

PARK CITY POST

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Valley Center, KS 67147

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Complimentary copy

Outlet mall planned for Echo Hills

Multi-family housing also included

By Matt Heilman

The scope of the Echo Hills commercial development was brought into focus last month. Although specific tenants haven't been announced, the general public can finally get a sense of what's in store for the

development after a presentation at the Park City council's Dec. 9 meeting.

At the meeting, the council first heard from Lawrence-based attorney Matt Gough, who discussed the intentions of Intersection Developers, LLC, an outlet mall developer,

to purchase between 25 and 40 acres of the 86-acre former golf course property located northwest of 53rd North and I-135 from Echo Hills developer Mike Loveland.

Plans call for a regional shopping attraction, similar to outlet centers in Oklahoma

City, Little Rock, Ark., Louisville, Ky., Des Moines, Iowa, and the Legends in Kansas City, Kan.

The outlet center would encompass between 250,000 to 350,000 square feet with the potential to include a 50,000- to 75,000-square-foot store that

would anchor the mall.

To the west of the outlet center, plans call for the addition of multi-family residential units.

To spur progress in the Echo Hills development, representa-

See MALL, Page 4

So long, 2014

Park City had its ups and downs during the past year



Matt Heilman

Dee Stuart with Park City Pride and Chisholm Trail Elementary students cut a ribbon to celebrate the installation of new playground equipment at the school April 17.

Park City saw prosperity with growth and promises for even better days in the years ahead. New residents moved to town, new businesses made themselves at home and the city was again able to pass a budget for the year ahead that doesn't call on an increase in property taxes from the city. The year that was, was a year worth celebrating. Here's a look back at the past 12 months in Park City.

January

Park City residents Mike and Tami Logue moved back into their remodeled Park City home a week after Christmas, about six months after they were displaced by an explosion and fire caused by a gas leak. The couple has lived in their home on Kerman Street for nearly three decades.

The start of a new legislative session had a Wichita group re-energized in its efforts to push for gaming in Sedgwick County and the reopening of a mothballed property neighboring the Kansas Pavilions. The group called Wichita Wins advocated for slot machines at the Wichita Greyhound Park.

February

An upward trend in the housing market revealed that 2013 home sales in the Wichita area were on pace to rise by 12.5 percent, the largest year-over-year gain on record. The trend was anticipated to continue throughout



In June, the Park City Council opposed a proposal to establish an ordinance that would have allowed pot-bellied pigs as pets.

2014 with home sales rising by another 2.5 percent through the first several weeks of the year to 9,340 units, said Richelle Knotts of Weigand New Homes.

Voters in north-central Sedgwick County learned that they would have a choice of local representation on the November ballot for county commission. Former state representative Melody McCray-Miller, a Democrat, formally announced her decision to run against

incumbent Republican Richard Ranzau in the bid to represent the county's fourth district.

March

Former Park City resident Paco Martinez began his second season as the head coach of

See 2014, Page 5

City OKs agreement with sports director

Wichita man to run Youth Program

By Matt Heilman

The Park City council took another step in a new direction for the city's youth baseball and softball program in Hap McLean Park.

On Nov. 25, the council approved an agreement with a new program operator for the use of the baseball and softball fields. The council approved a three-year agreement with Scott Martin to operate its youth program. Through this past summer since the late 1960s, the volunteer-run Park City Youth Program operated youth baseball and softball in Park City. For decades, the program provided maintenance to the five diamonds in the complex of McLean Park, organized the setup and scheduling for teams playing in the Wichita Heights League and provided a portion of revenue from tournaments and concession sales to go toward capital improvements for the fields.

In recent years, however, the youth program fought an uphill battle to keep up with maintenance and to keep participation at a solid level. A handful of volunteers were left to do most of the work with limited time and resources.

In hopes of increasing participation and seeing improvement projects completed quickly, city leaders decided to step in the

See DIRECTOR, Page 6

Election candidate deadline approaches

Four council seats in Park City

By The Post staff

The deadline to file as a candidate in local city and school spring elections is fast approaching. Candidates have until noon Jan. 27 to submit paperwork to be on this year's ballot.

The primary election will be March 3. The general election will be April 7.

In Bel Aire, the mayor seat and two at-large city council positions are up for election in 2015.

In Kechi three at-large city council positions — those held by David McConaughay, Kevin Opat and Brian Adams — are up for election.

In Park City, council seats held by Mike Alumbaugh (Ward 1), Chris Johns (Ward 2), George Capps (Ward 3) and Tom Jones (Ward 4).

Four of seven seats are open for election on the Valley Center school board. Seats held by Rhonda Price, Roger Joyal, Dave Spears and Colin McKenney will be decided. They are four-year terms. Price has filed for re-election for a fourth term.

HIGHLIGHTS Solutions offered to combat sewer odor

Wichita man killed in crash

A 22-year-old Wichita man was killed in an early morning, one-vehicle wreck Dec. 7 in the 4100 block of East 37th North, near 37th Street North and Hillside. Police identified the man as Ryan Hamilton, of Wichita.

Wichita Police Lt. James Espinoza said the wreck was reported shortly after 4 a.m. Security with Koch Industries, located just east of 37th and Hillside, discovered the wreck after Hamilton's SUV came to a rest at a tree, Espinoza said.

Espinoza said the investigation into the wreck concluded that Hamilton's vehicle crashed into the tree after it left the roadway. Espinoza said speed played a factor in the wreck and further investigation, including toxicology reports, would determine if Hamilton was impaired at the time of the wreck.

Hamilton was pronounced dead on scene. Espinoza said there were no other occupants in the vehicle at the time of the wreck.

— Matt Heilman

City issues six building permits

The city of Park City issued six building and roofing permits during November for a total valuation of \$335,720. Of that number, two were for new homes. Permits are listed by dates they were issued, addresses, type of work and valuation:

- Nov. 3, 6543 E. Parkview, roofing, \$3,000;
- Nov. 6, 5844 N. Broadway, roofing, \$9,120;
- Nov. 14, 4657 Steeds Crossing, new residence, \$154,900;
- Nov. 17, 4751 Steeds Crossing, new residence, \$154,900;
- Nov. 24, 1427 Denver, roofing, \$6,000;
- Nov. 25, 6219 N. West Parkview, roofing and siding, \$7,800.

— The Post staff

By Matt Heilman

Driving along Broadway in a two-mile stretch from the south end of Park City north to the intersection at 61st Street, a pungent, sulfuric odor may fill the air. The smell isn't constant, but when conditions are right, it permeates and can cause headaches, especially in the area of 53rd North and Broadway, which often features the city's heavy

est traffic.

