LAWRENCE — The Topeka Capital-Journal was awarded the William Allen White Foundation’s Burton W. Marvin Kansas News Enterprise Award on Friday, the third time in four years the newspaper has won the honor.

The award was presented during the annual William Allen White Day activities Friday at The University of Kansas.

This year’s award singled out special projects writer Tim Carpenter and his reporting of the affair between Attorney General Paul Morrison and Linda Carter, formerly a top administrative assistant in the Johnson County district attorney’s office. Morrison resigned from office as a result of the reports.

Wayne Stewart, managing editor of The Capital-Journal, was heavily involved in coordinating coverage as events unfolded.

“The Capital-Journal is extremely proud of the work Tim and Wayne produced that led to the resignation of Attorney General Paul Morrison,” said Pete Goering, executive editor. “This is the second year in a row the two have collaborated on an entry that won the prestigious Burton Marvin Award. We compliment their professional efforts."

Ann Brill, dean of KU’s School of Journalism, said the award honors “the very best of Kansas journalism.” She said Carpenter had “spent weeks unraveling the tale” and was being recognized for his “initiative and persistence” in pursuing the story.

The Burton W. Marvin award is given annually to a Kansas newspaper journalist who has demonstrated enterprise in developing and writing a significant news story. In 2005, The Capital-Journal was honored for its stories on Topeka Municipal Court corruption. In 2007, the newspaper won for its in-depth series on immigration.

Also on Friday, the Arkansas City Traveler won the Burton W. Marvin award in the community journalism category for its coverage of the slaying of a popular local college student.

Seymour Hersh, a Pulitzer Prize winner and investigative journalist, received the William Allen White Foundation national citation.
KU hires
KHP veteran

LAWRENCE — University of Kansas officials have named a law enforcement veteran with experience in Homeland Security Operations as its emergency management coordinator.

John Marmon, who spent 27 years with the Kansas Highway Patrol, began his new role with KU’s Public Safety Office in January. His responsibilities include helping the university meet standards developed by the Department of Homeland Security.
Chris Jernberg uses a laser to etch designs on glass, metal and many other materials.

By Carolyn Katherine
Special to The Capital-Journal

PERRY — Chris Jernberg lowers the glass lid on the laser engraver and flips the switch. Sparks spray around the laser point as the engraver etches the Serenity Prayer on a small glass mirror surrounded by a wooden frame.

The whole process is complete in about 15 minutes, and the piece soon joins two others on a nearby table. "I have to acquaint myself with high school geometry to do this," Jernberg said with a chuckle. "I can remember 30 years ago thinking that I'd never have to do anything with that, but I'm finding I still have to use it today."

Jernberg, who has been in business as Pinpoint Graphic Designs for about five years, said he got interested in laser engraving through his job as a supervisor of the sign and paint shop at The University of Kansas.

"We were looking to upgrade the equipment there," he said. "At the time we were looking for a machine to do braille signage, and I started looking at how to use these machines for what I wanted to do."

Although Jernberg's only formal art training came as part of a high school art class, he said, "I've always been artistic and integrating artwork with modern technology seemed intriguing. I've found that the laser will do a lot of things — acrylics, thin woods, glass and leather."

Jernberg continues his full-time job with KU but spends 20 to 25 hours a week working on a variety of projects for his design business. Much of his work can be seen around Perry in the form of commercial signs for the town and several businesses as well as a banner for the new Perry-Lecompton High School gym. Other products are vinyl signs for business windows and parking signs as well as logos for the towns in businesses.

"Setting up the artwork for the floors doesn't take long," he said, "but cutting takes a long time. The tile is porous and because of the glazing needs something to enhance its quality."

He also has engraved glass for wet bars in game rooms. While Jernberg said he'll "give anything a try," he adds that he avoids PVC and Teflon coated items because toxic gases can be released during the engraving process. One of his favorite materials to work with is acid-etched aluminum — "an awesome product to engrave on" — a metal used often in keychains, molded mugs and ink pens.

Jernberg also said he's a little unusual in that he prefers to do custom work.

