Shelly Angelos, new superintendent for the Goodland School the Northwest Kansas Technical College, at a reception to wel-District, visited with fellow educator Ken Clouse, president of come her and allow the public to meet the new superintendent. Photo by Anne Hamilton/The Goodland Star-News

# Elderly often victims of domestic violence

People perceive domestic violence as something that happens to young women. It is difficult to picture women, some in their 60s, 70s and 80s, being subject to physical and emotional domestic abuse.

I refer to women because the United States Justice Department has stated that 85 percent of the victims of intimate-partner violence

The January 3, 2006, AARP magazine has an excellent article entitled "And Then He Hit Me" describing the real picture of elder victims of domestic violence.

The AARP article points out that in studies in the late 1990's, between four and six percent of older North Americans reported they were in a relationship they considered physically abusive. If the surveys are correct and the percentages remain constant with overall popu-



#### bob stephan

domestic violence

lation growth, that would mean only one of 14 domestic elder abuse three to five million Americans incidents come to the attention of more than 50 years of age (out of 85 authorities. million) currently are in abusive relationships.

Our oldest elders (80 years and of the elderly population. In almost petrator, the perpetrator is a family member, and two-thirds of the perpetrators are adult children or

within the home, it is without a doubt under rewithin the family.

It is estimated that

Adult children are the most frequent abusers of the elderly. According to a 1996 study (the most more) are abused and neglected at recent study of which I have knowltwo to three times their proportion edge), 14.6 percent of the victims were subjected to physical abuse, 90 percent of the elder abuse and 12.3 percent were subjected to fineglect incidents with a known per-nancial/material exploitation, 55 percent were the victims of neglect, 7.7 percent were subjected to emotional abuse, 0.3 percent were victims of sexual abuse, and about 10 Because elder abuse almost alpercent of reported domestic abuse lence Review Board.

occurs cases do not fit into any of these categories.

The National Center on Elder Abuse found that the median age of ported. It remains elder abuse victims was 77.9 years the dark secret old. The study further found 66.4 percent of domestic elder abuse victims were Caucasian, 18.7 percent were African American and 10 percent were Hispanic.

Without a doubt, the true extent of elder abuse and positive intervention will remain elusive for many years to come. The secret nature of the crime should not dissuade regulatory agencies and law enforcement officials from seeking an answer.

If you are a victim of domestic violence, call 888-END ABUSE (888-363-2287) to find resources to assist you.

Bob Stephan is the chair of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' Domestic Vio-

## Is holding allowed on credit cards?

Dear Attorney General Kline:

My new job requires out-of-town travel, which is also new to me. On a recent trip, I used a credit card to guarantee my reservation but I paid my bill

by personal check when I checked out. The next day I tried to use my credit card but my purchase was denied because a "hold" had been placed on my account by the credit card company. Is this practice permitted?

Dear Kansas Consumer:

The situation you refer to is actually quite common — it is called card "blocking" and yes, it is al-

When you use one of your credit or debit cards to check into a hotel or to rent a car, the clerk usually then contacts the bank or company that issued your card to give an estimated total. If approval of the transaction is approved, the balance in your bank account or the credit available on your card is then reduced by this amount, or "blocked."

It works like this: You use a debit or credit card when you check into a \$100-per-night hotel for four nights. There is the likelihood that at least \$400 would be blocked, but many hotels and rental car companies often add anticipated charges for "incidentals" — things like gasoline, food or beverages — to the amount that has been blocked. ally vary widely from merchant to ably will not be a problem. But if merchant.

If you decide to pay your bill with the same card you used at check-in, the final charge on your credit card, or the final amount on your debit card, probably will replace the block within a few days.

But if you pay your bill with cash, a check or a different credit card, the company that issued the card you block in place for up to 15 days after you've checked out because they weren't notified about the final payment and did not know you paid your bill another way.

The reason this technique is used is to make sure you do not exceed your credit line (if you used a credit card) or overdraw your bank account (if you used a debit card) prior to checking out of your hotel or returning your rental car, leaving the the toll-free Consumer Hotline, merchant unpaid.

attorney general

Blocking is also used at times by restaurants in anticipation of large bills (like for a large dinner group or a party) and by other businesses to make sure that credit or account funds will be available to complete

Here are some suggestions to help you avoid blocking:

• When you rent a vehicle, check into a hotel, or if a business asks for your card in advance of service, ask then if the company is "blocking," the amount of money to be blocked, how that amount is determined and the length of time the block will remain in place.

 Consider paying your hotel, rental car or other "blocked" bills with the same credit card or debit card you used at the start of the transaction. Don't forget to ask exactly when the prior block will be removed.

