more time to make their selection, but a new state law mandates that a city governing body replace a departed member within 60 days

See COUNCIL, Page 2

Three shot in dispute over drugs and money

By David Dinell

A dispute over money owed in a drug deal ended with two men dead and one other wounded, police said.

Shortly before 9 p.m. on Oct. 22, Wichita police officers were dispatched to a vehicle accident in 5300 block of North Meridian, just south of Valley Center.

Upon arrival, a witness told officers that a man fled the vehicle. That man went up to a group of people several hundred yards away outside a nearby residence and told them he shot three people. Police say there was no relationship between those people and the shooter.

The driver, 21-year-old Omar Garcia, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Two other men, one 21 and the other 22, were found shot in the back seat of the car. They were both taken in extremely critical condition to Via Christi-St. Francis. All three were shot in the head.

One of the two men, Ernesto Aguilar-Retana, 21, died five days later on Oct. 27. The name of the third man has not been released.

The chain of events began earlier in the evening, when the suspect had gone to a family

See SHOOTING, Page 4



Mayor's corner

By David Austin

Last month I had the pleasure of calling Diane Wynn and congratulating her on being selected to fill the open council seat. Our city policy states the mayor is to put forth a candidate and the council confirm. I want to thank Jeff Oldenettel and Jeanette Clement, who also applied and were nominated by me. In the end, a unanimous affirmative vote confirmed Mrs. Wynn and I look forward to welcoming her to our council.

Happy 35th birthday — Bel Aire was actually founded in 1955 with the creation of a water district. It was a very small handful of homes in the middle of nowhere. On Nov. 26, 1980, Bel Aire was formally incorporated as a city after a two-year battle with the City of Wichita.

Our tagline is “City of the Future with Respect for Its Past.” Our past delivered us to our present and our commitment, dedication and perseverance will boldly drive us into the future.

We are blessed with an amazing city staff led by City Manager Ty Lasher and Police Chief Darrel Atteberry.

Other celebrations — The Wichita Area Builders Association annual Fall Parade of Homes featured 16 Bel Aire homes. I don’t believe there is any other community in this region that had as many. We are growing and attracting new families every day. This includes Iron Gate, our newest development on Woodlawn, which had a very successful open house in October.

Thank you to all the volunteers and to the Bel Aire Chamber of Commerce and Chisholm Trail State Bank for their sponsorships of the Bel Aire Fall Festival. Nearly 800 people came through and enjoyed the vendors, the games, the petting zoo, car show, Bel Aire Lions health screening trailer and so much more. It was a fantastic event and reminded me again of how proud I am of this city and how honored I am to be its mayor. Plans are already underway for 2016 events.

Principal payment — Perhaps the biggest reason to celebrate is the recent \$825,000 principal payment made in October. I was thrilled to announce this at our Oct. 6 meeting. All of this growth is a result of years of planned growth and careful budgeting. What I think I am most proud of with our current council is that we are focused on the future and don’t dwell on the past. This has allowed us to continue this great work. The \$825,000 is applied directly to the principal and is in addition to our regularly scheduled interest payment.

Your council approved a land bank agreement at the Oct. 20 meeting, which means an additional half mil in savings.

Giving community — In October, I honored a council member for privately and individually helping out a resident in need. This came on the heels of the Lions Club making a generous gift and members of the Bel Aire Police Department giving individually to help a citizen. My hope is to have someone to honor each month who goes above and beyond to help others in our community.

The Community Development Advisory Committee met following the Fall Fest to plan the 2015 Christmas Open House slated for Dec. 15. More than half the meeting was spent discussing ways the event can be used to help others, including animals, in the community.

Openings — We have openings on our community advisory committee as well as the soon-to-be launched Mayor’s Youth Council. If you are interested or want information, please contact City Hall.



City halls are fine without God motto

As a newspaper, we opposed last month the placement of the phrase “In God We Trust” in the council chambers of City Hall in Park City.

It’s an unnecessary move, especially considering the potential divisiveness of those four words.

The effort was proposed by members of the Park City City Council last month.

Sure, we understand the rationale of those who support the effort. They say that it would serve as a reminder that the founding fathers believed that Americans’ rights came from a creator and not from royalty or from a government. Supporters say it has nothing to do with religion. Its mere purpose is to encourage patriotism.

Well, those are convenient arguments in a more complicated issue.

These days, the phrase has many interpretations.

Why do we need “In God We Trust” anyway?

There are plenty of ways to promote patriotism and respect for the history of the United States without stepping into an arena that could be — at best — offensive to some people and — at worst — the promotion of one religion over others.

We have many U.S. flags in public areas. They’re universally

Out of the office

By Chris Strunk



recognized as the symbol of patriotism, freedom and liberty and a nod to this country’s history and foundation. The U.S. flag commands respect and reverence, not arguments and misunderstandings.

The Park City City Council approved the proposal with a unanimous vote last month. However, the council will consider funding for the resolution at a future meeting.

We can see no reason to spend a dime of taxpayer money on the proposal.

We hope, too, that this doesn’t become a trend in the cities across the north part of the county.

I went to the Prairie Fire Marathon for the first time Oct. 11. Don’t get excited. I wasn’t running.

My son ran the 5K event, so I went to support him and take pictures.

Out of the thousands of runners — they said close to 4,000

registered for the events — I saw several people from the Valley Center area.

We ran into Paul Klinkhammer first. He’s a dedicated runner. He ran the half marathon in just over two hours.

We also saw Rachael McGettigan of Valley Center. She finished the half marathon in just under three hours. McGettigan is the wife of city councilman Brendan McGettigan, owner of Avery Automotive.

I saw Wheatland Elementary Principal Adelyn Soellner. She was on the spectator side of the gates, but her name showed up in the race results anyway. Soellner said she’s been too busy preparing for her first year at Wheatland that she didn’t have time to train, so she asked a friend to take her bib for her. Her friend finished the half marathon in 2 hours, 37 minutes.

