

# School district faces challenging future

By Pat Schiefen

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The Goodland School District is on the move to provide the best learning environment for its students and at the same time getting the most for the money the district has.

The school board decided to close North Elementary School in January and was undecided as to what to do with it.

At the June 15th meeting the board voted to move forward with hiring an architect and

possibly a project manager to remodel North Elementary into an elementary school for the entire district.

The model from the Elmwood-Murdock School District in Nebraska the board is using for the project involves having the project manager set up a community planning committee to help the district decide exactly what it wants for an elementary school. All this will eventually lead to a bond election.

The Nebraska school district's renovated grade school was originally very much like North Elementary School. The original school



was encased with a metal building that added more rooms to the school. Between the original roof and the new roof the area was used to run new electrical lines, heating and cooling ducts to each room. The outer building was built with as much energy efficiency as possible and to be technology friendly.

This would head the district into a two-building district with the junior high being moved into the high school. Closing North Elementary School was proposed by Superintendent Shelly Angelos in the fall of 2009 when the board could not agree on closing Grant Junior High the previous year.

In the fall of 2008 the board hired Keith Blackburn, an architect from Horst, Terill and Karst Architects, PA of Topeka to give the board an assessment on the physical soundness of the five schools in the district. Blackburn told them that all the buildings were sound but all needed some renovations. His recommendation that if the district wanted to close a building his choice would be Grant Junior High. He said that Goodland High School had adequate room for the junior high. He said there would be concerns about how much the high school and junior high students would be mixed.

At a town hall meeting on Monday, March 8, there was quite a bit of support for putting the junior high into the high school, but concerns were raised about the social consequences for

the younger girls being exposed to the older high school boys.

Superintendent Angelos said on Monday, April 12, the school qualified for \$1.5 million from a Qualified Zone Academy Bond to be paid back over a 10 year period. To qualify a district had to have a certain percentage of students getting free and reduced lunches and be on improvement for not meeting the goals of the federally mandated No Child Left Behind. The bonds are interest free because the federal government pays the interest. The district will pay \$150,000 a year on the bond. The savings from no interest would be from \$448,000 to \$550,000.

In the application a district has to list proposed projects that need to be done. Angelos said the projects she proposed were all for the high school and possibly getting it ready to move the junior high into it. Projects, she said, would be prioritized and as much work would be done as there was money.

Proposed projects for the high school include replacing windows, upgrading heating and installing air conditioning, classroom renovation, walk in freezer and refrigerator for cafeteria, open a line of sight for the office of any one entering the building, renovation of restrooms and locker rooms, install air conditioning, upgrade lights and sound for the auditorium and paving, curb and gutter for a parking lot at the

Cobblestone property.

The district has been facing the same challenges as the rest of the schools in the state with the cuts in funding from a high of \$4,400 per student in 2008-9 to a projected drop to \$3,726 for next year in base state aid. Superintendent Angelos said the legislature said there would be no cuts in funding for next year but the board has heard the state say that before. The cuts in funding have been caused by lack of expected income to the state because of unemployment and the down turns in the national economy.

The district has been looking at its school population in relation to how many different school buildings it operates. Full time equivalent student numbers in the Goodland school in 1998-99 was 1,155.5 and stood at 899 for the current school year. It has been projected the district will continue to lose about 13 students a year or about a class so the projection for 2012-13 is 803.7. The process started with a task force three years ago that looked at options of what the district could do. Their recommendations included everything from closing schools and turning the district into a two or three building district to building a new grade school.

The configuration of the school district's buildings has remained the same since the 60s when North and West Elementary Schools were built.

