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Upward trend in housing is expected

By Matt Heilman

It's still an uphill battle, but collectively, things are looking up for communities in north Sedgwick County on the new home construction front. The best illustration of the improved housing market can be seen in Bel Aire, where diversity and progress in economic development are translating into new home starts.

At the Feb. 28 Bel Aire City Council meeting, Richelle Knotts of Weigand New Homes delivered a report to the council going over the marketing efforts in the Landing addition in the city's Central Park community, where housing starts were up more than 100 percent last year.

Looking at the entire Wichita area, Knotts said home sales have been rising for three straight years. She said

2013 home sales were on pace to rise by 12.5 percent, "the largest year-over-year gain on record."

"This trend should continue in 2014 with sales rising by another 2.5 percent to 9,340 units," Knotts said.

In her report, Knotts said new home construction "has rebounded nicely" in the area in 2013. The rebound, in part, was spurred by property tax rebates that were scheduled to expire at the

end of the year.

The "rebound" in new home construction is noticeable in Bel Aire, where 35 new single family residences and 28 duplex-style homes or twin homes were constructed in 2013.

"We had maybe half of that in 2012," Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said.

After the housing market crashed and the economy faltered in 2008,

Lasher said he doesn't recall there being any new home starts in 2009.

He said the recovery over the last two to three years has been aided with the mix of single-family and multi-family construction.

"We had very few twin homes in Bel Aire prior to the last couple of years," Lasher said.

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Park City revisiting campus plan to upgrade facilities



Photos by Matt Heilman

Office specialist Betty Smith is one of 26 Park City employees working in tight quarters at City Hall. Workspace is limited and the City Hall building is showing signs of minor structural damage.

By Matt Heilman

A glaring need in Park City that has long been on a wish list is being addressed with a plan of action. On Jan. 28, the Park City council approved the dedication of a down payment from a recent land sale to go toward a fund that is planned to pay for the construction of a new City Hall building and a more adequate facility for the police department.

The down payment from the sale of approximately 19 acres of land in a floodplain north of 61st North and Broadway and west of Leeker's and Atwoods amounted to \$162,000.

The down payment won't pay for a new City Hall and police station, but it's a start, Park City



About 13 Park City police officers work out of a small squad room in space it shares with the city's maintenance department near 53rd North and Broadway.

Mayor Ray Mann said.

Toward the end of 2013, Mann and the city council members took a tour of city facilities including the shared City Hall and police department facility at 6110 Hydraulic and the

police department's squad room it shares with the city's maintenance department near 53rd North and Broadway.

At City Hall, 26 employees representing seven departments occupy about 7,000 square-feet

of space. About half of the building is occupied by personnel with the police department. The space includes a desk behind a glass window occupied by two receptionists toward the front of the building. Down a short hallway, there are small offices for the police department's chief, lieutenant and detective.

The majority of officers and the bulk of the police department's vehicle fleet are based at the squad room.

In the City Hall building, the approximate 3,500 square-foot of space not occupied by police is utilized by employees in billing, finance, planning, human resources, legal, code enforcement and building and zoning.

Specifically, Mann said he's concerned with the state of the police department squad room where about 13 officers start and

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Race pits incumbent against former rep

Ranzau, McCray-Miller seek seat

By Matt Heilman

Voters in north-central Sedgwick County will have a choice of local representation on the November ballot. On Feb. 6, business owner, educator and former state representative Melody McCray-Miller formally announced her decision to run against

incumbent Richard Ranzau to represent Sedgwick County's fourth district on the county commission.

The fourth district includes part of north Wichita as well as the communities of Valley Center and Park City. Ranzau was elected to the commission in November 2010, replacing Kelly Parks who stepped down from the District 4 post after serving one four-year term.



Ranzau

On Jan. 24, Ranzau announced that he plans to seek re-election in to retain his seat representing north Sedgwick County. Ranzau, who holds his satellite office on Main Street in Valley Center, said he wants the county to become better stewards of taxpayer dollars. On Jan. 24, a news release announcing Ranzau's plans leads by saying, "Commissioner Richard Ranzau vows to continue fighting for our future."

In the news release, the words "fiscal restraint" or "fiscal responsibility" appear four times.

"Overall, we just need to be more diligent in how we make our decisions," Ranzau said.

The news release says, "During his first term, Ranzau has earned the reputation as a staunch defender of the taxpayer and advocate for fiscal restraint and economic freedom."

Ranzau said the county has a spending problem and "a lack of critical thinking when it comes to many of our financial decisions."

Among the problems Ranzau discussed was the county's habit of "borrowing money for public works" and spending more than double the money on principal and interest payments.

He also said he doesn't approve of the county's



McCray-Miller

See COUNTY, Page 4

Group promotes gambling at Greyhound Park

By Matt Heilman

The spokeswoman for a group advocating for slot machines at the Wichita Greyhound Park took the opportunity to engage the Park City Chamber of Commerce at its Feb. 26 meeting.

For about 15 minutes, Beth King discussed the financial impact the proposed \$50 million to \$100 million renovation of the Wichita Greyhound

Park would have on the area.

Greyhound Park property owner Phil Ruffin has announced his interest in financing the project of reopening the Greyhound Park as an entertainment facility if slot machines are allowed.

If not, it's unknown what the future will hold for the rundown property. In 2007, Sedgwick County voters said 'No' to questions that sought to allow casinos and electronic

gaming in Sedgwick County.

King said a majority of voters would likely be in support of a more specific question, asking directly if slot machines should be allowed at the Greyhound Park.

"We believe that question would pass," King said.

She said a reopened Wichita Greyhound Park would bring about \$2.1 million to Sedgwick County, including \$1.8 million in gaming revenue

and \$367,500 in property tax revenue, as well as 500 new local jobs, 3,000 new jobs statewide, plus auxiliary jobs and \$50 million to the State of Kansas in gaming revenue.

Broken down, she said the property tax dollars would include \$770,000 to the Valley Center School District, \$228,750 to Sedgwick County Fire District 1, more than \$13,000 to the South Central Kansas Library System, \$118,750 to Grant Township,

\$57,500 to the Valley Center Recreation Commission and \$18,750 to the state.

"These are estimates, but we think they're pretty reliable," King said.

