

# The Goodland Star-News

Friday, Aug.22, 2008

## Working Women 2008



**Jeris McCombs**



**Linda Rumpel**



**Helen Dobbs**

# Woman moved back to Goodland,



Linda Rumpel, office manager at Yost Farm Supply, stood next to one of the dealership's New Holland tractors, showing that even the tires of the giant machine are taller than she is. Rumpel has worked for the business 10 years.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

By Sharon Corcoran

[slcorcoran@nwkansas.com](mailto:slcorcoran@nwkansas.com)

Being an office manager for the same company for 10 years may seem dull at first glance, but Linda Rumpel, office manager for Yost Farm Supply, keeps things interesting with a positive attitude and pride in Goodland.

Rumpel was born and raised in Goodland and graduated from Goodland High School in 1982. She managed a McDonald's in Colorado Springs for 15 years before returning to Goodland and now encourages others to see the benefits of living here, as president of the Sherman County Alumni Association and working with the Goodland Ambassadors since March 2001.

It's a good organization, she said of the Ambassadors; you deal with a lot of kids with sendoffs, welcome new businesses at ribbon cuttings and help with hospitality and hosting teams at the Topside Tip-off Tournament and the Holiday Classic Wrestling Tournament.

Stepping up with the Ambassadors is about pride in the community, she said — "it's important to acknowledge the kids' achievements and wish them well and to make new businesses feel welcome."

Rumpel said her employer has been a big help. Yost pays the dues, she said, adding they allow her to attend functions during work hours.

"If we didn't have employers willing to let us do it," she said, "we wouldn't have such a good organization."

The Ambassadors represent a variety of types of businesses, she said; everyone has some part of making the Ambassadors a success and working together. Goodland has community togetherness, she said, unlike large cities — in Colorado Springs, you barely know your neighbor.

"Whenever I see 'Have you said something good about Goodland?' in the paper," she said, "I think about our kindness. I think that's the biggest thing we can offer. When people are stranded here, people reach out and help — they are taken care of."

As president of the alumni association, Rumpel will be planning the next five-year all-school reunion to be held in 2011. She said association members have been kicking around ideas, but the major part of planning will be in the year or two before the reunion.

The association helps with homecoming and its festivities each year, she said, awards the outstanding educator awards at graduation and awards \$3,000 in scholarships to Goodland High graduates each year.

Seniors fill out applications, she said, and are interviewed by alumni. The scholarships are divided among the applicants who have the best interviews, she said; how many scholarships are given depends on how many apply and how well they do on the interviews. It is often divided among five or six students, she said, but once it was all given to one person.

The association gives each of the schools discretionary funds each year, she said, \$200 to the high school and \$100 each to the elementary schools and junior high, so they have some money they can use as they wish.

"We want the association to bond with the high school, she said, staying connected and keeping people aware we are here. They are the association's future."

The association plans the homecoming parade each year, she said, and it consists of many high school clubs, fall sports athletes and the current year's homecoming royalty and past homecoming queens and attendants. There is representation from the class that graduated 50 years ago

**Thank you ladies**  
for your commitment and quality work!



Brooke Jensen  
Sheryl Linden

Not pictured:  
Emily Linden

**L & L Engine**

404 E. 19th  
Goodland, Kan.  
(785) 899-2752

**We are PROUD of our  
Working Women**



Jacquie's Hallmark  
1124 Main - Goodland, Kan  
(785) 899-7255  
(785) 890-7256

Mary Jane Sponsel  
Jacque Cooper  
Wilda Kalbach  
Jo Herl  
Brandi Bahe  
Krysta Smestad

JC Penney  
Catalog Desk  
Opens  
August 25th!

# encourages others to move here

from Sherman County high schools, she said, and some members of the community come and show off their antique cars and the motorcycle club has some of their members present as well.

The bonfire follows the parade, she said, with entertainment from the senior class football players and a skit from the senior parents, Jumping Juniors and the Goodland High cheerleaders. The classes that graduated from Sherman County high schools are also recognized that evening, she said, as well as the night of the homecoming game.

"The Ambassadors and alumni association are two big clubs I take pride in being involved with," Rumpel said.

