

Woman sues technical college claiming sexual harassment

By SHARON CORCORAN
The Goodland Star-News
GOODLAND — A former student is suing the Northwest Kansas Technical College, its president and two of its teachers saying she was

sexually harassed and discriminated against.
Jan Johnson of San Antonio, Texas, is suing the college, Kenneth Clouse as the president and as an individual and instructors Ed Lof-

land and Bill Lacy and is asking for \$105,000.
Her case was removed to a federal court in Wichita in January under U.S. Title IX.

Johnson was a student at the technical college from Feb. 1, 2002, until Jan. 30, 2003, in the Communications Network Technology program. She said, through her attorney Kevin Berens, in a petition in the Sherman County District Court files that the college did not uphold the claims made in its handbook with regard to what is considered sexual harassment, with regard to handling complaints of sexual harassment and with regard to helping students find jobs.

She said she suffered severe emotional distress as a result of the inaction by the defendants to correct the inappropriate behavior by male students in her classroom and that she became depressed, angry and

became unable to cope effectively with other males she came in contact with outside of the classroom.
Johnson said she had to quit her job at a local bar and lost wages as a result of the emotional distress and that her social life was diminished and she became reclusive.

In the student's petition said the defendants allowed sexual harassment to take place in the classroom to the extent that it was severe, pervasive and offensive enough to be considered sexual discrimination.

Johnson said the college acted with deliberate indifference to the situation in that the classroom teachers, Lofland and Lacy, failed to correct such behavior or failed to follow the procedures for sexual harassment or for students' misuse of college technology as set forth in the student handbook.

Among the statements Johnson quoted from the handbook in the

petition are that college equipment would not be allowed to be used for "downloading, viewing, transmitting and/or processing pornographic, X-rated, profane, sexually explicit or racially offensive material."

The petition also quotes the handbook as saying there is an "assurance of non-retaliation" for any complainant of sexual harassment.

Johnson said the technical college and Clouse acted with deliberate indifference to the situation and that Clouse failed to investigate or correct the problem in the classroom even though he was informed of it.

She said in the petition that Lofland gave her a bad reference in retaliation to her complaint about inappropriate behavior of students in his class.

It's pending negotiations right now, Clouse said; there's nothing to

talk about.
The insurance companies and attorneys will have to deal with that, he said.

The petition asks the court find that the college violated the Kansas Consumer Protection Act in that it misrepresented its sexual harassment policies, its post graduate placement services and its policy against retaliation for reporting sexual harassment; that the court award Johnson \$10,000 for each violation for a total of \$30,000; that the court find that the college, Clouse, Lofland and Lacy acted in an extreme and outrageous manner which recklessly caused Johnson severe emotional distress; that the college violated Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and that the court award Johnson damages in excess of \$75,000 and any other remedy the court deems just and equitable.

Decatur County gets new voting computer

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
Oberlin Herald
OBERLIN — Voting in Decatur County is likely to change for the August primary elections because of the Helping America Vote Act passed by Congress after Florida's vote-counting debacle four years ago.

The biggest change voters will see is that there may be just one polling place and they will have be able to use a touch screen computer to vote.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn, who serves as the county election officer, said the machines cost up to \$10,000 each and then the software costs an additional \$20,000 each year there is a state or national election. She said they could use the machine for local elections for an additional cost.

Horn said even though the machine is required, the county will still offer paper ballots. Some people are familiar with using technology like a touch screen computer on a regular basis, she said, with others may want to use the paper ballots. Currently, the county has seven polling places, four in Oberlin plus polls in Dresden, Jennings and Norcatur. In Oberlin, are polling places at the Golden Age Center, American Legion and the courthouse. Horn said they also do mail-out ballots for advanced voting or people can vote early in the courthouse, which counts as the seventh place.

When the law was passed, the idea was that the government would provide the machines, but Horn said she isn't sure who will end up paying for them.

She said either way, the county will probably get only one machine, which will mean having just one polling place. The machines are required by the federal law to help handicapped voters.

Horn said she plans to have the polling place at The Gateway. She told county commissioners recently that the courthouse isn't up to code for the Americans With Disabilities Act which polling places have to meet.

There are two problems. The one is that the ramp on the east side of the courthouse is too steep. The other thing is that the handrail on the ramp has a point at the end and needs to be curved. The cost to fix the two areas is around \$5,000.

The Gateway has already been reserved for the election days in August and November, she said.

Horn said people who don't want to travel to Oberlin to vote can vote early by either going to the courthouse or requesting a ballot in the mail

Another change in the election process says that voter registration cards have to be signed in front of an election officer or a motor vehicle officer. If they aren't done that way, she said, the first time the person goes to vote, they must be asked for either a driver's license or a Social Security card.

She said anyone running for office who carries registration cards needs to tell people to wait to sign them until they are in front of the proper officer.

Horn told the commissioners at the meeting on Tuesday, March 9, that she is working on an election resolution which will include all the changes. She said she will also ask for an increase in the payment for the polling places and the workers.

Horn said she would like to see the payment for polling places go from \$25 to \$50 per election and for workers from \$5.15 to \$7.50 an hour.

Horn said she isn't sure if the state will pay for the new machines and software or if they will become the responsibility of the county.

