

Kansas profile—Now that's rural

# Apple Initiative big deal at Northwest Tech

**By Ron Wilson**  
*director Huck Boyd Institute for Rural Devel. at K-State.*  
*Fast Company* magazine, fall 2010. An article describes "five technologically decked-out schools," including Notre Dame, Stanford, Duke University, and...Northwest Technical College in Goodland. What is a technical college in rural Kansas doing on this list of technological giants? It's today's Kansas Profile.



Stiles

Northwest Tech in 2009. "We've got to have cutting edge technology," Mills said. He was working with the college's chief information officer, Ben Coumerilh, on a proposal to provide every student with an iPod. Then in March 2010, Apple announced the iPad, a lightweight tablet computer. "The benefit (of the iPad) is you can create content, not just consume it," Diane said. So Northwest Tech launched an iPad Learning Initiative under which every full-time student would receive an iPad for their use. Various applications for the iPad were integrated into technology classes and general education classes.

"We were the first two year college in the nation to have a one-to-one initiative, with one iPad per student," Diane said. With 400

students on the campus, Northwest Tech suddenly became very technologically empowered.

"Teaching is something we've got to be able to adapt to the way people learn nowadays, and the iPad has allowed us to bridge that gap," said Coumerilh. "(The iPad) is a tool students can use and have fun with while actually learning."

Then Eagle Communications partnered with Finley Motors to donate a car which was raffled off so iPads could be purchased for faculty members as well. Now faculty are using iPads to communicate with students and in the classroom and laboratory.

Diane Stiles is excited about what the iPads can mean to the students. Getting a textbook as an e-book, for example, means the virtual backpack can now be a one-pound electronic device, rather than a big, heavy load of paper to carry around.

"There are all kinds of apps and customized uses which students and faculty are exploring, from auto mechanics to cosmetology," Diane said. "I think Apple was interested in seeing how their iPad would do in a rough environment such as the diesel shop. And because of the high quality camera on the iPad, students can develop an e-portfolio of their work to show to potential employers."

Apple filmed a documentary about Northwest Tech's work which will be featured on the Apple Education website. Each year Apple features six colleges out of 200 proposals.

Diane is evaluating educational outcomes, but there is clearly an excitement around this new equipment.

"The change in the commitment of faculty to using technology in their teaching is incredible," Mills said. "The change in students to use technology as a part of the learning

process here is amazing." The City of Goodland (with the motto "Kansas Begins Here!") also adopted an iPad initiative. "We are the first or among the first to implement the usage of iPads for a paperless agenda," said Doug Gerber, Goodland city manager. "We use an application called Dropbox which commissioners can access electronically. This saves lots of paper, time, and money."

Other municipal functions benefit as well. For example, a building inspector can use the iPad's high-definition camera to take a digital picture of a code enforcement issue, which the computer can identify through GPS. In the municipal electric system, the city plans to use iPads to manage distribution which would allow delinquent accounts to be cut off at the touch of a button—reducing what had been a daylong process to literally seconds.

*Fast Company* magazine, fall

2010. Northwest Tech in Goodland, Kansas is on the high-tech college list because of the iPad Learning Initiative. We commend President Ed Mills, Ben Coumerilh, Diane Stiles, Doug Gerber, and all those in Goodland who are making a difference with this pioneering use of technology in education and community.

*The mission of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development is to enhance rural development by helping rural people help themselves. The Kansas Profile radio series and columns are produced with assistance from the K-State Research and Extension Department of Communications News Unit.*

*Audio and text files of Kansas Profiles are available at <http://www.kansasprofile.com>. For more information about the Huck Boyd Institute, visit <http://www.huckboydinstitute.org>.*

## Unanimous decision to fill vacant position

CITY, from Page 1

At Monday's meeting, city employee Phil Erickson was named Employee of the Quarter. In making the presentation, City Manager Doug Gerber noted the award was made for many reasons, among them his work in building playground equipment, his work and creativity in preparing the exhibit of a bank teller window at the museum and some nice concrete work outside the administration building. "For those reasons and others, the Employee of the Quarter goes to Phil Erickson," Gerber announced.

In other business, Smokey Hill Construction was unanimously awarded the brick street bid for a project which will start in April and replace Main Street bricks on blocks from 11th to 12th streets and from 12th to 13th. Other drainage and

system work will be done in the process. Total cost of the project is \$602,000, of which approximately \$192,000 will be paid by the city, thanks to a project grant, Gerber explained.

In response to a question from Commissioner Finley, Gerber said the city funds for the project were in the budget. He noted, tongue-in-cheek, that the city was breaking a time-honored tradition by scheduling construction to begin in April rather than during the alumni and Flatlander celebrations. Smokey Hill Construction submitted the low bid for the project.

