

**By Shannon Davidson**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

June is Kansas Business Appreciation Month, and four Goodland companies were honored last Monday in Oberlin with awards from the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing.

“From the smallest company with just a few employees, to major corporations with thousands of workers, Kansas businesses are the lifeblood of our Kansas communities,” said Commerce Secretary John Moore. “We are proud to honor them for the enormous contributions they make to our economy and our quality of life — they very much deserve it.”

The four Goodland businesses were Coca-Cola, Farris Manufacturing, Wheat Ridge Acres and S and T Telephone.

Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Goodland was honored with a Merit Award in the distribution category. They were recognized for product distribution within a 100-mile radius and service for all types of businesses, including grocery and convenience stores and schools. The company donates money and products to schools activities. Coca-Cola sponsors community events such as Special Olympics, along with even ts such as the Sunflower and Flatlander festivals.

Farris Manufacturing received a Merit Award in the manufacturing category. Farris, established in 1980, builds and sells aluminum grain trailers. During the past 10 years, expansions have totaled 6,000 square feet. The company has added \$90,000 of capital investments and two new employees.

The company provides aluminum materials and hydraulic equipment to the technical college and high school for practice projects. They have donated door prizes for chamber of commerce and high school functions.

A service category Merit Award winner from Goodland was Wheat Ridge Acres, an assisted-living residence providing care for the elderly, along with independent-living duplexes and community meeting rooms for general use.

Wheat Ridge provides on-the-job experience for high school and community college students in the business and medical fields. They participated in the “Junk Parade,” the annual county health fair and chamber events.

These businesses were nominated by the Goodland Chamber of

Commerce.

S and T Telephone Cooperative Association and S and T Communications from Brewster were the regional award winners in the distribution category. S and T has provided telephone services to northwest Kansas since 1952 and has opened offices in Goodland and Colby. The firm supports seven school districts, Colby Community College and Northwest Kansas Technical College. Services and contributions include scholarships to technical college and high school students, the Colby Community College Endowment Association, and school projects and booster clubs. The company supports area social service organizations such as Kiwanis, Lions Club, Emergency Medical Services, Special Olympics, and 4-H Clubs. They were

nominated by the Thomas County Chamber of Commerce.

Other area award recipients include a retail Merit Award to Big Ed’s Steak House from Bird City, known across the state and region for its steaks. Established in 1993, Big Ed’s has had expansions totaling 20,000 square feet and \$40,000 of capital investment, and four new employees.

The company supports high school fund-raisers, yearbook and newspaper ads, and after-prom activities. Big Ed’s donates to the local Junior Miss Pageant and the Kansas High School Rodeo Association.

Another retail Merit Award winner was Brown’s True Value in Atwood. They were nominated by the Kansas Small Business Development Center at Fort Hays State

University.

Cheyenne County had a retail Merit Award winner, Sainty Super Foods of St. Francis. The nomination came from St. Francis Chamber of Commerce.

Wallace County had a service Merit Award for J and D Publishing, which publishes *The Western Times* in Sharon Springs.

The nomination came from Wallace County Economic Development.

The company is dedicated to local schools, focusing on educational information, sports, and other events.

They allow students to tour the office to show them the many different processes that involved in putting out a paper.

Employees are given hands-on training in all aspects of journalism.

## Airport contract approved by city

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

The Goodland City Commission approved a contract with Ballou Construction of Salina for crack repair and slurry sealing at the airport at its meeting last Monday.

Darin Neufeld of the engineering firm of Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, said the bid of \$229,775 was higher than the \$182,000 he had estimated. Neufeld said he had been in contact with the contractor, and believed with a few changes, the total can be brought down to the estimate.

He said the difference will be in how the cracks are milled out and sealed. A change in material will drop the price from \$18 a foot to \$8-9 a foot.

“This will provide a quality seal on the cracks, and get the budget down to what we expected,” Neufeld said.

The state’s share of the project is set at \$139,000 and the city has to pay anything over that. It was set at a 75-25 match project based on the engineering estimated cost of \$182,000 with the city cost being \$66,595. If the cost cannot be lowered the city cost would go to \$113,775. Neufeld said that if the contractor cannot cut his cost to the estimate, an alternative will be proposed to get the cost down.

The meeting opened with Peggy Blake of the Goodland Swim Team handing Mayor Rick Billinger a check for \$300. Blake said the donation was being made to Steever Water Park and thanked the city for helping the swim team host their first swim meet on June 14. Blake said there were 313 swimmers at the meet.

The commissioners turned to a contract for maintaining and inspecting the water towers. There were bids from Utility Service Co. of Pittsburg, and Maguire Iron of Sioux Falls, S.D.

Utility Service’s proposal would cost \$131,500 over the next three years. Both proposals would include installation of a clean-out for the new tower near the city ball parks in the southwest part of town.

The staff recommended the bid from Maguire Iron, which would cost \$53,420 over the next six years. The proposal is for maintaining the south tower and the north tower on Kansas Ave. north of Sixth Street.

One tower will be inspected each year. The commission accepted the recommendation.

Commissioner Dean Blume made a motion to approve renewal of the grant writer program for a second year.

“It takes time to get this up and running,” Blume said, “and I believe the effort deserves another year.”

Pickman said that with the historic intersection grant of \$300,000 awarded by the state Transportation Department, the city had certainly gotten its money back from the program.

The vote to renew the program was unanimous, but the motion is contingent on the county and school district approving their share of the money. Each organization put up \$12,000 when the program was organized last year.

The commission approved a payment to Evans, Bierly, Hutchison of \$6,009, for the engineering cost on the lighting project at the airport.

Pickman said budget workshops with the commission will begin after the meeting on Monday, July 7, and continue most of that week.

Commissioner Blume suggested that the commissioners pick priorities and tour the city to look at what needs to be considered in the budget process.

The other commissioners suggested several areas that need to be looked at for street or alley improvement, and suggested that if they could not get together for a tour, that each one submit a list of these areas so they could all look at them.

Pickman said the latest information on the handicapped access for the Carnegie Arts Center was that neither the ramp or the lift were going to be adequate. He said they are looking at another alternative, but will have to get approval from the historical society and the state because it will require a modification of the building.

The commissioners have been invited to a luncheon at the Kit Carson Correctional Center in Burlington, and if they want, they can make arrangements to spend the night.

The next commission meeting will be 5 p.m. on Monday, July 7, in the upstairs meeting room at the City Administration Building.



## History comes alive at fort



An addition to the Fort Wallace Museum was opened during ceremonies on June 14. The day included programs by Ann Birney as Amelia Earhart (left) and Joyce Thierer as Calamity Jane. The Sunderland-Poe addition (above) was the location for programs presented after lunch.



Photos by Eric Yonkey

### corrections

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## Kids host program

Dustin Splattstoesser of Colby and Leigh Ann Maurath of Oakley have been chosen as guest hosts on the show *Kids a Cookin’* after an auditions in Colby.

D’Ette Scholtz, Thomas County Extension agent, said Splattstoesser, 12, is son of Kay and Gary Splattstoesser, and Maurath, 9, the daughter of Julie and Kurt Maurath.

“*Kids a Cookin’* is a new cooking show that is being produced by K-State Research and Extension in Manhattan,” Scholtz said. “The show made its debut July 1 and is now syndicated on six television stations in Kansas.” For Goodland and surrounding areas, the show airs on KBSL-TV Channel 10, at 7-7:10 a.m. Wednesday. The shows air in October and November.



## COMPUTER CLASSES

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