

Bank employee retires

Dedicated and devoted sums up the 30 years of loyal employment given by Karen Ginther at Western State Bank.

Ginther is retiring and the bank will hold a reception for her from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday. "Karen has always maintained a positive attitude at the bank," said bank President Stephen West. "She has been a great co-worker, and friend and her presence at the bank will be missed."

Over her years with the bank Ginther has been through many changes and has been active in the community during her years with the bank.

She has been a Lion's Club member, serving as a board member on Carnegie Arts Center, Chamber of Commerce, and on The Business Counsel committee at Northwest Kansas Technical College and many other community committees.

Ginther started in 1981 working for Anchor Savings and Loan until 1990, when Anchor was purchased by Bank IV Kansas.

In 1990 she served the bank as a new account representative, and was promoted to a Customer Service Officer of the bank in 1992. Her duties included supervision of Tellers and new Accounts Personnel.

From 1994 thru 1997, Bank IV experienced mergers with Boatmen's Bank and Nations Bank, and finally in 1997 the bank was purchased by Western State bank, with a home office in Garden City, Ks.

It was during this time the changes were especially difficult for staff and customers, but Ginther was an important part of the transition and



Vice President of Western State Bank Karen Ginther as she visits with a customer on the phone. She retires after 30 years.

Photo by Josh Harenberg/The Goodland Star-News

managed to keep many of the bank's existing customers, West said.

In 1998, Ginther was promoted to Vice President of Western State Bank and her duties were expanded to include supervision of consumer loans.

Karen has been an integral part of Western State bank's success, and was again promoted in 2010 to

Senior Vice President of the bank, West said.

Western State bank, the employees, and customers wish Karen happiness as she retires and travels with her husband, Gary Ginther, to see the country and visit her many grandchildren.

Goodland part of energy challenge

The bitter winter cold has Kansans scrambling to seal up obvious leaks around their homes. Most homeowners would be surprised to learn the small leaks they find can add up to a hole the size of a basketball.

Raising awareness about sensible ways to fix those leaks is a fundamental objective of the Take Charge! Challenge – a competition among 16 cities including Goodland – to see which communities can save the most energy and bring home a prize valued at \$100,000.

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback launched the 2011 program Wednesday at Cedar Crest, the Governor's mansion.

Goodland's Take Charge Challenge kick-off event will be part of the Sherman County Health Fair on Saturday morning at the Northwest Tech College Student Union.

Volunteers from the city and others participating in the local effort will be on hand to hand out information and tips for people who can help the city move up in the competition.

Citizens can check out the competition by going to <http://takechargekansas.org> to learn more and to see which city in the northwest region is leading.

The Climate and Energy Project in partnership with the Kansas Energy Office is hosting the Take Charge! Challenge from January through September. The the Energy Office, a division of the Kansas Corporation Commis-

sion, awarded nearly \$1 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus) grants to pay for this year's Take Charge! Challenge and will reward one winning community in each of four regions with a renewable energy or energy efficiency project valued at \$100,000.

The four regions and participating cities include the following:

- Northwest Region: Colby, Goodland, Hoxie, Oakley and WaKeeney

- Northeast Region: Baldwin City, Gardner, Ottawa, and Paola

- Southeast Region: Chanute, Fort Scott, Iola, Parsons and Pittsburg

- University Region: Manhattan and Lawrence

The friendly competition will be measured and judged based on three criteria:

1. Whole-house energy efficiency – Efficiency Kansas energy audits and completed projects (www.efficiencykansas.com), low-income weatherization;
2. Lighting changes – switching to energy-efficient light bulbs;
3. Community involvement – public education and outreach.

All energy savings will be converted to BTUs, and each city's population will be taken into account. Communities must win two of the three measurement categories to win the prize.

"We are very excited about our partnership with these 16 cities and," said Thomas Wright Kansas Corporation Commission chairman. "The Take Charge!

Challenge is a tremendous opportunity to increase awareness about Efficiency Kansas and the whole-house approach to energy-efficiency retrofits."

Last year the pilot program in six Kansas communities saved almost 6 million kilowatt hours of electricity, avoiding more than 6.3 million pounds of CO2 emissions – the equivalent to emissions from 549 cars or the electricity use of 349 homes.

"We're expecting significant savings this year," said Jeff Risley, Executive Director of the Climate and Energy Project. "We've put an emphasis on whole-house efficiency, as embodied by Efficiency Kansas and the Weatherization Assistance Program."

The Take Charge! Challenge is a community effort. Each participating city convenes a leadership team to plan and manage the communities' efforts, which include encouraging home and business owners to schedule an Efficiency Kansas energy audit; switching incandescent light bulbs for compact fluorescent bulbs; enrolling in their respective utility's energy efficiency program; and attending a Take Charge! Challenge event.

