Congressman honors life of Martin Luther King Jr.

By Congressman Jerry Moran  
R-Hays

On Monday, I spoke at the Second Missionary Baptist Church in Hutchinson to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King served others his entire life with the determination to correct many of the wrongs in this country: injustice, inequality and ignorance.

Instead of being first in material possessions, Dr. King challenged us to “be first in love, first in moral excellence, be first in generosity.” He said, “If you want to be important – wonderful. If you want to be recognized – wonderful. If you want to be great – wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That’s a new definition of greatness. It means that everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.”

Commission Discusses Nation’s Transportation and Infrastructure Needs

In 2005, Congress created a 12 member bipartisan commission to study the future of our nation’s transportation needs and how to pay for those needs. On Thursday, I attended a hearing of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to listen to the recommendations of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission. These recommendations were designed to help start the discussion for the next highway authorization bill scheduled to be debated in 2009. The overwhelming consensus of the commission was that the nation’s highways and bridges have numerous needs that must be quickly addressed. The commission recommends total spending of at least $225 billion a year for improvements and repairs on highways, transit and rail systems across the country. Currently, the United States spends $100 billion on these types of projects. The commission also recommended consolidating 108 federal highway, transit and rail programs into 10 grant programs that will be based on performance and results.

Such an investment into our transportation infrastructure will mean finding ways to raise revenue to pay for these projects. Currently, the federal government receives 18.4 cents for every gallon of gas Americans purchase. Nine of the 12 Commissioners recommended increasing this gas tax by 25 to 40 cents a gallon over the next five years and to index it for inflation after that. This would be a 200 percent increase from what Kansans currently pay. As the Transportation Committee begins discussing the next highway bill, I work to meet our nation’s transportation needs while being mindful of any increase in costs to Kansans.

Republican Agriculture Committee Members Discuss Status of the Farm Bill

This week, I met with the Republican members of the House Agriculture Committee to discuss the latest on the farm bill. Unfortunately, there does not appear to be any strong movement toward resolving the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill and the requests made by the White House. I am disappointed that this is the case. I was hopeful the farm bill would receive immediate attention in January. I will continue to push for the bill to be concluded in a timely manner, but at this point, there is no evidence of House and Senate leadership pushing for this to happen.

Sponsoring Legislation to Ensure Medical Care is Available for Rural Veterans

On Thursday, I participated in a hearing of the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health to consider several bills intended to ensure veterans receive the highest quality...
medical care. The hearing featured a measure I sponsored with Representative Phil Hare of Illinois to establish a full time Director of Physician Assistant Services within the Department of Veterans Affairs. Physician Assistants are crucial to providing medical care in rural and other underserved areas, often serving as the only health care professional available. I want to ensure that Physician Assistants are fully integrated and well utilized to provide veterans living in rural communities timely access to quality care. I am hopeful that Congress will act this year to approve this legislation.

Addressing the Pharmacist Shortage, Visiting KU Pharmacy School

Pharmacists play a critical role in our Kansas communities. Unfortunately, we have seen pharmacy doors closing in different counties throughout the state over the past year. En route back to Washington, D.C., I visited the Kansas University School of Pharmacy to tour the facility and meet with Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Lariviere and Pharmacy School Dean Ken Audus. We discussed the shortage of pharmacists and KU’s plans to expand its pharmacy degree program.

The degree program currently accepts 105 students per year. Under KU’s proposal, nearly 200 more students would be able to enter the program through the University’s location in Wichita and a proposed new building in Lawrence. The proposal will come before the state legislature this year for consideration. I appreciate the efforts of KU to expand its program and thank Vice Chancellor Lariviere and Dean Audus for their time with me.

I offered to help do what I can to signify the importance of this expansion to our state legislators, as well as to explore federal funding opportunities.
Rep. Moran hosts town hall meeting in Beloit

By Barbara Axtell
Call Editor

Congressman Jerry Moran was in Beloit Wednesday for a joint meeting of the Beloit Lions Club and the Beloit Rotary Club. The meeting was held at the North Central Kansas Technical College.

Moran has served in the United States House of Representatives for 10 years. He was born in Great Bend and graduated from Plainville High School. Moran is a graduate of the University of Kansas and is a candidate for an MBA.