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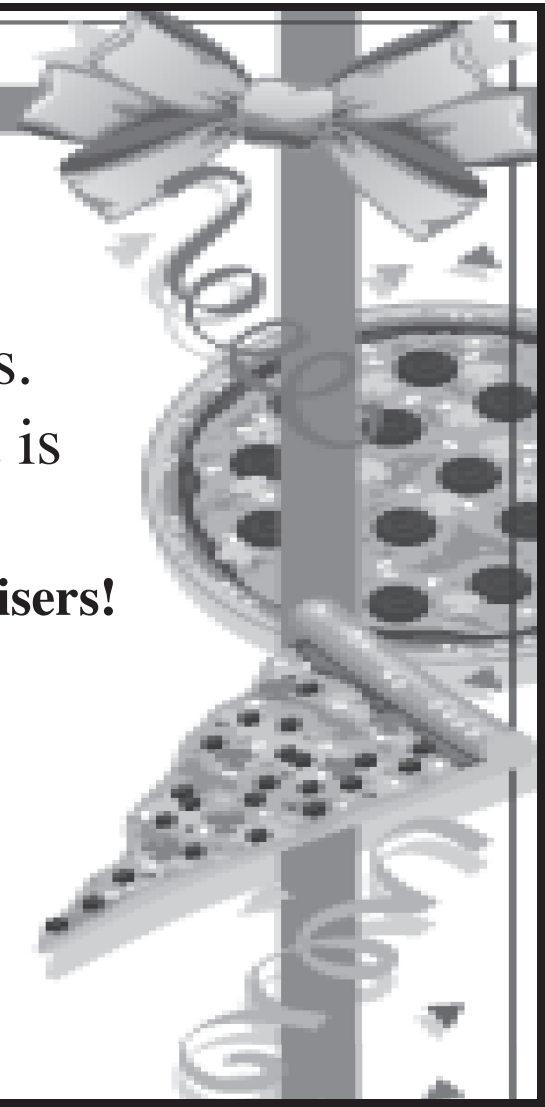
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# Flower shop adds store in St. Francis

Prairie Rose Floral of Goodland added a new store in St Francis this year.

Prairie Rose Floral in St. Francis opened in early November in downtown St Francis at 116 East Washington.

The new store, owned by Barry and Joni

Guyer, is run by Rose Mary Bierig who brings 13 years of experience to the new store. Helping Rose Mary are six part time employees.

Prairie Rose Floral now carries furniture and home decor along with lots of other new products they have added to both stores this year.

They are your exclusive location for Fusion Glass products by Kim Zwegardt.

Both stores are open Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to noon. Deliveries are available to Goodland, St. Francis, Burlington, Sharon Springs, Bird

City, Wheeler, Edson and Kanarado. Stop by or call today!

Prairie Rose Floral, 1012 Main Ave., Goodland, Phone (785) 890-7673.

## Machine, repair business in business for 15 years

Goodland Machine & Automotive has been in business for 15 years and is located at 419 E. 19th St.

The business offers engine rebuilding (natural gas and high performance engines), auto repair, irrigation engines, gear head repair, irrigation in field service, Baldwin filters and Exxon-Mobil sales and service.

The company's irrigation service offers highly efficient PSI irrigation engines, including in field service for irrigation systems. "We sell and repair gear heads, water meters and cooling coils," said owner Terry Selbe.

The business does auto repair on all makes and models, changes oil, services brakes, supplies tires and tire repair, and works on air conditioning systems. In-house transmission

rebuilding is now available.

Goodland Machine & Automotive's machine shop offers the Thermal Clean System – the only one in the area – which makes parts look like new. In addition to engine rebuilding, this business offers flywheel surfacing, belt surfacing, cylinder head surfacing and "we can pressure check your cylinder heads," Selbe offers.

Selbe and his employees Jarod Smades, John Dautel, Caleb Simon, Greg Justice and Pam Mendenhall will do everything they can to take care of all your machining and automotive repair needs.

Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone is (785) 899-6628.

## Construction business building treatment plant

Miller Construction Services is a locally owned, growing company serving northwest Kansas and the surrounding area.

Mike Miller has been involved in construction most of his life and started Miller Construction in 1997 with his wife, Jodi. The company name changed to Miller Construction Services in 2007.

Miller Construction Services is a licensed and bonded general contractor. The company is a Chief Building Independent Authorized Builder and proud to have been awarded the 2007 Chief Educational Building of the Year award for the Northwest Kansas Technical College Diesel Technology building addition.

Miller is currently building the water treatment plant for the City of Goodland, and storm shelters for the Colby Housing Authority, among other projects.

