

# Pastor heads to Topeka

**By Sharon Corcoran**  
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They say it will be tough to say goodbye to Goodland, but the family members say they feel they are following God's direction in their lives.

Friends and neighbors are having such a tough time letting them go, they threatened to band together to block all roads leading out of town.

Steve Rains, pastor of the Calvary Gospel Church, and his wife Robin plan to leave Saturday for a new assignment in Topeka, an assignment they said "yes" and then "no" and then "yes" to, and both they and their flock say it's a tough parting.

"We have enjoyed having them here," said Paul Chaffin, a member of the church and director of student services at the Northwest Kansas Technical College. "He has been involved with Shine On Sherman County and the ministerial alliance, and his kids have been in a lot of activities, 4-H and sports."

Goodland is a great place to raise kids, Steve Rains said; town and community have been good to them (sons Austin, 12, and Caleb, 9).

Mrs. Rains said she is looking forward to working with the church in Topeka but says the move will be hard. It's just harder leaving home the second time, she said.

She grew up in the church, Chaffin said, and her parents, Rod and Donna Haeflner, still attend.

"I remember when she was about this high," Chaffin said, motioning about four feet tall. "She used to come up and sing at church and make us feel really good. She still leads song and worship."

It was her role in the church that led to meeting Rains, she said.

"Steve was the youth pastor in Oakley," she recalled. "and I was helping with the youth group at Calvary. We both took our youth groups to the same camp and met there."

"It was love at first sight."



Steve Rains (above, right), pastor of the Calvary Gospel Church, talked with neighbors Mark and Fern Heckman and Maxine Peter at the church's going away reception for Rains and his family. Kennedy Dinkel (right photo), daughter of Tim and Bobbie Dinkel of Goodland, poured punch.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran  
The Goodland Star-News

That was in August 1991; the couple married in '92 and were in Oakley for a year before he decided to go back to Bible college in Springfield, Mo. She said they were in the youth ministry from 1996 to 2001, when they came to the church in Goodland.

"Steve will be doing the things his strengths are in," Mrs. Rains said of the Topeka assignment, "small groups, discipleship and integration. That's what he enjoys here."

She said they will be helping people get involved with different

aspects of the church, such as teaching and music.

"We will make newcomers feel at home," she said, "hold fellowships to help new people feel a part of the church."

She said they plan to encourage members to invite others.

"It's up to other believers to reach people about Christ," she said, adding they also set an example with their lives.

Mr. Rains said the senior pastor in Topeka, a friend, offered him a job there. They have been starting new

churches, he said.

Rains said "yes" at first but after thinking about their relationships in Goodland and what they would be leaving behind, he called back to say "no."

"But I felt a tug at my heart," he said, "and I talked about it with my wife. Then I ran into him, and he asked how we felt about our decision. He hadn't filled the position, so I said 'yes.'"

He said it's hard to leave, but they believe they are following God's lead.

# Former chief retired in May

**By Pat Schiefen**  
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Former Goodland Police Chief Steve Fenner retired as a master patrol officer for the Garden City Police Department on Saturday, May 21, after nearly 35 years in law enforcement.

Fenner started working for the Goodland department in 1973. He had been working as a mechanic for his dad, Albert, and had served in the Kansas National Guard for two years.

"I was shocked when he told me he had applied," said Faylene Fenner, Steve's wife. "I couldn't believe it."

Fenner said he was known for showing off the power of his muscle car, a 1962 Chevy Impala Super Sport, around town and had a few run-ins with the law.

"Let's just say I had a muscle car, and I liked to flex the muscle," he said.

He applied for a job with the Goodland Police on a dare from a friend, Bruce Hoppe. Fenner said he did not know it would lead to a career.

In Goodland, he was a patrol officer and later a sergeant.

Fenner said that at first he had no intention of staying in the field, but that all changed after he made his first felony arrest.

"The adrenaline jump is so much," he said. "I got hooked."

