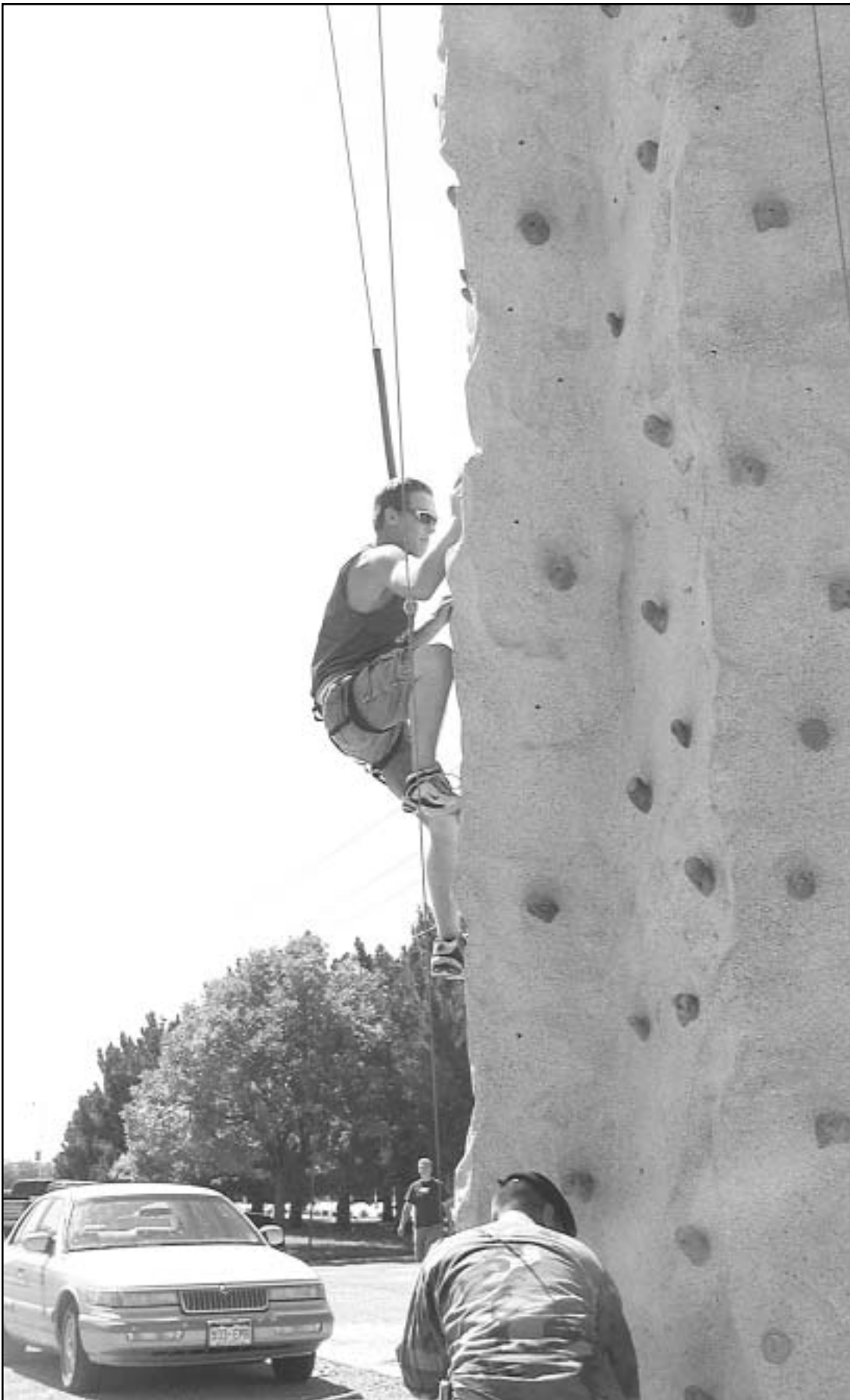


Reaching new heights at tech college



Brian Korell scaled the climbing wall provided by the Goodland National Guard at a fun day a week ago Tuesday at the Northwest Kansas Technical College. Students got to skip classes all day for a volleyball tournament, a washer tossing game and a free lunch provided by the school. Photo by Kathryn Gurfinkel/The Goodland Star-News

Language specialist to swap roles with Mexican school official

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

A Goodland language specialist will have a shadow from Mexico on her job this month, then will go to Mexico next year to follow a school administrator there.