At 6:40 p.m. commissioners held a closed door session "relating to attorney-client matters" with City Attorney Jerry Fairbanks for 25 minutes. When the meeting reopened the commissioners voted to adjourn without further action.

## Cesspool issue appeal hearing officer named

HEARING, from Page 1

Strnad asked what happens if the hearing officer agrees with Schilling and the county.

"I think the state will take over," Weber said.

Strnad started to make a motion to approve Christiansen, but then asked Weber to have Christiansen call the commissioners.

"I feel we should know her credentials before we make a decision," Strnad said.

Christiansen called on the phone at 8:45 a.m. and was on the speaker phone with the commissioners.

Strnad asked about the process and Christiansen's credentials.

Christiansen said she is general counsel for the Kansas Water Office and she has done a number of hearings under the Natural Resource Alternative Dispute Resolution program created in 2005.

She said she has a degree in his-

tory from Fort Hays State University and her law degree from the University of Kansas. She said she has been doing mediation for more than 20 years.

As to the process, Christiansen said she would contact the two parties and collect information from them and set a time and place for the hearing. She said, depending on the type of case, she can do a phone conference in advance or accept briefs in advance.

She conducts the hearing and can have post-hearing briefs depending on the case. She said she did not have much information on this case.

Strnad said when they talked with Weber in Colby, Weber said they would represent the state and Schilling would be involved on his own. Strnad asked about the Sherman County position.

"I do not know at this time," Christiansen said. "If the commis-

sioners have a statement I would hear that, or it can be submitted in writing either before or after the hearing."

She said she would contact the parties and let them get who they want to support them.

"I do not know much about the issue," Christiansen said, "but we have money in our budget and can offer

this without cost to either side."

The commissioners thanked her for calling, and Commissioner Max Linin said he was okay with approving the hearing officer. The commissioners voted 3-0 to accept Christiansen.

The county was to notify Weber they had accepted the hearing officer.

### MISTAKES...

**We Know We Make Mistakes!**

Please remember that we attempt to include something for everyone within the pages of our newspaper. We realize that some folks enjoy finding fault and for those readers we thoughtfully include a socially acceptable number of errors within our publication.

State of Kansas  
Township

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING 2012

The governing body of  
**Itasca Township**  
Sherman

will meet on November 1, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. at Harlan D. House Residence for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Harlan D. House Residence and will be available at this hearing.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Proposed Budget 2012 Expenditures and Amount of 2011 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2012 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	Prior Year Actual 2010		Current Year Estimate 2011		Proposed Budget 2012		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2011 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	452	0.000	1,223	0.000	5,005		0.000
Debt Service							
Road							
Special Machinery							
<b>Totals</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>5,005</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000</b>
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>452</b>		<b>1,223</b>		<b>5,005</b>		
Total Tax Levied	0		0		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed Valuation:							
Township	2,671,574		2,695,999		2,787,303		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1	2009		2010		2011		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		0		

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

s/Cora House, Treasurer  
Township Officer

Page No. 7      Published in The Goodland Star-News, Friday, October 21, 2011.

State of Kansas  
Township

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING 2011

The governing body of  
**Itasca Township**  
Sherman County 8:00 P.M.

will meet on the 1st day of November, 2011, at Harlan D. House, at the residence for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed Budget Information available at and will be available at this hearing.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Proposed Budget 2011 Expenditures and Amount of 2010 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2011 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	Prior Year Actual 2009		Current Year Estimate 2010		Proposed Budget 2011		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Amount of 2010 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	509	0.000	452	0.000	6,227	0	0.000
Debt Service							
Road							
Special Machinery							
<b>Totals</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>6,227</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000</b>
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>509</b>		<b>452</b>		<b>6,227</b>		
Total Tax Levied	0		0		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed Valuation:							
Township	2,770,352		2,671,574		2,695,999		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1	2008		2009		2010		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Pur Princ	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		0		

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

s/Cora House, Treasurer  
Township Officer

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## Kansas Governor's Ringneck Classic

### The Inaugural Pheasant Hunt

**Community "Meet & Greet Dinner" with the Governor and Hunt Celebrities!**  
**Logan County 4H Building in Oakley, Kansas – Friday November 18th, 2011**  
**Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 pm – Dinner at 7:00 pm**  
**Open to the public!**  
**Dinner provided by Weaver's BBQ, the finest in Northwest Kansas!**  
**Silent and Live Auction – Community Raffle**  
**\$40 per ticket, the event is sure to sell out!**  
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**[www.kansasingneckclassic.com](http://www.kansasingneckclassic.com)**

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