

Prospective students attend Tech Expo

By Ramona C. Sanders

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About 200 high-school students converged at the Northwest Kansas Technical College on Tuesday and Wednesday for the annual two-day Tech Expo.

The event gives prospective students a chance to tour the campus, meet instructors and get information on admissions and financial aid, said President Ken Clouse.

"This gets students on the campus to get them exposed to technology and in the career interest they might have," he said.

Director of Student Services Paul Chaffin said this is the 15th year that the technical college has put on the event. He said they sent out invitations to every high school within 150 miles and students from about 20-25 schools turned out.

Most students attended with their guidance counselors or shop teachers. Ethan Long came out from Oberlin with his mother, Mary Long, a 1984 graduate of the college's cosmetology program.

"I heard you guys added a bunch of stuff to the diesel program," Ethan said to Chaffin.

Chaffin told him that the college built a 11,000-square-foot addition to the diesel shop. Ethan said he plans to study diesel and automotive technology at the college.

"I've always been fascinated with motors," he said, "and I heard (the college) is cheaper than other ones around."

Blanca De Leon and Kelby Medford of Bethune, Colo., attended the event Wednesday. While Kelby, who is interested in the cosmetology program, is still deciding between the technical college and Colby Community College, Blanca said she is already enrolled in the nine-month business technology program and plans to start classes in August.

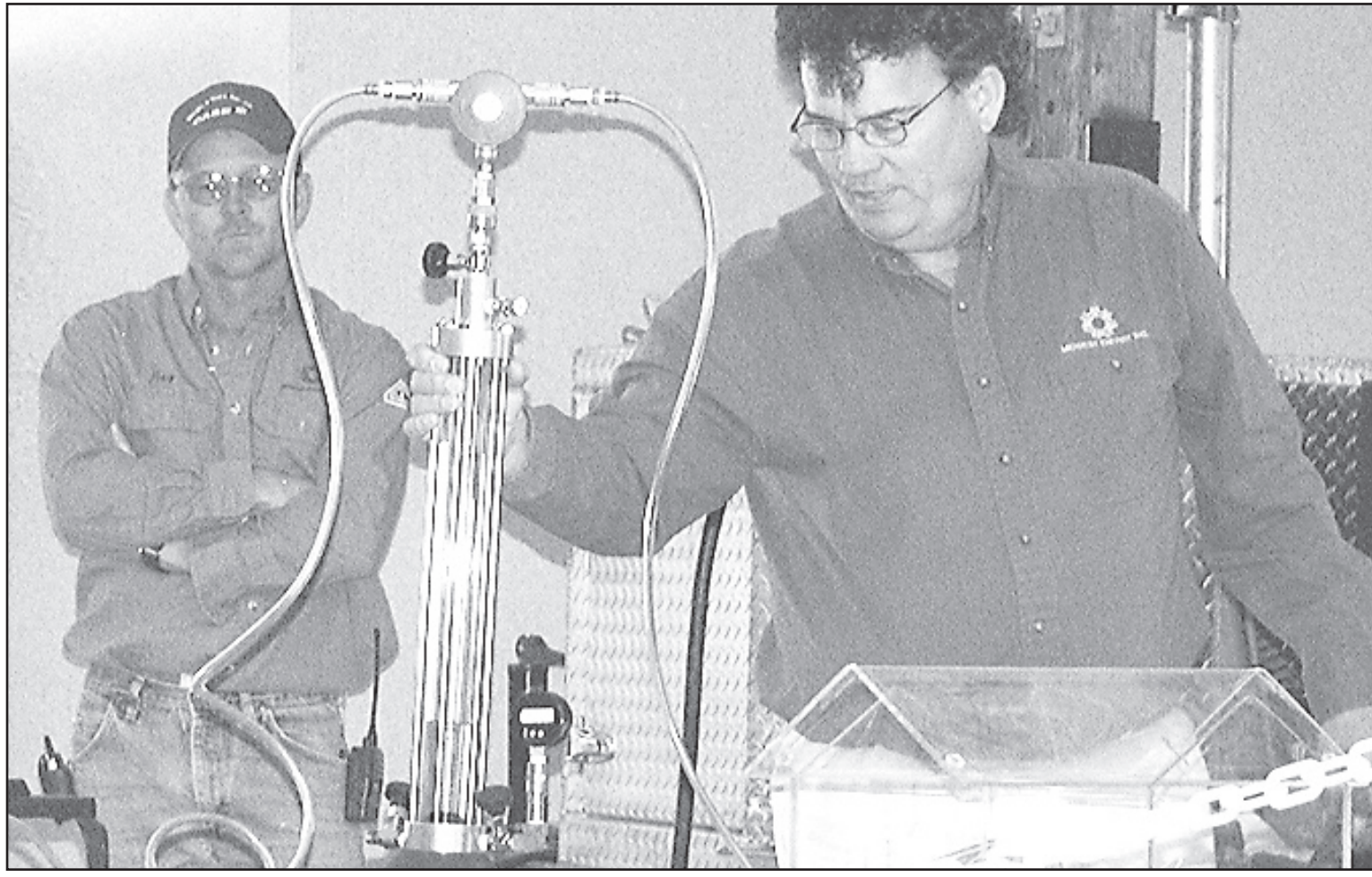
"I like it because it's close to my house and my 3-month-old son," said Blanca, adding that Bethune is about 45 minutes away.

