

The Goodland Star-News



Friday, July 1, 2005

Wheat Ridge Acres growing to meet needs

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

There'll soon be room for 12 more seniors in the lap of luxury, with more on the way.

Wheat Ridge Acres retirement community is adding 12 rooms and plans to add two duplexes in the spring and 25 rooms next year. With all of the additions, the facility will be twice its original size.

It offers residents weekly spa visits, a beauty shop, activities, meals served on fine china with sterling silverware, professionally decorated rooms and areas to gather and play games.

The community has had as many as 48 people on its waiting list to move in, so the expansion won't fill the demand for the assisted living the center offers.

The kitchen, dining room and beauty shop will accommodate the 12 new residents, said Director Donna Swager, but will need to grow with the next addition, and more mailboxes will then be needed.

That addition will include an air-conditioned auditorium for performances and a new craft room to replace the one that will become a dining room. The auditorium is not just for residents, Swager said, but for the whole county. The facility has held performances open to the public, she said, but hasn't been able to accommodate as many as it would like.

It's good for the residents to bring people in, Swager said, but the auditorium will be a way for the facility to give something back to the community.

Each addition will require more staff. With every resident, Swager said, it adds 2 1/2 staff hours per day.

The facility started with 31 rooms, she said; 12 are being added now, and 25 will be added with the north expansion next year. The current addition includes two one-bedroom apartments, four large studios and six small studios.

The decision to add on was made over a year ago, Swager said; the plans were set last May, and groundbreaking was in September.



The rooms have been built, and painting has begun. They still need carpet and wallpaper.

Swager is shooting for a grand opening this month but isn't sure the apartments will be ready that soon. "It may be June 40th," she said.

Construction has gone smoothly, Swager said, and is not behind as far as the contract is concerned.

"But we are behind where we thought we'd be," she added. Crites Construction of Burlington is doing the work, Swager said, and

Landscaping around the new addition at Wheat Ridge Acres retirement community will match the old, such as this in the garden (above) known as the "birthing room," named for the birds born and raised in a nest in the arbor at the east patio doors. Cliff Crites, (left) owner of Crites Construction of Burlington, cut pieces of trim for the new addition at Wheat Ridge Acres retirement community last week.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

Christie Rasure will do some landscaping to accommodate the new addition. The gazebo won't have to be moved as was thought, she said, but some rose bushes were moved, and other landscaping will be added. It will match closely what's already

there, she said.

The new rooms will be decorated by Alice Kirkman, who will come from Washington, Swager said; Kirkman decorated the original facility, and her husband Don was the architect.

The additions were planned from the beginning, Swager said, because Heritage Healthcare Management, the Colorado-based company that owns the facility, plans for the future.

Most of the 12 rooms are spoken for, Swager said, with some deposits already in hand. Some current residents are moving to the new rooms for a different view, she said, so a few of the original rooms will open up.

The community has sent out 30 letters to people who are thinking about moving in. If anyone is interested, Swager said, they need to decide quickly, because the rooms will fill up fast.

Included in the price of a room are several perks. Residents get three meals a day served on china with linen tablecloths and napkins and real silver. A dietician approves the meals and consults with residents once a month and whenever they change medications, Swager said.

If the kitchen doesn't have something a resident likes, she said, they will buy it, and if a resident doesn't like what is planned for a meal, the staff will make him something else.

When residents decide to move to a different room, she said, the community hires people to move them. They go to lunch, she said, and come back to find their stuff moved.

Residents can go to the spa once a week, Swager said, soak in bubbles and light candles for a relaxing experience. There are "sharks" and other floating toys, she said, so they can play in the water.

The center plans activities, Swager said, because keeping minds active helps people stay healthier and more alert. The community tries to offer more activities than anyone could possibly want to do, she said, because everyone will not want to do every-

Wheat Ridge adds rooms

GROWING, from Page 1

thing. People like to choose.

Residents can take care of their own medication, have someone remind them when to take it, Swager said, or have their pills kept in a locked cabinet and have someone give them the medicine when it's time.

Each resident has a button they can hang around their necks that pages staff from wherever they are, Swager said, and staff will know who paged them and respond right away.

