

# Business builds custom sized pallets, skids

By Ron Wilson

Director  
**Huck Boyd National Institute  
for Rural Development  
at Kansas State University**  
Let's go to China, where a load of aluminum sheets is arriving from the U.S. These long, aluminum sheets are such a size that they require a special type of container to carry them. In fact, these containers are produced halfway around the globe by a company in rural Kansas.

Kent Jost is founder and owner of A & C Enterprises which produces these custom-made containers and pallets for shipping. Kent is a native of Hillsboro, where he and his wife Diane grew up. He played baseball at Butler County Community College and was trained as an autobody technician.

After he and Diane were married, Kent worked in various positions, such as warehouse manager, insurance sales and as a supervisor at a manufacturing company. One of his responsibilities was to supervise the shipping department.

"We did our own crating," Kent said. In other words, Kent and his crew custom built the shipping containers for the company's products. In the process, he learned a lot about shipping and containers. Through a friend with a wholesale lumber company, Kent learned about a man who had a business building pallets and explored the idea. In May 1994, Kent started his own crating and pallet business.

"We build custom crates, boxes, skids, and shipping containers," Kent said. "We do very few of the standard-size pallets. Most of what we do are specially-sized shipping pallets." These are often called skids.

For example, instead of a simple 4-foot by 4-foot pallet for different customers, Kent might build a 3- by 8-foot pallet which would go on a semi-truck or even up to a 10- by 38-foot skid. Those skids are used to carry long aluminum sheets such as those which go on the fuselage or wing of an airplane.

In another case, Kent's crew builds shipping crates for lawnmowers, including sides, ends, and a top. The manufacturer drives the mower onto the skid and then adds the sides, ends, and top for shipping.

Of course, these crates are custom built to fit the lawnmower just right. These carriers and containers are the unsung heroes of the shipping world. They are the part we take for granted when we order something, expecting that it will arrive carefully packed and intact.

Kent experienced all the challenges of a small entrepreneur getting his business started. He hired his first full-time employee two months after the business began. "My wife was teaching and I was working at another job on a 5 to 11 a.m. shift," Kent said. "Then I could work in the shop and sell in the afternoon." The business grew.

Of course, there was a question: What should be business be named?

"We had two kids, Ashlee and Cole," Kent said. "So we decided to name the business in their honor: A & C Enterprises. It also put me in the front of the phone book," he said with a smile.

In later years, another daughter came along. Fortunately she was named Ali, so she fit the pattern of the company name as well.

When A & C Enterprises got started, Kent and Diane were living in Wichita, but he knew of a guy who had warehouse space available in the town of Halstead. So A & C Enterprises set up shop in Halstead. Today the company serves customers within a 90-mile radius of Halstead, or as far away as Ponca City, Okla. But the products

which are carried in his containers literally go around the globe. Kent's containers are built of heat-treated lumber and are certified for export, and they've gone to such places as China, Europe, Brazil and Australia. Sales at A & C Enterprises are well over \$1 million.

That's outstanding for a business in the rural community of Halstead, population 1,880 people. Now, that's rural.

It's time to leave China, where we saw a shipping container from halfway around the globe in Kansas. We salute Kent Jost and all those involved with A & C Enterprises for making a difference with hard work and entrepreneurship. My pride can hardly be contained.

Interested in joining Rotary are always welcome to attend.  
*Marty Melia, Club Reporter*

The Goodland Rotary Club met for their regular weekly meeting at noon on Friday Dec. 14, in the meeting room at Northwest Kansas Technical College. President Elect Doug Gerber presided, filling in for President Jenifer Sanderson.

Danny Mangus, who would later help present the program, led the Rotarians in singing happy birthday to members Brian Linin, Mike Miller and Gordon Colip.

Several Rotarians gave reports on some of the activities going on around the community. Member Karen Anderson reminded the Club that the new Smithsonian Museum Display, "The Way We Worked" was now showing at the High Plains Museum. Member Ken Klemm reminded Rotarians to help with the Salvation Army bell ringing at Wal-Mart this holiday season. And Michael Solomon told the group that the Chamber of Commerce still had some tickets to the big Elks Dinner and Dance on December 15 available for sale.

Gerber reminded the Rotarians that next Friday, Dec. 21, would be the last meeting before the holidays, and encouraged the membership to attend, as President Sanderson will have a good Rotary themed meeting planned, including the election of new Cub officers.

Gerber then turned the meeting over to the Rotarian of the day Gordon Colip, who joined his guest, Danny Mangus on the guitar and vocals, and delighted the club with several tunes, including "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" and "White Christmas".