Currently the congressman from the Big First District in Kansas serves on the house agriculture, transportation and veteran’s affairs committees.

Moran has a 99% voting record over his 10 years of service.

The Representative said he holds 69 town hall meetings each year in the 1st District which covers 3/4ths of the state of Kansas.

“I try to be the voice for people who lead a life who are unappreciated and unheard,” Rep. Moran said. “Many of the things we care about are the basics. We are very unique.”

My focus has been what to do to have prosperity today, he said, and make sure the communities we call home will be around.

My concern is “how do we allow another generation of Kansans to enjoy a life we are proud of.”

Moran said he spent time the past couple of days trying to figure out a way to keep Schult Homes in Plainville. They plan to close their doors soon which will have huge consequences.

“The problem in Plainville is they cannot find workers,” Rep. Moran said. “Today we have to find ways to keep people and bring in workers.”

The Schult owners feel they will never have enough people to work at the plant, he said.

Moran said the main issues in rural Kansas are agriculture (farmers & ranchers), health care (government has a huge role to play with Medicare), small businesses (trying to keep main street alive & well), technology and education.

The use of internet technology has allowed businesses to locate in rural areas, he said.

Listening tour

Beloit Lions Club President Shannon Wiese and Rotary President Ken Parker visit with Representative Jerry Moran Wednesday at the North Central Kansas Technical College.
Moran said in his opinion education decisions on curriculum should be left to local boards. Because of that he voted against “No Child Left Behind.”

Moran said he appreciates the relationship between Hays and Beloit with North Central Kansas Technical College campuses at both locations. The technical college is important to educate workers.

“I see the importance of supporting a variety of programs that provide financial aid to students that would not be able to attend college,” Moran said in support of educating workers.

**Question and answer**

A guest at the meeting asked the Congressman about the war in Iraq. He stated he thought entering the war was one of the biggest mistakes the United States has made.

The Congressman said he has a long time concern about the war, however he is not willing to say it was the worst mistake the country ever made.

“We need to find ways to have success in Iraq and get our troops home,” he said. “I have great concern about our troops in Iraq. I did not feel we should have fired the first shot.”

In my opinion our American military has generally accomplished what they set out to do,” the Congressman said. “It is time for the Iraqis to take over and do what they need to do.”

We may have to pull out so they are forced to take over, Moran said.

Bob Lampert asked Moran his stand on immigration, saying he has a problem with the money we spend on the immigrants for health care and other services.

Congressman Moran said, “We need a system that determines how many people are eligible to come from other countries and have a way for them to apply for citizenship.”

The urban and rural sheriff’s all ask if we know how many of our problems are related to drugs and most of them come from Mexico, the Congressman said.

Jim Gates asked Moran for an update on the farm bill.

Rep. Moran said the farm bill was passed by the House in June and the Senate passed their version in December. We should be working out our differences, Moran said, but no committees have been formed.

“It bothers me greatly that there is no strong leadership to move the process forward,” the Congressman said. The USDA says it would take nine to 12 months to implement a bill after it is passed.

*See Moran on page 5*
MORAN continued from page

"I have a fear that our leaders want to create an issue instead of getting our work done," Moran said. "What I dislike is we all have an opinion but there is no give and take to get something done."

Congress has become more and more urban with the safety net for farmers going from 22% on the old bill to 12% on the new bill, he said. Food stamps were 54% of the last farm bill and are 66% of the proposed bill.

Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems Administrator David Dick asked how we as a community could impress the need for Medicare decisions to deal with the rural area.

In answering the question, Moran pointed out that he represents more hospitals than any other congressional district. "I have been in all of them trying to figure out how to address this issue," the Congressman said.

The problem is we live in a Medicare dependent area, Moran said. If Medicare does not cover the bill we are in trouble.

"We are trying to keep Medicare reimbursements at a level to keep small hospitals," Moran said. "If we did away with the critical-access hospitals it would not save that much money."

While Mitchell County hospital's Medicare reimbursements are 65% of their income, the Lincoln County Hospital has 90% Medicare reimbursement.

Moran said, "We have to tell our story better. We need to make sure our kids know where they came from and what rural life is like.

"I try to bring people to Kansas and show them the small hospitals to show them we can deliver health care without the frills.