The smell comes from the Chisholm Creek Utility Authority water and sewage treatment facility located in the 5500 block of North Broadway. The CCUA facility is co-owned and built to serve the cities of Park City and Bel Aire. The facility includes a wastewater treatment plant and a drinking water treatment plant.

Park City Council mem-

ber Tom Jones represents an area of the community that includes the CCUA facility, the nearby police department squad room/Park City maintenance facility and the Echo Hills commercial property. Jones, who also represents Park City on the CCUA board, said the foul smell from the wastewater treatment plant has been more constant in recent months. He said bacteria eating up oxygen

causes the sulfuric smell from the sewage.

Specifically, the smell is emitted from the hydrogen sulfide chemical that forms in the sewage, CCUA Manager Randall Harris said.

Harris said an air release valve near Echo Hills is the source for the bulk of recent complaints about the odor. A short-term solution would involve the installation of a filter on the valve, he said.

A long-term solution approved by the CCUA is to inject oxygen at a couple locations directly into the main pipe, or force main, carrying the wastewater, Harris said.

"If we keep the wastewater aerated, there will not be hydrogen sulfide formed," he said. "So, that will eliminate odors, but it will also stop the corrosion we're dealing with here at the plant, which is my main concern."

Trivia coming to Park City in February

The Post staff

Park City Pride is sponsoring a trivia fundraiser designed to ensure continuation of the group's community projects. The event will be 7 p.m. Feb. 7 at the Park City Public Library.

Teams of eight will compete for \$100 and bragging rights, answering a series of questions on different topics.

After participating in the Christ Lutheran Church Trivia Night to benefit the church's lunch program, Pride members decided that the trivia contest might be the new fundraiser they had been seeking. That evening was filled with laughs, snacks and smart remarks — sometimes even intelligent answers. They couldn't think of a better way to sup-

port their projects and have a good time at the same time.

Pride provides the Park City Food Pantry food assistance, holiday boxes for those needing a hand, food backpacks for breaks in the school lunch program. They also fund Movies in the Park with the help of local businesses, Park City Alive! in cooperation with the Chisholm Trail Seniors and

the Park City Public Library. The latest endeavor will be a Community Improvement Day in March with attendees from area volunteer groups coming together for an exchange of ideas.

The group partners with local groups and churches to provide a better community experience for residents of Park City and the area. Projects cost money. The

Food Pantry budget alone is \$6,000 a year. The money goes to the Food Bank Warehouse and to local grocery stores to fill in items that don't come in the donations from community donors.

Call 744-8685 and leave a message to contact Pride members, or check out the website at www.parkcitypride.info.

Valley Center, Bel Aire are 'safe' cities

By Matt Heilman

Two cities in north Sedgwick County have been recognized among the state's safest places to call home. Movoto, a real estate brokerage company, unveiled its list of the top 10 safest small towns in Kansas on Dec. 12.

"We looked at towns with populations between 5,000 and 20,000 and ranked them based on data from the 2012 FBI Uniform Crime Report," said Movoto's Chad Stiffney.

The report painted north Sedgwick County in a positive light. The city of Bel Aire ranked No. 1 on the list, recognized as the safest small town in the state.

The city of Valley Center ranked in a tie for third with Spring Hill in northeast Kansas. The northeast Kansas community of Gardner and fellow Wichita suburb Andover tied for fifth.

Lansing, also in northeast Kansas, ranked second on the list. Wichita suburb Mulvane ranked seventh. Eudora, located east of Lawrence, ranked eighth. The western Kansas communities of Colby and Ulysses were ninth and 10th, respectively.

Ranking just outside the top 10, Park City was in a tie for 12th on the list of 35 cities observed in the study.

The safety-related criteria for compiling the list included statistics on murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, theft and vehicle theft. The crimes were listed into four sub-categories: murders, violent crimes, property crimes and total crimes.

Among 35 cities Movoto observed, the company ranked each city with a score from 1 to 35 in each of the categories, all

per capita, with 1 being the best possible score.

Bel Aire ranked first for having the lowest number of violent crimes according to the 2012 FBI Uniform Crime Report. The city joined several other cities with zero murders reported in 2012 and ranked second on the list for its number of property crimes per capita.

Bel Aire community development director Rick Rekoske said the city's recognition as "the safest small town in Kansas" can be used effectively to

attract new residents.

"It's just a fantastic additional marketing tool we can utilize that can help spread the word on Bel Aire," he said. "...We were excited when we got the news."

Valley Center Mayor Mike McKnown also said his community's recognition as one of the safest small towns in the state was "something (the city) can capitalize on."

"We know Valley is safe and a great family-friendly community," McKnown said. "It's

nice to see that we rank toward the top."

In 2012, Valley Center had the third lowest number of violent crimes per person, a low number of property crimes and the seventh fewest crimes per capita on the list.

For the complete ranking of the 35 cities in the study and more information on the cities featured in the top 10 and the methodology to compile the ranking, visit www.movoto.com/ks/safest-small-towns-in-kansas.

BUSINESS & SERVICE GUIDE

ATTORNEYS

Thomas D. Harris
Attorney at Law
300 W. Main
Valley Center
9 a.m.-5 p.m.,
Mon.-Fri.
755-2707

ELECTRICAL

Rusher Electric Co
Residential/Commercial
New Construction/Repair Service
Trenching
Est. 1972 Lic # 1379
744-1884 or 655-9289

INSURANCE

FARMERS
WILLI J. RICHERT
AGENCY
1900 N. Amidon, Suite 216
Wichita 67203 • 838-1486
AUTO HOME LIFE COMMERCIAL

MEDICAL SERVICES

DENTIST
Tom Troilo, DDS, PA
201 W. Main
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Brian Maschino
PO Box 214 • Valley Center, KS 67147
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btmaschino@cox.net

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309 East Kechi Road
Kechi, KS 67067
316-744-6222
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al.taylor@edwardjones.com

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at 755-0821

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• Water service lines
• Service & repair
• Well service
755-1277

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Combined Experience
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Member Better Business Bureau
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Bryan's Heating & Air Conditioning
755-2447
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Installation

MASSAGE

Massage Therapist Steve Willms
M-F 10-6 pm, Sat. 10-3 pm
By appointment only
316-393-0652

MEDICAL SERVICES

Drs. Todd and Giannetti, P.A.
Optometrists
301 E. Main, Valley Center
Mon 8:30-12.1-7 • Tu 9-12, 1-5
W-Th 8:30-12.1-5 • Fri 9-12
Phone 755-0491

VETERINARIANS

7:30 am-6 pm M-F
8 am-noon Sat.
Daniel Thompson, D.V.M.
Cindy Payne-Robertson, D.V.M.
Lori Mitchell, D.V.M.
Kelly Martin, D.V.M.
Chisholm Trail Animal Hospital, P.A.
744-0501
1726 E. 61st North, Park City

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THE PARK CITY REPORT

CITY OF PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

City Council Meeting Nov. 25, 2014:

- Approved the minutes of the Nov. 12, 2014, regular meeting.
- Approved the current appropriations.
- Approved \$6,072.12 for preliminary breath alcohol testing equipment from the Special Alcohol and Drug Fund.
- Approved an agreement with the program operator for the use of the baseball and softball fields.
- Approved the renewal of a water allocation agreement with the City of Bel Aire.
- Approved spending \$2,000 of budgeted funds for a booth at the 2015 Home Show.

