

# New jobs highlight annual development review

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ment to expand with an opportunity to continue to grow.”

Garcia said the Goodland Energy Center is moving very rapidly toward the start of construction, and already has 14 employees.

Garcia said a planned steak house diner has been delayed by the death of one of the partners, but that the estate has been settled, and the project is moving forward, with delivery expected in

the next 30 days. The new diner will employ 25 people full time and 15 part time.



Garcia

Other businesses new to Sherman County are Timothy and Any Isham at Atresan Woodworking, Joyful Noise Preschool, Prairie Rose Floral, Bubba’s Meat Market, Mike McClone’s Stage-stop bodyworks and the Edson Gym Market.

He said it was great to see Keith Bracelin reopen Shores Bumper-to-Bumper auto parts, continuing a 70-year tradi-

tion, and to retain the optometrist’s office with the expansion of Dr. Mark Wahlmeier from Colby.

Another area of progress, he said, was the artists’ roundtable, which Mrs. Younger has been pushing, which promotes the talents and skills of area artists.

“Positive changes in the midst of tough times shows that our community continues to go forward with spirit of commitment,” Garcia said. “We’re in it together, and that should be our focal point.

“Some people see problems in every solution. Some see solutions in every problem. It is not up to

Sherman County, not up to the city, it is we the people who make this community. That has to be a challenge to us.

“It all ends up here. I wish this room was filled with 300 people. We are the leaders.

“Sometime the changes that need to be made are tough. We open ourselves up to criticism, evaluation and judgment.

We have to challenge ourselves. Sometimes the position of leadership is a lonely position. It takes all of us working together to achieve success.”

# Hospital has big economic impact

Progress over the past year was the theme of reports given at the annual meeting of the Sherman County Economic Development Council Tuesday at the Goodland Elks Lodge.

Chairman John Garcia introduced Jay Jolly, administrator of Goodland Regional Medical Center; Wayne Hill, city manager; Donna Price, executive director of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau; and Brian Linin, president of Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce.



Jolly

## Goodland Regional Medical Center

Jolly talked about the pilot program the hospital started a year ago with Rural Health Works after four or five months of meetings. He said they had to gather information on

how the health service system works in Sherman County, and the data is being reviewed by Kansas State University through the Extension Service.

“Rural health is very important and has a high economic impact,” Jolly said. “There are specific quality-of-life issues, and businesses look for a good solid hospital and health care for employees.

“There is a similar importance for retirees, who are looking for good health care. In smaller communities, the hospital is the anchor of may services. Where you find a hospital, you find more physicians and more services, and other health-related providers.

“Sharon Spring is fortunate to have a nursing home. Without a hospital, the nursing home depends

on doctors in Goodland and Tribune to handle the oversight of care for the people.

“The incoming specialists at Goodland Regional Medical Center — there are 18 — bring people in from other towns with a regional draw. Eagle Med would not be in Goodland without the hospital. This is the busiest fixed-wing base in their system.”

Jolly said the hospital needs to look at more regional services, including a proposed veteran’s clinic.

Health care has direct and indirect impacts, Jolly said. Jobs and payroll are a direct impact and data from a study done in 2001 show there are 407 people employed in the health services sector here, about 8 percent of the county total. The hospital has 133 employees, which is 2.8 percent of county employment. The total health care pay-

# Manger says city has great opportunities

City Manager Wayne Hill, after three months on the job, said he believes there are tremendous economic development opportunities along the corridor of I-70.

“I see a lot of friendliness, and good quality of life,” Hill said. “I think there is a lot to offer, and I am proactive in economic development. The future can become a reality if everyone comes together



Hill

and works together.

“Health care is a key issue to economic development, and there is a tremendous airport. That is vital to economic development because key individuals need to be able to fly in and out. It attracts business people who come for a day and then go back home.”

Hill said there are exciting things going on, and he and the commissioners

will be looking at ways to entice people to come here.

“We are reviewing the zoning ordinances,” he said. “Some are antiquated and prohibit economic development. An example was the height requirement in the zoning ordinance. That was already covered by the airport zoning ordinance. We need to modify our zoning so it makes it more attractive for someone to come here.

“I support the energy center,” Hill said. “That is a great potential for

the city, and we are working closely with the group on several areas. Among those are the power transmission lines and grey water uses. We will look for way to help both they city and the energy group.

“We will work with any business that wants to locate here and needs to look at infrastructure. Please give me a call. We can work together with these people. We have to work together to get businesses.

“You have a great community here.”

# Kansas Guidebook includes Goodland section

Donna Price, executive director, said she had appreciated working with council Office Manager Kay Younger on the effort to bring author Marcie Penner to the city.

Price said Penner, who has written an “The Kansas Guidebook for Explorers,” did a good section on Goodland, and it mentions some of the businesses and restaurants here.

Penner was at the Ennis-Handy House on Saturday for a book signing and to talk about her book. She is executive director of the Kansas Sampler Festival.

Price said the area received a nice grant from Midwest Energy for \$500 to do an educational brochure on the Custer Trail stretching down to Fort Wallace.

She will be representing Sherman County and Goodland at three trade shows next year. The first is in Denver, followed by Kansas City and

Wichita.

There will be a new Goodland visitors guide printed this year, Price said, and ad sales will start soon so the book can be ready by March or April.

The Travel Industry of Kansas, which lobbies for travel and tourism, will be doing a state tour. The first stop will be at 1 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 5 in Sharon Springs.

