



Stephanie Leibhart (left), new store manager at the Wal-Mart, used a hand-held computer to show Rhonda Rice, department manager of stationary, how several back-to-school items were selling. Rice encouraged back-to-school shoppers to help the less fortunate by donating school items to Genesis. She said two baskets at the service desk are set aside to collect items for the needy.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

New manager had her dream realized

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Stephanie Leibhart hadn't always wanted to be a store manager at Wal-Mart, but when she got the news she was coming to Goodland for her first store, tears streamed down her face.

"It was a dream that I had worked really hard for," she said.

Leibhart was standing in a store in Beatrice, Neb., when she got the call.

"This is my first time out of Nebraska," said the 14-year veteran of Wal-Mart as she settled comfortably in her office at the back of the store here.

Leibhart left her home and moved into Goodland on Tuesday, May 30. She said the boxes are unpacked and she has settled in at home, too.

"Wherever I go, I kind-of make it home," she said.

Leibhart started her rise to the top as an hourly associate.

She started working for the company right out of high school as a sales clerk in girls' wear and infants. She wasn't sure what she wanted to do with her life, so she quit Wal-Mart and went to beauty school. When she came back, she said, the company "culture" made her consider making her job a career.

"I love it," she said, "I can't imagine doing anything else."

Leibhart said she has done just

about everything in Wal-Mart from working on the floor all the way through each level of management.

Before coming here, she was a co-manager in the Beatrice, Neb. store.

Among recent charges that Wal-Mart discriminates against women, Leibhart said she has never encountered any roadblocks due to her sex. In Nebraska, she said, four out of seven store managers in her area were women. She said anything a man can do in Wal-Mart, a woman can do.

Leibhart picked Goodland to apply for a store manager position because of the area. She worked in a similar size store in Chadron, Neb., and she grew up in Sumner, Neb., a town of 250 people.

She so far said learning the new job is not easy, but has been fun.

"It's a challenge every day," she said adding challenges help you become a better person. "I thrive on a challenge."

As a store manager, Leibhart will head to the Wal-Mart home office in Bentonville, Ark., for training. It will be her first trip to the company's headquarters.

In the store, she is relying on the hourly associates to "show her the ropes." She said management here has been helpful, too.

"I learn from everyone," she said adding the hourly associates are the ones who have been at the store the

longest.

Leibhart said as she teaches people here new tricks, she learns new things herself.

"It's a reciprocated learning," she said.

An average day for the new manager includes a variety of odd jobs from paperwork to training. She even clocked in one night to work with the overnight stockers.

"Every day is different," she said. "You continually learn, every day."

While Leibhart has yet to meet everyone in the store here, she plans to hand out paychecks, an easy trick to learning everyone's first and last names.

She wants to learn more about the community.

"I'm a big believer in the school system," she said, adding that Wal-Mart is willing to contribute and work as partners with fund-raisers and other school projects.

While Goodland is considered a training store by some, Leibhart said she isn't planning to leave anytime soon.

"I'm content in Goodland right now," she said adding she will work for everyone here. "I want to do the best I can for the associates in the store."

Leibhart said her first impressions of Goodland are positive.

"Everyone's been great," she said. "The community has been warm."

Store to receive facelift in pharmacy, electronics

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Management asks customers to bear with the Goodland Wal-Mart at the end of this month when construction begins, paint goes up and items move.

The store is undergoing a remodel in the snack bar, photo lab and electronics department. The pharmacy will not be remodeled but will be painted, fixed and cleaned-up.

Store Manager Stephanie

Leibhart said work on the pharmacy will begin Monday. She said they will paint, clean and fix the out-of-date area. Work on the Pharmacy should not interrupt access to prescriptions and will be done in about a week all overnight.

Work will start in the Electronics Department on Monday, Aug. 8, where the floor plan will change. Leibhart said the new shelves will lower everything in the department, making the area look better. The "low profile" fixtures will allow

shoppers and employees to see over shelves.

"It's more visually appealing," Leibhart said.

The Photo Lab will be remodeled at the same time as the Electronic Department. She said the remodel may include new equipment, but she still is unsure of the exact items.

While the lab is changing, she said, customers can still use the services including the one hour lab, but the department will be moved into the lay-a-way area for those days.

The work on both of the areas should take about a week.

In the front of the store, the snack bar will be turned into a deli cafe. Leibhart said work will begin on Monday, Aug. 22.

She said the area will be a mixture of the old cafe with deli items.