The button works from as far as five miles away, she said, so residents can use them even when they go out. They can sign out so the staff knows where they are, Swager said, and if they page for help, the staff will call the police to go check on them.

They had one resident who fell downtown, she said, and a man who went to work in his shop and was injured.

The sign-out sheet helps when family comes to visit, Swager said, because the staff can then tell relatives where to find them..

The facility is decorated to be comfortable and enjoyable and to improve the residents' mental alertness, she said.

Swager said she went to a workshop on seniors and the mental challenges they deal with, such as depression. They said the colors you surround yourself with affect your mental alertness, Swager said. The colors the experts recommended, she said, are the ones Wheat Ridge already has.



Director Donna Swager watched a resident in the original part of Wheat Ridge Acres from the new addition while talking with Cliff Crites, owner of Crites Construction, last Friday.

Economic Development office assisting with job development

The Sherman County Economic Development Council, 1208 Main, continues to assist with job development and expansion since its opening in 2002.

The office handles several programs.

A micro-loan program is available to new and existing small businesses. The maximum loan amount is \$15,000, and the money can be used for real estate, working capital or equipment. This program is funded by a county revolving loan fund. The money is coming back into the loan fund from the businesses which received loans in the first round.

The development office has the assistance of Sheryl Davis with the Small Business Development Center in Hays. She provides free business start-up sessions for those who are either considering starting a business or have a new business already going. Individual check-up sessions for any business "up to the size of Boeing" are available through here office.

The economic development office can help connect businesses with the Small Business Development Center.

An incubator program is available to assist business start-ups. Available in the economic

development office is free office space, with access to a computer, printer, copy machine, telephone and fax machine.

Council officers are John Garcia (Garcia's Home Furnishings), chairman; Dwane Timm (First National Bank), vice-chair; Shelly Thompson (Bankwest), secretary; and Kim Bohme (Miller Electronics), treasurer. Other members are Richard Breininger (Sunflower Computer Service), Harlan House (farmer and cattleman), Don Newell and Gary Slough (S&T Communications), Steve West (Western State Bank) and Chuck Wilkens (Wilkens Trucking and Trailer).

The council is searching for a director. Kay Younger is office manager.

Some businesses closed in the past year, but council members take heart in the number of new businesses beginning to take hold in Sherman County.

Recent additions include Adronics/Elrob Manufacturing Corp., ReNewable Energy Resources and the Steakhouse Diner.

Working with the city and county, the coun-

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Adronics on menu for Rotary meeting

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Chicken fingers, fish, mashed potatoes, coleslaw and a tour of the new antenna manufacturing plant were all on the menu at the Goodland Rotary Club's weekly luncheon last Friday.

After the meal at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, Rotary members climbed aboard the new Goodland High School activities bus for a trip downtown.

Member Marty Melia, also a member of the school board, used the intercom system on the bus to describe some features of the new vehicle. Other Rotary members were impressed with the open windows, radiant heating and clean look of the bus.

Unloading in the parking lot of Adronics/Elrob Manufacturing Corp., some bus riders remarked about how many cars were now in the parking lot, which had been nearly empty under the last tenant.

Nick Wolff, Hays plant assistant with Adronics, started the tour, giving

the roughly 20 Rotary members a look at antenna production.

The north side of the city-owned Wolak Building is set up for antenna production. Wolff explained how each antenna is set up with a round ball on the top and a square end on the bottom. Visitors saw wire springs that are stretched out and then wrapped around the antenna. The wire wrapped around the antennas help reduce wind noise.

Wolff moved on to the coaxial cable production on the other side of

See ROTARY, Page 5

Goodland Rotary club members Marty Melia (from left), Larry Morgan, Clyde Lambert, Dick Liess, John Baker and Ron Lucas crowded into the Adronics/Elrob Manufacturing Corp. line, where they watched a worker spot weld a wire mesh to an antenna.

