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For more information:  
Sarah Cords  
[scords@legacybuildingsolutions.com](mailto:scords@legacybuildingsolutions.com)  
320-258-0518

### **New Fabric Building at Kimball High School**

*New wrestling room increases capacity for industrial arts education and sports*

As residents of the Kimball school district, Ben and Ellie Fox of [Legacy Building Solutions](#) are passionate about providing opportunities for students to learn – both in and out of the classroom. So when the school was running out of space for the wrestling and industrial arts programs, Legacy jumped in to help.

The company designed and installed a fabric building for Kimball High School. The new multi-purpose building will be used to provide additional space and address capacity issues for the industrial arts education program, as well as provide an area for wrestling practice and community education activities.

Expanding the industrial arts program fits with Legacy’s dedication to supporting education. “Industrial arts is how Legacy grew,” said Ellie Fox. “We are really excited to be able to give that back to the community.” Legacy Building Solutions manufactures [fabric buildings](#) at their facility just north of Kimball. The buildings are then installed worldwide. Currently Legacy employs 67 people, with 33 working in welding, fabrication and building installation – using skills taught to students under the Industrial Arts umbrella.

With the new space, Kimball school is able to grow the industrial arts program to meet the growing demand for skilled workers. Before the expansion, the school offered metal and wood courses in alternating semesters due to safety concerns with lingering wood dust and arc welding. “Now, we can have both metal and wood classes every hour of every day,” said Jim Wagner, superintendent and community education director of Kimball Area Schools.

The district is also planning to expand the program to include an apprenticeship program and participation by other school districts. The district expects up to 80 students in grades 6-12 to take industrial arts classes in the next school year.

While wrestling will be the most common activity taking place inside the structure, the multi-purpose building won’t stand empty during the off-season. “There is a lot of space, so it can

accommodate almost all activities,” said Wagner. Wagner added that the school may use the space for indoor practice and conditioning activities for other sports including football, baseball and track, as well as indoor recess during inclement weather. The indoor room can also be used for community education activities such as pickleball and rec league activities.

“Now there is space for adequate practicing and conditioning, so kids can get the conditioning they need to prevent injury,” said Wagner. “And they won’t have to come in at all hours to get gym time.”

Legacy used exclusive ExxoTec™ PVC fabric for the interior and exterior walls. The structure is fully lined and insulated for energy-efficient use year round. The interior liner is white, which reflects the lighting in the building and means all the wrestling mats are evenly lit, with blue trim along the walls to match school colors. Another benefit of the fabric interior liner is a soft surface, greatly reducing the chances of athletes sustaining an injury when hitting the wall. There are no interior supports, leaving more room for wrestling and other activities.

The completed building is 45 feet wide by 100 feet 6 inches long and attached to the school with a fabric vestibule.

The building is now officially being used by the wrestling team and other school groups. It opened on December 29, after about two months of construction and nearly 10 months of planning and permitting.

“My favorite part of the project was really the community spirit behind it,” said Ben Fox. “When there was a problem with the soil conditions that looked like it might stop the project, I called some local businesses and asked them to donate work and materials. Everyone said yes.” Several local businesses and individuals donated labor and materials for the building free or at a greatly reduced cost.

Fox and the Legacy team designed the building, and Ben was onsite nearly every day during construction. “It was a real labor of love for us,” said Ben. Several of Legacy’s employees, including Ben, are graduates of the Kimball school district. Ben and Ellie have four kids and several extended family members currently enrolled in the district.