City Council Meeting December 9, 2014

- Approved the minutes of the Nov. 25, 2014, regular meeting.
- Approved the current appropriations.
- Approved membership in the League of Kansas Municipalities and subscription fees for the Kansas Government Journal, \$3,428.43.
- Approved cereal malt beverage licenses for Leeker's Family Foods, Pizza Hut, Snacks, Quik Trip, Presto, the

Kansas Pavilions, and Easy Trip.

- Held a public hearing for the creation of a community improvement district on behalf of Echo Hills Development, LLC.
- Approved an ordinance establishing the Echo Hills Community Improvement District.
- Approved a zoning change from C-1 Service Business District to R-2 Single Family Residential District at 6146 Independence.
- Approved \$35,000 from the Utility Surplus Fund for the rehabilitation of well pump houses.
- Approved the sale of property to PMA, Inc. (a formality related to an expiring tax abatement).
- Approved \$18,430 for the purchase of patrol vehicle video equipment to be reimbursed by federal grant funds.
- Approved membership in the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) for 2015, cost \$2,200.

Questions about the meetings may be addressed to Terry Coltrain, Finance Director, at 316-744-2026, Ext. 204, or cityclerk@parkcityks.com.

SENIOR CALENDAR

For more information or a complete schedule of all daily/weekly activities and programs, call Madison Shriner at 744-1199.

- Monday**
 9:15 a.m. Exercise
 10:15 Bible study (except Jan. 5)
 1 p.m. Crochet/art class
 6:00 Pitch
- Tuesday**
 8:30 a.m. Wii Bowling
 10:00 Chair exercise
 1:00 p.m. Bridge lessons
 1:00 Pool
 6:00 TOPS
- 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 the 3rd Thursday)
- Friday**
 9:15 a.m. Exercise
 10:30 Dance Aerobics
 1:00 p.m. Pinochle
Saturday
 1:00 p.m. Pinochle

Lunch is offered by Good Neighbor Nutrition at 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. Reservations are required. Call 744-0751. Homebound delivery Monday through Friday.

TOPS
 Take Pounds Off Sensibly meets Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. For more information on joining call GiGi Roths at 316-390-5531.

Monthly Events

- Jan. 5, 10:30 a.m.**
 Chisholm Trail Board Meeting
- Jan. 7, 10:30 a.m.**
 Chisholm Trail Seniors catered lunch and meeting (lunch by reservation)
- Jan. 8, 1 p.m.**
 Movie Matinee — "Miracle"
- Jan. 14**
 Nail care with Brenda Ingram
- Jan. 15, 1 p.m.**
 Card bingo — \$1 fee
- Jan. 15, 5:30 p.m.**
 Finger Food
- Jan. 16, 6 p.m.**
 Food/Fun/Games
- Jan. 20, 8 a.m.**
 Breakfast @ Auntie C's
- Jan. 22**
 Movie Matinee — "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" with discussion led by Karen Austin.

Senior Dances

\$4 donation at the door.

Refreshments served.

- Jan. 3, 7 p.m.**
 The Wildwood Band
- Jan. 17, 7 p.m.**
 The Wildwood Band
- Jan. 31, 7 p.m.**
 The Wildwood Band

Special Events

- Jan. 6, 11:30 a.m.**
 Drawing class with The Art Park Monart School of Art. Free. All materials provided. Space is limited. Call 316744-1199 for a reservation.
- Jan. 10 & 17, 10-11:30 a.m.**
 Social Security Workshop for those ages 55 thru 66 who have not claimed yet. Call 316-7441199 to RSVP.

Jan. 14, 4 p.m.
 Senior financial advisor Mark Webb will present "It is a New Year! What are you going to do to enhance your investments and try to make more money? Tired of low interest rates? What can you do to make a little more?"

- Jan. 20, 11 a.m.**
 Blood pressure clinic and presentation with Park West Plaza
- Jan. 26, 10-11 a.m.**
 Beginners computer course — Facebook. Meet at the Park City Public Library, 2107 E. 61st North. Limited space available. Call 316-744-1199 to reserve a spot.
- Jan. 29, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
 Casino outing with Overland Charters to First Council Casino. FREE. Meet at Overland Charters, 3333 N. Hillside. Please call 316-744-1199 to reserve a spot and to request a ride to Overland Charters from Park City Senior Center if needed. \$10 free play, Hot Seat prizes and 50 percent off meals (subject to change).
- Jan. 31, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**
 Begin week six of square dancing classes. For more info, please call Tammy Gough at 316-371-3991.

RECYCLING DAYS IN PARK CITY

East of I-135
Tuesdays — 6th & 20th

West of I-135
Wednesday — 7th, & 21st

East of Hydraulic/
 South of 53rd N
 — 8th & 22nd

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

GET YOUR RECYCLING CART — CALL CITY HALL TODAY

ALL TOGETHER NOW!
 MIX THE FOLLOWING RECYCLABLES IN HERE:

- Glass jar & bottles
- Aluminum cans
- Tin, steel, or aerosol cans
- Plastic tubs, jars, & trays
- Plastic bottles All plastics #1 - #7
- Food boxes
- Books (hard or paperback)
- Junk mail
- Cardboard (flatten all boxes)
- Magazines & catalogs
- Newspaper & inserts
- Office paper & file folders
- Paper bags

PLEASE NO:

- styrofoam
- electronics
- ceramics or dishes
- food waste
- plastic grocery bags
- motor oil containers
- household hazardous waste
- light bulbs, window glass, or mirrors
- yard waste or trash

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Commodities

Commodities distribution is now an every other month event. As a result, there will be no distribution in January.

