

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.

Holiday Inn Express

The footings for the new Holiday Inn Express are being poured and the expected finishing date should be around Christmas or January 2007.

Prairiesky Capital is building the new facility. The hotel is a project of Doug Irvin, Sherman County farmer; his brother, Mike Irvin, a Manhattan lawyer and former Sherman County attorney; with Mike Woofter, a Colby developer who owns two motels.

The motel will have 73 rooms and 14 family suites. It will have an indoor pool and exercise room. Woofter Construction will build the facility.

Prairie Rose Floral

As one of the new businesses in Goodland, Prairie Rose Floral Co., opened its doors on the first day of October, with a wide selection of house plants, silk floral arrangements, many gift items, fresh flowers, candles and a complete selection of balloons for all occasions.

Joni Guyer, owner and designer, along with her staff, will help you with all of your floral and gift item needs from the smallest gift to planning your wedding.

Custom silk floral arranging is available to help with your home decorating needs. Prairie Rose Floral is located at 1012 Main, and the store hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to noon and by appointment for your convenience. We can be reached at 899-ROSE (7673).

Goodland Machine

Goodland Machine has a lot of new services in the irrigation field. We now have the PSI - 21st Century Engines available from 35 HP to 150 HP. These engines are highly fuel-efficient. We are seeing 15-18 percent with the 5.7 engines. With the larger 8.1 we are seeing 12-15 percent. The 4.3 engine is showing as much as 22 percent. If you are in need of a motor replacement come see Terry or John to show you the data to back up this information. We have a test engine available. We are now installing water meters, and still doing the gear heads and cooling coils.

Goodland Machine owners Terry Selbe and Pam Mendenhall welcome the new staff member Marlin Hillmer. Other staff members include, John Dautel, John Whisnant and Jonna Eslinger. We are all here for our customers. We will give you the best service available. We have a full line of automotive repair and service. We do oil changes, tires, maintenance tune up and can scan any make and model of vehicle. Our staff has many years of experience. So be sure to call us for all your automotive needs. We have the cleanest and most well lit shop around, with modern equipment to handle any job. We are located at 419 E. 19th. Right by the new Pioneer Park. We are open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You can call for appointment. (785) 899-6628.



Foundation work has begun on the Holiday Inn Express, which is being built where the old Apple Trail Truckstop was located south of I-70. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Hitchcock

Hitchcock Inc. opened its doors for business in March of 1999. Our main focus is in the sales of Valley irrigation systems and service of all brands. We try to keep parts on hand for all brands, but can have them within 24 hours in most cases. We do underground pipeline installation and repairs, and sell and erect Chief metal buildings. We expanded into the lawn sprinkler service in 2000 with installation of new systems and repairing old. We stock Rainbird and Hunter parts and supplies as well as supplies for drip irrigation for trees.

Since the spring of 2005, we have expanded our shop and welding area to allow more room for steel inventory. We are possibly looking at moving into some type of manufacturing in the near future.

Marc Pottorff, office manager along with all employees, Robbi Pottorff, Marilyn Bliss, Bobbie Jo McKnight, Bill Kendrick, Dustin Anderson and Zeb Ruda would like to thank all of our valued customers for their business. Without them there wouldn't be an us.

Our store hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the winter months and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 7 a.m. to noon during the summer months. We can be reached at 1-800-798-5628 or 785-899-5628.

Dr. mark Wahlmeier

Dr. Mark Wahlmeier, optometrist, is well into his second year providing eye health and vision care in the Goodland community. Dr. Wahlmeier sees patients in Colby along with his partner, Jeff Morrison, O.D. Drs. Morrison and

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City brick intersection project ahead of schedule

Work on rebuilding five brick intersections on Main will begin in April, and base work on two intersections have been completed with two more under construction.

The project is several week ahead of schedule, but the bricks are not expected to be delivered until the first of August.

Darin Neufeld, engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, who is handling the project, told the city commission in April the plan had been changed because Miller Construction would not get the bricks before the first week of August.

Neufeld said he and City Manager Wayne Hill met with owner Mike Miller and agreed to change the order for replacing the intersections.

"We are going to switch and do 10th and 12th," Neufeld told the commission. "Construction will start April 24, and (those two) will be

done by June. We will put in transition asphalt until the brick arrives."

The base work on 10th and 12th went so well Miller moved to the intersection at Ninth in the middle of the month when 10th was done. His crew began tearing out the bricks at 13th and Main on June 23, and expects to open Ninth the week after the July 4 holiday.

That leaves the intersection at 11th to be the last one torn up.

Neufeld said if the bricks are delivered as scheduled Miller told him the first intersection to be completed would be Ninth where the Veterans of Foreign Wars is located.

"We will have some intersections shut down during the reunion," Neufeld said of the Goodland High gathering set for Aug. 11-13. "We will have to have it all reopened by Flatlanders, because they use all five intersections."

