TOPEKA - On April 19, the city of Melvern will be transformed. Vibrantly painted in black and gold, “power cat” purple, crimson and blue and the entire spectrum of colors in between, college students will proudly display their school colors. However, school pride will not be the primary objective of this day. Instead, these volunteers will unite in Melvern to build area hiking and biking trails.

Transcending rivalry and geographic boundaries approximately 80 college students from K-State, KU, WSU, FHSU, Butler Community College, Allen County Community College, Flint Hills Technical School and others will align as Kansans to support “Friends of the Trail” as part of a new statewide initiative, the Kansas Corps.

This initiative will link all types of higher education community service programs to serve the public good, enhancing the quality of life in Kansas communities.

The opportunity for Kansas college students to work together with “Friends of the Trail” will test the concept of the Kansas Corps.

“The opportunities created for the state of Kansas by an initiative such as Kansas Corps are exponential,” said Christine Downey-Schmidt, former State senator and current Chair of the Kansas Board of Regents. “College student volunteers are a great untapped resource and this program will create a windfall of benefits for all involved, including all Kansas communities.”

Kansas Corps will network college and university programs across the state, promoting service and volunteerism. The vision of Kansas Corps is to improve lives, strengthen neighborhoods and foster civic responsibility. Program benefits will be enjoyed by volunteers as well as those served.

With a single phone call, this group of college student volunteers from multiple campuses will be mobilized to provide disaster recovery, social services and/or community development assistance to any region of the state.

“In the course of this landmark day; Kansas Corps will embark on an unprecedented journey with the community of Melvern: we will foster rural economic gain, while building a community that is sustaining their own future: This project is the perfect union of community and college volunteers- each expanding through a sense of community, responsibility and volunteerism,” explained Dr. Curt Brungardt, director of FHSU’s Center for Civic Leadership and one of the program developers.

Hallmark to this effort is the alignment of many groups: “Friends of the Trail”, Westar Electric Green Team, Kansas Trails Council and PRIDE organization. Kansas Corps will complement these efforts linking Kansas’ College and University volunteer programs.

Many Kansas higher learning institutions have public service/volunteerism programs designed to match college students with local communities. Kansas Corp does not focus on creating a new public service and volunteer program, but rather links and builds upon established programs. A full proposal is under development for presentation to the Kansas Board of Regents.

To obtain more information or to get involved with this project, Kansas colleges and universities, non-profit organizations and state and governmental agencies can visit www.kansascorps.org.
MANHATTAN -- Marlin Fitzwater, press secretary to Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, will deliver Kansas State University's ninth annual Huck Boyd Lecture in Community Media at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, in Forum Hall at the K-State Student Union.

The purpose of the lecture is to recognize the role of community journalists in helping to keep their communities strong. The title of Fitzwater's lecture will be "Community Media in the White House."

Fitzwater began his 40-year career in journalism and public service in his Kansas hometown, Abilene. He writes in his memoir, "Call The Briefing": "I had joined the high school Booster primarily because its ad salesmen could leave school in the middle of the day...and visit with local merchants. I never guessed I would love journalism so much."

After working on several newspapers, Fitzwater moved to Washington D.C., where he became press secretary to Presidents Reagan and Bush, from 1983 to 1992. He is the only press secretary in American history to be appointed by two presidents, and one of the few to come from a background of journalism and civil service. He also is among the longest serving presidential assistants in the White House since the Roosevelt administration.

His first newspaper job was with the Abilene Reflector-Chronicle, where he worked with Howard and Sharon Kessinger, now publishers of the Marysville Advocate. Fitzwater worked his way through college at K-State, graduating with a bachelor's in journalism. From 1962-65, he worked as a student for the Kansas State Collegian, the Manhattan Mercury and the Topeka Capital, with his byline appearing regularly on stories about events in central Kansas. In addition, he self-syndicated a weekly column about university activities to a half dozen newspapers in Kansas.

Fitzwater dropped out of college to become editor of the weekly Lindsborg News-Record. When the newspaper was sold, he returned to college. He graduated from K-State in 1965 and served in the U.S. Air Force.

As presidential press secretary, he often spoke of his role as broker between the president and the press, fulfilling his commitment to the belief that the public has a right to know what its government is doing. He gave more than 850 press briefings in six years, winning praise from the news media and the public for his honesty and good humor.

In the post-Cold War era, his White House press operation became a model for many of the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe and Latin America. He also was a spokesman for the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Transportation and the Department of the Treasury.


Today he is working on another novel, "Oyster Music," about life on the Chesapeake Bay, and a collection of short stories. He also was a writer and consultant for the television show "The West Wing" for three seasons.

