

## Kiamichi Tech Center Brings Program on

### Help, Open House



Ron DeGiacomo

Two officials of the Kiamichi Technology Centers told us about their jobs, last Tuesday, and Karl Scifres told us about the McAlester's center's annual open house.

Karl told us about a car show, free hot dogs and drinks, the MHS Steel Drum Band, a Ben Franklin exhibit, and a "Moon Walk." Each vo-

tech department also was to have an exhibit, at the Sunday event, Karl said.

Clyde Ray Spears, Agri-Business Management official, told us about computerized records that are available for area farmers and ranchers. They can get a loan for their farm or their cow-calf operations and Spears helps answer their questions and gets them South-

east Oklahoma Certification.

Ron DeGiacomo, Bid Assistance Coordinator, said he offers free service for small business and industry, in bidding for government contracts. DeGiacomo said he finds what area businesses can offer in goods and services the government is interested in. The firms are listed by a "key word" in his computer. Then when the government wants bids, the key word comes out.

"We can't write bids but we get them on the right track," and help them meet the deadline for bids, he said. "We also do market research."

Oklahoma has \$207,000,000 in goods and services, available to See Kiamichi Tech on page 2



Clyde Ray Spears

## State School Board Official Gives Talk, Opposes 'TABOR'

The Executive Director of the State School Board Association told us Jan. 31 about his office operations, and urged us to vote against a "Taxpayer Bill of Rights" (TABOR,) which may soon be on a state ballot.

Dr. Keith Ballard said that "TABOR, at first blush, sounds good." But Colorado, which is the only state that has adopted it, has suffered an economic downturn because of it. "Out-of-state money supports it," he said. "I urge you to take a hard look at it."

Dr. Ballard did not explain the constitutional question. But it puts a lid on state government spending, based on inflation and population growth. It also gives rebates to taxpayers in some years of economic growth.

A Washington, D.C.-based organization called "the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities" says the problem with the "Taxpayer Bill of Rights" is that state government budgets are not made "according to inflation and population." The measure was suspended by a statewide vote in Colorado in October. The Washington center claims the measure "has had a detrimental effect" on common schools, higher education, public health, Medicaid and corrections in Colorado.

A state petition has been passed in Oklahoma, that gathered 299,029 signatures asking for a constitutional vote on the issue. That is 80,000 more than are needed to make it a state question. Similar votes are being considered in Kansas, Arizona, Missouri, Michigan, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon and Wisconsin.

Ballard, a former school superintendent at Claremore, told how his office has grown in its first year, after it received a grant to hire a staff.

The State School Board Association works with 60 school boards, providing information to state school boards and required training to school board members around the state.

Ballard said he has also worked with the Legislature and Sandy Garrett, state school official.

Ballard told about being asked by the Republic of Georgia, formerly in Russia, to set up a school board system there.

The citizens there did not like Russian and Soviet control, and they "passed sweeping education reform," 18 months ago.

Dr. Ballard was one of three people who went there last July, to train 100 persons and to write an "education reform bill." They also talked to parents there, who wanted to know about the local control of schools.

"We taught them how to have a school board meeting," the state educator said. The leaders there are young and "don't understand Democracy....But an Oklahoma seed has been planted there," he said.

"We are fortunate in America."



Dr. Keith Ballard

# 'Home Ec' Today Is Different

Home Economics is now called Family and Consumer Sciences, and there are just as many male students as female.

Only one male joined the female students on our program from McAlester High School Jan. 24. The FCCLA program helps develop "life skills," says Angela Key, the MHS instructor for the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.

Explaining the FCCLA program were Shelly James, Brittany Moham, Waverlee Washington, Danielle Griffin, and Steven McClintock.



FCCLA members and their sponsor, Angela Key, holding a computerized doll used in the training.

Each student is given a doll for 24 hours and asked to keep a journal. The dolls cry every hour and a half, and the computer apparently indicates why the baby is crying.

The action of each student is kept in the journal. (And Ms. Key says it definitely cuts down on teenage pregnancies.)

The class members also help with the Health Fair, work at the Diamond and Ice Gala at the hospital, the Pink Ribbon Luncheon, and the Martin Luther King Dinner.

The class also collects children's books, has a "Stop

One phase of the program involves six computerized dolls.

the Violence Training," and has classes on home safety, and other helpful subjects, according to slides the students showed.

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## Exchange Student Kicked Extra Points



Luiz Gustavo Borges

Exchange Student Kicked Extra Points For MHS Football Team

Luiz Gustavo Borges, our Rotary Exchange Student, has been in McAlester six months. He is attending McAlester High School, and is an extra point kicker on the Buffalo Football Team.

Luiz alternates at kicking extra points, but has kicked seven times. He learned his kicking technique by playing soccer in his native country of Brazil.

Luiz spoke English when he came here from Votuporanga, Brazil. He found taking courses in English "kind of hard in the beginning." But he said his teachers "helped me a lot."

"Now it's more easy," said the student from Brazil. "I had to work hard at first."

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### Attendance, Visitors, and Handshakers

Last week there were 56 in attendance. Susan Shaw was a guest of Randy Saunier. Our Rotary Exchange Student, (see the article this week,) and two "Good Citizens" were the only other guests.

On Jan. 31, there were 59 attending. Steve Smith was a guest of Mark Jordan, and Doug Russell was a guest of John Tucker.

On Jan. 24, there were 59 persons present. HANDSHAKERS- Last week, Don Harris gave the Rotary coin to new President Brett Smith. But George Lampton and Brian Renegar picked members who are prettier than Brett. George gave the coin to Shirley Fleming, and Brian picked Ashley Lerblance.

Terry and Amy Harrison, whom he is staying with, also have been helpful in learning to study in English.

He takes the same classes which local students take, Algebra III, Physiology, Computers, English IV, U.S. History, Arts, and football.

People have been "very nice," Luiz said. However, he had a hard time making friends. Students are "more open" in Brazil, he said.

He was moving back to the Ronnie May house, Sunday. He said he enjoyed his visit here "a lot."

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### Good Citizens From MHS Visit Club

The visiting "Good Citizens" from McAlester High School are Maggie Steidley and Erick Moham.

Maggie is a senior, and is the daughter of Dottie and Joe Steidley. Her school schedule includes Band, Chemistry II AP, English IV AP, Algebra III, and office aide,

Her hobbies are cooking, "working out," and music. After graduation, she plans to attend OSU or the University of Arkansas, but she has not selected her major.

Erick also is a senior. His parents are Rick and JoAnn Mohan.

His school schedule includes Band, Math of Finance, English IV AP, office aid, Spanish III, Psychology, and Chemistry I. His hobby is working as a percussionist.

After graduation, he plans to attend OU and major in Criminal Justice.

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bid on, he reported. DeGiacomo said he tried to "get you connected." His office at Wilburton is one of 16 in the state, which tries to "generate business" for its area.

He mentioned bottled water, which no one is bidding on, and Ethanol, which the government is buying and wants bids on.

"We try to get them together," with area firms, he stated.