

House passes governor's Freeze Bill, budget

Another very busy week in Topeka. Monday started off with another lengthy debate over the Governor's Freeze Bill (The Rescission Bill). The Kansas House passed Governor Brownback's freeze bill which transforms a projected \$50 million deficit for the current fiscal year into a \$37.5 million positive ending balance. Because the budget for the current fiscal year serves as the base for the next year's budget, every dollar saved in this year's rescission bill is worth two dollars in the 2012 budget.

At the end of the week we wrapped up with the Kansas Health Care Freedom Amendment. The House has successfully passed several significant pieces of legislation. The House has made huge steps toward responsible and accountable budgeting and protecting the rights of Kansans to make



rick billinger
state rep.

their own health care choices while sending a message to Washington that the era of ever expanding federal government must end.

The Rescission Bill had three important amendments. The first amendment will move \$181,000 idle funds from the regents operating grant to provide funding for veterans.

The second amendment transferred \$195,000 in idle funds from regents operating funds to Veterans Claim Assistance Program. Our veterans are very important

and we must make sure they are assisted in meeting their needs.

The third amendment was approved by ninety-one members. This amendment took all state funding away from Planned Parenthood to ensure that state dollars are not used for abortion. These funds will be transferred to local Health Agencies.

I would like to personally thank each and every Veteran for your service. If you know of any active duty service men and women from the 121st District would you please contact me and let me know their names and where they are stationed. Thanks for your help.

This weeks question is: Should grocery stores and convenience stores be allowed to sell hard liquor?

There is a House Bill coming which would allow grocery stores and convenience stores to sell hard liquors, wines and beers. What do you think?

Please call, write and email me with your thoughts. With more than 300 Bills currently introduced in the House, the pace has been very busy. The next deadline is Friday, Feb. 25th, and it is called "Turn Around Day." This is the day in which Bills must be passed out of their House of origin, either the House or the Senate.

It seems there is a difference of opinion on how the new budget rules are working. I guess it depends whether you are in favor of continued spending or whether you are interested in staying within our budget and not spending money we don't have.

On Monday, Feb. 7th I had four pages

from Hill City High School here at the Captiol.

Teacher Brad Eckols brought, Elizabeth Brack, Lexi Hardiek, Gage Pfeifer and Cody Roberts to Topeka for the day. I wish to thank them for coming and being pages.

I appreciated all of my constituents who have stopped by an visited with me, both in the office and at the receptions.

The Town Hall Meeting in Colby on Saturday the 19th has had a location change. It will be held at Colby Community College at the Student Union Room 106 at the same time as previously listed.

If you have any input on any issues which will come before the legislature this year please contact me at: rick.billinger@house.ks.gov or call me at 785 899-4700.

Graphic image design part of sign plan

SIGNS, from Page 1

duce Michael Solomon, the economic development director, and would talk to the board about the signs.

Gerber said he used the slogan "Kansas Begins Here" on a recent economic development ad and felt it was a good marketing slogan for the city.

Solomon said he agreed and he felt it was strong.

Volk said he had used the slogan in the possible sign designs he pre-

sented to the commissioners.

Rasure said he thought it was good.

Commissioner John Garcia said he liked the innovation, but felt one of the signs should say "Welcome to Goodland."

"I would like to have something to welcome people to Goodland," he said.

Volk said that could be put down on the stripes below on one sign.

Daniels said if the visitors bureau is already doing signs shouldn't the city do another sign.

Garcia said that is what he was talking about and have the city do the signs on the exit.

Daniels said he was talking about the ones along the I-70 exits.

Volk said it would be good to add the skirt and end caps to the sign design.

Mayor Josh Dechant asked about the longevity of the proposed signs Volk was recommending.

Volk said it was metal for the most part, but the graphics would probably be changed out about every four years.

Daniels said the signs need to be a process and felt the city should get started looking for a site.

Gerber said Volk and the city would begin looking at that idea and see if they can find a site. He said they would look at the site along K-27 in front of Orscheln's.

Garcia said the city has easement on some locations such as Exit 17. He said erecting the signs would depend on what the cost might be. He said it was good to get it started, and thanked Leon for his designs.

Motel 6 owners ask city about development incentives

CITY, from Page 1

been working with a local plumber.

Patel said he had called to find someone to fix all the pipes and was having trouble finding parts and was having to have them shipped in from California.

He said they had talked to the Northwest Tech College about getting some help from the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning program. He said they were taking the coils to the college to get re-

paired and bringing them back.

"We want to use local people as much as we can," Patel said. "The local people would know our property and make it better."

Dechant explained that the city has done and that each project is on a case by case basis. He said the tax abatement is a county program and not a city one.

City Manager Doug Gerber said he was not sure the motel would qualify for a tax abatement, but with the tax rebate program that would cover city, county and school

property tax. He told the men they need to apply before the renovation is underway.

Commissioner Dave Daniels suggested the men go to the county about the rebate program, and Commissioner Kevin Rasure said it would be good to go there the next day.

Rasure suggested having Michael Solomon, city economic development director, sit down with the men and put some figures together.

Maru said they had hired back some of the same employees who

were there before.

"I like it on the good I-70 exit, and like the location," Patel said. "The marketing is there, and we will be running a good place."

Solomon said he went with the two men to see about the county forms and about possibly getting the property reassessed. He said they will be coming back with some figures.

On a similar project Solomon said the Maverick Inn is coming along and the restaurant hopes to be open by March.

County to move household hazardous waste to 17th Street

By Tom Betz

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Citizens will have to get used to a new location for the Sherman County Household Hazardous Waste as it moves from out on Cherry Ave. to the storage room at the county building at 17th and Broadway Ave.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad had proposed the move in January, and talked to Kenny Griffith, who is the person leading the household hazardous waste crew, about moving to the new location.