"We do things without frills but we get them done," the Congressman said.

Economic stimulus package
When asked about the economic stimulus package, Moran said he is greatly concerned about spending more money. If we do a package we will be borrowing more money. I worry that this is a political move, he said, a way to win support in the election.

"I worry in the long term we will just be creating a bigger problem," Moran said.

In closing, Moran said we need to address two main issues, rising health care costs and work more aggressively at reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

The best day would be when we can tell Saudi Arabia we do not need their oil, Moran said.

We need to address additional drilling for oil and renewable fuels which are solar, wind, and nuclear.

We also need to look at conserving our resources, he said.
Democrats looking at new Attorney General to run in 2010

BY JOHN HANNA
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — Democrats have put their hopes of keeping the attorney general's office in Stephen Six, even though they acknowledge he hasn't developed the political skills he needs.

Six, a Douglas County district judge, has never run for elected office. He will serve the remaining three years of Morrison's four-year term, and some Republicans expect the 2010 attorney general's race to be competitive because of Morrison's downfall. Morrison spent $2.65 million on his successful 2006 campaign.

A top Republican Party official and a former adviser to Sebelius questioned Monday whether Six is ready to run a statewide campaign. Democrats assume Sebelius would appoint a candidate only if he promised to run, but Six hasn't publicly committed.

"Judge Six is focused on getting up to speed on the cases and issues important to the attorney general's office," spokeswoman Ashley Anstaett said Monday. "It's too early to talk about politics or campaigns."

Still, Sebelius and other prominent Democrats believe Six has enough time to build a solid record as attorney general and pick up the campaigning, public speaking and fundraising skills he'll need.

"She had no concerns about that at all," said Sebelius spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran. "First and foremost, she wanted to get the right person in the job."

Burdett Loomis, a University of Kansas political scientist who once served as a Sebelius adviser, said the governor appears comfortable with someone who's "pretty raw material" as a potential candidate because he appears "squeaky clean" and is willing to run in 2010.

But Loomis and Christian Morgan, the state GOP's executive director, said Six seemed unprepared for a question about abortion during the Friday news conference in which Sebelius announced his appointment.

Abortion was a key issue during Morrison's 2006 campaign. An abortion-rights Democrat, he unseated incumbent Phill Kline, an anti-abortion Republican. Abortion opponents repeatedly criticized Morrison afterward over how he handled investigations of abortion providers.

"The Democratic Party has a lot of work to do to get this guy ready for the kind of scrutiny that the people of Kansas are going to put on this guy," Morgan said. "The office of attorney general is going to turn out to be one of the more hotly contested races in 2010, and it remains to be seen whether Steve Six is up to the task."

Attorneys, Democrats and at least a few Republicans, have praised the appointment, describing Six as intelligent, thoughtful, hardworking and possessing strong legal skills. In accepting an appointment from Sebelius to the Douglas County court in January 2005, he showed he could tackle new challenges, said state Democratic Party Chairman Larry Gates.

"What he really is not is a politician," Gates acknowledged. "He'll get to that eventually. He made it pretty clear to me that he doesn't want to be too bothered with that right now. He's got the office to take care of."

But Gates said politics will intrude soon: He plans to ask
Six to speak to the Democrats’ annual Washington Days convention, Feb. 29 and March 1 in Topeka.

Gates argued that Six, as a former civil trial lawyer, already has speaking skills that will help him in politics.

And Bob Beatty, a Washburn University political scientist, said it’s a mistake to view Six as a complete newcomer to politics. Beatty noted that Six’s father, Fred, served as a Kansas Supreme Court justice.

“I’m sure his father taught him some things about being in the public eye,” Beatty said. “People who have parents like that who are in the public eye have a natural advantage even if they’ve never run for office.”

The elder Six may help in another way: He was appointed to the Supreme Court by Republican Gov. Mike Hayden in 1988.

“I think he’ll do fine,” said Lee Kinch, a Derby attorney who serves on the Democratic National Committee, said of the younger Six. “I think he’ll have appeal across party lines and, no doubt, to the unaffiliated.”

But Six’s ability — and desire — to raise campaign money remains a question.

“As much as you can say you’ll do it, sitting there, facing call time and calling person after person after person, day after day, after day, that’s incredibly hard work and absolutely no fun,” Loomis said.

