

The Goodland Star-News

Tuesday, July 1, 2008



New stripes for Old U.S. 24

Ethanol plant near completion

The main process building at the E-Caruso ethanol plant being built at the Goodland Energy Center five miles west of town is done, said Greg Sederstrom, chief financial officer for Goodland Energy Resources.

E Caruso Ethanol will be able to produce 20 million gallons of alcohol a year and room to expand to 30 million, said President Larry McCants. He said the plant expects to have 30 full-time employees with an estimated annual payroll of \$1.5 million.

A group of area investors has invested about \$17 million in construction of this plant, McCants said.

Sederstrom said the fermentation, stillage and day storage tanks have been completed, and the main components inside the process building are in place. Piping, electrical and control system work is continuing.

Outside, the grain-handling system is near

done he said. The final product storage containment area and tank pads are completed and final production storage tanks are on order.

The distiller's grain storage area has been poured and workers are building the conveyor and loading.

Water storage is nearing completion and the water treatment and cooling systems are on site to be installed.

The administration office building has been erected and the scale is ready to be installed, he said. Other services are in various stages of construction and completion, he said.

A crew continues to work at the E-Caruso plant, and Sederstrom said the work keeps getting the plant closer to the point where they can begin testing and operations.

Wednesday morning, a crew was pouring concrete for a pad on the north side of the plant to hold one of the ancillary services.



A crew helped pour concrete for a pad for ancillary equipment at the E-Caruso Ethanol Plant being built at the Goodland Energy Center five miles west of town. The plant is getting closer to being ready for testing and operation. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Front Cover: The Wet Paint sign was moving west on Old U.S. 24 Wednesday morning west of Caruso as Casey Clausen of Straight Line of Grand Island, Neb., and his helper painted the north white edge stripe. The yellow "skip" line and no passing lines were painted on Tuesday. Straight Line was awarded the striping contract back in April with an estimated cost of \$19,000. Citizens asked the county to paint the stripes last fall after the road had been resurfaced last summer as part of the city, county joint road improvement project. The painting will be paid as part of a bond issue being paid for by a one percent sales tax approved by Sherman County voters two years ago.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

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Timothy Isham used a \$1,500 grant to help pay for painting the front of 921 Main and other improvements. He has Artisan Woodworking in half of the building, and signs in the window advertise the Vault Creamery, an old-fashioned ice cream and soda shop, to open soon.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News



1516 Center, owned by Lou Spinney, benefitted from fresh paint and other work on the outside thanks to the Sherman County Economic Development Council's rehabilitation grants.

Grants help improve businesses, homes

By Sharon Corcoran

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Thanks to rehabilitation grants from the Sherman County Economic Development Council, owners of six homes and six businesses have been able to make improvements, from painting to signs, windows, a patio, awnings, even a complete overhaul.

Each owner received \$1,500 to help pay for their project, said Helen Dobbs, executive assistant for the council, except for one whose bid was less than that. The grants don't require the recipients to match with their own money, she said, but most added something to the projects.

In fact, the businesses and homeowners matched their grants with a total of \$39,052 for all rounds, Dobbs said, more than double what the council put into the program.

At least two more homes and two more businesses will get money for improvements this year, she said, and possibly more. She has accepted applications for a round of grants that will be awarded to two homeowners and two business owners. The deadline to apply was Friday, and the decisions will be made this week.

Dobbs said she hopes to have another round in August after these improvements are done. That will give people until October to do the work, she said.

Homeowners who have made improvements are Bertha Aguilar, 621 W. 17th; Sherry L. Eisler-Carroll, 220 N. Main; Lou Spinney, 1516 Center; Lola Wiley, 1501 Center; LeAnn Haarberg, 1307 Harrison; and Maggie Hernandez, 233 Cherry.

Aguilar used the money to scrape, prime and paint, plus fixing shingles and edging, Eisler-Carroll to replace nine windows for energy efficiency, Spinney for an overhaul of the outside, Wiley to help paint and shingle her house, Haarberg to replace rotting soffit and fascia and Hernandez for new windows.

Businesses that received grants were Jacque's Hallmark, 1124 Main; Wane's Carpet and Drapery Shop, 718 Caldwell; Pioneer Health, 910 Main; Goodland Grind and Gallery, 1530 Main; 1008 Main, an empty building which is planned as a pet shop, Jeff Soper; and Artisan Woodworking, 921 Main, Timothy Isham.