"I want it artistic: challenge instead of just engraving trophies," he said. "Anyone can run off 1,000 to 2,000 of the same thing, but the unique something is what it's about for the individual."

While he admits he's not really computer savvy, Jernberg said much of his business is gained through e-mail and word of mouth.

"While I prefer face-to-face contact, so much is done through e-mail that I sometimes don't meet the person.
Coming from Nebraska to Kansas City, Kan., Nicole Turner didn’t know Kansas City Kansas Community College existed. Now she’s one of the College’s most outstanding students and campus leaders.

An honor student and leader in three student organizations, Turner has been named to the Kansas All-Academic team for 2007-08.

“I was completely surprised,” Turner said. “I was a little hesitant to apply because I didn’t really think I had a chance but our Phi Theta Kappa advisor said I better have it filled out.”

One of 46 community college students selected for their academic accomplishments, Turner and fellow PTK officer Harry Kebianyor will be guests at the 13th annual TK honor luncheon in Topeka Feb. 14.

Turner learned about KCKCC from looking in the phone book – and found it to be a perfect match.

A graduate of Platte Valley Academy in Shelton, Neb., it took nearly six years to fulfill her early expectations of enrolling in college.

“I didn’t have the finances so I worked to save money and made some bad choices and became a mother five years ago,” she said. “When my daughter, Reaia, turned three, I made up my mind to go to college and do whatever I needed to do.”

Once she discovered KCKCC, she found a Victim Services program that fit her needs.

“I want to start or serve as a director of a domestic violence shelter and help women become independent in taking care of themselves,” Turner said, who will graduate in May and plans to enter a year-long bachelor program at Mid-America Nazarene University in Olathe.

To further her career, she completed a Victim Services Internship with the Jackson County Prosecutor’s office last summer.

“[Turner] consistently meets and exceeds course expectations in her aspirations to enter the victim services field,” Karaisse Whyte, coordinator of the Victim/Survivor Services program, said. “Her thirst for knowledge and edification has spurred her to go above and beyond the requirement for degree completion and her high initiative and motivation have enabled her to take advantage of the extracurricular activities that will further prepare her for work in victim services.”

To make ends meet, Turner ran a home day care five days a week her first semester but has for the last year and a half been a student patrol officer working with the College’s Campus Police. Her academics – a cumulative 3.83 grade point average – have earned her scholarships from the Business and Professional Women, Women’s Chamber of Commerce and Koran Temple along with regular listings on the honor roll.

Her campus involve-
Turner  
Continued from PAGE 1

ment also includes serving as president of The African American Student Union, secretary of the Student Senate and a chapter officer in Phi Theta Kappa. A volunteer for the Extreme Makeover: Home Edition in November, she also serves as a director of Adventurer, a Christian organization similar to the Cub Scouts, that is co-educational and geared to children aged 5-9.

Her most gratifying project, however, was a Kansas City/Rome Research Project in which she and five other KCKCC students surveyed students at the University of Kansas and in Rome, Italy, to compare how students in the two countries viewed environmental issues and how mass transit contributed to or helped alleviate global warming. Their findings were documented and reported to the Board of Trustees.

"The trip was life-changing for me because it was a whole new experience," Turner said. "It was my first time overseas and I was able to see how another culture lived and be involved in an important research project that showed how little American citizens know about the damage we are doing to our environment and how little we are doing to prevent and/or repair this damage."

A member of the Beacon Light Seventh Day Adventist Church, Turner serves as head usher, sings in the choir and is a leader in the Adventurer program.

"I think this exactly what God wanted me to do," she said of her decision to come to KCKCC. "It's an awesome college with a network of faculty and staff that are truly dedicated to the success of students who are striving to succeed. I love the school, I really do. Next year I want to take a class so I can come back."
Students learn lessons from Greensburg peers

CAROLYN COGSWELL
STAFF WRITER

Gifted students from Westridge Middle School, 9300 Nieman Road, Overland Park, are learning about community as they envision the future of Greensburg.

An F-5 tornado destroyed 95 percent of Greensburg, a southeastern Kansas town of nearly 1,500, on May 4, 2007, and killed 11 people.

