

# Working Women 2006



*Shannan Garrett*



*Tracy Hillmer*

Four stars  
from our  
community



*Jacquie Cooper*



*Leann Taylor*

The  
Goodland Star-News



# She shines as teacher, designer, mother

By Erica Harlan

*The Goodland Star-News*

As you walk into the Computer Graphics Technology department at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, you walk into a different environment.

You see a classroom, probably dark, with projects hanging up all over the room and 15 students sitting at their computers working away on projects. You may wonder, where's the teacher?

You'll find Shannan Garrett moving from student to student to help them on a project. She might even be at her desk.

Garrett has been the teacher for the program for two years now. Originally, she said, she was working in the Kansas City area. She applied for the job here when Benchmark laid off 200 employees because the owners were retiring. She said the job sounded like a fun challenge, and it was a job.

"Shannan has come in and done a really good job with the Computer Graphics Technology course. We hired her from Kansas City and was hoping the adjustment would work out. Shannan has done excellent

things for the program and we are going to strive for the that in the long run," said Ken Clouse, president of Northwest Kansas Technical College.

Garrett said she grew up in Olathe, graduated from Olathe North High School and attended Avila College in Kansas City, Mo. At Avila, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with an emphasis in graphic design.

"I always wanted to be some sort of artist," she recalled, "and when I was growing up, I was told I could either be a starving artist or an art teacher, so I went to school to be a teacher."

During high school and after, she has painted many murals. One was for a animal shelter, she said, and due to the mural, the shelter had increased its adoption rate 25-35 percent.

During her first year at Avila, Garrett said, her advisor, previously employed by Hallmark for several years, introduced her to graphic design. She said decided to double up her secondary education major with a graphic design major. She was the art editor for the literary magazine, designed promotional pieces and was also on

See TEACHER, Page 3



Shannan Garrett talked to Remington Box, student, about juggling 2 golf balls while Julie Szoka waited her turn for assistance on a project.  
Photos by Erica Harlan/The Goodland Star-News

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Back row: Jeanette Jones - 14 yrs, Cinda Hatcher - 3.5 yrs, Lonnie Newell - 19 yrs,  
Pam Parsons - 18 yrs, Marcia Sitton - 6 yrs, Bev Baldwin - 1 yr  
and Rosemary Schuster - 3.5 yrs.  
Front Row: Carole Jarrett - 25 yrs, Lana Ginn - 2 yrs, and Karen Ginther - 25 yrs.

  
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# She's multi talented

**TEACHER, from Page 2**

the dance squad.

All her life, she said, she has been entering competitions, and she has a trunk full of awards that range from honorable mention to a National Gold Key for art work she has done.

"Competing against other people has never really appealed to me," she said. "I'm more of a compete against myself type; I really get a thrill from doing better than I did last time."

Garrett has been in the graphics world for about 10 years. In her first adventure, Prairie Fire Graphics, she was a free-lance designer, responsible for all aspects of projects from print bidding, to initial consultation, to development and client approval to pre-press. Later she was an art director for AMC Marketing.

Garrett said she worked in tandem with video and radio advertising writers and producers to create unified campaigns. Also, she gained experience with working with international printers and distributors. Garrett said she established a pre-press check and proofing system eliminating 98 percent of all image, design and copy errors.

At The Columbia Tribune in Mis-

souri, Garrett said, she was responsible for designing advertisements in a fast-paced environment with tight daily deadlines, as well as flowing all advertisements and classifieds into the system for the next day's edition. As a graphic designer, she was responsible for printing them to film and proofing them before the press run.

At Benchmark, as the art director, she managed the web design and photography departments.

When asked how the field has changed since she first started in graphic design, Garrett chuckled. The field is constantly changing, she said. When she started, much of what she did was assembled by hand, and now most of everything is done on a computer. Three-dimensional animation and modeling are common now, and video editing does not need to be hand spliced anymore.

"Oh, and my favorite as a photographer, digital cameras ... allow me more control over my shots in the studio and out of it," she said. "It's a ton of fun and a challenge to keep up with everything. Sadly enough, I've known several excellent designers

**See TEACHER, Page 4**



Shannan Garrett and Callie, Callie, enjoyed a Mom and Daughter afternoon at Gulick Park on a wonderful spring afternoon. As a single mother, Shannan said Callie comes first.

