



Robert Loftin (left), chairman of the Northwest Technical College board, and Dick Short, president of the Goodland School Board, signed documents transferring the college's administration building from the school district to the college. In exchange, the district received a tract from the college north of the campus and next to the high school running track. Photo by Greg Stover/Goodland Star-News

## Board transfers building and gets land in return

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

The transfer of the Northwest Kansas Technical College's administration building from the Goodland School District to the college was made official at a special joint meeting Saturday at the college campus.

The Goodland School Board and the college's Area Board of Control agreed to exchange the building for about six and half acres of land north of the college's tennis courts.

Robert Loftin, college board chairman and a member of Weskan School Board, said getting this transfer done was an indication of the good relationship that exists between college and the school district, and he hopes it will continue.

The building has been owned by the school district since the its was built in 1964 as part of the bond is-

sue that also built Max Jones Fieldhouse. The high school used part of the building as a vocational center, extracurricular activities and additional classroom space when needed.

The college has occupied the building since the mid-60s, requiring periodic renewal of the contract. Transferring ownership eliminates the need for future leases and allows the college to determine the building's future without involving the school board.

College president Ken Clouse said the trade secured the building and adjacent property for the college and gave the district some land for future growth.

What the land the school district gained will be used for has not yet been determined. However, board President Dick Short said because this tract borders the high school

track area, the district is no longer totally land locked and has room to expand.

The technical college owns the land south of the campus, except the Elks Lodge which will be used for any future expansion. This makes the land north of the campus of limited value to the college, officials said.

There has been talk of making this trade over the past 10 years, but it was not until school board member Ron Schilling was appointed to the college's board in July 2001 that action was taken to get it done.

"I really appreciate the excellent working relationship that the college board of control and USD 352 board of education have developed," Clouse said. "It is relationships such as this that makes each organization strong and progressive."

## New plan gives graduates help

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Fort Hays State University President Edward Hammond came to the Northwest Kansas Technical College Thursday to promote a new plan to give graduates a smoother path to a four-year bachelor's degree.

Hammond and college President Ken Clouse said Fort Hays State and the college have entered into an "articulation partnership" that allows students earning a certificate or degree from the college to continue their education. The university's new Bachelor of Science in Technology Leadership program gives students a chance to add a liberal education and leadership training to their technical skills.

The presidents talked about the partnership at a joint news conference Friday morning in the college's Murray Center. Hammond said this is the first partnership of its kind in Kansas.

The partnership was signed Sept. 12, witnessed by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, during the first session of her eight-stop Education Policy Forum at Goodland's Buffalo Inn Convention Center.

"This is an excellent opportunity for all our students," Clouse said, "whether they intend to transfer now or later, to have a smooth and seamless relationship with a university such as Fort Hays. For someone who someday wants to have a bachelor's degree, this will provide that avenue and make it readily attainable within our region of the state."

Hammond visited Goodland and the college as the last stop of his annual week-long media tour, during which he met with people in 14 cities around the state. During his tour, he talked about how the university's "affordable success" strategy produced record enrollments and the role the university plays in supporting public education in Kansas.



Hammond

Two programs the university is involved with are the Alternative Teacher Licensure Program which allows people wanting to pursue a teaching career to take courses online, and the Teachers for Tomorrow Program which provides coursework for paraeducators to become licensed to teach at the elementary school level with a special education endorsement.

Under the new agreement, students can transfer up to 64 credit hours, including up to 40 credits hours in their technical area of concentration, to Fort Hays. Students earning an Associate of Applied Science degree enter as juniors. Hammond said he expects to see the program's first graduates within the next 12 to 18 months.

The technology leadership program is under the university's Department of Technology Education. Fred Ruda, the department's chair, said this makes Fort Hays State the only university in Kansas that accepts all the credit hours from a Associate of Applied Science program. He said students take classes either on campus or on-line through the university's Virtual College.

### 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.

## Prices improve for next year's wheat

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

The price of wheat has jumped 30 cents a bushel in the last week, but if Sherman County doesn't get rain soon, farmers may not have much to sell next summer.

Wheat growers really need a good crop to ease the pinch of increased costs for irrigating and fertilizer brought on by higher natural gas prices.

Though the wheat is in a dire situation with the heat and lack of moisture, crop experts say, it is not too late for rain to turn things around. But being 5.29 inches behind normal rainfall now exposes the wheat to stress that may cause a thin harvest.

Though eastern Kansas has had rain, some areas too much, western

Kansas is still dry, very dry. The wet conditions in some areas combined with the drought in the west raised wheat prices by 30 cents per bushel between Oct. 17 and 24, from \$2.97 to \$3.27.

