

# New and existing businesses see progress

*Sometimes when no improvements are necessary, it's best to just keep things the same*

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

The past year has seen the addition of new businesses to Goodland and improvements to many existing businesses.

And sometimes, the best progress is keeping the good that you already have. As the saying goes, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

This is a compilation of information given to *The Goodland Daily News* by business owners and managers about Goodland's progress for 2002 and information from articles appearing in the paper in the last year.

Space does not allow every business in Goodland nor every detail about each business to be mentioned. The editors apologize to anyone not mentioned and ask that business owners and managers be sure to give us information for next year's edition.

New businesses include:

**Picnic in the Park** is the newest restaurant in Goodland. Designed to look like a park and provide the atmosphere of a picnic, the restaurant features Chester Fried Chicken with a variety of side dishes and drinks. Harold and Mary Ann Sneath opened the restaurant at 1016 Main in June.

**Sight and Sound Entertainment** opened in the Pied Piper Video location at 1218 Main in February. Scott J. Weber bought Pied Piper from Donna and Harvey Swager in December and kept it pretty much the same until his grand opening in February.

He has expanded the store to include not just movies, but also DVDs, video games, CDs, phone cards, fountain drinks, cappuccino, iced tea, juices, sandwiches, burritos and snacks. Weber is an authorized agent for Unicef, and he included an office in the store for his 2-year-old son, Tristan Windell Weber.

**M & M Carefree Water LLC** is a homebased business owned by Kenneth and Joyce McDaniel, who moved to Goodland a year ago. The business, at 310 E. Eighth, offers catalytic water conditioners that supply clean, pure, salt-free water to homes, irrigation and industrial sites.

**Truck and Tractor Repair LLC** opened last summer. Jim Waldman, Ken Denning, Jim Johnson and Amy Sederstrom, shareholders, have as their goal to "achieve and maintain the best shop in northwest Kansas." The business employs six full-time and one part-time workers in the shop and a service department, which carries most truck and tractor repair parts. The business is on East Business U.S. 24, in the former Goodland Motor Company building. Call 785-899-2401.

**17th Street Barbershop**, owned and operated by Cynthia Bohl, opened at 17th and Center in February and offers hair care for the entire family.

**Four Sisters Bed and Breakfast**, 1204 Center, opened in May with sisters Rachel Taylor, Mona Carver, Violet Phillips and Gloria Douglas taking care of business.

**Golden Chiropractic**, 1002 Broadway, opened in September 2001 with Dr. Dan Golden offering treatment for many ail-

ments including backaches, headaches, neck pain, residual problems of multiple sclerosis and chronic menstrual pain.

**Mag's Pots 'n' Things** opened April 20 offering lawn and garden supplies. Marita and Gordon Birkholtz own and operate the business at 810 Beaver, 3/4 mile west of Goodland on Eighth Street.

**Custom Paintworks** opened last summer at 1820 Cherry, just in time to have business disrupted by construction of the new Cherry Avenue. Randy J. Gallentine owns and operates the auto body repair shop.

Businesses moving, updating, expanding and offering training to employees include:

**Western State Bank** is active in the development of Goodland. Members of the bank's staff are involved with Topside Daycare, the carnival board, economic development, Ambassadors, Rotary, 4-H auctions, Sunflower U.S.A. and the Car Club.

**Goodland Activities Center** is in its 18th year of serving Sherman County. The center is adding programs and updating its fitness equipment. The center added the Right Combination Dance Studio in the past year with Jessica Kashka as instructor.

A newly remodeled fitness room has treadmills, an elliptical stepper and a recumbent bike and is open from early morning until late evening. The aerobic room is often filled to capacity.

**Goodland Greenline**, under the ownership of Ron Lucas, has provided agricultural equipment, parts and service to area farmers since 1983. Lucas said he is not allowing 19 years of experience to make him complacent. In the past year, as in every year, employees from the sales, parts and service departments attended training seminars to keep them abreast of changes in today's farming equipment and technology.

Tom Watson joined the Greenline sales staff four months ago. He is from Hillsboro, where he worked on a wheat, milo, corn and soybean farm. He graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in agriculture and a degree in ag technology management.