For the question of slot machines at the Greyhound Park to even reach a ballot, Kansas legislators would have to approve a House bill authorizing the Sedgwick County Commis-

See GAMBLING, Page 5

HIGHLIGHTS

Woman killed by gunshot on I-135

A woman was killed by a gun shot wound that was reported to have been self-inflicted in the 5500 block of North I-135, just north of the 53rd Street exit.

The suicide report was made shortly before midnight Feb. 7. Park City officers along with Valley Center police and officials with the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office and Kansas Highway Patrol responded to the shooting. A man reported having an argument with his girlfriend while driving down the interstate. The man said his girlfriend retrieved a handgun and shot herself.

The woman was pronounced dead at the scene. Park City Police Chief Phil Bostian said the case is under investigation.

— Matt Heilman

B-52s end season with optimism

The Wichita B-52s overcame a rocky start to its inaugural season to compile an 8-9 final record. The B-52s played their home games at Hartman Arena as part of the Professional Arena Soccer League.

The team finished fourth in the Central Division standings and advanced to the US Open Cup quarterfinal round.

"Although not bad for a first year, there is plenty of room for improvement," the team said on its website, www.wichitab52s.com. "We took our beatings and delivered some. We played some very intense matches, including taking the top two teams

in our division into overtime on our home turf."

One of those outings was Feb. 15 against the Dallas Sidekicks. The B-52s lost the overtime match 5-4, a noticeable improvement from the 15-3 route Dallas delivered to the B-52s in Wichita's first game on Nov. 2 at Dallas.

In its season wrap up, the team also discussed its community involvement off the field and thanked the fans for the steady attendance increase at home games from November to February.

"The evolution of this team over the last four months is unbelievable," the team said in its end-of-season review. "From where we were in November to where we are now is a great indication of the potential of the B-52s."

— Matt Heilman

Resident loses money in scam

A Park City woman complied with instructions to pay off an uncollected debt that wasn't really there. On Feb. 19, the woman reported the fraud to police, but not before she was out \$4,000.

Shortly before noon Feb. 19, Park City police received a call from the resident in the 6200 block of North Independence that an unknown person had called her and advised they were a collection company for Speedy Cash. The caller demanded \$4,000 for uncollected debt. The resident followed through with a request to purchase \$4,000 worth of Green Dot credit cards and paid the company. The citizen later

determined the call was a fraud and there was no default on her Speedy Cash account.

— Matt Heilman

Pursuit ends north of Newton

Kansas law still says you're not allowed to smoke marijuana. Every state says you'd better stop if an officer is attempting to pull your vehicle over.

On the evening of Feb. 22, a Colorado man was taken into custody after a police pursuit ended north of Newton. The pursuit began just south of the 61st Street exit on I-135.

In the call that Park City police reported at 8:44 p.m., Kalen Randolph of Colorado was observed speeding, refusing to stop and fleeing from

officers. Randolph fled until the tires to his vehicle were spiked north of Newton. Randolph surrendered and was found to be in possession of marijuana, which, despite being legal in Colorado, is in violation of the Kansas Controlled Substances Act. Randolph was taken into custody and booked into the Sedgwick County Jail.

His vehicle was impounded.

— Matt Heilman

City issues one permit in January

The City of Park City issued one building permit during January.

It was for a new home at 1311 Bearhill Road with a valuation of \$300,000.

— The Post staff

'Bucket List' tops Alive program

The next Park City Alive! program will be "Bucket Lists and Looking Back: What Was Worth the Work?" by Karen Roth Ridder. It will be 7 p.m. March 22 at the Park City Public Library, 2107 E. 61st North. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served after the program.

Park City Pride members have volunteered to work in the hospitality room at the 2014 Class 4A II basketball tournament March 12 through 15 2014 at Hartman Arena in Park City.

Tickets will be sold at the door.

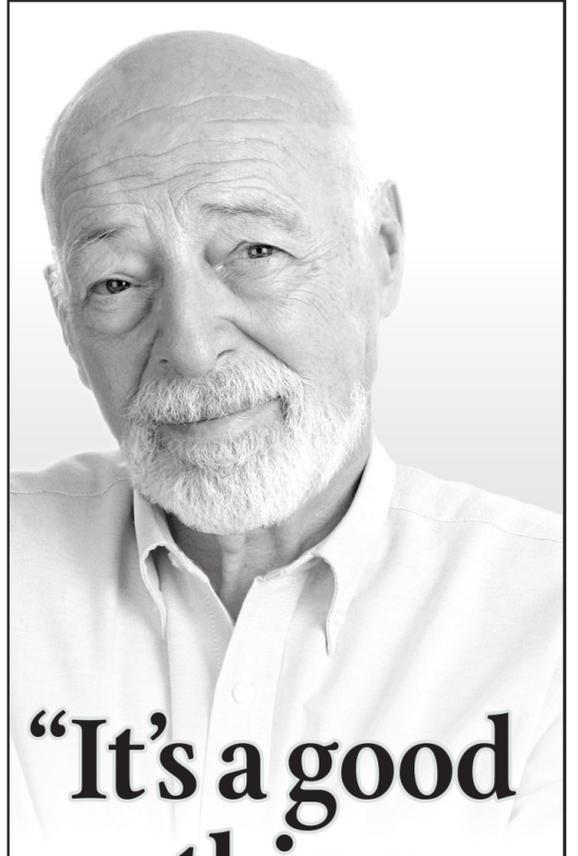
— The Post staff



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THE PARK CITY REPORT

CITY OF PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

January 28, 2014 Regular Meeting:

- Approved a resolution to transfer rights and obligations from Legacy Bank to Wells Fargo Bank for the Air Capitol Warehouse.
- Approved a service agreement with Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.
- Heard a Presentation of the South Central Kansas Prosperity Plan by Lisa Dodson.
- Approved an ordinance amending Ordinances 8-1981 and 101-84 relating to the Park Board membership and organization.
- Did not pass a motion that would have reopened the City pool this summer.
- Approved amendments to Sections 5-503 and 5-505 of the City Code relating to massage businesses.
- Agreed to have a special Council meeting on Feb. 18 to consider City campus planning.
- Held an Executive Session to consider contract negotiations. No action was taken during the executive session.
- Approved a proposal to sell 19 acres of land adjacent to 61st Street and opposite Prospect Drive to Lou Robelli for \$632,000. \$162,000 would be a down payment and the remainder

- would come in 10 equal annual payments.
- Approved placing the \$162,000 down payment from the land sale into a Capital Improvement Fund designated for a new City Hall/Police Station.

