Moran takes part in Labor Day activities

By Congressman Jerry Moran

On Monday, I joined Kansans in Hoisington for the community’s annual Labor Day parade and celebration. Labor Day was designated as a federal holiday more than 100 years ago to honor the efforts and contributions of the American working man and woman. I enjoyed taking time to celebrate the day and appreciate Danny Biggs driving me in the Hoisington parade. This week, I am back in Washington, D.C., as Congress returns from the August district work period.

Meeting with Kansas Law Enforcement Officers about Methamphetamine

As part of a congressional fellowship this fall, former Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) Director Larry Welch and I are conducting meetings with law enforcement officials — both Kansas sheriffs and city police officers, as well as leaders of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Washington, D.C.

This week, Mr. Welch and I met with Kansas law enforcement to discuss current challenges they face. We started in Kansas City, Kansas, where we rode along with Police Chief Sam Breshears. Also with us was KBI Assistant Director Larry Thomas. The Kansas City police department recently seized 31 pounds of finished methamphetamine, demonstrating that this drug is not just a problem in rural areas. Following our time with Chief Breshears, we met with several city police officers to hear about challenges they face fighting crime in the city.

We also met with law enforcement officers from several east-central Kansas counties for a discussion in Emporia about the ongoing battle against meth. My thanks to the following for taking time to join us for the discussion about issues in rural areas: DEA Acting Resident Agent Tyler Graham of Wichita, Lyon County Sheriff Gary Eichorn, Lyon County Undersheriff Richard Old, Wabaunsee County Sheriff Doug Howser, Chase County Sheriff Richard Dormecker, Anderson County Sheriff Scot Brownrigg, Coffey County Sheriff Randy Rogers, Osage County Sheriff Laurie Dunn, Greenwood County Sheriff Mark Kenneson, Butler County Sheriff Craig Murphy, Woodson County Sheriff David Waddell, and a representative from the Sedgwick County Sheriff’s office and the Shawnee County Sheriff’s office.

While we have made progress in the fight against methamphetamine made in our state, what I heard from the sheriffs is that more work is needed to fight this drug that targets our towns — both large and small. Importation from Mexico has presented new challenges to law enforcement officers who are being forced to change and adapt to the many new ways used to break the law. With Director Welch providing his insight from his decades of experience, I hope to find new ways to keep more drugs off of our streets and out of our communities.

Welcoming a New City Manager to Emporia

Before visiting with law enforcement officials in Emporia, I stopped by City Hall to welcome the new city manager to Emporia and to Kansas. Matt Zimmerman moved from Chicago about four months ago to become Emporia’s new city manager. I expressed my interest in working closely with Matt, his staff and the city commission.

Joining Federal Communications Commission Head at Rural Broadband Summit

Access to reliable high speed broadband internet services is critical to the future of rural Kansas. Many businesses and families simply will not come to rural communities that do not have broadband options. On Wednesday, I participated in a rural broadband summit at the Dole Institute of Politics in Lawrence that was attended by many industry, government and community leaders for a discussion on how to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural areas.

I was honored to introduce Michael Copps, one of the three commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission, before his keynote address. Mr. Copps spoke about the need for our country to invest in broadband infrastructure. In 2002, the U.S. ranked fourth in the world in broadband expansion. Today, the U.S. is ranked fifteenth. My thanks to State Representative Tom Sloan for hosting this important event.

Preparing for the Transition to Digital Television in 2009

On Monday, I met with members of the Kansas Association of Broadcasters to discuss current issues affecting the broadcast industry. The most important on the list is the transition of television from analog to digital. In February 2009, TV stations nationwide will be required to switch from the current analog method of transmitting TV signals to digital TV. Households across the country will benefit from this new broadcasting technology, but will need to take steps before that time to make the transition. More information about the necessary steps is available on this Web site of the National Association of Broadcasters — http://www.tvanswers.com/. Though much time remains before this takes place, I encourage Kansans to explore their options in order to make this a smooth transition.

The Kansas Association of Broadcasters

County: Dickinson

31001-09_05_2002
will be working in the next year and a half to educate and help Kansans through this process. Thanks to Gary Shorman, General Manager of Eagle Communications; Mark Vail, Vice President of Eagle Communications; Mike Fell, General Manager of KXXX radio in Colby; John Ewy, Communications Director for Dodge City Community College; and Joy Haverfield, General Sales Manager for KWCH-TV of Wichita for taking time to visit with me. Prior to the meeting with the KAB, I was able to visit with longtime broadcaster and friend Bob Schmidt of Eagle Communications.