Westridge eighth-graders Grant Gottschalk, Jonah Heng, Amy Hocker, Charlie King Hagen and Rebecca Schmidt, and seventh-grader Makala Ilayford from Holy Trinity School, 13600 W. 92nd St., Lenexa, received the Building a World of Difference Award on Jan. 26 in the Great Plains Regional National Engineers Week Future City Competition at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

They will go to Washington Feb. 16-21 to present their vision of Greensburg in 100 years and compete for national honors.

The group started working on the project in mid-September. The weekend after Thanksgiving, they visited Greensburg and talked with middle school students about the town.

Westridge teacher Vonda Morris and Amy Hocker said the group attended town meetings, talked to people and explored the town for about six hours. Hocker said the majority of the citizens had chosen to remain and help rebuild the town.

"They all pulled together because they wanted their home back," she said.

Charlie said the community feeling of Greensburg residents would be difficult to duplicate outside of an emergency situation.

"It's definitely special," he said. "I can't say I've ever experienced something like that, where a mass group of people pulled together to help everyone out to rebuild something completely devastated."

Charlie said, in the students’ vision of Greensburg, every building would be made of sustainable material and every house would have a basement.

"When there's a tornado coming, you can go to your basement or your 'pod,'" he said, which is an underground carbon nanotube transportation unit.

Para-educator Marcia Rohrer said event organizers required nanotechnology, a computer simulation and a city size of 100,000 for the competition.

Greensburg's population before the tornado would not have qualified.

Charlie said Greensburg middle school students did not like the idea of Greensburg growing to such a size because they liked the small town feeling.

Rohrer said a population shift could cause the future Greensburg to grow. She said the town has committed to building a "green" city and conserving natural resources, especially water.

Students heard a presentation by BNIM Architects, Kansas City, Mo., before designing their vision for Greensburg. BNIM is working with the city of Greensburg, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Energy through its National Renewable Energy Laboratory to rebuild a "cleaner and greener Greensburg."

Students proposed using gray water, which has been used for washing and other purposes, to irrigate crops or water other plants, Rohrer said. They also intend to reduce runoff.

Charlie said the students are developing their own sense of community.

"We have a strong bond," he said. "We've definitely become better friends over this project."

FAT FACTS
People who want to help rebuild Greensburg can call the Volunteer Development Office of Heart to Heart, international, Olathe, at 764-5200.
Neewollah thank-you dinner celebrated

The annual Neewollah thank-you dinner was held Saturday at St. Andrew Parish Center with chairman of the board Ann Crow hosting the evening.

Past Neewollah generalissimos were introduced and welcomed, including Queen Neelah, Morgan Fox.

Don Farthing, a retiring board member, was recognized for his contributions to the festival and was presented a plaque noting his success as generalissimo in 2004 and for serving as chairman of the board twice.

It was announced that Neewollah 2007 was a financial success. New officers were announced and they include Ann Crow, chairman; Fred Meier, vice-chairman; Dennis Greenhaw, treasurer; and Julie Voelker, secretary.

Sean Clapp was elected to serve as generalissimo-elect for 2008. Clapp, a native of Kirksville, Mo., received a bachelor of architecture degree from the University of Kansas in 1995. He moved to Independence and started work for Heckman & Associates PA in 1995.

Clapp started his Neewollah experiences as a member of the stage crews and then started working with the Grand Parade, serving as co-chairmen from 2004 to 2007. He has also been co-chairman of the thank-you party committee. He and his wife, Kathy, are the parents of three children and are members of St. Andrew Catholic Church.

Karen Turner was elected as a new board member. She grew up in Independence and attended schools here. She graduated from Pittsburg State University with a degree in accounting and works at the Prescription Shop in Coffeyville as an accountant and gift shop manager. She has served on the Neewollah ticket/merchandise committee and has been chairman of that committee for the last two years. Turner currently serves on the Leadership Independence board, after being a graduate of that organization. She and her husband, Matt, are the parents of two daughters and are members of the First Baptist Church.