February 11, 2014 Regular Meeting:

- Heard a report on Echo Hills development from Mike Loveland.
- Approved a resolution enabling financing the acquisition and equipping of a commercial warehouse facility to be located in the City.
- Approved the renewal of a lease agreement with SBA Monarch Towers for a mobile communications tower located at 6455 W. Parkview.
- Approved the low bids on Two Ford Explorer Police vehicles from Rusty Eck Ford for \$26,708 each.
- Approved change orders on 53rd Street improvements: Change Order #2, Cost \$12,860; and Change Order #3, Cost \$2,785.
- Approved bids for drive approaches along Broadway, adjacent to the drainage project.
- Approved the purchase of meters and

- electronic read equipment, 100 KDHE meters and 25 one-inch meters to be reimbursed upon installation by owner. Cost \$24,687.50.
- Approved the 2014 Agreement with the Park City Youth League for use of the ball diamonds.
- Approved a purchase agreement for \$40,000 for City-owned real estate located at 6125 N. Hydraulic with the proceeds to be placed in the CIP building fund.
- Approved a purchase agreement \$367,200 for City-owned lots north and west of 61st Street North and Broadway with the proceeds to be placed in the CIP building fund.
- Considered a report on water and sewer funds and approved an increase of \$1.75 in the base sewer rate effective in March, 2014.
- Agreed to have a booth in the Upcoming Lawn and Garden Show.

February 18, 2014 Special Meeting:

- The Council and staff discussed a wide variety of possibilities to add to and/or expand current City facilities. Members of the public were encouraged to make comments and ask questions. No action was taken.

FREE HELP WITH TAX PREPARATION

If you are low income or a senior, free tax prep is available at the Park City Senior Center -- Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays -- by appointment only from February 3 to April 15. Call Jennie at 744-1199 to schedule an appointment.

FUND RAISING OPPORTUNITY FOR PARK CITY CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

It is that time of year again to start thinking about the City Wide Garage Sales that will be held on June 7th, & September 27th, 2014. In March, the City Council will select a sponsor for the Spring Garage Sale. The sponsoring organization will distribute posters, assist in the publicity for the sale, and receive any additional funds collected above and beyond the actual costs incurred for the promotion of the sale. If your Civic Group is interested in sponsoring one these events, please submit your request in writing to: City Hall, 6110 N Hydraulic, Park City KS 67219, or just drop it off in our drop box. Please put your phone number on your request, so we can contact you after the City Council approves the Civic Organizations that will sponsor these events. For more information, call City Hall 744-2026.

Park City Youth Program sign up information

Players wishing to be part of a baseball, softball or T-ball team with the Park City Youth Program need to sign up by March 16. Upcoming sign up dates are March 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., March 2 from 1 to 5 p.m., March 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and March 16 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The cost to sign up for baseball and softball is \$80 per player in the district and \$105 for players outside of the district wanting to play in the youth program. Registration for T-ball is \$60.

Online registration is available at www.eteamz.com/pcyp or in person at the Park City Community Building at the east end of Hap McLean Park, 6801 N. Hydraulic. For age requirements and team information, click the handouts tab at www.eteamz.com/pcyp, call the youth program at 744-2801 or send an email to parkcityyouthprogram@yahoo.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- PC = Pride Center, SC = Senior Center, CB = Comm. Bldg, CH = City Hall, PCL = Park City Library**
- March 1 - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Youth League Sign-ups CB
 - March 1 - 7 p.m. Senior Dance
 - March 2 - 1 - 5 p.m. Youth League Sign-ups CB
 - March 2 - 7 p.m. PCYP Board CB
 - March 3 - 7 p.m. Park Board CH
 - March 5 - 10:30 a.m. Seniors Catered Lunch SC
 - March 6 - 6:30 p.m. Court CH
 - March 8 - 9 a.m. Pride PC
 - March 8 - 7 p.m. Senior Dance SC
 - March 11 - 7 p.m. Council CH
 - March 13 - 1 p.m. Court Trials CH
 - March 13 - 6:30 p.m. Court CH
 - March 13 - 7 p.m. Library Board PCL
 - March 15 - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Youth League Sign-ups CB
 - March 15 - 1 p.m. Pride Food Pantry PC
 - March 16 - 1 - 5 p.m. Youth League Sign-ups CB
 - March 17 - 7 p.m. Planning/BZA CH
 - March 20 - 5:30 p.m. Seniors Finger Food
 - March 20 - 6:30 p.m. Court CH
 - March 22 - 7 p.m. Senior Dance SC
 - March 25 - 7 p.m. Council CH
 - March 26 - 11:30 a.m. Chamber Luncheon
 - March 27 - 1 p.m. Court Trials CH
 - March 27 - 4:30 p.m. CUAU Bel Aire CH
 - March 27 - 6:30 p.m. Court CH
 - March 27 - 7 p.m. Seniors Square Dance SC
 - March 28 - 8 a.m. Commodities Leekers
 - March 29 - 7 p.m. Senior Dance SC

SENIOR CALENDAR

For a complete schedule of all daily/weekly activities & programs, call Jennie Benitez at 744-1199.

Monday

- 9:15 a.m. exercise
- 10:15 Bible study (except first Monday)
- 1:00 p.m. crochet/art class
- 7:00 cards

Tuesday

- 8:30 a.m. Wii Bowling
- 10:00 Chair exercise
- 1:00 Bridge lessons
- 6:00 TOPS every Tuesday

Wednesday

- 9:15 a.m. Exercise
- 1:00 p.m. Walking
- 2:30 Line dance lessons

Thursday

- 8:30 a.m. Wii Bowling
- 10:00 Chair exercise
- 7:00 p.m. Square Dance (except third Thursday)

Friday

- 9:15 Exercise
- 1:00 Pinochle

Saturday

- 1:00 PM cards
- Lunch offered by Good Neighbor Nutrition, Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. Reservations Required, Call 744-0751. Homebound delivery Monday through Friday.

TOPS

Take Pounds Off Sensibly meets Tuesday evenings at 6:00 PM. For more information on joining contact GiGi Roths at 312-1945.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tax Assistance with AARP begins in February. By appointment only, please call Jennie at 744-1199.

