Ifffo honor area high school seniors

SPEcIAL TO THE HAYS DAILY NEWS

LAWRENCE — Students from 15 Kansas high schools will be honored April 2 by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 51 seniors from high schools in Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas and Wallace counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center, 703 W. Second, Oakley.

The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. 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.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions.

Honored students will be guests of the alumni association and KU Endowment; parents and area alumni are welcome to attend at a cost of $12 each.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate event details and serve as local contacts for the event. Wade Park of Oakley will be the site coordinator and county coordinator for Gove, Logan and Sheridan counties. Other county coordinators are Mike and Brenda Day of St. Francis for Cheyenne County; Kurt Vollertsen of Oberlin for Decatur County; Charles and Connie Peckham of Atwood for Rawlins County; Jeff and Nona Mason of Goodland for Sherman County; and Sharon Steele of Colby for Thomas and Wallace counties.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.

Students being honored at Oakley are listed by their high school.

**Brewster High School**
Abbie Allen.

**Cheylin High School, Bird City**
Kaedra Dixon.

**Colby High School**
Joshua Baden, Laura Dougherty, Gerald Hutfles, Lissa Mazanec, Rochelle Shoemaker, Paige Stephens, Cody Wark and Johnna Wiens.

**Decatur Community Jr./Sr. High School, Oberlin**
Jessica Bremer, Chenaniah Langness, Heather Glodt and Gage Reichert.

**Golden Plains High School, Rextord**
Andrew Broeckelman and Caitlyn Moss.

**Goodland High School**
Kylie Buller, Aaron Deeds, Josh Doke, Samantha Raymer, Forrest Trachsel and Heidi Yonkey.

**Hoxie High School**
Cody Best, Josh Gaede and Jennifer Heim.

**Oakley High School**
Hailey Boyd 67748, Konnel Keller, Bridget Robben and Jared Sperber.

**Quinter High School**

**Rawlins County High School**
Sara Miller and Laura Walters.

**St. Francis Community High School**
Holly Keller and Gavin Smull.

**Triplains High School**
Sam Smith.

**Wallace County High School, Sharon Springs**
Lacey Baehler, Ty Bieker, Taylor Elder, Alex Howard, Brett Keller, Shabree Schwartz and Cricket Short.

**Weskan High School**
Emma Cress, Breanna Hilgeman, Savannah Nulton and Alicia Smith.

**Wheatland High School, Grainfield**
Jamie Albers, Clinton Katt and Stacy Schuster.
Sam Alford, a sophomore at Stephen F. Austin State University, works tearing down the remains of a home along Olive Street in Greensburg on March 12. Many college students are making their way to Greensburg to volunteer over their spring breaks.

Greensburg: The new spring break hot spot

College students flood in to tear down homes, clean up town during free week.

BY EDIE HALL
The Hutchinson News
ehall@hutchnews.com

Bottled water replaces colorful, umbrella-clad drinks.
A trendy skirt is swapped for a pair of dirty jeans.
Heavy work boots take the place of flip-flops.
And a relaxing time at the beach is replaced by a day of hard work.

Welcome to Greensburg — "the new Cancun," as one colorful sign along U.S. 54 proclaims.

Spring breakers flooded the western Kansas town this month — demolishing some homes, building others and performing random clean-up tasks.

The annual weeklong holiday for students has been of great benefit to Greensburg. While 40 to 60 volunteers can be found working in Greensburg on a typical day, there were a few days this month that found more than 300 volunteers in town.

"We've had some really good groups," said volunteer coordinator Matt Deighton. "These are special kids. It has been hard to tell them goodbye."

This week, groups from Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, Washburn University and Fort Hays State University lent a helping hand to Greensburg residents.

But the town also drew groups from Montana, Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado, Connecticut and Texas.

See BREAK / A4
On Tuesday, a group of students from Tyler and Nacogdoches, Texas swarmed like ants over one resident’s home, pulling apart boards, removing nails and separating the materials into piles to be recycled.

