

# WELDING US ALL TOGETHER



Work is a huge part of who we are. It forms part of our identity, it keeps us busy and it provides for our families. In preparation for the upcoming Smithsonian exhibit "The Way We Worked" at the High Plains Museum, we would like to share a series of local work stories.

Sherman County supports a healthy agricultural community, one that involves all manner of work in relation to farming. From fertilizer suppliers and equipment sales, to coffee shops and hardware, Goodland has it covered for Ag needs. One such business helping out farmers (and many others in need), is Nemechek Welding.

Nemechek Welding has been in operation since June 2011 and is owned by Bryant Nemechek, a Sherman County native. He grew up around agriculture and has stayed connected to it throughout his life. He started out with a part-time mobile service in 2008 and has since expanded to a full time operation with a staff of two. Operating out of his workshop on 403 E. 19th, Bryant and his crew – wife Melissa and welder John Buckner – work on demand (with set hours from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.), servicing a 120-mile radius.

Bryant and his crew can weld anything from high profile jobs like taking down and putting back up Goodland's Big Easel or welding Kelly Clarkson's mobile catering trailer into working shape, to smaller jobs like fixing up farm machinery on-site or in his shop. Nemechek Welding is busiest in the summer and during harvest, but a typical day in the shop is unpredictable and consists of handling whatever call or job comes into the shop.

"Despite new technology and updated equipment our work stays the same," said Bryant.

Welding technology is relatively simple work. To increase their business capacity Bryant is R Stamp Certified – meaning that he has gone through a rigorous authorization process for the R Stamp type of welding which ensures a safe and reliable repair of pressure vessels. Bryant's goal is to expand his customer base and getting certified in different welding processes is part of that.

"We work in a great environment with a steady stream of good customers," Bryant said, "but we would like to broaden our customer base."

What Bryant enjoys most about his work is being the boss of his own business and getting out of the



John Buckner welded a piece of metal at Nemechek Welding. A Sherman County native, Bryant has been in business since 2011.

Photo courtesy of the High Plains Museum

shop to fix equipment in the field. Beyond his passion for agriculture, Bryant is connected to the community through his service as a firefighter, his past role as a welding instructor at Northwest Kansas Technical College, and his instrumental role in re-launching the Big Easel, Goodland's public art sculpture.

Nemechek Welding is a busy place and one that is working happily in the service of our agricultural community. You can find out more about Bryant and his services online at: [www.nemechekwelding.com](http://www.nemechekwelding.com). A lot of work has gone into setting up his business and in talking to Bryant one can definitely hear the pride and commitment in his work.

Look for more articles in this series about the way Goodland folks work. Tell us your own work story online at the High Plains Museum blog ([highplainsmuseum.org](http://highplainsmuseum.org)) or on our Facebook page and mark Dec. 15 on your calendar to see how Americans have worked over the decades at "The Way We Worked" Smithsonian exhibit. "The Way We Worked" Kansas tour is sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street program. Support for "The Way We Worked" Kansas tour has been provided by the Ross and Marianna Beach Foundation, the Western Kansas Community Foundation, and Jostens. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress. To find out more information visit the High Plains Museum and find us online ([highplainsmuseum.org](http://highplainsmuseum.org)).

# 21-year-old killed in wreck in rural Thomas County

WRECK, from Page 1

Jacob Laird, 22, Cozad, was admitted for observation and then released.

Keefe, Jade Kruse, Lotker and Smith were ejected from the pickup when it rolled. All seven were riding inside the cab, but none were wearing seat belts, the patrol said.

Steve Vacik, president of Colby Community College, said in a statement Monday morning that three of the injured were students at the college. The statement said college officials visited two of the students, who were

flown to Swedish Medical Center, and that one of them remains in critical condition.

Vacik said he could not say which of those in the wreck were students, or if any of the other four had ever studied at the college because of privacy concerns. However, a Facebook page for Gowen listed him as a student and a page for Jade Kruse said that she studied there.

"On behalf of the employees and trustees of Colby Community College, our thoughts and prayers go out to all of those impacted by the events of this past weekend," the president said.

# Company provides internet to schools

Eagle Communications announced a new partnership with the Goodland School District to provide high-speed Internet service to the school district.

"Eagle is once again proud to be able to partner with the Goodland public school district to provide high-speed Internet service to enhance the learning opportunities for the Goodland community," Travis Kohlrus, Eagle Broadband General Manager, said. "With USD 352's iPad initiative launching last week, we were happy to step up to the plate and provide a fast and reliable pipeline to the World Wide Web for this new learning initiative."

As the beginning of school approached and the district was pre-

paring for the launch of their iPad initiative, school officials contacted Eagle Communications about Eagle's SuperFast Internet connections to power this iPad project. Eagle's fast and reliable Internet speeds in Goodland school facilities ensure students and faculty can utilize the iPads to their fullest potential in the classroom.

"We have provided Internet service to the USD 352 school district for many years and are happy to once again be the provider of high-speed Internet for the district," Marty Melia, Eagle Communications Commercial Sales Representative, said. "When they called to see if we could re-establish Eagle SuperFast Internet service with speeds that met

their needs, we were able to do so on a short time frame. We look forward to continuing our long-term partnership with the school district."