March 3 - 10:30 a.m. Board meeting

March 5 - 10:30 a.m. Chisholm Trail Seniors Catered Lunch and meeting (lunch by reservation)

March 12 - 11:30 a.m. "Depression Among Elderly People"

March 18 - 8 a.m. Breakfast at Cracker Barrel

March 20 1 p.m. - Card bingo -- fee \$1 5:30 p.m. - Finger Food

March 21 11:30 a.m. -Low Vision Solutions 6 p.m. -Fun/food/games

March 26 - 10:15 a.m. Rite Bite Series-"Dashing with Food"

March 27- 11:30 a.m. The Center for Better Hearing

SENIOR DANCES
\$4 donation at the door Refreshments served

March 1, 7:00 p.m. Yesterdays Playboys

March 15, 7:00 p.m. The Wildwood Band

For more information on senior activities contact Jennie Benitez, Park City Senior Center Director at 744-1199.

PRIDE FOOD BANK

PRIDE FOOD BANK
The Park City Pride Food Bank is the third Saturday of each month. The food bank is required to follow the USDA income guidelines for commodities. Proof of income and residency is required. If you are in need of food assistance or would like more information, please contact Park City Pride at 744-8685.

RECYCLING DAYS IN PARK CITY

East of I35
TUESDAYS - 4th and 18th

West of I35
Wednesday - 5th and 19th

(Place recyclables at curb by 6 a.m.)

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ALL TOGETHER NOW!
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Aluminum cans

Tin steel or enamel cans

Plastic tubs, jars & trays

Plastic bottles (all plastics #1 - #7)

Food boxes

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- ceramics or dishes
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- plastic grocery bags
- motor oil containers
- household hazardous waste
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2014 SEWER RATES TO BE DETERMINED BASED ON WATER USED NOW

Water usage from December 15th through March 15th of each year determines the amount of sewer charges on water billings for the twelve-month period from April 1st to the following March 31st. The readings taken on the 15th of January, February and March are averaged to calculate the sewer rate. These readings are usually the lowest usage of the year, but they can be high if there is a water leak during that time period. If a leak has occurred, have it repaired in a timely manner and bring the receipts to the Water Clerk at City Hall.

By keeping your water usage down during this three-month period, you can control the sewer rate on your utility bill. If you have any questions about how to conserve your water usage, stop by City Hall and ask for a water conservation brochure.

- Please make sure that when you pay your utility bills with a check that you write the account number on the check. The account number can be found on your statement. This will be helpful and ensure that the check is credited to the correct account.
- Also, if you place the payment in the drop box that is located in the parking lot at City Hall, please put your payment and the statement stub in an envelope so that they stay together.
- Remember - no cash please. As always, you can sign up for e statements and can pay on line.

AUTOMATIC PAYMENT OF UTILITY BILLINGS

Enroll now for automatic payment of water and sewer bills. Once enrolled, a billing will continue to be mailed to you that shows the amount that will be automatically deducted from your bank account. If you would like to enroll in this plan, just come by City Hall and complete the authorization form or call the water clerk at 744-2026 ext 207.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PUBLIC SERVICE?

The City of Park City has a number of Boards and Committees that are made up of concerned citizens. Applications are always accepted and maintained for future openings. Currently, there is an opening on the Park and Recreation and Tree Advisory Board. Please complete and submit an application if you are interested in serving. Application forms are available at City Hall or on the website at www.parkcityks.com.



PARK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

From Chief Phil Bostian,
Park City Police Department

documents that contain your personal information! Never throw any document in the trash that you would not want to hand over to a criminal. Identity theft continues to be a growing problem. Many identity thieves look through trash containers, and they use the information they find to steal your identity. They will open checking accounts in your name; create fake ID's with your name and their photo; and obtain credit cards in your name. Always shred or otherwise destroy any documents before you dispose of them. The City of Park City usually has a free shredding day in the fall, when you can destroy large amounts of documents that may be difficult for you to shred at home.

it your mail! Mail thieves have discovered ingenious ways to pull your mail out of the large metal mailboxes that you find in public places. It is more safe to deposit any mail at a Post Office or indoor mailbox in a well-monitored area.

- Never let any stranger in your home, unless you're certain of their identity! Criminals in Sedgwick County continue to pose as employees of utility companies. They come to the door and pretend that they need to inspect your home for electrical problems or gas leaks. While you're busy with the first person, an accomplice will slip into your home and steal your possessions. Real utility employees always have proper I.D. If you have the slightest doubt about whether they are real,

refuse to allow them inside and then call 911.

- Finally, burglars will take advantage of honest citizens at the worst of times! Burglars sometimes study the obituaries in the newspaper, and discover when a family will be gone to a funeral. They will then go to the house of the surviving family members and burglarize the residence. If you find yourself in the tragic situation where you must attend the funeral of a loved one, I encourage you to call the Park City Police Department. We will have our officers try to keep an eye on your home for you while you're gone. You should also let your trusted neighbors know that you'll be gone, and ask them to keep watch on your home.

It seems that scam artists are always inventing new ways to relieve honest citizens of their hard-earned money and possessions. I would like to urge you to always be on your toes, and be aware that criminals are looking for what they believe to be easy prey. Here are a few tips to keep yourself and your family safe. All of these tips come from actual crimes that have recently been committed in Park City or elsewhere in Sedgwick County.

- Be very careful with any

AUTOMATED PHONE SYSTEM AT CITY HALL

City Hall now has an automated phone system. When you call you will be asked to make a selection from the menu and will be connected to a specific department. The Police Department and the Court have a direct number that may be called from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A list of extensions/numbers is provided below for your convenience.

744-2026	City Hall
203	City Administrator
215	Assistant City Administrator/HR
204	Finance Dr./ City Clerk
214	City Attorney
206	Mayor
202	Accounts Payable
209	Payroll
208	Building Permits
207	Utility Billing
201	Utility Billing
213	Inspections
225	Compliance Officer
205	Compliance Officer
210	Court Clerk
216	Asst. Court Clerk
744-2011	Police
744-6417	Court

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Park City looks forward to warmer weather

Will March come in like a lion and go out like a lamb? We will see. We had the big snow and melt down in February so feel like we've had our share of winter, so many meetings and other events were canceled during the bad weather in February.

The AARP is doing taxes at the senior center, there are many there every day having their taxes figured. In 2013 there were as many as 29 thousand persons going in the Park City Public Library for one reason or another. The library

is so important to the population in Park City — for all the children's programs to other programs presented there.