The state film commission, of which Goodland’s Brenda McCants is a



Price

member, has been working to bring film production to Kansas. Price said a writer and producer were in the area recently, and are planning to do a film in the area in April or May. She said it is a non-profit group, and the area needs to raise \$70,000 to get the film. Gary Corbin has agreed to star in the film, which would be shot in Dighton, Goodland and the Fort Wallace area. The film

would be shown on cable and at the Sundance Film Festival.

“They want to help Kansas,” Price said, “and their careers as well.”

She said contributions to the project are tax deductible.

Income for the guest tax, which is paid by people staying in area motels, is up this year, Price said, and she hopes it continues to increase. The figures for October were down a bit, but Price felt that was because of the nearly \$3 per gallon price of gasoline.

She said the agritourism business continues to grow, and the state may pay for another year for a consultant. She said the corn maze here was one of the projects helped out by a new law limiting liability.

John Golden said the Kansas Magazine article on the Kuhrt Ranch gave the area a great boost.

Price said the Kuhrt ranch is doing well, and as a bed and breakfast they are collecting the guest tax. She said a number of people have been staying at the ranch, including Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

## Brewster All-Star Booster Club

### Calendar for Nov. 23 - Nov. 29

Wednesday to Friday - Thanksgiving Break.

Monday - Junior High Scholar’s Bowl at Grinnell, 4 p.m.

Tuesday - Junior High basketball game at Weskan, 3 p.m.; Scholar’s Bowl at Bird City, 4 p.m.

## Happy Thanksgiving

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# Energy Center work moving on schedule

All permit applications for the Goodland Energy Center west of town have been filed with state and federal environmental agencies, Chairman John Garcia told the Sherman County Economic Development Council at its annual meeting Tuesday.

The bio-diesel plant has been contracted, he said, and should be in operation by July.

The coal-fired power plant is scheduled to be on line in November. An ethanol plant will be on line by late summer. A possible fourth plant, owned by an outside investment group, may locate in the center, he said.

Garcia said there are 14 employees working for the center with a payroll in excess of \$540,000 at the Kansas office. The center is expected to employ 73 people with an average hourly wage of \$17.50.

“Work is proceeding at the

site,” he said, “for rail lines, ground work for drainage, capture ponds for water runoff and a storage warehouse is being built. Engineering and construction firms have been hired for all projects.

“New equipment for the power plant, ethanol plant and bio-diesel plant has been designed and ordered. Existing equipment purchased from the plants in Minnesota are being disassembled and shipped to the site.

“Renewable Energy Resources, acting as the project developer for the energy center, has purchased (buildings at) 1202 and 1204 Main for their offices.”

And there could be more to come, he said:

“The energy center is willing to donate 600 acres to any business that wants to locate in the industrial park and use the energy from the plants.”

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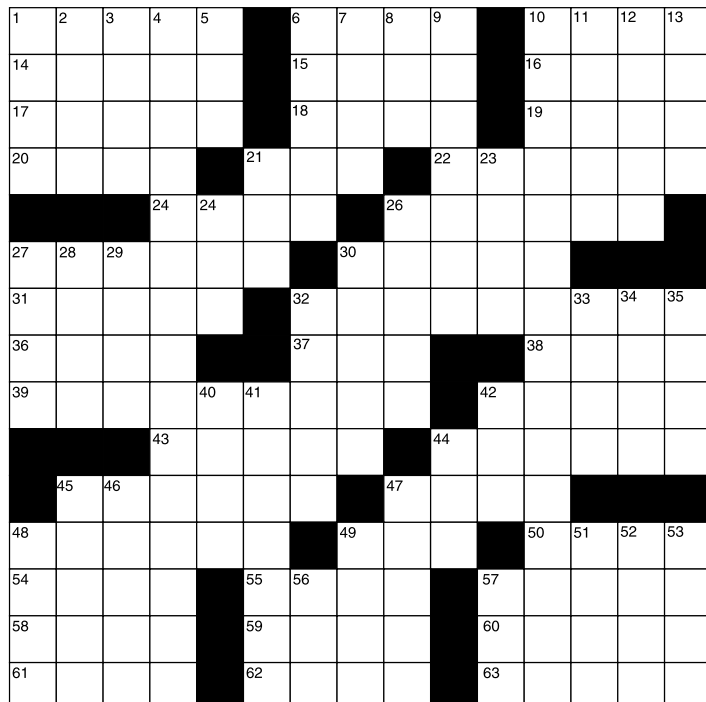
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## Crossword Puzzle



### CLUES ACROSS

- Fact
- Goofs
- Sheet of matted cotton
- Japanese dish
- Performing couple
- Needle case
- Warn
- Endow
- Color
- Make over
- Compose
- Cozier
- Battles
- Harry
- Ref
- Raid
- Joan, for one
- Like a sink
- Relative
- Kind of boat
- Mislay
- Vulgar women
- Spirits
- Comforts
- Remington and Garand
- Motion
- Obligation
- Unwind
- Top
- Members of Congress
- Type of flake
- Jewish calendar month
- Rarity
- Trig function
- Weed in a wheat field
- Sacred poem
- Spool
- Leered
- Afloat

### CLUES DOWN

- Despot
- Regulation
- Old
- Give up
- Punch
- Brims
- Spoil
- Pastor (abbr.)
- Keeper
- Disloyalty
- Tiny particles
- Songs
- Layer
- Before, prefix
- Bedouin, for one
- Creative work
- Beeps
- Military service, abbr.
- U.S. island
- Skewers
- Charges
- Shelter
- Spirit
- Maui, for one
- TV G-Man
- Bawl
- Single out
- Bro.
- One of many situps
- Famous orphan
- Old woman
- Challenged
- Russia
- Sympathetic
- Times
- Mound
- Male or female shape
- Time period
- Money man

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:



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