The University of Kansas School of Allied Health recognizes students for exceptional accomplishments with scholarships and awards. Mariam Riazi Kermani, Hays, received the Debra L. Park Award for the Outstanding Student in Hearing Science. Jill Renee Rucker, Hays,
FHSU leads state in providing quality education for less

No matter how many times this gets reported, we never tire of it. When the Kansas Board of Regents approved tuition increases Thursday at state universities for the upcoming school year, Fort Hays State University was last. Again.

Students at Hays' four-year university will face an increase of 5.1 percent for the 2007-08 school year. The other schools' undergraduates face a 6.4 percent hike at Wichita State, 7.1 percent at Pittsburg State, 7.2 at the University of Kansas, 7.9 at Kansas State, 8.5 at KSU-Salina and 9.5 at Emporia State.

We congratulate the administration at FHSU for once again leading the way in making college affordable to even more Kansans. Not only was FHSU's increase the lowest, it further solidified the university's position as the least expensive in the state. Fifteen credit hours now will cost $3,354 — compared to $6,598 at KU.

How does FHSU keep its price so low? It's rather simple. According to President Edward Hammond, the university creates efficiencies and then passes the savings along to students. Hammond cited a large decrease in electricity use, a reduction in the number of administrators and non-teaching staff members, and a significant boost to the student body population through its international programs.

It's obvious all three factors are contributing to the affordable success strategy.

One of the unique proposals approved by the Board of Regents was KU's plan to increase its tuition 16.1 percent for incoming freshmen — and then lock it at that rate for four years.

Christine Downey-Schmidt, the newly elected Board of Regents chairwoman, called the fixed tuition plan innovative. Of course, there will be a penalty for those who don't graduate in the four-year period. And in Lawrence, not many accomplish that feat — only 29 percent.

Given FHSU's already low pricing, we do not see any need to offer tuition rate guarantees here. Neither does Hammond.

"We've just pledged to keep it as low as possible," he said.

We encourage Fort Hays State University to keep the course. If it isn't broken, there's nothing to fix.

Editorial by Patrick Lowry
plowry@dailynews.net
Jesse Niebaum, son of Tysha Van Becelaere, Pittsburg, was recently awarded a Prof. Edwin M. Hopkins Scholarship by the University of Kansas English department.

This scholarship was named in honor of a professor who joined the KU faculty in 1889 and taught until 1946. KU Endowment manages the funds for the annual awards and scholarships presented by the English department.

Niebaum is a KU junior who is pursuing a bachelor of arts in English. He is a graduate of Pittsburg High School.
Erin Easum, Perry, is among a group of graduate students at the University of Kansas School of Business who have discovered firsthand why China is such a dominant player in today’s global economy.

From May 19 to June 1, the master’s of business administration students traveled in China and met with managers and executives at U.S.- and Chinese-owned firms in Beijing and Shanghai. Nineteen students toured textile manufacturing plants and listened in on the latest plans for Beijing’s Internet promotion of the 2008 Olympic Games. They visited with China-based executives of Kansas firms such as Black & Veatch and Invista, owned by Koch Industries, to learn about adapting U.S. businesses to Chinese corporate and social culture.

Students researched the firms they visited before traveling to China and gave presentations to fellow MBA students and KU faculty after they returned. The research, trip and subsequent presentations were all part of the Business in China class taught by Jane Zhao, assistant professor of management.

“We had a very thorough preparation,” which allowed the students to obtain deeper insights from the Chinese managers, Zhao said. “If you can survive in China, you can survive any other place,” Zhao noted of the unique business environment in China.

In addition to Zhao, who set up many of the corporate visits, Doug Houston, director of finance, economics and decision sciences, accompanied the students in China.

The United States’ interest in China has moved well beyond basic manufacturing — the industry sector to which many U.S. businesses outsource jobs.

Business in China is “not just a matter of cheap labor, but having extremely effective management and people,” Houston said. “China is a more complicated and diverse place than people give it credit for. It’s a good place to have an educational presence.”

The business school is considering trips to India and Brazil in the next several years.

Easum is completing a master’s degree in business administration. She has a bachelor’s degree in business from KU and graduated from Perry-Lecompton High School.
STAR bonds hearing still on for July 17

JACK WEINSTEIN

A proposal to build extensions of two University of Kansas museums in Olathe hit a small roadblock, but the city doesn't think it will delay a public hearing on the project.

Developer MaeGrace must correct some problems with its application to the city before the hearing, which is required in its quest to secure Kansas sales tax and revenue bonds for the project.