Cold weather and pets

It's time to remind pet owners they need to pay extra attention to their outdoor pets. You are required to provide those pets with adequate shelter, substantial food and clean, fresh water.

Do you have enough dry bedding material for your dog to bed down in? On really cold nights, can that dog or cat stay in the garage? Some animals absolutely love the cold weather and some don't tolerate it at all. Know which one is yours and take appropriate action.

If you have a doghouse in great shape and don't use it any more, call our office at 744-2026 to donate it so we can recycle your doghouse to someone who needs it.

Got any cat carriers you don't use? We could use them to transport lost cats. Give us a call at the Department of Code Enforcement.

Dec. thru March water usage will determine 2015 sewer rates

Water usage from Dec. 15 through March 15 of each year determines the sewer charges on water bills for the 12-month period April 1 through March 31. The readings taken on the 15th day 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.

If you want to receive an Agenda of Council Meetings by email before the meetings, please make a request in writing to cityhall@parkcityks.com. Be sure to include your name and mailing address as well as your email address.

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.

Winter street safety

Winter weather is here, which means you could encounter hazardous driving conditions caused by ice and snow. The city of Park City has about 83 miles of roads maintained by the four-person staff of the Public Works Street Department.

The Street Department approaches snow removal by dividing the streets into zones. They are prioritized and are cleared in the following order: arterial, collector, and lastly residential streets that have known spots that tend to ice over and have hazardous conditions.

Be safe. When driving on slick roads remember to drive, steer and brake more slowly than usual. You should keep at least a three-car distance from the vehicle directly in front you.

Christmas tree recycle

When the holidays are over, remember to recycle that Christmas tree. You can drop it off at Hap McLean Park, 6801 N. Hydraulic, on the west side near the ball diamonds. While you are there, pick up some free mulch!

Pride Food Pantry

The Park City Pride Food Bank is open the third Saturday of each month at

PARK CITY PROJECT FRIENDSHIP

Project Friendship is a charitable organization that helps families in the city of Park City with their water/sewer bill. If you are experiencing a financial hardship and need assistance, please call 744-2026 and someone at City Hall will get you in touch with one of the Project Friendship board members. The board meets on the second Friday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the conference room at City Hall.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to Project Friendship, simply round up the amount of your utility bill and write the extra amount on the donation line that is located on the left side of your return stub. You may also pledge an amount that will automatically be added to your bill each month. For more information, call the water clerk at 744-2026.

CITY HALL HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

- Thursday, Jan. 1, and Friday, Jan. 2. New Year's**
- Monday, Jan. 19. Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

the Park City Community Building, 6512 E. Parkview. This month's date is Jan. 17 from 1 to 3 p.m.

The food pantry is required to follow 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 call Park City Pride at 744-8685.

The Park City Municipal Code is available to anyone who has a computer with internet service. You can see it at parkcityks.com

The City of Park City offers email utility bills. If you would like to have your bills emailed instead of receiving a card in the regular mail, just complete this form and return it to City Hall. You may also sign up on our Website at www.parkcityks.com.

Name as it appears on bill: _____
 Service Address: _____
 Account Number: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 E-mail Address: _____

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- PC = Pride Center, SC = Senior Center, CB = Comm. Bldg, CH = City Hall, PCL = Park City Library
- Jan. 1 & 2** — City Hall closed for New Year's Day holiday
- Jan. 3, 7 p.m.** — Senior Dance SC
- Jan. 5, 7 p.m.** — Park Board CH
- Jan. 7, 10:30 a.m.** — Seniors catered lunch SC
- Jan. 8, 1 p.m.** — Court Trials CH
- Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m.** — Court CH
- Jan. 11, 7 p.m.** — Library Board PCL
- Jan. 10, 9 a.m.** — PRIDE PC
- Jan. 10, 7 p.m.** — Senior Dance SC
- Jan. 13, 1 p.m.** — Court Trials CH
- Jan. 13, 7 p.m.** — City Council CH
- Jan. 15, 5:30 p.m.** — Seniors Finger Food
- Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m.** — Court CH
- Jan. 17, 1 p.m.** — Pride Food Pantry PC
- Jan. 19** — City Hall closed, Martin Luther King Jr. birthday
- Jan. 22, 1 p.m.** — Court Trials CH
- Jan. 22, 6:30 p.m.** — CCUA, Bel Aire CH
- Jan. 22, 6:30 p.m.** — Court CH
- Jan. 22, 7 p.m.** — Seniors Square Dance SC
- Jan. 24, 7 p.m.** — Senior Dance SC
- Jan. 26, 7 p.m.** — Planning/BZA CH
- Jan. 27, 7 p.m.** — Council CH
- Jan. 28, 11:30 a.m.** — Chamber Luncheon
- Jan. 31, 7 p.m.** — Senior Dance SC

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 a.m. to 5 p.m. A list of extensions/numbers is provided below for your convenience. Please do not leave messages for payments in case of busy days when calls cannot be returned promptly.

- 744-2026 City Hall**
- 203 City Administrator
 - 215 Assist. City Admin./HR
 - 204 Fin. Dir./ City Clerk
 - 214 City Attorney
 - 206 Mayor
 - 202 Accounts Payable
 - 209 Payroll
 - 208 Building Permits
 - 207 Utility Billing
 - 201 Utility Billing
 - 213 Inspections
 - 225 Code Enforcement
 - 205 Code Enforcement
 - 210 Court Clerk
 - 216 Asst. Court Clerk
 - 744-2011 Police
 - 744-6417 Court

AUTOMATIC PAYMENT OF UTILITY BILLS

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Park City right to encourage spruce-up

You can't take back a first impression, no matter how many redeeming qualities you have. Park City has a lot going for it and the city is to be commended for its efforts in welcoming first-time visitors.

As a host to special events and new businesses, and with new home starts and beautification projects, the city has reasons to be proud of its progress over the past several years.

Unfortunately, the pride isn't reflected along one of the most heavily traveled streets in the area that serves as one of the main entrances into Park City. Coming into Park City by traveling north on Broadway, you won't encounter the well-maintained parks, new homes or any other promotional features the city presents in its marketing material.

The approximately two-mile stretch from 45th to 61st Street North isn't pretty. There's no sugarcoating it. We welcome the industrial businesses that continue to be quality employers along the corridor, but it would be nice if something could be done to spruce up the area and improve the overall aesthetic.

We know that businesses that work on large engines or recycled metal don't have to worry about outward appearance nearly as much as banks, office buildings, hotels or restaurants, but it would be nice if Park City could be more welcoming to visitors coming up Broadway.

