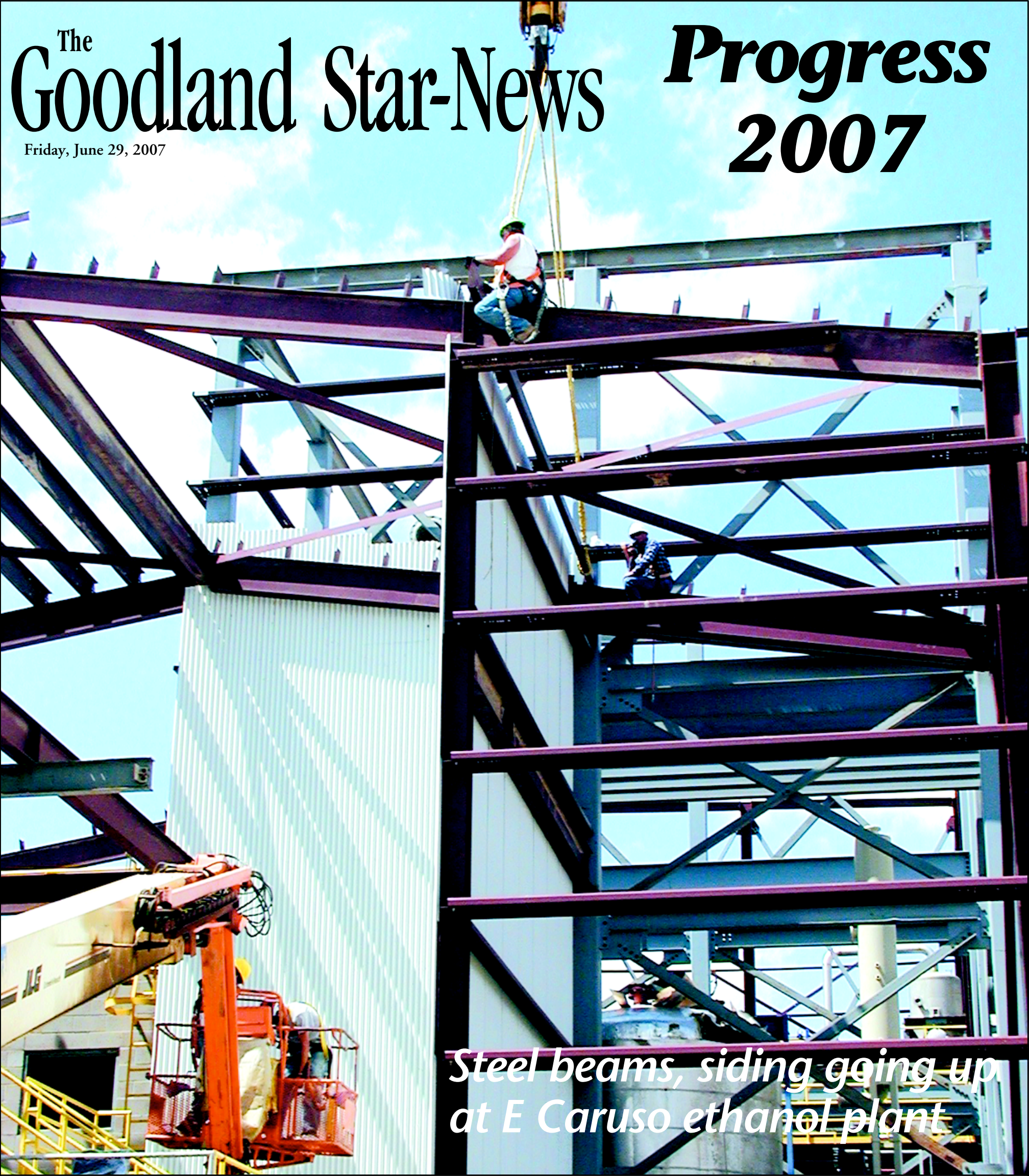


The Goodland Star-News

Friday, June 29, 2007

Progress 2007



*Steel beams, siding going up
at E Caruso ethanol plant*

Energy Center moving closer to operation

Construction is progressing well on the power plant and ethanol plant at the Goodland Energy Center at Caruso four miles west of town.

Doug Sederstrom, chief financial officer for Goodland Energy Resources, said a majority of the roads, water lines, sewer lines and fire protection systems have been put in place on the site.

The steelwork for the ethanol plant is nearing completion, and a majority of the equipment is being set in place.

Sheeting to enclose the plant is nearing completion, piping is being installed inside and several components are being refurbished. The foundation bases for the outside tanks have been completed and erection of the tanks will begin in the near future.

Sederstrom said the E Caruso ethanol plant could be operational by the end of the year.

