



KELLEY COX

American National Bank is expanding into a new building on Highway 133 in Carbondale.

Bank wins Carbondale chamber's business of the year award

American National ready to expand to new building

By Pete Fowler
Inside Business

American National Bank in Carbondale was banking on its community service to clinch the chamber of commerce's "Business of the Year," and it worked.

American National Bank received the most nominations for business of the year and had the most varied reasons — from excellent customer service to participating in the community to always being there when people needed them.

"We're very excited," said bank president Colleen Borkovec. "We are a business here, but we believe that our business really is turned back into our community."

Among the bank's contributions are funding for the Thunder River Theatre, participating in rotary, sponsoring the chamber's business conference and contributing to schools, Borkovec said.

The bank just purchased books for Carbondale Middle School students, she added.

Borkovec credits the bank's employees, who enjoy their work and care about their customers — especially in a valley where finding and keeping a quality work force is difficult. She said nominations for

the award all spoke to the service and friendliness of the staff.

"We have great employees," Borkovec said. "I think our clients like our employees."

Randi Lowenthal, executive director of the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce, said the award honors businesses that go

she said of Carbondale. "They are passionate, and are highly concerned and involved in their community. I love that it is small and that there's a real community here that cares about itself and each other. I like that the people are earnest about what they do. I like that Carbondale is concerned about the environment."

American National Bank is expanding to a new, highly visible building farther east on Highway 133. The bank first got a foothold in Carbondale inside City Market and has been at its current location for about five years.

The week of Oct. 29, the bank encourages people to stop by to check out the building and participate in activities. There will be a ribbon-cutting on Monday with giveaways and food, as well as drawings throughout the week, people dressing up for Halloween and a money machine. The machine is a capsule that people step inside. Money gets blown into the air, and people who open new accounts that day can try to grab as much money as possible in 20 seconds.

The bank is switching from leasing property at the current location to owning it at the new location. Purchasing land for the new building represents a commitment to the community, Borkovec said.

"We're invested here, and we're going to be here for a long time," she said.

New bank building

- About 5,200 square feet.
- Three drive-up windows with one ATM drive-up and two teller drive-ups.
- Located in a visible spot on Highway 133 on the way into Carbondale from Highway 82.
- Includes efforts toward green building construction such as solar panels.
- Opens for business on Oct. 29.

Source: American National Bank's Carbondale branch market president Colleen Borkovec

above and beyond.

"The spirit is to recognize businesses with a history of outstanding business practices," she said. "It honors entrepreneurship, sustainability, productivity and effort."

The bank also likes its clients, Borkovec said. Borkovec became president at the Carbondale branch in June and said she's worked in banking in the Roaring Fork Valley for 18 years. After some time in Aspen, she moved to Missouri Heights.

"I like the people who live here,"