

Vision retreat to develop 10-year goals, action plan

RETREAT, from Page 1

lery; Lincoln Wilson, owner of Howard Johnson's (chairman of Convention and Visitors Bureau board); Mike Cochran, Cochran Farm Supply; Marjie Schnabel, Snappy Snack; Alan Townsend, a farmer and director of Bankwest of Kansas; Ken Klemm, Buffalo Guys; Jessica Cole, Cole Family Farms; Jerry Fairbanks, First National Bank and Goodland Industrial Development; Darin Neufeld, Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates; Brian Linin, Frontier Equity

Co-op and Goodland Chamber of Commerce president; Bill Stoick, Super 8 Motel, Convention and Visitors Bureau board member; Jeff Deeds, a farmer and state fair board member; Tom Betz, editor of *The Goodland Star-News*; and Amy Sederstrom, Truck and Tractor Repair, a school board member and board member of the Sherman County Farm Bureau. Gerald Franklin, an Edson farmer, was named as an alternate.

Education nominees include Jackie Elliott, high school math teacher; Harvey Swager, high school principal; Sarah Short, Fam-

ily Career and Community Leaders of America advisor; Jan Wilson, West Elementary teacher; Ron Barkley, a retired teacher and KLOE radio host; Wendy Wellmann, community prevention consultant from the Northwest Regional Prevention Center; Shelly Angelos, Goodland school superintendent; Ken Clouse, president of the Northwest Kansas Technical College; Marvin Selby, retired school superintendent; Jim Mull, principal of North Elementary; Connie Livengood, high school biology teacher; and two or three students to be selected by the schools.

Jonathan Dansel, high school football coach and teacher, is the alternate.

From the Health/Human Service section, the nominees include Travis Blake, pastor of the First Baptist Church; Brenda McCants, hospital patient services director; Dale Shields, hospital director of human resources; Dr. Travis Daise, Goodland Family Health Clinic; Jay Jolly, hospital administrator; Steve Raines, pastor of Calvary Gospel Church; Dana Belshe, Sunflower Extension District agent; Jana Eisenbart, nurse practitioner from Pioneer Health; Donna Price,

convention bureau director; Jack Lucas, hospital physical therapist; Wayne Aten, retired businessman and Goodland Rotary Club member; and Brad Shields, Wilkens Truck and Tractor and head of the home-owned carnival. Mary Pat Bowman, director of Golden West Skills Center, is the alternate.

From the government sector, John Garcia, city commissioner (Garcia's Home Furnishing and Appliances); Mayor Rick Billinger (Nationwide Homes, Nationwide Village); McMinn, economic development director; Dave Daniels, city commissioner (rental houses);

Josh Dechant, city commissioner (Bankwest); Kevin Rasure, county commissioner (Rasure Lumber Do It Center); Annette Fairbanks, city commissioner (Teeters Abstract and Title); Chuck Thomas, county commissioner (Edson farmer); Kevin Butts, sheriff; Mitch Tiede, county commissioner (Tiede Ter-racing); Iris Scheopner, county treasurer; Mike Campbell, regional director of the U.S. Farm Service Agency; and Duane Cheney, Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Wayne Hil-

Hectic Christmas shopping season a tough time to avoid scams

Dear Attorney General Kline: I'm starting my holiday shopping soon. Could you please provide me with some tips on becoming a smarter shopper and not becoming a scam victim?

Dear Kansas Consumer:

During this especially hectic time of the year, you need to make well-educated decisions, whether you're trying to get the most for your money or you just want to avoid falling victim to con artists. To help you reduce the chance of being scammed during the holidays, here are some suggestions you should consider:

- Do not pre-print your driver's license, social security number or phone numbers on your checks.



phill
kline

• attorney general

- When asked to provide your account numbers to anyone, especially over the telephone, always be cautious. It's a good idea to take your financial information like the keys to your house, because they are the keys to your bank accounts and your financial well-being.

- Pay extremely close attention to your credit card and bank statements during and after the holiday shopping season. Watch for charges

or debits that you do not recall making and for duplicate charges. Most credit card companies and financial institutions provide access to your accounts on-line or over

the telephone. This makes it easier to monitor your transactions throughout the month rather than waiting until you receive your next billing statement. If you discover a discrepancy, immediately notify your credit provider or bank to preserve your legal rights.

- Don't buy an item that is the subject of a recall or negative reviews as it relates to product safety issues. You can check with the U. S. Con-

sumer Product Safety Commission at www.cpsc.gov, the Federal Citizen Information Center at www.pueblo.gsa.gov and Consumer Reports Magazine before making any "big ticket" purchases.

- Understand the merchant's return or refund policy *before* you make a purchase. Return policies can vary widely from store to store, and many offer in-store credit or exchanges only. Catalog or Internet purchases may not allow any returns or may require the shopper to pay the cost of return shipping.

- If you buy used items, be aware that many safeguards such as the Kansas Consumer Protection Act and recourse to the Better Business Bureau do not exist when buying

from an individual and not a retail store. It is a good idea to get assurances in writing that an item sold as "used" will function as it is represented.