Sederstrom said the ethanol plant organization is looking for a management company to help run and market the facility to get things going.

There will be storage for about 800,000 gallons of ethanol once the plant is up and running. "We have a ways to go, but it is moving along and we can see the progress," he said.

Over at the Goodland Energy Resources

power plant the structural steelwork has been erected and refurbishment of the turbine and boiler have been completed.

The condenser, turbine base, stator, mud drum and steam drum headers have been set in place.

Work is continuing on the bank of tubes for the boiler and pouring concrete floors on various levels of the plant.

The turbine assembly will be set in place in the near future, and sheeting of the building will begin after the turbine is set in place. Sederstrom said the turbine should be ready to be placed by the mid to end of July.

There are other parts of the power plant that remain to be built, but it will move along once the turbine and boiler are completed.

The 1,000 tubes for the boiler are in place, and the steam drum and mud drum have been installed.

Sederstrom said the planned third plant to make biodiesel has been delayed. He said the financial feasibility to make the plant profitable has changed. He said the plant is being put on hold because the prices of the raw material have gone higher than anticipated.

He said the plant could be constructed if the financial outlook improves.



Inside the E Caruso plant a worker welded a pipe fitting as part of installing the equipment used to produce the ethanol. Construction is moving along and the plant could be producing by the end of the year.



Mike Miller of Miller Construction directed a worker to a spot that needed attention as he smoothed a section of floor at the Goodland Energy Resources power plant.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County Economic Development

If you dream it, we can make it happen.

P.O. Box 614 ~ 104 E. 10th, Goodland, Kan. 67735

(785) 890-3743 or Toll Free: (866) 223-1929

Email: shermanecodevo@yahoo.com

Website: www.gogoodlandks.com

If you are interested in starting your own business, or thinking of expanding an existing business, we can help.

Stop in, and ask us about:

- ◆ ***Business Plans***
- ◆ ***Micro Loans***
- ◆ ***Neighborhood Revitalization***
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Economic development begins projects

Many great things have been happening in the Economic Development office over the past year said Director Tiffani McMinn.

"First I want to tell you about our updated website gogoodlandks.com," she said.

On this website are some new features that weren't on our last website. The first thing is our jobs page. This page allows businesses to list their current jobs available for free.

This page is linked with many other website like westernksjobs.com for example. This gives our businesses free advertising to find the help they need.

The second thing on the new website is our business page. This is a list of businesses here in Sherman County it will serve as a phone directory and marketing approach for people outside the area.

For example if your friends and family want to send you flowers and they live out of state they will be able to get online and look up the phone number.

What business owners need to do is get on the website and double check that your information is correct. We have been working very hard to get this information as correct as possible.

This listing includes home-based businesses. If your business isn't listed on the site all you have to do is get on the business page and add a business listing.

On the website you will be able to print the Sherman County Neighborhood Revitalization program information and download information on the Sherman County Micro-Loan program.

Another thing offered on the website is the commercial listing. People all over the world can see all of our commercial properties for sale. This information will be listed on the real estate page.

The second thing the office is working on is the Workforce Center that is located in our office. Individuals looking for employment will be able to search a database of jobs from our area.

We have the computers, equipment and all the necessary tools to help you create your resume for the business of your choice. Come in and see how the Workforce Center will work for you.

For businesses this is another opportunity to get your help wanted ads listed and get a quick response.

Another project this year was the grants for businesses and houses. People were able to come into the office and apply for a \$1,500 grant to improve the appearance of their home or business. The Economic Development Council awarded two \$1,500 home improvement grants and two \$1,500 business improvement grants in June.



Mike Cochran of Cochran Farms (left), Jay Jolly of Goodland Regional Medical Center and Sherman County Commissioner Chuck Thomas were at the public forum held on June 4 at the Goodland Elks, and talked about the progress the Shine On Sherman County program is generating.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

In the past year the office worked with 47 prospective businesses and provided assistance to 13 existing businesses.

The office worked through and approved two new micro loans for a new business and existing business.

McMinn said her office worked with Siram

a new business computer cartridge business located in Edson, and helped start programs in the community like the Shine on Sherman County effort.

If you are interested in learning more about the Economic Development office please give us a call at (785) 890-3743.

Cell phone business has big year

What a difference today makes; to change the wording of a familiar motto.

It's true when it comes to American Communications because when Jeannie Topliff started in the cellular business, cell phones were so expensive not many folks decided to buy them.

When Topliff started with Kansas Cellular in 1994 it was just a side business and more like a hobby to her.

Changes started taking place and Alltel purchased Kansas Cellular and somehow the cell phone that used to

take up a whole bag now fits in a shirt pocket and just about everyone has one.

In 1998 Topliff made the transition from a side job to a full-time job with Alltel and added one other full-time person to help.

