During its annual spring exhibition and competition, the University of Kansas Department of Art honored students with $255,370 in scholarships and awards. A Kansas University faculty committee of Cima Katz (chair), Jerry Lubensky, Alison Luoma and Yoonmi Nam judged the nominated students' art projects. They were displayed May 4-6 on the third and fourth floors of the art and design building.

Forty art students, including four incoming freshmen, received $222,240 in scholarships of varying amounts, and 10 students received $33,130 in awards of varying amounts.

Students honored include: Nicholas Allen Perry, son of Bill and Libby Perry, ArtBFA senior, received the Hollander Family Foundation Award. Nicholas is a graduate of St. Marys High School.
Three county residents seek state representative seat

By SUSAN BERG
Staff writer

Three candidates have filed for the position of State Representative of District 70.

Current Representative Don Dahl decided not to seek another term in the House of Representatives which left residents in the district wondering who would step up and run.

By noon June 10, it was evident that there were people interested in the serving.

Three candidates stepped up, all Marion County residents — two from Marion — and one from Hillsboro. Today, the law office which means voters will go to the polls Aug. 5 to make the decision.

J. Robert “Bob” Brookens

The attorney has practiced in Marion and Hillsboro for nearly 30 years.

Brookens began his law career in the Marion office when the firm was known as Morse & Bat. In 1985, Brookens began serving people in the Hillsboro area by working out of the downtown Hillsboro office which had been there since 1956.

Later, Brookens was invited to join the law firm and his name was added to the firm’s name. Today, the law firm is known as Brookens & Collett.

At 5:05 p.m. June 9, Brookens overheard a conversation in his office regarding Dahl deciding not to seek another term.

The thought entered his mind that maybe he should, so he slept on it.

“I checked around to see who was running,” Brookens said, and thought, ‘Maybe I should run’. Somebody needs to step up to the position.”

The next day, Brookens filed.

Brookens said he doesn’t “have an ax to grind,” with no specific agenda other than being a representative for his constituents. “My main goal is to be a good, responsible legislator — one who thinks things through,” he said.

In 1980, Brookens ran for Marion County Attorney and narrowly lost to Marion native Doug Westergus.

Brookens’ business partner, Keith Collett, is a board member of USD 408 and Brookens didn’t think it would be appropriate for him to run for the same office.

With the commitment to run for this state office, Brookens said he is willing to think independently and will listen to constituents.

“There has to be a balanced budget. Legislators need to determine what is appropriate and fair,” he said. “People are pulling on all sides with legitimate concerns. The trick is to determine how to spend public money.”

Brookens doesn’t have any preconceived notions regarding some of the issues and wants to learn more about them before taking sides.

“Clean is not only the wave of the future but the attitude society should have,” he said. He said he doesn’t have a firm judgment regarding coal-fired plants but decision-makers need to be on the side of good stewardship.

“As Christians, we need to be good stewards,” Brookens said, which includes making appropriate decisions regarding clean water, clean air, and taking care of our children.

Brookens grew up in Westmoreland, graduating as valedictorian of his class.

He graduated from the University of Kansas and taught music education — both band and choral.

Although he enjoyed his profession, Brookens decided he wanted to follow in his father’s footsteps and attended law school. He graduated in 1978 from the Washburn University School of Law.

Brookens moved to Marion where he had a solo practice until 1982, when he joined Morse & Batt law firm.

Brookens married wife, Anita, in 1983.

He has served on the Marion High School site council for about 10 years, the Marion Elementary School Building Improvement Team for more than six years, and was active in the Boy Scouts for 25 years, serving many of those years as den leader, cub master, scout master, and assistant master.

He also is a member of the Marion Kiwanis Club and Eastmoor United Methodist Church of Marion.

The Brookens’ have four sons — Nathan Hoffman of Marion, Andrew Brookens of Olathe, Justin Brookens, a senior at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, and Michael Brookens, a junior at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.

Brookens said he was just like everyone else regarding the juggling of a career, family, and serving constituents in Topeka.

“I am well-grounded and stable,” Brookens said, “with a terrific staff, and a supportive legal partner and wife.

“This is important to me and I will make the time to serve.”