Still, Loomis said between Sebelius and Gates, the Democratic Party has built an efficient operation for raising campaign funds. He said Six also should have help from the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association, who have been strong backers of Sebelius and the party in the past.

“If he performs up to speed, there’s no question that, I think, the trial lawyers would support him,” Loomis said. “They’re willing to write checks.”

Kinch said Six’s job performance will be a key factor, and he’s confident Six will build a strong record that makes him an attractive candidate. Sebelius has the same faith, Corcoran said.

“We figured everything else would just fall into place as time goes on,” Corcoran said.
Tuition for higher education

WHAT A tremendous irony it would be if the Kansas Board of Regents decides to take such a hard line on university tuition increases that Kansas University students who were given the special "guaranteed tuition" deal actually end up paying more for their education.

It's great news that the regents are concerned enough to at least offer some tough talk on repeated tuition increases.

Regent Gary Sherrer pointed out that tuition increases at state universities had exceeded both the consumer price index and the higher education price index in the last five years.

And, during that time, he noted, the per-capita income of those paying tuition had been largely unchanged.

This is not news to Kansas families who are stretching their budgets to cover university tuition.

Despite the squeeze tuition is putting on Kansas families, university leaders continue to defend the increases.

Kansas State University President Jon Wefald responded to the regents' concerns this week by saying, "You can either pay for access to mediocrity or you can pay for access to excellence. We're choosing excellence."

That's fine, but rising tuition puts that choice out of reach for many Kansas students. Many are having to bypass that university "excellence" and make less costly choices such as attending a community college or a vocational-technical school.

Since more than doubling tuition for Kansas residents several years ago, KU officials have continued to sell the idea that KU still is "a bargain" compared to universities in other states...

If tuition continues to rise and a student completes a degree in four years, the guaranteed tuition plan might actually result in a savings.

If, however, regents put a cap on tuition increases, as they seemed to be suggesting this week they would do, students locked into a four-year payment plan that assumed ongoing increases might actually end up the losers...

It's certainly time to ask those questions and to take some action to get state university tuition increases under control.

Lawrence Journal-World
Jan. 20
KU announces
fall honor roll

More than 4,540 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction in the fall 2007 semester. To earn honor roll status, students must meet requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the allied health, architecture and urban design, business, education, engineering, fine arts, journalism, nursing and social welfare schools.

Each school has a different method for honoring students. Some honor the top 10 percent, others establish a minimum grade-point average. All students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for honor roll.

Students from the Atchison area are Emily Prohaska, Spencer Pummel, Hillary Rice and Taylor Zimmerman, all of Atchison; Matthew Dunlap and Whitney Ryan, both of Horton; Brianna Barnes, Powhattan; Laura Albers, Bendena; Leigh Massey, Denton; Whitney Franken and Bret Johnson, both of Troy; Samuel Flinders, Wathena; David Bonnel, Charles Barnard, Katie Henderson, Samantha Hosler, Philip Rich and Emily Shannon, all of Valley Falls; and Andrea Gillip, Winchester.
University of Kansas students from Emporia, all graduates of Emporia High School, named to the Fall 2007 Honor Roll in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences were:

Megan Ann Bollinger, sophomore, daughter of Timothy and Lynnette Bollinger; Michael Christian Bourbon, senior, son of Anita Bourbon; Stephanie L. Fabert, sophomore, daughter of Dennis and Barbara Fabert; Jenae Henry, sophomore, daughter of Steven and Rebecca Henry; Kara L. Hoggatt, junior, daughter of Jerry and Sabra Hoggatt; Anne Catherine Kretzinger, senior, daughter of W. Brock and Mary Kretzinger; Nathanael Lavington, senior, son of Robert and Brenda Lavington; Katherine Ann Moneymaker, freshman, daughter of Richard and Cynthia Moneymaker; Bethany Ann Stanbrough, senior, journalism, daughter of Mark and Wendy Stanbrough; Tyler John Thompson, freshman, engineering, son of Kenneth and Deborah Thompson.

