

Program to educate tourism managers

Fort Hays State University launched a new program to educate managers for the state's \$5.6 billion tourism industry, and a tourism association that spans Kansas from Goodland to Kansas City is showing its appreciation by creating a scholarship to help students in the program.

The program will offer the opportunity for students to apply what they learn while serving internships in tourism-related businesses and for such businesses to benefit from the students' education and to help educate them further in the field.

"We launched the Tourism and Hospitality Program this year in response to a need for more travel and tourism employees who have the specialized education that is needed to grow the industry in Kansas,"

said Dr. Edward H. Hammond, Fort Hays president.

The Kansas I-70 Association, a confederation of 14 communities that work together to promote tourism across the state from Colorado to Missouri along Interstate 70, created a scholarship for students in the Hays program.

Bridgette Jobe, director of the Kansas City, Kan., Convention and Visitors Bureau and this year's president of the Kansas I-70 Association, said the group was donating a scholarship of \$1,000 a year, and the university would have the option of awarding the money to just one student or dividing it between two students.

"We created the scholarship to encourage professional growth within the Kansas

travel and tourism industry," Jobe said.

Members of the Kansas I-70 Association are in Hays this week for their annual meeting, and Jobe said the idea for the scholarship arose at an earlier meeting when Jana Jordan, director of the Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau, informed the group about the university's plans to create a hospitality management program.

"Our members were so excited to hear about this new educational program that they came up with the idea to provide encouragement for potential students," Jobe said. "We also hoped that our action . . . might encourage other Kansas tourism organizations to do the same."

To be eligible for the Kansas I-70 Association scholarship, a student must be

enrolled in the Fort Hays program and must be willing to perform internship projects within Kansas. Students who hail from one of the 14 communities in the association will be given higher consideration for the scholarship. Pay for the students during the internship program is required by the university, but how much they will be paid is between them and the employers.

Stacey Smith, director of the Tourism and Hospitality Program, pointed out that travel and tourism is a \$1.3 trillion industry in the United States and is among the nation's largest employers, with 13 million direct travel-related jobs.

"It continues to grow even in these difficult times," she said, "and its complexity demands educated managers who have

specific knowledge of the industry and excellent business skills."

Smith said of the unique structure of the new Tourism and Hospitality Program: "Few colleges and universities house their hospitality management programs in a College of Business. The seven new courses that constitute the program are supported by the college's strong business core."

In addition, she said, when the College of Business and Leadership receives accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the program will join the ranks of an exceptionally small group of programs located within accredited colleges. It also will be among a small group of tourism programs that are offered fully on-line.

College holds preview day

The first Campus Preview Day at the Northwest Kansas Technical College was held Wednesday and resulted in two students enrolling and two others expressing strong interest in being a part of the college.

Five students and one parent took a tour of the campus, visited programs of interest, met with instructors and spoke to students about the college experience.

The morning kicked off with a tour of Vocation Village, the library and the Larry Keims Fitness Center.

A young lady from Kanorado, along with her mother, stopped by the Computer Graphics Technology program where instructor Jason Smith showed them the latest tools and equipment the program offers. A senior from Phillipsburg was interested in the Welding program. He and his mother had a chance to look at the numerous projects the current students are working on.

His twin brother was interested in the Electrical program and had a chance to visit with Gary Kickler one of the Electrical Instructor who took the opportunity to brag about his newly donated bucket truck. A student from Waneta, Neb. visited the Diesel Technology Program to see the new \$1 million addition and to talk to instructors Greg Unger and Ron Kaus.

A junior from McCook, Neb., had the opportunity to visit with the Electrical Department.

Ambassadors Leaders Kendra Perry, Mindy Mason, Kyle Harold, Rigo Valverde and Matt Unger helped with the tours.

After the tours, the visitors joined staff members and students for panel discussions. The prospective students met with the Ambassador Leaders for some one-on-one discussion about the fun things the campus offers, from hands on training to Fall Fun Day and played an icebreaker game. The parents who

came sat with the administrators and asked questions.

After the panel discussions the guests had lunch at an informal setting where many topics were discussed. Gary Barricklow talked about being so close to the mountains and snowboarding. Kendra Perry, ambassador leader president, talked about other events held on campus and joked with the incoming students.

After lunch, students got a chance to shadow classes in any department they were interested in and meet with admissions and financial aid staff members. By the end of the day, the college had gained two new students. One will be entering the Diesel Technology Program and the other one will become a part of the Computer Graphics Technology Program.