The High School State Basketball tournament will be held at Hartman Arena March 12 through 15. These will be some really good games, so come on up to the arena to watch some good basketball. Park City Pride volunteers will be helping.

There were only nine families that came for food at the Pride Center in February, that was due to bad weather. The



Around Park City
By Cecile Cox

Pride Food Pantry is there to help if you need food.

Chisholm Trail Elementary needs good weather before the new playground equipment can be installed, hopefully that will happen soon. The United Methodist Church at

Park City will have a Hunters Safety Program all day March 15 and during the afternoon. On March 29 there will be a Ladies Sew-in to make quilts. The church will soon have a Life House for unwed mothers located in Park City. Also the Church will soon be starting Sunday evening services, watch for that.

The Christ Lutheran Church reported that all the refugees from Burma who the church had helped with housing and jobs were all moving to Garden City Kansas, where there are

jobs.

There will be three dances in March at the Senior Center. March 1, Yesterdays Playboys band will play, with Loretta Terry and Don Davis celebrating birthdays. March 15 Gary Miller and Connie Furgason celebrate birthdays. Eldon and Eva Fritchman celebrate 64 years of Marriage. The Wildwood band plays March 28 and Loyal McCaskey and Iris Worthington will celebrate birthdays. Maybe the worst winter weather is over. I hope so!

Campus

Continued from Page 1

complete their shifts and write up reports.

A wall separates the squad room from the city's maintenance department, but both departments share the same ventilation, Park City Administrator Jack Whitson said.

He said officers are subjected to the smell of solvents from the maintenance department. The facility also needs new carpeting, electrical work and a new roof.

Whitson said all together, the building occupied by police officers and maintenance employees needs \$12,000 to \$15,000 in repairs. Even if the repairs are made, Mann said the police department needs a better facility.

"Kind of my fear is that the building would not be structurally sound for any kind of tornadic activity or anything," Mann said.

He said he wants to prepare a master plan for a new City Hall and police station that will build off what previous city councils had established with a campus plan.

From his perspective as a citizen of Park City, Mann said he would support a plan for constructing new City Hall and police facilities as long as extra tax dollars weren't requested.

He said he first wants to see the current city building paid off before plans for new construction are cemented. The council planned to discuss updating its campus plan at a workshop.

On Jan. 28, the group voted 6-2 to dedicate the down payment from the land sale to the plan. Council members Melvin Kerr and George Glover opposed the dedication.

The pair said they agree that city employees need better facilities, but they weren't comfortable dedicating the \$162,000 toward the plan because the revenue from the sale of the 19 acres in the flood plain near Leeker's and Atwoods was supposed to go toward park development.

Kerr and Glover indicated at least part of the down payment from the land sale could have been used to reopen the city's swimming pool in Hap McLean Park.

DEATHS

DOUGLAS GODDARD
Douglas Boyd "PaPa Doug" Goddard, 57, died Feb. 4, 2014.

He was born in Anthony to Lloyd D. Goddard and Dorothy (Melbuer) Goddard. He was a retired business owner. He enjoyed and loved his family.

He is survived by his mother, Dorothy Goddard of Wichita; wife Betty Goddard of the home; brother Mike (Leila) Goddard of Dodge City; sons Bill (Michelle) Goddard of Wichita, Mark (Kayla) Goddard of Wichita and James Uncapher (Katie Blakemore) of Independence; daughters Yvonne Gray of Wichita and Kathy Delgado of Park City; grandchildren Zackary, Joshua, Michaela, Ashley, Tristin, Patience, Jaden, Rylie, Jaxon, Emma, Abby, Sheldon, Ethan,

Jacob and April (Luis) Acosta; and great grandson Xavier Acosta.

He was preceded in death by his father, Dean Goddard and granddaughter Katelyn.

Private family services will be held. Baker Funeral Home Valley Center has charge.

MAXWELL BAZIL

Maxwell M. Bazil, 96, retired Coleman Company toolmaker, died Feb. 11, 2014.

He was born in rural Burlington to Frank D. Bazil and Ruth McKinley (James) Bazil. He was a master toolmaker for 38 years.

He is survived by his children, Judy (Jerry) Decker of Park City, Jerry (Coleen) Bazil of Mansfield, Texas, Jacquelyn (Tom) Monk of Wichita and

Danny Flores of Wichita; 14 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren and 24 great-great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his first wife of 40 years, Betty, and second wife of 33 years, Geneva Snyder; daughter Janet Florez; brother Duane "Dutch" Bazil; and his parents.

Celebration of his life service was Feb. 15 at First Church of the Brethren in Wichita. Memorials may be designated to the First Church of the Brethren Heifer Project, 1103 N. Jefferson, Wichita, KS 67203. Baker Funeral Home, Valley Center, Kansas had charge.

JAMES JOHNSON

James "Jim" L. Johnson, 63, retired Tires Plus sales-

man, died Feb. 22, 2014, after battling a lengthy illness, and being on the KU transplant list.

He was born in Wichita to Lewis Cecil Johnson and Lois Fern (Bibenstein) Johnson.

He was a graduate of West High School, Wichita. He served in the Air National Guard from 1969 to 1975. He was a member of the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America and enjoyed driving his red 1964 Impala SS in parades and to numerous shows.



Johnson

Housing

Continued from Page 1

Immediate plans in the city also call for the construction of an apartment complex neighboring Northeast Magnet High School near 53rd North and Rock Road.

Along with the increased demand for multi-family homes, Lasher said he's noticed more interest in higher end single-family homes that start around \$250,000.

In Park City, City Administrator Jack Whitson said he's also noticed more interest in the higher price ranges. The trend bodes well for Park City as it looks to sell more lots in its housing developments just northeast of Valley Center.

In August, the city took ownership of between 120 and 130 vacant lots in two developments at a pair of sheriff's sales.

The city council has since been working to establish how best to market the properties to collect what's owed in property taxes and special assessments.

The vacant lots include 70 lots in the Bear Hill addition near 85th North and Hydraulic and between 50 and 60 lots in the Saddlebrook addition near 85th North and Broadway.

The marketing strategy includes the city offering up to a \$15,000 incentive in Bear Hill and up to a \$10,000 incentive in Saddlebrook. The city planned to sell the lots for \$20,000 in Bear Hill and \$15,000 in Saddlebrook.

