

## Incentives approved for Motel 6

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Motel 6 has reopened under new management, and asked the city commission to approve some economic development incentives, and at the meeting on Monday the commissioners agreed to a six month utility credit and waiving connection and permit fees.

City Manager Doug Gerber said in the future he would have Michael Solomon, economic development director, handle these requests to give him a chance to review the proposals.

Solomon said the direct impact of the Motel 6 reopening is jobs in the community. Solomon said the owners Arvind (Ed) Patel, president of A&S Properties of California, and Bharat (Brett) Maru, vice president of operations are planning a major upgrade for Motel 6.

He said Maru said in his presentation in February the motel would have 21 jobs, but Solomon said some of those jobs are people

in the home office. He said the local motel would have about 15 jobs with an average hourly wage of \$10 an hour.

He said A&S Properties owns 45 hotels and motels, and has put about \$350,000 into the hotel to get it reopened because of major heating and air conditioning problems found after the motel had been closed.

Solomon said the owners continue to deal with some of that as they work to convert the rooms to individual heating and air conditioning units. He said Motel 6 is requiring a major upgrade to the rooms, and the owners expect this to be about \$400,000.

He said Motel 6 wants it done by next year, but Patel has asked for an extension to give them a bit more time to get this one done. Solomon said the owners have said they would try to use local people where possible.

He said the owners are working with the Sherman County appraisers office about using the Neighborhood Revitalization program for the motel upgrade. He said the first

thing is trying to get the motel reappraised. Solomon said A&S paid quite a bit less than the \$760,000 of the listed appraisal, and the revitalization project is to rebate property tax for an increase of appraised value.

The motel has been reopened for about a month, and Solomon said the city utility records show the average monthly bill was \$3,000 when it was open before. He said the owners plan to have 68 rooms taking some of the original 84 and making them into suites.

He said the Motel 6 owners would like to ask the city for a 12 month credit on their utility bill along with the waiver of connection and permit fees.

He said he knows the city has granted a six month credit on utilities, but the Motel 6 owners were asking the city to consider 12 months with all the repairs they have had to make.

City Clerk Mary Volk said the connection fees have been refunded, and so far the motel has not applied for a building permit.

Mayor Josh Dechant asked if the utility bill

was \$3,000 what it is today?

Solomon said he is not sure as they motel has only been open for about a month.

Commissioner John Garcia said he did not see a way at this time to base the utility credit on.

Dechant said it is probably premature on the six months, and felt the city has set a precedent with the six months. He said they told the owners they would wait until the motel was more functional.

Solomon said the owners would prefer the six months start now.

Gerber said he had suggested they use a date in the future to start the six months.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said the city would wait a year and give the six months back as an average. He said he feels the six months is a precedent.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she agreed on the six months, but said the policy

See CITY, Page 5

## Hearings set for five homes

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

City commissioners passed five resolutions setting a hearing date at 5 p.m. on Monday, April 18, for homes that need repaired or demolished as part on the ongoing effort to improve the housing conditions in the city.

Hearings are scheduled for a home at 910 W. 17th; 223 E. First; 322 W. Seventh; 623 W. Ninth; 1222 Syracuse Ave.; and 1612 Colorado Ave.

The homeowners will have a chance at the hearing to let the commissioners know what plans they may have for repairing the home or possible plans for demolition.

Over the past few years the city has been working with homeowners to clean up vacant houses. The city has given homeowners time to work on improving the houses, and when no action has been taken the city has put out bids to have the homes demolished.

City Manager Doug Gerber said a recent condemnation of the house at 215 N. Main is in dispute by the homeowner. The city put out a bid to demolish the home, but Gerber said the owner had been on the phone and said he was unaware he was to stay in contact after the city gave him 90 days to get repairs started.

City Building Inspector and Fire Chief Brian James said he had sent all the homeowners certified letters and knew they had been received. He said of the five set for hearing he knows there is a lien holder on the one at 910 W. 17th.

Gerber said he told the owner of 215 N. Main he needs to get the city a written plan of his repairs, and Gerber said he will put the demolition of that property on the bottom of the list. He said he expects the owner to be at the commission meeting on Monday, March 21.