We also saw June Marcy of Valley Center. She was among the spectators supporting the runners.

We talked to Sherri Patterson of Valley Center. She ran the 5K. Her son, Matthew, is one of the top runners at the middle school, so she thought she would start running as well.

We didn’t see Lee Owens, but the shirtless 45-year-old apparently finished 62nd in the half marathon, completing the 13.1-mile

course in 1:37. The Valley Center teacher and middle school cross country coach is an avid distance runner. Ask him about his most recent Pikes Peak experience.

I noticed that Valley Center High School math teacher Elizabeth Moseley ran the half marathon in just over two hours and a person named “Greekgawd O’Toole” of Kechi was 149th in the half marathon (probably not his real name).

Going to the Prairie Fire was a neat experience. My son said I should run the half marathon with him next year.

Ummm. I don’t think so. I like to people watch better.

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The Bel Aire Breeze

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Council

Continued from Page 1

or hold a special election, an expensive proposition that interested no one.

Council member Peggy O’Donnell tore into the three members opposed to Austin’s choices, saying that they were demanding a “litmus test” of them and requiring them to have governing experience — a demand that was never required of past appointed members.

“I think it’s insulting,” she said as Clement and Oldenettel, both in the council gallery, watched and listened.

Wynn was not present.

O’Donnell said the three were being unfair to the candidates and she was

disappointed in their choice to reject selecting one of the two.

By turning down the two, the city will be discouraging candidates in the future, she said.

“I feel sorry for you,” she said to Clement and Oldenettel. “You’ve been disrespected.”

Austin also expressed his frustration at the turn of events, saying that Lee didn’t have “one minute of service” when he came on the council. He also said he wanted to follow the will of the citizens by selecting people whom they have already voted on.

Despite being mayor, with only O’Donnell on his side, Austin was outpowered.

“The three made it clear that they’re in charge,” he

said.

When O’Donnell demanded an explanation from Martine about why they didn’t want to select either candidate, Martine cited what she called their lack of experience with governing bodies. She also said she was concerned that Clement wouldn’t have enough time for the council.

MacDonald also cited Wynn’s years of experience in city affairs. Becker said later that she voted for Wynn based on a testing procedure, and that Wynn scored the highest of the three.

Despite his choices losing, Austin said Wynn, who serves on the Community Development Advisory Committee, will make a good council member and that he

will be happy to work with her.

Clearly disappointed in the outcome in which they both lost, Clement and Oldenettel lingered after the meeting, absorbing the outcome.

Clement said she has a “continued love and commitment for our city and our people in it.”

She also looks for a more “varied and representative” council in the future and is looking forward to the next election in fall 2017.

Oldenettel bluntly said the council didn’t represent the will of the voters.

“This evening there were two candidates presented that the city voted on in the spring,” Oldenettel said.

“Those two candidates came in third and fourth. That was

one of the main reasons the mayor presented them. I feel that the council in particular took the city’s choices away and went the way the council felt they wanted to go.”

In other action, the council:

- Head a report from Becker about the fall festival. She said it was quite successful and there were 53 cars entered in the car show.

- Approved an appropriations ordinance of the amount of \$298,371.

- Authorized a series of general obligation bonds. Kelsi Spurgeon, a principal with the Columbia Capital Management, the city’s bond consul, said the sale went well with the bidders submitting interest rates close to each other. “We’ve very pleased with them,” she said.

- Proclaimed Oct. 26-30 as Red Ribbon Drug Free Week, which marks an alcohol, tobacco and drug and violence prevention awareness campaign observed each year October in the United States. Among the proclamation’s goal is to “involve families schools, business,

churches, law enforcement agencies and service organizations in all aspects of this campaign and establish an atmosphere that supports awareness, education and on-going initiatives to prevent illegal drug use.” The initiative’s supporters say they want to promote “family and individual responsibility for living healthy, drug-free lifestyles without illegal drugs or illegal use of legal drugs.”

- Heard Austin report that there were 16 Bel Aire homes included in this year’s Parade of Homes.

- Approved a subordination lease agreement between Legacy Bank, Wichita Hoops LLC and the city of Bel Aire. The financial agreement poses no risk to the city, council members were informed.

- Authorized a financing agreement for an energy conservation project between the Chisholm Creek Utility Authority and Bel Aire and Park City. Energy saving measures will include lighting and thermostat improvements, odor and corrosion control, plant control upgrades, bypass piping and well field pump upgrades, among others.

Deadline for December: November 20

Bel Aire Breeze



City of Bel Aire



Bel Aire Recreation

BOYS BASKETBALL 2016

Basketball is for boys ages 5-11. Games will be played Saturdays beginning Jan. 16, 2016. Practices will be set up by coaches on weeknights beginning the week of Dec. 15. **Registration deadline is Dec. 12.**

YOUTH CHEERLEADING

For boys and girls ages 4 & up. These recreational cheer classes will focus on motions, jumps, and routines involved in cheerleading. Classes are held Thursday evenings. Class has started but limited openings remain.

TAEKWONDO (ages 5 & up)

Classes meet from 5 to 6 p.m. Monday and Friday or from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. These are great classes for beginners to black belts.

YOGA

Classes are held from 6:10 to 7:10 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Participants need to provide their own yoga mat. Teens and adults can join at any time.

FITNESS CENTER (ages 16 & up)

The Fitness Center consists of elliptical cross trainers, treadmills, recumbent bike, multistation weight machine, and free-weights. There is no charge for pass holders; others can purchase a daily pass.

SENIOR AEROBICS/CHAIR EXERCISES

The senior aerobics class meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays. Chair exercise meets at 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays. You can join at any time.

MAXIMIZE SPORTS TRAINING

Bel Aire Recreation has partnered with former collegiate athletes Brent Atwater & Rachel Griffitt for specialized sports training. They will be offering training in basketball, volleyball and speed & agility. Please call Brent at 807-1036 or Rachel at 744-2700 for more information.