Roger Hannaford III

Hannaford has been with the family business, Hannaford Abstract & Title Company of Marion, for 28 years, currently serving as its president.

A Marion native, Hannaford graduated from Marion High School and went on to earn a journalism and mass communications degree in 1976 from Kansas State University.

Hannaford said he always has been interested in politics and has helped with many campaigns.

His grandfather, Lawrence Slocombe of Peabody, was a state representative until his death in 1962. “My grandparents spent as much time in Topeka as they did at home,” Hannaford said.

Hannaford said he decided to run for office because he wants the opportunity to debate the issues and be a part of the solutions.

Another reason Hannaford threw his hat in the political arena was because Rep. Dahl had called Hannaford and asked him if he was interested in running for office.

“It was an honor and a privilege to be contacted by Rep. Dahl, and to be asked,” Hannaford said.

After much discussion with his family, Hannaford decided to give it a try.

For Hannaford, the most important issue facing Kansas legislators is economic development.
As an owner of a small business, Hannaford said he understands what it takes to meet a payroll and the challenges of providing affordable health insurance.

"Improving our communities and our state starts with well-paying jobs," Hannaford said. "We have to have economic development to grow. Grants or loans — whatever is needed to stimulate the area."

He continued that the 70th District had an abundant agriculture area which makes it important to work on those issues in Topeka.

"The education system also needs to continue to be strong," Hannaford said.

Another important issue to Hannaford is energy which needs to be affordable and abundant, to meet our needs.

"There's not much we can do about gasoline but energy is something we can do something about," he said.

Hannaford said he would like to see legislators debate the options and doesn't want to wait "until the lights won't come on."

Aware of the commitment to the seat, if elected, Hannaford said owning his own business gives him the needed flexibility to serve in Topeka but he's not going to be gone all of the time.

See **Representative**, Page 7

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/ **Representative: Education is important issue for Spangler**

Continued from Page 2

"My intent isn't to be a full-time legislator," Hannaford said. "I want to live among the constituents."

He continued that he would be a good representative because he's a good listener.

"There are two sides to every issue and I'm willing to listen to them," Hannaford said. "I'm looking forward to making those decisions."

Hannaford and his wife, Sally, have been married for 29 years. They have three children, Mike, Helmer, who is the head women's basketball coach at Butler Community College, El Dorado; Scott Hannaford lives in Overland Park, and Jill Hannaford is a senior at KSU, Manhattan. The Hannafords also have one grandson.

Hannaford served on the USD 408 school board for eight years, and is a member of Marion Kiwanis Club, serving as the club's president and lieutenant governor for the district, and currently is an executive committee member of Kansas Land Title Association.

"I see this as an opportunity and challenge of a lifetime, an adventure. I wasn't going to pass up this opportunity to run for state representative," he said.

**William “Bill” Spangler**

A retired microbiologist, Spangler returned to his hometown of Burns eight years ago.

He served on the Peabody-Burns USD 398 school board for four years and decided not to seek a second term because he was considering the state representative position.

"I thought I might be able to do more on a state level," he said.

Spangler said he owes the people of his district because they supported him while he attended local schools.

For Spangler, education is one of the more important issues. He said he wasn't necessarily in favor of increasing costs but would like to have more value for the money that is spent now.

"I'd like to see an increase in the quality of education, maybe with fewer but more qualified teachers," Spangler said. He continued he would like to see less emphasis on sports and more on education and knows that would be difficult to change.

Spangler also would like to see more steps taken to curb the use of drugs — especially in schools.

With a biology and chemistry background, Spangler said he would be in favor of a coal-fired plant as long as it emitted a low concentration of sulphur and was a clean-burning plant.

"I would vote for it," he said.

Another controversial issue, Spangler said, was alternative fuel plants.

"The reason for the controversy is because by using the agricultural product, it puts farmers in a bad place because it drives up the cost of the product and increases the demand but it takes away the profits from the livestock industry," he said.

Spangler said he would promote alternative fuel plants but would require the operations to recycle the by-products and make sure some of the profits are used to research alternative feed stocks.

A graduate of Burns High School, Spangler received a master's degree in microbiology and biochemistry at Kansas State University.

