

## 100 soccer balls arrive in Afghanistan

By Pat Schiefen  
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The first shipment of 100 soccer balls arrived in Afghanistan according to an email sent by Air Force Captain Andrew Stewart on Thursday, Sept. 11. His family has 25 more ready to go this week. Stewart is the son of Carol and Tom Stewart of Goodland who left on his third tour of Afghanistan in July. A request to his family started a project called Operation Andy's Gift to get soccer balls for kids in that very poor, dangerous and war torn country. Capt. Stewart is attached to an Army unit in Gardez, in the province of Paktika.

Emily Goatcher, Andy's sister, of Raleigh, N.C., has set up a blog for supporters to watch the progress of his project at [www.operationandysgift.blogspot.com](http://www.operationandysgift.blogspot.com). Two soccer stores in Raleigh have agreed to donate all last years models of balls to the project and collect drop offs.

Capt. Stewart's wife Jami and children Wrigley and Kearny are visiting family and friends in Kansas this week. They were interviewed by local cable channel, [www.sttel.com](http://www.sttel.com), local news on Thursday, Sept. 11.

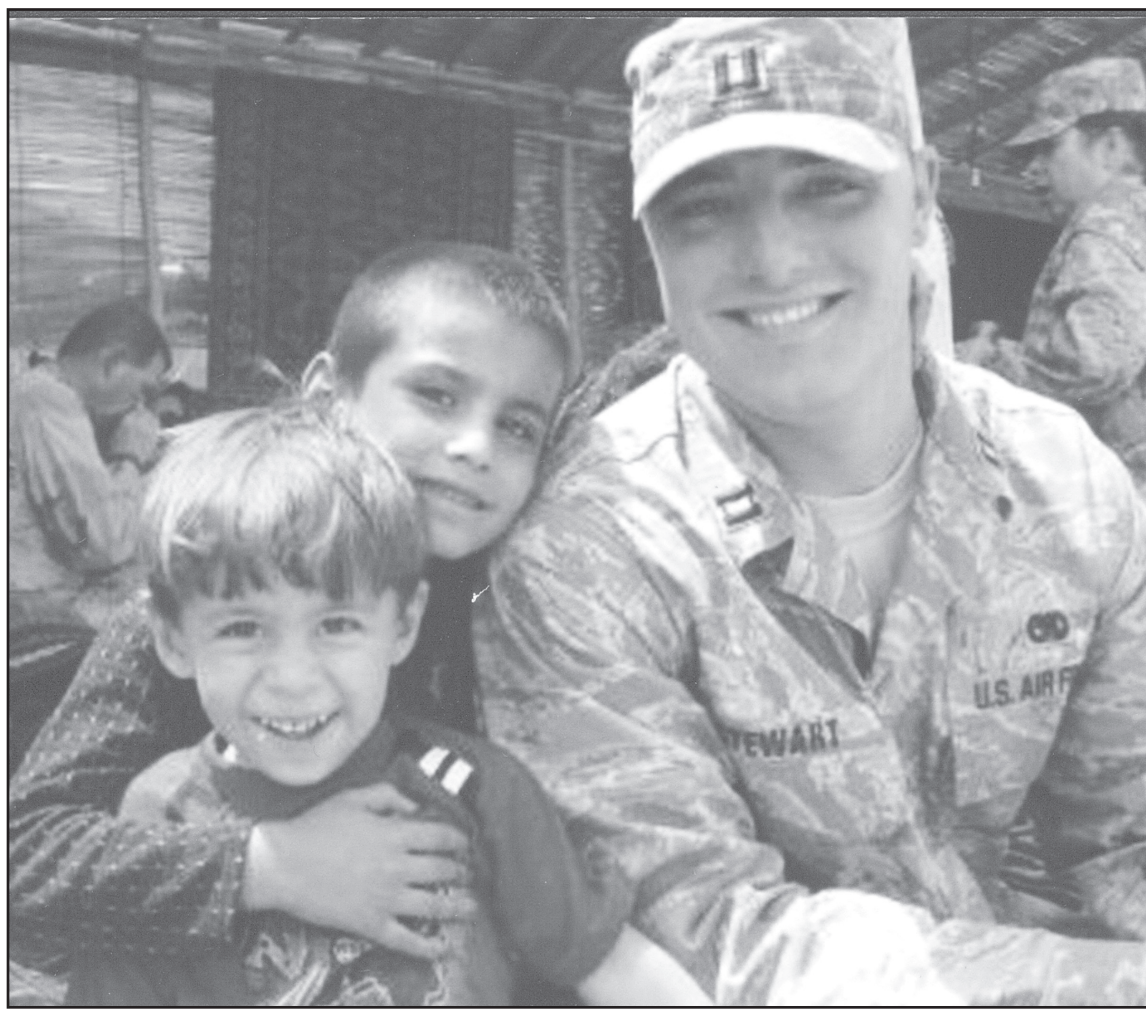
Jason and Heather Stewart of

Olathe got soccer balls and a donation from the Kansas City Wizards Professional Soccer team. Ryan and Kristy Stewart and daughters of Denver are trying to get the Girl Scouts involved in the project.

