Conference speakers inspire, challenge

YOUTH, from Page 1

the skills they learned.

The third group are the Stayers who never leave. He said most of these are male and did not do well in school. These are the ones who are invested in the least, and teachers nark them down.

These are the people who work long hours on a job, have a strong work ethic, but get less wages and no benefits. He said this group are not going to do as well as their parents.

The fourth group are the Boomerangers who leave for short times and come back. He said a lot of them are female and go off to college for two years and come back to start a career.

A sub-group, Carr said, are the "high flyers" who are the cadre of professionals and include doctors. He said some communities have programs to bring them back under the "grow your own" idea. He said some work and some don't.

He said one of the main things

is people have to want to live in a smaller community.

For the future small towns have to change their thinking, he said. "Today the effort is to invest most in those who leave, and we have to change the thinking that one only succeeds if they leave.

"We have to let the young people know that staying is not failure," he said, "and coming back is not failure. The question is how we change that attitude.'

He said the community colleges and technical colleges are key to giving the students the skills and training for the future. He said when people talk about education reform one area is to equalize the investment in the students. and find ways to "hook" the high flyers in to the future through embracing the green economy and sustainable agriculture.

'We need to lift the boat for everybody," Carr said. "Regional thinking is important, and the demise of the small town is not inevitable."

3/50 Project great way to help local businesses

PROJECT, from Page 1

She said the idea of "buy local" is good, but that when you go to a "big box" store like Walmart or Target less of the money spent stays in town.

"For every \$100 spent in locally owned independent business \$68 returns to the community through taxes, payroll and other expenditures," she said. "If you spend that in a national chain, only \$43 stays in the community. Spend it online and nothing comes back."

Once the 3/50 Project exploded Baxter said she had hundreds of emails, and people wanted more so she created the simple flyer to be copied and handed out.

She said the project went viral and she got noticed by the local media and then the national media including stories in The Washington Post and Chicago Tribune.

She got a call asking her to do an interview with Fox News and she said she would.

Describing the Fox interview Baxter said she did not know what to expect and before the interview started the intro was that the 3/50Project was "the formula that could save some local businesses that might not otherwise survive."

Baxter said the project continues to grow and she welcomes people to contact her with ideas and wants people to use the project to help businesses.

"It is all about you," she said. FILM, from Page 1 When I mention picking three businesses you don't want to lose I can see the person beginning to think of their three."

Baxter had several other ideas for the audience and suggested it was an opportunity for businesses to work together and do lots of other promotional things to expand the customers for all and help the whole community.

More information about the 3/50Project can be found at 350project. a free event open to the public, net.

featuring life-size Hot Wheels cars, home from Arlington, Ill., said he three other houses prior to this round. at 520 W. 16th owned by Maurice G. growing out of the windows. The Trandel said he felt his property Barnhart and Shirley A. Barnhart. front and back doors have been

Goodland homes, and the city com- two years ago after he bought it. He did not have to abide by the city the city had sent out letter on all the and the front door has been knocked

During the 40th anniversary road trip, Hot Wheels returned to Speed, the site of the 2006 "Need for Speed" event that drew 10,000 people to the 47-person town. Featured activities in Speed included a car and motorcycle show, soap-box derby and performances from local musical groups.

people had to think outside the box and take advantage of the Grassroots Art Center created in the town by Rosslyn Schultz. "We know people will come here

to see the art center," Nelson said. "They will stop at the grocery store or the cafe and buy some gas. That helps everyone in town."

The third example was the Crabby Paddy from Dexter, and Opat said when the small gas station and convenience store was in danger of closing Marci Penner of the Kansas Sampler Foundation put out the word to her Kansas Explorers and the members responded by dropping by and sending \$5 to help the Crabby Paddy.

Opat showed a video clip of Patty Hafenstein, owner of Crabby Paddy, talking about the struggle to keep the business open, and the great response she has been getting from people all across the state to help. However, Opat said after the video when he drove by recently there was a closed sign on the store. He said he would follow up to find out what happened, and would include that in the documentary. Opat said the documentary will have both sides of the battle for small towns to survive, and hopes it will help other communities learn and find ways to succeed. The video clips and trailer can be seen at www.smalltownusamovie. com.

City gives home owners 90 days to fix up or tear down their vacant homes

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com felt what James was saying was a lie, Hearings were held on five vacant and he had renters in the home about had been grandfathered in and he No one was present, and James said open for more than a year, he said,

Winds rip canvas off corn bunker

High winds with gusts to 47 mph on Monday morning ripped up the large tent-like tarp on the ADM corn bunker south of the railroad tracks. A witness said one man who was holding on to the tarp was blown into the air, but landed safely in the corn. The corn harvest is expected to be nearly finished this week, and many places are either full or running out of storage space.

Photo by Jessica Corbin The Goodland Star-News

Small Town USA' film director tells small town stories

closely along U.S. Route 40, making stops at the Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah; Speed, Kansas; the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame Museum in Indiana; and the Automotive Hall of Fame in Detroit, before culminating in a grand finale celebration in Watkins Glen, New York, home to American road racing.

activities.