A \$5 late fee will be charged to all sign-ups after registration deadlines. For more information about these or any Bel Aire Recreation programs, 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.

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** — M-F, 8-9 a.m. at the Rec Center (indoors & climate controlled). Free for Bel Aire Senior members, alternate times available
- Yoga** — Mondays & Wednesdays, 6 p.m. at the Rec Center (monthly fee)
- Chair Exercises** — Tuesdays and Fridays, 10:30 a.m., at the Rec Center
- Bridge Games** — Tuesdays, 1 p.m. at the Senior Center
- Low Impact Aerobics** — Wednesdays, 9 a.m. at the Rec Center
- Senior Coffee** — Thursdays, 10 a.m. at the Senior Center
- Braum's Breakfast** — Fridays, 9 a.m. on North Rock Road
- Line Dance Class** — Fridays, 2:30 p.m. in the Community Room

Community Events

- TOPS** — Tuesdays at 9 a.m., Senior Center
- City Council** — First and third Tuesday of each month
- Nov. 11** — Veterans Day, Bel Aire city offices closed.
- Nov. 13, 7 p.m.** — Bel Aire Heights HOA meeting, Senior Center
- Nov. 7 p.m.** — Central Park HOA meeting. Community Room
- Nov. 26-27** — Bel Aire city offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday

Helpful Tip for "Greening" Your Lawn for Fall



Fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides are just some of the products you may use on your lawn. If your lawn is already healthy, you don't need to overdo it with these kinds of products -- a little goes a long way.

But chances are, you'll still need to put something on your lawn at some point. And since these products can make their

way into the water supply (and wind up on children's hands and pets' paws) many homeowners are choosing organic or natural alternatives.

In addition, you can go green with your lawn care products by using compost as a homemade fertilizer. If you'd prefer to skip the composting process, you can buy compost and other natural fertilizers ready-made.

Monthly & Special Events

Medicare Part D Open Enrollment from Nov. 15 through Dec. 7.

- Nov. 2, 6:30 p.m.** — Potluck dinner, OAPA and Animal Rescue with Caring Hands, Community Room.
- Nov. 3** — Foot Care with Hermes Health, call 260-4110 to schedule an appointment.
- Nov. 4, 10 a.m.** — Volunteer library work time, Senior Center.
- Nov. 5, 11:15 a.m.** — Signs of Dementia with Cypress Springs.
- Nov. 5, 1 p.m.** — Game Day, Rec Center.
- Nov. 6, 6 p.m.** — Pitch, Senior Center.
- Nov. 9** — Medicare Part D Counseling. Call 744-2451, ext. 121, for reservations.
- Nov. 11, 10 a.m.** — Open Sewing, Rec Center.
- Nov. 12, 10:30 a.m.** — Memory Café with Cypress Springs.
- Nov. 17, 6 p.m.** — Ladies Dine Out, call Anita at 744-2840 for more info.
- Nov. 18, 10:15 a.m.** — Senior Aerobics Brunch, different locations.
- Nov. 18, 1:30 p.m.** — Book Club meeting, Senior Center.
- Nov. 20, 6 p.m.** — Pitch, Senior Center.
- Nov. 23, 6 p.m.** — Covered dish dinner, Rec Center.
- Nov. 25, 7 p.m.** — Bunko, Senior Center (reservation required, call 744-2451, ext. 121).

Fall Festival Car Show

Awards donated by Century Manufacturing



People's Choice award



Best of Show award

Scenes from the Bel Aire Fall Festival



A special "Thank You" to our Fall Festival sponsors!



CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran Church
Christ Lutheran is located at 53rd North and Hillside, across from Wichita Heights High School. Worship services are held at 9 (contemporary) and 11 (traditional) a.m. Communion is offered at both services. Sunday School for all ages begins at 10:15 a.m. For more information about the church and its activities, find the church online at www.christ-lutheran.org, or call 744-1242. Chad Langdon is the pastor of Christ Lutheran Church.

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 at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday. Weekday Masses are 8 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; and at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. 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. James F. Weldon is the pastor.

Community Bible Chapel
Community Bible Chapel is located at the corner of 45th North and Arlene. Please call Amy Smith at 316-323-2819 with any questions.

Cornerstone Christian Church
Cornerstone Christian Church is located at 5531 E. 37th St. North in Wichita KS 67220-2037. The church phone number is 686-0208. Our pastor is Jim Rackham and youth pastor is Brandon Morrow. Sunday Worship is at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and a nursery is provided. Our Wednesday Study Groups include Adult Studies, Youth and AWANA. They all meet at 6:30 p.m. Please join us for the service of your choice.

Fairmount United Church of Christ
The church welcomes a new minister, the Rev. Larry Young. Visit the newly renovated building at 1605 Fairmount in Wichita, one block south and one block east of Hillside and 17th North. 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.

Gospel Assembly Church
Located at 4230 N. Oliver in Bel Aire, service times are 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. Prayer service is at 7 p.m. Tuesday. Praise and worship is at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. The first Saturday evening of each month are youth activities. Phone number is 744-1502. The Rev. Gary D. Green is the pastor.

Greenwich United Methodist Church
Greenwich UMC, at the edge of Wichita, KS, is a traditional, family church that serves all ages. Sunday Worship is at 9 a.m. Life Studies (study group for all ages) is Sunday from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. 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 also hosts 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 shagemister@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, Wichita Childrens Home, to name a few. The church is located at 5500 N. Greenwich Road, about one mile south of K-254 and five miles north of 21st. Like us on Facebook at Wichita Greenwich United Methodist Church. We would love for you to come join us Sunday. Feel free to call anytime 744-0203.

