

Center has tea



Nearly 100 mothers, daughters, daughters-in-law or granddaughters gathered on Saturday afternoon, April 23, for a Mother-Daughter Tea at Wheat Ridge Acres, a retirement home in Goodland. Entertainment was provided by Mary Beth and Kendra Akers of Weskan. "Grandma's Apron" was then read by Wheat Ridge Director Donna Swager. Many residents wore aprons that had been passed down or made in 4-H or home economics classes. One had a collection of aprons. Alma Walter (above left) told Swager about her crocheted apron her mother had made for her. Walter's daughters, Linda Williams from Wray, Colo. and Nancy Turner of Phillipsburg, were at the tea.

Security cage made in Norton

By Ron Wilson

*Director
Huck Boyd National Institute for
Rural Development at Kansas
State University*

The Pentagon, near Washington, D.C. Here at the headquarters of the Department of Defense, we find a custom-made, metal security cage. And where do you suppose this product was designed and built? Not California, not Chicago, not Atlanta, but at New Age Industrial located in rural Kansas.

Larry Nelson is president of New Age Industrial in Norton. This is the story of this remarkable company.

In 1966, a fellow from Nebraska came to Norton to buy a car. The car salesman must have been a good one because not only did he sell that fellow a car, when the salesman learned that the man from Nebraska was getting ready to set up a factory, he convinced him to put that factory in Norton. Local investors got together and built a building to house this new business, which would become known as New Age Industrial.

Unlike these days, when the term New Age refers to some kind of

metaphysical thinking, this company was New Age before it was fashionable. The concept was that this company would usher in a New Age of manufacturing, and so the company was born.

New Age Industrial set out to work on the extrusion of aluminum. It opened in a 50 x 200-square-foot building. By 1972, when Larry Nelson joined the company, it had seven employees. As the company diversified into making various products from the extruded aluminum, it began to grow.

In fact, numerous additions were built onto the building through the years, but one of those almost led to a disaster. On April 8, 1996, a spark from a welder that was being used to construct an addition to the building set off a fire. That fire burned for 9 1/2 hours.

Fortunately, the extrusion press, offices, and production area were saved from the fire, which happened on a Monday. On Tuesday the owners met with key employees to form a recovery plan. On Wednesday, employees came in to begin to clean up and rebuild. No one was laid off, and two weeks later, the company

had re-started production.

"The fire took out several walls of the old buildings," Larry said. "It actually opened up some space. We redid our electrical system and improved our product flow. We found the good that came out of it, but I wouldn't want it to ever happen again," Larry said.

Today, New Age Industrial operates in 180,000 square feet of space and employs 113 people. Products from extruded aluminum are still the company's specialty. This includes thousands of products made for use in food service, health care, materials handling, correctional facilities, and other venues. This includes such things as carts, trays and much, much more. In fact, about half of their business includes custom-designed and manufactured specialty products.

"Not too many people do that type of custom work any more, but we enjoy doing it," Larry said. "Our minimum order is one."

This responsiveness to the customer has paid off in the long run. The list of New Age Industrial's customers is astounding, including many small businesses plus national

brands such as Costco, Target, JC Penney, Caterpillar, Advanced Auto and McDonalds. New Age Industrial products have literally gone coast to coast from Norton.

In fact, New Age Industrial products have gone to such places as Walt Disney World, the Pentagon, and the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. Not bad for a company in Norton, population 2,943 people. That's rural, but there's more. Larry actually lives at nearby Almena, population 461 people, and the company controller is from Jennings, population 143 people. Now, that's rural.

"We have great people working here," Larry Nelson said. "We take pride in quality work." For more information, go to www.newage-industrial.com.

The Pentagon, near Washington, D.C. Here and from coast to coast, one can find products from this remarkable company in Norton, Kansas. We salute Larry Nelson and all the people of New Age Industrial for making a difference with their hard work, service, and entrepreneurship. Even in this new age, their commitment to quality and customer service is ageless.

MISTAKES...

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public notice

ORDINANCE NO. 1619

AN ORDINANCE RELATED TO WEEDS AND THE ABATEMENT THEREOF, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF GOODLAND, KANSAS, AMENDING GOODLAND CITY CODE SECTION 7-502, AND REPEALING SECTIONS 7-502 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GOODLAND, KANSAS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF GOODLAND, KANSAS:

Section 1. DEFINITIONS. Weeds as used herein, means any of the following:

- (a) Brush and woody vines shall be classified as weeds;
- (b) Weeds and grasses which may attain such large growth as to become, when dry, a fire menace to adjacent improved property;
- (c) Weeds which bear or may

bear seeds of a downy or wingy nature.

(d) Weeds which are located in an area which harbors rats, insects, animals, reptiles, or any other creature which either may or does constitute a menace to health, public safety or welfare;

(e) Weeds and grasses on or about residential property which, because of its height, has a blighting influence on the neighborhood. Any such weeds and indigenous grasses shall

be presumed to be blighting if they exceed eight (8) inches in height.

Section 2. Section 7-502 of the code of the City of Goodland, Kansas, is hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance shall be effective upon its passage and publication once in the official city newspaper.

PASSED AND APPROVED

this 2nd of May, 2011, by the governing body of the City of Goodland, Kansas.

John Garcia,
Mayor

ATTEST:
Mary P. Volk,
City Clerk

Published in The Goodland Star-News, Friday, May 6, 2011.

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