The new area will sell fried and rotisserie chicken and sliced meats and cheeses.

She said the cafe will have salads, fresh sandwiches, heat-and-eat burritos and more.

A seating area will remain, but there will be more counter space for the extra items.

Leibhart said the deli project will take a little bit longer than the other remodeling. She said the snack bar will have to be closed down.

More changes are slated for next year when the entire store gets a remodel.

She said the company will paint the entire store, add new counters and lay new floor tile.

Crews will change the floor plan,

move entire shelving units by lifting them to wheeled carts.

Most of the remodel work, she said, will be done overnight to prevent confusion during the day. She said the staff will work to accommodate customers.

"We will do everything we can to try not to disrupt the flow in the store," she said.

The store opened in August 1997, she said, and this will be the first remodel.

Woman facing insurance fraud charges

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

A Goodland woman is facing both felony and misdemeanor charges for insurance fraud in Sherman County District Court.

The charges were filed against Marci A. Peden by Sandy Praeger, Kansas Insurance Commissioner, in cooperation with Bonnie Selby, Sherman County attorney, and the Kansas Attorney General's office.

Peden is charged with filing a fraudulent insurance claim valued

from \$5,000 to under \$25,000, a level 7 felony, and falsely reporting a crime, a misdemeanor.

The insurance commissioner's office said in a news release Wednesday that the allegations are Peden falsely reported a burglary of her Goodland home, 6940 Road 19. She reported the burglary to the Sherman County Sheriff on Nov. 12, 2003.

Along with the burglary, a claim was submitted to Peden's insurance company for items "lost" in the bur-

glary.

"The charges brought against Peden are merely accusations," the insurance commissioner said. "Peden is presumed innocent until, and if she is found guilty in a court of law."

Selby said the case is being prosecuted by Shelley J. Diehl, special assistant for the attorney general.

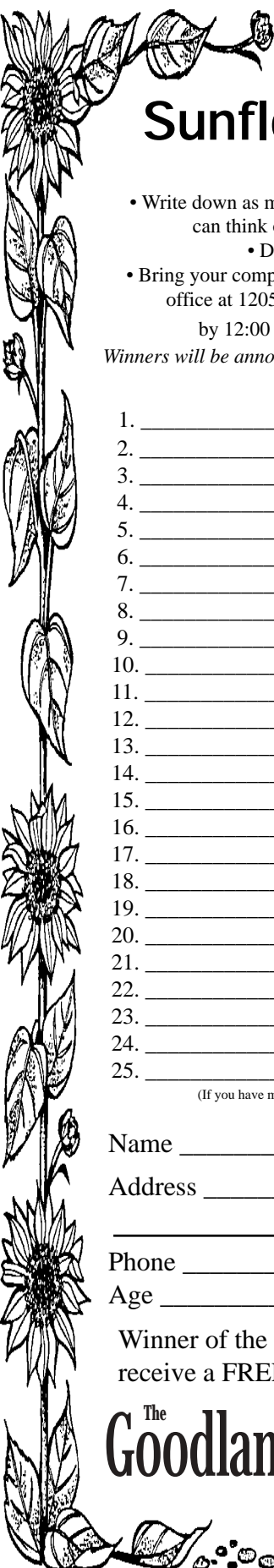
Peden's first appearance was scheduled for Tuesday, but was postponed to a later date. She is being represented by Calvin K. Will-

iams of Colby.

The release advised anyone suspecting insurance fraud by an individual policyholder, agent or company to contact the Kansas Insurance Department Consumer Assistance Hotline at 1-800-432-2428.

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.



Sunflower Contest

RULES

- Write down as many words (at least 3 letters) that you can think of using the word "Sunshine"
- Do not use proper names
- Bring your completed list to The Goodland Star- News office at 1205 Main or at our booth at the Fair by 12:00 p.m. by Monday, August 8th

Winners will be announced in the Friday, August 12th edition

1. _____	26. _____
2. _____	27. _____
3. _____	28. _____
4. _____	29. _____
5. _____	30. _____
6. _____	31. _____
7. _____	32. _____
8. _____	33. _____
9. _____	34. _____
10. _____	35. _____
11. _____	36. _____
12. _____	37. _____
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15. _____	40. _____
16. _____	41. _____
17. _____	42. _____
18. _____	43. _____
19. _____	44. _____
20. _____	45. _____
21. _____	46. _____
22. _____	47. _____
23. _____	48. _____
24. _____	49. _____
25. _____	50. _____

(If you have more than 50, please attach an additional sheet)

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