Photo by Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News



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K-27 bridge progressing



Crews from L and M Construction of Great Bend prepared to install the final set of pilings for the center of the new bridge on K-27 south of Goodland. The bridge is to be completed by fall, and moves the highway about 100 feet east. The bridge is the first phase of the major change for the section of K-27 from Goodland to the Wallace County line to be completed next year. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

County development office assists business expansions

DEVELOPMENT, from Page 2

cil is developing a Tax Exemptions and Policy Incentives package to help lure businesses to the area. Members believe that Goodland has a winning combination with quality education, adequate housing, good health care facilities and strong transportation access by rail, air and highway.

Economic development has strong ties with tourism. What better way to display the character of a city than through tourism? Agritourism is becoming more popular nationwide. What farmers consider routine, people from the city find fascinating. Many are willing to pay to experience some aspect of farm life. A special effort is underway to work with farmers in developing agritourism opportunities.

Sherman County is fortunate to have talented artists. Several pieces of artwork are available for purchase downtown, including the economic development office. A six-county Artists' Roundtable is being formed for those who are interested in expanding their love of art into a business. Details are available at the economic development office. Mrs. Davis will be assisting the effort.

If you are interested in learning more about any of the programs, please contact the Sherman County Economic Development office at 1208 Main. The office is open from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The phone number is 785-899-3743, and e-mail address is shermancoecdev@yahoo.com. Check out our website at www.goodland-kansas.us.

Alex's expanding shop to provide more services

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

After a few years of waiting, a Goodland automotive shop is finally expanding.

Alex West, owner of Alex's Radiator and Auto Repair, said he had been thinking about building for the past few years, but it didn't come together until now.

"I've needed the room," West said, adding the First National Bank and the U.S. Small Business Association helped get the project started.

The new steel building will be 60 feet by 60 feet with 16-foot walls, he said.

There will be room for a least three car lifts or a semi tractor.

The shop will have space for an office, waiting room and restrooms.

West said the shop not only repairs radiators, but does other work. With the expansion, he added, they will do even more, from working on tires to oil changes, tune-ups and complete exhaust replacement.

New tire equipment will allow workers to remove, replace, patch and balance tires. He said they offer small-engine repair, too.

The new building will be complete with the business' first computer system to do billing and

payroll. West said they will build special racks to store tires and add equipment for oil.

He said he will keep one existing small building for radiator repair.

He will use the other building for tire and vehicle storage.

The biggest benefit to the new building, he said, is indoor space.

"We've always had to do work outside," he said, sweating in the summer and freezing in the winter. "It was kind of cold working on semis outside."

The new building will have heating and air conditioning in the office and portable air conditioners for the shop.

West took over the shop in 1998 from Lonny Potterff and bought radiator equipment from MCB's.

He said the new building was on his list for the past few years, but they hadn't been able to do it until just recently.

Construction work is being done by Goody's, with Marty Johnson doing the electrical work and McClure Plumbing the pipes.

West said he plans to open his new building to the public later this summer.

Sherman County Economic Development

1208 Main, Suite 1

Goodland, Kan. 67735

Telephone: 785-899-3743

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Kim Bohme, Treasurer

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Automotive radio antenna plant expanding

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News
Antennas and coaxial cable has been leaving Goodland by the truck-load as a new manufacturing plant takes root.

Adronics/Elrob Manufacturing Corp., a New Jersey-based company with a plant in Hays, moved into the city-owned plant at 1006 Center, formerly occupied by Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp., in April.

In two months, the workforce has built to more than 30 people on two cable lines and an antenna line.

Troy A. Robinson, a vice president of Adronics who runs the Kansas operations, said the Goodland plant acts as a satellite, with parts traveling back and forth from Hays.

The Hays plant employs about 240.

Robinson said Adronics makes antennas and related parts, including the coaxial cables used to connect the antenna to car radios, antenna base mounts, global positioning system mounts for cars and under-hood lighting.

The antennas are made for General Motors, Honda, Hyundai, Kia, Isuzu and Hummer vehicles and even Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Robinson said Adronics produces 100,000 antennas a week and uses 8 million feet of coaxial cable per year.

They design and make the specialized equipment for producing antennas, he said, and they keep the equipment for making replacement parts for at least 10 years.

Robinson said the company starts making antennas for future batches of cars years in advance.

Adronics is a family-owned company started in 1948 by Robinson's grandparents, Elsa and William "Robbie" Robinson. Today, he and his cousin, Karen Robinson Murphy are vice presidents working in Hays and New Jersey.