Kechi United Methodist Church
You are invited to worship at 9:03 a.m. (contemporary service) or 11 (traditional service) Sundays, with Sunday school at 10 a.m., at Kechi United Methodist Church,

4533 E. 61st North in Kechi. All are welcome. Men's Bible Study is at 6:30 a.m. Wednesdays. The coffee is always on. CareGivers Support group meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of every month in the basement parlor. Bingo is at 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month. Everyone is welcome to join in. Our new pastor is Greg Reed. Find us at www.KechiUMC.org and "Like" us on Facebook. The church phone number is 744-1221.

LifePoint Church
A fellowship of the Assemblies of God, LifePoint is located at 400 S. Abilene, Valley Center. Sunday worship service and Kids Church are at 10:30 a.m., and Life University/Sunday school for all ages is at 9. No regular Sunday night service. For special activities, see the website, www.lpcag.org. On Wednesday evenings, Launch children's program meets at 6:30 p.m. Velocity Student Ministries for youth meets at 7 p.m. Adult small groups meet throughout the community. Senior pastor is Steve Rains. Youth pastor is Jacob Soyez. Children's pastor is Nathaniel Thurman. Call 755-2331.

Risen Savior Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod
Contemporary Sunday worship services are at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Communion on the first and third Sunday. Adult Sunday school and Bible class meet at 9:15 a.m. Children's church is at 10:30 a.m. A nursery is provided during both Bible class and second service. Wednesday Evening Ministries are from 6:30 to 8 p.m. There are activities for all ages. A nursery will be available for preschool age children. 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 available. There are two weekly sessions of Lifetree Café in Valley Center. Thursday at 1 p.m. (lunch at noon) at the Community Building (316 E. Clay) and Monday at 6 p.m. at the home of Pastor Terry and Barb Wiechman (1241 S. Park). Lifetree Café is a conversation café — a place and time for people to gather weekly to experience stories and talk about thought-provoking topics relating to life and faith. Risen Savior Preschool classes for 3- to 5-year-olds are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 11:45 a.m. Please contact Michelle Peshek, director/lead teacher, with questions at atmichelpe@risensavior.net or call the church office at 683-5538. Please join us. The church is located at 6770 E. 34th North in Wichita. The phone number is 683-5538 and we are online at www.risensaviorwichita.net. Senior pastor is Tom Harmon.

St. Michael's Orthodox Christian Church
Saint Michael's Orthodox Christian Church is located at 2710 E. 61st North, Park City KS 67219. It is a congregation of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. "The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch." (Acts 11:26). Saint Michael is a western rite congregation using the Liturgy of Saint Gregory. It is the only western rite Orthodox Church in Kansas. Join us for our worship of the Holy Trinity using the ancient and beautiful liturgy of the Undivided Church. Sunday Adult class is at 9 a.m. Discovering Jesus in the Book of Deuteronomy is the topic. Wednesday service is at 6 p.m. with Saturday Vespers at 4:30 p.m. Call the church for more information at 734-6248 or visit our website at www.saintmichaellothodoxchurch.com. Email inquiries to jflora@cox.net.

Wichita Three Angels Seventh-Day Adventist Church
The church is located at 4558 N. Hydraulic Wichita, KS 67219. The pastor is Nathan Stearman. The Sabbath school is at 9:30 a.m. Worship service is at 11 a.m. For more information find us at www.godsloset.com or on Facebook, email eric@godslacet.com or call 530-1040. Send your church's upcoming events and service times to legals@arkvalleynews.com or call 755-0821.

DEATH

CALVIN NOAH
Calvin Garth Noah, 90, Valley Center, died Oct. 18, 2015. He was a retired Wichita State University geology professor, Kansas oil operator and a farmer and rancher. He was a licensed Kansas Petroleum Geologist and a member of the Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association, National

Stripper Well Association, Kansas Geological Society and Society of Petroleum Engineers. He was preceded in death by his parents Ray and Lois Noah, brothers Darrell Noah and Raymond Noah, and sister Ruth Walz. Survivors include his wife of 55 years Joan, daughter Kitt (Doug Cunningham) of Valley Center, sons Mark of Ogallah and Scott

of Bel Aire, grandson Britt Cunningham of Valley Center, sister Rosemary Hillman of Hays, and many nieces and nephews. Graveside service was Oct. 24 at Morlan Township Cemetery in rural Graham County. Memorials to Harry Hynes Hospice, 313 S. Market, Wichita KS 67202. Baker Funeral Home of Valley Center had charge.



Noah

Shooting

Continued from Page 1
residence in west Wichita and appealed for a large amount of money to pay off a drug debt. He was turned down and then went to another residence where he also was turned down. The shooting took place shortly after that. The 22-year-old suspect, Adam Thomas Ray of Wichita, was taken into custody at the scene and booked for first degree murder, two counts of attempted first degree murder and possession of narcotics with intent to



David Dinell

A makeshift shrine is set up in the 5300 block of North Meridian, where a man shot three people in a car. Two have died.
distribute. He is being held on \$250,000 bond.

Those charges are set to change with the death of Aguilar-Retana. A Wichita media source had originally reported the incident of "road rage," a situation police Lt. Todd Ojile disputed. "I do not know where that came from, but that was totally false," he said. The accident only involved the one vehicle, which had veered off the Meridian after striking objects and coming to a rest. After that happened, police said they received numerous calls about the accident. Officers first responding the scene talked to witnesses

before approaching the vehicle. They then went to the vehicle, where the three victims were found. No weapons were located in the vehicle and police say there was no gang affiliation involved. At the scene of the murder, just southeast of an auto parts store, tire tracks were still clearly visible four days after the incident. A small shrine, complete with candles, flowers, family photos and hand-written messages, has been set up by a utility pole. So far this year, 24 people have been murdered in Wichita.