 If you pay with cash, by check or a different credit or debit card, remind the clerk you are using a different form of payment and ask that the prior block be removed promptly.

If you're well below your credit limit or don't have a low balance in These additional amounts can actu-your bank account, blocking probyou are reaching that point, you need to be careful. Not only can it be embarrassing to have your card declined, it can also be inconvenient, especially if you need to make an emergency purchase and do not have enough money in your bank account or insufficient credit

Attorney General Phill Kline ofused at check-in might keep the fers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints or ques-

> For information or to file a complaint, write Attorney General Phill Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., Second Floor, Topeka, Kan. 66612, or call (800) 432-2310.

#### VFW auxiliary news

Foreign Wars Auxiliary met at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 2. President Brenda Frankenfeld called the meeting to order. Nine members were in attendance.

Ninth District Spring Convention will be Saturday and Sunday, April 29 and 30, in Stockton. All members are encouraged to attend the meeting on Sunday.

At the banquet on Sunday, Michael Smith, Goodland's Voice of Democracy speech contest winner, will present his speech, which won third place in the department.

The national president, Sandy German, will make her official visit to Kansas on Monday and Tuesday, March 20 and 21. She will be welcomed at the Kansas City Airport by an avenue of flags. She will be visiting auxiliaries in Lenexa, Topeka, Hope, Herrington and Junction

Statewide, the auxiliary treats and other non-cash item donations to the Veterans Administration Hos-

The Lowell Coleman Veterans of pitals is less than it had been in the past. Members are encouraged to bring clothing donations or new underwear items to the post for delivery to Fort Dodge.

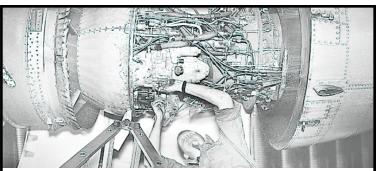
Connie Berquist, Grant Junior The charter was draped in High English teacher, was recogmemory of Gerri Bartlett. The nized by the Department of Kansas as the middle school teacher of the year. A program in her honor was conducted at the junior high last

Connie was instrumental in getting students to participate in the "Patriot's Pen" writing contest, as well as having students adopt a military unit. The students sent letters and comfort items to troops over-

An appreciation dinner for the many volunteers from the post and auxiliary will be held Thursday, March 30. Officers and others who volunteer their time at Bingo, helping with Veterans Day, Memorial Day and other special ceremonies are invited to attend.

The next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 6.

Submitted by JoAnn Wahrman.



NOT EVERYONE IN SHOP CLASS ENDS UP UNDER A CAR.

Internet tonight! 899-2338

Some end up under an F-15 Eagle or an A-10 Thunderbolt II. Some end up as mechanics working on the most advanced applied technology in the world. In fact, the United States Air Force can put mechanically inclined people into roles they could never find in the ordinary world, with opportunities for growth both personally and professionally Call 1-800-423-USAF or log on to airforce.com.



# Goodland schools rearranging principals

There will be some changes in will remain the principal at Central school principals for the next school

The Goodland School Board made the changes after coming out of closed session at their school board meeting last Wednesday at West Elementary School.

Harvey Swager will remain the principal at the high school. Don Smith will become the Athletic Director at the high school.

Steve Raymer will move from the high school to being principal at Grant Junior High. Jim Mull will only be the principal at North Elementary School. Sharon Gregory

Elementary School. Their salaries weren't determined yet, said Marvin Selby, School District Superintendent.

Marvin Selby said they are beginning interviews to fill the principal's job at West Elementary School.

Shelly Angelos, the current principal of West will become the new superintendent in July with the retirement of Selby.

That will mean each school will have its own principal next year rather than sharing a principal between Grant and North..

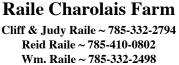
### Raile Charolais - Raile Gelbvieh JOINT PRODUCTION SALE

Monday, March 20, 12:30 p.m. (CST)

St. Francis Livestock Co. -- St. Francis, Kansas Performance Tested, Stout, Deep Bodied and Heavy Muscled Cattle that "Grow, Grade and Yield"

95 Bulls - mostly polled **Selling:** 55 Charolais 40 Gelbvieh (black & red) 17 Charolais Heifers





crai@citvofstfrancis.net www.RaileCharolais.com



#### Raile Gelbvieh

**Delbert & Marilyn Raile** 785-332-2756 Cody Raile~ 785-332-6089 dmraile@railegelbvieh.com www.railegelbvieh.com

# Post Rock 2x7

in back

TEXAS RED'S BAR-B-Q

Wednesday, March 15

thru

Saturday, March 18

Frontier Equity Exchange

in Goodland Beef brisquet • Turkey Breast • Chicken Halves • Sausages

• Pork Ribs