So far, Whitson said the city has been able to sell lots in Bear Hill, where two houses are being built. He said one house is being built in Saddlebrook and another lot has sold.

Following Park City's participation in the Wichita Area Builder's Association Home

Show earlier this month, Whitson said he's received seven inquiries about available lots for home construction.

He said all of the questions were for Bear Hill, where homes sell in the \$250,000 to \$500,000 range. Whitson said while the focus has been on Bear Hill and Saddlebrook, there are other developments throughout the city that are being marketed. Last year, he said about 15 new homes sold in Park City.

"Hopefully, it will kind of pick up," Whitson said.

In Valley Center, Community Development Director Warrant Utecht said the city had 10 housing starts in 2013, up from just three in 2012, but down from the 2011 mark.

"It's been up and down over the last few years," he said.

But Utecht indicated an overall upward trend is

anticipated to continue. Like Bel Aire, Valley Center has seen an increased demand for multi-family homes as well as higher end properties upwards of \$200,000.

In the Valley Creek Estates addition, Utecht said Brad and Sean Isham are continuing the development of duplexes and triplexes. The multi-family homes are being built on Poplar Court, which will total 13 units, Utecht said.

Poplar Court, located west of Sheridan is just off Cottonwood Court, where the Ishams completed most of their multi-family construction last year.

On the single-family construction front, Utecht said there remain just 10 undeveloped lots in Valley Creek Estates. He said there is potential for home construction on 23 lots in the west end addition, based on what's been platted. "Otherwise, we've already

issued some permits this year in Valley Creek," Utecht said.

In the Ritchfield development north of West Elementary and Fifth Street between Interurban and Kessler, Utecht said there are 57 single-family lots. Plans for the development call for the addition of about 38 duplexes and triplexes.

Utecht indicated Valley Center still has plenty of room for growth once new home starts pop up on all of the city's available lots for construction. Plans call for another apartment complex to be constructed near a future 60-acre detention pond on city property south of Ford Street.

The most potential property Utecht mentioned was in the Prairie Lakes addition accessible off Ford Street. Utecht said the development is platted from about Meridian all the way to Seneca, including 145 potential lots.

County

Continued from Page 1

habit of providing property tax abatements for selected individuals.

"We don't find enough money for (the Judge Riddell) Boys Ranch, but we have money for corporate welfare programs," Ranzau said.

He said during campaigning for his first run as county commissioner in 2010, he repeatedly heard citizens express frustration that elected officials don't seem to hold as much accountability for spending as individuals and families do.

"People expect the government to tighten its belt," Ranzau said.

The Jan. 24 news release said, "Ranzau is committed to continuing the fight for fiscal restraint and policies that actually work."

Ranzau didn't delve into specific policies, but he did point out the Kansas Coliseum property as a success story

where efficiency was improved. He said the county was able to reduce spending without negatively impacting the operation of the Kansas Pavilions.

"I will continue to fight for our future by encouraging fiscal responsibility and restraint," Ranzau said. "I will advocate for policies that promote job creation by focusing on small business and entrepreneurship rather than failed programs that promote corporate welfare. We need economic prosperity for everyone, not just for the politically connected."

McCray-Miller, of Park City, previously served as the Sedgwick County District 4 commissioner from 1995 to 1998. At the state level in Topeka, she served the 89th district from 2005 to 2013.

In seeking a return to the county commission, McCray-Miller, a small business owner said one of the main focuses of her campaign is economic development.

She pointed out that most Sedgwick County residents are employed by small businesses and she wants to see the county create an environment where

small business growth and entrepreneurship is supported and encouraged.

McCray-Miller is the owner and CEO of Millers Inc., a company she founded in 1996. Miller described her company as "an umbrella organized business" that includes a baked beans business with products sold in grocery stores across the country and consulting work nationally with juvenile justice issues and locally with food policy and health disparity issues.

She said collaboration between Sedgwick County and its cities would be key for improvements in support of economic development.

"Collaboratively, let's pull together," she said.

A Feb. 6 news release announcing McCray-Miller's plans to run against Ranzau said, "she's eager to help usher in a return of balanced representation for one of the county's most diverse commission districts."

"I'm optimistic about our

community's economic future, and I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get busy working," McCray-Miller said. "It's time to stop talking about what's wrong with the county and start doing what's right for the county and the people of the 4th District."

The news release lists four focus areas for McCray-Miller's campaign:

- "Economic development that celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit"

- "Community health and safety with an emphasis on livability"

- "Community engagement that is more reflective of Sedgwick County's make-up"

- "Superior service delivery at maximum cost savings."

While McCray-Miller said she enjoyed being part of making decisions in Topeka, she

said she wanted to return to representation that has more of a direct impact on Sedgwick County residents.

"There's so much in the interpersonal and connectedness approach that is really done here at the local level," McCray-Miller said.

In District 1, representing east Sedgwick County including northeast Wichita, Bel Aire and Kechi, commissioner David Unruh is also planning to seek re-election.

Unruh made his announcement in November. Neither Ranzau nor Unruh had fellow Republicans announce plans to challenge them in the August primary. Likewise, no democrats filed to oppose McCray-Miller in the primary. The county commission races will be decided in the Nov. 4 general election.

The Park City Post

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C East of Meridian & North of 5th / 85th Out of town East of Meridian & North of 5th / 85th	F South of 77th - In or out of town

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Gambling

Continued from Page 1

sion to place the question on a ballot. From there, the commission would have to agree to put the question on the ballot.

“We believe that question would pass,” King said.

King said a survey taken about two years ago validates her belief that Sedgwick County voters would approve a measure in support of slot

machines at the Greyhound Park.

The question presented in the survey was, “Do you support or oppose allowing machines in the Wichita Greyhound Park?”

King said the question passed by 71 percent to 29 percent with a 4.1 percent margin of error. She said the support recognizes that the renovated facility would be reopened without relying on tax dollars.

“We are talking about a significant influx of private

money to reopen the park,” King said.

Along with slot machines, a Gilley’s Saloon is planned for the Greyhound Park to “add an additional entertainment element,” King said.

George Wingert, representing Ruffin Companies joined King at the Feb. 26 chamber meeting. He said a decision from legislators on a house bill that would give clearance at the state level for the question of gaming to be present on a ballot would likely be made

toward the middle to end of this month.