The family hopes to give away a 1,000 balls by the time Cpt. Stewart comes home in July 2009. For information contact Carol and Tom Stewart, 506 Harrison, Goodland, Kan. 67735 or by email at [ststewart@st-tel.com](mailto:ststewart@st-tel.com) or (785) 890-3150.

"We wish to thank all those who have contributed to this project," said Carol Stewart.

Captain Andrew Stewart with some of the kids he wants to give soccer balls to in Afghanistan. Capt. Stewart's family hopes to send him 1,000 balls to give away before he comes home in July 2009.



## Norton inmate escapes

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation has expanded the search for a Norton prison inmate who walked away from a work crew on Tuesday, and apparently assaulted an elderly Norton woman and stole her car.

The KBI issued a statewide bulletin on Wednesday for law enforcement agencies to be on the lookout for the escapee, Christopher Zorn, 46, who was in prison on three theft and aggravated burglary charges from Sedgwick County.

Tuesday Zorn, an inmate of the Norton Correctional Facility, walked away from a work crew located on the west side of Norton, the KBI reported.

Troy M. Thomson, Norton County Sheriff, said within minutes of the initial report, officers from a number of departments including the Norton County Sheriff's Department, Norton City Police, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Fish and Game and Kansas Department of Corrections, arrived on the scene and began ground and air search.

To assist in the search, a K-9 unit from the department of corrections was brought in.

Thomson said it appears Zorn entered the home of an elderly woman in Norton, assaulted her and stole her car. The woman's injuries were severe enough to have her transported to a trauma center in Wichita, where she remains.

Law enforcement officials believe Zorn is in possession of a 1987 Mercury Sable, Norton County license plate QZM 153.

Zorn is described as a white male, 5'11", 187 lbs., with red hair and hazel eyes.

Zorn has been in and out of prison since 1981, and was convicted on two counts of theft of \$1,000 or less with two or more convictions and one of aggravated burglary. Zorn had previously been convicted on at least three charges of burglary, two of aggravated burglary, three for theft under \$500 and one for aggravated escape.

Any individual with information regarding Zorn's whereabouts are encouraged to call 911 or 1-800KSCRIME.

## City joins effort to sponsor car races

By Tom Betz  
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Carraces are a big part of the Flatlander Fall Festival, and Monday the city commission showed their support by donating \$1,000 to help sponsor the races at the Sherman County Speedway on Friday, Sept. 26 and Saturday, Sept. 27.

Tom Colby, president of the Stock Car Association, asked the commissioners to help sponsor the races at the same level they had the year before.

City Commissioner Josh Dechant asked Colby if he remembered how much the city gave last year, and Colby said he thought it was \$1,000.

Dechant asked Colby how the racing season has gone this year.

Colby said they have done pretty well, and that since joining the International Motor Contest Association the car numbers are up for the modifieds and some of the other classes. He said they had some problems

with a few of the races including when the BST (Blood, Sweat and Tears) group was at the track and it was so cold. He said they lost money on that night.

Colby said they had to postpone the Bill Gray Memorial because of the rains in early August, but that they had a good number of cars and audience when it was held on Aug. 30.

"We made some money on that," he said. "We did have a problem because the water pump on the truck went out and that cost us \$800. We are down to about \$2,000 to start Flatlanders."

"I think it is important to keep this going," Mayor Rick Billinger said. "They do bring in a lot of people and are a big draw for the festival."

Colby said he thinks there will be a large number of cars for the two nights, and especially as this is the last IMCA points race. He said he has received registrations from people from Texas, Oklahoma,

Iowa and Wyoming in addition to the regular ones.

He said he expects to see up to 70 modified cars entered over the two days.

"Some of those are drivers chasing national IMCA points," he said.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he agreed the races were something the city should support.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she was in favor of giving the racing association the money and made a motion to give the same amount as the city did last year. Commissioner John Garcia seconded and said he felt it was good for the city to support the races.

In other business the commission:

- Approved the application from the Flatlander Festival Committee for the beer garden to be held on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 1008 Main. Brent Wood, co-chairman of the committee said the beer garden would be

inside the building, and that it would be handled in a similar manner as was done during the Professional Bull Rider show at the fair.

Dechant asked if the people will be carded when they enter the building. Wood said they would be carded and given a wrist band to let the people know they can buy beer.