- Gift cards are becoming more and more popular, but ask about redemption policies. Most times these handy gifts cannot be redeemed for cash and sometimes there are other restrictions and limitations, including expiration dates. It's a good idea to buy gift cards or gift certificates from reputable merchants because if a merchant goes out of business, the gift card is worthless.

- Rebates can save you money but only if you submit them properly and in a timely manner. Read the fine print on the rebate form before you make a purchase and submit it immediately. You should also keep a copy of everything that you send

in with the rebate coupon and get some kind of proof of delivery to show when you mailed the forms and when it was received by the company.

By following these suggestions you should be able to have a safe and secure holiday shopping season.

Attorney General Phill Kline offers 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 questions.

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 the toll-free Consumer Hotline, (800) 432-2310.

Cutoff for farm incentives program Dec. 15

The cutoff date for applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program will be Friday, Dec. 15, said Fred Wedel of the Sherman County Natural Resource Conservation Service office in Goodland.

Wedel said farmers interested in participating in the programs can apply at the office at 210 W. 10th, or call (785) 899-3070.

In addition to the regular Environmental Quality Incentives Program, farmers may apply for

assistance through the Ground and Surface Water Conservation part of the program on a conservation practice that results in savings in ground water or surface water.

When farmers or ranchers apply for funding they will be required to fill out a Kansas self-assessment worksheet Wedel said.

"Environmental Quality Incentives Programs are available to help address the unique circumstances and concerns of limited resource

and beginning farmers and ranches, who have natural resource concerns that need to be addressed on their land," said Harold L. Klaege state conservationist, "In Kansas limited resource and beginning farmers and ranchers may receive cost-share assistance at 20 percent above the

established rates through this program."

Information about the program is available on the Internet at www.ks.nrcce.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2007 or at the local Department of Agriculture Service Center at 210 W. 10th.

matters of record

Accidents

The following accidents were investigated by the Goodland Police Department.

Nov. 2 — 11 a.m., 2325 Enterprise, a 2001 Chevrolet driven by Evelyn L. Finegan had pulled up too close to the curb in the McDonald's drive through. Finegan tried to correct the problem and backed into a 1999 Pontiac driven by Teresa M. Hoppe.

4:30 p.m., 300 E. 19, a 1989 Dodge driven by Kenneth Claytor

was driving east on 19th when the driver lost control and hit a telephone pole.

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home, don't miss this one. New roof, new paint, and some new carpet. Nice big rooms, kitchen and lots of storage. 1 car attached garage. Owner is willing to sell more land to the North if wanted by buyer. Call Tom to view this home today!

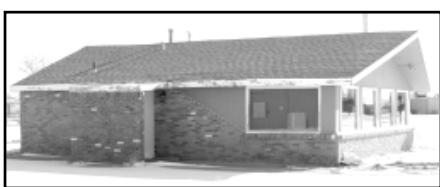
**1503 Caldwell
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Cozy starter home or investment property. Large living area, dining area and kitchen-great room concept. Washer and dryer on main level, nice enclosed porch, two bedrooms and 1 bath. Detached 1 car garage with opener. Deck, central heat and air. Vinyl siding and storm windows. Call Hazel today to see what \$32,000.00 will buy.



**Commercial
Property
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Enjoy an Old-Fashioned Downtown Christmas Blitz

Saturday, Dec. 2 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Horse & Carriage rides on Main Avenue.
- 1:30 p.m. Genesis Movie, Sherman Theatre. Admission: Toy, food item or \$1 donation.
- 5:30 p.m. Chamber Christmas Dance. Tickets go on sale at 8 p.m. for Dance.

Sunday - Dec. 3

- Gingerbread House Contest, Carnegie Arts Center.
- Holiday Home Tour 1-4 p.m. Carnegie Arts Center
- 1:30 p.m., Genesis Movie at Sherman Theatre.

Monday - Dec. 4

- 5:30 p.m. Business After Hours, Handy House

Saturday - Dec. 9

- 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Taste of Goodland, Aten's Bld.
- Home Business Showing - Aten's Bld.

Take time and stop by to see custom-decorated trees:

Edward Jones, decorated by The Almond Tree Interior & Gifts.
American Communications, decorated by Prairie Rose Floral.

This could be your next job

Are you interested in a better job? A professional position, dealing with the business community? With a compensation package well above average? And being a key player on an award-winning team? Then this could be your next job.

The Goodland Star-News, the Top award-winning newspaper in Kansas, is looking for a full-time advertising executive. This person will represent the newspaper and the Country Advocate with customers as part of a three-person advertising team. Pay includes generous commission.

There are few better jobs available in Sherman County today. Experience helpful but we will train.

Call Steve Haynes, president, or Shelia Smith for an interview.
EOE m/f/h

The Goodland Star-News

1205 Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735 785-899-2338

Merry Christmas

Come along and have fun with your Friends

You're Invited to the USD 352 Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner

December 13, 2006

11 am – Entertainment by GHS Students
12 Noon – Dinner GHS

Call 890-5656 or 890-2397 to Reserve.

If you need transportation please call.

We will also deliver meals to those who are not able to leave their homes. Please RSVP.

Valet Parking will be Available