Fenner realized that he was making a difference in people's lives."

Fenner worked for the Goodland department for 11 1/2 years, five as chief.

In January 1985, he and his family moved to Garden City, where he started over on patrol.

"It was time for a change," he said. "I didn't want the responsibilities of chief anymore."

Fenner wasn't on patrol for long, though. He moved through the ranks after a promotion to field training officer and later corporal. Then his National Guard unit was activated and he was sent to Saudi Arabia for three months in Desert Storm. He was sent back to Fort Riley to have surgery for a lateral hernia.

On his recovery, he returned to work on June 10, 1990, and found that he still had a job.

"So many soldiers left and came back unemployed," he said. "I came back to a job that was held for me, to sick leave and a place that helped my family out when I was gone."

Fenner worked for the department for 23 years as a DARE officer, master patrol officer, school resource officer and senior master patrol officer. Before his retirement, he was a school resource office at Abe Hubert Middle School.

"I will miss the people and all the students," he said.

Faylene, who works for the department in records, said her husband has had an impact on others, including his daughter Rori Valerio, who also works in records; son, Justin Fenner, a Finney County jailer; brother, Brian Fenner, the Sheridan County sheriff; a nephew, Brandon Fenner, who's a Sheridan County deputy; and another nephew, Mike Fenner, a Goodland policeman and cousin, Debbie Wassemiller, who works in records at the Goodland Police Department.

Fenner, the son of the late Albert and Vola Fenner of Goodland, said he is looking forward to spending time with his grandchildren and wife.

## corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (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.

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# Goodland schools to ban wheeled shoes

**By Pat Schiefen**  
The Goodland Star-News

Put away those shoes with wheels, kids. They're going to be banned from Goodland Schools this year.

Student handbooks for all three levels — high school, junior high and grade school — will include the ban next fall. School officials say the wheels are hard on the floors and may be dangerous.

High School Principal Sharon Gregory told the school board that changes in the high school handbook included an updated mission statement, the district motto, an index and qualifications for the Kansas Board of Regents scholars program

and college-prep curriculum and the National Honor Society.

Roller shoes, skate boards and beverages from outside sources would be banned, Gregory said. Students were skate boarding down the stadium stairs, the principal said, and the roller shoes are hard on floors. If students bring in outside beverages, she said, the school doesn't know what is in them.

She said the pages that students and their parents need to fill out have been moved to the back to make it easier to find them.

Gregory said there would be no change in the random drug testing policy except that the first test is ac-

tually a screening and will be called that in the student handbook. In the handbook, the first test is called a test for drugs, she said, but it really is a screening, which is broader than a test. The screening will check for specific drugs.

West Elementary Principal Verna Milnes said the elementary student handbook would be the same as last year except for the change in lunch prices and a notice that shoes with wheels in them are not allowed.

Grant Junior High Principal Steve Raymer said changes in the handbook there were that cell phones could only be used before and after school, and a telephone in the of-

fice was to be used for calls during school hours.

A change in how students make up work would make the students more responsible, he said. The student would be responsible to find out what the work is and get it done instead of the instructor having to contact the student and check whether the work is done.

On the dress code, baggy pants and roller shoes would be banned. He said roller shoes could be a liability problem if someone gets hurt. He said he wanted to keep the possibility of academic study hall.

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## matters of record

### Accidents

The following accidents were investigated by the Goodland Police Department.

**June 1** — 2:05 a.m., 1600 Main Ave., a 1999 Chevrolet driven by Jesse Joe Sandoval was trying to leave and accidentally hit a 1996

Ford owned by Michael Franklin.

**June 3** — 7 a.m., 200 Clark Ave., a 1995 Jeep driven by Levi G. Coon was going south on Clark when Coon dropped something on the floor. When he went to pick it up the car drove to the east side of the street hitting a parked 1990 Pontiac owned

by Christopher A. Bauman.

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