Over the last year, her side job has turned in to a full-blown business and as she said, "It keeps me busy!"

She now has three full-time and three part-time positions, a store in Sharon Springs and a new 5,000 square foot building. The new building is located at 716 W Business U.S.

24 in Goodland.

The building also houses Overhead Door, Weathercraft Roofing and a drop-off point for UPS and FedEx.

In addition to cell phones, American Communications now offers cellular accessories, XM Radios and navigation systems for vehicles that offer directions and maps based on the Global Positioning System (GPS). It makes getting lost a whole new experience she said

"Come see the new skins," Topliff said.

Taco John's adds daily breakfast menu

Since opening in November 2002 Taco John's in Goodland continually upgrades to keep up with the changing needs of our customers, said owner Mike Brannick.

The latest upgrade to Taco John's is breakfast, he said.

Taco John's started breakfast in December, he said. The menu in-

cludes breakfast burritos, breakfast tacos and ole scrambler platters and all are available with sausage or bacon and waffle sticks.

"We serve breakfast daily from 7 to 10 a.m.," said co-owner Tia Brannick.

Taco John's is located at 2304 Commerce. Call (785) 890-8226.



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Holiday Inn Express adds to motel options



A 73-room Holiday Inn Express owned by Goodland people opened this month, and has been called the "Ritz" of Northwest Kansas.

Goodland's newest lodging facility, Holiday Inn Express and Suites, opened on June 5, south of the west exit on I-70.

The hotel has 73 rooms including junior, regular and corporate suites.

The hotel will serve a continental breakfast with cinnamon rolls, house coffee and hot items, said Manger Mat Hughes. The bedding being used is specific to Holiday Inn.

On the main floor are a business room, fitness room, meeting room, pool and 19 guest rooms. The guest rooms have high ceilings, which is a different feature, he said.

The meeting room will hold 45 people with audiovisual capabilities and dimmable lights, which he said should be perfect for conferences or reunions.

The pool area should be great for parties and families, Hughes said, noting that the pool has stainless-steel sides.

The junior suites, which have a wet bar, television and couch, would be great for family reunions, he added.

It is a franchise and is owned locally by Doug, Jeanne, Mike, and Robin Irvin. "Business is going great and we expect even higher numbers as the summer goes on, especially with all of the great events planned in Goodland such as Slice of Life or Flatlanders," said Hughes.

For reservations or information call (785) 890-9060.

Cochran Farm Supply sells trailers, Amish furniture

Cochran Farm Supply is a mom and pop business that began in November, 1999 with owners Mike and Glenda Cochran and one employee, Jack Armstrong.

In the past seven years they have grown from operating out of their round-top just west of Edson to a beautiful new office and showroom in the busy West Edson district.

Cochran Farm Supply does a booming business with 90 to 95 percent of their customers coming from the front range of Colorado.

Cochran Farm Supply was one of the top ten PJ trailer dealers in the nation for gross sales last year.

Following in his grandfather's footsteps, Mike Cochran always dreamed of owning his own implement dealership. The dream came a reality in 1999 when Mike and Glenda made the life altering decision to be self-employed.

They now carry PJ trailers, Circle D trailers, Continental Cargo trailers, Pride of the Prairie bale trailers, Hustler mowers, Montana tractors, Magnum corn stoves, Wilson wheel corral, Simply Amish furniture and Arxx insulated concrete foams.

Cochran Farm Supply has been blessed with some great people to help with this business. They currently have eight part-time employees.

Jack Armstrong, retired Sherman County Sheriff, has been working for Cochran's for eight years delivering and picking up new trailers from the manufacturer. Kenny Filkens and Darius Bussen have been employed with Cochran farm Supply for over five years, doing everything from deliveries to putting tires on trailers.

Other part-time helpers are Andrew Taylor, Sandy Jamison, Chelsea Sheldon, Jake Conger and Aaron Duell. Hope Cochran, Mike and Glenda's 11-year-old daughter works during the summer answering the phone and helping in the office.

Cochran Farm Supply is located 8 miles east of Goodland on old U.S. 24 or west of Edson two miles. They are open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday. They can be reached by phone at (785) 899-0096 or 1-877-358-0159.

Check out Sherman County's great businesses!



The Goodland Energy Center would like to salute the progress of Sherman County



1260 Main - PO Box 785 Goodland, Kan 67735
(785) 890-4321

Gambino's redecorates, adds credit card system

The management and staff at Gambino's Pizza would like to say thank you to the customers over the past year.

"Without you we wouldn't even need to turn our ovens on," said Michelle Cooper, owner. "We had another successful year and with have tried to update the look of our store.

"We replaced the carpet and updated the tile in the restrooms."