K-254

Continued from Page 1
Representatives of the Kansas Department of Transportation and the Butler County Sheriff's Office, among others, were on hand to discuss that. Safety is a concern, especially given the speed, 70 mph, and the open intersections along with the dangers of distracted driving. However, officials said that the highway's accident rate is not out of the norm, but the severity of the incidents make it appear more dangerous than it is. Officials from Bel Aire and Kechi both say they would like the group to tackle economic development. Kechi has several developments along or near the highway and Bel Aire's Sunflower Commerce Park is platted close to it. Bringing in new business is a priority for Bel Aire, Meyer said. "Any growth is positive," she said. That's because it allows the city to spread the cost of services among a wide base of ratepayers, she said. The city also has a huge inventory of land it owns and getting that sold to private parties has been a major thrust of Mayor David Austin. There's little doubt that, with proper incentives, economic development can follow a transportation corridor, she said, but foresight is needed. An example of a corridor growing without planning can be found along Kellogg, or U.S. Highway 54, in Wichita, Meyer said. "The business developed along that road without much of a vision for what the future held for that transportation corridor and they had to go back and buy out property," she said. "If you can do the planning before the development, that helps greatly." There is a local model for K-254 to emulate: the K-96 Corridor Development Association, a group that is focused on the northwest Sedgwick County corridor. The association says it is the "source of information and connection to the Corridor region and communities." In its 10-year history, it has grown to include nearly 50 members from the private and public sectors, including five cities along the route. Organizers say the common bond for the group is being supportive of development along the route, including marketing its potential to new businesses. Park City Administrator Jack Whitson, who did not at-

tend the meeting, said he's familiar with it and other groups that have formed to promote economic development, tourism, safety and other issues along highway corridors. "The thought behind them is OK," he said, "but what they don't often understand is that's only one piece of the puzzle." Observers often point to projects that have sprouted up along I-135 in Park City as successes, and they usually are, but they need to look at the planning and spending that occurred before construction even started, Whitson said. "It takes a lot of investment before a business will get involved," he said. "You can't just hope they'll show up." That means such things as sewer and water lines, along with power sources, have to be in place. It also means that access roads have to be there. "The streets at least have to be built," he said. "That's basic." Park City has invested millions of dollars in infrastructure development along the interstate to get it to where it is today, he said. It may be difficult to build a single project right next to K-254, as vast stretches of it are still farm and open land

and bringing in utilities could be expensive, but a cluster of developments can work, he said. Whitson cited the case of Sunflower Commerce Park as an example of how economic development can be done. "They (Bel Aire) did that right and now they're reaping the benefits," he said. The park has steadily gained tenants. Earlier this year, it opened a railroad spur with Union Pacific Railroad and a few weeks ago, it held a groundbreaking ceremony for two new businesses. Kechi City Administrator Bob Conger, who attended with Mayor Ed Parker, said the meeting was a worthwhile one and was pleased there was a consensus about people wanting to get things done. "The more conversations we have between our neighbors, the more we find out what everyone else is doing," he said. "That way we're not duplicating efforts and we can all work together to make them more efficient."

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BEL AIRE POLICE REPORTS

Oct. 14 — Officer Trelow responded to a traffic wreck in the 4700 block of East 37th. No injuries were reported.

Oct. 14 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 4300 block of North Oliver. The driver was cited for speeding and driving with a suspended license.

Oct. 13 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5300 block of East 37th. The driver was cited for speeding and driving without a valid license.

Oct. 13 — Officer Trelow took a report of a lost phone in the 6500 block of East 45th.

Oct. 13 — Officers Roney and Elpers responded to 45th and Woodlawn where drivers reported seeing an elderly female who appeared lost. Officers took the woman to her home.

Oct. 12 — Officer Brown tried to stop a motorcycle at 37th and Rushwood. The rider fled.

Oct. 12 — Officer Trelow took a report of larceny in the 3800 block of North Hillcrest. A trailer was taken from the property.

Oct. 12 — Officer Elpers responded to an injury accident involving a motorcycle at 45th and Auburn. A female motorcyclist was on the street next to the motorcycle. She was taken to Wesley with minor injuries.

Oct. 12 — Officer Elpers assisted the sheriff's office with a domestic violence call in the 15000 block of East Evening Shade. A man said he and his wife were arguing. He took her keys and grabbed her to prevent her from leaving.

Oct. 11 — Officer Elpers checked a 60-day tag on a vehicle in the 3800 block of North Woodlawn. It was assigned to a different vehicle. Officers stopped the vehicle. The driver said she did not know why the tag didn't come back to her vehicle. The woman was issued a citation.

Oct. 10 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5600 block of North Rock Road. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license.

Oct. 10 — Officer Crice responded to a burglary in the 7400 block of East Summerside Place. The complainant said she arrived home to find a garage door open and a 50-inch LG TV missing. The woman said the television was in the garage under some bags of clothing.

Oct. 10 — Officer Roney responded to an unknown call for police in the 5600 block of North Lycee. A juvenile said she was locked in her room and that her mother was being beaten by the mother's boyfriend. The mother said her boyfriend battered and restrained her. A complaint was issued for the suspect.

Oct. 9 — Officer Roney took a call from a woman in the 4600 block of North Farmstead Court who noticed a fraudulent charge on her Visa card.

Oct. 9 — Officer Crice responded to a report of battery on a school employee. A 10-year-old child made threats to a staff member. The case was handled administratively because of the suspect's age.

Oct. 9 — Officer Crice responded to a 9-year-old who ran from the school in the 5200 block of North Woodlawn. The boy was taken to the hospital and released to the Department for Children and Families.

Oct. 9 — Officer Crice took a report of a stolen silver and red Mongoose bicycle from Sunrise in the 5500 block of East 45th North.

Oct. 9 — Officer Crice responded to a report of a bomb threat at Northeast Magnet High School.

Oct. 7 — Officer Roney took a report of a runaway in the 5600 block of North Lycee. A child did not go to school or work and had left her phone, keys and car at home.

Oct. 6 — Officer Crice responded to a wreck in the 5300 block of North Rock Road.

Oct. 6 — Officer Roney responded to a report of disorderly conduct in the 4300 block of North Rushwood Court. A man and a woman were having a verbal argument.