Rumpel has family at work, as her husband Brian is a mechanic at Yost, and her father-in-law Alan Rumpel is the parts manager. She handles payables and receivables; answers the phone; fills in at the parts counter; submits paperwork for warranty work; is in charge of paperwork on the computer at the company's three locations at Goodland, St. Francis and Imperial, Neb.; does payroll for the Goodland branch; and manages the office.

She started in 1999, a year after Yost bought the dealership in Goodland, which was called Reid Inc., owned by Jay Reid, and was across the street from Rasure Lumber. They wanted a bigger area to expand the business, she said, so they moved to the former Big A auto parts location at 328 W. U.S. Business 24. The Yost family has had the St. Francis dealership for 44 years, Rumpel said.

She said her favorite part of her job is working with customers and answering the phone.

"A lot of people who know me call," she said, "and they recognize



Linda Rumpel stayed busy answering the phone at Yost Farm Supply last week. She has many duties, including managing the office, but said

she most enjoys talking with who comes into the business.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

my voice."

Rumpel said one thing she misses about managing McDonald's is the atmosphere created by the customers.

"We'd have the same crowd every morning," she said.

Rumpel has three children, Chris-

tina Lalicker, 25, who is a manager in over the counter pharmacy at Goodland Wal-Mart; Jeff Lalicker, 21, of Aurora, Colo., who works for Movers Support Services; and Tiffany Charon, an eighth grader at Grant Junior High. Her mother Frances Musalek

lives in Goodland as well.

Yost sells New Holland and Buhler tractors as well as other brands of equipment, Rumpel said, and people from all over the country check online to see what equipment they have. It's getting to the point it's hard to get

any kind of equipment, she said, so farmers shop around and order what they want.

"We try to take care of the demand of the customers," she said, "and get them what they want."



We Applaud  
All Working  
Women!

Angela Enfield, Phyllis Dickey, Jody Sharon

**Finley Motors, Inc.**

"Your Volume & Variety Dealer!"

1520 Highway 27, Goodland (785) 899-2346

www.finleymotorsinc.com



Rose Koggie, Charlie Seaman, Hazel Estes

We Value the Hard  
Work You Put In  
Every Day!

Thank You Ladies!

**Homeland Real Estate**

1112 Main, Goodland, Kan. (785) 899-3060

# Leadership graduate takes lessons



By Pat Schiefen

[pjschiefen@nwkansas.com](mailto:pjschiefen@nwkansas.com)

A recent graduate of Leadership Sherman County took leadership to heart as she became the president of the Goodland Chamber of Commerce in April.

Jeris McCombs said, "I was surprised at being elected the president of the Chamber."

She said she would like to see more community and business involvement in the Chamber. There needs to be more communication between the community and downtown businesses.

The Chamber wants people to shop local and shop downtown, she said. We have fun plans for the fall and want everyone to participate.

McCombs is the office manager for UAP — formerly Pueblo Chemical. She started working for the wholesale agricultural supplier in May 2004. For the first couple of years she said she also worked for H & R Block during tax season.

She said her busy season is from March 1 through August. Among her duties are helping people with their orders, do shipping paperwork, process the bills and do payroll so the main office in Greeley, Colo. can write checks, process the orders coming in and sending seed reports to Monsanto. Monsanto keeps track of where seed that is treated with pesticides or herbicides or is genetically engineered.

Now she said she is working winter bookings for seed sales. UAP sells Dyna-Gro Seed. She said the seed company is in the top ten seed sellers in the country. They sell corn, sunflower, soybean and sorghum seed.

The Goodland office does business as far west as Hugo, Colo., as far east as WaKeeney, south to Sharon Springs with branches in Imperial and McCook, Neb.

Jeris McCombs, office manager for UAP, talked to a customer about their seed order on the phone. McCombs answers questions about orders and billing. She also sends a report to Monsanto about where what varieties of a crop are planted.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

More than just a tire store!  
Offering brakes, alignments, custom exhausts,  
oil changes, suspensions & so much more!

Give us a call or come on by!

**KansasLand Tire  
Company**  
1402 Main  
Goodland, Kan. 67735  
(785)899-3689



Connie Weems and Sarah Scheopner

Thanks for all the hard work you do for us!  
We appreciate your fine efforts.



