

Home businesses don't need city permit to operate

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chise ordinance is due to expire on Dec. 31. A new franchise ordinance is being prepared Pickman said, but it has to be reviewed in Topeka because of new rules passed by the Legislature this year. The agreement extends the current ordinance until March 31, when the new ordinance is expected to be ready for approval.

Commissioner Lutters made the motion to approve and Blume seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The commissioners approved the two steps to renew the city's interest in being part of the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency mutual aid program. They approved a letter of interest and then approved a resolution to agree to be a member of the program, which allows cities to help one another with emergency power needs.

Ed Wolak, city public works manager, said the city has not used the mutual aid program, but that in the last year Hoisington did after a tornado hit the city. The commissioners approved an ordinance dealing with cross connections to the city water system and requirements to protect the system from contamination. Pickman said the ordinance is designed to require connection control devices on any equipment that would

potentially be able to contaminate the city water system if there was a back flow into the city water lines. The ordinance had been reviewed by the city plumbing board and recommended for approval. It must be reviewed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment before it can become effective. Pickman said the city had a similar program approved by the state in 1989, but when the new plumbing code was approved, the section was repealed.

The state recommends a separate cross connection program, and the plumbing board approved the draft at their meeting Nov. 12. The commission approved an agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation to repair and crack seal the runway and taxiway at the airport. The state would provide \$139,000 and the city would need to put up \$46,323. Pickman said the city has this in the budget. The commission approved payment

of \$28,808 to Grasser Construction of Stratton, Colo., for asphalt work at the airport. The city will retain \$3,200 for minor work that will need to be done in the spring. The commission approved the payment of bills totaling \$181,846. The next regular commission meeting will be 5 p.m., Monday, Dec. 16, in the commission room on the second floor of the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th.

Sisters rescue puppy thrown from pickup

HUTCHINSON (AP) — Roadside trash usually consists of paper or plastic flung from a passing vehicle. So two women driving through Hutchinson were understandably startled when the small item pitched from a fast-moving pickup had four legs, fur and a sweet disposition. The puppy that Juliet Raya and her sister rescued last week remained in the care of the Hutchinson Humane Society on Monday, having recovered from an injured leg. Still at large was the driver who flung the small, pointy-eared mutt out the window of a maroon Ford F-150 pickup truck, police said. The saga of the heeler mix puppy started at mid-afternoon on Thanksgiving Day as Raya, 22, and her sister, both of Wichita, drove into Hutchinson to have dinner at their grandmother's house. As they neared an intersection, the pickup passed their car and sped ahead of them.

"He cut us off, jumped in front of us," Raya said, "and then a little ways on we saw a dog flying out the window." Raya said her sister slammed on the brakes. "We didn't know whether to chase the truck or get the dog," Raya said. They opted to pull over and retrieve the puppy, which was bleeding from its leg injury. At their grandmother's house, it wolfed down a dinner of turkey, stuffing and gravy, Raya said. With the Hutchinson Humane Society closed for the holiday, the women took the puppy to the Reno County Law Enforcement Center. Some "very kind" police officers notified the Humane Society and brought the puppy there, Raya said. By Friday afternoon, the puppy, estimated to be about 4 months old, with blue merle markings and pointy ears, had recovered from its ordeal, said Humane Society spokeswoman Sally Shropshire.

Conservative wins speaker's post

TOPEKA (AP) — Things were a little bit easier this time around for Republican state Rep. Doug Mays in his bid to become House speaker. Mays, a Topeka conservative, on Monday defeated two moderates, Reps. Mike O'Neal of Hutchinson and Kenny Wilk of Leavenworth, to capture his party's nomination on the first ballot. Mays received 40 votes to 21 for Wilk and 18 for O'Neal. Two years ago, Mays lost out on the speaker's post on the fourth ballot when retiring Speaker Kent Glasscock eked out a two-vote margin to win the top job in the House. "I wouldn't know what it's like to win on the first ballot," quipped Glasscock, R-Manhattan, in announcing Mays' victory. Mays is all but assured of becoming speaker when the Legislature convenes Jan. 13, since Republicans hold an 80-45 majority in the House. Although Mays is a conservative, he vowed to work with all factions in the chamber. He said his days of sporting badges saying "No Increased Taxes" — as he did last year when Republicans were divided over whether to increase taxes to balance the state bud-

get — were over. "I'm just going to take a commonsense approach to this and try to find a balance between all the competing factions here," Mays said. "We've got such serious problems in the state and probably will for the next few years." Another dynamic next year will be how Republican legislators work with the newly elected Democratic governor, Kathleen Sebelius, as it becomes increasingly clear the options for balancing the state's budget are either drastic cuts in state services, increased taxes, or a mix of both. "I just think we need to try to find a way to work together as a caucus and work with our Democratic colleagues," Mays said. Mays said his first duties would be to complete the selection of committee chairmanships this week. Of particular interest is the Appropriations Committee, chaired by Wilk, who is a close Glasscock ally. That committee prepares a package for the remainder of fiscal year 2003, which already is nearly \$200 million short, even after Gov. Bill Graves cut spending twice in the past four months. Mays said Republicans would give

Sebelius "the benefit of the doubt" and wait to see what sort of spending plan she proposed for fiscal 2004, which begins July 1, 2003. As a candidate, Sebelius vowed to hold public education harmless. But Mays was not sure the budget can be balanced without cutting aid to the state's 303 school districts. Mays, first elected to the House in 1992, was speaker pro tem under Speaker Robin Jennison, R-Healy, during the 1999 and 2000 sessions. After losing to Glasscock, Mays chaired the Federal and State Affairs Committee. The No. 2 spot the House, majority leader, went to Clay Aurand of

Courtland, now the speaker pro tem. He defeated Don Dahl of Hillsboro 41-38 on the second ballot. Rep. John Edmonds of Great Bend dropped out after the first ballot. Majority Leader Shari Weber of Herington was defeated in the August primary by Bill Kassebaum of Burdick. She mounted a failed write-in campaign in November. Meanwhile, Democrats elected Dennis McKinney of Greensburg as minority leader. McKinney, assistant minority leader during the 2001-02 sessions, had no opposition. He replaced Jim Garner of Coffeyville, who gave up his House seat in a failed bid for insurance commissioner.

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