

# Bank offers to handle city employee retirement plan

By Tom Betz  
*The Goodland Star-News*

City employees may change the company handling their supplemental retirement plan, which was explained to the city commission.

Trevor Linton, assistant vice president and financial specialist for First National Bank, attended the meeting on Aug. 21 to discuss the possible change with commissioners.

"I was approached by city employees to look at the existing plan," Linton said. "I believe I can offer something that is comparable and would be good for the employees."

He said the plan would be much the same, and that every employee would be eligible. He said there are about 17 who take advantage of the program now.

The plan allows city employees to put money into a retirement program that is in addition to the Kansas Association of Public

Employees Retirement System, Linton said.

"I have looked at this and could take it over for the city," Linton said. "I feel what we offer is competitive and believe we can bring the program closer to home and provide more contact for the employees."

"A concern for the employees is they cannot talk to the representative now. I would make time to meet with new and existing employees and would give them an opportunity to talk to me."

"We can open up the flexibility of the plan — we offer more than 900 mutual funds — and we could work with people and narrow that down to some of the best 25 to 30 top funds. We use Nationwide, and would keep the city from having to handle the details."

"There are a lot of pluses for the city and for the employees."

Linton said it would help with the employees retirement, and can add to the state

program.

"It is nothing the city has to match or give money to," he said. "It is up to the employees to participate."

Linton said there is a one-time base fee of \$900 to get everything set up, and either the city or the existing plan can pick that up. He said there is another one-time fee of \$30 per eligible employee.

"There is an asset management fee of 1.25 percent charged to the fund," Linton said. "That covers everything. Employees to have 24-hour-a-day access by phone or Internet."

"They can contact me at the bank. There is a \$25 monthly base charge for the entire plan, and a \$1-per-month-per-employee charge."

City Commissioner Dave Daniels asked if the cost was to the city or the employee.

Linton said the one-time costs can be paid by the city, or from the money now in the

plan or from the employees.

The city's current plan is with ING, formerly Aetna City Clerk Mary Volk said.

"I have heard some comments that the employees are disappointed with options and opportunities (they have now)," Linton said.

"The agent doesn't come out and handle this," said Volk. "He has not been out here for over a year."

"Do we have an employee committee?" Mayor Rick Billinger asked.

"No," Volk said. "We talked to Trevor about doing this, and asking that the city consider whether they do the same as the existing plan."

"The company we now have charges 1.5 percent per month."

"Have your employees' meeting to see if they want to change and what they are willing to pay out of the plan," Billinger said.

City Commissioner John Garcia said he liked having it brought to the local level.

"We might pay the \$900 plus the other one-time charge," Billinger said.

"We want to know that up front," Volk said.

"We want to support our employees," said City Manager Wayne Hill, "and I think it is a good deal."

Linton was asked how many employees are eligible.

He said out of 65 there are 17 who have a balance in the plan.

"I think more would do it if there is a local contact," Linton said.

"Find out what they are willing to do and get back to us," Daniels said.

Billinger asked what would happen to the money now in the plan.

Linton said it would roll over directly into the new plan.

Volk and Hill said they would hold an employee meeting and get back to the commission.

## Scores show students not prepared for test

Goodland High School 2006 graduates did not have a good year with the ACT test, used by colleges for admittance and class placement.

The test measures whether students are ready for college work in English composition, college algebra, social science and biology.

Harvey Swager, Goodland High School principal, reported the results at the Goodland School Board meeting on Monday, Aug. 28.

"I am sure you are going to be pretty disappointed at the first look," he said. "We have done pretty well over the past few years, but not this year. They have changed the test a bit and how they report the results."

Our kids were compared to the state norm but not the national norm like has been done in the past, Swager said. Also previously kids who did not take all of the core curriculum were not figured into the composite score for the school.

In the Class of 2006, he said, 44 graduates took the test. The results showed that 11 of those were not ready, he said, and that may be because many seniors did not take college prep classes in math and science.

"We only had nine kids take calculus and only 14 took physics," Swager said. "We need to empha-

size the courses that they need to take to be prepared for this test."

"We want the kids to take the test when they are juniors and possibly two times after that."

Petersons Preparation for the ACT is on line on the Internet, www.Peterson.com/olc/new-act, Swager said. Students can take a pretest which will give them some practice questions.