Participating communities and others interested in the program should visit <http://takechargekansas.org> to learn more about the program and to help their community by registering things the person has done to improve energy savings in their home.

Cookie time



Two Brownie Scouts get ready to bring in the U.S. Flag to start the Girl Scout Cookie Kick-off on Friday night at the Goodland Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Scouts started selling cookies on Saturday and will sell until Sunday, March 13. Eight varieties of Girl Scout Cookies are available for \$3.50 per box (Thin Mints, Shortbread, Peanut Butter Patties, Peanut Butter Sandwiches, Lemonades, Caramel deLites, Thanks-A-Lot and Shout Outs). Proceeds from the cookie sale are used to benefit local girls, helping them pay for summer camp experiences, purchase uniforms and much more. The sale funds programs and services throughout the year and ensures that Girl Scouting will be available in the future.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Railroad right of way vacated in industrial park for building

By Tom Betz

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An ordinance was adopted unanimously Monday to abandon a railroad right of way in the Goodland Industrial Park to allow development of a storage/manufacturing building.

City Manager Doug Gerber said the ordinance was requested by Dan Rasure of GT Wind, who is beginning the erection of a metal building in the industrial park. In the process of doing the site plan, the railroad right of way was discovered running through the proposed building.

Gerber said the ordinance vacates the right of way in lots 2 and 3 of the industrial park. He said when the agreement was reached between GT Wind and the Goodland Industrial Park in September, they did not know the city had to be consulted in dealing with the railroad right of way.

Gerber said passing the ordinance opens a 30-day protest period, and if

someone objects the city will hold a hearing on the matter.

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked what happens if the city needs a railroad right of way further west in the industrial park.

Gerber said the city had a good relationship with the Goodland Industrial Park board, and said a potential developer is looking at the industrial park and might be interested in a railroad right of way.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said vacating the existing right of way would not cause a problem because it could be moved.

Dechant asked if the industrial park board was in approval of vacating the right of way.

Gerber said he was not sure about the board, but knows they want to see economic development out there. He said the board did not know they would have to do this.

Darin Neufeld, engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchinson and Associates, said he had completed the site

plan and dirt work is being done to grade the plot for the floor plan. He said he told Dan Rasure to go ahead with the understanding the city would get this done.

Gerber said he told Rasure to go ahead with the understanding if the ordinance did not pass they would be taking a risk.

Daniels said it is not city property except for the right of way.

Neufeld said the land is inside the city limits and was labeled as public right of way. He said if it had been titled differently the city would not have to go through with the ordinance.

Daniels made the motion to adopt the ordinance and Fairbanks seconded. The vote was 3-0 with Mayor Josh Dechant voting in favor. Commissioner John Garcia was absent from the meeting, but had attended by phone for a short portion to fill the commission vacancy.

corrections

In the cutline under the pictures of the buffalo on Page 3 in the Friday edition of The Goodland Star-News it said that Dale Goodland of Bankwest donated the buffalo instead of Dale Goodwin. This was due to reporter error.

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The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunder-

standing in a news story. Please call (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate

record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

Goodland Welcomes The Decorating Co.!



The Goodland Star-News and The Goodland Ambassadors would like to welcome The Decorating Co.!

Irene Smith and Rochelle Kling have started a new business in Goodland, called The Decorating Co. The business is located at 1011 Main Avenue.

The Decorating Co. can help you achieve the rooms of your dreams to fit your lifestyle. They proudly provide a wide range of professional interior design services and products that are sure to suit your individual tastes and needs. They pride themselves in being able to help you make improve-

ments to your home or office, even when your budget may be limited.

Services offered include: space planning, interior re-design, professional shopping, staging services, window treatments, fabrics and trims, color and design consultations, and so much more!

So if you're finding your home in need of a little pick-me-up, give Irene or Rochelle a call at (785) 890-5441 and let them be at your service!

You're Invited
To Join the FUN!!

🎤 **Saturday, Feb. 5th: 8 p.m.**
Karaoke Night

🏈 **Sunday, Feb. 6th: NFL Championship Game:**
Kickoff 3 p.m.: Snacks, Buffet, Prizes

♥ **Saturday, Feb. 12th: Valentines Couples**
Dinner & Dance. 6 p.m.-Call for reservations.
\$47/couple-Surf & Turf

Only at Sugar Hills Golf Club!

www.sugarhillsgolf.com
785-899-2785
6450 Road 16, Goodland



Come Join Us!
Open House/Refreshments

Friday, January 28
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Help us celebrate the retirement of Karen Ginther,
after 30 years of wonderful service!



"Achieving Goals by Building Relationships"
815 Center Avenue, Goodland
(785) 899-2393