

College opens new department

By Pat Schiefen
pjschiefen@nwkansas.com
Three to four years of work and planning for a respiratory therapy course at the Northwest Kansas Technical College wrapped up with the grand opening for the department last Tuesday.

Visitors were treated to a view of what healthy and diseased lungs look like. Preserved pig lungs were hooked up to air so they would inflate and deflate. People were allowed to touch the lungs. Pig lungs are used, said instructor Leona Evans, because of their similarity to human lungs.

She also showed a dummy on which students could practice putting airways and IVs in. The dummy had a pulse and students can hear lung sounds when they listen.

Instructor Scott Hubble and Evans said the field is growing, offering jobs in critical care, home care and nurseries. People on life support, as well as people with breathing problems such as emphysema and asthma, need their help.

Hubble said a large part of their job is to evaluate what the patient needs. In the first semester, he said, students spend all their time in the classroom. After that, students split their time between class room and

clinical settings. Some of the clinical sites will be at the Goodland Regional Medical Center, with others in Hays and Denver and elsewhere.

He said that over half of their equipment had been donated by the Goodland hospital and others.

Hubble said he has a bachelor's degree from Fort Hays State University and is a registered respiratory technician. He has worked for 15 years in the field.

Evans is a registered nurse and licensed respiratory therapist. Hubble said she would be responsible for most of the clinical training.

President Ken Clouse said the planning process involved where to put the department and figuring out how to pay for it. The program included two nine-month sessions over two years. Students will get an associate's degree.

The closest schools also having the program are in Denver and Liberal, Clouse said. Students will be able to be certified and move on to becoming licensed.

"It sounds like a good and necessary program," said Wilmer Bahe, a member of the Goodland Ambassador who held a ribbon cutting during the open house.



Leona Evans, respiratory therapy instructor at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, showed a dummy that students would use to practice putting airways and IVs in at the grand opening of the

department last Tuesday. The dummy can have a pulse and produce differing lung sounds.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

County taking bids to shingle fairground building

By Tom Betz
ntbetz@nwkansas.com

The fair is over for another year, and Tuesday the Sherman County commissioners decided it is time to put a new roof on the Agriculture Building, the main display space at the fairgrounds.

The commissioners decided to advertise for bids for the roof, and will open the bids at their last meeting of the month on Friday, Aug. 31. The said they hope to have the roof work done before winter.

William McKnight, county building supervisor, told the commissioners the roof is not leaking a lot, but around the swamp coolers, the shingles and roof are affected

by water dripping from the coolers.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he had talked to three contractors about the roof and one has gone to look at it.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked if the coolers were using as much water as in past years. McKnight said he has someone come check them every year.

"I did them myself this year," he said, "because I couldn't get anyone to come out because they were very busy. I don't think there was as much water runoff this year."

Tiede said it looked like there had been some boards in the roof break under the heavy snow last winter.

Rasure said a few of the support boards

need to be replaced, adding that it would be good to get the weight of the two layers of shingles off the roof.

McKnight suggested it might be good to put metal around the swamp coolers to reduce water damage to the roof.

Rasure said there also is some brickwork that needs to be done on the south end.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked if the same contractor could do the roof and fix the interior stuff.

Rasure said he did not think the same person could do all of it, but that would be up to the contractors to bid.

The supervisor said he was planning to do some repair work on one or two of the

coolers because they have some pinholes in the bottom and are leaking a bit.

In other business, the commissioners renewed a maintenance agreement with IBM for the AS400 computer that serves the courthouse system.

Crystal Wright, county payroll clerk, said the hardware and software maintenance contracts both are up Aug. 20.

She said the hardware agreement is \$3,841 for three years and the software \$3,577, for a grand total of \$7,418.

Thomas asked if the maintenance agreements are worth the money.

"Yes, Wright said. "IBM comes out and replaces parts that are down, like a tape

drive, and fixes the printers."

"It is worth it so we don't get a bill from IBM," added Deputy Clerk Mary Ann Snethen.

"We had several problems with the tape drive and they fixed them under the maintenance contract."

