

Construction starts on new grocery store, Dairy Queen; finished in 90-120 days

(The following story ran in the Sept. 20, 2001 edition of the Dispatch).

Nearly five months from the day the area was destroyed in a tornado, ground was broken Monday to start construction of a new grocery store and Dairy Queen. The Cardinal Plaza Lanes bowling alley will also be included in the facility.

Randy and Debbie Deutsch and Dolores Deutsch of Town & Country Supermarket and Ike Walter and Leon Steiner of Dairy Queen, dug their shovels into the ground to symbolically start construction.

Bret Givens Construction of Hutchinson will be the general contractor for both the new grocery store and the restaurant, Givens

Construction has worked on other large projects in the past.

What was most exciting about his bid was the time frame. Other bids called for completion in 240 to 280 days, which would put it back to next spring or summer.

However, Givens Construction called for completion within 90 to 120 days. If the projects were finished in 90 days, it would be just before Christmas.

Work started Monday as equipment started moving in at the site. Site preparation will take some time and recent rains could slow it down somewhat.

The new grocery store will be larger than the old one. The old grocery store was about 12,000 sq. ft. and the new store will

be between 19,000 and 20,000 sq. ft. It will have the popular items of the old store, such as the deli and bakery, as well as new items such as a sit-down area and a place to get coffee or fountain drinks.

It will face north, sharing a parking lot with Dairy Queen. The grocery store will have a railroad depot theme on the outside, along with attractive landscaping.

The bowling alley will be south of the grocery store, running to the alley. It will be a separate building, but the façade of the building will also go in front of the buildings together.

"We're excited to get going, and I hope the people in town are excited to have us back," Randy said.

Hoisington's tragedy to triumph legacy: Country Place Senior Living and Memory Care

As the community began to rally and make plans for the future after the devastating tornado of 2001, Mayor Gwen Christy reached out to Jack West about the possibility of building an assisted living residence at 6th and N Green Streets. Mr. West, the Founder and CEO of Neighborhood Senior Living, Inc. was a long standing developer of assisted living residences in Kansas. As the conversations continued, Mr. West agreed to build in 18-suite assisted living residence at 259 N 6th Street. The residence, then called The Homestead, opened in February 2013. While ownership remained the same, the residence was later renamed Country Place Senior Living and in November 2007 Country Place Memory Care opened next door at 520 N Vine Street.

While the tornado was a tragic event, Country Place is thankful that

it lead to the opportunity to provide quality care to many deserving seniors and employment to qualified professionals. Since opening in 2003, Country Place has been called home by 135 residents. The company has spent almost \$2.5 million in the community including about \$271,000 in property taxes. Also in that time Country Place has paid almost \$6 million in payroll dollars. Additionally, Country Place Senior Living and Country Place Memory Care of Hoisington are the flagship residences of the Country Place brand. Since Country Place Senior Living was complete in 2003, seventeen other Country Place residences have been built and it all began right here in Hoisington KS!

To learn more about Country Place Senior Living or Country Place Memory Care, please call Missy Pflughoeft, Director at 620-653-4121.

Small town girl

As a girl who grew up in a small town and has been a resident of Great Bend/Barton County for 25 years, I recognized when starting my job with Hi Neighbor! Newspapers, that Hoisington was unique. I could never understand what made Hoisington different. It took me a while to put my finger on it. Getting to know you, there was always a sense of togetherness, an eagerness to jump in and help, a camaraderie and pride that filled the streets and businesses. After several months of being here, I was finally able to put my finger on

what separated Hoisington from the other towns I work and live in...the tornado. You Hoisington, have been through the worst of the worst and have risen above the storm.

The information and pictures on these pages are proof that you never had any intentions of letting Mother Nature beat you. Within minutes after the tornado hit you were out helping your

neighbors, making sure everyone was safe, and doing what you needed to do in the midst of the destruction.

