

# The Community Page



SINCE 1934  
Hwy. 24 • Goodland, Kan. • (785) 899-2592

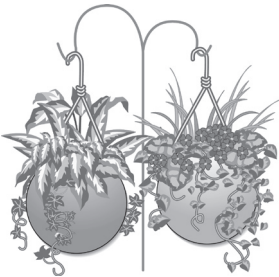
**Northern  
Sun ADM**  
(785) 899-6500

The  
**Goodland Star-News**

1205 Main  
Goodland, Kan.  
(785) 899-2338

“Where Service is an Affair of the Heart”

**DAN BRENNER**  
**FORD-MERCURY**  
(800) 636-8778  
(785) 899-2316

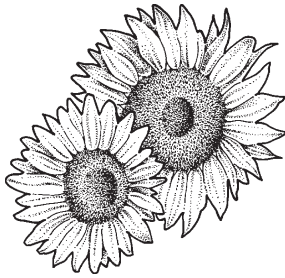


**Gambino's  
Pizza**

402 E. 17th, Goodland • (785) 8905988

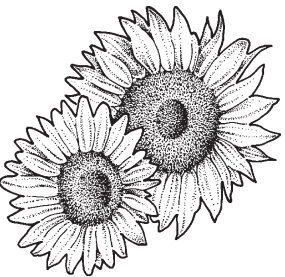
**Your Ad  
Could Be Here!**  
Call Sara or Jessica  
at 899-2338

The  
**Goodland Star-News**



**Aflac**

Fred Hall, Agent  
111 West 12th, Goodland, KS  
(785) 890-8335



**Advanced  
Auto Body**  
403 E. 19th  
Goodland, Kan. 67735  
785-899-5555

## Northwest Tech students write about coming to Goodland's college

*Editor's note: The following short articles were written as memos for a writing assignment for Leland Williams, technical writing instructor at Northwest Technical College. We have cleaned up a bit of the grammar, but mostly these are their papers as submitted. This is the seventh of a series of these short articles split up by program at the college. These memos are from Auto Technology and Diesel Technology.*

I am sending two sets of memos, Williams wrote in April. You will be able to tell many students have written something heartfelt and others shied away from too much writing.

I told the class to write about why they chose to come to college, or why they chose Northwest Technical College and how they made that choice. I wanted them to reflect on their choices and be able to tell a bit of a story that might interest readers.

I let them know they were responding to an invitation on your part to write for publication in the newspaper. The writing is in memo form to keep them practicing the requirements of that form as a common way to write in the business world.

From: Kobi O'Neil  
Re: Auto tech

I am writing to tell you why I picked the glorious and glamorous life as an Automotive technician.

Honestly, I just wanted to know how to fix my own car and never wanted a career in this field. After I complete my general education classes, and receive my associate's degree, I intend to continue my schooling on a higher level.

Before I'm finished with my schooling, I would like to have a master's in mechanical engineering and physics.

If you don't have anything better to do and you're just buying time until you can leave Goodland, then I suggest going to Northwest Tech, where the instructors are knowledgeable and friendly and the tuition is low.

No matter where you go, getting an education is where it's at!

From: Jermain ( Jay ) Murray  
Re: Automotive Technology

Automotive Technology is a growing trend in today's society. So there will always be a need for automotive technicians

The reason I chose Automotive Technology at Northwest Tech is because I love working on vehicles. As a diesel mechanic, I wanted to learn more about the automotive side of things, and I enjoy being a mechanic.

In this past year I've learned a lot from Jim Kennedy about what it takes to be an automotive technician and I've enjoyed every minute of the experience.

In closing, I would recommend the Automotive Technology Program at Northwest Tech. The instructors are great at giving you hands on experience, and working on live customer cars and not mock up cars is good training for what to experience out in a real world environment.

From: Matthew Ballentine  
Re: College

I chose Northwest Tech for many reasons.

This school represents most of northwest Kansas and many years of providing a bright and prosperous future to all those who so choose to live their dreams.

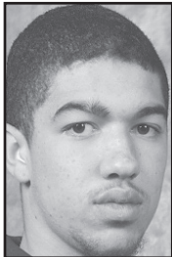
Northwest Tech has acquired a very high expectation and reputation.

With this in mind I chose to come to Northwest Tech to get the best education. They have a very good record of Auto Tech job placement.

From: Andrew Munn  
Re: Northwest Tech

Northwest Tech is a small college in Goodland. There are lots of programs to enroll in at the college. The programs are almost all two-year programs, but some are one-year.

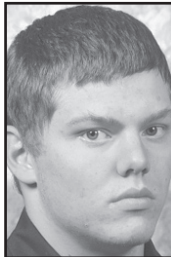
I chose Northwest Tech because it is low



O'Neil



Murray



Ballentine



Munn



Goodwin



Graber



Kerchal



Farr

cost for my program "Auto Tech."