Other honored students from the Emporia area included:

Danielle Jean Buslon, freshman, daughter of Mark Bulson, Silver Lake High School; Noah Andrew Lock, sophomore, son of Tony Lock, Chase County High School; Jillian Marie Strobel, sophomore, daughter of Anne Strobel, Great Bend High School; Devin Lindsay Wadlowe, senior, daughter of Meredith Loy, GED State of Kansas.
Reassessing tuition

Students come first in funding equation for state's colleges

The new guard on the Kansas Board of Regents is taking a refreshing approach to tuition at state universities.

After multiple years of steep tuition increases, the Regents are signaling an interest in applying the brakes. We'd say "What took you so long?" if it weren't for the fact that a new set of faces is serving on the board, and that might be the reason for the sudden gut check on tuition.

Several Regents expressed concern about university tuition to Harris News Service earlier this month, and the board could discuss next month whether to cap tuition increases. The board meets Feb. 13 and 14.

Probably not coincidental to this new outlook on the board is the arrival of five new Regents on the nine-member board starting back in July. This spring will be their first opportunity to weigh in on the universities' tuition proposals.

Tuition and fees have more than doubled at the University of Kansas and Kansas State University since 2002, and increases at the other state universities have averaged at least 8 percent a year over that time.

Not surprisingly, student debt load grew from 5 percent to 21 percent from the 2004 graduating class to the 2006 class.

In a state that historically has prided itself in having wide opportunity for all its high school graduates to go on to college, Kansas took a fast detour when it found itself in the never-ending race to chase tuition levels at so-called peer universities of other states. In the process, Kansas surely put a college education out of reach for some of its students.

Therein lies multiple issues. One is that tuition in many states has been skyrocketing, so Kansas is not alone.

Another is that Kansas universities' hands have been forced to some degree by the Legislature's failure to keep up with its share of financing university budgets. Regent Jill Docking of Wichita called that effect essentially "a tax on kids."

And finally, Kansas obviously wants to be competitive academically.

Still, the peer race could be a self-defeating proposition. What good are the accolades if many Kansas students cannot afford to attend their own public universities?

The concern about rising university tuition in Kansas needs to rise above the Regents, to legislators who must do their part. But at least it finally has Regents' attention.
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLLS

More than 4,500 students earn academic distinction

Special to The Daily Union

LAWRENCE — More than 4,540 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2007 semester.

These students, from KU's Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing in Kansas City, Kan., represent 96 of 105 Kansas counties, 43 other states and the District of Columbia and 39 other countries.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who meet requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the allied health; architecture and urban design; business; education; engineering; fine arts; journalism; nursing; and social welfare schools.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university's academic units.

Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in school.

Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Local students attending KU who made the honor rolls include:

■ FROM CHAPMAN — Gordon James Carroll, son of James and Debra Carroll, liberal arts undergraduate, sophomore; Joanna Linn Hamel, daughter of Greg and Julie Hamel, liberal arts undergraduate, freshman; Emily Elizabeth Markley, daughter of Joe and Sheila Markley, fine arts undergraduate, sophomore.

■ FROM FORT RILEY — Tiffany Renee Fields, daughter of Tongye and Eddie Fields, liberal arts undergraduate, freshman.

■ FROM JUNCTION CITY — James Thomas Craig, son of Thomas and Brenda Craig, liberal arts undergraduate, junior; John Daniel Gary, son of Jeryl Gary, liberal arts undergraduate, junior; Emily Christena Heldstab, daughter of Randy and Chris Heldstab, education undergraduate, senior; Cole Angus Mutz, son of Matthew Mutz, liberal arts undergraduate, freshman; Joseph Andrew Pinaire, son of Richard and Margie Pinaire, liberal arts undergraduate, senior; Sharan Maria Ramos, daughter of Sergio and Debra Ramos, liberal arts undergraduate, senior; Megan Christine Zumbrunn, daughter of Carolyn and Daryl Zumbrunn, pharmacy professional, senior.
Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

This particular issue features an update on illegal immigration. I found this “update” to be inflammatory and prejudiced in its portrayal of Mexican “illegal aliens.”

It’s no secret to you readers that I’m a second-generation Mexican-American whose grandfather came from Mexico to work on the Santa Fe railroad, as did many of his compatriots. Though he may have entered illegally at one point, he married and raised a family right here in Topeka.

Under some of the recommendations that Boyd touts in her newsletter, he never would’ve made it into the country, because he was sponsored by his uncle and not an immediate family member.