After the weekly drawing, won by John Golden, the Goodland Rotary Club adjourned their weekly meeting. The next regular meeting of the Goodland Rotary Club will be at noon on Friday Dec. 21 in the meeting room in the Northwest Tech student union. Visitors, and those

## rotary

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# Worship warms the heart

**Calvary Gospel Church**  
**Lead Pastors:** Randy and Mary Payne  
**Assistant Pastors:** Jacob and Ramie Soyez  
Fourth & College • 890-3605  
**Sunday:** Kid's Church: 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.  
Morning Service: 8:30 and 10:30 am  
Youth @ the Rock House, Sixth & Caldwell: 6:30 p.m.  
Prayer and Praise: 5:00 p.m. except last Sunday of the month  
**Wednesday:** Kids 4 Christ 6:30 p.m. during school year  
Life Groups - See website  
website: [www.calvarygospel.net](http://www.calvarygospel.net)  
email: [info@calvarygospel.net](mailto:info@calvarygospel.net) or see us on Facebook

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**  
**Celebrant:** Father Norbert Dlabal  
307 W. 13th • 890-7205  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** 5-5:45 p.m. Saturday or by appointment  
**Mass Schedule:**  
Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am  
**Spanish Mass:** Sunday: 12:30 pm

**Goodland United Methodist Church**  
1116 Sherman 899-3631  
**Pastors:** Dustin and Shelly Petz  
**Saturday:** Worship: 5:30 p.m.  
**Sunday:** Adult Classes: 9:15 a.m.  
Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
**Wednesday:** Wednesday Nite Live 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Simple Supper "Free will Offering" 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages

**Pleasant Home Church**  
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Rt. 1, Box 180 • 3190 Road 70  
(785) 694-2807  
**Pastor:** Perry Baird  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9 a.m.  
Sunday School: 10 a.m.

**Promiseland Baptist Church**  
**Pastor:** Rick Holmes • 890-7082  
225 W. 16th  
(785) 890-7944  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.  
Morning Service: 11:30 a.m.  
Evening Service: 6:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study Service 6:30 p.m.

**Bible Baptist Church**  
**Pastor:** Clifford Middlebrooks  
Fifth & Broadway  
890-7368  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 a.m.  
Morning Service: 10 a.m.  
Evening Service: 6:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**  
1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO  
(719) 346-7984  
**Sacrament Meeting:** 10 a.m.  
**Sunday School:** 11:15 a.m.  
**Priesthood/Relief Society:** 12 a.m.

**Iglesia Del Dios Vivo**  
La Luz Del Mundo  
Spanish Speaking Church - translation available  
**Minister:** Jose S. Lopez  
1601 Texas • 899-5275  
**Daily Prayer:** Sunday thru Saturday: 5a.m. & 6 p.m.  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 a.m.

**United Methodist Church Brewster:**  
**Pastor:** Mike Baughn  
Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST  
**Winona:**  
**Minister:** Sheryl Johnson  
Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST  
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

**First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**Pastor:** Rev. Carol Edling Jolly  
Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233  
**Sunday:** Church School - All ages 9 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Youth Group: weekly Jr./Sr. High groups  
**Thursday:** Prayer Class - Noon  
**Pastor Carol's Class Wednesdays** 5:30 p.m.  
[www.goodlandfccdoc.org](http://www.goodlandfccdoc.org)

**Kanorado United Methodist Church**  
**Pastor:** Leonard Cox  
399-2468  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 a.m.  
Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.

**Church of the Nazarene**  
**Pastor:** Bob Willis  
Third & Caldwell  
899-2080 or 899-3797  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service: 10:50 a.m.  
Evening Service: 6 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** Evening Service: 7 p.m.

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**Celebrant:** Father Don Martin  
13th & Center  
Church 890-2115 or 890-7245  
**Services:** 5 p.m. Saturday evening  
**Bible Study:** 4 p.m. the first and third Saturday of the month

**Goodland Bible Church**  
109 Willow Road • 899-6400  
**Pastor:** Chad DeJong  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m.  
6 p.m. AWANA during school  
Evening Worship: 7:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** 6:30 youth group  
Growth groups call for information [www.goodlandbible.org](http://www.goodlandbible.org)

**First Baptist Church**  
**Pastor:** Travis Blake  
1121 Main  
890-3450  
**Sunday:**  
Coffee fellowship: 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship: 10 a.m.  
Sunday School: 11:15 a.m.

**H2O Church.TV**  
**Pastor:** Craig Groeschel  
109 E. 17th  
(785) 728-0123  
**Experience Time**  
Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

**Harvest Evangelical Free Church**  
521 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-6423  
**Pastor:** Brian Fugleberg  
**Sunday:** Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.  
**Wednesday:**  
Senior High: 6:30 p.m. at the church  
Junior High: 6:30 p.m. at the church  
[www.goodlandefree.com](http://www.goodlandefree.com)

**Seventh Day Adventist Church**  
1160 Cattletrail  
**Pastor:** Jim McCurdy  
**Saturday:** Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service: 11 a.m.

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**  
13th & Sherman • 890-6161  
**Pastor:** Darian Hybl  
**Sunday:** Christian education/fellowship: 10:15 a.m.  
Worship Service: 9 a.m.

**Church of Christ**  
401 Caldwell  
890-6185  
**Sunday:** Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study: 7 p.m.

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