We don't know what the answers are. A good starting point could be to either demolish or revitalize several of the businesses that are permanently closed on Broadway.

Maybe there's someone out there who could turn an old mechanic's garage into a vintage-themed restaurant, similar to the former Burger Hut in Valley Center at Fifth and Meridian.

The city is limited with what it can do within its budget. Park City at least does well to keep its streets maintained.

However, the first-impression issues aren't just visual for Park City.

For people entering town from the south on Broadway or from the west on 53rd, it's not good if they're depending on their sense of smell to judge Park City. The occasional smell of sewage is emitted from the sewer treatment plant at the Chisholm Creek Utility Authority, just northwest of 53rd North and Broadway.

The CCUA is working on a long-term fix to cover the smell and to keep it from driving away potential tenants and future visitors of the Echo Hills commercial property.

Park City has a lot going for it. But for someone visiting for the first time entering the city limits driving up Broadway, the smell of sewage and the site of run-down former businesses could leave a first impression difficult to redeem.

— The Park City Post

The Park City Post

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Thank you for five years of stories

In February 2010, I stepped into a new, yet familiar role. I began reporting for the hometown newspaper of the community where I attended school for 12 years.

Growing up on rural property on the far northeastern boundary of Hornet country, I remember looking forward to Thursday evenings when I could sit down and page through the weekly Ark Valley News. After scanning the front page and the sports pages, I most looked forward to reading page 2 and the police reports.

If you would have told the teenage version of myself that I'd spend nearly five years writing for The Ark Valley News someday, there's a good chance I would have politely asked you what you were smoking. But I had a good head on my shoulders growing up, so I wouldn't have asked



Heil on life

By Matt Heilman

you if I could have some.

Under the tutelage of Les Anderson at Wichita State, I found an appreciation for community journalism. I took advantage of freelance opportunities to cover Valley Center High School sports for Chris Strunk toward the end of my college career, which ultimately led to the position I've held for half of a decade.

When I started full-time at The Ark Valley News, Anderson, who started the paper in the 1970s, advised me that it would be a great place to work for two to three years before I

should move on with my life.

After sticking around for about double the recommendation, the time has finally come for me to move on. Starting this week, I am transitioning into my new full-time job as a web content producer for KWCH Channel 12 in Wichita.

Don't worry; you won't see my mug on TV.

I'll be working behind the scenes, keeping everyone updated on news via the station's website and social media platforms. My experiences at The Ark Valley News made my next move possible and I've enjoyed almost every day in the last five years that I built that experience.

I'm going to miss covering city council meetings on Tuesday and Thursday nights in the cities of Park City, Bel Aire and Kechi. I'm going to miss attending VC Hornet sporting

events and silently rooting for the purple and gold as I pretend to be objective. I'm going to miss interacting with go-to sources and kind residents in the four communities in our coverage area that I've grown to know well. I'm going to miss Pat Houston's donuts on Wednesday mornings and the near daily visits from Pete Hester, the self-proclaimed captain of the Valley Center High School football team.

I'm going to miss typing up and editing those police reports I once enjoyed reading. I'm going to miss all of you, probably much more than you'll miss me.

As always, thanks for reading. And thanks for letting me share your stories for the best five years of my life.

Matt Heilman was a reporter for The Park City Post, Bel Aire Breeze, Kechi

Lamp and Ark Valley News since 2010.



Around Park City

By Cecile Cox

Dear friends of Park City I have written this Around Park City column for several years.

I have been living outside of Park City for two years and I think it's time to pass on this column to someone who lives in the city who is aware of the many activities that are taking place.

If you are interested, please contact The Park City Post at 755-0821.

Mall

Continued from Page 1

tives of Echo Hills Development, LLC filed a petition to form a Community Improvement District (CID) at the 86-acre property. The CID petition includes the multi-tenant commercial project and 180 to 190 multi-family residential units, accompanied by 25,000 to 50,000 square feet of more commercial space.

In all, the projects' devel-

opment could exceed \$100 million. Upon completion, projects are also expected to bring in about 1,000 jobs to Park City.

The CID would be issued in the form of a 1.5-cent sales tax only applicable to businesses within the Echo Hills property. The CID, implemented for up to 22 years, would essentially be in place to allow the commercial project to pay for itself. The developers would be liable for the success of the projects,

Gough said.

Park City has already put its skin in the game by spending about \$4.5 million to add infrastructure to the Echo Hills development, including paving and sanitary sewer work.

Richard Rucker, representing Intersection Developers, LLC, said Park City's approval of the CID request "is the first and most important step for his company's development and leasing efforts." "Several key tenants are

aware of this project and have expressed an interest in coming to Park City," Rucker said. "But we need the city's support for the CID to finalize the project."

With the understanding that the approval of the CID would be a low-risk, high-reward move for the city, the eight-member council unanimously approved an ordinance establishing the Echo Hills Community Improvement District.

The action followed a public hearing on the creation of

the CID. No residents spoke during the public hearing.

To date, the Arby's restaurant chain remains the only tenant identified as being locked in to build in Echo Hills. The action taken on Dec. 9 is expected to turn more letters of intent into leases.

Loveland, who completed his purchase of the Echo Hills property in 2011 was present at the Dec. 9 meeting, but did not address the council.

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Lutheran is located at 53rd Street North and Hillside, across from Wichita Heights High School. Worship services are at 9 a.m. (contemporary) and 11 a.m. (traditional). Communion is offered at both services. Sunday School is 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. 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, 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. Phone number is 744-2776. The 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. The 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 invited to worship at 9:03 a.m. (contemporary service) or 11:00 a.m. (traditional service) on Sundays at Kechi United Methodist Church, 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi.

The "Epic of Eden" Bible Study will begin Jan. 11 at 5:30 p.m. in the KUMC Sanctuary. This 12-week Old Testament Bible study by Dr. Sandra Richter will clearly and powerfully communicate a history of God's redeeming grace, weaving together a story that runs from the Garden of Eden to the garden of the New Jerusalem. All are welcome.

All sixth- through 12th-grade youth are invited to the church at 4 p.m. Sundays for youth group.

CareGivers Support group meets a 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month in the basement parlor. Bingo is at 1

p.m. the first Wednesday of each month. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Find us at www.KechiUMC.org and "Like" us on Facebook. Pastor Mitch can be contacted at Mitch@kechi.umd.org or at 744-1221.

The United Methodist Church at Park City

The United Methodist Church at Park City is located at 1510 E. 61st North and has worship every Sunday at 9 and 11 a.m. Professionally staffed childcare and children's ministries are provided for morning services, and a mother/baby room is also available.