Fitzwater was named an Outstanding Civil Servant in govern-
Fitzwater

(Continued from page 1)

ment in 1980; received the nation’s second highest civilian award, the Presidential Citizens Medal, from President Bush in 1992; served on the board of the Woodrow Wilson School for International Scholars; and has received numerous other awards and honorary doctorate degrees.

The Marlin Fitzwater Center for Communications was dedicated in May 2002 at Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire. Fitzwater lectures on communications, sponsors a series of fall journalism lectures and regularly counsels students on careers in journalism.

He also serves on the advisory board of the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library Foundation and the Franklin Pierce University board of trustees. He received the 2004 William Allen White Citation for Journalism from Kansas University, and the 2004 New Hampshire Political Library Award for "a decade of service with integrity to the presidency." He was a member of the advisory board to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center on the Chesapeake Bay.

Fitzwater, who is married to the former Melinda Andrews and has two grown children, lives in Deale, Md., a small fishing village on the Chesapeake Bay.

Seniors honored by KU

Lakeside High School is among the 11 Kansas high schools to be honored Thursday, April 10, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 35 seniors from high schools in Graham, Norton, Osborne, Phillips and Smith counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:15 p.m. dinner program in the Dane G. Hansen Memorial Plaza Community Room, 110 W. Main St., Logan.

Among those 35, are three from Lakeside High School. Those students are Renzo Draayer, son of Dave and Stephanie Draayer; Clint Shoemaker, son of Dennis and Glenda Shoemaker; and Darrin Simmons, son of Mike Simmons and Jayne VanDonge.

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. Honorees’ names are listed below.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Heath Peterson, director of Kansas programs for the KU Alumni Association.

David Johnston, director of marketing and Internet services for the KU Alumni Association, will speak to the students and their parents and guests.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Carol Bales of Logan and Dave Rankin and Rob Wenzl, both of Phillipsburg, will be the site coordinators as well as county coordinators for Graham, Phillips and Smith counties. Other county coordinators are Kevin Baughman and Tom Baumann II, both of Norton, for Norton County and Philip Hardman of Osborne for Osborne County.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.
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HONOREES -- Lakeside High School seniors to be honored during KU Endowment are, from left, Renzo Draayer, Clint Shoemaker and Darrin Simmons.
DRIVER FIGHTS ORDINANCE AGAINST LATE MERGING IN WORK ZONES

The Associated Press

OVERLAND PARK — A man ticketed for merging late in a construction zone has filed a lawsuit challenging the way Overland Park applies its “no passing zones,” asking that the city be banned from enforcing the law on highways.

Linus L. Baker, a Stilwell lawyer, was ticketed last year after he merged near the front of a line of cars in a highway construction zone. After successfully fighting the ticket, he wants his victory to apply to others who were similarly cited.

In his lawsuit, which was filed in February in Johnson County District Court, Baker seeks to stop Overland Park from enforcing its “no-passing zones” ordinance in highway construction sites. The lawsuit also seeks to have the city reimburse thousands of dollars in fines and fees paid by drivers prosecuted under the ordinance.

An Overland Park official did not immediately return calls seeking comment Tuesday.

After Baker challenged his ticket last year, a Johnson County district judge ruled in his favor. Judge John P. Bennett found, among other things, that the city’s ordinance was vague as applied to the type of highway Baker was on.

Overland Park conceded that the ordinance was probably not designed with multilane, divided roadways in mind. The city did not appeal the judgment.

Baker contends reasonable drivers don’t know what the no-passing signs mean when it comes to when they have to merge. He also said the enforcement of the ordinance was arbitrary and capricious.

“Talk to six different drivers, and you will get six totally different answers on what to do,” Baker said.

He says the city is misapplying the law to create a merging buffer zone, or what Baker calls a “be polite zone.”

Baker says he is a polite driver, which the officer even noted on the ticket. But he doesn’t see the point of joining a long line of cars in one lane when the other lane has yet to close.

The issue of late mergers is a perennial problem for highway officials and early mergers. Highway officials see such laws as necessary for the safety of drivers and construction zone workers.

“We are very concerned about anything that may shift drivers’ attention away from slowing down, paying attention and being safe and cautious in a work zone,” said Steve Porter, a spokesman for the Missouri Department of Transportation.

Late mergers create shock waves where everybody has to stop or slow down, said Steven Schrock, assistant professor with the Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering at the University of Kansas. That shock wave rolls back upstream and can create dangerous situations.

So when someone tries to jump to the front of the line, Schrock said, drivers already in line become more aggressive. They are less likely to let people in and tend to close the gap between the vehicles in front of them, which increases the risk of fender-benders.

Law enforcement officials say drivers should merge as soon as possible in no-passing highway construction zones. But Kansas’ no-passing statute and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices do not say how quickly a driver is expected to merge.