He worked for two years for U.S. Public Health System in Cincinnati, Ohio, developing a microbiology medium for testing fecal chloroforms in water. Spangler returned to school at Oregon State University and earned a Ph.D. in microbiology, biochemistry, and microbial physiology.

He then worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Maryland, researching the effects of pesticide on micro-organisms.

For 10 years, Spangler worked at Mid-West Research Institute in Kansas City, Mo., and studied anaerobe organisms in sewage. He said he is most proud of his work with degradation of methyl mercury.

During the fish scare 20 years ago at area lakes and reservoirs, the research institute studied the process of methylation, Spangler said, to determine how the methyl mercury was formed.

"In the process, we found that it wasn't the big problem that everybody thought it was," he said. A bacteria was found that destroyed the methyl mercury, thus eliminating the problem.

Spangler has a sister who lives in Newton and is engaged to Deanna Mahaffey of Burns.

As a state representative, Spangler said it was important to him to hear from constituents so he can help with the problems in Topeka.

"I never felt well-represented in the past. I haven't felt anyone really cared about what I thought. I do care what people think and if possible will try to do something about it," Spangler said. "I'm more about serving the people who elect me instead of serving myself. I don't have a vested interest other than doing what's right."
Arnold receives national honor society scholarship

Emily Arnold, an aerospace engineering major in the University of Kansas School of Engineering, has been named a Tau Beta Pi Scholar. She will receive a $2,000 scholarship.

Tau Beta Pi Scholars are selected for high levels of scholarship, campus leadership and service, and promise of future contributions to the engineering profession. All scholars are members of Tau Beta Pi, the world’s largest engineering honor society.

Arnold currently is assisting with the construction of the Meridian UAV, an uncrewed aerial vehicle designed to carry data collecting equipment in polar regions, at KU’s Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets.

She is the daughter of Don and Gayla Ratzlaff of Hillsboro.
KU names graduation candidates

The University of Kansas recently announced the names of more than 4,500 candidates for degrees this spring. Derby students included:

Jaime R. Andrews, daughter of Neil and Sandy Andrews, bachelor of arts/speech-language-hearing; Amanda L. Bailey, daughter of Lori and Richard Bailey, master of arts/museum studies; Brandi Marie Brock, daughter of Ron and Trina Brock, bachelor of arts/psychology.

Vanessa Leigh Buehne, daughter of Steve and Alicia Buehne, bachelor of science in education; Mathew Ryan Davis, son of Rhonda and Mark Davis, bachelor of science in education; Vaughn Charles Fry, son of Monte and Carri Fry, bachelor of general studies/theatre and film.

Rick Joseph Goscha, son of Irene Goscha, doctor of philosophy/social work; Polly Katherine Holcomb, doctor of physical therapy; Ryan Alan Lester, son of Joyce Lester, bachelor of science in environmental studies; John Henry Mahoney, son of Ron and Sylinda Mahoney, master of accounting and information systems.

Jennifer L. Meadows, daughter of Kent and Virgene Meadows, master of accounting and information systems; Melanie Rae Nivens, daughter of Keith Nivens and Sandra Nivens, doctor of pharmacy; Tara Larin Price, daughter of Gabrielle Turner, bachelor of arts/anthropology.

Anna Olivia Schwieger, daughter of Ethel Schwieger, doctor of medicine; Matthew L. Spencer, son of Timothy and Barbara Spencer, bachelor of science in business/accounting and bachelor of science in business/finance; Ryan James Stanfill, son of Kenneth Stanfill, bachelor of arts/communication studies.

Kelli J. Stout, daughter of Wayne and Debbie Stout, bachelor of arts/political science and bachelor of arts/Spanish; Brett A. Unruh, son of Richard and Maretta Unruh, bachelor of arts/biology; Cody Scott Dwight Wamsley, son of Joan Wamsley, juris doctor; Amber Marie Wanklyn, daughter of Mark and Sandy Venskus, doctor of pharmacy.

Jessica Ann Westerman, daughter of Jim Westerman, master of occupational therapy; Kimberly Catherine Atchinson, daughter of Kerry Atchinson, bachelor of arts/political science and bachelor of arts/religious studies; Jeffrey Lynn Gum, doctor of medicine; Erin Viola Slagle, master of science in education.

