Former MHS, KU football player Saathoff treats Bulldog teams, coaches to game, barbecue, tours

MJHS and MHS football team members and coaches were treated to tickets to Saturday’s University of Kansas football game in Lawrence, a barbecue and tours of the KU sports facilities.

The 48 tickets for the game were purchased and donated to the team by Ken Saathoff, Kansas City, formerly of Marysville. He took the football players on a tour of sports facilities, including Allen Fieldhouse, the KU Hall of Fame and the indoor practice field.

The barbecue, which was set up in a tent south of Memorial Stadium, was provided by Saathoff and the Citizens State Bank, Marysville. Kirk Bradford of Citizens and his wife, Anne, helped at the barbecue.

“I still follow the Bulldogs by reading the Marysville Advocate each week,” Saathoff said. “I really enjoyed the chance to take a great group of Marysville athletes to a KU football game and to host a private tour of the athletic facilities. It brought back memories for me and hopefully created a nice memory for some great kids.”

Saathoff grew up north of Marysville and played four sports for the Bulldogs in the early 1970s. He received a football scholarship from KU, where he earned a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in business administration.

While attending KU, Saathoff was the starting tight end for the Jayhawks and a member of KU’s 1973 Liberty Bowl team. He was named three times to the Academic All Big-8 Team.

But he is generally remembered by KU fans as the football player who sang the national anthem in his football uniform before KU football games.

In 2004, after managing a computer consulting business for many years, Saathoff bought and restored the 100-year-old Loose Mansion in Kansas City. Today, he and his wife, Barbara, are hosts for weddings, receptions and company events at the mansion.

This year, the Loose Mansion was recognized by “the Knot,” a national wedding publication, as one of the country’s finest wedding and reception venues. Information, including a video about the Mansion’s ghosts, can be seen at www.loosemansion.com.

Marysville friends are always welcome to tour the mansion, Saathoff said. It’s located just north of the Country Club Plaza at 101 E. Armour Blvd. in Kansas City, Mo. Saathoff said it’s best to call in advance, 816-960-6501.

Landon Wright, an MHS football player, visits with Ken Saathoff, Kansas City, a former MHS and University of Kansas football player.
We shared so much as we grew up

The person I wanted to be when I grew up has died.

Maxine Johnson-Gary, my high school English, drama, speech and debate teacher, died just three days before the Minneapolis High School class of 1967 members celebrated our 40-year reunion Sept. 1 and 2.

It has always been our belief that we were Mrs. Johnson’s favorite class. She thought we were bright and creative. She thought we would go places. We still are, and we have.

In our number we have a biostatistician from Durham, N.C., a real estate investor from Atlanta, a retired curator of the Kansas History Museum, the director of human resources at the University of Kansas, a registered nurse, business owners, farmers, bank officers, a charter pilot, the state president of Kansas Farm Bureau, a chaplain, teachers, and one of us raises endangered birds.

Of 54 graduates, 22 attended the reunion, along with spouses and guests to make a group of 40. Some of us toured Rolling Hills Museum Saturday morning, some golfed in Salina; in the evening, we all gathered at the Blue Moon supper club in Minneapolis. We shared pictures, ate a great meal, did some karaoke, but mostly, we just talked and talked and talked. Renewing old friendships is very easy for us.

One of the reasons we are all so close now is that we shared so much of our lives as we grew up. We weren’t just classmates. We were in the same youth groups, Scout troops, 4-H clubs; we lived in the same neighborhoods and spent our Saturday nights driving up and down main street and hanging out in front of the phone office or the Dairy Queen together.

I’m sure this is typical of many people from small towns. I’d say it is one of the hidden perks of rural life.

On Sunday morning, we gathered at a classmate’s home for brunch and group pictures before going our separate ways.

We invited our parents to join us. They have always enjoyed seeing us all together again.

Our parents were the youth group sponsors who took us on a yearly camping trip at the state lake.

They were our 4-H leaders. They taught us to square dance, judge cattle, sew, cook and build birdhouses. They drove us to ballgames and were hosts for caroling and sledding parties for us in the winter.

