

BUSINESS TODAY

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Magnolia Floral Studio's owner has roots in plant business, 3C

CTDI to join Cox, create 100 jobs

HAVE YOU HEARD?



Carrie Rengers first reported these items on her blog. Be among the first to get her business scoops at blogs.kansas.com/haveyouheard.

BY CARRIE RENGERS
The Wichita Eagle

A new company is coming to northeast Wichita to partner with **Cox Communications** and create about 100 new jobs. Pennsylvania-based **Communications Test Design Inc.**, or CTDI, is taking 112,000 square feet at 3434 N. Comotara. "This is a dedicated facility for Cox," says **Jim O'Hara**, CTDI director of marketing. "We're an engineering test and repair company, and we service network equipment for customers."

That means products Cox customers are going to use or have used will have software uploaded on them at this facility or be recycled or prepared for reuse here. "CTDI and Cox ... have a really nice relationship now," O'Hara says. This is the fifth such facility the companies have partnered on nationwide. The almost 40-year-old CTDI is based in West Chester, Pa., and its headquarters handles services for a number of different customers, including wireless operators.

Please see **RENGERS**, Page 6C



Courtesy photo
Boeing hasn't left Wichita yet, but its display is already gone from Wichita Mid-Continent Airport. Follow Carrie's column to Page 6C for details.



Courtesy photo
Jeff Fluhr, president of the WDDC, says the internship program will help potential developers of downtown redevelopment.

Westar to give \$10K for design internship

BY BILL WILSON
The Wichita Eagle

Westar Energy has committed \$10,000 toward an internship for college design students at the Wichita Downtown Development Corporation's Design and Innovation Center. Westar's contribution matches grant funds from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to bring some of the state's top college architecture, landscape architecture and community planning talent to Wichita to work with potential downtown developers. The first intern should be in Wichita this summer. Jeff Fluhr, president of the WDDC, said the internship program will help potential developers visualize the plans for downtown Wichita's redevelopment. "It just increases the resources we have in hand for people interested in downtown Wichita," Fluhr said. "These interns will be able to develop concept drawings and illustrations quickly that will be able to support the conversations we're having with prospects." Jim Ludwig, Westar's executive vice president for public affairs and consumer services, said the contribution reflects Westar's commitment to Wichita. "Westar is committed to ... providing bright students an opportunity to bring fresh ideas to make downtown an attractive, vibrant place where people want to live and work," Ludwig said in a statement. WDDC officials will announce the application process soon, Fluhr said, and will work with Kansas colleges to promote the internship. In addition, the WDDC plans to

Please see **WESTAR**, Page 2C

GREENSBURG'S LOOK IS CHANGING, AND SO IS ITS CULTURE



Jaime Green/The Wichita Eagle
Five years after a tornado destroyed much of the town, Greensburg is about halfway through its master rebuilding plan. A study shows that 13 public and private buildings will save a combined \$200,000 a year in energy costs.

How 'green' is working



Jaime Green/The Wichita Eagle
Solar panels on top of the Business Incubator building are one source of energy. Tim Lenz of Professional Engineering Consultants helped design the building and many others in Greensburg.

BY DAN VOORHIS
The Wichita Eagle

GREENSBURG – The only thing more amazing than seeing a row of space-agey buildings rising from western Kansas plains is the fact that there's anything there at all. It's been nearly five years since an F5 tornado obliterated most of Greensburg. The residents who remained made some fairly radical decisions, electing to put the "green" in Greensburg by using disaster relief money, insurance money and donations to erect environmentally friendly buildings. The city is about halfway through its master plan and the early results are in on their suc-

cess. According to new study by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 13 public and private buildings in Greensburg will save a combined \$200,000 a year in energy costs. These include all of city's largest and most important buildings: the city hospital, the K-12 school, the city hall, the county courthouse, two banks, the John Deere dealer and the motel, among others. Energy savings ranged between 50 and 75 percent over similar-use buildings, according to the federal study. Several other buildings are too new to be included in the study. Several Wichita companies played a major role in making this

Please see **GREENSBURG**, Page 6C

THE BIZ BUZZ | THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW TODAY

Wichita home prices in January down from 2011

Wichita home prices, including distressed sales, fell 2.4 percent in January compared to January 2011, according to Core Logic, a national real estate data analysis firm. Excluding distressed sales, sales prices declined by 0.8 percent in January compared to January 2011. Nationwide, home prices, including distressed sales, declined on a year-over-year basis by 3.1 percent in January from the year before, the sixth consecutive monthly decline.



– Dan Voorhis

Small Business Award finalists named

The Wichita Chamber of Commerce named its 10 finalists for its Small Business Award during an event Wednesday at Newman University. The finalists in Tier 1, for businesses with 1 to 25 employees, are: Profit Builders Inc.; Ruggles & Bohm, P.A.; Cocoa Dolce Artisan Chocolates; Armstrong Shank Advertising, and Xenon International Academy. The finalists in Tier 2, for businesses with 26 to 100 employees, are: Riordan Clinic; Hyspeco; Midwest Single Source Inc.; Central Star Credit Union, and Mid-America Orthopedics. The winners will be announced May 9 during a luncheon at the Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview, 400 W. Douglas.

– Eagle staff

Sprint expected to end LightSquared deal

Sprint Nextel Corp. plans to end a network-sharing agreement with billionaire Philip Falcone's LightSquared Inc. wireless venture as early as next week, according to two people familiar with the matter. Sprint is preparing to take the step as LightSquared approaches a March 15 deadline to meet certain conditions under the agreement, said the people, who wouldn't be identified because the information isn't public. Sprint and LightSquared struck an 11-year deal to share network expansion costs and equipment in June provided LightSquared secure regulatory approvals for its wireless service. The loss of Sprint would fuel concerns about the viability of LightSquared and mark another setback for Falcone. He has invested about \$3 billion in an effort to create a national wireless carrier to compete against AT&T and Verizon Wireless.

– Bloomberg News