Oct. 2 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for having no license plate in the 5200 block of North Oliver. The driver, Connor Royce Edmundson of Bel Aire, was arrested on a charge of DUI.

Oct. 1 — Officer Steele stopped a vehicle for having no license plate in the 3800 block of North Oliver. The driver showed the officer a plate from Saudi Arabia. The driver was cited for having no license in his possession and other traffic violations.

Oct. 1 — Officer Brown responded to check a person in the 4500 block of North St. James. A man was lying in the grass. He was highly intoxicated, officer said. The man was taken to the hospital by EMS.

Sept. 30 — Officer Brown responded to an injuries accident at 37th and Oliver. One vehicle struck another from behind.

Sept. 29 — Chief Atteberry stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 1400 block of North Rock Road on the way to a meeting. The driver was arrested by Wichita police.

Sept. 29 — Officer Camplin responded to check the welfare of a man in the 4700 block of North Webb. A man made suicidal statements on a message to his state parole officer. The man said he did have the thoughts earlier but was no longer having them. The man said he let his parole officer know that he was no longer feeling that way and he had made an appointment with Comcare after work.

Sept. 29 — Det. Davis took a report of larceny at Tree Top Nursery in the 5900 block of East 37th North. The company reported an electronic theft of money over the last three months.

Sept. 29 — Officer Brown took a report in the 5800 block of Northeast Parkview in Park City about an incident that occurred in the 5300 block of North Woodlawn, Bel Aire. A man said his ex-wife took lunch to his sons at Isely Elementary. Officer said there is no court order barring that activity.

Sept. 28 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for weaving in the 6200 block of East 45th North. The driver, Jeffrey Allen McCrory of Bel Aire, was arrested on a charge of DUI.

Sept. 28 — Officer Elpers responded to a larceny in the 5600 block of North Lycee. The apartment complex reported that the gate latches to the trash dumpsters were stolen.

Sept. 28 — Officer Elpers responded to a report of embezzlement in the 5700 block of Kenawee. The call involved two women. One is the current holder of power of attorney for an elderly woman and the other is the previous holder of power of attorney for the elderly woman. Each claimed the other has taken advantage of the woman.

Sept. 28 — Officer Toomey

stopped a vehicle in the 6000 block of East 45th North. The driver was a 13-year-old boy who had no driver's license. The boy's father knew his son was driving the pickup truck at night and actually gave his son permission to drive the truck. The son was released to his father and citations were written for the violations. A child endangerment case was also made.

Sept. 27 — Officer Elpers assisted Park City police with a shooting in the 1500 block of East Denver.

Sept. 26 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for failing to signal a turn in the 5600 block of North Lycee. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license.

Sept. 25 — Officer Roney stopped a vehicle for an expired tag in the 4500 block of North Woodlawn. The driver was cited for illegal license tag.

Sept. 24 — Officer Brown responded to a criminal threat in the 5200 block of North Lycee. A woman said she received a threatening voice mail from a male. Officer recorded the voice mail, which detailed no actual threat.

Sept. 22 — Officer Steele responded to a larceny in the 4500 block of North Westlake Court. The called party said property was removed from his vehicle overnight.

Sept. 22 — Officer Steele took a report of vandalism in the 4400 block of North Eagle Lake Drive. The report involved someone breaking into a vehicle overnight and taking money from the console and a backpack.

Sept. 22 — Officer Steele responded to a report of an auto theft in the 4300 block of North Eagle Lake Drive. A maroon 2005 Dodge Durango was stolen during the night.

Sept. 21 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 4800 block of East 45th North. The driver was arrested on a charge of DUI. The suspect's name was not available.

Sept. 21 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for expired tag in the 5500 block of East 37th North. The driver was cited for no valid license and expired tag.

Sept. 21 — Officer Elpers responded to a disturbance in the 5600 block of East Denise. A woman said she was unable to control her foster child and asked the officer to talk to the child to calm him down.

Sept. 21 — Officer Elpers responded to a disturbance in the 5500 block of North Lycee. A man said a friend told him that someone was threatening to shoot people at Northeast Magnet High School on Sept. 22. The suspect was picked up and brought in for questioning. Two other students were taken into custody and questioned regarding the threat.

Sept. 20 — Officer Steele checked the perimeter of Northeast Magnet High School in the 5500 block of North Lycee and discovered an unsecured door.

Sept. 20 — Officer Davis responded to 45th and Dundee to talk to a woman about a number of issues. After speaking to mental health agencies, officer discovered that the woman was experiencing delusions.

Sept. 19 — Officer Brown responded to a report of vandalism in the 5800 block of Flagstaff. Officer observed a pop can on its side and pop on the inside of the mailbox. There did not appear to be any damage.

Sept. 19 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle in the 4700 block of North Ol-

iver. The driver was cited for speeding, expired tag, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Sept. 14 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5100 block of North Oliver. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license and speeding.

Sept. 11 — Officer Brown stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5100 block of North Woodlawn. The driver was issued a citation for driving with a revoked license and for being a habitual violator. He also was arrested on a Sedgwick County warrant. The suspect's name was not available.

Sept. 11 — Officer Camplin stopped a driver for passing in a no-passing zone and for speeding in the 6000 block of East 45th North. The driver, Levi Chase Huffman of Andover, was arrested on a charge of DUI.

Sept. 11 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for failing to yield the right-of-way in the 4700 block of East 37th North. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license and no proof of insurance.

Sept. 11 — Officer Elpers assisted Park City police in trying to locate a suicidal person near 61st North and I-135.

Sept. 11 — Officer Roney responded to a disturbance in the 5300 block of North Rock Springs. A man reported his 17-year-old stepson as a runaway. The man also reported that his stepson damaged the interior of his residence earlier in the day by kicking in a closet door. Officer located the stepson and transported him to the Wichita Children's Home. The boy also was arrested on a charge of minor in consumption of alcohol.

