KU students aid Greensburg reconstruction with building

Community building to be moved in 7 sections, assembled on site

LAWRENCE. (AP) — A group of University of Kansas students and their professor will take on a giant task today when they move a community building they constructed to Greensburg.

The project is the students' contribution to a reconstruction effort for the tornado-ravaged town.

The group of architectural students built the structure in a warehouse on the site of the old Farmland Industries plant. They started in January gathering wood for the project at the former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant in De Soto.

This week, they began disassembling their creation to get it ready for the 400-mile trip to Greensburg, which was mostly destroyed when a massive tornado struck the western town last May. The drive to Greensburg normally is only 270 miles, but the journey to transport the building will take longer because the group will go east past Wellsville before heading west to avoid overpasses and narrow roads.

The 22 graduate students will live in southwest Kansas starting today and stay through May 4 — the one-year anniversary of the tornado. They will live in dorms at Pratt Community College and drive a half-hour to Greensburg each morning. They couldn't stay in Greensburg because of a shortage of buildings.

The students said they have a lot more work to do, including painting, installing electrical fixtures and laying flooring. The building will be moved to Greensburg in seven sections and completed on site.

One of the students, Zack Arndt, said their deadline is May 4 but 'we'd like to be done a couple of weeks before that, just so we can tie up some loose ends.'

The building will be named 547 Arts Center. It is a direct reference to the tornado-ravaged town in 2007.

'I don't think my emotions could have swelled much more throughout this process because I've been waiting so long for it,' said Jenny Kivett, another student working on the project. 'But to know it's going to a place that needs it and to people that appreciate it and want it is something very special and exciting.'
A lifeline for KU’s Potter Lake

University of Kansas students Steve Connelly and Michelle Balducci relax atop a footbridge by Potter Lake. Sedimentation and chemical pollution have transformed the lake, and students are leading an effort to revive it.
Despite O’Neal’s push, pharmacy plans on hold

BY SARAH KESSINGER
Harris News Service
kessinger@dailynews.net

TOPEKA — Hutchinson Rep. Mike O’Neal sought to revive proposals Wednesday aimed at rural Kansas’ shortage of pharmacists.

O’Neal unsuccessfully sought to amend a House bill for state building projects to include a $50 million bond issue for a University of Kansas pharmacy school expansion.

The House did grant another part of O’Neal’s amendment, which provided $1 million in funds for planning the pharmacy school expansion.

The chamber’s majority Republican budget writers removed both items from the bill earlier this session, along with several other items. They plan to decide their fate at the Legislature’s budget wrap-up session later this spring.

But O’Neal, a Republican, said legislators should set it as a priority now.

“It goes without saying we are in a crisis situation,” he said.

O’Neal unsuccessfully sought to amend a House bill for state building projects to include a $50 million bond issue for a University of Kansas pharmacy school expansion.

The House did grant another part of O’Neal’s amendment, which provided $1 million in funds for planning the pharmacy school expansion.

The chamber’s majority Republican budget writers removed both items from the bill earlier this session, along with several other items. They plan to decide their fate at the Legislature’s budget wrap-up session later this spring.

But O’Neal, a Republican, said legislators should set it as a priority now.

“It goes without saying we are in a crisis situation,” he said.

See SHORTAGE / A11

Shortage

Continued from Page A1

Kansas has seven counties without a pharmacy and another 30 with one each. Seven of those single-pharmacy counties are in jeopardy of losing their last drugstore if owners can’t find a buyer.

Applicants to the pharmacy school at KU now exceed spaces available for new students. The bill would provide room for 45 students at the Lawrence campus and another 40 positions at the Wichita KU campus.

In addition to the state’s $50 million bond issue, which would be paid off over a decade, another $150 million would be raised from other sources.

Rep. Raj Goyle, D-Wichita, urged members to back O’Neal’s amendment.

“This is a priority not just for KU, Lawrence and Wichita, but for the whole state,” he said.