Every week we have small groups and special events designed with the community in mind. We'd love to have you join in! We are currently preparing for the holidays and have begun our annual Christmas food drives to provide a "meal in a box" for families who may not otherwise enjoy a family dinner during the holidays. Contact Amanda for more info.

Monday — Men's Coffee at 6:30 a.m. at Cracker Barrel. Jeni Jo is our licensed Zumba instructor. Join her every Monday night from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for fun fitness.

Tuesday — Celebrate Recovery at 6:30 p.m. Call David at 841-0777. If you've ever had a hurt or a hang-up, this is the place to be. Confidential and safe environment to celebrate together the recovery of your past hurts, and move to the future.

Wednesday — Family Ministry Night at 6 p.m. Join us for a meal, Youth Group for middle and high school kids, and Awana for kids age five through fifth grade. Professionally staffed childcare for the younger children. Call 744-0029 for more information.

Thursday — Men's Coffee at 6:30 a.m. at The Country Kitchen.

Ladies current Bible study is "Children of the Day," a Beth Moore study on Thessalonians. It is not too late to join in. Call the church at 744-0029 for information.

Friday — New Generation Worship at 7 p.m. Call Ben at 303-4958. (1 Thessalonians 3:5)

Sunday — Morning Worship is at 9

and 11 a.m. Call the church at 744-0029 for more information. Worship God. Love People. Follow Jesus.

We are currently offering Epiphany Ministry Inc. Team Training with Roy Bradshaw. This is a ministry for troubled and incarcerated teens and youth. Call Roy at 214-687-2754 if you want to know more about Epiphany Ministry Inc.

Youth are planning several events in the next few weeks — jump right in! Call Steve at 680-8399 to get your middle or high school youth involved in the best youth group around!

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 via email at jmcquery@cox.net.

Riverview Baptist Church

Located at 844 W. 53rd North, the church office can be reached at 838-4861.

Sunday schedule has Bible study at 9:30 a.m., morning worship at 10:45 and evening worship at 6 p.m.

Fellowship meal is at 6 p.m. Wednesday. At 7 p.m. is adult Bible study and prayer and youth group for grade nine through 12.

Awana Club and Youth Group both meet at 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Call the church office for more information.

St. Michael's Orthodox Christian Church

Saint Michael's Orthodox Christian Church is located at 2710 East 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 at 9 a.m. is our adult class, "Jesus: The Man, the Message and the Meaning." Service of Matins is at 9:45 a.m. followed by the Divine Liturgy (Mass) at 10 a.m. Nursery service is provided.

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

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

Women's Study Group meets at 10 a.m. the second and fourth Friday. We are studying the book, "God's Path to Sanity: Lessons from Ancient Holy Counselors on How to have a Sound Mind."

You are invited to a directed reading of "The Divine Comedy" of Dante Alighieri at 7 p.m. Thursdays,

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DEATHS

DELBERT FREED

Delbert "Joe" Freed, 66, owner of Petriatric.com, died Dec. 10, 2014.

He was preceded in death by his father, Delbert Zane Freed; stepmother, Frances Mae Freed; mother, Shirley Ann Freed-Wheeler, and stepfather, Harlan James Wheeler.

He is survived by Janet Nottingham, of Douglass, and her son, Jagger Nottingham, of Harper; siblings, Jimmy Freed, of Richland, Wash., Deborah (Steven) DeMeyer, of Richland, Wash., Harlan (Jennifer) Wheeler of Mt. Hood, Ore., Cindy (Robert) Sapp, of Sedalia, Mo., Brenda (Robert Mileski) Freed, of Park City, Brian Freed, of Wichita; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial Service was Dec. 20 at College Hill United Methodist Church. A memorial was established with Tanganika, 1000 S. Hawkins Lane, Goddard, KS 67052. Downing & Lahey East Mortuary had charge.



Freed

DEANNA FROMAN

Deanna Kay Froman, 65, of Kansas City, Mo., died Nov. 29, 2014. She was born Dec. 2, 1948, in Wichita and grew up in the Park City area, graduating from Wichita Heights High School.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Rongel and Beverly Froman, and her brother, Randy Lee Froman. She is survived by her daughters, Lynne (David) Powell and Lauren (Robert) Hamby; her sister, Janet (Wyman) Warren; her brother, Stanley (Helen) Froman; and five grandchildren.

Memorial service was Dec. 13 at Baker Funeral Home, Valley Center, with burial at Kechi Township Cemetery. Memorial contributions to Wayside Waifs (a no-kill animal shelter), 3901 Martha Truman Road, Kansas City, MO 64137

NORMAN HARDIN

Norman Hardin, 82, died Nov. 24, 2014.

He was a former pastor and career carpenter and building



Froman

contractor in the cities where he was a pastor. He also served for many years as maintenance manager for Benchmark Realty Company and for Market Parking.

Hardin

He was born to Jabus A. "Jack" Hardin and Billie Lucille Hardin in Carlsbad, N. M. He grew up in Hobbs, N.M., and attended Southwestern Assembly of God Bible College in Waxahachie, Texas. He was an ordained minister in the Assemblies of God and founded Victory Temple Church in Wichita. He and his wife, Beth Ann Hardin, were co-founders of Good Shepherd Fellowship Church in Park City.

He is survived by his wife, Beth Ann Hardin; his first wife, Billie Gene (Jefcoat) Hardin; children, Pamela Ruth Davis, Phyllis Ann Shaw (Don), Paul David Norman Hardin (Shelly), Perry Wayne Hardin and Patricia Lynn Hardin (Walter Green); nine grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; stepchildren, Stephanie Schureman (Cris), Michael Alderson



Hardin

(Jane); nine step-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren. Visitation was Dec. 1 with graveside service Dec. 2. Memorials to Christian Communications Intl. Inc., P.O. Box 160, Kechi, KS 67067. Baker Funeral Home of Valley Center had charge.

RICHARD RIDPATH

Richard Lee Ridpath, 65, died Dec. 17, 2014. He was a retired master heating and air tech with USD 259.

He was born in Wichita to Glenn E. Ridpath and Hazel (Decker) Ridpath and graduated from Wichita West High School.

He was preceded in death by his father, Glenn Ridpath, and brother, Gary Ridpath.

He is survived by sons, Jeromey (Tonya) Ridpath, of Haysville, and Jamie Ridpath of Park City; grandchildren, Justin, Hunter, Garrett, Danielle and Gabrielle; mother, Hazel Ridpath, of Wichita; brothers, Donnie (Rosemary) Ridpath, of Wichita, Robert (Debbie) Ridpath, of Hutchinson, Glenn Ridpath, of Wichita, and Steve Ridpath of Wichita; sisters, Doris (Duane) Gosh, of Wichita, and Debbie (Chris) Pore, of Wichita.