Sept. 10 — Officer Steele and officers from Valley Center and Park City responded to a disturbance with weapons reported in the 500 block of West Second in Valley Center.

Sept. 10 — Officer Crice assisted EMS in the 5500 block of North Lycee. A student reported having an allergic reaction while at school. The child was taken to St. Joseph hospital.

Sept. 9 — Officer Camplin took a report of a forgery. A man said someone got his checking account information and used it at QuikTrip and Walmart.

Sept. 9 — Lt. Foxx took a report of forgery. A woman said someone got into her truck and removed a checkbook, a Bluetooth device and insurance cards. A check was written on her account. The bank locked the account.

Sept. 9 — Officer Camplin took a report of fraud. A man said a PayPal account was opened in his name and it had charges of \$994.69.

Sept. 9 — Officer Crice assisted Wichita police with a domestic disturbance between a teenager and her mother over removing property from her bedroom in the 5500 block of North Lycee. The girl said they exchanged blows, and she received a black eye.

Sept. 8 — Officer Steele assisted with a disturbance in the 500 block of West Main in Valley Center.

Sept. 8 — Officer Crice took a found property report from the 4300 block of Auburn. A red and black bicycle was found at the residence.

Sept. 8 — Officer Crice took a report of a runaway from the 5300 block of Rock Springs. A woman said her son has a vehicle and took several changes of clothes with him. The runaway's in-

formation was reported to the National Crime Information Center.

Sept. 7 — Officer Brown responded to a vehicle wreck in the 5200 block of North Greenwich. A vehicle struck a deer. No injuries were reported.

Sept. 7 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle in the Dillon's parking lot, 37th and Woodlawn, for a defective headlamp. The driver, Jamie May Kesslering of Wichita, was issued a citation for expired driver's license and was arrested on a Wichita warrant.

Sept. 6 — Officer Brown responded to a report of vandalism to a mailbox in the 5900 block of East Flagstaff. A woman reported that her mailbox was vandalized overnight with what appeared to be red sharpie and the letters "NIGELS." A second victim in the 4400 block of North Edgemoor reported vandalism to a garage door with a red marker.

Sept. 6 — Officer Camplin assisted Park City police with an attempt to locate a wanted person in the 1100 block of East Denver in Park City. The suspect was taken into custody.

Sept. 5 — Officer Elpers responded to a report of disorderly conduct in the 5600 block of North Lycee. A woman said that last night she thinks her neighbors downstairs were making noise on purpose to harass her. The woman said that everywhere she walked in the house they would slam doors in that area. Officer was unable to make contact with the suspects.

Sept. 3 — Officer Camplin observed a motorcycle with no license plate in the 4600 block of North Oliver. As Camplin turned around, the motorcycle took off at a high rate of speed, ran the stop sign at 45th and Oliver, ran the stop sign at 45th and Hillside, and then headed westbound on 45th. Camplin observed the vehicle traveling 45th and initiated a pursuit. Officer disregarded the pursuit due to safety concerns and the minor nature of the violation.

Sept. 3 — Officer Crice took a report from an administrator at Isely Elementary, who said a child came to school with bruises on his legs.

Sept. 3 — Chief Atteberry backed Wichita police who stopped a DUI suspect at the Home Depot in the 3300 block of North Woodlawn and needed assistance. The driver drew attention to himself by being the aggressor in a road rage incident.

Sept. 3 — Officers responded to a report of a suicidal person in the 4300 block of North Eagle Lake Court. A

woman was taken to St. Joseph Hospital for an evaluation.

Sept. 2 — Officer Brown arrested a man at City Hall on a city warrant. The suspect's name was not available.

Sept. 1 — Officer Crice and Lt. Foxx responded to a child who did not want to go to school in the 4400 block of North Rushwood. Officers discovered that the child had not gone to school because he thought that he had been suspended. His mother was not available to determine if he should be in school. Follow up with Wichita Heights High School determined that the youth could be back in school if he had medical clearance.

Sept. 1 — Lt. Foxx responded to a larceny in the 4700 block of Prestwick. A woman called the station to report a larceny occurring from her former residence in the 8500 block of Granite Court on Aug. 27. The woman said she discovered a diamond tennis bracelet and a diamond necklace with gold chain missing from a box. The woman estimated the value of both items at \$1,500. The last time the jewelry was seen was on the moving date.

Sept. 1 — Officer Elpers responded to an injury wreck at 37th North and Oliver. The driver of one of the vehicle said her vehicle struck the back of the other vehicle.

Sept. 1 — Chief Atteberry took a report of the theft of two bicycles from the front yard of a residence in the 4400 block of North Gunnison.

HIGHLIGHT

The following area students completed degree requirements from Fort Hays State University during the summer 2015 term.

From Bel Aire: Wynette M. Kelley, bachelor of science in medical diagnostic imaging; and Sarah Dawn Calhoun, master of science in instructional technology.

From Wichita: Adam Stephen Wilbur, bachelor of fine arts (graphic design); and Jeremy Ryan Marchand, bachelor of general studies (general business).

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Local runners compete at Prairie Fire

By The News staff

North Sedgwick County was well-represented at the Prairie Fire Marathon Oct. 11 in Wichita.

Several runners from Bel Aire and Kechi participated in the 5K, half-marathon and marathon.

Jacob Smith, 13, of Bel Aire was 113th with 26:33. He was first in his age group of 13 to 15.

Anne Gehman, 42, of Bel Aire, was 208th in 29:51; Barb Parker, 59, Bel Aire, 343, 34:38; Jan Nattier, 51, Bel Aire, 375, 35:49; Robyn Garrison, 43, Bel Aire, 525, 45:51; and Mary Walker, 46, Bel Aire, 608, 1:03:30.

The half marathon drew

1,085 runners. It included several area runners.