Many of them have passed on. Only five of our mothers and fathers were able to attend as we gathered Sunday morning.

Maxine Johnson was the mother of one of our classmates. I like to think she attended the entire reunion.

She was in our thoughts all weekend and, more than likely, she was hovering over us as she always had, to see what we would come up with next. Sweet dreams, Dear Lady.
75 years later, many farmers depend on ‘temporary’ subsidies

HUTCHINSON (AP) -- Earl Hayes was just a 17-year-old kid in 1933, working on his family’s Stafford County farm for 25 cents a week amid the Great Depression.

Now 92, Hayes easily recalls those days, and remembers spending his wages in one night on 10-cent-a-gallon gas and 10-cent movie tickets before heading to the pool hall to blow the rest.

“I’d go home broke,” he said, noting his weekly situation on a Saturday night signaled what most in the farm sector experienced at the time.

It was around that same period that Hayes and his father had wheat on the ground at 30 cents a bushel during the June harvest, then picked it up and took it to the elevator for 25 cents a bushel. The younger Hayes watched as banks and mortgage companies foreclosed on one local farm after another.

“Times were tough,” said Hayes, who recently moved from his Zenith-area farmstead to a senior apartment. “You could buy farms at a bargain price.”

It was a time of mass exodus from rural America. Hundreds of thousands of farms went out of business. Drought and dust storms hurt income, with the average farm household making half or less than nonfarm households.

Commodity prices plummeted due to a surplus of crops. Some farmers found it more profitable to burn corn for fuel than sell it at 10 cents a bushel.

Hayes said there were two banks in Stafford, and the one his parents had their money in went belly up.

Then, Franklin Roosevelt became president, Hayes said, and his administration’s New Deal programs were aimed at saving America’s farms and rural areas. The plan helped farmers recover from the economic collapse of the nation’s heartland.

“He started putting his loving arms around the farm people because he knew they were important,” Hayes said of Roosevelt. “He brought around some farm action.”

But when Roosevelt signed the first farm policy into law in May 1933, he promised it would be a temporary measure.

Yet more than 70 years later, the plan — though tinkered with over the years — still is in place, and many farmers remain dependent on subsidies to aid their farm income amid a tough farm economy that includes high fertilizer and fuel costs.

This year, the farm bill debate continues as Congress works on its latest measure — expected to pass sometime this fall. But it’s a different era than Roosevelt’s New Deal period, or even a decade ago.

Most Americans are far removed from the land that sustains them, unlike the 1930s when 25 percent of the U.S. population lived on farms. Today, that figure is less than 2 percent.

The top two priorities for Roosevelt’s administration were to save “the family farm and help rural America,” said Troy Dumler, Kansas State University agriculture economist.

But one question looms for an industry where there are fewer producers farming the same amount of land: Does a program started amid the Great Depression still help those it was intended to help?

“That’s the million dollar question, you can basically argue both sides of that,” Dumler said. “Some say it helps a lot. Others say not much.”

The government stepped in when successful farmers started losing their farms during the Great Depression. Programs established target prices for certain commodity crops, such as corn, wheat, cotton and rice. The program included payments for taking land out of production, as well as conservation efforts, said Donald Worster, a University of Kansas professor who wrote “Dust Bowl, The Southern Plains in the 1930s.”

The government has spent $164 billion on farm programs in the last decade, he said, noting the farm bill of the 21st century is no longer a poverty program.
College visits and Senior Days are quickly approaching. There are several Senior Days coming up at various colleges and universities across the state. If you are interested in a university that I do not list, these dates are usually found on web sites. Although these days are great ways to get a feel of campus life at a particular college, you may or may not get all of your questions answered during these visits.

Wichita State University will host a Senior Day on Friday, September 21, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The cost of the program is $10. To register, go to www.admissions.wichita.edu and click on "RSVP for an event" or call Admissions at 1-800-362-2594. You must be pre-registered for this event.

Kansas State is offering a Senior Day on Monday, October 29. To register for this day, go to www.consider.k-state.edu/specialevents.