Miller recently finished the L & W Andrist Insurance Agency Building, the Music Room

addition at the Atwood High School and the Financial Services and H.L.M. offices for the Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

Miller Construction also constructed the Colby fire station.

Miller has done many road and street project for Goodland including the 19th Street reconstruction, 12th and Cattletrail intersection, Enterprise Road and the Goodland airport entrance.

A sampling of other projects is listed on the company web site [www.millercs.com](http://www.millercs.com).

Mike and Jodi have 12 employees, including their son Matt, who has finished college at Fort Hays State University and has moved to Goodland to work for Miller Construction Services. Their other son, Andrew, works for the company during the summer while he attends college.

You can reach Miller Construction Services at (785) 899-5231.

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# Economic development helps businesses

Seven years ago the Sherman County Board of County Commissioners created, by resolution, the Sherman County Economic Development Council as a quasi-governmental entity.

The mission of the council is to preserve and enhance new and existing economic activity and business vitality in Sherman County.

The council is governed by a board of directors comprised of 11 members, four of who are representatives of financial institutions providing services in Sherman County.

All members, except those representing financial institutions, must be residents of Sherman County. The members are elected at-large on an annual basis and serve a maximum of two three-year terms.

Working with resource partners, Sherman County Economic Development promotes economic activity to aid business expansion and retention and the creation of new business through education, improved tools and techniques such as business plans, accounting, websites, financing, area statistics, work force training and hiring, available financing and grants.

The office assists with the county Micro Loan program, which provides small businesses with financing for start-up or expansion.

These loans are from \$3,000 to \$15,000 at five

percent interest for a maximum of five years.

Grants for community projects have been written and received from Black Hills Energy, Sunflower Electric, Midwest Energy, Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Finnup Foundation. Currently, the office is working on Community Development Block Grants for housing in Kanorado and Goodland. These grants are for up to \$400,000 each.

The office has been instrumental in the extension of the Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Rebate Program, which is available for any business or home construction project in Sherman County, with an owner investment of \$5,000 or more. Since beginning this program in 2006, 140 properties have been accepted into the program with a total rebate value of \$8,300,320.

Three times a year, business and housing grants are offered for exterior improvements to structures. \$18,000 is allotted each year for this program.

To date, 30 recipients have purchased materials locally and used local contractors, spending an additional \$90,945 plus labor on completed projects.

The Guide to Goodland and Sherman County is published annually as a joint venture between the Sherman County Convention and Visitors

Bureau and Sherman County Economic Development.

The guide, with both text and area pictures, is used to promote business and home relocation and tourism in the community. Local businesses are encouraged to advertise in this publication.

The Goodland and Sherman County Brochure is another joint venture with the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Sherman County Economic Development. This brochure is distributed throughout the State of Kansas and the Front Range of Colorado in Certified Brochure racks in an effort to entice visitors to come to Sherman County to "Stay a Night-Stay a Lifetime".

The Sherman County Business Directory is published annually and is distributed through the schools, businesses, and as an insert in *The Goodland Star-News*. Local businesses are encouraged to keep their information current with the Sherman County Economic Development Office for this publication and the website.

The website ([shermancountyed.org](http://shermancountyed.org)) offers various services including a list of businesses in Sherman County, both store front and home based, available jobs and upcoming events.

The website is promoted with flyers throughout the community and by advertising in AAA

Magazines, Travel and Sports Shows, AARP Conventions, The Kansas Economic Development Guide (a publication of the Kansas Department of Commerce), The Ultimate Guide to Northwest Kansas (a publication of the Northwest Kansas Travel Council), distribution of the Guide to Goodland and Sherman County which is placed at the Kansas Travel Information Centers and mailed to anyone inquiring about the area by phone or e-mail.

The office, located at 104 E. 10th St. in Goodland, is staffed by Office Manager Helen Dobbs who serves on the Board of Directors for Western Kansas Economic Development Alliance (wKREDA—an organization representing 53 counties in western Kansas), as Vice-President of Pioneer Country Development, Inc., on the Board of Directors for Northwest Kansas Planning and Development, and Enterprise Facilitation. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m., to serve the needs of the community.