Hayden Uhland of Eads, Colo., said he plans to study electrical technology and was impressed by the tour and the instructors.

"We met the first-year instructor for electrical technology," he said, "and he said we could call him anytime and he would take us out to the field site."

Andrew Medina of Granada, Colo., said he definitely planned to enroll in the auto collision recovery program and expects to live on campus.

"It just seems homey," said Andrew. "It feels really good to be here. It looks very friendly people here."



Les Loker, an energy analyst and account manager at the Colby office of Midwest Energy, did an electrical demonstration at the Northwest Kansas Technical College's Tech Expo Tuesday. Stan

Kibel from Goodland (back), Jay Sharp from the Sharon Springs office, and Chris Howard from Bird City (not pictured) helped. Photo by Ramona Sanders/The Goodland Star-News



Goodland native Jon Pfau was chosen as the Oskaloosa School District superintendent this year.

Photo by Kenneth Lassiter/The Oskaloosa Independent

Pfau named to head Oskaloosa schools

By Sharon Corcoran

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A 1986 Goodland High School graduate is now the superintendent of the Oskaloosa School District in northeast Kansas, north of Lawrence.

Jon Pfau, 38, son of Mel and Linda Pfau of Goodland, has been with the school district nine years as assistant high school principal and later as middle school and then elementary principal.

The district's former superintendent, Dr. Loren Lutes, resigned in March 2006 in the wake of a 2004-2005 audit that turned up four violations of Kansas law and Internal Revenue Service penalties for unpaid payroll taxes. Interim superintendents Jerry Fuqua, Dr. Kent Hurn and Dr. Harry Austin filled in until the district chose Pfau.

Articles by Kenneth Lassiter, editor of *The Oskaloosa Independent*, say Pfau hopes to bring stability to the district. The paper quoted Austin as saying he knew right away Pfau would be a good candidate.

"I've known since day one he was the most likely candidate," Austin said. "There aren't as many people available for positions like this as there used to be. Like me, they're all getting old."

"Jon has a good manner about him and deals with people in a fair manner. He knows a lot about being an administrator and deals with tough situations and makes many of them come out so both sides win. I think

he's also well liked by the community and the staff."

Leaving his comfort zone as a principal to be superintendent was a tough decision, Pfau told Lassiter.

"My wife and I talked about it extensively and made a list with pros on one side and cons on the other," Pfau said. "In the end, the pros side was somewhat longer, so that helped me make the decision."

"The district is important to me and it's a situation that I felt like the timing was right for me."

He and his wife Stacia have three children — Haley, 12, Braeden, 8, and Jenna, 5.