Once the students had dismantled the home, Mennonite Housing Rehabilitation Services would build a new one.

By lunchtime, all that was left of the three-bedroom yellow home was two exterior wall frames.

After a quick sandwich, the students, sporting ball caps, T-shirts and sunburned arms and necks, used crowbars, saws and brute strength to push and pull the remaining walls down.

As the last wall came down, the workers cheered and slapped dusty high-fives.

The work might be hard, but it’s worth it, they said.

“We weren’t prepared for what we’ve seen,” said Steven Hogue of Nacogdoches, Texas. “We came in from the east, so we saw some buildings and broken trees, but then when we got further in and saw the downtown area, the devastation really hit us. But, definitely, everyone is glad they came.”
University of Kansas students work to clean up littered campus lake

BY JONATHAN KEALING
LAWRENCE JOURNAL-WORLD

LAWRENCE — Potter Lake, lined with trees and nestled in the slope of Mount Oread, is one of the most peaceful spots on the Kansas University campus.

But often that picturesque atmosphere is disrupted by beer bottles, garbage and sometimes even the odor of rotting algae.

The pollution, both by chemicals and garbage, can be so bad that the pond landed on a 1999 Kansas Department of Health and Environment list of the most polluted bodies of water in Kansas.

KU students England Porter, an Independence junior, and John Kenny, a Leavenworth senior, would like to change that.

“We see a couple of problems with Potter Lake so far,” Kenny said. “That would range from water quality to accessibility to the area for students to come and hang out.”

The water-quality issue is caused by the use of fertilizer on campus that then drains into the lake. The fertilizer encourages algae growth, which can trap garbage and change the color of the lake. It also can cause an odor.

Three ideas to help alleviate the lake’s pollution are to eliminate drainage from Jayhawk Boulevard and Memorial Drive into Potter Lake, to reduce the amount and change the kinds of fertilizer used on campus, and to add native plants to the perimeter of the lake which would serve to filter out some of the pollutants.

“There are a number of things that could be done,” Kenny said. “We’re still getting ideas. We’re getting new ideas all the time.”

Other proposed changes include additional benches, a gazebo where musicians could perform and new paths with permeable surfaces to increase access to the south and west sides of the lake.

“The places where people could sit, where there’s grass, are often muddied because of a lot of foot traffic and a lack of paths,” Porter said. “In general, we want to make Potter Lake the icon it once was and really restore what it once had.”

During the past 100 years, Potter Lake has been home to athletic events, including swimming, diving and fishing. But since the lake has become so polluted — cars were pulled out of it in the mid-1950s — those activities are not advised.

The lake once was 16 feet deep but now averages less than 3 feet deep.

While there’s not yet a price tag for how much these improvements would cost, Kenny and Porter would like to fund the project through the Student Senate Reserve Account.

The account is built up from student fees not expended at the end of the year. The account has a few hundred thousand dollars right now.
Abilene graduate to assist with KU program

LAWRENCE -- An Abilene High School graduate is one of 22 University of Kansas students chosen as assistants for KU's new student orientation programs this summer.

Steven Elliott, a junior in music education and the son of Gregory and Vicky Elliott, will be part of the new student orientation programs, which are tailored to students' fields of study, offer information about KU to first-time freshmen, transfer students and readmitted students. The programs are designed to help students with their academic, social and personal transitions to KU.

Orientation assistants are hired through a process that includes essay writing, group interaction activities, a five-minute speech and final interview. The assistants prepare for orientation sessions by attending three weeks of training that covers KU academic and student services, public speaking, interaction with the public and diversity issues.

Summer and fall orientation dates will be announced in April.
Holyrood Police Chief Kenneth Montoya was among 54 graduates of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center.