Private services were held. Baker Funeral Home, of Val-

ley Center, had charge.

LaVERNE SESKER

LaVerne Keven Sesker, died Dec. 8, 2014. He was a retired landscaper.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, LaDena Ann Sesker; mother, Anita Caroline Sesker; and nephew, Jake Joseph Hallacy. He is survived by his daughter, Arlie L. Sesker



Sesker

(Daniel Timmons), of Valley Center; his son Adam K. Sesker, of Hutchinson; grandson, Matthew Boyd Timmons of Valley Center; father, Gail N. Sesker, of Valley Center; brothers, Kerry Sesker of Madrid, Spain, Maneen Sesker, of Park City, Burnell Sesker, of Ft. Collins, Colo.; sisters Renie (Joel) Weaver, of Richman Hills, Georgia, and Artys Hallacy, of Valley Center; Naomi I. German, mother of Arlie Sesker and Adam Sesker; and Debra Bredy, mother of LaDena Sesker.

Visitation was Dec. 15, with funeral service Dec. 16,

both at Baker Funeral Home. Memorials may be designated to the family.

DOUGLAS WELLS

Douglas Wesley Wells, 45, died Dec. 20, 2014. He was a lunch aide at Chisholm Trail Elementary.

He was born in Wichita to Donald W. Wells and Marjorie (Woods) Wells and graduated from Heights High School. He is survived by his wife, Jessica Wells, daughter, Jady Wells,



Wells

both of the home; brother, David (Wanda) Wells; sister, Kathy (Kevin) Koster; father-in-law Louis, (Gloria) Montano; sisters-in-law, Melissa Montano and Gigi Montano; several nieces, nephews, many other family and friends.

Graveside service was held Dec. 27 at Kechi Township Cemetery, 6523 N. Hillside, Wichita. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be designated at gofundme.com/j7wiog. Baker Funeral Home of Valley Center had charge.

2014

Continued from Page 1

the Wichita Wild Indoor Football team that played its home games at Hartman Arena. The Wild went on to win its second-consecutive Central Plains Indoor Football League championship.

The Park City Police Department restructured while maintaining its current level of manpower and within its budget. The restructuring split the lieutenant position into two roles, an administrative lieutenant and an operations lieutenant that served as a supervisor on the first shift of patrols. With the restructuring, Park City Police Chief Phil Bostian indicated the department could increase its efficiency by shifting administrative responsibilities to one position toward the top of the hierarchy with another dedicated to supervising the manpower patrolling the streets.

April

Students at Chisholm Trail Elementary School and members of the Park City Pride Committee celebrated an April 17 dedication of a new playground for the school. Pride donated \$1,000 for the playground equipment that gives students and children in the community more options to play outside.

The community gathered around 18-year-old Jaden McAllister at a benefit dinner and raffle at Chisholm Trail Elementary School. In September 2012, McAllister was diagnosed with a rare cardiac arrhythmia that limited her physical activity. Despite missing school due to her condition, McAllister was still on track to graduate with her senior class at Wichita Heights High School in May.

May

In an effort to seek residential feedback on the future of the city's swimming pool in Hap McLean Park, the Park City Council voted to spend \$4,000 in reserve funds to pay for a study from Kansas State University about recreational water-related infrastructure. "This is a fact-finding expedition to find out what citizens want so we can put it on the ballot and have a vote on it," Mayor Ray Mann said.

Kansas Sen. Carolyn McGinn, R-Sedgwick announced on May 14 that she planned to run for the District 4 seat of the Sedgwick County Commission, a position she held for six years before being elected to the Kansas Senate in 2004. McGinn went on to face Richard Ranzau in the Republican primary in August.

June

Ditch Witch, a multi-state construction equipment dealer with a strong local presence, held a June 27 ribbon-cutting to celebrate its move from its old facility near 101st North and Broadway to its new 24,000 square-foot home in Park City, east of 77th North and Broadway and just south of Hartman Arena.

The Park City Council opposed a proposal to establish an ordinance that would have allowed pot-bellied pigs as pets. The eight-member council was split on the proposal, and Mayor Ray Mann broke the tie. The mayor and four council members opposed to the proposal expressed concerns about irresponsible pet owners who wouldn't properly care for a pot-bellied pig and the precedent that could be set if they were to overturn the ordinance.

July

A Park City police officer took quick action to keep a small fire from spreading at a residence in the 6400 block of North Ulysses. Shortly before 4 p.m. July 19, Park City Officer Brandon Green responded to assist the Sedgwick County Fire Department on a report of an appliance that was sparking inside the residence. Green arrived to find a small flame inside the oven. Green found the breaker box inside the home and turned off the power to the oven before the flame could spread.

Fresh off its second consecutive league title, the Wichita Wild indoor football franchise was placed on the sales block. A news release on the sale of the team said Wild owner Wink Hartman "has made the decision to focus his operations on other business interests." Hartman owned the team for eight seasons, the last two in the Central Plains Indoor Football League.

August

The Park City Council approved a 2015 budget that called for no tax increase from the 2014 mark. Throughout the discussion on the budget, Park City Administrator Jack Whitson said the city is in OK financial shape for now, but is in need of further residential and commercial growth to keep the tax rate level for the foreseeable future.

An Aug. 19 groundbreaking celebrated the start of construction for a 22,000 square-foot

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law enforcement facility northwest of K-254 and Rock Road. The facility will serve as the new headquarters for Kansas Highway Patrol Troop F. The KHP will share the space with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

September

A group of volunteers with the Park City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board began the effort to renovate the city's community building in Hap McLean Park. A month earlier, the Park City Council voted to spend up to \$8,000 to renovate the near 50-year-old building.

After a two-year absence from the city, a popular restaurant was reintroduced to Park City in its new home at 420 E. 61st North. Hamburger Hero is known for its burgers, but owners Josh and Bri Sams also have catfish and barbecue options on the menu.

October

The Park City Council voted in support of a new direction for the city's youth baseball and softball program in Hap McLean Park. At its Oct. 14 meeting, the council approved a special committee's recommendation for the city to contract with Scott Martin to operate the youth program in 2015. Martin

is the owner of Wichita's Play it Again Sports chain of sporting goods stores. Martin also operates Wichita's Southwest Boys Club youth baseball program.