"It's always been a family-owned business," Robinson said. "We're the third generation."

Their grandparents names contributed to the name of the business. Adronics comes from Adrian, their grandfather's middle name. Elrob came from the couple's ham radio call sign, a combination of Elsa and Robbie.

Adronics started out supplying antennas for General Motors, he said, and the company that still buys 65 percent of their production.

Adronics now ships parts all over the world, though, to Korea, France, South America, Germany, Mexico and more, from the New Jersey base. Some parts are shipped directly to other suppliers, including Delphi.

Robinson said they chose Goodland because of its location.

"We were looking for an area farther away from Hays," he said, noting that Goodland has good highway access for trucking parts back and forth to Hays.

He said they were looking for a community that could benefit from a new business, too.

Adronics offers employees full-time work and full benefits after 90 days, including medical, dental, life insurance, a drug card, vacation after a year, a raise in six months and bonuses for perfect attendance.

The plant will continue to grow, Robinson said, as they add up to seven lines to the building and 50 employees by the end of summer.

The company will be getting a few more lines in Kansas, he said, as soon as they reduce some jobs at the New Jersey plant. He said they have been slowly moving lines here for years because shipping is easier.

Robinson said they are planning a grand opening at the plant this summer and people are welcome to stop by anytime.



Nick Wolff (left), Hays plant assistant with Adronics/Elrob Manufacturing Corp., showed Goodland Rotary Club members Linda Koons and Pete Whalen an antenna. Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

Rotary tours antenna factory

ROTARY, from Page 3

the building. The long strands of black wire hung on hooks from above work stations.

The group learned how the ends of the cable are put on, from bending the wires back to soldering the metal end.

When the tour was finished, Rotary members had a chance to ask Wolff about production.

He stressed the importance of quality to the Adronics company. Each cable is tested before it leaves the line and tested again before it leaves the building. He said they do resistance tests and check measurements to find problems.

He said the cables are marked to allow damaged pieces to be traced to the line and employee.

One Rotary member asked if employees can rotate from one job to another. Wolff said everyone rotates three or four times a day, moving from one place on the line to another.

"Before they're done," he said, "they're trained on everything."

Employees do stay on one product, he said, coaxial cable or antennas, but not both.

Wolff said 29 people are working in the plant right now and four more were to start Monday. The company plans to add two more lines in Goodland and have about 50 employees by the end of summer. He said they have a plan to eventually fill the building.

The plant in Hays, he said, employs about 240 people.

"Good tour," said Rotary member Wayne Aten, adding that though he thought the plant was interesting, he didn't think coming out of retirement was an option.



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Round up of business changes, expansions

Here is a roundup of progress reports from Sherman County businesses. If a business is not listed, it may mean it did not submit a report on time. Reports have been edited for style and length.

AMERICAN FAMILY INS.

American Family Insurance has moved to 516 E. Hwy. 24.

The office is run by agent Chandra Ruhs, licensed assistant Berlinda Baehler and licensed life/health representative Dana Schields.

Mike and Chandra Ruhs purchased the building in December and have remodeled it for the business. There is office space available to rent.

AVALANCHE LIQUOR

Avalanche Liquor Mart opened its doors at 2213 Enterprise Road on Jan. 3.

There has been quite a bit of remodeling done to the store and other small improvements are in the plans for later this summer.

Avalanche carries the largest wine selection in northwest Kansas, as well as cold beer. It has spirits, liqueur, mixes, champagne and cordials, as well as new products in every category. The drive-up window adds to the convenience of the store.

The store is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. 785-890-7350.

GOODLAND MACHINE AND AUTOMOTIVE

In the spring, Goodland Machine and Automotive LLC was able to participate in a test program involving the 8.1 Chevrolet engine for irrigation with modifications to the Electronic Control Module, valves, seats and carburetion designed to bring this engine to a level of fuel efficiency never before seen in the industry.

Behind the test programs are companies committed to bringing new technologies of the 21st Century into the irrigation engine business. As the local dealer for these engines, Goodland Machine and Automotive has test sites in operation. We have seen results that lead us to believe this technology has significantly increased fuel efficiency without curtailing the projected life of the engine.