Sarah Hill, Jessica Orlovski, Jan Haigler



Colby, Kan.      Hoxie, Kan.  
785-462-2224    785-675-2224

Goodland, Kan.    McDonald, Kan.  
785-890-2224      785-538-2224

Oakley, Kan.  
785-672-4448



# to next level

Their main customers for chemicals is Crop Production, Frontier Ag and independent arial sprayers. She said there are two sprayers from Goodland, one from St. Francis, one from Bird City, one from Atwood, Frontier Ag in Oakley and two from Hoxie.

She said she has lived in Goodland since 1992. She said she grew up in Hoxie and graduated from Hoxie High School. Then she went to the Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland for the first year in secretarial and the second year in accounting. While she was going to Tech College she also took classes at night to get her Associates of Arts degree from Colby Community College as well as working.

"It was really hard," she said. "I started working for the First National Bank in Goodland. I worked in the loan department for six to eight months and then for 10 years in the bookkeeping department."

McCombs is married to Quigg, who is parts manager for Goodland Greenline in Wheeler. She has a son Jordan, 13, a daughter, Kayleigh, 8, and a stepson, Quinn, 23.

She said her son is in the eighth grade at Grant Junior High and plans to try cross country as well as play basketball and do track. Kayleigh is in the third grade at Central Elementary. She has enjoyed being in Girl Scouts.

Another of her endeavors is two home-based businesses, Longaberger Baskets and Homemade Gourmet. Homemade Gourmet through its dealers sells its customers meal packages and information that allow a family meal to be made in 30 minutes. They believe the time parents spend with their children at the dinner table can be a positive influence in their future choices. The company is based in Texas. McCombs has been selling their products for two years in November.

McCombs said she started selling Homemade Gourmet because of her sister.

Longaberger baskets market handmade baskets, pottery, wrought iron and fabric accessories through dealers. They make baskets for a variety of purposes and their headquarters is in Dresden, Ohio. McCombs said she has more of the pottery than the baskets. She has been selling for them for nine years. She said the biggest change over the years is the fact that the baskets come in different colors such as warm brown, rich brown and deep brown.

"I still sell a lot in the light brown," she said.

McCombs has also helped with Cub Scouts when her son belonged and for a time Girl Scouts. Last summer she helped with Kayleigh's softball team. She and her family attend Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church where she helped with Sunday School last year.

McCombs' father, Jack Collins, still lives in Hoxie. He is a truck driver and owns Triple J Trucking.

Her mother, Kathy Collins, lives in Goodland, where she is the head cook at the junior high and is also a bartender at the Sugar Hills Country Club.

"When she has time she does decorated cakes and cookies," said McCombs.

McCombs said she has one sister, Jenny Collins, who lives in McCook. She works for a lawyer and is working on becoming a paralegal.

McCombs said she spent a lot of time this summer in McCook with her sister. She said her sister was at a Pro Am Golf Tournament on Sunday, June 8, in McCook when she fell off a golf cart and hit her head.

Collins had a skull fracture and had bleeding and swelling on the brain, McCombs said. She has fully recovered and will go back to work in a couple of weeks. The doctors expected her to still be in the hospital.

The doctors say it is really a miracle, said McCombs.



UAP Pueblo office manager Jeris McCombs at her desk where she handles customer questions about seed and chemical orders. She has worked for them since 2004.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

*We appreciate your cheerful attitudes & hard work.*



Delilah Leiker, Tasha Leach, Vera Zwegardt, Mary Ann Van Vleet

**H & R BLOCK** Call (785) 899-3022 or stop by 815 Main • Goodland, Kan. to set up your appointment

## We Support Our Working Women!

Glenda Cochran & Sarah Thompson

### Cochran Farm Supply



Mike and Glenda Cochran  
2702 Road 64, Edson, KS 67733  
Business: (785) 899-0096  
Toll Free: (877) 358-0159  
Mobile: (785) 821-2354



Circle D Trailers



PJ Trailers



www.cochranfarmsupply.com

## Thank You For All Your Hard Work!

*Roxann Kling*

*Judi Nemecheck*

*Susan Duke*



1020 Main, Goodland, Kan.

(785) 899-5011

fax: (785) 899-5201



**We salute all the working women of Sherman County, and appreciate all the work and extra things you do!**  
**Editor, The Goodland Star-News**

# She's no stranger to working with community



Helen Dobbs showed off the work center available at the Sherman County Economic Development Office at 104 E. 10th. She said the work center is open to anyone looking for a job or an employer who wants to post a job opening.