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Shannan Garrett talked to Julie Szoka about a project she was working on in Computer Graphics Technology class. The golf ball was caught from a student juggling 2 golf balls.

# She shines in all her roles

## TEACHER, from Page 3

who have fallen out of the field because they reused to be flexible and change with the times.”

When asked how is it like, holding a challenging job and being the single mother of a second grader, she replied with a question.

“Have you ever tried to juggle watermelons? Well that is pretty much what it is like. There is more to teaching than just what goes on in the classroom, and that stuff tends to get dragged home so that I can spend time with my daughter and still get my job done.

“I usually wait until she goes to bed and then work on what I’ve brought home. That way I can do all of the things necessary to keep my family running. Sometimes it doesn’t work out so well, and I need outside help. The problem I tend to face is that all of my family and friends are 600 miles away. There isn’t much help available to me here, so I’m grateful that my employer often takes that into account.”

Garrett said she tries to spend time with her daughter, Calliste, or Callie.

She helped Callie’s gymnastics class, spending three hours one night helping her daughter with her routine. Callie walked off the floor with a gold medal in her last meet.

Garrett is active. Back in Kansas City, she said, she went dancing and rock climbing. When she was in school, she was in ballet, gymnastics, martial arts and paint ball. She is building her own pottery kiln. She still does a lot with art when she is not in class.

Future growth for the Computer Graphics Technology Department is the next goal for her. The program is growing, and she wants it to keep growing.

“My industry advisors and students feel that taking the Computer Graphics program to a two-year program would be beneficial to their learning,” she said, “and I am working towards that goal.

“This field grows so fast that industry’s skill requirements of entry-

level employees are changing. What was enough five years ago isn’t enough now. Students need that knowledge and more to get good jobs. Most times that up-to-date ‘more’ is what makes a student and a program. That’s what I want to provide, and where I want to go with the program.

Garrett’s advice for a young woman deciding what she wants to do with life?

“Choose a career that is based on something you love. Even if you land a job that pays lots of money, if you don’t love what you are doing, you will never be happy with your life or your job.”

As a student and friend of Shannan Garrett, I see her as a friend, role model, and a source of support that seems to never run out.

*Erica Harlan of St. Francis is a graphic artist for The Goodland-Star News. She is a 2005 graduate of the Computer Graphics Technology course.*

An oatmeal-based face mask cleans and tones skin, while the added lavender provides a therapeutic aroma. This mixture is easy to whip

up for someone special, or just package the ingredients and instructions, and let her make it herself.



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(Left) Gail Keller, Anna Martinez, Jeannie Hickert, Jennifer Arntt. Not Pictured: Jennifer Franklin, Rachel Bustillos, Tamara Sheats, Maricella Castillo, Sherry Robinson, Pamela Britt, Virginia Wilkenson, Tammy Kallestad, Rita J. Fischer, Cassie Wilson, Rebekah Ross, Nichole Buskirk, Jenny McClelland and Ashley Davis.



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# She fines, jails people who violate city laws

By Pat Schiefen

*The Goodland Star-News*

Here comes da judge! In this case, it's Leann Taylor, municipal judge for the City of Goodland.

Taylor has been the city's judge since the death of Mac McGinley in Feb. 2004. Before that she was judge pro tem, sitting in for McGinley, and held bond hearings on weekends.

A municipal judge does not have to be a lawyer, she said, although most are. A judge has to be certified by attending two days of training and then taking an all-day test within 18 months. The test is offered twice a year, Taylor said, and certified judges need 10 hours of continuing education each year. Taylor said she has been certified since Nov. 1998.

The municipal court works with city ordinance violations, she said, which include all kinds of minor crimes from theft to battery, domestic battery and misdemeanor charges. A lot of the charges are also state violations, she said, but the city has some the state doesn't. These include animal regulations, careless driving and fireworks. The people she deals with are mainly over 18, except for drivers 14 and older. She handles no juvenile cases, since the state district court does that.