We provide AAA approved auto repair, tire sales and oil changes with AAA inspection, plus machine shop services, engine rebuilding, cooling coils and gearheads in stock, irrigation parts and in-field service.

Rent A Ride LLC provides daily and weekly car rentals. We are at 419 E. 19th, Goodland, 785-899-6628.

HIGH PLAINS OFFICE

Last fall we installed a new heat system in our building at 1118 Main, and moved it to the back room. This allowed us to almost double our showroom.

We installed new carpet, put up new shelving and fixtures, added more lighting and refinished the over-100-year old hardwood floor in the rear area of the store.

With the improved space, we were able to double our inventory of office machines and add more furniture. We expanded our offerings of office supplies and accessories.

We added to our model and hobby inventory, and added a display case in the front of the store

full of built models made by the Northwest Kansas Scale Modeler's Society, which meets monthly at the store.

In January, High Plains began selling janitorial and cleaning supplies for commercial use. This spring, we added a full-color digital copier to the copy/fax center.

Recently, High Plains added the Value Plus line of office products, which includes everyday office supplies at competitive prices.

Darrick Leiker is the manager, and Kathy Jackson is the office manager. Tammy Leiker handles the accounts payable/receivable and payroll. Store hours are 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. 785-890-6900.

HITCHOCK

Hitchcock Inc. opened its doors in Goodland in March 1999. The irrigation business is owned by Royce and Duane Hitchcock from Burlington.

Marc Pottorff is office manager, with 30 years experience in the irrigation industry; Robbi Pottorff and Marilyn Bliss are secretaries; Randy Hendricks handles the parts department and Bill Kendrick, Dustin Anderson, Zeb Ruda and Nate Minor are the service and field crew.

Hitchcock, at 723 W. Hwy 24, is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the summer and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the winter, and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to noon. Phone number 785-899-5628 or 1-800-798-5628.

Hitchcock sells Valley center pivots and services all brands. We also do underground trenching and backhoe work. The company installs lawn sprinklers and drip irrigation systems for crops and landscaping.

This year the company expanded the parts department and added a welding shop with a 6,000-square-foot building addition. The addition has allowed the company to stock a wider variety of steel and parts.

NEW YORK LIFE

Last fall New York Life returned to Goodland by hiring Scott Weber as an agent.

New York Life is a 160-year old company and one of the oldest, largest and strongest financial institutions in the world. The firm has a wide assortment of services, including retirement planning, wealth accumulation, education planning, life insurance, long-term care and disability insurance.

Weber, a life-long Goodland resident, is helping people around the Tri-state area. Along with complimentary consultations, conducts wealth accumulation workshops once a month. These help people understand different strategies for accumulation.

The New York Life office is at 1002 Main No. 103 in Goodland. This office is attached to the Colorado General Office in Arvada.

NORTHWEST KANSAS TECH COLLEGE

Over the past year there have been a lot of moves forward at Northwest Kansas Technical College.

One of the changes is the addition of the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration program. This is a 10-month program that certifies an individual to obtain a career in

Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Commercial Refrigeration.

The college has been approved to start a Respiratory Therapy program, and the classes will begin as soon as financing is found to support the program.

The technical college is anticipating—in the coming year—the expansion of the Auto Body and Diesel Technology programs. This will be done by either expanding the existing buildings, or by creating a new facility. In the past year the technical college has put in a library and staffed it, located in the Student Resource Center.

Besides expansion of programs and the addition of new programs, the college has added a variety of new faculty and staff. With the new programs and the addition of the new faculty and staff, the technical college is anticipating growth and progress in the years to come.

RASURE LUMBER

In May, Rasure Lumber Do it Center of Goodland purchased Golden Wholesale Hardware in Colby.

With a commitment to northwest Kansas, the Rasure family feels the union of the two stores will help both communities.

In Goodland, the store is strong in lumber and building materials, and the store in Colby is strong in hardware.

We will be able to have both in each location, said Kevin Rasure, with a Rental Center at both

stores.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

ReNewable Energy Resources opened its office in April and could be providing power to the city of Goodland by November.