Marty Reichenberger was selected as generalissimo of the 2008 festival. A lifelong resident of Independence, he was a stage escort in 1996 for the Queen Neelah pageant. In 2001, he and his wife Amy were stage escort chairmen. From 2003 to 2007, he served as co-chairman for the food vending committee, has been on the chili cook-off committee, the corporate sponsorship committee, and has co-chaired the thank-you party.

Reichenberger is starting his fifth year on the Neewollah board. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce where he serves as a Chamber Ambassador, is a Leadership Independence graduate and has served on its board of directors. In addition, he serves on the Commerce Bank board of directors, the Independence school board, Tri-County Board of Education, and is a member of the Zion Lutheran Church. He graduated from Kansas State University and is involved in the family businesses — Green Thumb Greenhouse Inc. and Reichenberger Farms. He and his wife have two daughters.

Drew Demo, generalissimo for 2007, thanked his committees and reported on the success of the festival. He was presented a collage depicting events of last year’s Neewollah celebration and was welcomed into the Past Generalissimo’s Club by Ray Rothgeb.

REICHENBERGER  CLAPP  TURNER
Biomaterials could be boon for Wichita, stat

By J. David McDonald

Wichita's expertise in aviation research and manufacturing has positioned Kansas to become a global leader in the use of composite materials in biomedical devices, such as artificial knees and hips.

These emerging technologies could eventually create many new jobs, while improving the quality of life for an aging population.

We are positioned to explore these possibilities thanks to the recent decision by the Kansas Bioscience Authority to fund a planning grant for a Biomaterials Center of Innovation. In this effort, Wichita State University and Via Christi Health System are partnered with the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and the Kansas Polymer Research Center at Pittsburg State University.

With this planning grant, we will work with our partners the next six months to build a full-featured proposal for a Center of Innovation that will investigate ways by which composites and other advanced materials can be applied to the treatment of medical problems.

As one example, our partnership with the Orthopaedic Research Institute of Via Christi will allow the exploration of composite materials for the repair of bones and joints to provide better solutions for these common health care problems.

With an aging population, the quality of bones and joints plays a direct role in determining our capabilities and limitations. Although some artificial bone and joint materials already are being used, they have important shortcomings — shortcomings that seem open to improvement through the application of advanced materials.

We are in what the United Nations has declared the "Bone and Joint Decade," an initiative designed to improve the lives of people through better understanding and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders. What a fitting time, then, for us to launch our efforts to cultivate this new sector of our state's economy.

This overall effort represents a remarkable opportunity that seeks to capitalize on the connection between our research universities and our private sector. If successful, this effort can pay off by creating new high-paying jobs and providing additional stability for existing jobs, by the manufacture of new and different product lines for sale, by the attraction of new businesses to our state, and by the production of intellectual property.

The Legislature and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius showed visionary foresight in 2004 in creating the Kansas Bioscience Authority as part of the Kansas Economic Growth Act. Their stated goal was to provide funding to expand Kansas' bioscience research capabilities, promote innovation and encourage company formation that will create high-paying jobs for generations of Kansans to come.

I welcome their support as we seek ways to incorporate the biosciences into our regional economy and, in doing so, continue to contribute to the economic health and vitality of the state of Kansas.

J. David McDonald is associate provost for research at Wichita State University.
University of Kansas climatologist Johannes Fedemma walked legislative committees through charts this past week showing his studies on the long-term effects of global warming on Kansas.

It's difficult to accurately predict, he noted, but models show a drying trend as temperatures rise.

For western Kansas, Feddema projects water deficits in the range of 2.09 to 4.06 inches by 2050 and 5.24 to 8.27 inches by 2100.

This would mean longer growing seasons, he noted, "but without water it won't do you much good."

"I believe these projections will have significant impacts on local communities in the future," Fedemma testified, "although specific impacts will depend on the choices and adaptations made by the people of Kansas in the future."
University leaders plan to discuss tuition caps

BY CHRISS GREEN
Harris News Service

TOPEKA – The state Board of Regents could decide Wednesday whether to start placing limits on the tuition increases facing students and their families.

The nine-member board is scheduled to discuss setting new guidelines for the state’s six public, four-year universities during this month’s meeting, scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Curtis State Office Building in Topeka.