At each stop, Hot Wheels hosted

Hot Wheels drivers licenses, Hot Wheels die-cast races, autograph sessions with Hot Wheels designers, and many more family-friendly 'Over the past 40 years, Hot Wheels has been a part of children's

lives around the world, creating a tremendous, passionate fan base," said Geoff Walker, vice president, Wheels and Games Marketing, Mattel Brands. "We wanted to be

historic Hot Wheels memorabilia, our fans and bring a unique experi- Art Center of Kansas. She said the kiosks for kids to create custom ence to their neighborhoods."

Another example Opat showed was Erika Nelson from Lucas talking about how the town was reable to celebrate this milestone with inventing itself as the Grassroots





each one giving the owners 90 days to fix them up or tear them down.

The hearings are a continuation of the city effort to clean up dilapidated and potentially dangerous vacant properties around the town. Over the past few years the city has been enforcing the ordinance about dangerous homes, and more than 20 have been either repaired and fixed up or demolished.

In the latest round of hearings one property owner was present and suggested he has been under cancer treatment and was unable to fix up the house

City Fire Chief and Building Inspector Brian James told the commission the house at 214 N. Main has been vacant for some time and the exterior walls and roof are damaged. He said the property has not been taken care of since the city mower has to take care of the weeds and grass. James said the several neighbors have complained about the property and he believed the house to be a blight to the neighborhood.

Included in the packet given to each commissioner were photos of the outside of the house and yard showing the apparent problems.

mission approved resolutions on said he has been under cancer treatment, and wanted to know who the neighbors were who complained.

Trandel said until he received the notice of hearing the only thing he had received was a letter about the weeds being out of control.

After questioning James background and expertise as the city inspector he admitted it was his problem for taking the property on, and that he new it needs a new roof.

"Had it sold like it was supposed to I would not have this property," he said. "I was told the roofers did the work. I have been unemployed for four years. I am sorry I have not been here. I have put in some storm house brought up to code. windows. If I sell this property I will put a roof on it."

Mayor Josh Dechant said it is the city policy to give the owner 90 days and he said the city is willing to work with the owner if they need more time. He said the city is asking for the owner to show an effort within the 90 days, and an agreement on when the other work can be done.

Trandel asked why the hearing was not done in March when he would have more good weather to get some work done.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said it Thomas Trandel, owner of the was because the city was dealing with

ordinance.

Dechant said he did not see that as possible, and that the property had made it onto the building inspectors list.

Trandel said he did not have a specific list of items from the city that needed to be fixed at the house.

Dechant said the commission had listed a handful of things including the roof, trees, damaged outside, odor, mold and bugs.

Trandel said he had the house open all that day and he had not found any bugs or any odor or mold.

Dechant said the city was willing to work with him on getting the

"Doesn't seem like that," Trandel said. "I have been harassed by this city since I bought the house."

With no more discussion Dechant to get the property in better shape, closed the hearing on this home and moved on to the next.

Hearings were held on the house

houses and had gotten some back down. with no forwarding address.

On the house on West 16th, James said it has been vacant for some time and the backdoor has been open for about a year. He said there was a lack of weather protection on the roof and parts of the walls.

The next hearing was on a trailer house at 1505 Montana Ave. owned by Kerrenda K. Shaver and Brett I. Johnson. No one was present, and James said it appears no one has lived in the trailer for along time. He said there are broken windows and an addition on the east side is falling apart. He said the city got a return letter on this property.

The next hearing was on a wood frame house at 1714 Montana Ave., owned by Janie Villarreal and Tanya Garza. James said the city got the

The final hearing was on a house at 1016 Cherry Ave., owned by Valentino Pena and Kristi Pena. James said the whole side of the house had been gutted. He said he talked to the owners of the home and was told by the wife it was his parents home, and they have gutted the house with an intention of fixing it up, but now they are asking if the city wants the house. James said it was in such bad condition the city staff went in and cleaned up the house and yard.

City Manager Doug Gerber said he had talked to the lady and she asked him if the city would want the house.

Following the hearings the city commissioners approved individual resolutions for each property giving the owners 90 days to commence repair of the property, and with proof of effort the city may grant additional time to complete the repairs.

Classifieds work! Call 899-2338.



ox dealers include independently owned and operated busin

SUNFLOWER HARVEST SYSTEMS 🛣 CALL FOR LITERATURE 🛣 LUCKE MANUFACTURING (800) 735-5848, (701) 240-5953

WWW.LUCKEMANUFACTURING.COM

LAND FOR SALE

Kit Carson County Colorado 5308± acre ranch. Grass, dry land, CRP north of Seibert-Price Reduced was \$2,654,000 Now \$2,554,000

Dale Stull, Broker Cell 719-349-5710 Toll Free 866-346-5710 www.thelandofficellc.com





letter back on this one. He said he has had complaints about homeless people living in there and weeds * DOOR AND WINDOW REPLACEMENTS * SOFFIT From concrete to roofing and everything in between. CONSTRUCTION



Signup Cutoff Date for Fiscal Year 2011 EQIP and WHIP **Requested Funding**

Monday, November 15, 2010, is the cutoff date for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and/or Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) applications in Kansas to be considered for Fiscal Year 2011 requested funding. EQIP and WHIP Initiatives (Lesser Prairie Chicken, Organic, etc.) will have a separate cut-off date announced in the future.

Stop by your local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center and visit with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or local conservation district staff to get more information about helping address your resource concerns.

210 West 10th Suite 1, Goodland, KS 67735 • Phone: 785-899-3070 Web site: http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2011 and www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/2011