Jarrod Thomas Panter, master of public administration; Brian Mathew Wells, son of Gary Wells, bachelor of fine arts/design; Matthew Scott Leiszler, doctor of medicine.
LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — A judge has ruled in favor of a woman who filed a lawsuit against Kansas basketball player Sherron Collins concerning an assault she said took place in an elevator.

Douglas County District Court Judge Jack Murphy signed a journal entry in the case Monday granting judgment for damages in excess of $75,000 to Jessica J. Brown.

Murphy ruled in Brown’s favor because Collins had failed to file a legal response to the lawsuit since it was filed May 14.

In a news release, Collins said he wasn’t “fully aware of what was expected of me in the civil suit and what my responsibilities were in that matter. I will do my best to correct this and to prove that this allegation is not true.”

In the lawsuit, Brown accused Collins of exposing himself and rubbing against her on May 18, 2007, in an elevator at a University of Kansas apartment complex.

No criminal charges have been filed.

A court hearing is scheduled for July 8 to determine the exact amount of damages to be awarded, a court clerk said.

Collins, a guard from Chicago, is the top returning player from a national title-winning Kansas team, which lost three underclassmen — Brandon Rush, Mario Chalmers and Darrell Arthur — to the NBA Draft.
New FieldTurf awaits first test at Benedictine College

By HANK LAYTON
hanklayton@npgo.com

In the past, Benedictine College football players might have looked forward to the rain. Too much action on a muddy field would cause damage to a grass field — so dark clouds may have translated to no practice.

Not any more. The installation of FieldTurf was completed in April on the BC football field, and head coach Larry Wilcox said he was anxious for his first practice to test it out. "It will enhance game-day conditions for players and fans alike," said Wilcox, who will blow his whistle for the first time on the new field surface on August 17.

Wilcox said that FieldTurf — the leading brand — will drain a field almost instantly and is even being installed in the University of Kansas' new football complex.

"This product is the best for playing conditions and practice conditions," said Wilcox — who added that the most important aspect of FieldTurf may be safety. A more consistent surface, he said, translates into fewer injuries because the ground is not so "hard and compact." Also, he added, it makes athletes feel faster.

The project was funded from boosters and former players, and Atchison resident Joe Kerr spearheaded the installation. BC becomes the eighth team in the HAAC to install artificial turf.
It will cost more to attend the six state universities in Kansas next year.

The Kansas Board of Regents on Thursday, approved tuition increases ranging from 4.9 percent to 6 percent for the universities and extended a program at the University of Kansas that sets a fixed four-year tuition rate for incoming freshmen.

Under the so-called tuition compact, University of Kansas freshmen will pay $229.25 per credit hour this fall, and that rate will not change through the 2011-12 school year. That's an increase of $244 a semester, or 7.6 percent, more than 2007 freshmen paid.

Juniors, seniors, transfers and graduate students will pay 6 percent more in tuition at Kansas next fall, or an additional $175.50 a semester for a student taking 15 hours. Nonresident juniors, seniors and transfers would pay an additional $460.50 per semester.

The regents also approved a 5.9 percent increase or $164.55 per credit, for undergraduate students taking 15 hours at Kansas State. In May, Kansas State had proposed imposing most of the increases on juniors and seniors, but that plan was later dropped.

Tuition will not increase for Kansas State students on the university's Salina campus, which emphasizes technology.

Tuition rate increases approved for other universities, all based on undergraduates taking 15 credit hours, were Wichita State, 5.9 percent or $116.25 per credit hour; Emporia State, 4.9 percent, or $77 per credit; Pittsburg State, 5.8 percent or $93; and 5.5 percent, or $71.25 at Fort Hays State.