Mark Justus, resources manager for the firm, has been working with the city to build a small wind farm near Goodland to help provide relief from rising power costs.

The wind farm will provide about one megawatt of power to the city and the price will be lower than the electricity the city buys now.

The firm plans to erect five towers on a site about a half mile south of 1-70 near County Road 17. This will allow the power to connect with the city lines west of town. Another five towers could be added later.

In April, Raj Kumar Khemka, vice chairman of NEPC India Limited, visited Goodland and signed a contract with ReNewable to become its exclusive U.S. distributor. NEPC will provide technical assistance or installation of the turbines.

The firm is looking at selling wind turbines to individuals as well as cities and power companies.

ReNewable Energy Resources, at 1202 Main, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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Oberlin - located in our drive up

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Stratton, Colorado - located inside Ampride

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Pioneer Park becoming beautiful reality



Miller Construction has been working quickly to lay the outside sidewalk area (above) that surrounds the new Pioneer Park on Cherry Ave. Nearly all the main sidewalk has been poured including the hike and bike trail which extends along the east side of Cherry (right) north to 18th Street. The rains of early June delayed some of the dirt work by Mitch Tiede, but with the warmer days of summer the basic work on the pond area has been completed. Work on the park is expected to be completed by October.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



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'50s-style diner to feature steaks, eggs

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Steak, eggs, sandwiches and more will be on the menu at the new 1950s-style Goodland Steakhouse Diner late this summer.

"Excellent food and '50s atmosphere," is what owner Tom Blair said people can expect from the new restaurant.

The diner will have a nostalgic feel, he said, but poodle skirts, 45 rpm records, hula hoops and bobbie socks will be optional.

Blair, a Benkelman, Neb., native and owner of the Western KEG sports bar and restaurant there, said he plans to sell his Benkelman restaurant and move to Goodland.

"There's just more traffic," he said of his location behind Taco John's and Goodland Sinclair just off K-27.

Blair said access to travelers on I-70 and K-27 should help his business grow.

He plans to have a tall sign to attract people from the highway and said he may put up a billboard.

Blair said he is looking forward to



The Diner-Mite company of Atlanta will send a diner similar to this west this summer to set up the Goodland Steakhouse Diner.

doing business in Goodland.

"It's a town that's on the upswing," he said.

The diner will serve breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Blair said they will specialize in steaks for dinner.

"You're going to be eating the best

food between Kansas City and Denver," he said.

The restaurant will have a casual bar, he said, serving beer, whiskey, specialty wines and mixed drinks.

The diner will have seating for 120, 85 in the front and 40 in a back smoking section near the bar.

Blair said the restaurant will be a Happy Days model restaurant made by Diner-Mite Diners of Atlanta. The company builds ready-made diners that come with grills, coolers and other equipment. The Georgia company will ship the diner in pieces and assemble it here.

Blair said he chose the type of restaurant because he likes the 1950s-style diners in Denver.

"They just real neat," he said, adding they are easy to keep up.

The diner, he said, will look similar to the Penny's Diner in Sharon Springs but will hold more people.

Blair plans to hire about 25 full- and part-time waitresses, cooks and other staff from this area.

"I'm gonna run it 100 percent," he added, saying he wants to live in Goodland, too.

Blair said he and his wife Rosemary will move to Goodland after he sells the restaurant in Benkelman. He is moving not only for the business, but he has family in town.

County Treasurer Shelby Miller is a first cousin on his father's side — Blair's father and Miller's mother were brother and sister. He said the late Jim Blair, a double cousin of his father — his cousins were two sisters who married two brothers, making the cousins double — started the first radio and television station in Goodland, KWGB, which is now KLOE.

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The Country Advocate



Wind farm plan would supply city with cheaper cost power

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

Plans for a wind farm that would supply Goodland with power for the next 20 years have been pushed back to November, officials of the firm involved say.

Mark Justus of ReNewable Energy Resources said last week that the company will start pouring the cement pads and doing underground wiring next month, but the actual wind turbines will not arrive in Goodland until Thursday, Sept. 15.

"We're down to waiting on the turbines," he said.