Thomas asked if the agreement includes upgrades. Wright said it does. Wright said the assessor's office calls IBM to come check the printer before they make big runs twice a year.

Thomas asked where the money would come from. Wright said the computer fund.

Professor to talk about state taxes

The Goodland chapter of Americans for Prosperity will meet at 6 p.m. tonight at the Howard Johnson Hotel to hear a University of Colorado economics professor talking about the high rate of taxes in Kansas.

Dr. Barry Poulson and Alan Cobb, state director of Americans for Prosperity, will speak at the meeting and at 6 p.m. on Wednesday for the Colby chapter at the Quality Inn in Colby.

Dr. Poulson will talk about his recently published paper, "Kansas Taxes at an All-time high." Kansas tax burden continues to increase and our economic growth continues to lag, he says, adding that he'll propose some potential solutions to this problem.

The public is welcome. Con-

tact Phillis Setchell at (785) 354-4237 or psetchell@afpk.org to make a reservation.

Dr. Poulson specializes in development economics and economic history. His recent research focuses on convergence of economic growth in frontier economies. He is completing a project on the impact of constitutional constraints on fiscal policy.

Dr. Poulson is a past president of the North American Economics and Finance Association. He is an adjunct scholar of the Heritage Foundation, which is a conservative think tank, and a senior fellow of the Independence Institute, which is a Colorado free market think tank. He also serves on the Colorado Commission on Taxation.

City street projects nearing completion

City street projects under the joint city-county bond program are moving ahead, the city's engineer says, and there should be some money left to do additional work and still be under budget.

"We are very much on track on the projects," said Darin Neufeld, an engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, who designed and supervised the projects.

One thing he said being under budget will allow the city to do is clean out the storm sewers on Main from 13th to 17th to help with the drainage. He said the upper part of Main's storm sewers were cleaned out when the new intersections were installed.

He said there also may be enough money to come back and add more concrete around the intersection at Eighth and Caldwell to reduce pressure on the asphalt. He said by adding about 20 feet on each side it will help the intersection and street last longer.

Neufeld said the city needed to have \$2.44 million spent by September to meet federal tax regulations, and estimated they will have spent \$2.49 million.

City Manager Wayne Hill asked how thick the concrete on 17th Street is and how strong. Neufeld said the street is 8 inches and the entrances are 6 inches.

"We estimate it was about 4.99 pounds per square inch," Neufeld said. "We went with a higher density because of the truck traffic."

He said the contractor, Sporer Land Development of Oakley, will come back in a couple of weeks to replace some cracked panels on 17th. City Commissioner Josh Dechant asked when.

Neufeld said Sporer will be back to do a block on the west end of Eighth Street in September. This will include tearing out the asphalt and replacing it with concrete from Cattle Trail to D'Lao Drive.

He said APAC, the asphalt con-

tractor, expects to mill the surface off of Caldwell Avenue north to Toelkes Avenue beginning on Monday, Aug. 27, and to pave on Tuesday and Wednesday of that week. He said if there is money to add concrete on the north side of Eighth on Caldwell, they would stop the milling project short of the intersection.

"Does that end it?" Dechant asked.

Neufeld said there would be some concrete work to do on the manholes and some seeding after

that, but that is all.

Among the items in a request for payment totaling \$585,673, he said, \$18,207 was to replace city material used to move water lines on 17th Street. The request will be forwarded to the Sherman County commissioners for payment out of the bond fund.

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.

Tonight 7 p.m.
The Simpsons Movie (PG13)
Starts Friday 7 p.m.
I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry (PG13)

**Classifieds
work!**

899-2338

In Back

Please excuse our mess.....

First National Bank will be remodeling our lobby area Thursday, August 16 thru Monday, August 20. All banking functions will be available during our construction time frame. Please enter the bank thru the Loan Department. We hope to reopen our lobby Tuesday, August 21.

The Drive up will be open regular hours
for your convenience.



FIRST
NATIONAL BANK
www.fnb.com
MEMBER FDIC

**202 E 11th
Goodland, Kan
(785) 890-2000**