House Budget Chairwoman Sharon Schwartz, R-Washington, agreed the shortage is a problem, but said legislators would need more information before they decide whether the amount is necessary.
Set a good example for kids

By Jay Lewis
University of Kansas Hillel

Once again, spring break has come and gone. For those of us who have kids or who work on the school calendar, spring break is a really big deal. For my kids, it meant hours upon hours in the pool at their grandparents’ house in Arizona. For me, it meant writing this column in between Royals’ Spring Training games and rounds of golf... and typing this on my laptop while avoiding splashes from the pool. Not a bad week at all.

For the college students I work with at Hillel, spring break has a whole different set of connotations. For some, it is the traditional rite of passage of partying on a beach in Florida, Texas, or Mexico. For others, it’s a trip home to spend a week with parents. Some just use it as a quiet week to catch up on sleep and get ready for the sprint to the finish of the semester.

However, a growing number of college students are making the remarkable decision to turn their back on all of those other options and spend their spring breaks helping others. These experiences, called alternative breaks, are week-long trips where groups of students travel to areas of need to participate in community service projects. Not only do they do a tremendous amount of work during the week, the students also learn about critical social issues such as poverty, literacy and natural disasters.

Although universities offer these opportunities, when the students go through Hillel, the experience has another dimension as well. They get to see these issues through a Jewish lens and explore questions of Judaism and social responsibility.

This week, a group of students sponsored by KU Hillel designed their own alternative break trip to Washington, D.C., to examine issues of poverty and homelessness. Their experience included a “homeless immersion” where the students spent two days living on streets of Washington. Even more impressive was that the students planned the entire trip on their own, including fundraising for it.

I am continually impressed with students who choose to spend their spring breaks this way as opposed to all of the other options they have. The fact that this exhausting experience is squeezed in between midterms and the final weeks of the semester makes their decision even more impressive.

So what kind of a college student chooses an alternative spring break over a week in Fort Lauderdale or even resting at home?

Statistics show that there is no one profile of an alternative break participant. A first look at this spring’s KU Hillel group shows a balance in gender and age. There are social welfare majors, but also premed and business ones as well. Our group is made up from students group many different cities. Even Hillel involvement ranges among the group. Some are very active in Jewish life on campus, while others are not. And, only some of the group members participate in community service projects regularly at KU.

However, upon second glance, there is a striking similarity. One of the students’ parents works for the Jewish Federation while another works for the JCC. One’s dad is a former synagogue president and another’s is a rabbi. In fact all come from socially conscious families who are active in the Jewish community.

That is not to say that students can’t develop a sense of social consciousness on their own. However, it is not a huge surprise that families involved in community service produce children who choose to do so as well. Parents are the primary role models for children. As much as conventional wisdom suggests that adolescence is a time of rebellion from parents’ values, often core values such as these remain core.

Plus, behavior is habit-forming. Our tradition teaches that mitzvah goreret mitzvah, one good deed leads to another. Students that have been exposed to community service at home are likely to continue while in college. Then, they are also more
likely to continue after graduation.

At Hillel we do our best to reach out to all students, engage them in Jewish life and connect them to Jewish opportunities. The more families plant the seeds and instill the values prior to the students’ arrival on campus, the easier our job is.
Students from KU aid Greensburg rebuilding

LAWRENCE — A group of University of Kansas students and their professor will take on a giant task Monday when they move a community building they constructed to Greensburg.

The project is the students’ contribution to a reconstruction effort for the tornado-ravaged town.

The group of architectural students built the structure in a warehouse on the site of the old Farmland Industries plant. They started in January, gathering wood for the project at the former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant in De Soto.

This week, they began disassembling their creation to get it ready for the 400-mile trip to Greensburg, which was mostly destroyed when a massive tornado struck the western town last May. The drive to Greensburg is normally only 270 miles, but the journey to transport the building will take longer because the group will go east past Welsville before heading west to avoid overpasses and narrow roads.