Taylor's office moved to the second floor of the city building when an office opened up.



Municipal Judge Leann Taylor's office is on the second floor of the city administration building at 204 W. 11th.

Before that, she said, it was in the basement with the police department. She thinks the move was a good idea.

She said Leslie Beims, the city prosecutor, does diversions in 99 percent of the juvenile

traffic cases. Jeff Mason usually handles the civil matters for the city.

"I have court twice a month," Taylor said, "usually the second and fourth Wednesday of the month."

"Court is a little more informal than district court."

People can go to jail if convicted on charges in her court, she said, including domestic battery, driving under the influence and driving while suspended.

Taylor went to Garden City Junior College and received an associate's degree in business in 1981. She finished her bachelor's in 1983 at Fort Hays State University.

She moved back to Garden City with her husband Dennis, who worked for Midas Mufflers there. Taylor said she was a court clerk for 3 1/2 years and on the traffic desk for a year and a half. In a bigger place, she noted, the crimes often are more serious.

She said the manager of Frontier Equity called in 1989 and wanted her husband to become the shop manager in Goodland. In a week they had moved.

She worked with Municipal Judge Brad Rigor for 1 1/2 years, Jerry Fairbanks for three and then McGinley as the court clerk.

Taylor has three children, Wade, 19, who will finish the carpentry program at the Northwest Kansas Technical College in July; Briana, 18, who will graduate from Goodland High School in May, and plans to go to Coffeerville Junior College and major in elementary education; and Andrew, 15, a freshman at Goodland High School.

## We recognize our working women



Kerri Ketter, Barb Abbott, Sara Townsend, and April Hall. Reta Smith, Judy Finley, and Roberta Normandin. Not Pictured: Wilma Pfannenstiel, Linda Rummel, Joan Porsch, Jill Eberhart, Jennifer Hays, and Pia Barnes.

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## Our working women help get the news to you



Back: Erica Harlan, Pat Schiefen, Judy McKnight, Barb Lindsley, Sharon Corcoran. Front: Sheila Smith, Anne Selfridge, Betty Morris, Heather Merklin. Not pictured Lana Westfahl.

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**Goodland Star-News**

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# Balloon creativity gets woman into business



Jacquie Cooper worked with two flower balloons being readied for a birthday. She tied them to a bag of candy to hold them down. She said the balloons were part of the reason she owns Jacquie's Hallmark.  
Photos By Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

Today, the balloon business helps on a day when business in the store may be slow, but it is the creative part of the balloons this Goodland native enjoys.

Jacquie Cooper, owner of Jacquie's Hallmark since 2001, said she is optimistic for Goodland, and hopes the economy here keeps improving with the new energy center and the Adronics/Elrob plant.

"We need more things to make people come to Goodland," Cooper said. "It would be good to have more businesses to draw people here."

Cooper was born in Goodland, the daughter of Linda and the late Bud Fogo. Her mom works at the High Plains Museum today.

She graduated from Goodland High School in 1984, and married Kendall Cooper in 1985. She was a secretary and in 1994 got a teaching degree from Fort Hays State University, using the Colby Community College outreach program.

"I got my degree the year my first son, Jesse, was born," she said.

She never did teach, but she said she enjoyed her student teaching, which she did at North Elementary when it was a neighborhood school, before the grade-level attendance centers were organized. She taught third grade.

"I did enjoy it," she said, "and now all those

kids are about 21.

"I like kids, and enjoyed teaching. Wish I had stayed in it, but I wanted to stay home with my kids, so that is what I did."

In 2001, she said, Jane Boys opened a balloon shop called Shanigans, but she wanted to sell. Cooper saw it as an opportunity and bought the shop, which was located where High Plains Office Supply is today.

Nine months after buying the balloon shop, Cooper heard that Jan Malpert wanted to sell the Hallmark shop.

"I went from a one-person shop to a larger place with several employees," she said. "It was quite a commitment."

In her five years at the store, Cooper said, she has learned to change and tried to keep up with what her customers want.

"It started out really good," she said, "but the market has changed over the years."