Troops Deployed from Fort Riley
I attended the First Infantry Division Combat Aviation Brigade Deployment Ceremony at Fort Riley on Thursday. I am always impressed by our soldiers and their willingness to serve our country. I am thankful for their bravery and for the understanding and support of their families. Thank you to Colonel Jesse Farrington and Brigadier General Keith Walker for their hospitality. I look forward to the safe return of the Aviation Brigade to Fort Riley. These soldiers and their families will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Kansas State Fair to Begin this Week
As summertime comes to an end and fall begins, Kansans are preparing for the annual Kansas State Fair. This year’s event, “Hang with the Hogs,” begins this Friday and runs through Sunday, September 16. I will be at the fair this weekend and will participate in WIBW Radio’s Farm Bill Forum on Saturday morning at 11:00 at the AT&T Arena. I will also have a booth located in the Pride of Kansas building where members of my staff will be on hand to answer questions and provide information to fairgoers. The booth will be open every day of the fair.

The fair has always been a special event for me and my family. Robba is in her seventh year as a member of the State Fair Board. In addition to showcasing what is best about our state, the fair gives me an opportunity to visit with many people and get direction on what I need to focus on in Washington, D.C. I hope to see you and your family in Hutchinson at the fair.

13,000 New Jobs Coming to Kansas through BNSF Railway Company
On Wednesday, I joined Gardner Mayor Carol Lehman, City Administrator Stewart Fairburn and President of the Gardner Chamber of Commerce Peter Solie in a briefing by officials at Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway on their plans for the new intermodal facility to be located in Gardner. An intermodal facility is a transfer point where rail cars are switched to containers and trailers for the unloading and placement on trucks.

Gardner was selected by BNSF for many reasons, including its proximity to Interstate 35.

Scheduled to open in 2009, this facility will cost close to $155 million and bring about 13,000 new jobs to Kansas. As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, I am aware of the importance that Kansas plays in our nation’s rail system. I appreciate the city officials and representatives of BNSF taking time to give me an update and tour of the proposed site.

Providing a Congressional Update to the Members of the Leavenworth Lions Club
On Thursday, I was in Leavenworth to visit with the Lions Club. I provided a congressional update to the group of more than 100 area residents and talked about education, health care and energy independence. I also discussed the role of Fort Leavenworth, military retirees, veterans benefits, and the upcoming report to Congress by General David Petraeus about the war in Iraq. Thank you to State Representative Kenny Wilk for arranging my visit, president of the club Bill Broeker for his hospitality and past president Ross Markle for introducing me to the group.

Touring University of Kansas School of Medicine in Wichita
Friday, I was in Wichita to meet with officials at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita and tour the campus. I met with the dean of the school, S. Edwards Dismuke, M.D., and my longtime friend and President of the American Academy of Family Physicians Rick Kellerman, M.D. We discussed current health care issues such as physician shortages, residency education and state funding. In my opinion, the accessibility and affordability of health care is the number one domestic issue facing our country.

Working to get Rural Electric Co-ops Reimbursed from Winter Storm Damage
Rural electric cooperatives in our state suffered costly damages when the severe winter storm struck the western part of the state on December 31. I visited with Federal Emergency Management Agency officials this week about getting the disaster assistance money that is due the cooperatives. The reimbursement is awaiting approval by FEMA in Washington, D.C. I will continue to be in contact with FEMA officials to see that this needed funding comes to our Kansas rural electric cooperatives.

Kansan Serves as the President of the American Association of Bankers
I stopped in Hutchinson this week to meet with Earl McVicker, President of Central Bank and Trust. Earl is currently serving as the President of the American Association of Bankers. I congratulated Earl for his role in the association. It has been a long time since a Kansan has led this significant organization. We talked about issues
important to bankers, including the state of the U.S. economy, concerns about rural Kansas and the desire of bankers to have a level playing field with other financial institutions.

Welcoming Teachers Back to Hays High School

With a daughter in high school, I was able to attend the Hays High School open house this week to meet with my daughter’s teachers. While the focus was on my daughter and her schedule for the upcoming year, it was also a good opportunity to visit with the teachers about all of change going on as result of No Child Left Behind.

In the Office

Jodi Schmidt of Hays was in with the Hays Medical Center to discuss health care issues. Several Kansans stopped by my Washington, D.C., office this week for a tour of the United States Capitol building, including Scott and Jamie Lohmeyer of Goodland, Dennis and Lovene Clennan of Hutchinson, Charles and Doran Clemence of Abilene and Phil Lowe of Jetmore. In from Topeka were Chris Tilden, Chad Austin, Gloria Vermie, Allen Sester and Lori Howard. Brad, Philikiha, Tyler, Austin and Trenton Stallbaumer and Bobbi and Kennedy Korpi, all of Centralia, also stopped by for a tour.
Eight members of Boy Scout Troop 395 became Eagle Scouts April 15. To achieve the rank, each Scout had to complete a project that makes a positive contribution to their community.

Ross Cannady, a Shawnee Mission East High School graduate, erected a 25-foot-tall flag pole, with lighting and a U.S. flag, in front of Mission Road Bible Church.