The graduates, who began their training course Sept. 10, were recognized at a March 7 ceremony at the 4-H Encampment Building on the Kansas State Fairgrounds. They represented 37 municipal, county and state law enforcement agencies from across Kansas.

The training center is a unit of University of Kansas Continuing Education. Established in 1968 as a central law enforcement training facility for the state, the center is near Yoder.
Cleaning up Potter Lake

The Kansas University campus has a few iconic locations, and Potter Lake is one.

A group of students is looking at the possibility of cleaning up the lake and sprucing up the area around it. Given the many memories Potter Lake holds for generations of KU alumni, it seems likely that raising funds for such a project would be a popular effort in the eyes of many alumni.

Students first are concerned about pollution of the lake, which was placed on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s list of most polluted bodies of water in 1999. The primary problems are trash left by visitors to the lake and fertilizer-laden runoff, which encourages the growth of smelly algae in the water.

Students would seem to be the ideal group to spearhead an anti-littering campaign to address the trash problem. Volunteering to police the area and pick up trash on a regular basis would be an ideal project for a KU student group. The run-off issue would require working with the administration, but it is hoped KU officials would be amenable to reducing fertilizer, using more environmentally friendly products and/or adding native plants around the lake to filter draining water.

The students also would like to see additional benches and improved paths around the lake along with a gazebo where musicians could perform. All of these certainly would be in keeping with the traditional uses of Potter Lake.

Students have suggested that unused student fees that are sitting in a reserve account could be used to fund the improvements...

A number of alums generously stepped in to repair and improve Danforth Chapel — another KU icon — after it was seriously damaged in the 2006 microburst.

The deplorable condition of Potter Lake likely would strike a similar emotional chord with alumni who want to preserve the lake they treasured for future generations of KU students.

Potter Lake has been — and could be again — one of the most peaceful and scenic locations on the KU campus. It’s great to see a student group drawing attention and seeking plans to restore the lake’s natural beauty.

Lawrence Journal-World
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Young Sign makes KU hall of fame rich

BY TIM LINN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The Young Sign Company in Leavenworth recently took on the biggest project in its history. It was a labor of love.

The company recently completed work on the athletics Hall of Fame at the University of Kansas. Young Sign began work on the hall in October and completed the job just before the ceremony for the new hall of fame inductees on Feb. 9.

Ann Hoins, co-owner of Young Sign, said the company submitted a proposal after seeing the previous display. "We thought these people deserved something more," she said.

Hoins and her husband, John, appeared before KU athletics officials and presented their proposal. The board agreed, she said.

Over the course of the next few months, the company and the KU athletics department ironed out the details of the design. The KU Letter Winners Association raised funds for the project. Ann said many private donations also helped make the idea a reality.

Chris Hoins, a recent KU graduate who helped with the project, said the project took approximately a year from the initial design until the final unveiling.

Ann said the design featured laser engravings of each player's image courtesy of a laser engraving machine the company had purchased at the time. LED lights illuminate each individual display, with a headboard and footer area.

Candace Dunback, curator for the hall of athletics, where the hall of fame is located, said she has received positive feedback from visitors and spectators on the work.

"It turned quite a few heads during the first few basketball games," she said.

Dunback said the former display was certainly in need of being replaced. She said the display previously listed the players' names, illuminated from behind. She said she wanted to change the look for the hall.

"I wanted to put a face with the name," she said.

She said she was impressed with the work of Young Sign.

"They were great to work with," she said. "They had a lot of innovative ideas."

Ann said she was glad to have worked with KU. Many members of the family are KU graduates, she said, including two of her sons. Her third son Jeff is currently a student at KU.

Chris agreed that the family has strong ties to KU.

"There's no K-State fans here."

Visitors fill the Hall of Fame in the University of Kansas Hall of Athletics. The Young Sign Company in Leavenworth designed the new hall.
Company completes work on athletics Hall of Fame

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here,” he said. “It’s a family-owned business, so most of us are KU fans.”