"All our kids will be in school full-time next year," Pfau said, "and this was something I've always been interested in. Plus, it's in a district I know so well now. All the things just seemed to fit. This just felt right. I've seen good times and bad times for the district, and hopefully I can be a part of a lot of good times (as superintendent)."

One drawback, he said, is losing the time he likes to spend in the halls and cafeteria talking to and being around the students. He hopes to keep in touch with that part of the job.

"That kid interaction is something I've really enjoyed and I'll miss that," Pfau said, "but hopefully there are other things I can do, like building tours and stuff like that to stay involved and see the kids in the hallways. That helps remind you why we're really here."

District looks at fewer buildings

By Ramona C. Sanders

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With declining enrollment, the Goodland School District is considering consolidating its schools, but Superintendent Shelly Angelos told the school board Monday that would require building a new school.

Board members discussed future use of facilities, repairs and modernization at its meeting Monday.

Angelos said she met with administrators to look into the condition of the district's buildings and student capacity needs. She said the district is making maximum use of current facilities, but she wanted the board to consider a plan for the next 10-20 years that takes into account the continual declining enrollment.

"We've dropped down in football to

the 3A classification," she said. "The reality is here in terms of declining enrollment."

"Over the long term, will it make sense for the district to have three elementary schools, a junior high and a high school?"

Board member Amy Sederstrom questioned how long the district could continue to operate as is if enrollment continues to drop.

Angelos said that if the district opted to have one school for all elementary students, it would need a new building. The newest schools, North and West, were built 39 years ago. She said the district also needs to consider housing an alternative school and expansion of early childhood and preschool programs.

Angelos said any decision on

changes in school configuration would include ideas and comments from taxpayers.

"The key piece is involvement of the community to get input and support," she said.

Board member John Hendrich said a list of all district properties might help the board make decisions on the use of facilities.

"I'd like to see a financial statement of every property and asset the district owns," he said. "I forget about the smaller buildings the district owns."

He also mentioned an eight-acre tract the district traded with Northwest Kansas Technical College.

Board president Dick Short suggested that the board take a tour of all of the facilities.

"At a meeting, we could jump on

a bus and go look at the properties," he said.

Angelos reminded the board to consider that current facilities need upgrading and renovation. Board members and administrators talked about energy efficiency, upgraded plumbing and electrical wiring, new windows, better climate control and other capital needs.

Grant Junior High Principal Steve Raymer said the windows at Grant, built in 1926, were installed 40 years ago and are obsolete.

"The biggest issue is what can we do to bring cost down and are we willing able to spend the money," Raymer said.

"Sometimes we have to spend money to save money," said board member LeAnn Friederichs.

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.

matters of record

Real Estate

These real estate transactions have been reported by the Sherman

County register of deeds:

Michael R. Taylor and Joyce E. Taylor, husband and wife, and Wil-


liam D. Taylor to Westar of Kansas Inc. Lots 9 and 10, Block 12, Sharp's Addition to Goodland.



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student of the week



Name: Holly Kibel
Parents: Dawn and Stan Kibel
Grade: 12
Age: 17
We've nominated this student because: She comes to class cheerful, enthusiastic and with a positive attitude. Holly prepares for class, participates in class and meets all of her deadlines. Furthermore, she does not use her extracurricular activities as excuses for not meeting her academic responsibilities. She has set her goals and is working diligently toward them.

Student Comment: My favorite aspect of school life is the social part of it. School is where I interact with my friends and learn. My favorite subject this year is American Government. I enjoy the long class discussions. I will remember all the good moments with my friends.

Activities involved in at school: National Honor Society this year.

My choice of movies, books, and games: movie - "A Walk to Remember," "Liar, Liar," "Dreamer," and many more. Music - country but I will listen to it all. Books - "Forged by Fire and Crosses"

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: Move to Brighton, Colo., and attend Pima Medical Institute in Thornton, Colo., for dental assistant. Then after working for a year go back to become a radiology tech.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: In Gunnison, Colo., as a radiology tech with a home of my own. Living with someone maybe, who knows! Life is very unpredictable.

Favorite Quote: "Don't let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game." movie "A Cinderella Story"



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