My program is a two-year program. The first year goes over electrical, brakes, suspension, wheel alignment, and much more. The second year includes transmission, engine overhauling and more.

My program is a hands on program, but I can get my associates degree in two years at Northwest Tech. It is a good thing to have a college degree in today's world, because it's hard to get a good paying job without one.

From: Kevin Farr

Subject: Why I took Diesel Technology

I am writing this letter to explain why I came to Northwest Tech for a college. There were only two reasons why I came here, the hands on learning, and the excellent teachers.

The hands on learning experience is what really got my attention. I am a hands on person, which is how I learn best. Having the capability to work on projects and doing them yourself is the best way to learn, I believe.

From: Joshua Goodwin

Re: Why I came to Northwest Tech

Why I came to Northwest Tech? There are a few reasons why: first, I was looking to better myself: second, the cost; and the third, the program.

I am 26 years old, and I have moved to a lot of places and worked in a lot of different jobs over the years. A few years back, I was working in California as a forklift driver and since the cost was going up and the money was stopping, I took a step back and moved in with my parents for a year. I was looking for a school that would place me in a job and help me build a career.

I was looking at going to school in Denver, but the cost of living was high and the school was about \$30,000 for the whole year. The other school I was looking at was out in Kansas City. Again, the school was a lot of money.

The other two schools I looked at the programs taught a lot, but did not help the students in being ready for a real shop. Here at Northwest Tech, the teachers have worked in the field for a good part of their career, so that helps the students learn more about the real word application. We work on real equipment and not mock ups so the students here see what we will be working on once we get out of school.

I am finishing up my first year, and I am enjoying my time here. I would recommend this school to anyone looking for a step up in their career goals.

From: Dustin Graber  
Re: College

College has always been looked at as one of the biggest decisions someone can make in life; for me, it was just get it done and over with!

Of course, my field of study would have to be in the diesel field because coming from a farm, diesels are what I know and have come to be comfortable around.

With all the colleges out there, it was not an easy task to make a final decision on where to actually go to college. Eventually, I settled on Northwest Tech because it was very close to home. My dad, needing help

back home on the farm and my girl friend in a frenzy, it seemed right to only travel an hour and a half away. The small town lifestyle that comes with Goodland also benefited me.

The college here is topnotch; almost everything in the diesel tech department is hands on and sometimes I think the instructors like staying out of the classroom as much as we students do. With everything that comes through the diesel department being owned by actual farmers, it is a true, real world learning experience because you never know what will be coming in next.

Overall, I would have to say that only having to go to college for two years and coming out with an associate's degree is about as good as it will ever get. The departments here are great; the town itself is actually very boring, but what can you really expect from small towns? I would definitely say this was a good choice in schools and I would do it all over again.

From: Tanner Kerchal  
Re: College

I am currently enrolled in the diesel technology program. After growing up on a farm in Nebraska, I have learned the value of an honest day of hard work.

Throughout my years of growing up, I worked for several neighbors. Cattle work, fencing, and farm work were among the most common jobs to be done.

It wasn't until the end of my junior year of high school that I started working with my dad at a mechanic shop. That spring, I worked there after school during the week until I graduated and continued working three days a week during the summer. The remainder of the week, I continued to work for the rancher I had previously worked for, fencing and handling cattle work.

Deciding that I enjoyed working on equipment as well as other things, I was set on pursuing my education at Northwest Tech. Having known a handful of friends who had previously gone through the diesel program in Goodland, I had heard good things about the college. Also, since Northwest Tech is a very hands on school, my decision was made.

It was only a few weeks after college had started that we had covered our section of safety and were beginning to work on projects in the shop. Having a good community, many farmers from the area bring numerous pieces of equipment into the shop for us to work on. As more weeks went by, I just tried to pay attention and pick up on as many little things as I could in and out of the classroom. Apparently, that hard work has helped; the other day I found out I was one of the top three guys in my class. This is from the aid of good teaching from the well educated instructors in the diesel shop.

After graduating from Northwest Tech, my plans, as of now, are still in the open. Since I come from a small town, moving back and working is a plan in the back of my mind. Having worked for a local mechanic, who started his own business and runs it very well, working for a business that is privately owned has my attention. I think having a better relationship with the people you work with and employer has a better benefit than working for a corporation.



**Medical Arts Pharmacy**  
202 Willow Rd,  
Goodland, Kan. 67735  
785-890-5111



**FEEDERS**  
6845 Rd. 17 • Goodland, Kan.  
(785) 899-6515



*Garcia's*  
Home Furnishings & Appliance  
1114 Main  
Goodland, Kan.  
(785) 899-5123



**YOUR AD**  
could be here!  
Call Jessica or Sara  
at 899-2338

The  
**Goodland Star-News**



**Culligan**

Better water. Pure and simple.™

904 Main, Goodland (785) 899-2352



**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

www.edwardjones.com  
114 E. 11th, Goodland  
(785) 899-3611