Jacque's replaced 18 windows on the upper level, Wane's repainted the exterior and painted a sign, Pioneer put up awnings, Goodland Grind put in a courtyard-style patio on the north side, Soper made improvements to the front of 1008 Main, and Isham repainted the front and made improvements to Artisan.

Isham also plans to add a business, Dobbs said. Signs on the window advertise the Vault Creamery, an old-fashioned ice cream and soda shop, opening soon.

Those who get the grants have 60 days to complete the work, Dobbs said, weather permitting. They have to buy their supplies in the county and work with a contractor here.

Dobbs said she gives information on contractors and supplies to each recipient, and gives to those who apply information on ways to get free and discounted supplies and low-cost financing.

Anyone who isn't chosen is welcome to apply again, she said, and many do, plus there are always new applications. Dobbs said that shows how much interest there is in the program.

The recipients have made some good improvements, Dobbs said; that really helps beautify Sherman County, which is the object of the grants. Some have continued making improvements after the projects were done, she added.

The first round of grants was awarded last spring to the Goodland Grind, Pioneer Health, Wiley and Haarberg. The second round last summer to Jacque's and Wane's, Eisler-Carroll and Aguilar.

The third round in April went to Soper, Artisan, Hernandez and Spinney.

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Technical college adds day care

Change is happening every direction you look on the campus of Northwest Kansas Technical College, with roof replacement, building additions, new parking lots, opening of a day care center and adding online classes.

Ladders have appeared all around the college campus and the look of some of the buildings is changing.

The Student Memorial Union is getting a new roof, while the Diesel Technology building added a large addition to handle today's larger tractors. Along with those expansions are a new parking lot in the Heating, Ventilation and Cooling Department. Other parking lots are being repaired and there are plans to refurbish the gymnasium floor at the Larry Keirns Recreation Center.

This fall, carpentry students will be busy erecting the first of three dormitory houses for the Vocation Village III expansion. Cement foundations are to be poured this summer, and then the work by the students will begin. The dorms will have three two-bedroom apartments in each of the three

buildings.

The first building will be build this year, the second in 2010 and the third in 2012. On the odd years, the carpentry students will continue to build a house.

The college has just added a new day care facility for students who have children. The center will be able to take up to 10 children on a first-come first-serve basis. The it will cost \$12 a day, making it affordable for the students. Manager Peggy Berls said she will offer age-appropriate activities and nutritious snacks.

Along with external expansion, the college is expanding internally with the addition of the General Education classes last year. It plans to add online classes in five departments, including Business Technology, Communication Network Technology, Communication Technology, Respiratory Therapy and Telecommunication Network Analyst.

The college confers technical certificates and Associate of Applied Science degrees in 17 programs, with more than 250 students.



Kids played on new playground equipment at the new day care center the Northwest Kansas Technical College is opening in July. The open house will be 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, July 13.

Photo by Mandy Johnston/Northwest Kansas Technical College



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Hammers ready to pound at Good Samaritan Society

By Pat Schiefen

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Good Samaritan Society Administrator Dorinda Krueger said that since she came in March 2007, the nursing home has made a lot of changes.

This summer, they're waiting for hammers to start pounding on scheduled projects in the whirlpool room and kitchen, she said, while the kitchen is to get new cabinets and countertops. The whirlpool room will get a new tub.

Krueger said they have ordered a fireplace for the living room and a larger television. A local group did a fund raiser and made enough to buy a Wii game system, she said, and the staff plans to have projects for the clients to do with it.

The living room has an aviary and a fish tank for clients to enjoy, she said.

"The fireplace will be a nice addition....," Krueger said. "It will make it more homelike.

"We have started to remove the wall paper from different areas and paint the walls in neutral colors. The activity boards have been changed, and as rooms have become open, the wall paper is being removed and the walls painted. That allows the clients more freedom to decorate the walls in their rooms with their things. The physical therapy room has been painted and



Good Samaritan Society - Sherman County director Dorinda Krueger stopped and talked with 107-year-old Hazel Webster. Webster is the oldest resident at the facility.

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

recarpeted."

Asked how they chose what projects to do, Krueger said that some of it depends on what the state inspector recommends.

Krueger said they are licensed for 60 beds



Helen Schoonover, resident at Good Samaritan Society - Sherman County, sat in her wheel chair in front of the bird aviary in the living room. Updates to the room will be a fireplace and a larger television.

and have 58 filled. They have openings for a man and for a woman in the Alzheimer's unit, a wing which has 12 beds. They have 17 men and 41 women, including two couples.

It's fun to watch the interaction between the couples and wonder how they were when they

were younger, she added.

