

City extends nomination period for position

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

City commissioners agreed to reopen and extend the period for people to apply to fill an upcoming vacancy on the commission until Tuesday with a special meeting planned for 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday to interview the potential candidates.

City Manager Doug Gerber reminded the commissioners on Monday the replacement for Commissioner Josh Dechant will have to be named at the Monday, Oct. 17 meeting.

He said in the recent application process the city received two applications, but only one met the deadline.

He said the commissioners can accept the one, take both or extend the application period or bring

names to the next meeting.

"This is a political decision, and I want to stay out of it as much as possible," he said.

Commissioner Bill Finley said, "We set the guidelines and I feel if we deviate from the criteria it would not be proper. If we had one who met the criteria I feel we should interview that person."

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she was hoping to have five or six applicants. She said they did get one good applicant, and felt they ought to consider the second one. She suggested extending the time so everyone has the opportunity. The name of the second applicant was not revealed.

Commissioner Josh Dechant said he could see both sides.

"I did not get the newspaper," he said, "but I have had a lot of people

ask me about what was happening."

"I feel we did not give people enough time," Fairbanks said.

Commissioner Chris Zimmerman said he was in favor of extending the process to give people an opportunity.

Mayor John Garcia said he felt in all fairness to Gary Farris, who was the one who met the deadline, we need to be fair to everyone. He said the consensus was to extend the deadline.

"Why did you have a deadline," Farris asked.

"A lot of people did not hear about this," Fairbanks said.

The commissioners agreed to extend the deadline to Tuesday, Oct. 11, and do a special meeting at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday to interview all the candidates.

In other business the commissioners

- Heard the citywide cleanup had begun and was going well. Gerber said Rich Simon, public works director, felt there is a much as last year. He said if any commissioner had an interest in participating they should be at the city shop at 7 a.m.
- Heard that the city has turned in the last information for the Take Charge Challenge, but do not know what the results were. He said the city expects to hear the last week of October.
- Approved a motion to take bids on demolition of the unfit structure at 520 W. 16th. Gerber said the commission had met with the property owner a month ago, and he had asked for more time. He said the commission had granted 30 days and asked him to do a coat of paint.

"This has gone on for a year now," he said. "It was first set for hearing last October. He has started to remove the garage, but would recommend you direct staff to get bids for demolition."

Garcia said the consensus of the commission was to give him more time. I feel we have been generous as far as time goes. I would feel we could go ahead and take the bids.

Finley asked if the property owner has talked to Brian James.

James said he has not heard from the property owner.

Fairbanks said she agreed they had given enough time.

Dechant made the motion to take bids on demolition of the property and it passed unanimously 5-0.

- Under commissioner reports Finley said he knows out on Business U.S. 24 they are slowly demol-

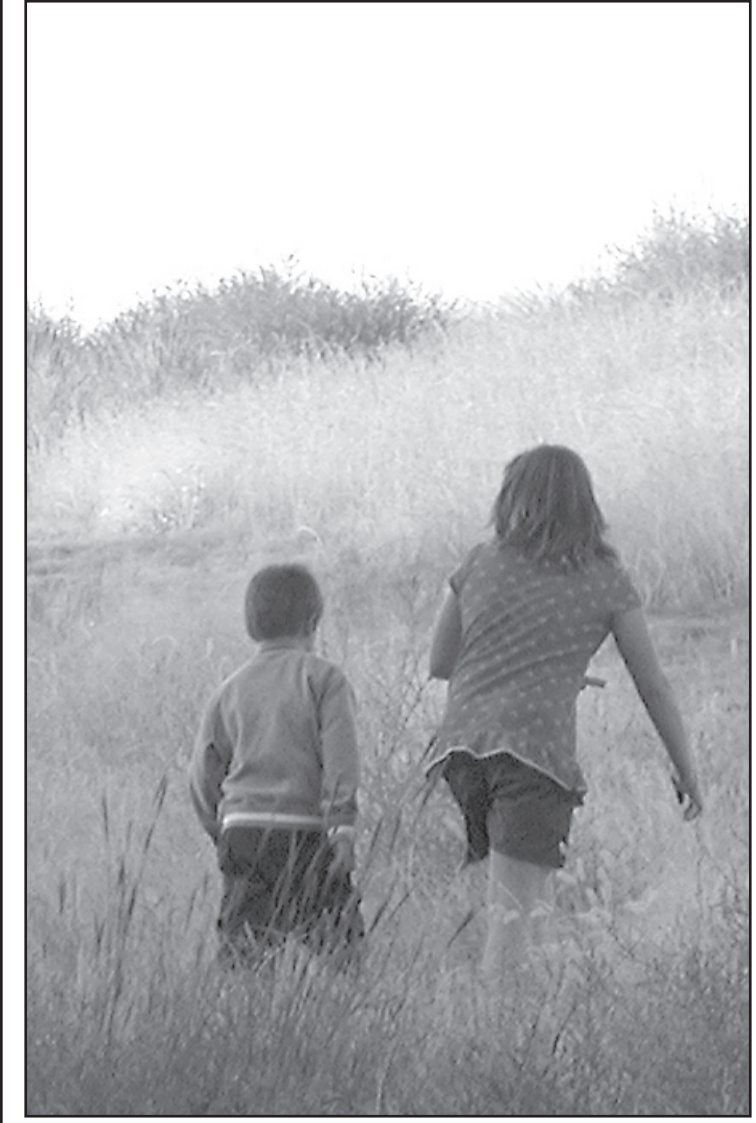
ishing the old Kamper building. He said the problem in the past few days has been children have been playing on the debris and he would ask the city to have the owner do something to keep the kids out of the area.

