

Construction enterprise keeps owner moving

By Sharon Corcoran

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Dennis Malsom may not be UPS, but he says he's "moving at the speed of business" since selling his repair shop and expanding his construction enterprise.

The contractor sold the repair part of Malsom Welding and Repair and is focusing on construction under the name Malsom Enterprises. His "office" is his truck and trailer, and he spends a lot of time on his cell phone making arrangements for jobs and getting the right people and equipment to be available when he needs them. And he can't stop.

If you stop moving for a minute, he said, you lose half a day. If you don't get to the site and get everyone else to the site, he said, you run out of time before you can get anything done.

The toughest part of the business isn't the work, Malsom said; it's lining up the job, getting everything ready so the workers can do their jobs.

Malsom does steel buildings, wood structures, fencing and concrete, but lately has been doing mostly concrete.

"It seems like we've been pouring concrete about every day for the last 28 days," he said. "We have a lot of jobs. When you have 10 guys working for you, you have to keep busy."

Besides himself and wife Lisa, Malsom has nine people working for him and is looking for another. He said he hasn't had trouble staying busy.

He has been working on the foundation for the Kanorado firehouse, is subcontracting under Mike Miller of Miller Construction laying concrete for the new shop at Herl Chevrolet and is building grain bins at Richard Emig's farm about eight miles south and four west of Goodland.

"I have work lined up to last until next summer," Malsom said.



Dennis Malsom (above) scooped cement from the truck as his crew spread it out and smoothed the top at Richard Emig's farm Wednesday. Raul Hernandez (left) and his father David smoothed the surface while Ricky Koel spread cement to fill the frame of the foundation for a grain bin. Malsom (right) took several calls on his cell phone while spreading concrete.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News



"We're busy."

He says he's been pushing the concrete work forward to beat winter and has indoor work lined up to keep his crew busy when the weather gets cold.

"You can succeed in business if you're ambitious, self-motivated,"

he said. "Don't buy a business if you want fewer hours."

Malsom said he was called out about three times per night for breakdowns for 28 years in the repair business. You're on call 24 hours when you're the boss, he said.

Before buying Malsom Welding

and Repair in 1979, he worked about 10 years for High Plains Construction, now Rhoads Construction, and was a tractor mechanic for Wilbur and Windell White.

He hadn't planned to sell the repair business, he said, but Drew Miller, who worked for him, and

Micha Seamans came to him with the money and offered to buy it.

"You get burned out," he said. "It was time to do something different."

Lisa handles the business aspects of the construction business, he said, and they have an office set up

in their home. Malsom said he bought the old site of the Corner Garage on U.S. Business 24 and may set up headquarters for the business there.

"I bought it as an investment," he said, "but you have to have a place to park the equipment."

Gov. Sebelius to visit Cheyenne County farm families Wednesday

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius will hear personal accounts of the impact of an aging and dwindling rural population when she visits Cheyenne County farm families on Wednesday.

The Cheyenne County Farm Bureau will be the hosts for Gov. Sebelius for the Kansas Farm Bureau Governor's Farm and Ranch Tour.

The day will begin at 6:30 a.m. (Mountain Time) at the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds in St. Francis with a panel discussion on community and rural development.

Cheyenne County exemplifies many of the issues facing rural Kansas, the governor says. The county's population is among the oldest in the nation and as a result, Cheyenne Countians are tackling the multiple challenges of trying to keep their young at home, nurturing leadership, expanding business opportunities and holding on to wealth that — left unchecked — will leave the area within a generation.

"We are honored to host our governor," said Steve Douthit, Cheyenne County Farm Bureau president, who with his wife Melva,

manages a diversified crop and livestock operation near St. Francis. "Gov. Sebelius will have the chance to meet and visit with families working hard every day to preserve their future."

"Our governor understands and feels the deep emotional bond our farm families have to their land and their way of life," said Steve Baccus, an Ottawa County grain farmer who serves as state Farm Bureau president. "It's a way of life centered around our small rural communities."

The first stop on the tour will be

at 9 a.m. at the farm of Melvin and Louise Schlepp, where current environmental and conservation trends will be the topic.

The Schlepss employ relatively new drip-tape irrigation and no-till crop management. They have adopted many conservation practices, including terraces, waterways and windbreaks.

Stop No. 2 will be at 10 a.m. at the farm of Roger and Melissa Zweygardt, where water management issues will take center stage. Until this year, Cheyenne County has suffered through years of

drought. Zweygardt says managing water becomes "complicated and sensitive."