By working together we can be successful, so please stop by if you can help us or we can help you to make Sherman County a better place to work and live, Dobbs said. Call (785) 890-3473.

## Business opens new office on Main Ave.

Plains Heating and Air Conditioning is proud to be a part of the Goodland downtown businesses. The former J.C. Penney building has been purchased by Plains Heating and is currently undergoing remodeling.

"We are currently working in the Goodland area through our Limon, Colo., office," said owner Leon Kelly, "until we can finish the remodel and have a grand opening.

We are proud to offer our Goodland customers a wide range of services, performed by professionally trained and certified technicians, Kelly said. Systems are designed to meet every customer's home comfort needs exactly. We can meet all your heating, air conditioning and indoor air quality needs. We install and repair furnaces; air conditioners; heat pumps; boilers; gas fireplaces and inserts; water heaters; tankless on-demand water heaters; and indoor air quality systems, including whole-home humidifiers, air purification systems and high-efficiency air purification systems.

"We have a complete sheet metal shop," Kelly said. "We are a Lennox Premier dealer, we are certified to install Rinnai Tankless on-demand water heaters, Weil-McLain Boilers and are a

Mendota Fireplace dealer."

Licensed in Goodland, the 30-year-old business promises to service any brand of equipment you have and is happy to be able to serve Western Kansas.

The Goodland office of Plains Heating and Air Conditioning will be managed by Scott Sitzman, who is in Goodland every day to meet your heating and cooling needs.

Plains Heating and Air Conditioning can be reached at (785) 890-2914 or check out the web site at [www.plainsheating.com](http://www.plainsheating.com).

Plains Heating and Air Conditioning worker helps install a sign at their new location on Main Avenue. An awning was added later.

Photo by Tom Betz/  
The Goodland Star-News



## Methodist church plans vacation bible school

The mission of the Goodland Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, for the transformation of the world.

"We look forward to finding ways to connect with you as we all grow in our relationship with God," said Pastors Dustin and Shelly Petz.

"We want to share some exciting things happening soon. From July 18 through 22, we invite children of our area, pre-kindergarten through fourth grade, to join us for our 'Galactic Blast' Vacation Bible School. Through daily space voyage missions, your children will see God's creation like never before, gain a new perspective of our planet Earth and learn easy 'green' earth tips they can practice at home. This cosmic combination of faith and fun will have your 'cadets' developing a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

"On Aug. 29, starting at 6 p.m., we welcome

the community to join us for our annual Fall Roundup. This fun night will kick off our Wednesday Nite Live program! We will have great food for everyone. It will be a fun night for children of all ages—cake walk, dunk tank, water balloon volleyball and a whole lot more! Mark your calendars now!

"Finally, our congregation will celebrate 125 years of faithful ministry with this community in March 2011. We want to thank the people of Sherman County for your faithfulness to the Genesis Program, for supporting our 6:10 a.m. radio ministry on KKCI and KLOE and for being in ministry with us as we seek to bless our community.

"Check us out on Facebook or through our website: [www.goodlandumc.org](http://www.goodlandumc.org).

"May God bless you this summer!"

To contact the church call (785) 899-3631, located 12th and Sherman Ave.

## Golden West Skills opens home health agency

Two years ago Golden West Community Services opened a new home health business.

ResCare HomeCare of NWKS is a fully licensed Home Health Agency, which is approved to provide services in five counties—Sherman, Thomas, Cheyenne, Rawlins, and Wallace.

The home care team is led by Tammy Fogg, RN. Fogg brings with her 18 years' experience managing a home health agency.

ResCare HomeCare currently provides homemaker services, which means they have staff available to assist clients with shopping, house cleaning, meal preparation, laundry, running errands and transportation to medical appointments.

They are available to assist a person with bathing, grooming, dressing, toileting, transferring, walking or eating. Ms. Fogg can assist with

health maintenance activities, including monitoring vital signs, ostomy care, catheter care, wound care, range of motion and medication administration and assistance (such as filling medication boxes).