Another Campus Preview Day is planned for Feb. 18.

Rise and shine!



Goodland Rotary Club member Steve West mixes up pancake batter Saturday morning for their breakfast at the Goodland High School cafeteria during Topside Tipoff. The breakfast is their major money maker for the group and will be used for scholarships and other projects.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

School gets new band uniforms

By Pat Schiefen

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Goodland Superintendent Shelly Angelos showed the school board the new band uniforms at their meeting on Monday night.

She said the uniforms could be used for different things. The breast plates were reversible and removable. The cape was also reversible and removable.

Superintendent Angelos warned the board of a potential percentage cut in state money. She said the state was not getting the expected revenues in and some agencies have already had a 3 percent cut. So far education has not been effected.

She expected Gov. Kathleen

Sebelius would talk about the impact of less money coming in at her State of the State Address on Tuesday, Jan. 13.

Angelos said a 1 percent cut would cost the district \$72,000, a 3 percent cut for next year could cost the district \$316,000.

"Fortunately the district is in good shape," she said. "We need to look closely at saving some money."

In other business:

- Paid \$149,873 in bills including \$31,281 for 60 new band uniforms and \$28,780 for a new tractor for mowing and snow removal.

- Angelos said Postmaster Penny Sheldon had helped find a way to cut postage on the invitations to

the senior citizen dinner the district gives.

- Adopted a new payroll deduction plan to be administered by American Fidelity for additional deductions for employees. This was required by the Internal Revenue Service.

- Hired Gary Gregory as an applied technology teacher for the rest of the school year.

- Board members Andrew House and John Hendrich were not present at the meeting.

- The meeting was followed by a holiday dinner at the country club for the board members and their spouses.

Pork Checkoff vote request being held

The Department of Agricultural Marketing Service is conducting a Request for Referendum among eligible producers and importers of hogs, pigs, pork and pork products to determine if there is enough interest to hold a vote on the Pork Checkoff Program.

The Request for Referendum is being held through Jan. 2. Producers and importers who were involved in the business between Jan. 1, and Dec. 31, 2007, and were at least 18 years of age on or before Dec. 31,

2007, are eligible to participate.

If 15 percent of the eligible producers and importers request a vote on the Pork Checkoff Program, the vote will be conducted within one year after the results of the Request for Referendum are announced.

For producers, the Request for Referendum is being conducted at the County Farm Service Agency offices where the producer's administrative farm records are maintained. Producers may obtain the Request for Referendum form from those of-

ices either in person, by mail, or by facsimile. Forms may be obtained on line at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/LSMarketingPrograms>

If you have questions, please contact the Sherman County Farm Service Agency Office at (785) 899-3070.

correction

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.

Classified ads work! 899-2338

Free Dog Licenses

The ordinances of the City of Goodland require that all dogs owned or kept within the city limits be licensed. All dog licenses shall be obtained from the city clerk.

On Thursday, January 15, 2009 from 7 AM through 4 PM, the City of Goodland will, once again, be offering free dog licenses for citizens who live in Goodland and own or keep a dog. To obtain the free dog license, you must provide written proof that the animal has current rabies vaccination.

The free licenses will only be available on January 15, 2009 at the City Administration Building at 204 W. 11th Street, Goodland, Kan.



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NEW LISTING!
2451 County Road 2, Brewster ** \$57,500

Country living 7 miles north of Brewster, Kan. on a paved road. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths up and 2 bedrooms 1 bath down. Large living room, dining room, kitchen with stove and dishwasher, TV room off the kitchen, laundry room all on the main floor. Big family room in basement with lots of storage. Several updates on home which includes newer roof, some carpet, siding, thermal pane windows, central air. Double car garage next to a big patio are, 35'x56' quonset with cement floor, other storage building and grain bin, old gas pumps. Call Tom Harrison.



PRICE REDUCED!
2892 County Road 64, Edson ** \$120,000

15 acres of country living located 11 miles East of Goodland next to black top road. Easy access to I-70. Farm home with big living/dining area, kitchen with breakfast nook, main floor laundry (or in basement), 3 bedrooms plus one in basement, 1 1/4 baths, new hardwood floors. Basement is partially finished with family room and bar area. Double car garage plus a 40'x60' Quonset with 3 overhead doors. New well. Lots of trees. Would be great for horses or any 4-H project. Property also has a rental house. Call Tom.



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