Sherman County wheat is not doing very well, said Lynn Hoelting, general manager of Mueller Grain. Even irrigated wheat is suffering in the hot, dry weather, but it's not all doom and gloom. Wheat conditions can change rapidly.

Things can look terrible for nine months, Hoelting said, and then come up with a good harvest. Wheat is very resilient, he said, and has a tremendous capacity to rebound.

"That's why we plant it here," he added.

But too little rain for too long can cause damage, including a thinner

stand, Hoelting said.

"We are very overdue for rain as far as wheat is concerned," said County Extension Agent Dana Belshe.

The lack of rain can lead to a spotty stand, he said, which doesn't add up to a really good outlook. Belshe said conditions are as tough as he's seen them, maybe tougher.

"I'm not sure I've seen them this tough," he said.

There was a drought last year, Belshe said, but the rain came at the right time. There was timely moisture to get the wheat up.

The good news, he said, is if the county gets some moisture, the wheat could go ahead and sprout and yield.

If it hasn't come up and died, he said, it can still recover.

Hoelting said he has talked to several farmers, and some have told him the wheat that hasn't come up may be better off than the wheat that has. But that may not be true, he said, since the wheat that's up has a head start in growing.

Which scenario is better is tough to say, Hoelting said; either way, the crop needs rain.

Belshe agreed. Rain is needed to get germinated what hasn't already sprouted, he said, and to prevent damage to wheat that it growing.

The crop is desperate for moisture either way, he said. Right now, there's not a lot of difference between the productivity whether it's germinated or not.

"What's up already would go

ahead and grow with moisture," he said.

Besides needing the moisture to grow, Belshe said, the wheat needs moisture to hold the soil down and to protect the roots. The temperature changes rapidly in dry soil, he said, so a cold snap could kill the wheat off. There is more winter damage in dry soil.

Besides the lack of moisture, the October heat wave had a negative effect on wheat. Warm weather can cause the wheat to deteriorate, Belshe said, but the need for cooler temperatures is secondary to the need for some rain.

"We would be better off if it would cool off," Belshe said, "but moisture is the biggest factor."

The conditions are affecting the prices on the Kansas City Board of Trade, Hoelting said, and cash prices are better. But that doesn't help if there's no wheat to sell, and producers are faced with increasing costs from irrigation and fertilizer.

A lot of wheat has been planted, Hoelting said, since it is traditionally a cheap crop to grow. But with the drought, farmers have to put a lot more water on it, which is expensive.

And the higher natural gas prices are also affecting producers. A lot of irrigation wells run on natural gas, Hoelting said, and natural gas is a major component in nitrogen fertilizer.

"These guys are a little strapped," he said. "We need a little help from Mother Nature."

## Parts company names plant manager here

MANAGER, from Page 1

the first seal three to four weeks after that. Menold said employment applications will be accepted in about four weeks.

About 60 people were there for the announcements, including U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, state Sen. Stan Clark and state Rep. John Favor. Goodland Mayor Rick Billinger served as the master of ceremonies. After his opening remarks, he

turned the floor over to Menold.

Before announcing the appointments, he acknowledged the efforts of Roy Dixon, as the project manager for the move, saying they were instrumental in the relocation's success. Menold also gave a special thanks to Kansas Lt. Gov. John Moore, saying that their meeting together gave him the resolve to go forward with the relocation to western Kansas.

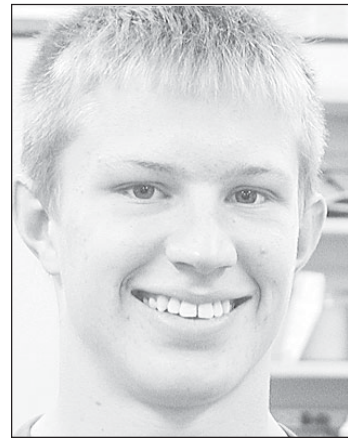


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The MAS Youth Group and The American Legacy Foundation

## student of the week



**Name:** Jared Doke  
**Parents:** Fritz and Susan Doke  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Age:** 17

**We've nominated this student because:** Jared does an outstanding job in the classroom. He is very energetic. He has a good sense for science and is willing to help others in the class. Jared is a fun student to have in class.

**Student Comment:** I will never forget playing football and spending time with my friends. My favorite subjects are Biology II, Physics and Art.

**Activities involved in at school:** Football, basketball, track, National Honor Society, Stuco and G-Club.

**My choice of movies, books, and games:** Movie is Varsity Blues. Music is country.

**After I leave Goodland High School I intend to:** playing football at Buena Vista University in Iowa, while getting a degree.

**And 10 years from now, I think I'll be:** starting a family and living happily.

**Favorite Quote:** "Only those who dare to lose, win."

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