

Under fire himself, Kline puts heat on opponent

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A judge removed Biggs' office from the case in 1999, after an assistant failed to turn over evidence to the defense. The assistant described the evidence as the "work product" of the office.

All charges later were dropped against Booher after a special prosecutor, brought in to replace Biggs, also was disqualified in 2000.

Kline cited the motion to remove Biggs' office, in which Booher's attorney accused the office of "unethical, illegal and unconstitutional conduct." Biggs denied the allegations.

Biggs pointed to a transcript of a

hearing the day after Judge Larry Bengston removed his office from the case. The judge said he acted "just to clear the air."

Kline also noted a former intern testified that Biggs said if he couldn't convict Booher, he would at least bankrupt him. Biggs said he merely commented that Booher's defense likely would be expensive enough to bankrupt him, not that he wanted it.

Later, Booher's attorney said in court, "This was probably just a flip-pant comment."

The second case Kline raises is that of Stefan Gabriel Clay, convicted in Pottawatomie County of aggravated indecent liberties with an underage

girl. Biggs testified at his sentencing, which resulted in a shorter-than-normal prison term of three years.

Kline's campaign deemed the case "disturbing." Biggs said he was a family friend and was asked to testify about the 20-year-old defendant's immaturity.

State Democratic Chairman Tom Sawyer said Kline is misrepresenting both cases.

"The thing about Phill Kline we all know is that he's a great exaggerator, good at twisting things," Sawyer said.

But Sen. Ed Pugh, R-Wamego, an attorney who supports Kline, said: "I've always found him to be straight-forward."

Adkins said: "He's a lightning rod." Biggs has tried to contrast his experience as a prosecutor with questions about Kline's legal practice.

"Phill Kline has to attack my record because he doesn't have one," Biggs said.

Kline said he let his law license lapse briefly in 1994 by mistake; it lapsed again for eight months in 1996-97 and 17 months in 1999-2001 when Kline pursued other ventures, including his run for Congress.

"The state of Kansas law books, one on top of the other, it's 14 volumes, three and a half feet tall; my experience is in every one of those volumes," Kline said. "Out of, now, 15 years, I did not practice law for 25 months."

Democrats also note the \$8,100 fine imposed by the Federal Election Commission in July for his congressional campaign's failing to properly report some contributions prior to the 2000 general election.

Kline reported the contributions af-

ter the election and has acknowledged the failure to report them beforehand was a mistake.

Supporters like Pugh say Democrats are attacking Kline because "there isn't anything else" for them to do to gain ground.

"I'd say it's an act of desperation," Pugh said.

But Sawyer said: "Phill Kline's the one with all the problems, and he gets upset. It's not our fault the Republicans ran an unqualified candidate."

School board gives college 99-year lease

By Rachel Hixson

The Goodland School Board decided to give the Northwest Kansas Technical College a 99-year lease on the college's administration building in exchange for a large piece of land east of the high school track at a special meeting on Saturday.

The school board attended the college board's monthly meeting on Saturday night, eating a prime rib dinner before the meeting started at 6:30 p.m.

The board members who attended were Mike Campbell, Kathy Russell, Dick Short and Ron Schilling, who is the district's representative on the college's board.

Jane Philbrick, Ben Duell and Eric Gray couldn't make it. Superintendent Marvin Selby and board clerk Pat Juhl were also there.

Ken Clouse, college president, said the college would trade about six acres of land it owns east of the track and north of the college's dorms for a 99-year lease on the administration building, which the district has owned since it was built in 1964.

The college owns the rest of the buildings on campus.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said the district wants to give the college a 99-year lease to make sure the building remains the property of the Goodland community in case the college is ever taken over by the state. He said the college and the district are represented by the same lawyer, who will draw up a fair lease agreement.

Clouse said even without the land, the college would have room to expand its dorms to the north in the future.

School board members said the district may build a new stadium on the

land sometime in the future and briefly discussed where the stadium would sit and how people would get to it. Selby said in an earlier interview that the district may build a new junior high on the current stadium east of the high school and shut down the old junior high to save building costs.

Short said the district has no room to expand at the high school, and prior school boards have talked about moving the junior high into the college's administration building.

"This eliminates that," Short said, "I think it's a win-win situation for everybody."

The other board members agreed, with both boards voting unanimously for the swap.

Selby said at the school board's regular meeting on Monday that the college and district will split the cost to survey the land.

Board gives freshman teams coaches

The Goodland School Board decided on Monday to allow a third assistant coach for each of the boys and girls basketball teams and the wrestling team to make sure freshman have a chance to compete.

Connie Livengood, the girls head basketball coach, and Jon McLean, the boys head basketball coach, attended the meeting to ask permission to hire more assistant coaches to manage the freshman teams and help scout other schools' teams.

The board decided earlier this year to cut the number of assistant coaches to save money in this time of declining enrollment and serious state budget problems. The cut would have left the basketball program with only four coaches to cover two varsity teams, two junior varsity and two freshman, or C teams.

Livengood said without a third coach it would be impossible to have a C team, which would mean the freshman wouldn't get a chance to play. She added that the third coach

helps scout other teams, which benefits the varsity program.

Dick Short, board president, said the freshman won't gain experience without playing time.

"Court time is how you improve," he said.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said the district would pay each additional coach between \$2,300 and \$2,800, depending on their level of experience. He noted that the wrestling team would face the same problem this winter.

The board decided to allow more coaches to allow the C-team games to continue.

After the meeting, Dick Liess, high school activities director, stressed that the district is not hiring more coaches than it has in the past. He said the teams would have been short one coach because of the board's cuts, but will now have the same number as last year.

In related action, the board decided to let the varsity football team practice on Sunday to prepare for the first round of the playoffs on Tuesday. Coach

Tony Diehl said the team will practice at 2:30 p.m.

Board members said Diehl had already held a Sunday practice on Oct. 27, but hadn't gotten permission. The board approved that practice, too.

Where and what team the Cowboys play on Tuesday will depend on the outcome of the district championship on Thursday.

In other business, the board:

- Accepted a resignation from Helen Norman Dobbs, a teachers' aide at the high school, and hired Dana Murray as assistant eighth grade girls basketball coach and Joe Scheopner as a bus driver.

- Gave Selby permission to sell two older buses, science tables and equipment, oak desks and fluorescent lights in an auction put on by TNT Auction.

- Approved paying \$66,318 in monthly bills.

- Approved a new technology plan for the district.

County to approve Good Samaritan Center lease

The Sherman County commissioners had County Attorney Bonnie Selby review the new Good Samaritan Center lease, and they are expected to approve it at Thursday's final meeting of October.

At the close of the meeting on Oct. 15, Selby told the commissioners she did not have any problems or questions about the new lease and recommended their approval. The commissioners

would have approved it at that time, but they had just adjourned the official meeting and decided to delay the vote until the last meeting of the month.

The commissioners are to review a mutual aid agreement with Wallace County and to pass a resolution designating Penny Nemechek as the grant writer for Sherman County.

Crystal Linsner will discuss the results of the first household hazardous

waste collection, and discuss the upcoming weekend collection set for Saturday, Nov. 16.

Doug Jackson will talk to the commissioners about purchasing an advertisement in the Convention and Visitors Bureau brochure for next year.

The commissioners meet at 8 a.m. in the commission room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse, 813 Broadway Ave.

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