ResCare HomeCare accepts private pay, Medicaid, and long-term care insurance. They serve clients who have qualified for the Physical Disability or Frail/Elderly waiver programs, as well as programs offered through the Area Agency on Aging. All staff have attended training in their field, including CNA's and certified Home Health Aides.

If you or a loved one requires any assistance like the items/tasks mentioned above ResCare HomeCare of NWKS is here to help. Please call Fogg at (785) 728-7198 for more information or to arrange for an appointment to apply for services.



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## Sunflower production office expands, relocates

SunOpta Sunflower Crop Production Department has expanded and relocated. Mike Bretz and Larry Keller have been joined this summer by Chris Staub, summer intern. Staub joins them from Fort Hays State University where he is studying agronomy. The Crop Production Department is now located behind the Antique Warehouse and can still be reached at our regular

phone numbers (785) 899-5607.

The sunflower plant, 1701 Industrial Loop, was built in 1986 with the addition of the Edson facility in 1993 and was purchased by SunOpta in 2004. We currently employ 41 people. SunOpta Sunflower contracts sunflowers in a six state region. SunOpta Sunflower ships confection sunflowers around the world.

## Sprinkler company, supply area Zimmatic dealer

Sprinkler Supply, LLC is your area Zimmatic dealer.

"We sell and service Zimmatic pivots, and we offer in field service for all makes and models of pivots," said owner Terry Selbe. "We have a full inventory for all pivots. We have stores in Burlington, Colo., and Cheyenne Wells, Colo., and we are now a dealer for Sukup Grain Bins."

Selbe and Sprinkler Supply employees Steve

Smith, Jeff Mangus, Carey Barnes and Wanda Mangus will be happy to take care of all your questions and solve your sprinkler service needs.

Store locations are: Goodland—419 E. 19th St., phone (785) 899-3444; Burlington—46288 U.S. 24, phone (719) 346-8100; and Cheyenne Wells—44738 U.S. 40, phone (719) 767-5280.

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# Truck, tractor business moves west

After 11 years at the corner of K-27 and Business U.S. 24, Wilkens Truck and Tractor has moved.

The new location is a half-mile west of Frontier Ag in the old M & M Sales building.

Originally built as the Byron Pump facility in the late 1960's, the building has accommodated several different businesses

throughout the years.

Although we will miss the old corner, we will enjoy the new location because of the convenience of having the shop, parts and sales all in one location, said Chuck Wilkens. The relocation will help to better serve our customers.

"Stop by to see our expanded parts department and newly lighted equipment lot," he said.

They are located at 840 West old U.S. 24, Goodland or call (888) 613-1121 or (785) 899-5454.

The new office of Wilken Truck and Tractor's new location west of the corner of K-27 and old U.S. 24.



# Great things happening at Good Samaritan Society

Great things have been happening at the Good Samaritan Society in Sherman County.

First, Pam Black is the new administrator. A native Kansan, she moved here from Junction City. Black attended Colby Community College and Kansas State University.

The resident's dining room has received a face lift this year, with new blinds, paint and paneling to give it a fresh look.

The kitchen and serving areas have been remodeled as well. Two resident

rooms have been remodeled with fresh paint and new furniture, while four resident rooms received new floors. New flooring went into the activity area and into the special care dining room.

The staff has worked hard to spruce up the planters and flower beds in front and on the south side of the building. Additional new furniture in the commons area helps make it seem more home-like, as does new carpet throughout the facility and in the front offices.

Thanks to the generous donations to "The Love Tree," a big screen television was purchased for the special care wing.

Future plans are to remodel the beauty shop, but help is needed from the community to realize this dream. The facility needs a new sink that can be raised and lowered to make washing and rinsing comfortable for everyone, including those in wheel chairs. Another need is for a hair dryer that would be accessible for those in wheelchairs. The remodeling and

new equipment would help make the residents feel special in their own home. If you would like to donate to this project, please contact the staff for more information.