The University of Kansas offers several Senior Days, depending upon the student’s major. They also have some days where students with any major can attend. To find out the dates for KU, go to www.admissions.ku.edu/seniordays.

Pittsburg State University will offer two Senior Days. The first one is Saturday, September 29th. There is a $10 fee for each Senior and $5 for each guest of a Senior. Deadline for registration is September 24. The second date is called "Rumble in the Jungle." It will be on Saturday, November 10th. Again, there is a $10 charge for each Senior and $5 charge for each guest. Deadline for registration is November 5.

Northwest Kansas Technical College will host "Tech Days" on November 13 and 14. There is no cost for this day.

American Academy of Cosmetology and Massage Therapy in Manhattan do not have a set Senior Day but encourage interested students to come for a College Visit/Shadow Day. To set up a visit, call 1-866-444-5394 or e-mail michelle.adolph@americanacademy.edu.

Garden City Community College will host an Exploration on Wednesday, November 14, for 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. On this day, students will visit with people in their areas of interest as well as take a campus tour. For more information contact Lesa Gilbert at 1-800-658-1696.

Fort Hays State University will host their "Tiger Day" on Saturday, November 3. The deadline to sign up is October 29. You can call 1-800-628-fhsu or go to www.fhsu.edu/future_students/tigerdays. On this day students can enjoy watching the Tigers take on Pittsburg State in volleyball and Southwest Baptist in football. They can also win free prizes and Tiger gear.

Again, I do not have a visitation day for Colby Community College, but as I stated last week, they are offering incentives for students visiting during the months of September, October, and November. If you did not read about it last week but would like more information, please contact me.
KU alum honors area scholars

Area high school seniors will be honored Sept. 19 by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

Seventy-nine seniors from Marion, McPherson, and Rice counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at Holiday Manor Convention Center, McPherson.

Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans, or higher education goals.

Marion County honorees are Kristine Jirak, Julie Kziha, and Nikki Stenzel of Centre High School; Katie Flaming and Cameron Voth of Goessel High School.

Mathew Brown, Benjamin Heyen, Meghan Jost, Lauren Just, Jessica Klose, Amber Loewen, Jandi Nikkel, Grant Schneider, and Anna Woelk of Hillsboro High School; Brett Billings, Henry Collett, Lauren Helmer, Jessica Vogel, and Kristin Waner of Marion High School.

Jessica Gillet, Tabitha O’Neal, and Duane Unruh of Peabody-Burns High School.
Keener receives medical degree

Charles Keener, Rush Center, is one of more than 900 students who received degrees from the University of Kansas after the 2007 summer session. Keener received a medical degree with a major in Family Practice. He is a graduate of La Crosse High School.

Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, Keener is entitled to return as a member of the Class of 2008 to take part in commencement exercises May 18.
Rogers gets degree

More than 900 students received degrees from the University of Kansas after the 2006 summer session. Amanda Ylene Rogers received her bachelor of arts degree.

She is the daughter of Donald and Sandra Pesicka, Russell.
Mahoney pledges

More than 750 women took part in recruitment, and all 13 of KU's Panhellenic Association sororities added new members, said Laura Bauer, program director for Fraternity and Sorority Life. Membership bids were extended to women who completed the recruitment process.

Mallory Ann Mahoney has pledged Chi Omega. She is the daughter of Joyce Mahoney.
Arbuthnot Graduates

Sarah Arbuthnot of Belleville was among the summer graduates at Kansas University. She graduated with a Master of Arts in English.

She is the daughter of Bob and Susan Arbuthnot.
(Two Complete Degrees from KU)

Two former Scott Community High School graduates were among more than 900 students who completed degree requirements from the University of Kansas after the summer session.

Humbelina (Prieto) Harper, daughter of Santos and Margarita Prieto, earned a BA degree in biology.

Courtney Farr, son of Nancy Farr, earned a BS degree in journalism.

Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many of these graduates will return as members of the Class of 2008 to take part in commencement exercises May 18.