The third stop will be at 11:30 a.m. at the Douthit operation, where the discussion will center on animal welfare issues. Another troubling outcome of dwindling rural population is an increasing "disconnect" between consumers and production

of their food, Douthit said, and that can be exploited by activist groups.

It's back to the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds at 12:30 p.m. for lunch provided by the Farm Bureau, where Gov. Sebelius will share her thoughts and goals related to agriculture and rural Kansas. The governor will leave to fly back to Topeka at 2 p.m.

Clinic to open 9 to 11 a.m. Saturdays until summer

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With school starting and the flu and cold season approaching, the Goodland Family Health Center will be open on Saturdays, giving more people more time to visit the doctors outside of school and business hours.

The clinic will be open Saturday mornings until summer, Man-

ager Pam Kinsinger told the Goodland Regional Medical Center board at its regular meeting Monday.

The winter hours start Saturday, she said, and the clinic will be open for walk-in patients from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The clinic will stay open later, she said, if a lot of patients come in right at 11.

The clinic was busy in July, she

said, with 946 patients, about 150 more than last year. Dr. Travis Daise was busy, she said, seeing 246 of those patients despite taking a week of vacation.

In other business, the board:

- Approved departmental policy and procedure manuals for the emergency room, medical records and occupational therapy.

- Scheduled its next meeting for 6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 24.

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FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION
ELDON ROHN LIVING TRUST, OWNER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2007 Sale Time: 10:00 MT/11:00 CT

From Sharon Springs: 10 1/2 miles south on Hwy 27, 2 miles west, 1 1/2 miles south From Tribune, Kan: 16 miles north on Hwy 27, 2 miles west, 1 1/2 miles north.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Eldon is retiring from farming and will sell the following at the public auction. Eldon has taken excellent care of his equipment; most of which was shedded when not in use.

FARM EQUIPMENT: Flex King 5x6 sweep plow w/ hydraulic pickers, NH3 attach.; Sunflower 24ft. chisel; Krause Model 1907 disk, 25ft, only used on 1,000 acres; Krause Model 1497A disk, 16ft., nice; Krause Model 1054 disk, 14ft.; Flex King 30ft. rodweeder; JD 400 rotary hoe, 28ft. w/ transports, like new; BMB 5ft. mower, 3pt.; IHC 5200 drill, 3pt., double disks, markers w/ 5400 updates; Flex King 25ft. rodweeder; Shopbuilt 10ft. speedmover, new; (2) IHC 150 hoe drills, 14 x12, rubber press wheels, transports, nice; IHC "V" ditcher; 16ft. double tool bar w/ furrows, 6-row; IHC 16ft. double tool bar, shanks; King 3pt. ditch closer; JD 32ft. springtooth; Sunflower 15ft. sweep plow; Brillion 14ft. packer, pull type; 3-section drag harrow; 6-section drag springtooth; Krause 18ft. chisel plow; Krause 9ft. chisel plow; Krause 25ft. field conditioner w/ Degelman harrows, small sweeps; Johnson 7-shank ripper; (3) MM 16 x 10 hoe drills; (3) JD 15ft. oneways; IHC 314 rollover plow, 3-bottom; 2-wheel sprayer, 300 gal. tank, 30ft. boom, pto, pump.

TRACTORS: 1981 JD 4640 tractor, QR, 3pt, pto, 18.4 R 42 duels, 4,277 hrs., very slick; 1974 IHC 966 tractor, 3pt., pto, 18.4-38 tires, diesel, AC, cab, 3,645 hrs., extra nice; 1970 IHC 856 tractor, diesel, 3pt., dual shaft pto, ansel cab, water cooler, duels, very nice; 1954 MM Model U tractor, gas, standard, good paint.

OTHER FARM ITEMS: 500 gal propane tank on trailer; (3) pipe trailers; 16ft. car trailer w/ ramps; 534 Ford irrigation motor, runs; 500 gal. steel water tank; Speed King drill fill auger; 3 pt. bale fork; 300 gal. fuel tank; 140 gal. round pickup fuel tank; IHC 3pt. hitch; Tool bar items; (2) pipe turners; 10" aluminum irrigation pipe fittings; Gallons of antifreeze; Oil; Tires & wheels; Mayrauth 37" x 6" auger, B&S motor; Gas powered air compressor; Few tools; Milo fingers; Sycle servicer & Many other items.

TERMS: Cash or approved check day of sale. ID required. Not responsible for theft or accidents. Everything sold as is! No warranties expressed or implied. Announcements day of sale take precedence over printed material. **Lunch served.**

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