Since 1963 the Good Samaritan Society in Sherman County has been providing health care to the residents of the area. It offers Alzheimer's/ dementia care, rehabilitation/therapy and home care services provided by Good Samaritan Society- Northwest Kansas Home Care. The simple philosophy at Good Samaritan Society is

that everyone deserves to feel loved, valued and at peace – both residents and staff alike. Good Samaritan Society strives to bring the highest quality of care. The staff is dedicated to enhancing the lives of the residents by giving attention to the fine details of everyday life.

Good Sam's staff invites you to stop by for a tour of the facility to see what it has to offer and to explore all the recent changes.

It is located at 208 W. Second, phone (785) 890-7517.

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# Buffalo Guys get contract, national publicity on QVC

The Buffalo Guys has had a great year, said Ken Klemm.

Sales for our naturally raised buffalo meat have been very strong, despite the recession, he said. Recently we became the primary buffalo meat supplier for Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage, with more than 40 stores with locations in Colorado, Utah, Texas, Wyoming and New Mexico. This is in addition to the 1,100 stores that already carry our meat in every state, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands as well.

Buffalo Guy, Ken Klemm, was recently on QVC TV where millions of people were introduced to the company's product. Sales were

brisk and a second airing is anticipated soon.

The greatest challenge the business faces for 2010 and beyond is a chronic shortage of consistent, quality raised buffalo, Klemm said. We have growers in several states who grow to our specifications and are looking for many more. This year finds us paying record prices for slaughter ready buffalo (\$2.70/lb hot weight) and wanting for much more than we can find.

Call us if you have grass and a pioneering desire to build a solid business.

Office located at 114 W. 12th, phone (785) 899-9274.

# Bowman's celebrates 14 years this month

We celebrated our 14th anniversary on Thursday, July 1, said Keith Bowman.

Keith and Cindy Bowman of Bowman's Heating and A/C have made exciting changes this year.

The company has moved the business location to their home and are in the process of building a new office and shop building.

Bowman's Heating and A/C is located at 577 W 31st St.

"We are looking forward to having an open house when our office is completed," Bowman said.

The business phone numbers remain the same (785) 899-5770 or (785) 890-5770.

We offer Trane equipment (the leader in the industry), he said. Call us for all of your HVAC needs.

We are open 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

# Dinkel repair introduces team

Tim and Bobbie Dinkel purchased Lonny's Quality Auto body, Inc. in April 2008.

We are very excited to introduce you to our team, they said.

Tim Dinkel graduated from the Northwest Tech in auto body in 1995 and worked for Lonny's for 15 years before purchasing the company. Bobbie Dinkel is the office manager/bookkeeper.

Randy Selbe graduated from Northwest Tech in 1983 and has worked for the company 21 years. Randy is shop manager and head body technician.

Steve Mangus graduated from the Northwest Tech in 2009 and has been with the company

two years. Mangus brings his expertise in body work and painting.

Jeff Dinkel joined our team a year ago and is our Service Writer. He handles all of your estimating needs.

Christine Keim joined the team in February as our part time office assistant.

And our newest employee, Chris Zimmerman joined our team in April. Chris is a 2003 graduate of WyoTech and is our full restoration technician.

Open Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and offer free estimates and there is no need to call for an appointment, stop in and ask for Jeff at 1933 Caldwell Ave. Phone (785) 899-6311.

# Accountants help clients in tough times

It's been a tough couple of years and many people have experienced financial strain on their business ledger, personal checkbook or both.

As a 78-year-old firm, Kennedy and Coe has been there for their clients through previous economic challenges. And the good news is there is light on the horizon and they have been proud of their client's ability to weather the financial storms.

It's important to realize Kennedy and Coe is much more than an accounting firm. Our Goodland office is central to the firm's mission of "enhancing the well-being of our people and the clients we serve," the company said

Known for providing industry depth, depend-

able information and excellent service, the firm continues to stick to its roots in agriculture and local businesses. Company services range from tax and audit to strategic planning and consulting. They manage extensive Farm Service Agency work, creating opportunities for farm families.

Kennedy and Coe gets to know their clients by sitting down in person, talking regularly on the phone and listening at the board room or dinner table, they said. This is what makes them different. Our genuine people provide creative ideas and deliver valuable results.

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