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**Economic development board designates \$100,000
for local business improvements and community enhancements**

With the renewal of the optional quarter-cent sales tax for economic development in November, the board of directors of Goshen County Economic Development Corporation is launching a new program to aid local businesses, communities and organizations.

The goals of the Progress Program are to help businesses succeed by making their properties more attractive to their customers, and to make communities more attractive to potential new businesses, employees, residents and visitors.

GCEDC has budgeted \$100,000 for 2011 and will invest 80 percent of the Progress Program in business development and 20 percent in community enhancements. The board will strive to invest in projects throughout Goshen County. Projects that lead to job creation will be the most competitive.

Capital Matching Fund

GCEDC will match business investments on a 1:1 basis, with a minimum investment of \$2,500 by the business. The Progress Program will invest a maximum of \$10,000 per project. The business will fill out an application along with an estimate of construction costs. The Progress Fund will pay based on submittal of construction bills for the project and the inspection that the project was completed.

Eligible uses include storefront remodeling (including windows, siding, doors, signage, etc.), landscaping, screening and fencing; demolition, clean-up, remodeling, etc.; sidewalk and

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parking lot – construction and replacement; stand alone signs (properly permitted); ADA accessibility; specialized equipment; and other uses approved by GCEDC board.

Community Enhancement Fund

GCEDC will provide resources to organizations and communities working to improve and strengthen the quality of life by promoting and enhancing job development through cultural, historical, recreational, education, health/fitness and social/ethnic activities in Goshen County.

Eligible uses include capital improvements (i.e. land, buildings, equipment); programs, annual events, special events; operating expenses; marketing; community development and other activities that lead to job creation.

Applications will be accepted quarterly and awards made within 45 days of the due date. The first deadline is 3:00 pm on January 31, 2011.

Interested businesses, communities and organizations can obtain Progress Program Applications online beginning January 14 at www.GoshenWyo.com or at the Goshen County Economic Development office located at 117 West 22nd Avenue in Torrington. Office hours are 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Thursday.

In 2006, the voters of Goshen County approved an optional quarter-cent sales tax for economic development. The proceeds of this tax are distributed to Goshen County Economic Development Corporation to foster economic and community development by investing in projects that lead to job growth. Previously approved sales tax funds for economic development were used to provide grants and matching funds, infrastructure improvements, and marketing.