When representatives of the universities sought the tuition increases in May, they told the Regents that their schools needed the money for adequate pay raises and to sustain existing programs. They blamed the need for increases on the Legislature's decision to appropriate $10 million less for their operating budgets than Gov. Kathleen Sebelius had proposed.
Adam Podschun

Graduates From Two Universities

On May 18th, Adam Podschun participated in a graduation doubleheader. In the morning, he took part in the University of Kansas School of Engineering commencement exercises, where he received a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering. Later that afternoon, Adam took part in the graduation ceremonies at Baker University, in Baldwin City. He received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with minors in Physics and Chemistry. This last school year, Adam received the Merill A. Jones Award in Petroleum Engineering, the Outstanding Design in Petroleum Engineering Award, and the Outstanding Senior in Petroleum.

Adam, his wife Virginia, and their new son, Lendy, are now making their home in Weatherford, Oklahoma. Adam has taken a job as a Reservoir Engineer with Chesapeake Energy. Adam is the son of Rick and Valerie Podschun. He is the grandson of Jerry and the late Clara Podscht of Anthony, and Fred and Florence Howie of Harper.
We are so fortunate to have missed all of the wild weather that has been striking all around us! It’s getting much too close for comfort anymore. Especially the one that went through near Water Well Road just south of Salina on Wednesday evening (June 10, 2008) causing damage in its aftermath. There were three different large storm cells that moved through the area that night just one following the other. One of those is what continued to the east and I believe was what hit Chapman just a short time later and then also hit Manhattan. Assaria had a lot of tree damage and at least two poles down causing a power outage for part of the town for all night and for a big part of the next day (Thursday, June 11, 2008). My niece was on her way home from Wichita to Concordia on Wednesday night and she was made aware of the weather turning violent by a cell phone call from her brother so she turned around at the Mentor exit on I-35 and came to our house to wait out the storm, which she did, but after the first wave went through we all thought she could make it to her brother’s in Salina, as we were already out of power and of course they were still on ok. So she headed for their house and left and about 10 or 15 minutes later the second wave hit and that was what hit just south of Salina at Water Well Road and that was about where she was located by then. I called her brother’s house and she had made it ok but she said it was terrible getting through there. I know it was a wild night and I’m hoping this weather will settle down soon!

The weather turned out nice and was good for all of the Smoky Hill River Festival that was held in Oakdale Park in Salina this week-end June 12 through 15. Friday was almost perfect temperatures. Saturday was good with a nice breeze that kept the festival goers cool and then Sunday was hot and humid. I made it in for most of the day Saturday and got to see all of the art and crafts and was able to listen to several of the musical groups. It’s always an enjoyable experience!

Don’t forget the Assaria/Sunny Slope City Wide Yard/Garage Sales that will be held all over the city on Saturday June 21, 2008 at 8 a.m.— 1 p.m. Maps will be available by the street on the north side by the driveway of the Assaria Branch of First Bank Kansas. Hope for great weather and lots of “treasure hunters”! Come to Assaria for lots of bargains and fun!!

The University of Kansas hosted a state recognition program Sunday June 1, for about 400 academically talented seventh grade students selected for the 2008 Duke University talent Identification Program. Selection is based on college entrance exam scores that are in the top five percent while the students are in middle school. Students participate by taking either SAT or ACT national achievement tests. Each Duke TIP student receives a medallion. SES students Brittany A. Unruh and Haley VanAmburg of Assaria and Elizabeth M. Lockhart of Gypsum were honored at the ceremony. Congratulations to these students!!

Kathy Shogren, Assaria, is displaying her nature photography throughout the month of June at the Dillon Nature Center at 3002 East 30th St. (across the street from Stutzmans) in Hutchinson. All of her images are taken in Kansas. She is keen in capturing the finer details of insects through macro photography. Included with this show are also landscapes and flora. The Visitor’s Center is open for viewing of this show on weekdays, 8 am to 7 pm; Saturdays, 10 am to 5 pm; Sundays, 1 pm to 5 pm. Kathy is a member of the ArtEtc, Art Club. Great work, Kathy!

We have exciting news in our family as our oldest daughter Linda Walter is engaged to be married in September! We are already getting busy with wedding plans this summer and I know the pace will pick up as the date of Sept. 27 becomes closer. He is Doug Beech, Manhattan (formerly of Albion, New York) and a very nice man and we’ll be happy to have him...
as a part of our family. He is with the Kansas 4-H Foundation so another in the family to wear K-State purple!
Tour reveals start of progress
Partners committed to 2012 cleanup completion of SFAAP

ELYN J. JONES
EJONES@THEWORLDCO.INFO

The Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant, seen on a bus tour Thursday, is a place where lush, untouched greenery contrasts with acres of neglected World War-era buildings, pitted concrete and other scenes of industrial decay.