Eric Chapman is a graduate of Cure of Ars Catholic School and is attending Shawnee Mission East High School. Eric installed a basketball goal at Cure of Ars Catholic Life Center.

Patrick Hawekotte is a graduate of Cure of Ars Catholic School, a 2005 graduate of Rockhurst High School and a student at the University of Kansas. He built two picnic tables for the Twelfth Street Heritage Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization that develops low-income housing.

Kevin Hawekotte is a graduate of Cure of Ars Catholic School and Rockhurst High School and attends the University of Kansas. Kevin built two picnic tables for the Twelfth Street Heritage Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization.

Cashion Hupp is a graduate of Cure of Ars Catholic School and is a junior at Rockhurst High School. Cashion helped improve drainage between Rockhurst High School and neighboring homes. The project also helps attract wildlife to the area with trees, and bird and bat houses.

Kevin Schwartz was a graduate of Cure of Ars Catholic School, a 2006 graduate of Rockhurst High School and a student at Rockhurst University. Kevin's project involved the construction of two picnic tables for the Gillis Home in Kansas City, Mo., for use by students and faculty.

Tanner Truesdell is a graduate of Cure of Ars Catholic School, a 2006 graduate of St. Thomas Aquinas High School and a student at the University of Kansas. Tanner constructed two picnic tables for Cure of Ars Catholic Life Center for clients and employees of the center.

Blaise Truesdell is a graduate of Cure of Ars Catholic School and Blue Valley High School. His Eagle project involved the construction of a puppet theater for the Gillis Home in Kansas City, Mo.
Washington graduate interns at Sherwin-Williams

Sherwin-Williams Co. has recognized three University of Kansas students for their noteworthy work during a summer internship, including Washington High School graduate Zackary Webb, senior in economics with a minor in business.

The Fortune 500 company, the largest manufacturer and seller of paint and coatings in the United States, has a paid summer internship program that has been ranked by Princeton Review as “One of the Best 100 Internships to Have.”

Scott Bryant, Leawood junior and Tyler Johnson, Leawood senior joined Webb and were among about 250 students from across the United States selected for the eight- to 12-week program that focused on management, marketing and entrepreneurship. Only eight were from Kansas, including the three interns from KU.

Part of their work experience included providing sales support and customer service to contractors, builders and property managers. Sherwin-Williams operates more than 3,100 stores nationwide. Webb trained at the Stanley store in south Johnson County, Kansas.

The students from KU developed a marketing project during their summer work experience that placed fifth in a competition with interns from eight other states when it was presented at division headquarters Aug. 7-9 in Dallas, Texas. Sherwin-Williams’ national headquarters are in Cleveland, Ohio, where it was founded in 1866.

Currently, Sherwin-Williams is looking at taking their marketing ideas on college recruitment and disseminating them across the entire United States, said Ann Bahe, a Sherwin-Williams recruiter based in Denver, Colo.

Bahe said the internships are considered to be highly involved and selective so students chosen can receive adequate attention from all levels of management.

For more information on Sherwin-Williams and its student internships, go to www.sherwin.com
Education needs unmet

A troubling question as young people converge on Kansas' college campuses for the fall semester: Are there intelligent, gifted high school graduates who are missing in the rush of students, who are left behind because they cannot afford the ever-increasing cost of tuition and other expenses?

Numbers are hard to come by, but there seems to be little doubt that as tuition escalates — often at double-digit rates — many prospective students are priced out of the classroom. Lower-income and minority families are among those hit the hardest.

The trend may be hard to quantify, but public perception of the issue is evident in a recent study:

Concern is on the rise, according to a survey by Public Agenda and the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. In all, 1,001 people were polled, including African-American and Hispanic parents with children in high school.

"Today more than six out of 10 Americans (62 percent) believe that many qualified and motivated students do not have an opportunity to receive a higher education," the report said.

Apprehension is also evident over student loans, an alternative many students turn to when faced with college costs beyond their means. Experience shows that loans can be an expensive, long-term venture. The report summed up public sentiment this way:

"There is ... widespread concern about loans, with nearly eight of 10 Americans (78 percent) agreeing that students have to borrow too much money to pay for their college education."

Although this is a national study,

there is no reason to believe that Kansas would vary much from the findings.

Why are costs rising so rapidly in Kansas?

Look no further than the state Legislature. Tuition has been forced up markedly because state support of public higher education has slipped miserably in recent decades.

As recently as 1985, the state paid 49 percent of the operating budgets of the Board of Regents institutions, including Kansas, Kansas State and Wichita State universities. Tuition paid 15 percent.

Two decades later state appropriations had plunged to 29 percent and tuition had jumped to 29 percent. In a short time, unless the pattern changes tuition will exceed the traditional share of state support.