Gambino's corporate has taken the flavor of our components to the next level, Cooper said, by increasing the quality of many of our ingredients. They have decreased the amount of fillers and added requirements for more of the real product to be used in processing.

We have added a thin and crispy crust, that is just as flavorful as our original crust, but has only half of the carbs.

Changes have not stopped there, she said. Starting this week we will be installing a Selby Soft point of sale computer system. This system will allow us to streamline placing and making of orders as well as allow us to accept credit cards.

"In the coming weeks we will be offering new

items on our carte du jour," she said, "which will be showcased on new menu boards and take out menus.

"As always, we hope these changes will increase the dining experiences of our customers and to introduce these changes to you, bring this article into the store the week of July 1 to 8 and receive a free drink with your purchase.

"We will be moving from paper gift certificates to a plastic gift card, that will allow more flexibility for the purchaser.

"Our final change is, that the 12 and under traveling baseball team, this summer, helped us to initiate our new fundraising program, which was a success to both the team and us; so if you are interested in a fresh fundraising program for your group, please contact us.

"If you have not tried us in a while please come and see what differences you can find and enjoy. If you have become a regular face in our store once again, we thank you for your patronage and look forward to serving you in the future Cooper said.

Gambino's Pizza is located at 402 E. 17th. Phone (785) 890-5988.

Madd Hatter sells, repairs guitars, instruments, amps

Richard Johnson and wife Marie started the Madd Hatter's Music Emporium in the fall of 2003. They offer sales and repair service on guitars and musical instruments and amps etc.

There is a full line of reeds, oils, strings, and supplies available for any musical need. Guitar instruction is also available.

They also do outdoor/indoor Public Address systems for any organization or individual event you have in mind.

Richard moved here from Wyoming in 2002 with the intention of retiring from the music industry. Instead he opened the store and has provided the musical supplies for several musicians in Goodland and the surrounding area. He

builds and rebuilds guitars, amps and speakers, as well as repairs clarinets, flutes etc.

Richard has played and worked in the music industry all his life and has performed in several bands over the years.

He gives lessons to those interested in learning to play the guitar. He plays with the band "Pieces of Eight" here and in the surrounding area. He has enjoyed getting to know the community and the people in it and hopes to continue bringing the gift of music to all who enjoy it.

The Madd Hatter is located at 120 west 11th Street. Phone (785) 890-3510.

Insurance Agency in new home

The Insurance Agency, Inc opened their doors on Jan. 2, 1999.

The owners Susan Duke and Roxann Kling previously worked for Al King for many years. After Al's retirement they decided to take a leap of faith and try it on their own.

Judi Nemechek, their only employee has worked with the girls from the first day they opened. All three girls are licensed.

Their mission is to continue the tradition Al King started by taking care of their customers.

In April, 2006 they purchased the former Uniques by Bonnie store at 1020 Main.

The girls invite all their friends, families and customers, new, current and former to stop by the office even if it is just to visit.

For information call (785) 899-5011.

Great people live, work in Sherman County.

Adronics/Elrob expands to 80 jobs

Adronics/Elrob Manufacturing is up to about 75 to 80 employees in the Wolak Building at 1006 Center after two years.

Adronics/Elrob moved into the building, purchased by the city and remodeled in the fall of 2003, in May 2005. The building was named after Ed Wolak, city public works director, who died from a heart attack while supervising the construction.

Adronics/Elrob Manufacturing was founded as an original equipment automotive and communication parts manufacturer.

The corporation was started in New Jersey in 1948 by William A. Robinson, and partially relocated to Hays in 1990.

The company manufactures aerial parts for some of the world's largest auto manufacturers in the communication industry. Adronics makes antennas and related parts, include the coaxial cable used to connect the antenna to car radios, antenna base mounts, global position system mounts for cars and under-hood lighting, said Troy A. Robinson, vice president of the firm.

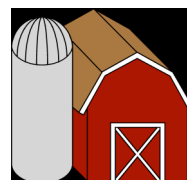
Adronics designs and produces the specialized equipment for making antennas, he said, and they keep the equipment for making replacement parts for at least 10 years. They start making antennas for future batches of cars years in advance. They ship parts all over the world, to Korea, France, South America, Germany, Mexico and other countries.

The company has two factory buildings in Hays, one factory building in N. J., and an engineering and sales office outside Detroit, Mich.

The new Goodland plant manager is Glenn Carter. He and his wife Kay relocated to Goodland from Houston, Texas in December.

The Hays plant has 290 employees, and is recovering from smoke damage from a suspicious truck trailer fire this month that threatened to spread into the factory.

Karen Robinson Murphy, vice president of Adronics/Elrob, said the business started by her grandparents is in its third generation of family operation.



Cochran Farm Supply



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