

Development council votes loan to save Chamber

CHAMBER, from Page 1a

"This is a tough situation," Linin said, outlining immediate actions and a financial plan.

Immediate items to save money include:

- Termination of the office lease with Justin Bentzinger.
- The resignation of Courtney Warden, the Chamber director.
- Relocate to the economic development office.
- Seek volunteers to cover the office and begin visiting members regularly.

Warden said she had not resigned and had not been contacted about the board's request.

Linin said the financial plan was to ask the council for \$7,500 to pay bills that need to be handled immediately, and negotiate with the remaining creditors, who are owed \$12,416, for payment terms of up to two years.

Once the immediate steps have been taken, Linin said, the Chamber will go to the members and ask for contributions. He said they had taken the membership list and were being conservative in estimating they could raise \$7,500 to help pay the bills.

To help get the Chamber back on a sound financial basis, Linin said,

they will be sending out the membership renewal notices to give the organization a positive balance to begin the new year.

Linin said long-term goals are to pursue a shared directorship with the economic development council and the visitors bureau; continue to share staff, office space and other resources with the two; build Chamber membership; increase the operating balance of the Chamber to a minimum of \$10,000; review the Chamber's mission annually; and grow community businesses.

"We do not like to be in financial trouble," Linin said. "We will have to build from the ground up. We would like to keep Courtney. She has done a good job, but we have to stop the expenses."

"We looked at the members and feel we can get enough to cover the \$7,500 in bills. We feel some will give more, but some will not be willing to help out. The remainder we have asked creditors to give us two years to pay off, but the goal is to pay them off early."

"This has been difficult. We don't want to do this, but do not feel we have any choice."

"We know we are stretching ourselves about raising the \$7,500," Clouse said. "We know we will lose

membership, and even if the numbers are cut in half, we can remain viable. The key is cutting the major expenses of wages and rent."

Swagger said the Chamber was open to suggestions from the council and the community.

"How did you allow the Chamber to get into such a situation?" asked Neill, chairman of the Convention and Visitors board. "Where is the accountability if you take public money? You need to be accountable."

"Those are good questions," Clouse said. "We would like to know. The Chamber has been operating in a deficit."

"There isn't room to do anything with the \$21,000 in dues. We have taken some risks, but they backfired on us and we are in a deeper situation than we were."

"I wish I had known that before I came on the board. If Goodland is going to have a Chamber, we need to do something different."

Neill said he wanted to support the Chamber, but that when people asked about the financial conditions, they were told it was none of their business.

Warden said Lincoln Wilson, owner of the Howard Johnson Hotel, had asked about the Fourth of July concert, and since he was not a

Chamber member, she did not feel she had to answer.

"I think it is admirable that the board put together a reorganization plan," said Steve West, a development council member and president of Western State Bank. "We need to go forward. We need to end the bickering, and we should move forward."

"I know there are a lot of hurts that go with these decisions," Garcia said. "I appreciate the integrity of the Chamber to come here and open everything up. We are throwing out a lifeline to help and move this forward to make it work."

"I understand the issues and know that it is not the economic development position to get into these, as they are matters for the Chamber board."

"I think this is a point to start negotiating from," council member Harlan House said. "I think the business community needs to cowboy up and save the Chamber. I don't think you are being aggressive enough."

"To give you \$7,500, we will have to struggle with that, as our budget is set up. I think the business community can do better, and think they will come up with the money."

"You need to raise your dues to get \$35,000 to afford a staff."

"If we do that, we will be back where we are," said Karen Ginther, a Chamber board member.

"I think we have the cart before the horse," said council member Gary Slough. "I think the Chamber has to re-evaluate the mission and give the members a plan to show what you are going to do before you are asking for more money."

"As far as the plan, I do agree the money is out there," said council member Don Newell. "I think the Chamber will lose a lot of members. On a one-time contribution, I think people will help. People are good and there is more out there. We need to get this up and going."

"There are a lot of key leaders of the community here," Garcia said. "We need to go out and support the Chamber. This will take tough people, but we are tough and can go forward."

