

Director reports on recent development leads

By Tom Betz

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The city commissioners heard an economic development update at the meeting on Monday with encouraging news on several projects.

City Manager Doug Gerber said he felt Michael Solomon, who was hired in January, was doing a good job, and felt it was important the commissioners hear what he has been doing.

Solomon said he plans to report to the city commission and the county commission on a monthly basis.

"I feel we are getting tire kickers," he said. "That is good. I will limit my reports to things that are promising and look fruitful. We get a lot of calls that do not pan out, but these are things that I feel could happen."

He said he has been talking to an existing company that is looking to expand. He said the expansion would be a manufacturing plant that would bring about 30 jobs to Goodland. He said he contacted the State of Kansas and the state is offering the company an incentive package. He said he hopes the decision will be made by the company soon.

He talked about the Motel 6 progress, and said getting the motels

County hears economic development update

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Sherman County commissioners heard an update on economic development efforts at the meeting on Tuesday from the city and county development director who was hired in January.

Michael Solomon told the commissioners he was planning to do a monthly update for both the city commission and county commission.

He said one project he wants to complete in the next month is to get Sherman County approved as an Enhanced Enterprise Zone. He said all of Kansas is an Enterprise Zone, but the enhanced designation gives companies more credit per employee they bring in up to \$1,200 per employee.

Commissioner Larry Enfield asked where the money for that comes from and Solomon said it is a state program.

Solomon talked to the commissioners about the recent developments he had reported to the city about at their meeting on Monday.

He talked about a possible manufacturing expansion; the Motel 6 program and what they are doing to work with the county appraiser; the status of the grocery store with the lease signed and expected to begin work in the next few weeks; the opening of Rusty Fritz's The Basement; and a potential laundromat on K-27.

Commissioner Max Linin asked Solomon if he was a golfer and said the Sugar Hills Golf Course was a good draw to bring people to Goodland.

Solomon said he has been out to the golf course and said it is a great asset, and said he would be working with the people to help in any way he can.

A suggestion was made by Commissioner Cynthia Strnad the golf course could work out an agreement with a local motel for people wanting to come out to golf to stay at the motel, and might work out a similar agreement with a Denver motel that has a local chain connection.

Solomon said he saw the golf course in December when he was interviewing for the economic development director job. It said there was no snow at the time, and felt the weather here is interesting.

He said he is working with the Kansas Small Business Development Center out of Hays and will be putting on a free customer service training on Wednesday, March 23, at the Northwest Tech College, to talk to people who deal with the public. He said it is important to make sure they are able to greet the public and put the best foot forward for the community.

Solomon said he will be doing anything he can to help the county as well as the city, and said he has talked to a man from Kanorado about a potential project.

He said he was interested in hearing about the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development programs and wanted to find out more about the microloan program.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the Sherman County microloan fund has a balance of \$28,587 that has been paid back in from the local business loans made in the past.

He said he will be working with the Kansas Small Business Development Center of Hays to provide a free customer service training class on Wednesday, March 23, at the Northwest Tech College. He said people who want to attend should reserve space by Monday, March 21.

Solomon said the idea behind the training opportunity is to make sure those who meet the public as they come off the highways are putting "our best foot forward as a community, and how to get these people to stay here and possibly come back."

Mayor Josh Dechant said he had seen where the county commissioners were asking for Randy Rhabbe of Pioneer Development to come to their meeting. He said the city uses that regional program for several grants including the recent Community Development Block Grant for housing the city received.

Solomon said he had met Rhabbe at a meeting in Topeka, and was planning to be at the county meeting on Tuesday.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he had heard good things from several businesses where Solomon has stopped in to see them.

Daniels said Solomon needs to find out the status of the Microloan program and how much money might be available.

Solomon said he was learning about these things and would ask the county about them as well.

open is a great asset for the community to look at attracting conventions and other events that could make use of the Max Jones Fieldhouse and

other community facilities. Solomon said the commission had offered incentives to Village Markets last year to put in a grocery

store, and was pleased to report after many months of negotiations a building lease was signed. He said work should begin soon and plans are to open the store in late summer.

Solomon said The Basement, a private social club, located in the old Antique Mall is opening this week, and Rusty Fritz is hoping to rent out offices in the building and possibly looking for a company that might need some warehouse space.

He said an investor has approached the city about building

a laundromat in Goodland along K-27. Solomon said the owner is doing his research and hopes to have a plan to turn into the building inspector in the next couple of months. He said the laundromat would not have a lot of employees, but would be a good utility customer.