**J.C. Penney** has newly painted walls and new carpet and tile floors. The store's fixtures and security system have been modernized and new mirrors have been added. New ceiling tile will be installed soon to complete the updated appearance of the store.

Management says, contrary to rumors, the store will not be closing but looks forward to a future in Goodland.

**Frontier Equity Exchange** reports it has increased the number of ethanol pumps from two to four to keep up with the demand. The Goodland elevator has had a new digital scale installed, and the fertilizer department has added three new spray rigs to help keep up with demand. The Brewster feed mill has been updated to help improve its efficiency and quality.

Check their new web site at [frontier-equity.com](http://frontier-equity.com) for grain markets, futures markets, fuel updates, tire sales, fertilizer information, customer account analysis and

weather conditions.

**Lonny's Quality Auto Body** was opened by Lonny and Nancy Kear in 1975 at the corner of Eighth and Main. In 1979, the Kears moved the shop to its present location at 1933 Caldwell.

The Kears continually upgrade equipment and now use a Kansas Jack Magna Rack II frame machine, Genesis II computerized frame measuring system and a computer estimating system. Paint is mixed on site, and a downdraft paint booth bakes on paint for a factory-quality finish. The shop has a paint recycler and filtered air prep stations.

**The Goodland School District** started a renovation of the science department at Goodland High School in July of 2001. Mike Miller was the project manager and Glen Strait was the design architect.

Four new science rooms were developed, and three classrooms for math and government were remodeled. The total project cost was \$936,000.

While construction was underway, the school board decided to add air conditioning to the special education room, the home economics department, the lunchroom and the kitchen. The air conditioning cost \$31,000.

A new gymnasium, dressing rooms, weight room, restroom/concession stand

facilities at the track, visitor's bleachers and painting at the stadium were done previously.

**Goodland Sinclair** has added new items and services, including full-service help for those who request it on Mondays and Thursdays. The station became an agency for Greyhound in August of 2001 and started selling tickets in November.

The station has an ATM machine and sells beer, knives and swords, gifts and souvenirs. Arlo Hansen is the manager.

**Best Western Buffalo Inn and Restaurant** is under new ownership and management by Trinity Properties/Don and Pat Comstock, Kansas City, Mo. General managers are Evelyn and George DeVol, and Rosa Maruska is the restaurant manager.

Rosa plans soon to add a Sunday brunch buffet and introduce a whole new, expanded menu that will keep the most popular items. Coming in a few months will be the addition of daily and nightly specials and more lower-priced items, a children's menu and senior discounts.

The DeVols have already upgraded the swimming pool. Upgrades of the convention center and the addition of fully handicapped rooms are planned for the winter season.

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# Campground won highest company award

**BUSINESSES, from Page 13**

**Goodland KOA Kampground** and owners Dale and Wally Neill have earned the coveted Gold Award for meeting KOA's highest standards. The Neills have added four one-room log Kamping Kabins, a swimming pool, 10 new camper sites, and a new miniature golf course. The owners have made general ground improvements including four picturesque stump carvings as featured in their advertisement. Local people who are interested in camper or trailer camping may get a KOA value card and association information at the Goodland KOA.

**H & R Block** has added services, and employees of the agency are going through H & R Block Tax Professional certification classes and continuing education.

The agency specializes in farm and small business tax and accounting services and offers mutual funds, bonds and annuities. Clients can set up individual retirement accounts with their tax refunds or the traditional way, Roth retirement accounts, educational retirement accounts, education savings plans and investment accounts. Home mortgage services also are offered.

**The Prints and the Paper**, 119 E. 12th, has been serving the areas printing needs since 1987 and has added scrapbooking supplies.

**Cobblestone Floral and Garden Center** has been in business for over three years and continues to expand. The greenhouse raises hydroponic tomatoes and cucumbers and is expanding to include bell peppers, green beans and lettuce.

Cobblestone offers a complete floral department which makes bouquets for all occasions. Joni and Barry Guyer own and operate the business at 508 E. 12th.

**Eagle Communications** began a major upgrade of the cable system in January and now offers digital cable, which has better quality and 130 channels. Eagle has also added a high-speed Internet system to allow customers to surf the Internet at increased speeds. Eagle has served Goodland for over 30 years.

