

By GISEELLE ARREDONDO

• Leader & Times

With programs at Seward County Community College/Area Technical School continuing to grow, the college is looking into expanding to meet those needs but rumors of the purchase of the Panhandle Eastern Building on north Kansas Avenue are not necessarily true.



“No, not at all,” SCCC/ATS President Dr. Duane M. Dunn said. “The building is for sale. Our allied health programs ... we have programs there, our surgical tech lab is in a separate building, and then our medical assistant program and nurses aid programs are right there in the technical school facility – so they’re kinda scattered. One of the things we’re looking at is going past confined facilities to bring all that together.”

According to Dunn, the building for sale and the college’s decision to purchase the building is still up in the air.

“This building is for sale and we’ve had some discussions about it, but never bought it. Our board has looked at it as: if we can get raised donations to the foundation, that’s the only way we will get it done,” he said.

“We’d like to get it,” Dunn said with a laugh. “We just need more space for the programs. We continue to grow. They’re overcrowded down there. So it’s something that we are always looking at options for.”

Furthermore, Dunn agreed that the college might buy the building in the future.

“Yeah, hopefully. And you never know. I don’t know if you’re familiar with how this kind of thing works, but we are not going to do a bond issue,” he said. “We are not gonna do anything like that. Someone might call and say, ‘our company wants to contribute to the college. What’s a strong need?’ So we continue to work on these kind of things.

“Certainly we don’t have cash on hand today,” Dunn continued. “It’s something that we’ve taken the nursing faculty through it to see if it would work. We’ve looked at it to see the conditions.”