High schoolers do well at Ecomeet competition

ECOMEET, from Page 1

Native American word for antelope. However, McCracken said, it was better than last year's topic, which was woodlands.

For the scavenger hunt, the teams walked through an area and had to positively identify a variety of plant species. Stegeman said it was difficult because that area has a very different plains ecosystem than what Sherman County has, with more flowers, taller grasses and more trees. The students went out to the area the night before to look around, she said, which helped them

For the skit, the team members had to come up with a five-minute presentation information on various organisms. The ATeam took second place in this particular event.

"It's the best part of the day," Mc-Cracken said.

This year the A Team decided to be a little more gutsy, she said, and crafted a skit all about the unusual mating habits of several animals, including lizards and the preying mantis. She said the judges were impressed that the students were able to take a topic like that and make present it in a tasteful and enter- resented Goodland very well." taining way. Coon said the students wrote the skit themselves.

Stegeman said she was nervous about last year's skit.

"This year I knew the lines and I knew the material enough be able to improv," she said.

McCracken and Stegeman have also done the Science Olympiad, which they said is much more competitive and intense. The students have more fun at the Ecomeet and get to socialize more with the teams from eastern Kansas.

"I think of all the trips, this group was the most enjoyable," Coon said. "We should be very proud; they rep-

Seeing what the college has to offer



A high school student spoke with a Northwest Kansas Technical College student from the Diesel Technology program at the Technology Exploration Day on Nov. 8. Ninety-eight juniors and seniors from 17 Kansas and Colorado schools were brought to the college to meet with students and instructors from each of the college's programs. Photo by Kayla Bentley/The Goodland Star-News

Goodland School District talks facilities project at public meetings

DISTRICT, from Page 1

a more trimmed version for \$14

To complicate the issue is the possibility that with the help of the city a sales tax could be used to fund the projects. The reason the sales tax issue came up is that a state sales tax of .05 percent is supposed to sunset in June unless the legislature renews it. The tax was added because of a short fall in revenues for the state several years ago. Biermann said that no one knows if the state will renew it. Some school boards and people have decided that a sales tax is more fair than increasing property taxes. To replace the state sales tax with a local one would basically not change the overall rate unless the legislature extends the state tax.

A half cent sales tax would fund half of the \$16.3 million and a full penny increase would fund all of it, said Biermann.

A bond for \$16.3 million for 20 years would raise the mill levy by 12.6 mills. The reason for the same amount of mills for more money is that they state would pay 22 percent of any capital or building improvements as part of the school finance formula, the evaluation of a mill has gone up in two years and the interest rates have gone down.

When asked how long the project would take he said that at West it would take two years because of not being able to work during the school year, Biermann said. Where North is empty it would take a year. Once North was done the high school would remain open until the remodeling was done at the high school.

Mr Biermann said the plans are tentatively to move the seventh and eighth to the high school as soon as

November 16-December 6

Breaking Dawn Part 2

(PG-13): Sequences of violence including disturb-

ing images; some sensuality; partial nudity.

be done. The board has decided that the decision of when the seventh and eighth grade to the high school is not necessarily tied to the remodeling. Part of the decision is that the move to the high school will open up options to take art and vocational education for junior high students.

West Elementary School Some of the code issues at West are the fire alarm system, emergency ighting, a kitchen fire suppression and compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act. For example the existing bathrooms in the class rooms in the pods are not large enough to accommodate wheel chairs, Biermann said. The district

is estimating 75 to 80 students per

class with four classes per grade.

Other issues facing West are the number of outside doors that make heating and cooling inefficient and provide access to strangers. In the proposal the outside doors would be enclosed with a hall way that would limit access. New construction there would be the building of two class rooms that would also be the storm shelter for the school. There is no storm shelter currently and kids take shelter in bathrooms and interior halls. There would be a security vestibule added so that people coming into the building would have to funnel through the office. The old bathrooms would be converted into closets and storage except the bath rooms in the kindergarden rooms would be remodeled so they are handicapped accessible. The courtyard would be enclosed and could possibly be moved to North turned into bath rooms for the other for a year for the work to be done at kids and a hallway so people do not the high school. Grant Junior High have to go through the gym during physical education. The plumbing and fire systems would be brought up to code.

