

Economic council gives support to daycare center

DEVELOPMENT, from Page 1

committee, Donna Swager, Judy Harper, Kindi Bauman, Patti Purvis, Linda Knott, Yvonne Koehler, Kay Thornburg, Roxie Yonkey, Linda Quint and Karen Yates.

Harper said one of the plans for the newsletter was to have an open forum column to answer questions from the public.

He said the plan is to sell business-card advertising to finance the newsletter.

"We are working on a prototype, and

hope to have it ready soon," Harper said. "We are checking around for the best printing price, and will deliver the newsletter as an insert in *The Goodland Daily News* and give copies to each advertiser to hand out.

"We want to get the word out about what the council is doing. The people are curious and we want to let them know what is happening and be able to answer their questions."

Reid asked if the copy would be approved before it is published, and Harper said it could be proofread by Patty Eckhardt, the secretary.

The board reviewed the drafted responsibilities for the executive director, and each member presented interview questions they would like to ask of each applicant.

Reid said they have received two applications so far, but had a phone call from another and expected to receive one or two more this week.

Bohme said the advertising has been placed in the area newspapers, and is posted on Monster.com and with the League of Kansas Municipalities. Bohme said applications will be taken through Tuesday, Sept. 3.

Garcia said he would ask the applicants what action they would take first to get everybody involved and working.

Eckhardt said she would ask about the person's first impression of the city. "I think it is good to get an outside prospective," she said.

Bohme said she would be interested in hearing what the person would do to help maintain and promote the businesses we have.

Dave Daniels, vice-chairman, had a list including asking why the person wants to live in Goodland, how the

person would make contacts with new businesses, what the person thinks a prospective business wants to see, how long it will take to learn about the county, how long the person expects to stay in the job, if he would look for businesses that fit into Sherman County rather than just getting any new business, how much support they would expect from the council and what would be the first action they would take.

Reid said he would want to know the strengths and weaknesses of the applicant, ask them to describe themselves

and how another person would describe them, what are their people, computer and organizational skills and why they are the best person to fill the job.

House said he wants to ask about the person's experience working with grants and state agencies and about their political contacts.

The board voted to go into closed session for 30 minutes to review the applications that have been received.

The next meeting will be 5:15 p.m., Monday, Sept. 16, at Wheat Ridge Acres.

People air complaints about watering restrictions

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Others told the commission that there is plenty of water to use.

"We never said we don't have water," Mayor Tom Rohr replied. "We only said we have limited water rights."

The city is allowed to pump 700 million gallons of water per year, and has pumped almost 400 million so far this year, said City Manager Ron Pickman.

Chipperfield said he thought it was

unlikely the city would go over its limit this year, because the weather will be turning cooler after this month.

"Just because we are allowed 700 million doesn't mean we have to use it," Commissioner Curtis Hurd said.

Pickman said exceeding the water rights wasn't the biggest concern.

The water pumps have been working continuously, he said, and if a pump went out, the city wouldn't be able to fill the water towers.

People shouted from the audience, saying the policy was unfair, and that

dying lawns made the city look bad.

"I don't care how much water I use," one man shouted from the back. "I want my lawn to look good, that's what I care about."

Schilling said if water rights are the concern, the commission should ask the state for more.

"We can try," Rohr said, "but they won't give it to us. We aren't the only city with water restrictions."

Schilling pointed out that Colby's lets people water any time they want from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., and that the

people who use the most water pay the highest rates.

"I think that is more fair," he said. "From an economical standpoint, I think it would be better to pay higher rates than have to replace my lawn next year."

Commissioner Dean Blume said it might be too early to lift the restrictions.

"If we withdraw the ban now," he asked, "how much of the water we saved will we lose?"

Blume thanked the city staff for their

work dealing with complaints from residents.

"I know it's not the most pleasant thing on earth," he said, "but it was something that was needed to be done."

The commission will decide whether to keep the restrictions at its next meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 3.

In other business, the commission:

- Adopted the 2002 editions of the "Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities," and the "Uniform Public Offense Code of Kansas Cities." The

only changes were additions to make inhaling vapors and cockfighting illegal, Pickman said.

• Appointed Sandra Edgar to fill a position on the cemetery board.