School board considers selling equipment via e-Bay

By GREG STOVER
The Goodland Star-News
GOODLAND — While students, faculty and staff are enjoying spring break, it was business as usual for the Goodland School Board at its regular meeting Monday night.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said that the high school athletic department had some old weight equipment that was surplus. He said football coach Tony Diehl suggested that the equipment be sold on e-Bay and the money used to support athletic programs. The board approved the idea unanimously.

Selby also asked the board to consider selling the Edson gymnasium on e-Bay, citing the example of the Moreland School District selling its old school building to a private firm.

Selby reported that 17 fourth-graders at Central Elementary School scored an exemplary rating on their math assessment tests earlier this month.

Selby asked Kenny Studer, the district's maintenance supervisor,

to brief the board about problems his crew has with one of the district pickups. He said the repair estimate is more than twice what the truck is worth. The truck was bought used in 1989 and had a rebuilt engine installed in 2000.

Studer said the truck has major problems with its carburetor, fuel tanks, radiator and oil leaks.

The board agreed the truck would be too expensive to fix and told Studer to buy a newer model used pickup, using the old truck as a trade-in. He said Finley Motors had the low bid of \$10,600 minus a \$700 trade on a 2000 Ford F-150 with a long box.

Selby reminded board members that the state Board of Education will stop in Goodland before holding its April meeting in St. Francis and Atwood. The board will meet from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Central Time) Tuesday, April 13, at the St. Francis High School. From 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, April 14, the board will meet at the Atwood High School.

Family enjoyed former resident interacting with race car drivers

From "WINONA," page 4

with granddaughters Kirsten and Kourtney Hansen while their parents, Andy and Stace Hansen attended the Busch car races in Las Vegas. It was of special interest to them because of the involvement of a former resident of Russell Springs and Winona. The excitement increased as they took videos of Jarod Boyd interacting with the crew of race car driver Johnny Sauter who races car #16. Jarod transports race cars across the nation. He was a Triplains graduate and is the son of Jim and Teri Boyd of Winona and grandson of John Dean and Joy Rogge of Russell Springs.

The Winona Chamber of Commerce met Thursday morning at the Winona Bar and Grill. Business included discussing making improve-

ments to the building to comply with government regulations for the handicapped. The chamber building is the designated voting location. The community should be grateful for having a building of such versatility and a facility of easy access for voting. April will be the last regular meeting of the Chamber of Commerce until it convenes in August.

Jim and Kathy Koons of St. James, Mo. spent several days this week in Winona on business and visiting relatives. They spent time at Lantern Park Manor in Colby visiting Jim's mother, Hazel Koons, who is a resident at the manor.

The community extends sympathy to Judy Parsons of Page City and other family members of Larry Parsons.

SHARE
the FAITH



Worship in the church
of your choice this
weekend.

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 950 S. Franklin, 462-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Schedule of church services

ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Christian Education and Choir Practice for Youth, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May

COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, Rev. Leonard Burgess, 245 W. College Dr. - 462-8234, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., 1st Worship Service - 8:15 a.m. 2nd service - 10:30 a.m.

BEREAN CHURCH, Rev. Francis Harwerth, 1000 S. Franklin - 460-3076; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m., Sunday Evening Youth 6:00 p.m., Tim Morris, associate pastor; e-mail: morris4him@st-tel.net. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Colby Armory

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Rev. Jim Puckett, Grant & Webster Street, 462-2867, Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Evening Worship 6:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, (SBC), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 462-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m.

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Chris Shubert. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Daily Mass, Monday @ 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 7 a.m.; Wednesday, 8:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, 5:30 p.m. only; Friday, 8:15 a.m.; Saturday, 5:30 p.m.; Sunday,

8 & 10 a.m. Confessions on Sat. 4:30-5:05 p.m., and 7:30-7:45 p.m. and 9:35-9:40 p.m., Sun.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m. September through May; Worship 9:30 a.m. June through Labor Day.

WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

TEENS FOR CHRIST CONNECTION, Everett Robert, 462-7404, Both middle school and high school program.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 462-6605, President Dave Geldmacher, 846-7740; Elmer Schielke, 1st counsellor, 462-9022 and Calvin Haverfield, 2nd counsellor, 672-4165. Sacrament meeting 9 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 10:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 11:10 a.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, or by appointment. Call 462-3571.

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 462-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship.

REDEEMING LOVE CHURCH, 345 N. Franklin, Bishop W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Sunday service, 5 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 510 E. 4th, Jay Kelley, minister, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), 385 W. 3rd - 460-2718, Sunday School

at 9:30 a.m. followed by Sunday Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m. E-mail: fcccolby@st-tel.net

LANDMARK UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, Pastor Doyle Glasscock, 815 West 3rd - 462-3667, Service times: Sunday, 10 a.m., 6:30 p.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, David S. Hall, Pastor, East 5th & Country club, 462-3497, Worship, Saturday, 5:30 p.m. ; Sunday School and Bible Class 9:15 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m. ; Lutheran Hour on KXXX at 10 a.m.; KGCOR at 2 p.m. website <http://www.trinitycolbyks.org>

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH Brewster, Sunday Worship 9 a.m., Sunday School 10

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Charlie Buch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. Michael Eurit, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. (CDT)

BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Rev. Mike Meserve, Outreach; Lane Purcell, Men's Ministry, 687-2565

REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford - 687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Sunday Night Bible Studay 7:30 p.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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