Lee Owens, 45, of Kechi was 62nd in 1:37:12; Greekgawd O'Toole, 36, Kechi, 149, 1:45:46; Jacob Thompson, 34, Kechi, 435, 1:59:15; Michelle Sanders, 25, Bel Aire, 525, 2:03:03; Trevor Sanders, 31, Bel Aire, 526, 2:03:03; Laura Kentlin, 43, Bel Aire, 609, 2:06:46; Brett Scripsick, 37, Bel Aire, 732, 2:11:29; Michele Scripsick, 35, Bel Aire, 912, 2:18:09; Barbara Chaparro, 51, Bel Aire, 995, 2:21:50; Jennifer Spires, 39, Bel Aire,

1,109, 2:27:12; Chris French, 43, Kechi, 1,141, 2:28:31; Angie McDaniel, 35, Bel Aire, 2:36:23; Jacquie Dick, 27, Bel Aire, 1,309, 2:38:32; Michelle Brozek, 37, Bel Aire, 1,333, 2:39:57; Desiree Brogan, 27, Bel Aire, 1,403, 2:44:26; Robyn Oltmanns, 36, Bel Aire, 1,465, 2:48:27; Joan Wagner, 38, Kechi, 1,497, 2:50:58; Jocelyn Mattoon, 30, Bel Aire, 1,591, 3:02:06.

A handful of area runners participated in the marathon. Andy Renich, 35, of Bel

Aire was 62nd in 3:34:26; Lindsay Nunamaker, 30, Bel Aire, 176, 4:15:38; Lisa Umbehr, 35, Bel Aire, 177, 4:15:38; Erik White, 22, Bel Aire, 225, 4:28:59; Nichole Hargett, 28, Kechi, 485, 5:49:01; and Jeff Halpin, 46, Bel Aire, 534, 6:18:29.

There were 572 runners in the marathon.

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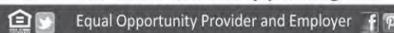
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Zoning change approved for addition

By David Dinell

A new Bel Aire development will not have commercial operations in it. The Bel Aire City Council approved a zoning change ordinance at its Oct. 6 meeting making the Lycee Heights Second Addition strictly residential.

At issue was the area's previous zoning, C-1, or commercial, which permits business development along with residential.

However, the city received a request by the developer, Three Star Investments LLC,

to change that to R-5, or only residential development.

That includes single-family houses and duplexes in the addition, which is near Northeast Magnet High School, off of Rock Road and 53rd Street North.

The city's planning commission held a public hearing on the matter at its Sept. 10 meeting and approved the request, passing it to the council, which needed to make the final approval.

While supportive of business development, city officials say they understand

the value of keeping the two separate.

"It ensures that if someone in the future would purchase a lot in this area, they could not construct some type of commercial business," said City Manager Ty Lasher in his report to the council.

Said Mayor David Austin: "I like the idea of protecting housing."

In a related statement before the issue was brought up, council member Ramona Becker said while the council is pro-growth, the city has zoning regulations and won't

sacrifice family oriented neighborhoods for commercial development.

"We take care of our neighbors and the people of our community," she said. "We must weigh the benefits (of business) versus the harm."

In other action, the council:

- Approved an appropriations ordinance of \$1.4 million.
- Heard Austin say that due to land sales in the Sunflower Commerce Park, the city is making a land interest payment of \$825,000, which will reduce payments by 1 mill a year.
- Tabled the consent agenda as Becker raised the point that the previous meeting was not recorded and

thus the minutes were not a verbatim transcript. "There are some things that are not correct about my statements in the minutes and I would like to go over my notes and write out what I think I said," she said. The council also asked staff to make an audio recording of all meetings so if there are video difficulties in the future, the meeting will be recorded.

•Heard Austin discuss his new recognition program, the Mayor's Community Cares Certificate, which he plans to issue monthly. The point of the certificate is to give credit to those who help others in the community. Austin said he wants to encourage citizens to help their neighbors in need. The first certificate went to council member Peggy O'Donnell.

•Heard Becker remind residents that the Fall Festival is set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 17 at the recreation center.

•Approved a utility easement vacation ordinance of three lots along Battin to combine the lots into two and build larger homes. The request was approved by the Planning Commission.

•Listened to Becker report that the city's official population, as of June 2015, is 7,284. "I just think that's wonderful," she said, "as it just shows how much we're growing and all the good things going on here."

•Heard a comment from council member Betty Martine about the new city signs going up around town. She is pleased that they show people where the city limits are.



Festival action is reflected in the sunglasses of disc jockey Marco Benitez, who was handling the music for the line dancing.



Frank Graham, part of a duo called "Timeless," plays one of his many selections of rock 'n' roll hits from the 1960s and 1970s.



ABOVE: Nicole Rucker, 1, of Bel Aire, pets the fur of Jade, an alpaca from Four Points Petting Zoo and Ranch. The zoo was one of the many attractions at the city's annual fall festival. LEFT: Paston Etheredge, 9, tries his skill at basketball inside the Bel Aire Recreation Center.

Photos by David Dinell



Festival

Continued from Page 1

cept for the fact that they were pulled by a riding lawnmower.

Driver Joe Yates explained that the regular tractor was in for repairs, but the mower — with six horses under its hood — was more than capable of handling the challenge.

"Every ride has been full," he said quickly between loads. "Everyone loves it."

The festival wasn't all fun and games.

It had a serious, but possibly life-saving side, as the Bel Aire Lions Club brought in a

health-screening trailer.

It's the first time the resource has been in Bel Aire, said Gary O'Neal, the club's past president. Its mission is an important one, he said, as visitors got their blood pressure, glucose levels, hearing, vision and other vital health signs checked.

"These conditions are preventable, but we need to catch them early on," he said.

Along with fun, the event brought visitors to the city, and can possibly entice new residents from among them, Terhune said. And for those who missed the celebration, look for it again next fall.

"It'll be back," she said.

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Holidays Gatherings

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The Holiday Cookbook will be published Nov. 19. Deadline to enter is Nov. 13. To advertise call Christie at 755-0821.

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