In fact, I think this update borders on xenophobia as opposed to being a thoughtful consideration of the immigration dilemma.

What’s most upsetting about Boyd’s anti-immigrant stance is the lack of hard evidence in the newsletter to back up her position. As an academic, I’m looking for numbers and data to convince me. She provides little.

I’d urge Boyd to consult the work of Douglas Massey and his Mexican Migration Project, which has gathered a massive amount of data since 1982. I’d encourage her and others in Congress to read Massey’s “Backfire at the Border: Why Enforcement without Legalization Cannot Stop Illegal Immigration.” This document is particularly pertinent as Boyd proudly champions her resistance to amnesty proposals.

Here’s one statistic that Boyd might find of interest. Massey notes, “As a result, the cost to U.S. taxpayers of making one arrest along the border increased from $300 in 1992 to
$1,700 in 2002, an increase of 467 percent in just a decade.” How much more expensive is an arrest in 2007?

What Boyd doesn’t know or doesn’t care to know is increased border patrol efforts actually lengthen the time undocumented workers spend in the United States. Had she bothered to learn the history of Mexican labor and immigration, which began in 1942 with the Bracero Program, she would know these migrants come to work, but most want to permanently return to Mexico.

According to Massey, return migration before the 1986 Amnesty Act was 45 percent. It’s now 25 percent. Increased “enforcement” forces these migrants to stay in the United States rather than return home.

Amnesty and/or a guest-worker program are the only real solutions to the immigration issue. However, if Boyd has her way, Lazarus’ famous poem would read, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, unless they are Mexican.”

Nicolas Shump is a doctoral student in American studies at The University of Kansas. He can be reached at Nico1225@sunflower.com.
Ten members of the Field Kindley High School debate team traveled to Garden City this past weekend to compete in the Kansas State High School Activity Association’s Class 4A State Debate Tournament. The tournament was held at Garden City High School on Friday and Saturday.

In the 4-speaker division, seniors David Northup, Michael Hearson, and Katie Wright, and sophomore Boya Abudu placed fifth overall. Northup and Hearson comprised the affirmative half of the team while Wright and Abudu represented the negative.

The two alternates to the FKHS team were junior Kari Vannoster and freshman Jordan Hayes. Northup-Hearson and Wright-Abudu had identical records of four wins and three losses, for a combined record of eight wins and six losses to place fifth, close behind Paola who had an identical record but won two more ballots than FKHS.

The local team came very close to winning a state trophy. Tonganoxie placed third with nine wins, only one better than FKHS, and second place Fort Scott had ten wins, just two wins ahead of FKHS. Buhler High School won the championship trophy by outdistancing all 4A schools with 13 wins and only one loss.

In the 2-speaker division, senior Natasha Battle and junior Karli Aitken missed the quarterfinal debate by 4 speaker points. Battle and Aitken won their first four debates and were one of three undefeated teams going into the last two rounds. Forty-four teams from 20 schools competed in the division.

The FKHS duo was then defeated in the last two debates keeping them out of the quarterfinal debates. Battle and Aitken completed the tournament with four wins to two losses with 30 speaker points. The cut off for advancing was four wins, two losses, and 26 speaker points. Battle and Aitken’s final record was good enough to be ranked 13 out of the 44 teams in their division.

Seniors Valorie Hathcoat and Rodney Close had a rocky beginning losing their first two debates, but then rebounded and finished the tournament with an even three wins and three losses. Hathcoat and Close finished in the top half, tied for 21.

“I am very pleased with how everyone performed at State,” commented FKHS debate coach Darrel Harbaugh.

“I know that some of my students hoped for a state trophy, so did I, but everyone had very respectful records and came very close. I’m happy with the way they debated, and more importantly, with the way they represented themselves and their school.”

At all KSHSAA state debate events participating schools must provide judges. Three ex-FKHS debaters made the trip across the state to judge. They were Stephanie Irwin and Jordan Williams, currently attending the University of Kansas, and Keith Wilson, currently attending Pittsburg State University.

The state debate tournament concludes this year’s debate season. The FKHS forensic season begins this weekend with the Augusta High School Invitational Speech Tournament.
FKHS students will compete in student congress on Friday and individual speaking and acting events on Saturday.