The proposal is to use STAR bonds to build extensions of the university's Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center and Spencer Museum of Art at 119th Street and Renner Road. The bonds are state-approved tax incentives that are paid for by revenue generated by sales taxes at a development. They typically are granted for entertainment and tourism districts that expect to draw visitors.

At Tuesday's City Council meeting, Karan Johnson, the city's neighborhood and human services director, told the council she thought MaeGrace could make the changes in a week. If that happened, she said, the city wouldn't have to delay the hearing it has scheduled for its July 17 meeting.

Councilmembers agreed that if the necessary changes were made by Monday, giving them ample time to review the revised application, they wouldn't have to push back the hearing.

John Petersen, an attorney with Kansas City, Mo.-based Polsinelli, Shalton, Flanagan and Suelthaus PC who represents
Museums would generate more than $3.4M

From Page 1A
MaeGrace, could not be reached for comment Wednesday.
MaeGrace of Indianapolis unsuccessfully tried to secure STAR bonds for an arena at the location. Now it's trying to secure more than $140 million in the bonds for the museums. If the project is approved, it would be the first STAR bond project in Johnson County.
The museums would occupy more than 164,000 square feet and attract more than 430,000 visitors each year, according to the application. It's estimated that each visitor would spend about two and a half hours in the museums. Of those visitors, more than 33,000 are expected to stay in hotels near the museums, according to the application.
The museums would generate more than $3.4 million in taxes. The university would own and operate them.
"It's not the council's intention that the city be responsible for running and maintaining museum facilities," Wilkes told councilmembers Tuesday.
Jen Humphrey, communications director for the natural history museum, said the project is still in the discussion stage.
"It is something the university is exploring," she said.
— Contact Jack Weinstein at 764-2211, Ext. 130, or jweinstein@theolathenews.com.
Despite loss of Wright, Self likes KU’s future

By Alan Hoskins

Julian Wright will be a lottery pick in today’s NBA draft.

“He could go as early as No. 5 or as late as No. 12 but I’m confident he’ll be in that range,” said Kansas basketball coach Bill Self, who has mixed emotions as to the loss of his leading rebounder (7.8) and third leading scorer (12.0).

“I wasn’t shocked but I was a little surprised he did after him saying several times he wasn’t going to do it. We spoke but it was really a family decision. I think everybody (going into the draft) could use another year but the bottom line is the NBA drafts on potential. They’re not drafting Julian for this year; they’re drafting him for the future.”

Self was in town to speak at the 26th annual Balls Charity Golf Classic, an event that has raised more than $3 million for charity, most of which has gone to KVC (Kaw Valley Center), a not-for-profit organization providing medical and behavioral health care to children in need. Founded in KCK in 1970 by the Junior League of which JoAnn Ball was a member, KVC has a residential facility in KCK and has more than 3,000 children under its care on any one day while serving 30 counties in northeast Kansas.

“I think it’s so cool what you’re doing,” Self told Fred Ball, the CEO/chairman, and his son, David, CEO/president. “We’ve all probably been dealt a pretty good hand but there are so many out there who haven’t and I think it’s fantastic you’re making someone else’s life better. There are a lot of great people at KU but there’s none classier than the Ball family.”

Despite the loss of Wright, Self likes the looks of his 2007-08 team.

“I think we have a chance to be really good,” he said. “We will be more athletic than last year, we’ll have more depth and our guards are as good as any around.”

Self said he’ll most likely start three point guards – Mario Chalmers (12.2 points per game), Sherron Collins (9.3) and Russell Robinson (7.2).

“Collins must keep his weight down and has worked pretty hard but he’s as talented a guard as we’ve ever had.”

Brandon Rush, who recently underwent surgery to repair a torn ACL, could be back before December while sophomore Darrell Arthur, junior Darnell Jackson and senior Sasha Kaun will give the Jayhawks three big bodies in the middle.

“If he has a good year, Arthur could be a lottery pick and Jackson’s play has been on the rise and if he continues, he’ll be hard to beat out,” said Self.

Help could also come from newcomers Cole Aldrich, a 6-11 McDonald’s All-American center from Bloomington, Minn., and Tyrel Reed, who was selected Mr. Basketball for the state of Kansas by averaging 26.4 points for Burlington.

“Tyrel Reed is a lot better than I thought,” said Self. “He could be a rotation guy we can’t keep out. Aldrich is big, about 6-11 and 260. He needs to lose some weight and get faster but has a chance to play.”

The Jayhawks will also have two walk-ons, 6-4 guard Conner Teahan who averaged 25 points for Rockhurst, and Chase Buford, a 6-3 guard from San Antonio and the son of former KU assistant R.C. Buford and current San Antonio Spurs general manager.