> The cost would be around \$2.6 million. The heating and air con-

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next year if the remodeling is not to ditioning and windows had been updated in 2006.

North Elementary School The improvements to North would be similar to the ones at West. The additional cost would be heating and air conditioning and a

Since the sixth grade would be added the school would need four more class rooms. Two of those class rooms would be a storm shel-

new roof.

The current bathrooms would be turned into storage and the court yard would be made into central bathrooms.

The cost would be around \$4.1 to

Goodland High School

The issues that need to be addressed at the high school include 1937 designed heating and wiring. The school does not have fire sprinklers and emergency lighting. In the classrooms except for the science rooms the doors are not handicapped accessible. The walls are plastered and when wiring is updated the most cost effective way to deal with the plaster walls is to remove them and

materials. The building only has air would be student services including keep Central and move the adminconditioning in some rooms.

Mr Biermann said they want to maximize space and make it as functional as possible.

Starting with the auditorium, he said, it would get new lights and a ceiling. They want to move the band into the space currently occupied by the library. A door to the back of the stage could be added allowing students to enter from the back. Dressing rooms and bath rooms would be available there and some space for set storage. The rest of the space would be used for the band with practice rooms and storage. The library would be moved to where the cafeteria is now. The student area for the cafeteria would be the current band room. The only new construction would be a new kitchen with built in freezers and refrigerators. Next to that would be a concession stand area with an awning and entrances to remodeled bathrooms. At the front the class rooms would be remodeled and would be used by the seventh and eighth grade. The entrance would add another set of doors to funnel visitors through the replace them with modern building office. The rooms south of the door

the nurse, counselor and a conference room.

Upstairs in the front of the building the classrooms would be remodeled and the sizes equalized. These would be the history and English class rooms and the freshman and sophomore lockers.

The gym would only get new heating and air conditioning. All the rest rooms would be renovated.

That would run about \$9.5 million, said Biermann.

In the \$14.1 million pared down version West and North would lose their storm shelters. The high school would lose the concession stand and a spare class room. The second floor heating and air conditioning would be changed to roof top units which would be less efficient.

Biermann said the district would get .25 Full Time Equivalency from the state because it has incentives to update facilities.

When asked what the district time," he said. would do with Central and Grant, Biermann said the district would

istration and technology into it. The current technology building and the administration building would be sold and go back on the tax rolls.

The district has no plans for Grant and would hope to sell it to someone to be used for the community, he

When asked what the remodel would mean to the people who worked at the district. Biermann said that he didn't expect the teaching staff to change much. He said there would be changes in the number of classified staff such as custodians and cooks and possibly an administrator.

There were 65 to 70 people at the Monday night meeting and about 40 at the Wednesday meeting.

Biermann said if a bond would fail the school board and the district would go back to the drawing

"We are driven to do it right this

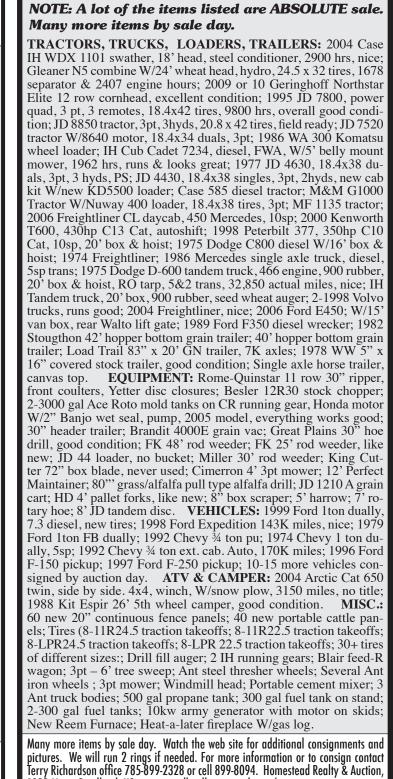


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More items to numerous to mention. For more information contact Terry Richardson, Homestead Realty & Auction, 1023 Main, Goodland, KS. 785-899-2328 or cell 785-899 8094 Complete sale bill and pictures on www/goodlandhomestead.com/auctions.





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