Kristin Grayson, who works for Emporia State University, will be shadowed by Jorge Aleman, an advisor in English in Mante City, Tamaulipas, Mexico. The exchange is part of the Fulbright Teacher and Administrator Exchange Program.

Grayson has lived in Goodland for over a year, moving here from Oakley. She teaches northwest Kansas teachers in a certification program for English as a Second Language instructors.

The Goodland, St. Francis, Rawlins County, Colby, Golden Plains (Rexford), Scott City and Wallace County school districts and the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center in Oakley share a collaborative grant, Grayson said, administered through Emporia State.

She teaches English as a Second Language courses to 20 teachers in this area. Each of the teachers gets 15 graduate credit hours, she said. They can take the class work online, but Grayson goes to their schools to work with them. She

says she also works out of her home and at the service center.

Six Goodland teachers are taking the program this semester: Central



Grayson

Elementary Principal Sharon Gregory; West Elementary teachers Lynette McLean, Patricia Stindt and Kara Smith; and Grant Junior High teachers Sue Hagerman and Lindsey Emig.

Aleman, the Mexican administrator, said he taught elementary classes from 1975-87, then from 1987-2000 taught secondary English. He is now an advisor of English, a position similar to a curriculum specialist here. The department he works in works with 10 secondary schools with 22 English teachers. He arrived in Goodland on Monday.

The Fulbright exchange program is like a scholarship, Grayson said; those interested have to apply. Emporia State had to fill out a lot of forms, she said, and then she had an interview in both Spanish and English.

The program then picks candidates, Grayson said, and matches them with teachers from other countries. She said she will go to Mexico next summer because then she will have more flexibility with her schedule.

Aleman's home, Grayson said, is

a border state on the east coast of Mexico. While he is in Goodland, he will shadow her and will help her understand the education system in Mexico and the challenges immigrants deal with.

When she has other commitments, he may shadow a Goodland administrator and work with students and parents. He will be in Goodland four weeks, she said, then will go with her to Emporia.

Grayson teaches a subject that is close to her heart. She said one of her two children learned English as a second language. Her children, Rob and Linda Hestilow, are in eighth and fifth grade in Goodland schools.

Linda was adopted from Guatemala, Grayson said, and had to learn English.

Grayson said she was a language program administrator in Oklahoma City and has taught different things and held administrative positions. She started the job for Emporia State in January 2003, living in Oakley until her children finished the school year.

She has worked part time as a translator for an adoption agency and goes twice a year to Guatemala to translate for a group providing medical aid to children, some in "fourth-world" villages.

"It makes you appreciate what we have here," she said. "I've seen some shocking things."

Leadership group plans reception

The 2004-2005 class of Leadership Sherman County will begin its activities with a reception at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Howard Johnson Hotel.

The nine members of the new class are Mark Gillming, of First National Bank; Penny Nemechek, the Sherman County grant writer; Joshua Dechant, of BankWest; Dan Rasure, of Rasure Do-It-Center; Justin Burgess, of Nationwide Mobile Home Sales; Brooke Draper, of First National Bank; Jay Jolly, of the Goodland Regional Medical Center, Sherri Knitig, of the North-

west Kansas Technical College; and Mindy Greene, of Hospice Services.

Students are nominated for the class by people living or working in Sherman County. Nominees are sent an application. A selection committee of local leaders reviews those applications and make its choices.

The students will attend seven day-long sessions over the next six months that will cover important issues to Sherman County, including education, media, agriculture, economic development, city and

county government, law enforcement and state government including a trip to Topeka. Graduation will be in March.

Scott Lockhart and Michelle Shoff, the new co-chairs of Leadership Sherman County, said they were pleased with the response to the request for nominations and the results of the selection process.

"The committee would like to express its thanks to the many donors and presenters that make this a great learning opportunity for class members," they said.

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