“Teahan is a steal,” said Self.

Alan Hoskins is a Kansas City, Kansas, freelance writer.
KU alums to host new students

New University of Kansas students and their parents from Sedgwick County and the city of Andover will be welcomed into the KU family at the Jayhawk Generations Welcome Picnic at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 28, in Wichita.

The KU Alumni Association and its Wichita chapter will greet the next generation of Jayhawks at the home of Tom and Jill Docking, 125 Crestway. Area alumni, new students, students interested in learning more about KU and parents are invited to attend and enjoy complimentary food and beverages. Each new Jayhawk will also receive a free T-shirt.

Jill Docking, chapter board member, and Sue Watson, chapter president, both of Wichita, are coordinating the event. Association staff will arrive with the signature KU trailer full of grills, burgers and brats for the festivities. Current KU students, alumni and university representatives will mix and mingle with students to answer questions and offer advice.

Alumni association representatives and guests planning to attend are Jennifer Alderdice, director of student programs; Sarah Blaney, Kansas Honors Program coordinator; Mike Davis, senior vice president for alumni programs; Danny Lewis, assistant director of alumni programs; Heath Peterson, director of Kansas programs; Jill Simpson, director of Kansas City programs; and Jamie Winkelmann, assistant director of alumni programs.

For more information or to make reservations, visit www.kualumni.org, call the KU Alumni Association at (800) 584-2957 or email kualumni@kualumni.org.

The alumni association invited incoming students whose enrollment deposits were received by the Office of Admissions and Scholarships by May 1.

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Andale High School graduates invited include Brent Engel, Patrick Gegen, Stacey Kraus, Matthew Moore, Aaron Norris, Kevin Shannon, and Teresa Vu.
Global climate change is the true threat to America

by Donald Worster
Prairie Writers Circle

The United States is the richest, most powerful nation in history — this you have heard many times before. What you have not heard so often is that America has also been, for nearly 200 years, the safest, most secure nation ever. Far from being aware of that fact and enjoying it, we have become a nation filled with fear and anxiety. But we fear the wrong invader.

Not since the British burned our capital in 1814 has a foreign army succeeded in invading our continental domain. Pearl Harbor lay thousands of miles from our mainland homes. And the World Trade Center bombing was no real invasion or victory of a foreign power, but one act by a handful of fanatics, all killed. Their brothers are hiding in caves along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, no more able to invade America, if we keep our eyes open, than camels could take over our national parks.

Yet a far more serious threat has appeared that our leaders are ignoring. It is global climate change. And it has the potential to bring the United States down economically, socially and agriculturally, making us a much poorer and weaker nation.

In February the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its latest major report of scientific data. Based on the greenhouse gases already affecting the atmosphere, and on expected increases in those gases under various economic scenarios, the IPCC projects — too cautiously, many say — that the Earth’s overall surface temperature will rise 3 to 7 degrees by the end of this century, and the sea may rise almost 2 feet.

In an April IPCC report, world policy-makers were told to expect long-term flooding of coastal areas, more intense tropical storms, increased drought in drought-prone areas, and a decline in crop productivity with increased risk of hunger.

Here is where the danger comes to the United States: Not only may we be forced to protect people on the coasts, or move them inland, we will also be in great danger of losing our agricultural heartland — the Corn Belt and the Wheat Belt. Today, half of our wheat crop goes overseas. In a few decades we may not have enough food to support our own population, let alone share with others.

And our Western cities may be paying a lot more for water, if they can find any, than for the last drops of oil.

We are most threatened today, not by terrorists, but by impersonal physical forces. And as the century goes on, that invasion will gather speed and effect with biological threats like invasive plants and malaria.

Such talk, we are told, is scare mongering. We also are told that defensive measures would cost too much.

Yet which place is worse off today? New York, which lost two major buildings and thousands of lives to terrorists? Or New Orleans, which lost many lives as well and may never recover much of its displaced population or destroyed territory after being hit by a hurricane that drew its energy from warming gulf waters?

And how can we not afford to invest in conservation and alternative energy sources to defend our own land against the ravages of global climate change, but afford to fight wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which cost $120 billion a year? And pay four to five times that, depending on the calculation, for the military as a whole? And spend more than $40 billion more on the Homeland Security Department?

All that money to defend a country that is the most secure and safe in the world from outside human invasion!

Our homeland is facing a change of unprecedented danger, one that we have helped create by wasteful consumption. This is likely to be the greatest threat to security and prosperity in our history.