Justus said the delay was because they were late signing a contract with the turbine supplier, NEPC India Limited. Justus said he signed the contract last month, after the deadline to ship in June.

He said now the towers will be shipped in August and arrive in September. That will place wind farm operation and power generation to sometime in November, he said.

The wind turbines, he said, are made as ordered and NEPC does not keep a stock.

When city commissioners signed a contract to buy the wind power, Justus had said the towers could be producing power by September, with work beginning in May.

The wind farm will start out with four turbines, Justus said, and expand to eight later. The four will take about eight days each to set up.

"When they get here, we'll be ready to go," he said.

The four turbines will produce about 3 megawatts of power, equal to 1,300 horsepower, and

Wind generators from NEPC India (left) will arrive in Goodland in September to be erected south of I-70. The towers will provide 3 megawatts of power for the City of Goodland, and supply about 13 percent of the city's power needs. The cost has been fixed at \$41 per megawatt hour for the first five years and \$45 for the next 15.

about 8 million kilowatt hours per year. Justus said that's about 13 percent of Goodland's 56,000 to 60,000 megawatt hours used per year.

The city agreed to a contract that locks the price of the energy in at 4.112 cents per kilowatt hour for the first five years, or \$41 per megawatt hour, and .45 cents, \$45 per megawatt hour, for the next 15 years.

The contract has an option for the city to buy the wind farm for \$1.25 million after it is in operation for 10 years. Justus told city commissioners there were many details to be worked out on the option, and the commission decided to table that until later.

He said he did not have a problem with the city waiting on the purchase option and said the city could exercise the option at any time.

Although Justus wouldn't reveal the exact location of the farm, he said the towers will be set up south of Goodland off of County Road 18.

Since signing the contract, Justus said, they have had many meetings with NEPC officials. In May, Raj Kumar Khemka, vice chairman of NEPC, visited the office here and said he plans

to return.

Justus plans to send two employees to India to train with NEPC on installing the turbines. He said the workers will go 30 days before the equipment is shipped and head out to the field with Indian workers. Some NEPC engineers will head here in November, too, he said,

As business expands, Justus said, they have hired more employees. The firm opened an office here in April. They now have seven employees, he said, four from Goodland and three who worked for Justus before.

He said others in town besides the city have been interested in the turbines.

"We've been really busy," he said.

ReNewable also is planning some projects in Colorado, he said. Farmers are interested in the turbines, he said, because they can use the power to draw water for irrigation. In the off season, the same farmers can sell the power they generate to power companies.

Justus has set up shop at 1202 Main. Barb Bedore, office manager, is available to help anyone who comes in from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or you can call 785-890-WIND (9463).

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Business round up

ROUND UP, from Page 6

HANKS CAFE

Hank's Cafe opened in February, 2004, and the Grain Bin Lounge opened in March of that year.

We are a full service family restaurant with home-style cooking and a quiet cocktail lounge.

We have 20 to 25 employees. We are open seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Hank Breeden is the owner; Marsha Moony, manager; and Colleen Smith, assistant manager and bookkeeper.

MR. JIM'S HIS AND HER SHOP

Mr. Jim's has completed the first year under new ownership, with a lot of changes and new clothing selections.

The store sells clothing for men, and now has incorporated ladies apparel.

Mr. Jim's has added the Brighton line, which includes men's belts and wallets, ladies jewelry, watches, sunglasses, wallets, purses, organizers, belts and fragrances.

Other additions include the Levi's jeans line, which includes Dockers for men and women, and Jockey for women.

Tribal and French dressing selections are offered.

Mr. Jim's is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 1112 Main.

STAGE STOP/SINCLAIR

Stage Stop/Goodland Sinclair owner Mike McGlone is expanded his business ventures with a new custom rod shop at Ninth and Main.

"The Rod Shop" will offer classic auto and truck restoration, custom paint and body repair, upholstery, and chrome and glass replacement. McGlone said he plans to offer powder coating. There will be a paint booth for controlled conditions. He plans to employ four auto body specialists.

He will offer the same customized services for motorcycles.

McGlone and his crew will build to customer's specifications with estimates, and help locate hard-to-find parts and tires. He and his crew will help locate any special vehicle, including a motorcycle.