Eagle Communications, Inc. is a Kansas-based Broadband Services and Media Company with over 250 employee-owners. The company operates 28 radio stations in Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri as well as cable TV systems in 30 Kansas and Colorado communities. The company also offers e-business solutions, web hosting, telephone service, high-speed Internet, and wireless Internet in most service areas. For more information logon to <http://www.eaglecom.net>.

## CLOSED LABOR DAY

Our office will be closed on Monday, September 3, in observance of Labor Day. Have a great weekend and please be safe!

## The Goodland Star-News

1205 Main Avenue, Goodland, KS 67735 • (786) 899-2338

# The Goodland Star News Service Directory

### Hendricks Realty, Inc.

Farm, Ranch, Residential & Commercial  
Phone: (719) 346-7187 • 1401 Rose Ave., Burlington, CO  
Mike Hendricks: (719) 340-0217 (cell #)  
Broker & Certified General Appraiser  
Debra Miller-(719) 340-0345 (cell #)  
Broker Associate

[www.hendricksrealtyinc.com](http://www.hendricksrealtyinc.com)



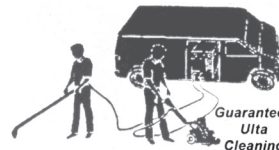
The Service Directory does the hard work for you. Call (785) 899-2338 today to find out how!

### WANTED: DIRTY CARPET

IF YOU HAVE DIRTY CARPET, WE CAN STEAM CLEAN IT. NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL!  
Cleaning NW Kansas one house at a time!

- Commercial/Residential
- Advanced Truck Mounted Steam Cleaning Equipment
- Water Damage Restoration
- FREE ESTIMATES

**PRO FLOOR CARE**  
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning  
(785) 462-8313 or (800) 473-4138



### PLAINS HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC.

FREE ESTIMATES! Scott Sitzman FREE ESTIMATES!  
Residential & Commercial HVAC  
New Installations-Replacements-Service  
Phone: 785-890-2914 • Toll free: 800-678-2914  
1104 Main Ave., Goodland, KS

"Serving Eastern Colorado for 35 years, and now serving Western Kansas!"  
Discover the comfort of a Mendota Fire!  
[www.plainsheating.com](http://www.plainsheating.com)



### Superior Flooring and Furniture and Accessories

360 14th St., Burlington, CO ~ PHONE: (719) 346-7579  
Dan and Myrna Troyer  
[www.superiorflooringandfurniture.com](http://www.superiorflooringandfurniture.com)



Electronics & MORE!

### Truck Lettering 800-886-2423

AWARD WINNING SIGNS AND PINSTRIPING SINCE 1974

**Hot Brush** 204 W. 4th Box 309  
Bird City, Kan. 67731

### New Contractor in Edson, KS

I have 35 years experience in all types of construction, new or remodeling. I do kitchens, bath, electrical, plumbing and small repairs, inside or out! I will give you a bid, local references. Please call (785) 899-8585 or email: [jim@colemancorstruction.com](mailto:jim@colemancorstruction.com). For job experience, check out: [www.colemancorstruction.com](http://www.colemancorstruction.com)

### Windy Plains Bike Shop

Professional bicycle repairs since 1978! Parts, accessories and service for all makes. Pick up and delivery available in Goodland!  
**TIRED OF FLATS? ASK ABOUT OUR NO FLAT GUARANTEE!**  
**Harold Snethen**  
6085 Rd. 17  
(785) 899-4786 • (785) 899-5858 (home)  
Same day service on most out of town repairs!

### NEW SYSTEM PROFESSIONAL WINDOW CLEANING

Serving Northwest Kansas & Northeastern Colorado since 1992!

(785) 462-6995 OR (800) 611-6735  
[egriffith@st-tel.net](mailto:egriffith@st-tel.net)

[www.mywindowcleaner.net](http://www.mywindowcleaner.net)



Eldean and Janet Griffith • PO Box 692, Colby, KS

### Brandon's Carpentry

Drywall • Painting • Flooring • Roofing  
Doors • Windows • Siding • Decks • Ramps  
Small Building Construction • Garages and More

**BRANDON LEE** (785)332-3370  
St. Francis, KS 67756 Cell: (785)332-5264

Serving the tri-state area.

### The Decorating Co.

Interior Design Consultants  
Irene Smith & Rochelle Kling  
There's no limit to our imagination.  
1011 Main Avenue, Goodland, KS 67735  
(785) 890-5441  
E-mail: [decorco@st-tel.net](mailto:decorco@st-tel.net)



### STOP BURNING YOUR

Replace that old furnace with a new system from Bowman's. Our energy-efficient systems are reliable, powerful and economical.  
Sales ~ Service ~ Installation ~ Repair



- \* Drinking Systems
- \* Water Softeners (Sales & Rentals)
- \* Water Coolers
- \* Salt Sales & Delivery

### Scheopner's Water Conditioning, Inc.

904 Main, Goodland  
(785) 899-2352

"Seek Shelter Today!"

LIFE • HOME • CAR • FARM • BUSINESS



**Jim Alcorn, Agent**  
1624 S. Main Street  
Goodland, KS 67735-0727  
Business: (785) 899-2553



[www.shelterinsurance.com](http://www.shelterinsurance.com)



"Where Service is an Affair of the Heart"

### DAN BRENNER FORD

222 W. HWY. 24, I-70 BUSINESS LOOP, GOODLAND, KS  
(Toll Free) 800-636-8770  
(Business) 785-899-2316 (Fax) 785-899-2317