

Company donates truck

President Ernest Lehman of Midwest Energy of Hays along with Energy Analyst Lester Loker donated an electrical bucket truck to Northwest Kansas Technical College President Ken Clouse for the electrical department.

The truck was given to instructors Gary Kickler and Les Garrens of the Electrical department of the college on Friday, Nov. 21. Also representing Midwest Energy were operations manager Fred Taylor of Colby and vice president of operations Dennis O'Dell of Hays.

The truck had originally been used in Oakley by Midwest Energy.

The bucket truck is a huge asset to the department because it will be the first time in the history of the college that they have had the capabilities it will allow. The students plan on using the truck for commercial and residential wiring and lighting.

Interstate donated the safety equipment for the students to use while working on the bucket truck. American Electric also donated materials to be used with the bucket truck.

Specialty Hydraulic Services of Meade did a complete inspection of the truck that was donated to the college, said service technician Rich McDanel. They replaced several technical parts that enabled the bucket truck to operate properly including two speed controls for the hydraulic pump operation. The work is estimated to have a value of \$5,900.

The college thanks everybody for their continuing support, said President Clouse.



Students in the electrical department of Northwest Kansas Technical College worked with a bucket truck donated by Midwest Energy to the department. Safety equipment and inspection of the truck were also donated.

Woman fills council seat

By Tom Betz
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The Sherman County Economic Development Council filled a three-year vacancy on Tuesday approving the election of a former Goodland woman who returned when she decided to retire.

The council had three positions to fill in November, but was one person short until Tuesday when Marciea Weaver was approved by the council after talking to the members about her background and work she has done with economic development boards, convention and visitors bureaus and chambers of commerce.

Steve West, council vice chairman, asked Weaver to talk to the council about what her experience has been and why she would be a good council person.

Weaver said her passion is for all of Kansas, and she has worked in public for 22 years in economic development positions, Chamber and convention and visitors bureaus.

"I understand the correlation of all three," she said. "I can bring help to the council. My goal for Goodland is to see us progress. I don't like to see empty buildings on Main. We want to see people moving to town."

Weaver said she had lived in Goodland years ago, and that some of the council members have known her for years. She said she lived in the eastern part of the state, but decided to retire and moved back to Goodland more than a year ago.

"I disliked retirement," she said, "and I have been General Manager of Howard Johnson Hotel from February 2007 to the present."

Several council members said they had known Weaver, and Jerry Fairbanks made the motion to elect her to the council. Walt Linthacum seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

West said the county commissioners will make the election official at their last meeting of the year on Wednesday, Dec. 31.

Weaver said she graduated from the National Institute School of Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Academy in 1999. She served

as president of the Dickinson County economic development board for five years.

Weaver was a founding member of the Flint Hills Economic Development Coalition and served as secretary for four years. She left the position when she retired and moved back to Goodland.

She was a charter member of the Fort Riley Task Force Development Coalition to coordinate the five counties adjoining Fort Riley for housing and employment opportunities for military families.

She was assistant Chamber director in Goodland for nine years before moving east and was executive director of Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau for 12 years.

Weaver was a founding board member of and served for nine years with the Dickinson County Leadership program.

"The main expertise I bring to the table is being able to identify the purpose and roles of tourism, Chamber and economic development," she said, "and how they each impact the community."

Helen Dobbs, council office manager, said she would be taking the list of council members to the county commission meeting. Those elected at the meeting in November were Harlan House to fill the one-year unexpired term of Don Newell and Dana Belshe who will have a three-year term replacing Chairman Chuck Wilkens. Weaver will be replacing Mike Cochran who has been on the council for three years.

Dobbs said Chance Schilling has left People's State Bank and is recommending Jan Haigler to be the bank's representative.

The other position to be filled is from Western State Bank, and West said he was working on that and would have a letter to Dobbs before the county meeting.

Other members on the council include Fairbanks, Linthacum, Larry Keirns, Shelly Thompson, Nancy Cole and Danny Archer.

The new council's first meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 20, and Dobbs said she would let everyone know where the meeting will be held.



'Tis the Season Collectors Club president Judy McKee (from left), Big Brothers Big Sisters director Wendy Wellmann, Little Sister Ruby Smith and club members Linda Saint, Ann Middleton, Marcia

Emig and Jacque Cooper gathered at Jacque's Hallmark for the presentation of the check from the club's fundraising efforts along with a gift for Smith for representing the organization.

Club raises over \$1,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters

A Goodland club has raised over \$1,000 to help Big Brothers Big Sisters match children with mentors.

The 'Tis the Season Collectors club with its sponsor Jacque's Hallmark raised \$1,070 for Big Brothers Big Sisters and presented a check Thursday, Dec. 11, at the store.

Club members have been focusing their efforts on their annual service projects, said Club President Judy McKee, adding that the club voted this year to help raise money

for Big Brother and Big Sisters of Northwest Kansas to help them get back on track with finances for a growing organization.

"We began gathering donations in October for our Holiday Garage Sale and Bake sale which took place later that month," McKee said, "and began selling tickets for our drawing, which was held Dec. 8."

Jacque Cooper, owner of the Hallmark store, donated a beautifully detailed light and motion

collector's piece designed by Jim Shore, McKee said; the winner of that Heartwood Creek Show Piece was Karla Meissenger.

The club members were happy to present the check to Wendy Wellmann, director of Big Brothers Big Sisters, McKee said.

Wellmann was accompanied by her Little Sister Ruby Smith, who received a special snowman gift for representing their organization.

Club members include Linda

Saint, Marcia Emig, Ann Middleton, McKee, Mary Jane Sponsel, Jo Herl and Cooper.

"A special thank you is extended to Janet Rumpel, who is not a member of the club," McKee said, "but had given her time to help with this project too. The club members may do all the foot work involved in the fund raising, but it is the generous community donations and support put forth that bring happiness to those kids from the results of our efforts."

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