Several members said recently that they’re not sure yet where the talks will lead.

Board member Jill Docking of Wichita, who joined the Regents last year, said she hasn’t decided whether to support a cap on tuition for next year or into the future. She said board members must first consider how such a move would affect students, their families and the institutions they’re attending.

“I think it’s going to be about trying to balance what is fair and affordable for students and their parents and what is prudent for maintaining the excellence of our universities,” Docking said.

Chairwoman Christine Downey-Schmidt of Inman said it would be important for board members to hear the insights of university leaders before making any significant changes to their approach.

“It would be very premature for us to simply slap on a cap without hearing what their increased costs are,” said Downey-Schmidt, a former Democrat state senator from Inman who joined the board in 2005.

Presidents and officials for state universities are expected to offer their insights during the board’s debate. Fort Hays State University President Edward Hammond said now is the right time for board members to have an in-depth discussion.

See TUITION / A3
There’s only so much that each institution can really raise tuition before you begin to deny access.

- Edward Hammond, Fort Hays State University president

Tuition

Continued from Page A1

Universities undertake a fairly extensive, months-long process to determine their proposed rates by May, he said. At FHSU that includes soliciting student input, Hammond said.

“If there’s guidance or direction that the Board of Regents has, now’s the time to come up with those directions,” Hammond said. “Otherwise, the train’s going to be well down the track.”

‘Only so much’

In years past, board members have set university tuition and fees charges each June. However, the board has typically just signed off on the suggested rates proposed by each school a month earlier.

Last month, though, several board members called for a discussion of whether the board should change its approach to setting tuition rates, including placing limits on tuition hikes.

The move comes after a recent overhaul in the board’s composition. Five new members joined the board in July after being appointed to their posts by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

Several members, particularly the new Regents, expressed concern that the costs of attending state universities were rising too steeply and rapidly.

Since 2002, in-state tuition and fees have more than doubled at the University of Kansas and Kansas State University. Increases at the state’s other schools have averaged at least 8 percent a year.

At the same time, student debt loads among borrowers ranged from 5 to 21 percent higher for 2006 graduates than their 2004 counterparts.

Such steep increases prompted another new Regent, board member Gary Sherrer of Overland Park, to suggest the idea of the tuition cap last month.

Sherrer said in introducing the concept, he’s thinking of limiting tuition hikes next year to the rate of inflation in higher education, which could be around 3.5 to 4 percent.

“I’m just thinking of bringing it closer in line to inflationary costs, closer in line to what people’s incomes are doing,” Sherrer said.

However, the prospect of a cap could be of concern for universities, who’ve seen the percentage of their budgets supported by the state decline in recent years.

Hammond said a cap would be a concern for his school, since officials have worked to hold down tuition in recent years.

“There’s only so much that each institution can really raise tuition before you begin to deny access,” Hammond said.

Unlike some schools that have had larger increases, Hammond said FHSU still has what he calls “elasticity” in its rates, meaning it could still raise charges some more without pricing out students.

Other issues surrounding the cap include whether it would hinder the ability of universities to stay competitive for hiring good teachers. There’s also the question of whether it would pave the way for even higher increases in the future, should the cap be lifted.

Sherrer said he’s hopeful that something can be worked out so that students and their families don’t face another year of increases well-above inflation.

“I would be very disappointed if the leadership of our universities couldn’t adapt to an increase along the lines of inflation for one year and still ensure they have great universities,” Sherrer said.

The following shows annual in-state tuition and fees for Kansas residents taking 15 hours of courses.