She said Griffith said he had not problem with the building, and felt it would work well for the needs. He told her the room would have to be closed off from others in the

building and an exhaust fan needs to be installed.

Strnad said she had written a letter to Terry Selbe, owner of the building on Cherry Ave., saying the county would be out of that building by April 1.

She made the motion to move household hazardous waste effective April 1, and Commissioner Larry Enfield seconded. Commissioner Max Linin joined in voting for the move.

The county has been paying about \$400 a month rent for the Cherry Ave. location, and Strnad said it was a small way to save some money and make use of the 17th Street Building.

Strnad said she would call Griffith and let him get someone to put in an exhaust fan.

On the Telephone Building at the corner of 10th and Main Ave., Strnad said she was encouraging departments to clean it out and use empty rooms in the courthouse for storage.

She said there might be a person or two interested in buying the building if the county can get it cleaned out.

She said the bricks on the south and east of the building are in need of repair, but did not feel the county could afford the estimated \$60,000 to do the work.

She suggested the commissioners make a decision on disposal of the

telephone building at their meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1.

Randy Fitzgerald, area representative for Good Samaritan Society, was at the meeting to tell the commissioners about a change at the Sherman County Good Samaritan facility.

He said Pam Black, who has been the director, is going on medical leave for probably a year and did not expect her to be coming back to Goodland. He said he could not say anything about why she was on medical leave.

He said Mary Ann Smith will be the interim director until someone is found to be the director.

Fitzgerald said he has confidence

in Shawnda Tompkins, nursing director, and the crew at the Good Samaritan Society. He said he has had consultants out here and had glowing reports. He said he would be meeting with staff and the family council.

He said he felt things are going well in Goodland.

He said he would come back and let the commissioners know what is happening and bring Smith to meet the commissioners. He said Smith would be in Goodland on Thursday,

Feb. 17. She is now in Ellsworth.

Strnad asked Tompkins how things were going.

Tompkins said things are going good, and they have increased staff and that is helping.

Strnad said several people had shown interest in the hospital board appointment. She nominated Brian Rippe to fill the term of Matt Hartwell who sent in a letter of resignation.

The commissioners voted 3-0 to approve the nomination.

True value is in what you know

One day the generators at Henry Ford's factory came to a halt. The repairmen were unable to find the problem, so Henry Ford called in an expert. The expert tinkered with the machines for a few minutes then threw the switch and brought the generators back to life.

After receiving a bill for \$10,000 from the expert, Ford called and questioned why the bill was so high for a few minutes of tinkering. The expert replied that for tinkering with the machines, \$10, for knowing where to tinker, \$9,990. Ford paid the bill.

I don't know if this is a true story



jamie morphey
business tips

for the value you offer to your customer.

This tip was brought to you by Western Kansas Business Consulting, sponsored in part by Sherman County. We offer free and confidential business consulting to Kearny, Scott, Sherman, and Wichita counties. For more information or to set up an appointment, contact Jamie Morphey at (620) 874-0771 or e-mail wkbc@wbsnet.org.

or not, but it illustrates an excellent point. Many of us today are paid for what we know rather than what we do.

What is the value of reviving a factory that was stuck and unable to make money? What is the value of what you do?

Don't bill for what you do, bill

STATE-OF-THE-ART
 Sherman County
 1203 Main - Phone 899-6103
 Tonight 7 PM
The Green Hornet 3D (PG-13)
 Starts Friday at 7 p.m.:
The Dilemma (PG-13)

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COMMUNITY MEETING
 Please join USD 352 for a Community Meeting to be held on **Monday, February 28, 2011** in the **GHS Auditorium at 7 p.m.**
 Important information will be shared concerning the **FACILITIES PROJECT.**
 Check website for details: www.usd352.org
 Get involved because in Goodland, Our People Make The Difference.
Please Plan to Attend!

Gambino's Pizza Sherman County Relay for Life Fundraiser
Thursday, Feb 17, 2011 11:00am to 9:00pm
4 EASY STEPS TO PLACE YOUR RELAY FOR LIFE ORDER
 1. Call or dine in at Gambino's Pizza of Goodland.
 2. Before ordering, please let the order taker know "Relay for Life Order".
 3. Fill out the claim check below.
 4. Detach the claim check & give to the delivery driver or to the cashier at the time of payment.
Note: Please be aware that we must have the claim check in order to credit your Relay for Life Team with the sale. Sales total is based on regular price and excludes Coupons, in-store specials, lunch buffet, Awards Cards or Gift Certificate purchases. Sales total is good for dine-in, carryout and delivery orders. Claim check is valid from 11:30 to 9:00pm on Tuesday, February 17, 2011. Sales total does not include tax and tip, or delivery charges.
RELAY FOR LIFE SALES CLAIM CHECK VALID ONLY ON FEBRUARY 17, 2011
 20% of each purchase supports SHERMAN COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE
 Purchaser's Name _____
 Email address: _____
 For Store Use: Check # _____ Subtotal or Adj Total \$ _____
Do not include sales tax, tip or delivery charges.
 Reminder: Please attach the receipt to claim check.
\$16.00 Two Medium 1-Topping Pizzas
Present coupon when ordering. Not valid with any other offer. Valid only on February 17, 2011. Good only at Gambino's in Goodland.
\$20.00 One Large Specialty Pizza, plus a small dessert pizza.
Present coupon when ordering. Not valid with any other offer. Valid only on February 17, 2011. Good only at Gambino's in Goodland.
 Dine In - Carry Out-Delivery 402 East 17th - Goodland, KS 785-890-5988
 Store Hours: Hours: 11:00am to 9:00pm

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