Roundup of businesses

WAHLMEIER, from Page 5

Wahlmeier have been in practice since 1993.

In April, Dr. Wahlmeier and staff moved their Goodland facility to 1002 Broadway. This move has allowed them to expand their optical dispensary and provide a more comfortable atmosphere for all their patients.

Dr. Wahlmeier and staff provide full service family eye care to patients of all ages. Dr. Wahlmeier has a specific interest in low vision and offers his services for those patients who have varying degree of vision loss as well. In addition to providing comprehensive eye care for the entire family, some of Dr. Wahlmeier's unique offerings include an exclusive two-year warranty on frames and lenses and a guaranteed contact lens success program.

Office hours are maintained Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Appointments with the doctor can be scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 785-899-3654.

Drs. Morrison and Wahlmeier maintain a website that includes information about their practice along with an Eye Encyclopedia and other helpful information on subjects related to eyes and vision. You can visit their website at www.eyecclinic.com.

Wheatridge Acres

A new road beside the existing duplexes at

Wheatridge Acres show the promise of what is to come.

"We are waiting for the contractor to finish in Burlington to break ground on three more duplex units which will contain six more apartments," said Director Donna Swager. "Some of them will be patio homes that can be purchased."

"We have a couple of people waiting for the duplexes," Swager said.

People living in the duplexes have one meal a day included in their rent, she said. Most chose to come at noon for the main meal. They also get a whirlpool/spa bath once a week.

The residents also have a lifeline so if they fall they can call for help. All maintenance is included plus utilities and trash. Housekeeping can be added. The nurses for the complex will consult on request.

The people can join in as many of the activities as they want.

"We have 36 occupants in the main facility with a few openings," Swager said. "We are licensed for 50."

The duplexes are for people who can do independent living and the main facility is for assisted living.

The next addition is planned for the north side of the main facility and will have an auditorium but it will be awhile, Swager said.

"We are the least expensive assisted living in the State of Kansas," Swager said.



Efrain Aguirre of Miller Construction smoothed the edge of a new curb from inside a storm drain manhole as Ben Ramirez smoothed the curb from the outside. The west curbs at 12th and Main were poured on June 2. The 12th and Main intersection was opened on June 27, and Contractor Mike said the bricks have been removed from Ninth and Main, where concrete is being poured. The intersection at 13th and Main has been closed, and the bricks and concrete removed. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



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District plans to cool school buildings

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland School District is making getting ready for the future.

Air conditioning has been talked about for the district's buildings for years. The board decided to start by air conditioning one school and try to do one a year after that depending on money. The other project is to establish a technology center with work room and class space in a warehouse owned by the district.

Glen Strait, Strait & Associates from Colby, came up with plans and estimates to air condition West Elementary School last year for the board.

The board decided not to do it last year. The board contacted him in February to come to the board meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 28, to talk about it again. The board decided to have him get bids to do the air conditioning at West. One thing about doing West is that North Elementary School has the same design and would not need architect work when its turn came to do air conditioning, Selby said.

Tatro Plumbing Co. Inc. from Garden City is doing the work and should



At the school district's request city crews removed the crossing signal at Central Elementary in May. More school caution signs have been installed at the intersections near the school.

be done by August.

"I would bet on them being through on schedule," Selby said.

A former neighborhood grocery

store at 14th and Broadway will get new life as the school district's technology center. The building has two rooms, 42 by 24 and 36 by 28, said

Selby. The back section could be used for work and storage and the front part for teaching.

The matter came up because Eagle Cable is laying new fiber-optic lines to carry cable and Internet signals in Goodland and the district needed to let them know where to run the Internet connections. If the district wanted to move its Internet new cable would not cost them anything, said Karla Murray, district technology coordinator.

Presently all technology is handled out of a janitor's closet in Central Elementary School. They are out of space, Murray said.

The remodel of the warehouse will cost around \$25,000.

"It will turn a not-very-well-used space into a nice space for technology," Selby said.

In an effort to stabilize the amount of money the district has for technology the Goodland School Board voted to raise taxes by 1 mil in the local option levy for that purpose. The levy would last for five years.

The board talked about using money from capital outlay, but decided it would need money for technology every year and the local option

budget would run for more than one year, said Superintendent Marvin Selby.

Part of that money is earmarked for new Internet servers for the district, projectors for the teacher's computers, junior high science lab computers and a printer for Grant Junior High Library.

The Northwest Kansas Technical College is in the process of adding on to the diesel technology building. The 11,000 square foot addition is currently being designed. That would allow the program to add 12 to 15 more students and possibly hire another instructor.

Currently the program has three instructors and had 18 sophomores and 22 freshmen.

That program has got potential to grow," said Clouse, president of the college.

The college is preparing to hire instructors to start a respiratory therapy program for the Fall, 2007. Time is needed for the accreditation from the National Respiratory Association.

Also in the Fall 2007 the college wants to start a program in telecommunication network analysis

Sherman County Economic Development

New Location 104 E. 10th

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