House made a motion to loan the Chamber \$8,000 for one year with no interest. Rich Breininger asked to have an option in the motion to allow for a second year.

Dwane Timm, council member from First National Bank, asked if the bylaws allowed the council to loan money.

House said there was \$8,500 in the budget for loans or grants. Slough said he had a problem

with giving the Chamber a lump sum of \$8,000. Timm said he agreed.

"The Chamber needs money now," Newell said, "but I can see how the other guys are saying about how these things will be handled."

House asked if the money was to go to pay the most immediate bills of the \$19,000 the Chamber owes.

Linin said that was the Chamber board's idea.

Garcia called for a vote. House, Breininger, West, Chuck Wilkens and Shelley Thompson voted in favor. Slough, Newell and Timm voted against.

Timm then made a motion to offer the Chamber the office space and cover utilities and phone expenses up to the end of the year. That passed unanimously.

Wilkens asked that the Chamber provide monthly updates so the council can see how things are doing.

"We need to have some accountability," he said.

"We can give you any information," Clouse said. "If you see things that seem to be going wrong, tell us." "You can do nothing and fail," Slough said. "Or try and fall short. You are here, and that says a lot."

The council went into closed session for 10 minutes to discuss personnel matters about finding a new director.

Garcia said when the meeting resumed, the council approved a motion to donate \$500 to the Flatlander Fall Festival.

Some children natural homework perfectionists

Dear Plain Sense: My fifth grade child is such a perfectionist, especially when it comes to homework. It seems like nothing but the best is acceptable to her. She worries and frets that it will not be "good enough."

Some children are just naturally more particular than others, whether it be the clothes they wear, their bedroom decor or their school assignments. While it is admirable when a child really cares about his work, too high of expectations can lead to frustration for them, as well as for parents and teachers.

Always recognize your child's feelings, even when his reasoning may not make sense to adults.

Acknowledge that they feel bad or sad or frustrated and encourage



high plains mental health

- plain sense

them to talk about it. In addition, praise the effort that is being made and don't focus only on the final result or ultimate grade. Children need a lot of reassurance. Don't get caught up in trying to correct the homework. Ask your child to consult with his teachers and let them provide guidance.

Be a good role model. Sometimes parents think they must be perfect, and the child believes the same. Let your child know that it is OK to be

unsure, to make mistakes and to ask for help. Let them know that you have done the same, both as an adult and as a child growing up. Keep in mind that children also need time away from structured work, just as adults do. Playing outside, listening to music or just doing nothing is especially important for the self-driven child who thinks he or she must always be involved in something to be productive. Kids too need some time for relaxing and dreaming.

Contributed by Karen Beery, manager, Consultation and Education Department. The views ex-

pressed here are those of the individual writer and should not be considered a replacement for seeking professional help.

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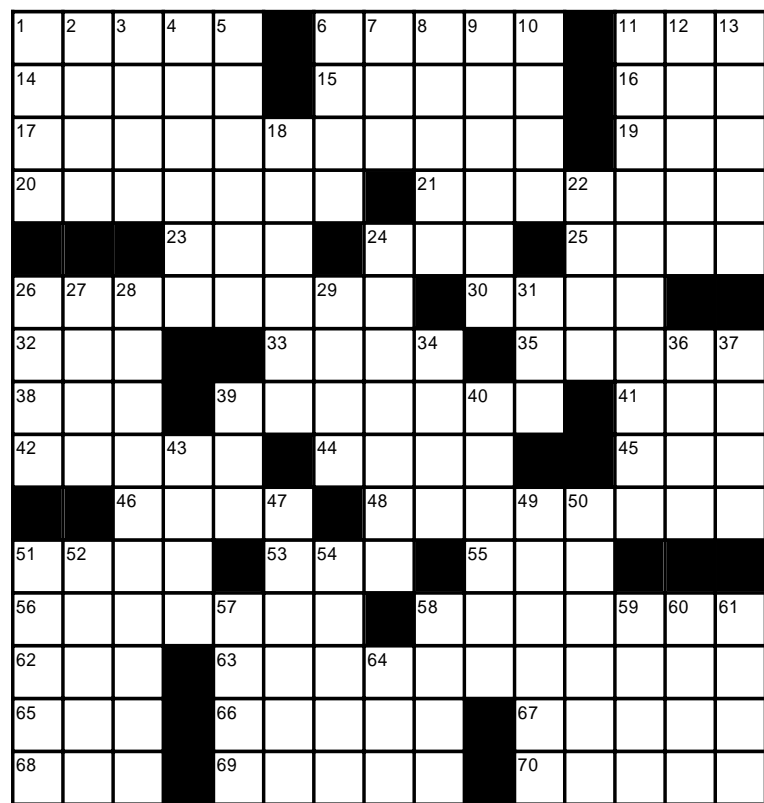
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ACROSS