Steve Criswell, city building inspector, said he, the fire chief and police chief have inspected the location to be sure it meets the license requirements.

• Approved a five-year lease with the Goodland Gun Club for the land northwest of the city sewer plant. City Manager Wayne Hill said it was basically the same lease as they had before. Billinger said he was in favor if it was the same as the one we have had in the past. The motion passed unanimously.

• Asked about the cost for the overhead lines for the Village Complex at the Northwest Kansas Technical College. Garcia asked Charlie

Bandel what the difference was between going underground and the overhead. Bandel said the overhead was about \$13,000, which was \$7,000 lower than the underground. Bandel said he thought Ken Clouse, college president, was going to go that way and was going to get the easement to put the poles in on the east edge of the campus.

• Heard from Dechant that the economic development funding committee made up of representatives from the city, county and economic development council had put together a package to be presented to the county commissioners by the end of the month.

• Asked that people help beautify the city with the Flatlander Fall Festival coming up.

The next city commission meeting will be 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 6, in the commission room on the second floor of the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th.

## Waterline leak to be fixed with some city help

By Tom Betz  
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Fixing water leaks in the Armstrong Addition are complicated, but the city commission on Monday agreed to help fix a leak with the homeowners paying for the pipe, fittings and boring the new pipe.

Water lines in the Armstrong Addition south of town are not in the city limits, and were put in by the homeowners when they built in the sub division over more than 45 years. The homes have city water service and over the past few years the city has been searching for a water leak.

Rich Simon, public works director, said he has been putting in valves to track down the leak and knows it is not coming from any of the city main water lines.

"I put in valves to see where the water was going," Simon said. "It is not on our water line, and it is after our master meter."

"We are not collecting for all the water," Mayor Billinger said.

City Clerk Mary Volk said the city has a master meter for the subdivision, but each home as a separate meter.

"How bad is the leak," Billinger asked.

Simon said it has been running as high as 30,000 gallons but last month was 14,000 gallons.

Billinger asked if Simon had found the leak.

"I have narrowed it down to about 200 feet," Simon said. "I know where it is leaking."

Commissioner John Garcia asked what size of water line was leaking.

Simon said it is a two-inch line. He said the estimate for the 200 feet of pipe and to bore it in is about \$2,500. He said there would be some additional cost for valves and fittings.

Kenneth Soellner said the leak was across his property and he would give an easement to bore the line.

"I do not want to have my front

yard torn up," Soellner said.

He asked about tying in with the line across the street, but Simon said that would not stop the leak.

Soellner said he did not understand why their water rates were higher than those who live in the city.

Billinger said the rates were set up depending on whether you live in the city or not, and it is higher for those outside the city.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said the reason the city charges more outside is because the homeowners are not paying any city property taxes. "I have lived out there for 45 years," Soellner said. "Don't tell me that I have not paid for this."

Commissioner Josh Dechant said it is an added service, and the city does not have to provide water outside the city limits.

Steve Criswell, building inspector, said his parents moved out there when he was young, and every owner had to tie on to the existing line and extend it.

"We had to pay for the line and have the city set the meter," he said. "We put the line in at our own expense."

City Manager Wayne Hill said there was nothing he could find in writing that gives the city an easement or is recorded anywhere about the ownership of the water lines.

Criswell said there are nine houses out there, but only three on this water line.

Daniels said if the city puts in the pipe who would be responsible for it in the future.

"It will be theirs after they pay for it," Billinger said.

Soellner said he had asked to be

annexed into the city years ago, but the city wouldn't do it.

"How long ago was that," Dechant said.

"About 12 years ago," Soellner said. "I wanted to be annexed in, and to extend the sewer system to my house."

"Others out there would not go with it because of the animal situation out there," said Connie Soellner.

"I think a lot of people moved out there to be out of the city and pay lower taxes," Daniels said, "but have the city services."

"We don't want to have to shut you off," Dechant said. "We have been searching for that leak for years now, and we need to get it fixed and find a way to work with you."

Billinger said the best option would be to have the city order the pipe and sell it to the homeowners at the city cost and have the homeowners pay for the cost to bore the line and the fittings.

"What happens if there is another leak at another place what are we going to do," Simon said.

"We are setting precedent here," Billinger said. "We will do the same as we are this time. It is not just for this one leak, and we know that steel pipe is going to leak again."

Dechant said the city staff would do the labor and hook up the lines as part of the project.

"If we spring another leak we are going to have to do this again in that case," Daniels said.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she thought it was something the city should do.

### correction

In the information under the photo of Christopher Bustillos carrying the football on Page 9 of Tuesday's The Goodland Star-News it was incorrectly printed that Bustillos was a freshman. He is a sophomore at Goodland High School. This was a reporting error.

☆☆☆☆  
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