The 22 graduate students will live in southwest Kansas starting Monday and stay through May 4 — the one-year anniversary of the tornado. They will live in dorms at Pratt Community College and drive a half-hour to Greensburg each morning. They couldn’t stay in Greensburg because of a shortage of buildings.

The students said they have a lot more work to do, including painting, installing electrical fixtures and laying flooring. The building will be moved to Greensburg in seven sections and completed on site.

One of the students, Zack Arndt, said their deadline is May 4 but “we’d like to be done a couple of weeks before that, just so we can tie up some loose ends.”

The building will be named 547 Arts Center. It is a direct reference to the date the tornado ravaged the town: 5-4-2007.
Zack Shafer returns to Sabetha

Fourth-year medical student spent two months here as KU Med underclassman

PATTY LOCHER
News Editor
The Sabetha Herald

Zack Shafer of Topeka, now a fourth-year medical student at University of Kansas School of Medicine, has returned to Sabetha as a participant in the School of Medicine’s Kansas Rural Preceptor Program for fourth-year students.

In June and July 2005, after his first year as a medical student, he spent six weeks shadowing his mentor, Dr. Gregg Wenger, and other Sabetha physicians.

Now within sight of receiving his degree as a medical doctor, Shafer is once again gaining valuable knowledge and experience under the guidance and mentorship of Dr. Wenger. His four-week mentorship will end on March 22.

Upon receiving his doctorate degree, Shafer will complete a preliminary year as an intern in internal medicine. Internships will be announced on March 20, he said, and he hopes to go to either KU Hospital or Creighton University in Omaha.

Following his internship, Shafer plans to specialize in radiology, which will require four more years of study after the internship. The location of that training will also be announced on March 20, he said. He hopes that training will be in Kansas City, Oklahoma City or Milwaukee, Wis.

He graduated from Shawnee Heights High School in Topeka in 1999. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in chemistry at KU, graduating in December 2003.

Accepted for KU Medical School starting in the fall 2004 semester, Shafer worked as a medical assistant at a family practice clinic in Topeka during the interim months.

The son of Derek and the late Karen Shafer of Topeka, he is the second child and oldest boy in a family of three boys and two girls.

Shafer’s wife Ashlee works as a crisis support specialist for Johnson County Mental Health. They were married in June 2006.

Dr. Wenger is a long-time volunteer mentor for the community-based educational experience provided by KU Med’s rural preceptor program.
USD 488 Board meeting held

The USD 488 board met in regular session on March 10, at the district office in Axtell.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Brian Deters. The agenda was approved.

Administrative Reports:
Superintendent Bob Bartkoski and Principal Jim Struber updated the board on school activities. Bartkoski updated the board on the grant with Sabetha to help reduce underage drinking; the KASB Spring Regional information was shared; the Axtell Knights will donate $500 for improvements to the Axtell School parking lot and the Summerfield School report included the consignment sale summary and that a “Success” assembly was held to kick off assessment tests. The Bern School report by Mr. Struber included information on the assessment test kick off; shared track numbers; school play information; summarized the basketball teams year and informed the board that the regional basketball games went well.

The Axtell School Report sent in by Mr. Graham shared information about the new scholarship available from the family of Audrey Brinker; gave a report on track numbers; reported that Ashley Blonquist attended the KU Honors Program and reported on the school play.

Executive Session:
Executive sessions were held concerning personnel and student issues and employer-employee negotiations.

Consent Agenda:
- The March claim vouchers were approved.
- Approved employment for Bonnie Bauerle as Axtell FACS teacher and Madalyn Vieselmeyer as 1/2 time music teacher at Summerfield School.
- Increased Trent Platt to 64% time for the 2008-09 school year and Pam Walker to 68% for the 2008-09 school year.
- Approved a request from the Martinez parents and from the Alvarado parents for their children to attend the Bern School.