When will our leaders stop beating the drums about “a war on terrorism” and start facing the real dangers we face? When will they wake up and take action — today, this year? Will they wait until Washington is under water and the Great Plains are a burning desert?

Donald Worster, author of books including “Nature’s Economy: A History of Ecological Ideas,” is an environmental historian at the University of Kansas. He wrote this comment for the Land Institute’s Prairie Writers Circle, Salina.
TOPEKA (AP) — Come Sunday, the state’s official language will be English, for whatever that’s worth — and for some, that’s not much.

Aside from declaring the official language, the law also says no state or local government agency is required to provide documents or hold meetings in any language except English. But it also says nothing prevents them from offering documents in another language or using interpreters at meetings.

“It declares the policy of the state. It doesn’t do much beyond that,” said Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt. “It doesn’t do any harm and gives comfort to those who feel English is in peril. My grandparents used to speak German in their home, and I don’t think the state is any worse off for that.”

Supporters believe the law will encourage immigrants to learn English, which would help them get better-paying jobs and assimilate into society.

But Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, who signed the bill, said it wasn’t necessary and didn’t do enough to help people learn English. Legislators at one point included $500,000 for teaching English but later removed the money.

The official English law is among 147 taking effect Sunday. An additional 47 laws took effect before that, and eight more won’t kick in until later.

Altogether, Sebelius signed 202 bills, compared with 216 last year and 177 in 2005.

“It’s probably an indication of coming out of the deep freeze after seven years of dealing with school finance and budget crisis,” said Schmidt, R-Independence. “There were a lot of little things waiting patiently that finally got taken care of this year.”

For some Hispanics, the English law is both meaningless and insulting. At least 29 other states have made English their official or common language.

“You can’t coerce people to learn English by taking away services in a language other than English,” said Raul Gonzalez, legislative director of the National Council of La Raza, the nation’s largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization.

Gonzalez said such laws are a sign of frustration among state officials over the federal government’s failure to implement a meaningful immigration policy as the number of illegal immigrants in the nation increases daily.

“Symbolically it might make them feel they are accomplishing something, but it won’t change the lives for the better for anybody in Kansas,” he said.

And, he said, such laws send the wrong message.

“For many of us, our language is part of our heritage and one way we identify ourselves as a group. It’s an insult to say the language of our forefathers isn’t worthy of being heard in the public,” Gonzalez said.

A funeral-picketing law also will go on the books Sunday, although it’s not enforceable until it’s declared constitutional by the Kansas Supreme Court.

The law was prompted by the Rev. Fred Phelps and his followers at Westboro Baptist Church protesting at funerals of soldiers killed in combat. They say the deaths are God’s punishment for a nation harboring homosexuals and their protests are a form of religious expression.

In May, Attorney General Paul Morrison, at the legislators’ behest, filed a lawsuit at a state court. No hearing date has been set.

The law says protesters can’t be within 150 feet of a funeral one hour before, during or two hours after the end of the service. It also makes it unlawful to obstruct any public street or sidewalk and allows family members to sue if they feel protesters defamed the deceased — an exception to the rule of law that the dead can’t be libeled or slandered.

Shirley Phelps-Roper, the Westboro’s attorney and Fred Phelps’ daughter, believes the law is unconstitutional and has said that even if a court upholds it, it won’t stop the protesters because they picket beyond the boundaries it sets.

The first of the month also marks the start of the new fiscal year, when the $12.5 billion state budget takes effect. It increases aid to public schools, provides $50 million to help fix crumbling higher education buildings, boosts spending on social services and gives pay raises and bonuses to state employees. It also allows the state to expand its prison system to avoid unwanted overcrowding.

Also taking effect Sunday are laws designed to cut the tax burden of businesses and some residents.

The tax businesses pay for the privilege of operating in Kansas will start phasing out, saving them $135 million over five years. After that, it will be fully phased out and will save businesses about $45 million a year.

Legislators said eliminating the tax will improve the business climate and create jobs, but Sebelius said it could create revenue problems for the state in future years.

Other cuts will help seniors by exempting Social Security retirement benefits from state taxes, increase a property tax refund for homeowners 55 or older and increase a tax credit for the working poor.

There also will be a change Sunday in the law affecting people driving with youngsters in the car.

Last year, legislators strengthened the law to require children under 4 to
ride in child safety seats and mandates that children ages 4 through 13, drivers and front-seat passengers wear seat belts. During the law’s first year, legislators said law officers only could hand out warning tickets. But that grace period is over, and now those violating the law will be ticketed and face a $60 fine.