

# Auto supply business to reopen Thursday

By Kathryn Burke  
The Goodland Star-News

An old business on Main is being revitalized into something new, but with one foot rooted in the past.

Keith Bracelin bought the old Shores Brothers automotive and hardware store on South Main, and is planning to reopen it this week as Shores Bumper to Bumper, an auto parts store.

The grand opening is set for sometime in October or November, but the doors will be unlocked on Thursday.

The store will be open from 7 a.m. to 5:30 Monday through Friday and half a day on Saturday, Bracelin said.

Keeping the tradition of Shores Brothers, a business opened in Goodland in 1935, is a top priority for Bracelin.

"I bought it because I thought we still needed it in town," he said.

From restoring the mural along the south side of the building to working on the original tin ceiling, the new owner says he is trying to keep the spirit of the old store intact.

The Shores Brothers started in Denver with Torrance T. Ward and Grace Shores said a Sherman County Historical Society history on the building.

The Shores' son Torrance T., or T.T., came to Goodland in 1934 to collect from a delinquent account, and got the store as payment. Torrance and his family liked Goodland and decided to stay, leaving Denver in 1935.

Torrance's sons, Torrance C. and Norman Shores, ran the business with a guiding hand from John C. Tilly, an uncle and life-long employee, until in 1984, when Torrance C. retired, selling his share to Norman. In 1996, Norman died, leaving the store on to the third generation, his sons Steve and Greg Shores. Greg closed the business last March.

Bracelin said so far, he has done a lot of work on the old building.

"It's an old store," he said. "It needs to be treated like one."

He said they have fixed windows, painted, worked on electricity, added insulation and more.

"We've been cleaning and dusting and painting a little bit of everything," he said, adding they've barely made a dent in the list.

This week, Bumper to Bumper, an automotive equipment supply company, had workers and factory representatives filling the building.



Jeff White with WW Construction painted in a portion of the Champion Spark Plug sign on the side of the Shores Brothers building. The building is being fixed up to open Thursday as Shores Bumper

Bracelin said they should have everything stocked and ready to go by Thursday.

Shores Brother handled automotive and hardware, but Bracelin said he wants eliminate some of the hardware. They may get some garden items in next spring, he said.

Bracelin wants to make sure the store to has everything customers need in stock with overnight delivery available. The store won't install anything except for the occasional car battery, he said.

The new store takes up only the south part of a building which is

to Bumper auto parts. WW donated time to re-do the sign and Bumper to Bumper donated the paint.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

nearly half a block long. Bracelin said eventually he might add a gun store in the north part.

Opening a shop in town where many are closing has turned a few heads, Bracelin said, but the planned energy center west of town should turn things around.

"I think Goodland has hit a slow place," he said. "It's been tough for everybody up and down Main."

"I think we're going to come back. I really think as soon as we get some of this stuff going, it'll turn around."

"I'm betting on it."

## Owner former tire man

Keith Bracelin, the owner of the new Shores Bumper to Bumper store, is no stranger to business.

The 70-year-old businessman owned Great Western Tire, now Kansasland Tire, for 30 years.



Bracelin

He branched out from Goodland, making ties with tire stores in Burlington, Colo., Dodge City and Garden City. In 2000, after Bracelin turned 65, he sold the business and retired.

Re-entering the workforce with the new store is just temporary, he said.

He expects his son Mel and grandson Robert to take over in a few years.

Mel and Robert attended a Bumper to Bumper school last week to learn the ropes.

Bracelin said he grew up in St. Francis, graduating from high school there in 1953.

He worked in a tire store there until going out on his own to run a butcher shop.

In 1970, he opened the tire shop here.

Bracelin and his wife Jeanette live in the Paxton addition just south of Goodland.

He said Jeanette thinks he is crazy for opening the new store.

Bracelin said he doesn't have any formal training in business management and he doesn't consider himself an expert, but he's relying on his experience to make the new store work.

"It's a whole new adventure," he said.

# West Nile virus reported in 13 Kansas counties, five human cases

Five human cases of West Nile virus have been confirmed in Kansas this year, and evidence of the virus has turned up in 13 counties, officials of the state Department of Health and Environment said Wednesday.

The state tracks only serious cases which affect the nervous system. Most cases — the disease in adults usually is mild and undiagnosed — apparently go unreported.

The fourth and fifth cases were reported in Douglas County. Both a 61-year-old resident (a probable case) and an 82-year-old (a confirmed case) had onset of symptoms in the latter half of August. Lab testing on both cases was just recently completed.

Positive mosquito pools have been confirmed in Crawford, Ellis and Stafford counties. Horses have tested positive in Decatur and Reno counties.

The health department previ-

ously identified human cases in Johnson, Douglas and Rice counties and virus-positive mosquito pools in Barton, Mitchell, Trego and Wallace counties, as well as a horse in Anderson County.

Although these are the counties where the virus has been detected and reported, it is considered to be present throughout Kansas. Human cases in Kansas typically appear in mid summer, then increase through the late summer months and early fall months.

"August and September are the peak months of infection in Kansas, so we must all take precautions to reduce our risk of becoming infected with West Nile Virus," said Gail Hansen, state epidemiologist. "This includes wearing insect repellent when outdoors, limiting outdoor activities at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active, and draining standing water where possible or using a larvicide."

"All Kansans should take precautions no matter which part of the state they live in," said Dr. Howard Rodenberg, director of health.

West Nile virus is primarily a disease of birds, spread to people and horses by infected mosquitoes. It is not contagious from person to person.

Symptoms range from mild (slight headache and low grade fever) to extreme (neurological disease - swelling of the brain or brain tissue) and in rare cases, death. Most people have no symptoms. Once a person contracts the virus, they are immune to it.

Most healthy people infected with West Nile show either no symptoms or only mild symptoms. About 20 percent of those infected show any symptoms, typically seen 3-15 days after the mosquito bite.

Since the symptoms are not specific to the virus, only special laboratory tests can confirm a diagnosis.

To be prepared against the disease, take personal precautions including use of an approved insect repellent, and reducing mosquito breeding grounds.

### To reduce the risk of infection

Use an insect repellent on the skin. In addition to those that contain DEET, repellents containing Picaridin and oil of lemon eucalyptus are effective in repelling mosquitoes.

Follow label directions.

Wear protective clothing, long sleeves and long pants, when practical.

Remove standing water, where mosquitoes breed, including clogged gutters or unused tires.

Use larvicide in water that cannot

be drained or removed.

Change water every three days in bird baths, pet bowls and wading pools

Limit outdoor activities at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.

Birds are not being collected or tested for the virus this year. If you find a dead bird, the department recommends you wear gloves, place it in a plastic bag, and dispose of it in the garbage.

**2004 West Nile Cases:** In 2004, there were nine con-

firmed cases of West Nile virus neuroinvasive disease and 37 probable cases (including both neuroinvasive and non-neuro-invasive cases) reported.

There were two deaths in Kansas. Researchers are trying to determine how often West Nile virus, an emerging infectious disease, results in prolonged illness or death.

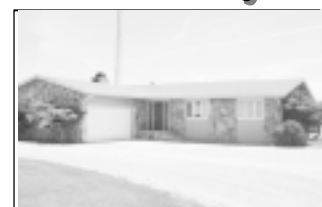
For more information, go to www.westnileks.com, or call the state health department's toll-free automated West Nile virus information hotline, (877) 228-2287.

## corrections

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