One thing that has changed, she said, is the collectibles.

"That has died," she said. "There used to be great business in the figurines people wanted, but when they get a shelf full, they don't buy like they used to."

She said this year has started out better than last year, and hopes business is turning around.

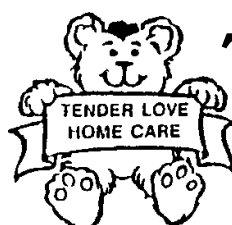
"It is good to see more stores open up down-

**See COOPER, Page 7**

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(Back) Sharmis Emig, Deb Wassemler, Leslie Knitig, Shauna Johnson. (Front) Mary Volk, Amy Thorson, Janeil Dilling, Leann Taylor, Ida Salinas, Linda Holton, Ida Gottschalk

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# She began in balloons

**COOPER, from Page 6**

town,” she said. “It created more reasons for people to come downtown.”

“When a store closes, it is just one more reason not to come downtown.”

Cooper said she had to compete to some extent with a Hallmark line that Wal-Mart sells.

“Hallmark has an agreement with Wal-Mart,” she said. “Hallmark is trying to set up a separate program for the Gold Crown stores to make it so we don’t always have the same stock.”

Wal-Mart may have some of the same things that are available at Jacque’s, she said, but Cooper and her employees try to take better care of their customers.

“We offer services to people,” she said. “We have more personalized service at my store. We offer gift wrapping, and free delivery in Goodland.”

She said today few people collect Beanie Babies, a big craze in the early 90s. She said the TY company continues to produce quality plush products, though.

“I got in on the tail end of the Beanie Baby wave,” she said. “At one time, we had to limit people to one style per

day so all the collectors had a fair chance to buy one.

“I still order a lot, but not at the levels of before.”

On the card side, Cooper said, Hallmark is trying to interest the younger crowd and get them to send more cards.

She said Hallmark’s research shows that women 35-60 are the biggest senders of cards today.

She said a recent book, “On a Personal Note,” published by Hallmark was co-written by Keely Chace, a Goodland High graduate.

Cooper said many people know Chace, and the book has been popular.

“I have trouble keeping it on the bookshelf,” she said. “I think it is great guide to show people how to write those special messages, and it is fun.”

She works six days a week, or is at least in the store part of the day, but when she is not working, Cooper likes to work outside and be with her kids.

Recently she completed the Master Gardener course, and she enjoys working in the garden.

“I am not a great gardener,” she

**See COOPER, Page 8**



Mikki Ricker talked to Jacque Cooper at Jacque’s Hallmark about the selection of gifts and cards available.

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Graduation gifts continue to change and Jacque Cooper held a special stuffed animal with a gift card pouch at Jacque's Hallmark.

# Service is her top goal

**COOPER, from Page 7**

said, "but I like to grow things, especially vegetables to eat at home, and flowers.

"It is hands-on experience."

Her second son, Tristan, was born in 1997 Jesse plays soccer and likes it, she said.

"I like to be with my kids," she said. "I am a soccer mom for about six (more) weeks, then we are into baseball."

She also follows Kansas Kids wrestling with her younger son Tristan.

"He is having some success," she said. "It is his second year and he likes it."

Tristan wrestled at 63 pounds this year. Cooper said he also likes flag football and is into sports.

Her husband Kendall has a lawn care business, and she said he is busy this time of year. She said he does help sometimes with deliveries and unloading freight at Christmas time.

Kendall came through the store, but when he saw a camera, he headed out the door saying, "The store is her thing. You don't need me."

Cooper said five employees help run the store, and two of them have been there for over 10 years. Jo Herl has been working at the store for about 22 years, and Mary Jane Sponsel has been there for about 11.

Her sister, Sheryl Linden, and Wilda Kalbach are the other helpers, and Cooper said that Alicia Studer is helping after school.

Cooper said she doesn't know what the future will bring, but hopes to keep the doors open for years to come.

"It would be sad to see the business close," she said. "I think I have an important spot on Main.

"I notice how things have changes, and when people are back for a visit, they notice how they are changed.

"I am optimistic for Goodland, and hope things keep improving."

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