"Our goal in seminar class," he said, "is to get them registered so students can do this at home or anywhere they have Internet access. We hope this will help prepare them for the test."

The composite score average for Goodland High School was 20.2, Swager said, below the state average of 21.8 and the national average of 21.1. The Kansas Association of School Boards issued a report comparing Kansas with the rest of the country, he said.

In the 25 states, including Kansas where a majority of high school graduates take the test, he said, Kansas was tied for sixth with South Dakota. The states in this section of the country that tested better were Minnesota (22.3), Iowa (22.1) and Nebraska (21.9). States testing below Kansas were Missouri (21.6), North Dakota (21.4), Oklahoma (20.5) and Colorado (20.2).

## Dropped cell phone ends with car rolling into ditch

A Brewster High senior was westbound on Old U.S. 24 about 11:20 p.m. last Tuesday when she dropped her cell phone and lost control, rolling her car.

An accident report filed by the Sherman County sheriff's office said Dani Bedore, 17-year-old daughter of Barb and Dustin Bedore, told officers she was trying to find the phone.

Her car went into the north ditch just east of County Road 21, right before the curve east of town. The 1993 Pontiac rolled and landed on

its wheels.

The vehicle had to be towed but Bedore was not hurt. She was not wearing a seatbelt, the sheriff reported. The report listed her address at 508 E. Ninth, Goodland.

Bedore, a standout athlete, plays volleyball and track for the Bulldogs, and plays on a club volleyball team in Colorado.

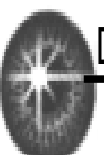
### corrections

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.

## NEVER COULD A WARRANTY BE MORE IMPORTANT

At Drs. Morrison & Wahlmeier, we not only offer the most comprehensive vision and eye health examinations, but we also back our eyewear with a year frame and lens warranty. At Drs. Morrison & Wahlmeier, we also offer:

- Large selection of eyewear in all price ranges
- Prescription and nonprescription sunglasses, including Oakleys
- Certified Opticians

**DRS. MORRISON & WAHLMEIER**  
FAMILY PRACTICE OPTOMETRISTS

480 W 6th, Colby (785) 462-8231      1002 Broadway, Goodland (785) 899-3654


## Rotary lays bricks at Van Gogh painting



Justin Lohr (left), with the city crew, helped Rotarian Wayne Aten get ready to lay bricks in a triangle under the giant Van Gogh painting east of Pioneer Park. On the Rotary Club crew with Aten were Darin Neufeld, Dick Liess, Larry Keirns and other Goodland Rotarians who helped build a brick sidewalk and triangle

under the painting as part of the club's project to celebrate Rotary's century of service. The project included a spot light which shines on the painting at night, and the bricks. The club is waiting for decisions from the Sunflower U.S.A. group before doing any more work on the viewing area south of the painting.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News



### Openings for select House Parents

The Omaha Home for Boys offers a unique opportunity for married couples to care for boys, average age 12-16.

- Nationally recognized training
- Beautiful, modern facility
- \$36,000 starting salary
- Excellent benefits
- Free housing & meals

**The Omaha Home For Boys**  
4343 N. 52nd St., Omaha, NE 68104 • www.omahahomeforboys.org  
Call 1-800-408-4663, Monday-Friday

## Huge Selection!

### Homecoming Dresses Accessories and Shoes

### 10% off

Homecoming dresses, accessories, shoes with mention of this ad

### Bridal Shop

Wedding Dresses and Accessories  
Bridesmaid dresses, Flower Girl dresses  
Baptismal dresses, Shoes

### Formal Wear for all occasions



## EL DORADO

1101 Main  
Goodland, Kan.  
(785) 899-0060

## Need a loan?


Apply on-line at  
[www.shelterbank.com](http://www.shelterbank.com)

Or in person!




**Jim Alcorn**  
1624 S. Main, Goodland  
(785) 899-2553  
(785) 899-2804 Cell  
[jalcorn@agent.shelterinsurance.com](mailto:jalcorn@agent.shelterinsurance.com)

HOME, AUTO AND OTHER CONSUMER LOANS ARE AVAILABLE.  
CHECK OUR COMPETITIVE RATES ON-LINE OR CALL US.



www.shelterbank.com  
or call 800-251-7115  
1817 W. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65218-0001



## Internet Tonight!

# 899-2338