After 15 years, this sense of association is imbedded into your town and resonates through the streets. You are special people...Rock On and Thank You!!

Lori Waters,
Advertising Manager



Remember the sign in Clayton Williamson's yard directly after the tornado? After a new home was built, Williamson updated his sign, proving not even a tornado could completely disrupt life in Hoisington. (courtesy photo)

Prom

continued from page 5

Some girls were crying. I felt bad because my mom's like that, totally afraid of storms.

We were down there 30, 40 minutes. Then the principal came down and said, "We're not continuing the prom." We went upstairs, and the next thing I know I hear my brother, James. I'm like, why the hell is my brother here? My mom had just come in the door. Her hair was all messed up, and she was shaking and crying and everything. The last time I saw her like that was when my father passed away. It scared me. She told me that a tornado had hit our house. What tornado? I didn't see it. I was right here. How could there be a tornado without us knowing?

I went outside. Everyone was standing on the sidewalk. It was dark and kind of eerie, like something you'd see out of a movie. There were streetlights on in certain parts, and then it was pitch black. There were little white flowers on everyone's cars. They weren't letting people go to their houses yet. They wanted to make sure it was safe. So we stayed at the city building, where we have our court and police station, all night. They finally let us go to our house two days later.

It was the most unbelievable thing I had ever seen. I'd say a quarter of Hoisington was destroyed. That's a pretty big chunk when you see how small a town it is. One person died, two came close. It looked as if somebody dropped a bomb in the middle of town. The destruction was about four blocks, the width of it, and about a mile long. It ended all the way down by Dairy Queen. My house looked like a little hut. Everything was gone but two walls in the middle of the house. Our living-room furniture was in the same spot. How the hell was that furniture still sitting there? I could not believe that my mom was in the house. I was wondering how she made it out alive. A couple of times I thought about what I would do if I had lost her. But I haven't thought about it anymore because she's here, and there's no use thinking about things like that.

My dad died at the end of my

seventh-grade year. It was his birthday the next day, and that night he and my Mom went out and got his birthday drinks. He came home, and my brother and I were supposed to be in bed, but we weren't. He didn't mind. We all started wrestling around, my brother and I and my dad, went to bed and woke up the next morning, and he was gone. He had had a heart attack. I don't know how to explain it, these big events coming out bad. It makes me worried about celebrating anything anymore.

After the tornado, we couldn't find my mom's car for three, four days. Finally we found it a block and a half away, crushed. When I had my senior picture taken, this lady also took a little picture of a picture we had of my dad. It was one in his uniform during a Labor Day parade for the V.F.W. He was standing there, standing straight. And in the corner of my senior picture was that picture of him, kind of blended with it. It was lying face down in the debris, and I picked it up. It was all crinkled. And I just started crying and realizing, this did happen.

I drove by the house we lived in when my dad died. There wasn't anything wrong with it. We had moved out recently. My mom had problems trying to pay for it by herself. If we hadn't moved, we might have been O.K. It seems as if we just can't get lucky. At first, I didn't really know if we were going to be able to pay for college or not with everything that has happened. You lose security. In your house you feel as if nothing can hurt you. And now I don't know. It's not like the safe feeling you're used to feeling. I was thinking one of the best jobs around here is working on an oil rig. I kind of feel as if I don't want to leave. But my mom said, oh, nonsense, we'll be O.K., I want you to go. So I'm going to go play football at Dodge City Community College. My dad didn't go to college. My mom just recently got her associate's in secretarial. I just keep thinking, if I go do this, I can take care of her after I get out so she won't have to worry about stuff like this anymore.

We are proud to be a part of Hoisington's
Tragedy to Triumph
legacy!



Country Place®
SENIOR LIVING
and
MEMORY CARE



Hoisington 259 W 6th Street & 520 N Vine Street 620-653-2360

**Thank you,
Hoisington.**
**We are proud to
serve an outstanding
community!**
*Staff,
Hoisington Dispatch*