**Safari Steakhouse** moved to a new location in the Elks Lodge at 1523 Arcade earlier this year.

**Mueller Grain Company** is a family-owned grain elevator that has been at the same location, 17th and Center, and under the same ownership since 1949. The general offices were moved to 1204 Main in February 1997.

The company offers storage and merchandising options for area producers' grain. Primarily handling sunflower, wheat and millet, the elevator also trades farm-stored corn, wheat, milo, soybeans and sunflowers and assist producers with grain marketing and risk management.

The company's web site began operation in December 2000 providing elevator grain bids for wheat, sunflowers and millet and farm-stored grains. The site includes agricultural news, weather and commodities futures.

**B-E's Jewelry**, 1105 Main, has been in business for 23 years in the same location offering quality merchandise and reliable service.

**Luci's Aquarium**, owned by Luci Thomas, offers supplies needed to set up and maintain salt and fresh water tanks and advice on problems occurring with fish and other pets.

For a donation of 50 cents to the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter, Luci will feed her newest resident, a baby octopus, for you.

Weldon and Toni McAdams are **Mountain Man Fruit and Nut distributors** for Goodland and northwest Kansas. They started their business in 1995 delivering out of the back of a 1991 Suburban and a 1985 Crown Victoria.

They moved on to two teal Nissan pickups that were quickly identified as the Candy Man and Candy Lady. After a combination of 241,000 miles on the Nissans, Weldon started using a 2001 cutaway van with a sweet box on the back.

He is easy to spot in his big, white truck with a carousel of snacks pictured on each side and is more than happy to take care of anyone stopping him on the street.

**Cowboy Loop**, founded in spring 1995, is a locally owned and operated convenience store. "The Loop," as it's often called, has experienced an increase in full and part-time employees in the last two years. Karen Loudon is general manager.

The business offers Naturally Tender Beef by Callicrate, broasted chicken, hamburgers, sub sandwiches and Hot Stuff Pizza, both thick and thin crust. The store offers milk, bread, convenience meats, bacon and condiments. Cowboy Loop is open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily and Sundays from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Loudon said remodeling is planned.

Three generations of Koons have owned and operated **Koons Funeral Homes** since the Sharon Springs branch opened in 1911. Larry and Linda Koons opened Koons Funeral Home in Goodland in 1974. Following the deaths of Larry and his mother Evelyn, Linda received her funeral director's license. With the help of a fully licensed staff, she plans to continue serving northwest Kansas in the same caring tradition that began in 1911.

The home is a member of the Kansas Funeral Directors Association and National Funeral Directors Association. Larry had served as the president of the state in 1989-1990, and Dane Scherling, licensed funeral director and embalmer, finished a term as the Kansas association president in May. Francis Cook, a longtime employee, serves as assistant funeral director.

**Wheat Ridge Acres** assisted living facility, on west Eighth Street at 707 Wheat Ridge Circle, is the next best thing to home with a luxurious dining room and meals that give the retirement center a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

The apartments in the main building are for short-term and long-term stays and include weekly housekeeping, personal laun-

dry, three hot meals per day, beauty/barber shop services, exercise classes and daily activities. The duplexes are for residents who no longer want to keep up a lawn and home but don't need help in the home. The residents prepare their own meals and do their own cleaning unless they want to pay for the additional services.

In June of this year, **Golden West Community Services** celebrated the fact that four years ago the agency closed its doors as Golden West Skills Center — an institution which housed 50 individuals — and reopened as Golden West Community Services.

At that time, all of the persons served by the agency moved out of the building at 108 Aspen Road and into homes in the area.

The agency still uses the building for offices and a day service program, but the 47 clients are scattered around town in 12 homes, which they rent from local landlords.

Several of them have jobs in the community and work with the assistance of job coaches. This past year, the agency added a new service providing support for people who live in their own apartments and do not require 24-hour staff to assist them.

**Unruh Family Chiropractic** clinic, 1109 Main, opened Oct. 2, 2000, under Dr. Sid Unruh. He offers complete chiropractic care for the entire family and specializes in sports chiropractic and rehabilitation.