The way the bill is currently drafted, Wingert said the question of slot machines at the Greyhound Park would have to be voted on by the end of October. However, he said that could change and it would likely make more sense to put the question on the general election ballot in November to save the county money from having to spend extra money for a special election.

On the back of a handout

outlining the estimated financial advantages for allowing slot machines at the Greyhound Park, there is a list of every state legislator representing Sedgwick County.

Wingert said if people wish to reach out to their representatives to weigh in on the issue they “need to do it right away.”

While Wichita Wins is advocating for the approval of slot machines that would give Ruffin the incentive to complete the large-scale renova-

tion project at the Greyhound Park, King said the group’s immediate focus is to at least give Sedgwick County voters the chance to have the final say.

“While you may not agree with the question, I hope you’ll at least agree the right to vote is important,” King said.

For more information on Wichita Wins, visit the group’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WichitaWins. The group also has set up a website, www.bringbackthetrack.com.

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Lutheran is located at 53rd Street North and Hillside, across from Wichita Heights High School. Services are at 8:30 a.m. (Contemporary), 9:45 a.m. (Kid Friendly) and 11:00 a.m. (Traditional). Communion is offered at all services. Adult Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m.

Ash Wednesday services will be held on March 5 at 7:00 p.m. On Wednesday evenings through Lent, March 12 through April 9, a potluck supper will begin at 6:15 p.m., followed by a Lenten worship service at 7:00 p.m. During Holy Week Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be held at 7:00 p.m. Easter Sunday services will be at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Children’s activities and a breakfast will be offered between services.

For more information about the church and its activities find the church online at www.christlutheran.org, or call 744-1242. Pastor Chad Langdon is the minister of Christ Lutheran Church.

Church of the Resurrection

(Roman Catholic) is located at 4910 N. Woodlawn in Bel Aire.

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

Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade.

The parish/school website is www.resurrectionwichita.com. Phone number is 744-2776. Rev. James F. Weldon is the pastor.

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 7 p.m. Tuesday. Praise and worship is 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. The first Saturday evening of each month are youth activities.

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

Greenwich United Methodist Church

Sunday worship service at 9 a.m. Fellowship and coffee follow the service.

Pastor Jeff Miller can be reached at 744-0203.

Senior Day first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m.

United Methodist Women meet the first Thursday of each month at 1 p.m.

Movie night is the second Saturday of each month at 6:30 p.m. A snack is served.

The church is located about a mile south of K-254 on Greenwich Road. The phone number is 744-0203.

Kechi United Methodist Church

You are welcome at Kechi

United Methodist Church, 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi. The contemporary service is at 9:03 a.m. and traditional service is at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays.

All are invited to celebrate in the Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m., March 5 at the church. A new sermon series entitled, “Days and Nights with Jesus: Encountering Jesus in Day-to-day Life” will begin March 9.

All youth, 6th through 12th grade, are invited at 4 p.m., Sundays, for youth group.

CareGivers Support group meets every first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the basement parlor. Bingo is every first Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m. Every 3rd Tuesday a Hot Meal is prepared at KUMC and served to the United Methodist Open Door Ministries Drop-in Center at 1 a.m. Volunteers welcome!

Find us at www.KechiUMC.org. Follow us on Facebook, or Twitter @KechiUMC. Pastor Mitch can be contacted at Mitch@kechiumpc.org. Phone number is 744-1221.

Park City Church of the Nazarene

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

Wednesday evening light meal at 6:30 and Bible study at 7.

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

The United Methodist Church at Park City

The church is located at 1510 E. 61st North. Worship is every Sunday at 9 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Staffed childcare and children’s ministries are provided, and a mother/baby room is also available. Youth group meets at 6 p.m. on Sunday evenings.

March 15 and 16 is hunter safety education. On March 15 class is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (lunch included) and March 16 from 1 - 5 p.m. The classes will be held at the United Methodist Church and course material is included. Register online at safehunters.com.

March 29 is Ta-Da Ladies Sew-In. The ladies of C@PC will be having an all-day quilting party. Any lady who enjoys quilting or would like to learn is invited to participate. Please contact the church for further information.

April 6 is the 3rd annual Easter egg hunt. It will be held at Habiger Park in Park City. All community children, 5th grade and younger, are invited to participate. Details will be announced soon.

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From 6 - 7 p.m., April 18, the youth are putting on a dinner theater. Tickets are going on sale soon. There are also several other youth events coming up. If your middle school or high school youth is looking for a youth group, please give us a call.

All events and activities are open to the community. Feel free to contact Pastor Rob with any questions about upcoming events and activities at 744-0029 or 200-0156. Find the church on Facebook (www.facebook.com/TheChurchAtParkCity), or follow us on Twitter “@Churchparkcity,” or visit our website (www.churchatparkcity.com) for more information.

Randall Road Baptist Church

Randall Road Baptist is located at 6556 N Randall, Park City.

Sunday School starts at 10 a.m. Worship is at 11 a.m.

Sunday evening activities start at 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible study begins at 7 p.m.

Contact Pastor Jim McQuery at 201-1696 or e-mail at jmquery@cox.net

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

On Sunday at 9 a.m. is our

adult class, “The Story of Christianity.” Service of Matins is at 9:45 a.m. followed by the Divine Liturgy (Mass) at 10. Nursery service is provided.

On Wednesday our service is at 6 p.m. On Saturday Vespers is at 4:30 p.m.

Men’s Study Group first and third Monday at 7 p.m. We are studying the Gospel of Luke.

Women’s Study Group second and fourth Friday at 10 a.m. Dare To Live Fully Right Where You Are. We will continue our study of “One Thousand Gifts” by Ann Voskamp.

Wednesday Potluck Supper & Program “When a Nation Forgets God” Feb. 19. “That Which is Legal Might Also Be Evil.” Liturgy 6 p.m. Supper 6:45. Program 7:30. All are welcome.

Catechism Class: Saturdays at 3 p.m. Those who are interested in learning about the Orthodox Church are most welcome to join us.

Holy Days for February: Feb. 22 Chair of St. Peter at Antioch, Feb. 24 Saint Matthaïis the Apostle, Feb. 27 Saint Raphael of Brooklyn. Season of Pre-Lent begins on Feb. 16. March 5 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Great Lent.

Fasting during January: All Fridays are days of fasting and abstinence.

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Call the church for more information, 734-6248, or visit www.stmichaoloc.org. 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 11:00 a.m.