2002 ACADEMIC YEAR

University of Kansas, $2,884
Kansan State, $2,834
Wichita State, $2,858
Emporia State, $2,284
Pittsburg State, $2,338
Fort Hays State, $2,218

2008 ACADEMIC YEAR

*University of Kansas freshmen, $7,146
All other KU undergrads, $6,600
Kansas State, $6,235
Wichita State, $4,804
Emporia State, $3,926
Pittsburg State, $4,060
Fort Hays State, $3,356

*Four-year guaranteed tuition rate
More than 4,540 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2007 semester. Area students included are:

- Barton County: Claflin, Christy Jensen, Elinwood, Amanda Winkelman; Great Bend, Jessica Brozek, Jessica Leiker; Sara Linenberger, Victor Marshall, Daniell Miller, Justin Movers, Jacklyn Pringle, Kelsi Remmert, Andrew Rodgman, Savannah Rose, Annie Sanko, Brian Schneweis, Jillian, Winkelman; Hoisington, Jacqueline Koester, Lacey Koester, Tanner Polzin; Pawnee Rock, Kyle Hesed.

- Comanche County: Ashland, Stacey Canton; Coldwater, Meghan Lem.

- Edwards County: Kinsley, Adam Keebba; Oeffie, Sarah Stogman.

- Ellis County: Ellis, Kelsy Kinderknecht; Jessica Spinelli.

- Ellsworth County: Ellsworth, Jenny Geide, Danielle Peters, Anna Slomka, Danielle Wright; Holyrood, Jordan Wilson, Maunet Ford, Amber Macek.

- Finney County: Garden City, Samantha Algrim, Whitney Blau, Kristin Campbell, Whitney Clarke, Chelcie Crockett, Kristen Doering, Cyndi Mai, Megan Nelson, Thel canyon; Anh Nguyen, Ashlea Orrell, Aaron Payne, Jay Ryan, Karon Thompson, Andre Vo, Anh Van Vu, Kaitlin Wurst, Aimee Zeller; Holcomb, Matthew Cook, Jennifer Kluwein, Sherrr Magnay.

- Ford County: Bucklin, Ashley Ellis, Thomas Ellis, Kelsey Erb, Wayne Keeton; Dodge City, Mizra Ahmad, Aubrey Arndt, Zachary Baugh, Sadie Doll, Shalae Gaskill, Caitlin Gibbs, Nicholas Githner, Hunter Korbelik, Jessica Lane, Tyler Lewis, Katherine Marples, Peter Marples, Ashley Million, Darin Oliver, Jena Rain, Jennifer Ralph, Tarek Shaath; Dana Stark, James Sumaya, Joseph Tarwater, Dustin Van; Spearville, Stephanie Tenaat, Rachelle Vierthaler, Wright, Robyn Crane.

- Greeley County: Tribune, Braden Cardonell, Jentri Dixon, Elijah Tuttle.

- Gove County: Quinter, Michael Breeden, Alexandra Machen.

- Grant County: Ulysses, Katelyn Deckert.

- Gray County: Cimarron, Kimberly Doube, Matthew Monidal; Montezuma, Ashlee Grover, Kamille Ratzlaff.

- Hamilton County: Kendall, Kelsey Kohman.


- Harvey County: Burron, Melissa Morris; Halstead, Taylor Kaufman, Aaron Keller, Elizabeth Major, Lindsey Miles, Austin Pyle, Jessica Scharff; Heeslon, Whitney Pankratz; Newton, Jennifer Bachman, Samuel Davidson, Richard Davis, Sarah Dickinison, Mark Froelich, Jenna Gatz, Taryn Gilbert, Elizabeth Goering, Kristen Hanzlick, Leslie Hardin, Amos Kerbs, Tom Huu Le, William McCulilough, William Mcullough, Gabriel Metzler, Jerrod Mitchell, Jerrod Pearce, Dustin Rederger, Torey Rosmont, Le M Tran, Nathaniel Ygartz, Melissa Paradis; Sedgwick, Crystal Lening; Walton, Megan O’Brien.

- Kearny County: Deerfield, Maryanne Hett; Lakin, Troy Shipley.

- Kingman County: Cheney, Whitney Flashbender; Cuningham, Frank Allbritten, Derek Setter; Kingman, Holli Bemis, Ashley Clark, Mark Heatherman, Shayne Henry, Kelsie Langley, Kara Williams.

- Kiowa County: Greensburg, Zachary White; Mullinville, Nathan Breeden.

- Lane County: Dighton, Jesse Kuhlman, Nick Weiser.

- Meade County: Fowler, Alison Edwards, Jacqueline Thomas, Tanner Zimmerman.