He offers X-rays, muscle stimulation therapy, ultrasound therapy, diathermy and traction on his new state of the art traction table. He does sports physicals and department of transportation physicals.

**Cole Auction and Real Estate**, 112 W. 13th, is owned by Charlene Cole and has been at its current location since February 2001. The real estate brokerage has been in business since 1977.

Charlene sells furniture and household items on consignment at 1222 Main.

**Goodland Wal-Mart Supercenter** opened in August of 1997 and employs over 200 associates from Goodland and surrounding communities. Many of the associates have been at the store since the beginning.

The store offers plants, trees and shrubs during the spring season and hunting supplies during hunting season.

**Knott Just Books**, 1102 Main, in the historic First National Bank building, is a full service bookstore and carries Precious Moments and Cherished Teddies and other gift items.

**Uniques by Bonnie** has hundreds of borders and wallpaper choices in stock. Bonnie Bollig, owner, says her motto is, "Buy it today; hang it tonight."

She sells accent furniture pieces, root candles and swags to compliment the wallpaper and borders.

We're happy to be based on the Goodland airport, we appreciate the community support and being an active part of the area and the farming industry.



Dan Barker the "Pie King" pulls his spray plane out of the hanger.

**Barker Farm Services, Inc.**

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# Warehouse grows into manufacturing plant

## New company exports fertilizer

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

Who knew in 1999 when Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizer brought a warehouse to Goodland that it would lead to the construction of a manufacturing plant?

But that is exactly what happened. This year, the company built a plant that is capable of making large volumes of all the company's major products on the same site as the warehouse, on 19th Street west of the new Cherry Ave.

The storage facility was designed to serve farmers in Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and Oklahoma. The company now delivers to most of the western United States and needs a larger facility.

Both the manufacturing plant and the warehouse in Goodland are needed to fill the demand, officials said.

The green-and-white plant may seem a little odd, but there is a reason for the vinyl fabric structure, which glows when the lights are on at night.

The air and fertilizer mixed in the plant would cause most metal buildings to cor-

rode, Al Kaptein, president of Cover-all Building Systems, the company that built the structure, said, while the galvanized steel holding up the fabric resists rust, and the vinyl will not be damaged by the fertilizer.

The fabric roof allows natural light in, Kaptein said, giving the plant an atmosphere similar to the outdoors.

The structures are familiar to officials at the corporate office of Agro-Culture in St. John, Mich., as Cover-all is based in Zeeland, Mich., and has put up about 60 in that state.

The products made at the plant are environmentally friendly and easy for farmers to use, Chief Executive Officer Troy Bancroft said, and are organically enhanced, making the nutrients more available to plants.

Grading for the plant began in August, and a concrete foundation and walls were then built.

The vinyl structure was put up in October, and the plant began production in November.

Russ Paz is the manager of the facility, which employs about eight people.



Danny Edwards, manufacturing supervisor, adjusted a panel which controls fertilizer ingredients at the Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizer Plant.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

# Large short line company buys railroad operations

By Sharon Corcoran

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Rail America became the fourth owner of the Kyle Railroad serving Goodland and Sherman County in January.

Kyle has a lease-purchase agreement on the rail lines from the Midstates Port Authority, a public agency set up in the 1980s to save the Rock Island main line across Kansas and Colorado. John Golden of Goodland, a member of the port authority board, said the agency owns the line from Limon, Colo., to Belleville, Kan., and Hallam, Neb.

The authority was created by 12 Kansas counties served by the Rock Island Railroad, Golden said, and purchased 467.7 miles of railroad from the bankruptcy trustee when Rock Island went belly-up in 1984.

The port authority was formed to preserve rail transportation in this area, Golden said, as the railroad is needed to transport agricultural commodities and other products to central markets. The Northern Sun plant west of Goodland and the Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizer plant are among its biggest customers in Sherman County, he said, along with grain elevators.

Rail America purchased States Rail, the third owner of Kyle, Golden said, in a deal that took at least three months to negotiate. The merger should be a positive change for the railroad, he said, as Rail America is a larger company and should provide financial stability.

"The railroad will be in a stronger finan-

cial position," Golden said, "and service will continue as in the past, if not improve."