McGlone plans to offer his own label spring water at Stage Stop and Goodland Sinclair. Both locations have "Wizard of Oz" memorabilia, with the east location offering seven-day-week auto and tire repair. Summer hours are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Stage Stop is near the east Goodland exit from I-70 along Business U.S. 24. Goodland Sinclair is at 2320 Commerce Road, south of Taco John's.

SUNFLOWER COMPUTING SERVICE CYBERLAND

Sunflower Computing Services, owned and operated by Rick Breining, has been in business for two years.

As the only store in northwest Kansas dedicated to computers and related peripherals, Sunflower can serve all your computer needs, from service and networking to equipment sales.

Sunflower Computing provides a recycling service for old computers and parts. They store is at 17th and Broadway in Goodland.

If you like to play the latest computer games, cyberLAND has 10 high-end computers with the latest games networked together and on the Internet to allow the ultimate multi-player experience. X-Boxes are connected to 27-inch flat screen televisions with comfortable futons for seating. Recent additions are stand-alone video arcade games.

As a premier member of iGames.org, cyberLAND participates in scheduled competitions and tournaments that have prizes donated by manufacturers. CyberLAND offers "lock-ins" at least once a quarter, which have been popular, and birthday parties.

Sunflower Computers and cyberLAND can be reached at 785-890-8200.

DR. MARK WAHLMEIER

Dr. Mark Wahlmeier, optometrist, has joined the health care community in Goodland. He began seeing patients at the 110 W. 10th St. location in Goodland in March after purchasing the practice of Dr. Thomas White, who was recalled to military service. Dr. Kay Driver, a retired optometrist in Goodland, had practiced in this location for many years prior.

Dr. Wahlmeier, who is in practice with Dr. Jeff Morrison of Colby, provides full-service family eye care to patients of all ages.

He has a specific interest in low vision and offers his services for patients who have varying degree of vision loss. Other offerings include an exclusive two-year warranty on frames and lenses and a "guaranteed success" contact lens program.

Office hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Appointments can be scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays and every other Thursday. The office is in downtown Goodland at 110 W. 10th St. 785-899-3654 or www.eyeclinic.com.

WARDROBE CLEANERS

Wardrobe Cleaners, 1019 Center, is open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Following the death of John Schiefen in February, the Schiefen family has kept the business running. Pat Schiefen, with the help of Jimmy, son, and her mother, Henrietta Homm, maintain regular hours and the quality of service the business has had for over 75 years.

Plans include expanded hours. The phone number is 899-6213.

"We care about our services and our customers," Mrs. Schiefen said.

ZIMMERMAN PLUMBING

Zimmerman Plumbing's experienced staff is dedicated to assisting with efficient, reliable customer service.

"We're there when you need us," said Randy Zimmerman, "not the other way around."

The firm has new Perma Liner technology, which allows a plumber to repair broken or cracked pipes made of virtually any material, including cast iron, clay, and plastic, without extensive excavation or property damage. Because the process takes just hours to complete, customers experience minimal interruption in their daily routines.

Zimmerman is at 1111 Main in Goodland. For information or a free consultation, contact Zimmerman at (866) 890-7030

Employees are Ron Johnson, George Shocky and Ivan Goodman. Part time secretary and bookkeeper is Julie Todd.

Painting dresses up the book

The Feist phone book for Northwest Kansas this year featured the Van Gogh painting from Goodland on the cover. The painting can now be seen at night thanks to a light erected by the Goodland Rotary Club as part of their centennial project. With work progressing on Pioneer Park to the west the area around the painting will be leveled, and planted to grass.



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Howard Johnson Hotel, Lincoln Wilson, LLC would like to take this opportunity to thank the local community of Goodland for their support as we celebrate our first year in business!

Your overwhelming support has allowed us to provide numerous employment opportunities and services for the area. By funding local charities, volunteering with area organizations and supporting community promotion, Howard Johnson Hotel continues our commitment to making our community strong.

The staff of Howard Johnson Hotel appreciates and thanks you for your support. We look forward to serving you in the coming years.



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2005 Business Promotion Award Winner!

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