Another area brought up at the meeting was the northwest corner of 17th and Cherry Ave. Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he had people comment about that corner

See HEARINGS, Page 5



## Goodland's Got Talent kids coloring contest

Nona Mason's pre-kindergarten class was busy on Wednesday, March 2, coloring their entries for the coloring contest that goes along with Goodland's Got Talent. The kids were still wearing their hats for Dr. Seuss Day. Jaxi Mitchek (from left on top picture), Jaeleigh Osban and Mirari Linin were busy coloring and Nat Vasquez (right) colored for Mason. The talent show will be at 6 p.m. on Saturday at the Goodland High School Auditorium. Their will also be an art contest. The two teachers that had the most participation in the coloring contest won \$50 to buy art supplies for their class. There were six teachers and their classes and Cris Wilson's Joyful Noise Preschool that had everyone participating. The names were thrown in a hat and two were drawn out. The winners were Marilyn Sower's fourth grade and Anne Conn's fifth grade. Other participating were Mason's class, Rachel Stasser's fourth grade, Tara Mull's third grade and Susan McCall's second grade.

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News



## Commissioners ask for bids on weed mowing

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Sherman County is changing the way weeds will be mowed this summer, and the commissioners decided it would be good to look at bidding the program out.

The commissioners meet today, and were to look at specifications and miles for the mowing to put it out for bid.

In the past Darrel Schroder has been doing the weed mowing, but the commissioners decided last fall to change how many times the weeds are to be mowed in favor of more spraying.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said Schroder has been doing the mowing for several

years and it has not been put out for bid.

Commissioner Larry Enfield said he felt it should be put out for bid, but was concerned it was too late for this year.

Commissioner Max Linin agreed, and said he felt it could be done now because the county was not planning to mow until later in the summer.

Strnad said she thought Schroder was planning to do the mowing, but the county does not have a contract at this time.

She said she always thought it ought to go out to bid.

The commissioners agreed to get the specifications of how many time the roads are to be mowed, how wide and how many miles today

and will check with Butch Vandiver, road and bridge superintendent on the miles.

Enfield said the bidder will need a good surety bond.

Strnad said the bids might include a fuel surcharge depending on what happens to that cost.

Enfield said the county ought to ask for bids and see who wants the job.

In other business the commissioners:

- Approved a bid from Plains Heating for a new heater at the transfer station, and decided not to move the furnace.

- Approved purchase of a 1,300 gallon tank through Dorman Brothers for \$3,800. The commissioners ask Vandiver to make sure the tank

has recirculation pumps and Enfield said he felt the trailer needed to have fenders to keep from having rocks kick up and break windows.

- Considered two bids for old metal at the transfer station. One bid was from Virgil Baumfalk and Mike Yarger for \$60 a ton. The other bid was for \$100 a ton from Brent and Paul Flanders as Kuhrt Crushers.

Enfield made the motion to accept the bid from Kuhrt Crushers.

- Approved appointing Kevin Zimmerman and reappoint Jerry Bauman to the Sherman County Fire Board.

The county commissioners met at 8 a.m. today in the commissioner room at the Sherman County Courthouse, 813 Broadway Ave.

### weather report

42°

noon  
Monday

Today

• Sunset, 6:54 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:56 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:55 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 40 degrees
- Humidity 59 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds south 20 mph
- Barometer 30.24 inches and falling
- Record High today 82° (1935)
- Record Low today 2° (1912)

Last 24 Hours\*

- High Sunday 45°
- Low Sunday 22°
- Precipitation trace
- This month .42
- Year to date 1.23
- Below Normal .12 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a high near 59, winds out of the north at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 36. Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 77, winds out of the south at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 41.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny with a high near 62 and a low around 30. Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 59 and a low around 36. Saturday: Mostly cloudy and breezy with a 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 67 and a low around 43.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

### local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$6.94 bushel
- Posted county price — \$7.06
- Corn — \$5.89 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.33
- Milo — \$5.76 bushel
- Soybeans — \$11.79 bushel
- Posted county price — \$12.57
- Millet — \$5 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$30.30 cwt.
- Confection — no bid.
- Pinto beans — \$18

(Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

### inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



### Tech college seeks help

Northwest Tech Activity Director Steve Lampe pointed proudly to the sign on the front of the Derrick Lutters Armory Building. Lampe is looking for citizen help. See photo, story on Page 10.