• Approved Topside Daycare's conditional use permit at 1019 W. 13th Street.

• Joined the Rural Water Association at the recommendation of Ed Wolak, public works director.

The group offers training and expertise for water systems.

July unemployment dips to 4.5 percent

By John Milburn

Associated Press Writer
TOPEKA — Unemployment dipped in July to 4.5 percent as students looking for jobs found employment or dropped out of the labor force.

The jobless figure reported Tuesday was a drop from the 4.6 percent in June and compares to 4.2 percent in July 2001. Nationally, unemployment stood at 5.9 percent in July.

Bill Layes, chief of labor market information for the Department of Human Resources, said July's rate was not unexpected.

"For 24 of the last 25 years we've recorded a slight reduction," Layes said.

A closer look at the numbers showed that more Kansans were on the job than any time since July 1999. Officials said 4,800 people joined the work force, pushing total employment to 1.4 million. Unemployment dropped by 700 to 66,900.

Seasonal job reductions pushed the

non-farm employment down by 24,400 to 1.35 million people. Layes said this was an annual trend, with the report reflecting reductions related to the end of the 2001-2002 school term.

Additionally, manufacturing lost 2,600 jobs in the durable goods sector from a combination of temporary layoffs and scheduled shutdowns. Layes said these losses were reflected in the Kansas portion of the Kansas City metropolitan area, which saw its unemployment rate jump from 4.9 percent in June to 5.5 percent in July.

The news was not all bad, however, with the metro area adding 6,100 jobs, pushing employment to 399,800—the highest ever for the region. A year ago, the Kansas City area's unemployment rate was 4.2 percent.

Elsewhere, the Wichita area economy improved with the jobless rate falling from 6.0 percent to 5.6 percent, compared to 4.0 percent in 2001. Employment stood at 276,900, the highest level since December 1999.

Wichita has been hit hardest in the recession as aviation manufacturers have pared their work force by more than 7,000 jobs.

The Topeka metro area, which includes all of Shawnee County, continued to see its unemployment drop. The 3.7 percent rate for July is down from 3.9 percent in June. Topeka now has 90,800 people on the job, the highest level in 13 years.

Unemployment also fell in Lawrence, from 5.2 percent in June to 4.7 percent in July. However, for the second consecutive month, Lawrence was the only metro area to see a drop in employment, falling by another 1,400 jobs to 53,900, due to the release of non-teaching positions at the University of Kansas.

Layes said he expected the employment picture to continue to improve, including another drop in the jobless rate in August. He added that he did not see any indications at this time that there was further weakening in the

state's economy and the creation of jobs.

"I haven't seen any compelling evidence that we're going to have a double-dip," he said, adding that unemployment was running only slightly higher than a year ago.

However, he said, the poor crop conditions caused by the lingering drought will continue to effect the rural economy, including small businesses and investment in communities.

Jobless Rates for Counties
The first figure after the name is the total work force. That is followed by the number of people holding jobs, the number unemployed and the unemployment rate.

COUNTIES
Cheyenne; 1,539; 1,509; 30; 1.9
Logan; 1,572; 1,531; 41; 2.6
Sherman; 4,894; 4,829; 65; 1.3
Thomas; 4,924; 4,838; 86; 1.7
Wallace; 909; 895; 14; 1.5
Source: Kansas Department of Human Resources.

Walkers support cancer survivors and victims

RELAY, from Page 1

Scherling said her family was wonderful and helped her to cope. And Scherling said her experience made her appreciate the need for cancer research.

"What has been done even in the last five years in breast cancer research," she said, "has made it 100 percent treatable."

The relay began in May 1985, the American Cancer Society's web site says, and it is in its third year in Sherman County. Dr. Gordy Klatt, a colorectal surgeon and avid runner, started a 24-hour walk/run around a track in Tacoma, Wash.

He ran and walked 83 miles and raised \$27,000 to support the American Cancer Society. The following year, he was joined by 220 supporters on 19 teams. Over the last 17 years, the relay has spread to 3,000 communities in the United States and seven foreign countries and become the society's largest event. Relays are 12-24 hours long and always go overnight.

The society is a nationwide organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing the suffering from cancer through research, education and advocacy.

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