**By Tom Betz**

*ntbetz@nwkansas.com*

She began working for the Sherman County Economic Development office more than two years ago, and she has now been named the office manager while the development council ponders the future direction and funding.

Helen Dobbs began working in the office two years ago when Tiffany McMinn was the director. McMinn went to Texas last year and Jeremy Jennings was hired. Jennings was out by March, and since then the council has been looking at several options to fill that position.

Dobbs said she went to the council in July and asked them to name her office manager and let her keep the office moving ahead. She asked for a raise, and the council agreed to name her office manager and allow her to look for a part time person to help man the office.

In the two years Dobbs has helped get the house and business grants started, and said the second round of those is nearing completion. The grants are competitive and one home and one business are each given a \$1,500 grant to help with improve-

ment projects.

Two rounds of project were completed last year and Dobbs thinks three rounds can be done this year. She said the third round will begin with applications being taken in the first week of September.

Dobbs said she feel the economic development office focus is to help the community thrive and grow.

"We are here to help businesses," she said, "and try to let businesses know what is available to help make their business more successful."

She said the office can help businesses with information about micro loans and have contacts who can help with business plans and other business related programs through the state Department of Commerce and the Small Business Development Center in Hays.

She said Jamie Morphew, who is the business consultant for the Western Kansas Business Consulting program, can help people with QuickBooks set up and problems with the business financial books. Dobbs said this is a free service offered in part through Sherman County's membership in the program.

Dobbs said another of the things the office offers to people is a work force



Brewster, Kan.: Jessica House, Amanda Roulier, Susan Gilley



Quinter, Kan.: Frina Kaiser, Janell Ziegler, Cassie Selensky



Goodland: **Front:** Nikki Nichols, Erica Gattshall, Nicole Roeder, D.J. Claycamp, Renita Freeman. **Back:** Laci Greeson, Samantha Siruta, JoAnn Matthews, Janet Kochenower, Deb Bussen. **Not pictured:** Shirley Raile and Kristi Franz



Oakley, Kan.: Lynette Ball, Rhonda Fischer, Rachel Gilliland, Nancy Kuhlman, Terri Lupo, Karen Moeder, Bonnie Stramel, Jamie Stramel

*We are  
PROUD  
of our  
Working  
Women!*



"Serving Northwest Kansas"

**Frontier Ag -  
Goodland**  
W. Hwy 24  
(785) 899-3505

**Frontier Ag -  
Brewster**  
Kansas Street and Railroad Ave.  
(785) 694-2281

**Frontier Ag -  
Oakley**  
415 W. 2nd  
(785) 672-3300

**Frontier Ag -  
Quinter**  
7234 Hwy. 40  
(785) 754-3541

center with computers that allow people looking for jobs to search on the state web sites. She said employers can use the computers to look for people who might fit an open job they have. "We can help people do a resume," she said, "or update one they already have and print it out."

She said the Economic Development office has a web site ([www.gogoodlandks.com](http://www.gogoodlandks.com)) where employers can post jobs by calling the office at (785) 890-3743. She said she is in the office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Dobbs is no stranger to working with businesses as she was part of the Woodland Park, Colo. Chamber of Commerce that started the Teller County Economic Development office.