After a brief closure, the Park City Food Pantry reopened in the city at the Park City Pride building. The pantry is open from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month. The approximate six-month absence of the pantry was due in part to a lack of volunteers.

November

City leaders tentatively agreed to move forward with its campus plan that would bring a new City Hall and police department to the city. When funding permits, the city has its eye on five acres between the Park City Public Library and the Park City Medical Plaza, just east of 61st North and Hydraulic.

Information from Sedgwick County Emergency Communications revealed that there were

80,517 abandoned emergency calls in 2013, which equated to about 3,335 dispatch hours.

December

At the Park City Council's Dec. 9 meeting, plans were revealed for the Echo Hills commercial development to include an outlet mall and multi-family housing. At the Dec. 9 meeting, the council heard from an attorney who discussed the intentions of Intersection Developers, LLC, an outlet mall developer, to purchase between 25 and 40 acres of the 86-acre former golf course property northwest of 53rd North and I-135.

Park City rang in the holiday season with Christmas light displays neighboring City Hall and along Hydraulic near 61st Street. The light displays, made possible with work from volunteers, have become an annual tradition in the city.

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Officers indicted in scheme to sell guns

By Matt Heilman

Two former officers with the Bel Aire Police Department were charged Dec. 9 in a federal indictment involving the illegal sale of firearms.

The indictment alleges that one of the officers devised a scheme to buy and sell firearms by falsely claiming the weapons were property of the Bel Aire Police Department and would be used for law enforcement purposes, U.S. Attorney Barry Grissom said.

A second officer is accused of lying to cover up the illegal firearms sale.

Nathan A. Mavia, 26, has been charged with one count of mail fraud. Mavia served as a Bel Aire police officer from February 2012 to June 2014.

Robert S. McCaslin, 40, is charged with one count of making false statements during a federal investigation. McCaslin served as a Bel Aire police officer from August 2007 to February 2014 before transitioning to the Valley Center Police Department in February.

McCaslin was a Valley Center police officer until the indictment was announced Dec. 9.

City Administrator Joel Pile said McCaslin submitted a letter of resignation on Dec. 1, informing the city he had accepted a position with the city of Andale and would be leaving Dec. 12.

When city officials learned of the indictment, they immediately suspended McCaslin for the remainder of his shifts. "As of last night, he is no

longer with the city," Pile said Dec. 10.

The indictment alleges that Mavia devised the scheme to falsely certify that the firearms would be owned by the Bel Aire Police Department and would be used for law enforcement purposes in order to buy firearms at reduced prices for personal use or resale.

The indictment alleges: Mavia ordered three rifles from Sig Sauer, falsely certifying that they were being acquired for performing official duties, not for personal use. The order form was accompanied by a letter on police department letterhead, a form signed by the former chief of police in Bel Aire, a copy of Mavia's police identification card and a cashier's check. On Nov. 15,

2013, one of the rifles (a Sig Sauer Model 716 Patrol, 762 caliber) was delivered to the Bel Aire Police Department. Two other rifles were delivered to another location.

On Jan. 29, 2014, the interim police chief in Bel Aire found an FNH, model PS90, 5.7X28 caliber rifle in the department armory. Department policy did not allow officers to carry such a firearm on duty. He contacted FNH and learned that two other PS90 rifles were purchased at the same time. The order for the guns was accompanied by a letter stating that the guns were being ordered for officers' official duties, not for personal use or resale. The City of Bel Aire sent information to the Kansas Department of Revenue stating that the rifles were tax exempt

because they were being purchased for the exclusive use of the Bel Aire Police Department.

On Dec. 20, 2013, McCaslin was interviewed by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office. He stated that he understood the PS90 firearms were purchased for personal use. He said that Mavia and another officer each ordered one. He said he did not know who received the third PS90. During a second interview on Dec. 23, 2013, McCaslin stated the third PS90 possibly was sold to one of his friends. Investigators located a man who purchased a PS90 from a Bel Aire officer for \$699. No ATF form was completed for the purchase.

The indictment alleges Ma-

via paid another officer for one of the PS90 rifles, knowing that the rifle was being purchased by the officer, and that Mavia did not complete the required ATF form. Mavia knew at the time of the purchase that police department policy did not allow officers to carry this type of firearm.

If convicted, Mavia faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a fine up to \$250,000 on the mail fraud count. McCaslin faces up to five years in federal prison and a fine up to \$250,000 on the charge of making a false statement. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Debra Barnett is prosecuting.

Director

Continued from Page 1
new direction, starting in 2015.

Martin is the owner of the Wichita-based Play it Again Sports chain of sporting goods stores. Martin also owns and operates Wichita's Southwest Boys Club, a youth baseball organization that experienced significant growth over each of the last four years since he took over the program.

It remains to be seen if youth teams in Park City will continue playing in the Heights League. In its consideration for working with Martin instead of renewing its agreement with Park City's volunteer youth program, the council placed a priority on improvements to the complex in McLean Park and the prospect of bringing in more visitors to the city with additional tournaments.

With plans to revitalize the youth program in Park City, Martin submitted a proposal to a committee formed to review the facilities and weigh options for the program moving forward. Martin's proposal outlined plans for improving the condition of the fields and other areas of the complex in need of repair.

His proposal highlighted his success with the Southwest Boys Club. The council approved the committee's recommendation to accept Martin's proposal at its Oct. 14 meeting.

A month later, the council approved the formal agreement. The three-year agreement outlines Martin's responsibilities with the program, including a facility improvement financial plan.

With the financial plan, the city agrees to cover \$40,000 in improvements prior to March 2015 and \$10,000 each for improvements prior to March 2016 and March 2017. In the agreement, Martin is responsible to cover at least \$10,000 in improvements for each of the three years.

Council member John Lehnerr, who served on the committee that reviewed Martin's proposal, described

the city's portion of financing improvements in McLean Park as "an investment in the future of (Park City's) ball program."

Also in the agreement approved on Nov. 25, Martin will be responsible for providing a written summary report to the council at the end of each year. Park City has the authority to end the agreement before the three years is up if Martin doesn't live up to his end of the deal.

Also on Nov. 25, the council: Approved the renewal of the water allocation agreement with the City of Bel Aire. The cities have a partnership in the Chisholm Creek

Utility Authority. Approved spending up to \$2,000 to have a booth at the 2015 Wichita Area Builders Association Home Show in February at Century II.

Approved spending \$6,072.12 for preliminary breath alcohol testing equipment from the Special Alcohol and Drug fund.

All eight council members and

Mayor Ray Mann were present at the Nov. 25 meeting. Park City Admin-

istrator Jack Whitson was absent from the meeting.

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