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City denies option to reopen pool with reserve funds

By Matt Heilman

The conversation moved forward, but the Park City pool will likely stay closed for at least one more summer. After more than an hour of discussion, the city council turned down a motion to use available reserve funds to reopen the city pool in Hap McLean Park.

At the onset of the discussion at its Jan. 28 meeting, the council was prepared to hear a recommendation from the park board regarding funding options for the construction of a new city pool or for the reopening of the current pool.

Park City Park Board chairman John Oswald reported to the council that the board has looked at the cost-benefit of a slight property tax hike versus the implementation of a 1-cent sales tax in considering what could be raised to make a new pool a reality in the next few years. But his recommendation to the council was only that the group approve the reopening of the current pool for 2014.

The recommendation followed the park board's Jan. 6 meeting where the group voted

to make the request to the council. Meanwhile, the park board agreed to continue exploring options to possibly cement a plan to fund a new pool for the city.

The problem the council and Mayor Ray Mann had with Oswald's proposal for reopening the pool was that it was made without a recommendation for funding.

When the pool was last open in 2012, the city spent more than \$70,000 in operating expenses, including costs to repair leaks. The council indicated its hands were tied because the pool's operation wasn't factored into this year's budget.

Council member Tom Jones said he remembers when the 55-year-old pool in Hap McLean Park was built. He used the pool growing up in Park City and he said he agrees that it's an amenity the city should have.

However, he pointed out that reopening the pool would likely cost the city more than a mill in property taxes to open this summer.

"Where's that gonna come from?" Jones asked rhetorically.

Council member Chris Johns said when broken down, the \$45,000 to \$55,000 the pool was losing each summer from 2009 to 2012 equated to a loss of about \$700 per day. He and other council members acknowledged that pools almost always lose money or operate in the red, but without a plan for funding, they expressed that it wasn't feasible to reopen this summer.

A few proponents for reopening the pool addressed the council. Resident Terry Gresham, who also spoke at the park board's Jan. 6 meeting, said he was upset with the council's perceived negative attitude about the pool. He wondered why plans like increasing entrance fees and costs for season passes and concessions weren't considered for helping to offset the expense of opening the pool.

Gresham said his children rode their bikes to the pool every day in recent summers when it was open. He asked the council what their priorities were.

Lori Glover said the value for residents was worth the

expense of keeping the pool open. She said she likely would not have chosen to live in Park City when she first moved to the Wichita area had she known the city would close its pool.

Steve Brown said Park City's amenities were one of the reasons his family moved to the city. He asked the council to consider finding a way to open the pool in 2015 if it couldn't do so in 2014.

In addition to the issue with funding, the city would be facing a time crunch if it were to open the pool this summer due to a need for staffing and the addition of an approximate \$6,000 to \$7,000 lift to make the facility compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Debbie Rush, a member of the park board, said she's lived in Park City for 22 years and has "fond memories of the pool." She also brought up that she hasn't noticed much activity with home sales in the city.

"What do we have to attract residents?" she said.

Council member Gary Aldrich said if residents wanted the pool to open, they should

back it up with action. He proposed a plan to do away with single-day passes and have season pass sales pay for the pool's operation with group funding.

A season pass costs \$40 for an individual or \$80 for a family. Aldrich said he'd be the first to pay for a season pass if the council approved his plan.

Mayor Ray Mann said he liked the idea of group funding, but the plan was not put up for a vote. After council member Mike Alumbaugh discussed the time crunch with staffing even if funding was secured to open the pool this summer, Rush was called out by Mann for speaking out of turn from the crowd.

She left the meeting in anger. "You should all be ashamed of yourselves," she told the council.

When the meeting was restored to order, the conversation continued.

George Glover motioned to open the pool this summer

by utilizing up to \$80,000 in available reserves. Glover, the liaison to the park board, said the pool was an amenity the city needs if it hopes to attract new residents. Council members Melvin Kerr and George Capps voted in favor of the motion.

Jones again said he agrees that the city should have a pool, but he didn't think using reserve funds was the right way to go about reopening the current pool. He indicated that there is no guarantee the current pool could stay open for an entire summer without the need for more repairs and that reserves could be better suited to someday go toward a new pool. He said he would like to see the council explore its options further before establishing a plan for the pool.

"There has to be some way to work through this without a knee-jerk reaction tonight," Jones said.

Land donation comes with strings attached

By Matt Heilman

It was offered as a donation to the city, but the acceptance of a large tract of land isn't going to come detached from strings. At the Park City council's Feb. 25 meeting, the council considered accepting the donation of about 80 acres in land valued at \$1.7 million. The land includes platted lots in the High Ridge Second Addition located east of Grove to Hillside.

Park City Administrator Jack Whitson said developer Jay Russell hasn't been able to sell the land due to "situations beyond his control that are existing."

The land has about \$500,000 in special assessments owed for infrastructure improvements, which includes a water line along the north end of the property. Whitson said Russell wouldn't likely be able to pay off the specials.

And if the specials go unpaid, the city is ultimately responsible for them, regardless of who owns the property. Special assessments are issued for property owners to reimburse cities for paying for infrastruc-

ture work, such as utilities and paving.

Whitson explained that if the special assessments go unpaid by the landowner, the property will eventually come up for auction at a sheriff's sale. And at the point when such property is up for auction, it usually sells for cheap, and the time for the first payment on the special assessments to come due is reset for at least three years.

It's not uncommon for property to change hands numerous times and several years to pass by before the city sees any return on its investment in providing infrastructure work. The issue with delinquent special assessments has been a thorn in Park City's side. It caused a deficit in the 2013 budget.

Whitson said by taking own-

ership of the land as a donation now, the city can develop a plan for the property and limit the burden of delinquent special assessments on the city.

At the beginning of the discussion, council member George Capps said he didn't like the idea of the city taking on more undeveloped land with a budget that is already tight.

"I just feel that we're getting too much into the real estate business," he said.

After some discussion,

council member Gary Aldrich said he saw accepting the donation of the land as an opportunity to turn a liability into an asset.

"I understand we don't want to be in the real estate business, but we are ultimately responsible for the specials and bonds out there," Aldrich said.

The council decided to explore its options further before making a decision. The matter was deferred to the council's next meeting on March 11.

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Round Up Day

Sunrise Christian Academy

March 11th

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