The irresponsibility of the Legislature could not come at a worse time. In our highly competitive global economy, a college degree is more necessary than ever.

The point was reinforced by Alexa Posny, Kansas education commissioner, in a recent discussion of the problem. In the high-tech age, she said, 70 percent of the fastest growing jobs require education beyond high school. Four in 10 new jobs require at least an associate degree and 30 percent of them require some post-secondary education.

This is a far cry from workplace demands of the past. In 1900, according to state figures, about half the male students left school after eighth grade, mainly for a life on the farm. Grounding in reading, writing and arithmetic was sufficient.

Fifty years later, 60 percent of jobs were filled by unskilled workers, 20 percent by those with skills. By 2000, with rapid changes in industry and business in the interim, those percentages were switched, with skills taking 60 percent of the workers. Only 2 percent of the work force was on the farm as the result of widespread mechanization.

In the last half of the 20th century America moved from a largely industrial economy into an informational and service mode. Posny cited the fastest growing occupations:


Little wonder that additional education is necessary.

Kansas does not lack young people with a high school diploma. The graduation rate is 90 percent, higher than the national average of 84 percent. Nearly eight in 10 of them, 77 percent, move on to postsecondary education.

That seems to be a positive sign, but Posny observes that only 29 percent return for the second year at four-year colleges and universities. The precise reasons for the drop off are not known but undoubtedly cost is a factor.

We have been blessed with upward mobility in Kansas, driven in large part by access to higher education. Much of it has occurred when the state shoulders a much larger share of the financial burden than it is now.

Contact Bob Sigman at 385-6034 or e-mail bsigman@sunpublications.com
Leaving us in the dark
Campus police can't find sexual predator list at Emporia State

BY MALLORY LIVINGSTON

and CHRISTI HAYS

Emporia State is required by federal law to list sex offenders who are enrolled or employed at the university, but university officials could not produce that list earlier this week.

“(Capt. Chris) Hoover’s working on it right now and is on vacation and can’t be reached,” said Sgt. Tim J. Sadowski. “Otherwise, you’d have it, or at least the answers to your questions of where it’s at and everything else.”

Hoover is on a hunting trip in Canada and is unreachable by cell phone or any other means, Sadowski said and only the captain has access to the list.

The Bulletin has filed an Open Records request with campus Police and Security for the records, which the university is required to keep, according to the Clery Act and other federal laws. Sadowski acknowledged late Wednesday that the list was public information, but that the department could not immediately locate it.

Earlier this month, a former ESU student went on trial in Emporia for the alleged rape of a 13-year-old girl and more than 50 counts of sexual offenses with minors. The trial of Raul Manual Magallanez Jr. entered its third week on Monday. If con-

See Dark, Page 3.

Emporia State police could not produce a list of registered sex offenders enrolled or employed on campus as of Wednesday. The Bulletin has filed an Open Records request for the information.
Dark
Continued from Page 1

victed, Magallanez could face life in prison.

During testimony presented by the prosecution, Magallanez was accused of using the ESU computer lab to contact some of the minors and of photographing them in sexually suggestive poses on campus, according to The Emporia Gazette.

University officials said Wednesday that there were no policies regarding the hiring of sex offenders or allowing students who have been convicted of such offenses to live on campus.

"It’s a case by case situation," said Jim Williams, vice president of student affairs. "We don’t have a policy, and we are going to keep it in that fashion."

Jackie Scott, director of human resources, said she was unaware of any prohibition on hiring sex offenders.

On Tuesday, campus police said the registered sex offender list was locked in Hoover’s office and would not be available until the captain returned sometime next week. When pressed again for the documents on Wednesday, Officer Penny Mains performed a search of Hoover’s office and also said the list was not yet complete because the department was having difficulty getting local addresses from the university’s new Banner computer system.

The names of offenders are supplied by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, she said, but the university must then match the information provided by the bureau with university records.

Mains said there were “only five names” on the list.

Williams said, however, that the information on the campus police list could be found on the university Web site.

“We have a direct link for all of the students to the sexual predator and convicted felons list on our Web site, so students always have that access right away," he said.

But the link on the university Web site leads to a general list of registered sex offenders maintained by the KBI. It is not specific to sex offenders that are employed by or enrolled at ESU.

Other Kansas universities, such as the University of Kansas and Fort Hays State, maintain Web sites of campus offenders.

Knowing where to locate such information is important for students and parents, according to Lisa Livesay-Fox, a family advocate and former sexual assault educator. She is employed by SOS In., a victim’s advocacy center at 25 West 5th Ave.

"[Students are] going to want to know about their personal safety," Livesay-Fox said. “I’m sure that would be a concern with parents as well.”

The Clery Act requires colleges to keep records of sexual offenders who attend or are employed by ESU. The Clery Act is named after a 19-year-old freshman at Lehigh University who was raped and murdered by another student in her dorm room in 1986.