Ann said the family has season tickets to KU basketball games. It was at one of the games that

The family received a lot of feedback from hall of famers at the unveiling ceremony. Ann said, who showed their appreciation through handshakes and other signs of gratitude.

“Many of them were wiping tears out of their eyes,” she said.

In the future, Ann said the family is planning to do more projects with KU. Chris said that the real thrill was forming a connection with the university.

“We’re all Jayhawks,” he said. “It definitely gave us a nice connection.”
Local woman travels to South Carolina on service learning spring break trip

Brittany Barney works with students at school for the deaf and blind on indoor and outdoor projects in Spartanburg, S.C.

For spring break this year, 49 University of Kansas students, including a local woman, took their pick of seven getaway spots — but not exactly for a carefree vacation. Their sandy beach might be a Hurricane Katrina recovery site, and their night on the town could turn into a 48-hour homeless experience.

KU students will work this week with agencies in Florida, Illinois, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Washington, D.C. Their roles will include providing volunteer help with issues such as children's services, conservation, health care, hurricane relief, language and culture acquisition, environmental preservation and people with disabilities. The program costs participants $250 and covers their transportation, housing and meals.

Brittany C. Barney, graduate of Paola High School and daughter of Andrew and Christy Barney of Louisburg, will spend her spring break at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind in Spartanburg, S.C. The school, a specialized instructional and resource center with outreach centers throughout South Carolina, works with deaf, blind and sensory-disabled individuals of all ages to provide educational, vocational and developmental services.

KU students will work with visually impaired students 5 and older and also will help with indoor and outdoor projects designed to aid developmental abilities of the visually impaired individuals.
Students from KU aid Greensburg reconstruction

Associated Press

LAWRENCE — A group of University of Kansas students and their professor will take on a giant task Monday when they move a community building they constructed to Greensburg.

The project is the students’ contribution to a reconstruction effort for the tornado-ravaged town.

The group of architectural students built the structure in a warehouse on the site of the old Farmland Industries plant. They started in January, gathering wood for the project at the former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant in De Soto.

This week, they began disassembling their creation to get it ready for the 400-mile trip to Greensburg, which was mostly destroyed when a massive tornado struck the western town last May. The drive to Greensburg normally only 270 miles, but the journey to transport the building will take longer because the group will go east past Wellsville before heading west to avoid overpasses and narrow roads.

The 22 graduate students will live in southwest Kansas starting Monday and stay through May 4 — the one-year anniversary of the tornado. They will live in dorms at Pratt Community College and drive a half-hour to Greensburg each morning. They couldn’t stay in Greensburg because of a shortage of buildings.

The students said they have a lot more work to do, including painting, installing electrical fixtures and laying flooring. The building will be moved to Greensburg in seven sections and completed on site.
Journalism students at NHS qualify to compete at State

By Amber Botts

Six students qualified for state competition at regionals at PSU on Feb. 21. Six students competed in seven categories, and all six qualified in at least one category. Two students took first place. This is the best NHS has done overall at the regional competition.

The results included two first place winners. Ty Wohaska took first in Editorial Cartoon, and Jake Kaufman took first in Editorials. Kaufman also qualified for state in Yearbook Copy by receiving an honorable mention.

Several other students also placed. Ashley Vail placed second in Yearbook Copy and second in Yearbook Sports. Jamie Johnson placed third in Features, and Amanda Fenech placed third in Cutline (caption) Writing.

Fenech also qualified for state last year, also in cutlines, and Vail qualified in both Yearbook Copy and Yearbook Sports.

Junior Kayla Banzet also qualified for state. She received honorable mentions in Features and in News Writing.

This was the first time competing for four of the students, Banzet, Johnson, Kaufman and Wohaska. Fenech qualified for state last year, also in cutlines, and Vail qualified in both Yearbook Copy and Yearbook Sports.

State competition will be held at Kansas University on May 1.