But from time to time, the tour came upon a third landscape, one at which the plant’s new owners have begun the process of transforming brownfield sites into future residential neighborhoods, commercial centers or parkland.

Sunflower Redevelopment LLC acquired the 9,065-acre plant south of De Soto in August 2005. With the federal government’s transfer of the plant to the partnership of Kessinger Hunter of Kansas City, Mo., International Risk Group Inc. of Denver and Prairie Center Investors LLC of Overland Park came a commitment to clean a property polluted from a half-century of rocket propellant production that started in World War II.

Sunflower Redevelopment

SEE STRUCTURE. PAGE 3A
Progress has been made in the cleanup of the Sunflower site, but the sign warns that much needs to be done.

Structure burn program completed at SFAAP

FROM PAGE 1A

arranged Thursday’s tour to update De Soto city officials and business leaders on the status of the cleanup.

Although the cleanup got off to a slow start, the partners are committed to completing the environmental remediation by the end of 2012, said Sunflower Redevelopment executive director Kise Randall, who led the tour.

“We’ve got the resources and the commitment on our side to make that happen,” she said.

Environmental regulators, led by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, have to share that commitment to realize the 2012 completion date, Randall told De Soto City Administrator Pat Guilfoyle.

The first three years of the cleanup focused on ridding the plant of explosive residue contaminating structures and sewer lines.

When the plant was transferred to Sunflower Redevelopment, about 1,000 structures possibly contaminated with explosive residue remained. Those structures were burned after being stripped of asbestos, fluorescents and other hazards because of the risk of explosion to workers if razed in traditional ways.

Randall said that part of the cleanup was finished with the burning of more than 110 buildings and 1,489 foundations, sumps and drains. However, area residents will still see columns of smoke raising from the plant as the environmental team led by International Risk Group burns 36 miles of sewer line possibly containing explosive residue and pastures to restore the prairie environment.

Work is now under way to bust up and stockpile concrete from the explosively cleansed foundations and other concrete structures, Randall said.

“We’ll have 11 or 12 large hills of concrete on the property,” she said.

Those with traces of pesticide or other pollutants will be shipped off-site, while the rest will probably be used as base material for parking lots and other future development on the plant, Randall said.

With the burn program completed, 1,000 aging buildings still dot the plant.

Randall said it was the developer’s responsibility to deal with those structures without state or federal regulation.

Although some soil cleanup has already been completed, that part of the cleanup will intensify in the next two years, Randall said.

There are 100 sites spread throughout the plant where explosives, sulfates, nitrates, heavy metals, organic compounds and pesticides are known or thought to pollute the ground.

Randall said an estimated 279,000 cubic yards would be dug up, treated and removed.

The environmental issues of about a third of the sites are well-documented, another third have some documentation but need additional research, while little is know of the remaining third, Randall said.

At each site, Sunflower Redevelopment’s environmental team must propose a cleanup and verification method to regulators, remove contaminated soil, fill in excavations and confirm over time that the remediation was successful. Only when all those steps are completed can the site be
certified as clean and developed, Randall said.

Generally, the plan is to clean from the plant’s exterior to its interior, in part because of the commitment to donate 2,000 acres along Sunflower’s eastern, southern and western boundary to the Johnson County Parks and Recreation District, Randall said. Some sites on higher ground would be addressed earlier to prevent runoff from re-contaminating already cleaned ground, she said.

Among the areas scheduled for cleanup in 2010 and 2011 is the 200 acres to be transferred to Kansas University for a life science research park and an adjacent 250 acres Sunflower Redevelopment is reserving for the same use.

All areas are to be cleaned to residential standards with the exception of landfills. In select places, that would dictate digging as deep as 18 feet down to remove soil near the bottom of basement drains, Randall said.

“As the end owners of the property, there is no incentive for us to cut corners on the cleanup,” she said. “We want people to know it’s safe to live here.”