Dechant said he wanted to thank the city crews for their help at Flatlander.

- Under the mayor's report Garcia said he wanted to thank Dechant for being a good commissioner and that he will be missed.
- Garcia said he wanted to echo the kudos to the city crew for their effort at Flatlander Festival.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 a.m. The next regular meeting will be 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 17.

Second Smoky Gardens Festival



At least 100 people attended the Second Smoky Gardens Festival on Saturday night. Families came with grandparents to cook supper and some even camped out over night. Boy Scout Troop 142 was there and Scoutmaster Gary McClung said that the weather couldn't have been any better. Two kids tried out the new lighted nature walk (left) and others played on the playground equipment (right). The band Double Shot was there to provide music. Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Attorney general opens office

The Sherman County courthouse has a new resident as an Assistant Attorney General opened her office on Monday.

Assistant Attorney General Nicole Romine, who serves in Attorney General Derek Schmidt's criminal litigation division, opened her office on Monday.

Romine will handle criminal prosecutions for the attorney general's office, working with county attorneys on local prosecutions and working on criminal appeals from the office in Goodland.

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said he decided to base one of his criminal prosecutors in Goodland to work closely with law enforcement and prosecutors in the

western part of the state.

"This new arrangement will help ensure our office remains in close contact with the criminal justice needs of western Kansas," Schmidt said. "It is consistent with my commitment to be sure the attorney general's office services the entire state."

Romine said she looks forward to the challenges and opportunities of her new assignment.

"I am truly excited for the professional and personal changes this transition will bring about," Romine said. "I look forward to building positive relationships with local prosecutors and providing them with efficient access to the services of the criminal litigation division."

My husband and I look forward to becoming a part of the Goodland community."

Romine is the first full-time, general-assignment criminal prosecutor on the attorney general's staff based outside of Topeka in recent Kansas history. Schmidt has three drug prosecutors posted with task forces in Southwest Kansas and Southeast Kansas.

"We're working to be good partners with our colleagues in local law enforcement agencies and local prosecutors' offices throughout the state," Schmidt said. "It's a priority for me that we work closely together."

State, federal offices closed on Monday

Monday is Columbus Day, and state, federal, county and city offices, banks and the U.S. Post Office will be closed.

Goodland schools and Northwest Tech will be in session.

The Goodland Star-News will be open for business on Monday as will most businesses in the city.

Concert Sunday

Dan and Kim Christian as "Squeeze Play," national and bronze medal world champion accordionists, will perform at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 9, in the Goodland High School Auditorium. The concert is sponsored by Western Plains Arts Association.

The pair will play varied styles of music with amazing synchronicity. They will intrigue audiences with fascinating finger and bellow techniques.

Admission is by arts association season ticket or at the door \$20 for adults and \$10 for students kindergarten through 12. Student groups

of 10 or more may have a special admission price of \$5 per student at the door, as long as there is room for all season ticket holders as well.

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Preschool screenings to be scheduled

The Goodland School District is have a free preschool screening for all young children, birth to school age, will be from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 18, and Wednesday, Oct. 19, at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church 222 W. 13th, Goodland.

Appointments are made for each screening. To set up an appoint-

ment call Paula or Karen at West Elementary as soon as possible at 890-6163.

This screening is used to place children in the school district's preschool classes and the Center Based Head Start.

The screening process involves a hearing exam, vision test, speech assessment and developmental

screening. It takes about 60 to 90 minutes to complete. Each child must be accompanied by an adult.

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338.

Don't miss out on these great homes!

315 E. 12th St....This beautifully decorated home is just the right size and budget for your family. With almost 2,000 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 2 baths and fully finished basement. Includes fireplace, beautiful hardwood floors, front porch and detached garage. All of this for just \$68,500.



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City Commissioner Wanted

Mayor Garcia and the Goodland City Commission are accepting applications from any Goodland resident with an interest in serving on the Goodland City Commission. The position is for a vacancy on the City Commission that will occur in October 2011 and will serve a term that expires in April 2013. Persons with an interest should contact City Manager Doug Gerber at 890-4500 or: cmanager@goodlandks.us for the required application form. Forms are also available at: cityofgoodland.org or the Goodland City Offices. Applications due by October 11, 2011.



"Squeeze Play"

Sunday, October 9, 2011
2 p.m. MT
Goodland HS Auditorium
Admission by Western Plains Arts Association season ticket, or at the door.
Adults: \$20 • Students: \$10
Adult season tickets just \$50 each.