- Marion County: Hillsboro, Emily Arnold; Marion, Shawn Johnson, Kari Tachman, Brandon Watson; Peabody, Morgan Brickley.

- McPherson County: Inman, Benjamin Combs; Lindsborg, Matthew Achenbach, Anastasia Nuss, Amber Pahl, Chantz Thomas; McPherson, Andrew Claassen, Meghan Cotton, Jamie Crist, Hugo Dahlstrom, Michaela Goeblecher, Brianna Hambler, Tracy Hanson, Marc Hess; Timothy Houghton, Kristen Kearney, Kelli Lauderdale, Torrance Parkins, Jessica Radatz, Amy Reese, Kiya Richter, Meredith Selbel, Wiley Shearhart, Wiley Shearhart, Dale Snell, Julia Snell, Laura Swick, Alison Than Vao, America Yowell-Mayer; Windom, Erin Ekholm.

- Ness County: Ness City, Tanya Boyoo, TSA Braunn, Julie Keeton, Christopher Mondero, Brett Stoecklein; Burdett, James Dipman.

- Pawnee County: Garfield, Patricia Hunter; Larned, Nathaniel Collins, Megan Foster, Katie Fox, Amber Humphrey, Amanda Nech, Tyler Roberts, Emily Schuster, Tabatha Snyder; Rozel, Garrett Blattner.

- Pratt County: Pratt, Tyson Eisenhauer, Amanda Fea, Jessie Garrett, William Gunneron, Kristen Kuhn, Kelli Martin, Megan Olson; Preston, Kaci Austin; Sawyer, Keeley Swartz.

- Rice County: Lyons, Mark Filipi, Tyler Stone.

- Reno County: Arlington, Wendi Brandt; Builbrooks, Perry; Hutchinson, Todd Anderson, Mary Duarte, Casey Gee, Joel Higgins, Katelyn Law, Casey Miller, Daniela Stillwell, Rachel Allen, Madison Arbuckle, Brady Blevins, Lauren Bonds, Bailey Bosc, Rebecca Braun, Auny Brown, Mary Conklin, Sarah Conklin, Patrick Dernyer, Jacob Doeden, Paige Elliott, Kelsey Eriksson, Whitney Eriksson, Julie
Farney, Jason Garden, Traci Goldsby, Kimberly Hernandez, Michael Holland, Nicholas Kenning, Angela Kerner, Wesley Kimmel, Jonathan Ko, Mallory Loudenback, Carrie Mendoza, Austin O’Neal, Haley O’Neal, Joseph Ralph, Jesse Roberts, Mary Roberts, Jesse Schneider, Preston Schraeder, Sara Sidebottom, Eric Thibault, Darrell Walker, Sarah Whisler, Bret Williamson, William Wyer; Nickerson, Brent Rohling; Preston, Amber Bortz; South Hutchinson, Justin Blackburn, Tyler Buck.

**Russell County:** Russell, Miles Detrixhe, Mallory Mahoney, Amanda Steinle, Brooke Stoppel; Waldo, Alisha Ridgley.

**Scott County:** Scott City, Megan Gechter, Cameron Turpin.

**Stafford County:** St. John, Casey Cornwell, Bradley Newell.

**Sedgwick County:** Andale, Paul Schreffler; Cheney, Kali Coykendall, Robyn Shaver; Viola, Carime Favreau, Lindsay Pelz.

**Seward County:** Liberal, Jesus Castillo, Ofelia Castro, Katelyn Deckert, Hong Thanh Le Do, Kiley Gilmore, Jessica Lyles, Ryan McNabb, Cambrey Bao-Phuong Nguyen, Marissa Palacios, Reece Petty, Kendal Reed, Joshua Schepers, Khanh Tuong Trinh.

**Trego County:** Ogallah, Andrew Aschenbrenner, Barbara Doxon, Callie Schlegel, Will Schlegel; WaKeeney, Denise Augustine, Dianne Bolig, Anna Hue Diec, Tami Hagan, Nathan Locke, Jared Oborny.

**Wichita County:** Leoti, Tyson Mullen.