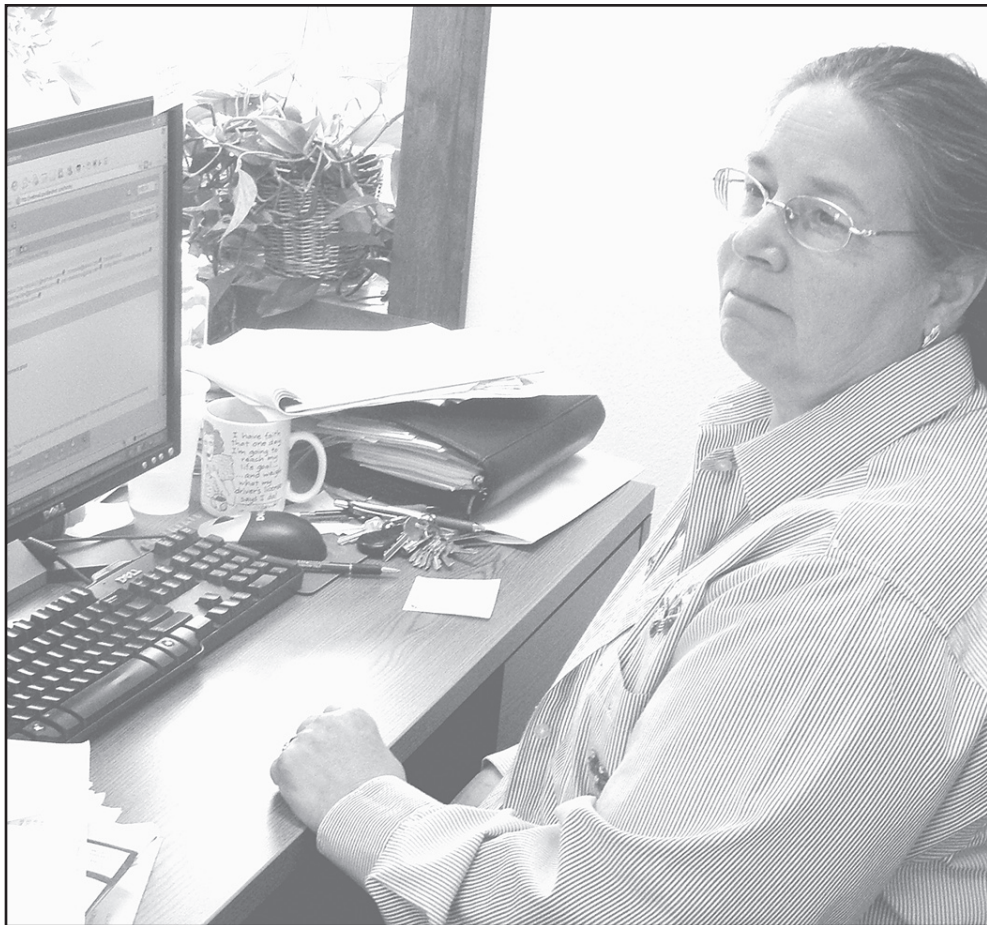
She said she was the Chamber president for three years and then after working with the economic development group she was appointed to the Teller County Tourism board and the South-central Tourism Council for Colorado.

Dobbs was born in Pratt, but her family moved to Sharon Springs when she was young and she went to school in Wallace County from the sixth grade through graduation in 1968. She said her mother was a teacher and her father was a Methodist minister. Her father, Merlin Norman, died about 1993 from cancer. Dobbs said the family moved around because he was a minister.

Her mother, Helen, taught school in Sharon Springs and Dighton. She said her mother will be 91 this year and lives in assisted living in Scott City.

"She has finished her second year of Spanish," Dobbs said. "The classes are being offered through Garden City Community College."

Dobbs said she lived in Hays for a year and



Dobbs said the economic development office is focused on new businesses and keeping existing businesses. She said the office can help anyone looking for information or answers about opening a business or looking for help with their business.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

attended a few classes at Fort Hays State before moving to Denver. She worked for a Colorado state home and training school in Wheat Ridge, Colo., for four years working with the mentally handicapped.

She said she worked as a certified retardation technician and did some behavior modification in teaching people to do things like roll over, walk and other physical tasks such as eating and dressing themselves.

She was married for 10 years and had a daughter, Levi, who lives in Fort Meyers, Fla. She has one granddaughter who lives with her in Goodland, Kendra, 15, who is a sophomore at Goodland High School.

Dobbs moved to Breckenridge, Colo., where she was an elementary school secretary and enjoyed going skiing with the kids. She moved back to Denver where she was an elementary school secretary for one year before moving to Teller County, Colo., and a house between Woodland Park and Divide on U.S. 24 west of Colorado Springs.

She lived in Teller County until about 10 years ago when she moved to Gardner in November 1998 and then to Goodland in April 1999 with her husband Terry Dobbs.

"He was the boy next door when we were growing up," she said, "and I mean literally he lived next door. He was my childhood sweetheart."

She said they met and got reacquainted at a Sharon Springs alumni banquet.

Dobbs got her real estate license in Teller County in 1980, and opened a branch office in Cripple Creek, Colo., after gambling came to the mountain town.