When you ask them if they would still marry each other, she said, they always say yes.

See REMODEL, Page 7



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Power plant paused by purchase

By Tom Betz

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Construction came to a standstill in early June at the nearly completed coal-fired power plant at Caruso while details of a proposed sale of the plant continue to be worked out.

Doug Sederstrom, chief financial officer for Goodland Energy Resources, which is building the plant, said recently the company and Energy Holdings Ltd. of Wilmington, N.C., are working on the "due diligence" investigation for the sale. He said that is required after the companies signed a letter of intent in April to sell the plant for \$42 million.

Sederstrom said the negotiations are continuing, and he feels the process is moving forward. He did not say when the sale might be completed, but said he felt that once the process is done, construction at the plant will resume within a month.

One of the power plant stockholders said he thinks the main part of the plant is nearly completed and what has to be built are the environmental controls and delivery parts outside the main plant.

Energy Holdings, a Carolina firm, was founded by G. William Eason and Karl W. Miller, also founding shareholders of MMC Energy Inc.

The Goodland City Commission recently signed an agreement with Goodland Energy Resources to allow construction of a power line from the plant to connect with the city power



Sections of the fuel delivery system lay on the ground at the site of the Goodland Energy Resources coal-fired power plant being built five miles west of town. The potential purchase of the plant by Energy Holdings Ltd. has halted work at the site.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

system. The line is to come in along 19th Street, crossing over from the south side to the north side, with the energy company replacing some nearly 40-year old city poles. Construction was planned to begin at the end of June.

"Acquisition of (the Goodland plant) would provide us with a dependable source of revenue and is consistent with the company's strategy to acquire and control niche opportunities ... for both natural gas and clean coal-fueled assets, as well as alternative and renewable (green) energy projects," said Ketheesch Aran, Energy

Holdings chief financial officer, when he talked to the Goodland Rotary Club in April. "This is an important step for our company as we strive to be a leader in the independent power generation business.

"This plant demonstrates that energy can be created economically and be good for the environment."

In February, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment held a public hearing on a request to modify the air permit and allow the plant to burn fuel other than coal. That modification

was approved in April, about the same time as the potential sale became known.

The plant, five miles west of Goodland is designed to burn coal and biomass, or agricultural waste, but can generate electricity and industrial steam from fuels such as old railroad ties, tires, trash and other waste products.

"Since the plant utilizes waste for fuel, emissions credits will be created, an important element of Energy Holdings desire to produce ecofriendly energy and an asset with significant future value," Aran said.

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Hammers ready to pound at Good Samaritan Society

REMODEL, from Page 5

The Alzheimer's wing has a quieter atmosphere, she said, and since the people tend to wander it is more secure. In the future, she said, she would like to put antiques on top of the cabinets to maybe stir a memory or two, and add other decorative items.

"It helps to stimulate their minds," she said.

The center has four women older than 100, she said, with Hazel Webster the oldest at 107.

Krueger said that the residents all seem to have two things in common: they like to drink coffee and have a sense of humor. She thinks a sense of humor helps a lot of the clients to keep going.

The youngest resident is 61, she said, adding that some are at the center only a few days while some stay for years.

Clients bring clothes and a radio or television, and other possessions if they want, when they come, Krueger said.

"We hope they bring as much of home as they can," she added.

If the client has trouble seeing or

hearing, she said, the staff tries to work around that.

"They want attention and want someone to listen to them," she said.

She said they have been doing more activities between the residents and the staff.

"The residents love it when kids come," Krueger added. "It brings a different atmosphere. Often the older ones will know some of the family of the kids."

The hardest part of the job is watching clients go downhill, she said.

The center employs 73 people in the various departments, she said, with a payroll of at least \$1.7 million a year. The staff comprises 12 nurses, a social worker, 12 kitchen workers, three activities people and eight in laundry, environmental and housekeeping.

The next projects she would like to do at the center, Krueger said, are new flooring in the dining and activity room and remodeling the chapel.

"The love they give you everyday and their stories, that's what it's all about," Krueger said. "It's amazing how many World War II veterans there are. You become part of their family."

Driving on new crossing



A car crossed the new concrete railroad crossing Wednesday morning on County Road 16 south of the Sugar Hills Golf Course. Paving Road 16 is one of the last pieces of the city, county joint road projects. The new paved road was one of the projects approved by Sherman County voters two year ago.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

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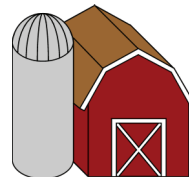
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