Old Business:
- The board voted to proceed with the Feasibility Assessment from TAC as part of an energy audit for the school buildings.
- Three bus drivers will receive reimbursement for electricity used on bus block heaters at their private residences.
- The 2008-09 school calendar was approved.
- Approval was given to purchase a used 72 passenger Blue Bird Vision bus.
- Approval was given to purchase a 7-9 passenger vehicle to be purchased at a later date.
- The Capital Improvements item list was approved for purchase. The Summerfield School will purchase a new computer for the Smartboard and repaint lockers; the Bern School will purchase 2 Smartboards and 2 LCD Projectors and put a new roof on the Vo-Ag Building; the Axtell School will purchase a new drinking fountain for the upstairs hallway; new heater for the Vo-Ag room, 2 Smartboards and 2 LCD projectors and will paint the hallways in the school. District Wide improvements approved were to hire the gym floors refinished from Pur-O-Zone, replace white boards as needed and upgrade all copy machines in the district.
- The board approved raising the rent on the Bern district owned house to $275.00 per month.

New Business:
- A summer school session was approved for Axtell, Bern and Summerfield Schools. The sessions will run from June 2-20 for students in grades 1-8. Student eligibility will be determined by grades, test scores and teacher recommendation and parent recommendation. Parents will have the final say on whether the eligible student attends or not.
- Information was presented on a rapid communication service used by the school to alert parents when necessary.
- Graduation requirements were discussed by the board with no action taken.
• Information was shared on the 2007-08 budget. The budget will be republished with a hearing held on May 12 at 6:45 p.m.
• The Axtell School has students interested in a cross county team for the 2008-09 school year. The board was informed of the interest.
• Jon Smeeton was approved at the Bern High School Assistant Track coach and Trent Platt as the Junior High Track coach.
• Authorization was given to advertise for summer help at both high schools. Applicants must be 18 years or older to apply.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board will be on April 14, at the district office in Axtell.
Fairway Police Chief John Simmons congratulated 54 graduates of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center at a March 7 ceremony in the 4-H Encampment Building on the Kansas State Fairgrounds.

The graduates, who began their training course Sept. 10, represented 37 municipal, county and state law enforcement agencies from across Kansas. They were the 195th basic training class of graduates.

The training center is a unit of University of Kansas Continuing Education. Established in 1968 as the central law enforcement training facility for the state, the center is near Yoder.

Graduates receive certificates of course completion and Kansas law enforcement certification from the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers’ Standards and Training, the state’s law enforcement licensing authority.

The training course fulfills the state requirement for law enforcement training. Classroom lectures and hands-on applications help train officers to solve the increasingly complex problems they face in the line of duty.

Graduates included: Pottawatomie County Sheriff’s Department, Westmoreland, Jamie Douglass, Deputy Sheriff, Manhattan; and Wamego Police Department, Wamego, Chris Herbel, Police Officer, St. George.
Four-year college not likely in county’s future
Proposed Education and Research Triangle cited as next big step for higher education here

PHILIP BATSON
STAFF WRITER

It reigns supreme as Kansas’ most populous county, but the one thing Johnson County lacks is a four-year state university. That scenario is not likely to change any time soon.

With the nationally recognized Johnson County Community College, the University of Kansas 45 minutes to the west, a smattering of university satellites in the county and a number of institutions just across the border in Missouri, many see no need to add a university.

“You have it here in a very, very nice package so people don’t have to pay the expense to leave,” former Johnson County Community College president Charles Carlise said. “The needs are already being fulfilled, and from a cost point of view it’s a lot cheaper to use existing institutions than to build another university.”

Carlise, who led JCCC for 25 years before retiring in 2006, said no one has ever advocated for a stand-alone four-year institution in the county.

“To my knowledge there hasn’t been any serious movement to get a four-year school here,” Carlise said. “When you have Johnson County Community College there offering the first two years with fine facilities and a good academic record reputation, why would you do that? Usually with universities, when they were developed, were developed because needs weren’t being met, but there’s really no need that I can see.

“The people of Johnson County are not bashful. If they wanted a four-year university you would hear from them.”

Johnson County Board of County Commissioners Chairwoman Annabeth Surbaugh said the county’s location lends itself to every type of student without adding the need for its own institution.

