

County agrees to participate in program

By Tom Betz
 nt.betz@nwkansan.com

Sherman County commissioners were not enthusiastic about the Rural Opportunity Zone program when Michael Solomon presented the program at the end of June, but he told the city commissioners he would go back to get the county to join in supporting Gov. Sam Brownback's rural development program.

Tuesday the Sherman County commissioners discussed the Rural Opportunity Zone program and agreed to pass a resolution to join and fund at least one college loan repayment as a start.

Solomon told the county commissioners in June the Rural Opportunity Zone program has two parts.

The first is the income tax exemption for someone moving to rural Kansas.

The second part is a college loan repayment program to be paid 50 percent by the state and 50 percent by the county up to \$1,500 each for up to five years.

The Rural Opportunity Zone program is Gov. Brownback's baby, Solomon said. He came to Colby to sign the bill, and it is a program designed specifically for rural counties.

The program is limited to 50 counties in the state, but does include all of the western counties, Solomon said.

"I want to thank Bill Finley and Dr. Ed Mills for being there to help support the program," Solomon said about his first meeting with the county commissioners at the end of June.

County Commissioner Larry Enfield said Tuesday he does not like the program because it is not spe-

cifically designed to help Sherman County graduates and he feels the county is better served supporting the Northwest Technical College.

County Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said she feels people should pay their own college costs, but did make the motion to approve the resolution to allow Sherman County to be a part of the program.

County Commissioner Max Linin said he agrees he does not like the program, but felt the county should participate.

With passages of the resolution Sherman County will join the growing number of counties who have agreed to the Rural Opportunity Zone program.

At the city commission meeting Solomon said the Rural Opportunity Zone program is another tool businesses can use when recruiting a college graduate to Goodland.

Mayor John Garcia asked Solomon at the city meeting if a number of counties have gotten on board with the program.

Solomon said quite a few counties have opted in including Greeley, Wallace and Norton in this area.

He said Norton has agreed to put in \$26,000 next year, and is hoping for more if other area counties do not opt in.

He told the county commissioners money would only be expended when an applicant had lived in the county for a year.

If there were not any applicants, or if an applicant did not stay for a full year, those funds would not be spent.

He said the money goes to the student loan company, and will put a dent in most college loan programs but not pay it all. He said the program can be an incentive for the

person looking at two places.

An example is a person who has gotten a degree and the total college loans are about \$70,000. He said this program would pay back a total of about \$15,000 over a five year period with the county paying half of that (\$7,500) and the state paying the other half.

In other development news Solomon reported:

- Company expansion is moving ahead and civil engineers are asking questions. City Manager Doug Gerber said he and Solomon are working on a new program where when a company calls about expanding or moving to Goodland he and Solomon set up a meeting with all the city departments to answer as many questions in one shot as possible. He said they have done this one time so far, and it seems to have helped.
- Grocery store appears to be on holding pattern. Hope he will be moving forward soon.
- A service provider is trying to get his financing in order. He said he is seeing a trend on that with people working to get the financing.
- A company is planning a 10,000 square foot addition, and have moved it to the front burner as they want to be done by December.
- The concrete and asphalt recycler got sort of off track. He said he is excited about the plan, but is in his busy season.
- Said it was good to see Cowboy Corner Express moving ahead, and Casey's General Store expanding.

"That is what you want to happen," Solomon said. "Competing by making each other better. It will bring both more business."

Five charges in drug case filed against local man

Charges were filed Tuesday against Matthew Stephen Krayca, 32, with a preliminary hearing scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26 in Sherman County District Court.

Attorney R. Dean Dinkel of Sharon Springs has been appointed to represent Krayca, and he filed a discovery motion on Tuesday.

Five charges have been filed in the case based on one of two search warrants Goodland police executed at 537 W. 13th, on Wednesday, June 29.

Police Chief Joni Showalter said she had obtained the search warrants after responding to the scene. She said officers found illegal narcotics, and what apparently was some type of explosive material that was removed by a special unit from Ft. Riley.

District Court records show Krayca was charged with possession of 4.5 grams, 1.8 grams, 164.1 grams and 3.3 grams of marijuana 1,000 feet from Grant Junior High a felony level 2.

The second charge was for possession of methamphetamine a felony level 4.

The third charge is for drug paraphernalia, scales used to weigh marijuana a felony level 4.

The fourth charge is failure to obtain a drug tax stamp a felony level 10.

The fifth charge is for drug paraphernalia, rolling papers, glass pipe and baggies found at the residence a class A misdemeanor.

Witnesses listed on the warrant included Chief Joni Showalter, Officer Kody Hanson, Deputy Asa Stiles, State Trooper Minh Huynh, Fire Chief and Building Inspector Brian James, Dustin Krayca and Sondra Krayca.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said any charges dealing with the apparent explosive material will come from the federal level through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

In other actions:

- David Krayca, 56, Goodland, was arrested by city police on June

29 as he attempted to enter the house at 537 W. 13th, for disorderly conduct; obstruction; and resist arrest. He has been released from the Bastille.

• Separate trials have been scheduled for the two people accused in the Jan. 16, chase with state troopers and the alleged attempted murder of two troopers.

Anthony Douglas Patrick, 30, and Piper Lacey Stout-Briese, 30, were indicted for attempted first degree murder, possession of methamphetamine and eluding and fleeing the state troopers.

Trial dates of Aug. 22 to 24 have been scheduled for Patrick. Patrick is represented by attorney Doug C. Spencer of Oakley.

Trial dates of Sept. 7 to 9 have been scheduled for Stout-Briese. Stout-Briese is represented by attorney Lawrence A. Taylor of Colby.

Nicole Romine, deputy attorney general from the criminal litigation division, is prosecuting the cases.

Vehicle totaled in accident



A Chevy Blazer driven by Adrienne West, 21, wrapped around a power pole on Cattle Trail about 8 p.m. on Monday breaking the pole off and totaling the vehicle. West was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center where she was treated and released. City utility crews and the fire department were called out. A temporary repair was made that night and city crews replaced the pole on Tuesday.

Photo by Jordan Snow/The Goodland Star-News

High-speed chase ends south of the Mingo exit

By Kevin Bottrell
 kbottrell@nwkansan.com

A high-speed chase that began Wednesday morning in Sherman County ended less than a half hour later when Kansas Highway Patrol troopers forced the vehicle off I-70 southeast of Mingo.

Tod Hileman, public resource officer for the Highway Patrol, said the patrol was contacted by a Sherman County dispatcher just before 11 a.m. (Central Time) Wednesday. Michael Singleton, 40, of Pueblo, Colo., had

called the office and was making "strange remarks." The dispatcher asked troopers to keep an eye out for Singleton's car.



Singleton

Hileman said troopers found the car on I-70 just over the Sherman County line, but when they tried to stop it, Singleton took off heading east. He evaded two sets of spike strips. Colby Police Chief Randy Jones and four officers assisted with closing down the Colby exits.

Singleton was finally stopped when he hit a third set of spike strips at the Mingo exit. Hileman said

he drove into the median around mile marker 65, went across the westbound lanes, through the ditch and into a field, where troopers arrested him.

Singleton was transported back to Sherman County, and the incident is under investigation.

corrections

In the Page 1 story "Slough elected board president" in the voting on the nomination of Dick Short as the Goodland School Board representative to the Northwest Tech Board of Directors Those voting not to elect Short were Gary Slough, Mike Cochran, Jessica Cole and Gennifer

House. On the vote to elect Cochran as the representative those voting no were Amy Sederstrom and Teresa Sieck. This was due to reporter error.

☆☆☆☆

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