Business-wise things have not changed, General Manager Steve Coomes said, but few changes have been made. The corporate office and some procedures are different.

The company now uses newer locomotives with more horsepower, he said, so they use fewer engines and less diesel fuel.

Kyle has always been customer-oriented, he said, and that hasn't changed. The service is still the same, as the staff is still the same.

Mueller Grain General Manager Lynn Hoelting agrees. The sale has not affected their service, Hoelting said. The same people are providing the same service, and there has been no significant change in rates.

"It's important to have good, reliable transportation," he said, "as the better job of marketing we do, the better return we can give the producer no matter what market we use."

Elevator operators need the producers to stay in business because they keep the elevator in business, he said. Kyle Railroad helps by providing reliable transportation and keeping that market available to elevators.

States Rail had four rail lines, Golden said, which now belong to Rail America, giving them 50 different lines around the country. Kyle is a short line, he said, which feeds into major railroads such as the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe and the Union Pacific. Rail America is the largest short line operator in the country.

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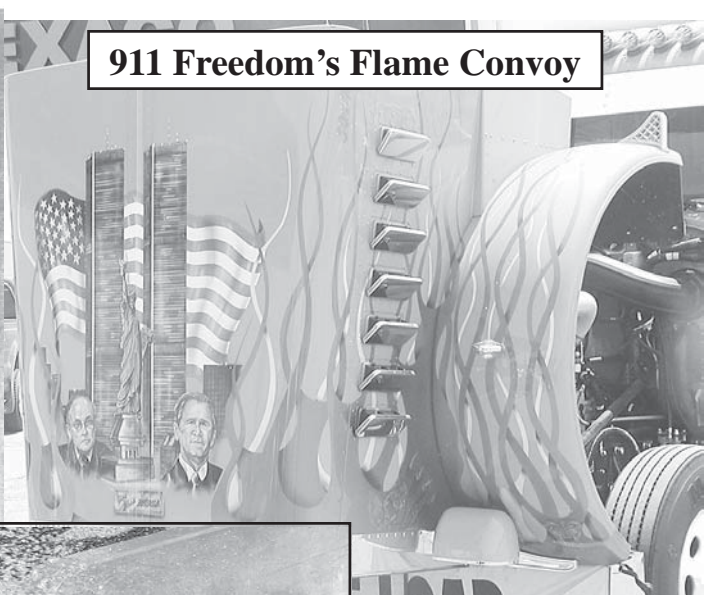
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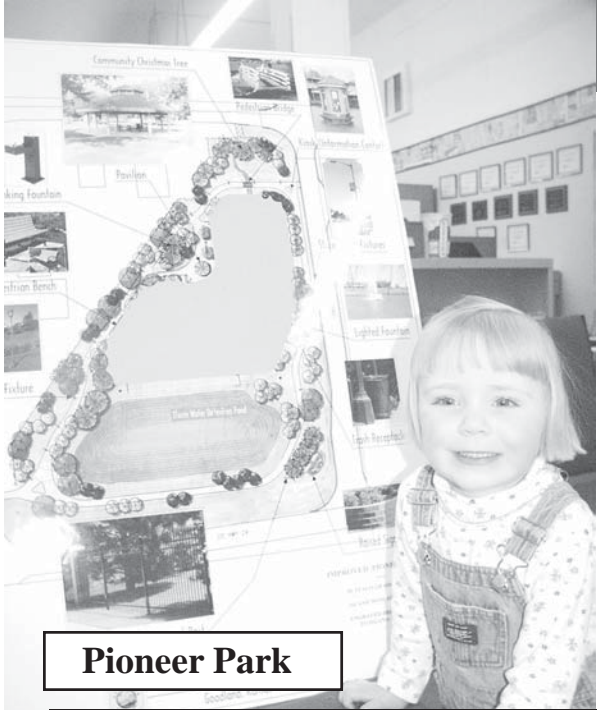


VanGogh Sunflower Painting

Opening of the Swimming Pool



Biking Across Kansas



Pioneer Park

It's been a fun  
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productive year



Barker Farm Services, Inc.



New site of S&T Telephone



Opening of the  
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