**Everyone Values and Appreciates Your Hard Work! Thank You for Your Dedication!**



Karen Rodriguez

*Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.*  
719 W. Highway 24 (785) 899-2177

***Celebrating all Women in the Workforce!***



Annette Fairbanks

**Teeters Abstract & Title Co. Inc.**

112 W. 11th Street  
Goodland, Kan. 67735  
(785) 890-7138

**Our working women help get the news to you!**

*Sheila Smith*

*Jordie Mann*

*Jessica Corbin*

*Pat Schiefen*

*Sharon Corcoran*

*Beth Brock*

*Tasha Shores*

*Barbara Ornelas*

*Betty Morris*

*Lana Westfahl*

*Judy McKnight*

The  
**Goodland Star-News**

1205 Main, Goodland, Kan. 785-899-2338

"I was there before gambling came in," she said. "and I remember a couple of days before the casinos opened the money bags were brought in and put down on the corners. We just looked at it. There was no security."

She said the office in Cripple Creek started in a small room without a thermostat or restroom. She said things were booming and the real estate business purchased a house at the west end of Main and had six agents and a secretary.

"We all made money," she said. "It was a real experience in dealing with the people with money who came to Cripple Creek. I counted the zeros. We dealt with all kinds of people."

She lived at a house on the Maytag family ranch west of Divide where she had horses.

Dobbs said she has always been involved in the community where she lives.

"That is how we were raised," she said. "Three out of four of us kids are involved in volunteering and working in our communities."

She said while working in Cripple Creek she got to know the Colorado wildlife officers who were working to open Mueller State Park, which is south of Divide on the highway to Cripple Creek. She said she got to do "fam" tours where volunteers from tourism offices and travel agents are taken on tours to familiarize them with the sites so they can tell people who are planning trips to the mountains.

Dobbs said she moved to Goodland because husband, Terry, was building swimming pools in eastern Kansas, and Goodland was closer to where their families were.

She worked at Goodland High School as an aide for four years, and got her Kansas broker's li-

cense to go with her Colorado broker's license.

She said one of the main differences she has seen between living in the mountains of Colorado and the High Plains is mowing grass.

"I mow grass now that I live in Kanas," she said. "I did not mow grass in the mountains. You had the deer and rabbits to keep things mowed down."

She said they didn't really have lawns in the mountains but had lots of wild flowers and native grass.

Dobbs said she enjoys working with people and the economic development office gives her a chance to meet lots of different people.

"I like helping people find answers for their business and how we can help them be more successful," she said, "and that we have lots of things available or that we can put them in touch with people who can help."

"I think we help businesses, but I think economic development covers every part of this county and the programs have helped people."

She said the council was instrumental in getting the Neighborhood Revitalization Program started, and that has helped both businesses and homeowners throughout the county.

As far as the business and home grants Dobbs said they stress that the people use licensed contractors and purchase supplies in the county.

"We are not here just for new businesses," she said. "People can ask us for just about anything and we can help find the answers."

"I feel our city needs to look nice and that is why we work with the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Goodland Chamber and whoever else to keep improving the city and county."



Helen Dobbs cut up grapes on Wednesday to get ready for the strategic planning session to be held on Thursday at the Northwest Kansas Technical College.

**CASE III**



Dorothy Roeder

**WITZEL & RHEA IMP.**

W. HWY 24 ~ GOODLAND, KAN 67735

(785) 899-3432 ~ (800) 241-3264

After Hours # (785) 821-4406



Lisa Steier, Ashley Kear, Andrea Burnside, Jamie Snyder

**Honoring  
our  
Working  
Women**

**Kear's Party Mix**

403 E. 17th, Goodland Kansas  
785-890-3276

**Kear's Quality LIQUOR**

"We put the quality in your party"

*Service • Commitment • Dedication  
Describes our Working Women*



**BACK ROW:** Bev Baldwin-2 yrs., Rosemary Schuster-6 yrs., Marcia Sitton-8 yrs., Pam Parsons-20 yrs., Nicole Brack-10 months, Jan Peterson-2 yrs., Cinda Hatcher-6 yrs., Karen Ginther-27 yrs.  
**FRONT ROW:** Carole Jarrett - 27 yrs., Jeanette Jones, 16 yrs., Lana Ginn - 5 yrs.



**WESTERN  
STATE BANK**

815 Center, Goodland, Kan.  
785-899-2393  
www.wsbks.com

*Quality tradition you can trust.*



EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY

FDIC  
insured