1. Important exam
6. Neutral shade
11. Thanksgiving tuber
14. Greek alphabet ender
15. Showed on TV
16. Before, to bards
17. 12 months' worth of calendar notation?
19. Actress Scala
20. Avenue crossers
21. Casey, "The Old Professor"
23. SASE, e.g.
24. Salon goo
25. With adroitness
26. FAO Schwarz, notably
30. Suffix with disk or novel
32. Gardner of "Mogambo"
33. Put in the mail
35. Inedible orange
38. ___ de mer (seasickness)

67. Gave the eye to
68. QB's pickups
69. Pancake topper
70. Orchestra section

DOWN

1. Vaudeville's Seven Little ___
2. "Since ___ You Baby" (1956 hit)
3. Within view
4. Sees eye to eye
5. Sing the blues
6. Candy buys
7. Apt. feature, in ads
8. Maya Angelou's "Still ___"
9. Not likely to bite
10. Upper hand
11. Safecracker's apprehender?

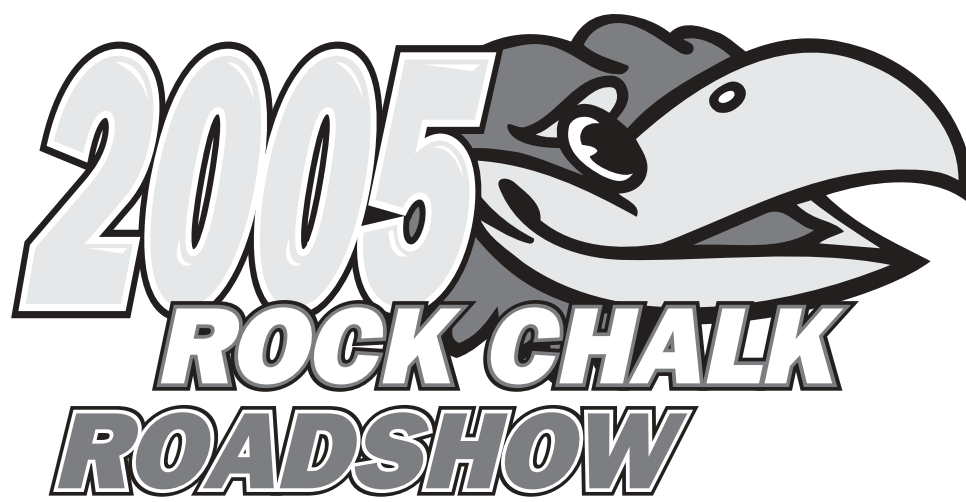
12. Disney's Little Mermaid
13. ___-mouthed (insincere)
18. Without profit
22. Washington's new baseballers, for short
24. Non-Jew
26. See 9-Down
27. Track shape
28. New Haven fraternity system?
29. Keister
31. Bunion locale
34. Il ___ (Mussolini)
36. Embellish richly
37. Ticklish Muppet
39. Indy 500 logo
40. Overly, informally
43. Like a cucumber?

47. With sound judgment
49. Against
50. State without proof
51. Like a lizard's skin
52. Cheated, slangily
54. Way up or down
57. Pre-Easter buys
58. WWW address starter
59. Doing nothing
60. Have to have
61. Pulls the plug on
64. Old French coin

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