Enforcement of that statute, as well as others that would be applicable to work zone safety, is left up to the discretion of the officer, said Cait Purinton-Day, a spokeswoman for the Kansas Highway Patrol.
Fuentes elected V.P. of HALO at Kansas U.

Lawrence, KS - The Hispanic American Leadership Organization at the University of Kansas, known as HALO, has announced its newly elected 2008-09 officers. Included among those officers is Benjamin Fuentes of Satanta, who was elected vice president. Benjamin is a sophomore in computer science and son of Benjamin and Laura Fuentes.

Formed in 1971 as the Association of Mexican American Students, the group changed its name in 1974 to Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan. In 1986, it became known as HALO to better reflect the diversity of Hispanic representation. The group's mission is to meet the academic, social and cultural needs of the Hispanic student population at KU.

Among its signature events during the school year are Hispanic Heritage Month in September and Cinco de Mayo in May. The group also assists KU with statewide outreach events for Hispanic high school students and participates in area festivals and cultural events.

The group is funded by Student Senate and is overseen by the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Juan Izaguirre, assistant director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, has been HALO staff adviser since 2003.

Other officers are Allison Ingram from Andover, director of social interaction; Amanda Rivera from Shawnee, director of finance; Adrian Gonzalez, from Shawnee, director of service; Audrianna Kozlowski, from Larned, director of public relations; Alicia Lopez, from Topeka, parliamentarian; Xavier Loya, from Kansas City, assistant director of finances; Mark Marquez, from Kansas City, secretary; David Gonzalez, from Inglewood, California, president.
Taylor to speak at Dyck Arboretum

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains will host “Planting Monarch Waystations” at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 26 in Hesston.

The class will be taught by Chip Taylor, an entomologist at the University of Kansas. Taylor will explain how to plant wildflowers that support monarch butterflies.

Taylor is also the director of Monarch Watch, an educational outreach program based at the University of Kansas that engages citizen scientists in large-scale research projects relating to conservation issues.

To make reservations for the free class, call Dyck Arboretum at 620-327-8127.

The class is offered during the FloraKansas Native Plant Sale, open to members on April 25 and 26 and May 8 and 9. Members, or individuals who become members of Dyck Arboretum, will receive a 10 percent discount on plants. The FloraKansas Native Plant Sale will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 10, from noon to 4 p.m. May 11, and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 12.
Most governmental agency costs tax payers money but Assistive Technology for Kansas (ATK) equipment reutilization program and Kansas Equipment Exchange has actually saved the tax payers $2.1 million dollars. The exchange accepts used durable medical equipment and other assistive technology that Kansans no longer need or use such as manual and power wheelchairs, scooters, communication devises, electric hospital beds, patient lifts, shower chairs, walkers with seats and/or hand-brakes etc.

This equipment is then refurbished and brought up to high quality standards and then is matched to individuals on the waiting list at no cost to the individual. To date the program has reassigned over 1900 items valued at over $2.1 million.

Oakley is one of six ATK sites across Kansas that accepts medical equipment for use in the program. ATK is a statewide program with initiatives focused on increased access to assistive technology. The program is guided by individuals with disabilities, family members, and state agency representatives. It is coordinated by the staff at the Kansas University Center on Disabilities at Parsons.

Jodi Moellering heads the office that is housed at the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center. The office covers the western corner of the state from Ellis up and west to Nebraska. Moellering said the offices have an equipment data base and they can check what is available and coordinate to get the equipment.
The KU Honors Banquet was held Thursday, April 10, 2008, in Logan. Mr. Todd Bowman, Principal, introduced Kensington's two honor scholars, Erin Ferguson and Lindsey Grauerholz. The seniors, along with their parents, were honored with an evening meal, certificate of achievement, and a special edition of "The American Heritage Dictionary" designating them as Kansas Honors Scholars. Parents of the students are George and Deb Ferguson and Darren and Nikki Grauerholz.

The 2008 National Honor Society induction ceremony will be Wednesday, April 30, 2008. This ceremony will take place in the gymnasium at 3 p.m. with a reception for the NHS members and parents following the ceremony.
Heather Himmelwright (front) and Monica Hostetler were among students from nine area schools honored at a University of Kansas honors banquet for being in the top 10 percent of their class. Bob Schnmisseur was the master of ceremonies. Local organizers were Marcia Suiter and Cindy Keller. Pratt High Principal Steve Blankenship introduced PHS seniors Jillian Aramowicz, Heather Goertz, Mathew Gould, Heather Himmelwright, Monica Hostetler, Jeffrey Lynch, Meghan Oeding, John Rowland, Emma Shrack and Alexandra Trimpe.