He said his view of Goodland is not limited to the people who live here, but to the people who come here. He said the shopping story for Goodland is the area that has about 23,000 people who come here to do business.

Energy improvement program approved

ENERGY, from Page 1A

owner and contractor know what the total project cost should be.

Mike Miller of Miller Construction, asked a question about replacement of a furnace and how that would effect the gas bill to show energy efficiency.

Johnson said it is considered together in the energy audit.

The agreement says the city will review the applicants utility payment history, and recommend approval if there is not a problem with late or missed payments.

Commissioner John Garcia asked if there is a way the city can modify that to make an exception for special circumstances.

City Clerk Mary Volk said she did

not feel it would be good for the city to many any exceptions.

Gerber said he agreed with Volk it was not a road the city wants to go down.

Garcia said he knows of an example of a person who was out of town and was having trouble keeping up with the utility bills.

Johnson said this is a program that will be around for more than six months, and those who have had some payment problems will have time to improve their record and possibly reapply in the future.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said the Efficiency Kansas and Take Charge Challenge are two separate programs, and the \$100 energy audits are to get people excited to take the next step.

Johnson said the city cannot pay the \$100, but those who have done them receive a \$100 voucher to buy energy efficient products from local businesses.

Dechant said the energy audits cost about \$400 and are already being subsidized. He said for those who do the next step and make the improvements the Efficiency Kansas will give the homeowner a \$500 rebate.

Johnson said once the program is set up with Efficiency Kansas she will be able to take applications at the city office.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she thought it was a good program and made the motion to approve the agreements. Daniels seconded and the vote was unanimous.

FUN BY THE NUMBERS

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:


Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

		1	5	2	6			
6								
	5		8	3				
	2				9			
		1	5	2				
	3		4	5	7			
			2					
	6		4	8		5		
	9							4


Level: Intermediate

GHS Cowboys of the Week

Based on positive academic performance, attendance improvement, positive attitude or random acts of kindness, the student nominees this week are: Brooke Bahe and Jamie Gittinger



Brook Bahe, Freshman
Nominated by: Mr. Witman
Parents: Terry and Linda Bahe
Activities: Football, Wrestling



Jamie Gittinger, Junior
Nominated by: Ms. Elliott
Parents: Bob and Catina Gittinger
Activities: FCCLA, Cheerleading

These students receive an Activity Period Pass. These students were randomly selected from all nominees and will receive a local food gift certificate, special parking, first in lunch line and recognized throughout the community!

CENTURY FEEDERS
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6845 Rd. 17, Goodland (785) 899-6515

Crossword Puzzle

We've Got Their Numbers

ACROSS

- Eat in front of the TV, say
- Bones (Sleepy Hollow bully)
- Dam on the Nile
- Equal to the task
- Slots spot
- Bluffer's ploy
- Roger Bannister was the first
- Achilles, for one
- Either of two AL squads
- Table insert
- "Shoot!"
- Rubber-stamps
- Bluesman's lick
- High-five sound
- Sibelius's "Valse"
- Plopped down
- Quarter turns
- Furrier John Jacob
- Yuppie, maybe
- Tinseltown statuette
- Leaves slack-jawed
- Pierce Arrow contemporary
- Exhausted
- Negative stat for a quarterback
- Medicinal fluids
- Letter before sigma
- Submissions to eds.
- Four Corners state
- Messages from DWF's
- ___ a living
- OCS graduate, perhaps
- Part of ICBM
- Cleveland's lake
- Bit of baby talk
- Irascible
- Sally or Ayn
- Sign over a door
- Tex-Mex condiment
- Toga party venue
- Post-snowfall vehicles
- Hoosergow
- Vocal quality
- Therefore, to Descartes
- Point on a metro map
- Facetious "I see"
- When doubled, a '40s hit
- Sling mud at
- List of prior arrests
- Shoe holder
- Avoided
- Sturdy cart
- "Out of the inkwell" clown
- Relating to form
- "Blue ___ Shoes"
- Scarecrow's stuffing
- Condo division
- Pitchfork prong
- Tiny colonists
- Franklin D.'s mother
- Pulls the plug on
- Have a go at
- Yang's opposite

DOWN

- '90s treaty acronym
- Bassoons' little brothers
- Moved like a coward
- Rustler's target
- David, who said "Good night, Chet"
- Stimpy's pal
- Burden of proof
- ___ mouth (incessant talker)
- Hurler's asset
- Marlin's cousin
- ___ E. Coyote
- Riding the waves
- Soft ball brand
- Stockyard sounds

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The crossword puzzle brought to you by:




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