“We’re so close in this metropolitan area, there are so many educational opportunities, that I never felt like we were missing the mark or were underserved,” Surbaugh said.

Dick Bond, a former state senator from Overland Park and the former chair of the Kansas Board of Regents, said Johnson County’s proximity to the University of Kansas is also an inhibitor. Add in that Kansas already has six state universities and more than 60 four-year, community and technical colleges, Bond said the need for higher education in the state is being met. He also said funding an additional institution would not work because Kansas does not currently fund higher education adequately.

“We really don’t need more general education facilities,” Bond said.

What Bond does believe is a good step for higher education in Johnson County is the proposed Johnson County Education and Research Triangle.

A bill signed by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius in April 2007 allows the county commission to ask voters to approve a two-tenths-cent sales tax, a property tax of up to 2 mills or a combination of the two to pay for the triangle. Triangle Coordinator Mary Birch said she hopes the issue is on the November ballot.

“From my perspective the triangle is a very unique opportunity to add to the long-term economy of this county and to do some very special things for our citizens,” Birch said.

The triangle would create Kansas State University’s National Food Safety and Security Institute in Olathe; expand the University of Kansas Edwards Campus in Overland Park to enhance degree offerings in engineering, science and math; and create a clinical trials center in northeast Johnson County for the KU Medical Center to house a clinical and translational research center, including the clinical trials office for the KU Cancer Center and the headquarters of the Midwest Cancer Alliance.

Bond said creation of the triangle would have a long-term effect on the county, just like JCCC.

“The opportunity that’s offered to Johnson County by this education and research triangle three-campus proposal is historic and is really unique for a county that has long supported education at every level and prided itself on its commitment to educational excellence,” Bond said.
ON CAMPUS ... Johnson County Community College students Joy Stewart, Erik Merrill and Chris Riley, Overland Park, take a break from classes. The college is cited as one of the reasons Johnson County does not have a four-year university.
And the award goes to... Fred Logan, Prairie Village, lawyer, Leawood resident and countywide education supporter.

Although not gushing with such comments as, "They love me, they really do," Logan did sound pleased to learn the Johnson County Community College Foundation named him Johnson Countian of the Year.

"It means so much because probably the one thing that I've been most involved with over the years is supporting education at every level," he said.

The foundation provides the award to those who make significant contributions to education in Johnson County. Logan said receiving the award from the college is special to him.

"I've watched the college grow into such a magnificent institution from the time I was in high school at Shawnee Mission South. Any award from the college foundation is very meaningful," he said.

The college, Logan said, should mean something to every Johnson Countian.

"It is becoming a more and more important higher education institution for people of different socio-economic means," Logan said. "Higher education is very expensive and a community college as outstanding as Johnson County is just an enormous asset for people.

"It's not just an educational institution, it's a cultural institution, it's an economic-development driver, it's just a very important institution."

Logan is a foundation member, college trustee and board president, and Shawnee Mission School District Committee for Excellence co-chairman.

Education resume highlights include that he co-chaired the Committee to Support Our Schools 2002 sales tax campaign, the 2007 local option budget campaign and served as a Kansas Task Force on Community College and Area Vocational Technical Education Funding member.

"We here in Johnson County are so blessed to have great K-12 education, to have an outstanding institution of higher education like the Johnson County Community College and then looking what we might do with respect to the KU Edwards Campus, the KU Cancer Center and the K-State Innovation Campus in Olathe," Logan said. "I'm very excited about those opportunities."

Logan said some people might get their diplomas and degrees without reflecting on how valuable education became in their lives.

"I feel that the education that I received here in Johnson County has helped propel me to whatever success I've received. It's what sets this county apart from other places around the country," Logan said. "We've created a number of really outstanding school districts, we have a top 10 community college nationally... In many respects, Johnson County's success is related to its long-time commitment to excellence in education."
ENJOYING THE MOMENT: 2008 Johnson Countian of the Year recipient Fred Logan, Leawood, has his law office in Prairie Village.