POLAR POSITIONS

JUST HOW UNCERTAIN IS THE SCIENCE?

"I think it's awfully vain of us to believe that we can control the climate of the earth. I haven't fully made myself a full student of all the science. Essentially, what I know is what I read the newspaper."

JON CALLEN, president of Edmiston Oil Co., Wichita

By DUANE SCHrag
Salina Journal

Admit it, you're not a scientist.
So what you know about global warming came from someone else (please don't say you made up your mind because you remember there being more snow when you were a kid, or, worse yet, because we had a really big ice storm this year).
And because the science behind the theories of climate change is so complex — calculating the re-entry trajectory of an orbiting satellite is, by comparison, trivial — the question for most people turns on which expert they believe.

The believers
Climate Change Believers — those who accept the theory that human actions are significantly accelerating global warming, and if unchecked likely will have severe consequences — are backed by some of the most prestigious scientific organizations in the world.

When Rod Bremby, secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, explained to a Salina audience last month why he believes two new coal-fired power plants should not be built in Holcomb, he named a handful of those groups who warn that trends in carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel must be reversed: the Geological Society of America, the American Geophysical Union, the American Institute of Physics, the American Meteorological Society.

The doubters
But many Climate Change Doubters insist there is real consensus among scientists on this question. Rep. Deena Horst, R-Salina, said during a legislative forum last month that she thinks the experts are evenly divided.

Indeed, the Doubters have stressed the complexity and uncertainty. And they are cer-

tainly buoyed by the Global Warming Petition Project, which claims it has "obtained the support and signatures of more than 19,000 American scientists for a petition opposed — entirely on scientific grounds published in peer reviewed journals — to the hypothesis of 'human-caused global warming.'"

So who are these scientists?
The list, which is posted on the Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine's Web site (www.oism.org), can be downloaded by state. The Salina Journal downloaded the Kansas section — 156 names — and tried to find out what they did and, if possible, interview them.

About two-thirds of the names came up in Internet searches. They represented a variety of professions — geologists, agronomists, oil exploration and processing, physicians, even meteorologists.

Virtually none appeared to be active in research with climate change implications.

The only one who did appear said he never signed the peti-

"These are the top scientists in the nation," he said.

County:
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"I don't know how they got my name," said Bala Subramaniam, director of the Center for Environmentally Beneficial Catalysis at Kansas University.

"The research I am working on is to prevent carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere."

Subramaniam said he contacted the petition project administrator.

"I got a quick response that they would remove my name," he said.

It's awfully vain of us
Most of the people contacted for the story acknowledged signing the petition.

"I don't know if there's any reason to debate whether the climate is getting warmer or not," said Jon Callen, president of Edmiston Oil Co., Wichita.

Callen said he has an engineering degree from the University of Kansas, and a geology
Confusion makes some Kansans hesitant to act

FROM PAGE A1

degree from Kansas State University.

“I think it’s awfully vain of us to believe that we can con-
trol the climate of the Earth,” he said. But he acknowledged
that he really hasn’t studied the science behind the climate
change debate.

“I haven’t made myself a full
student of all the science,” he
said. “Essentially, what I know
is what I read in the newspaper.”

Ernest Angino has been a
student of the subject. Angino,
retired geology professor, has
studied the polar ice and has
published work on arctic tem-
peratures. He subscribes to the
view that what we’re seeing is
a natural, 1,500-year climate
cycle.

“If you think of a 1,500-year
cycle — 600 AD when it got
warm the first time, add 1,500
and voila, if you do fifth-grade
math, here you are in the 21st
century and it’s warming,” Angino
said. “This (human-caused
global warming) is going to turn out to be one of
the major scientific hoaxes ...
It’s politicians taking this thing
and running with it.”

Thornton Anderson, a
retired geologist from Wichita
who worked all his adult life
in the petroleum business, dis-
missed the Believers, also.

“There are relatively few
geologists that believe in
global warming,” he said. “It’s
not anywhere near the seri-
ous problem they are talking
about.”

Confusion about data

That’s not the position of
the Geological Society of America.
The group adopted a position
paper in October 2006, saying
interpretations of the geological
record show that changes in
the atmospheric composition,
“especially with respect to car-
bon dioxide and other green-
house gases, is unprecedented
in Earth’s recent history.”

Several people who signed
the petition said they reject
the popular climate change theory,
because they believe the con-
clusions are driven by data col-
clected in the past century, and
that when the geological record
is examined current tempera-
tures and carbon dioxide levels
are nothing unusual.

“They’re only looking at data
from the last 50 to 100 years,”
said Heidi Petermann, Over-
land Park, who has a degree in
meteorology and was a me-
teorological technician with the
National Weather Service in
Michigan.

“But they’re not.

“Specifically, the Geological
Society of America position
paper continues, “the carbon
dioxide content of the atmo-
sphere is higher than at any
time in the past 650,000 years
and probably higher than at
any time in the past 30 million
years.”

Dave Reihlan is a meteorolo-
ist at WIBW in Topeka. He
said people who see human-
influenced climate change
aren’t following the science.

“They have other reasons
for making the claim,” Reihlan
said. “They purportedly base it
on science, but when that sci-
ence is scrutinized, it is discov-
ered it is flawed, manipulated
and sometimes made up.”

Kent Craighead, a math pro-
fessor at Dodge City Commu-
nity College, said only part of
the story is being told.

“I think there’s a lot of infor-
maton being reported that
is truly one-sided,” he said.
“There really isn’t any proof
this is caused by man-made
gases.”

Yet, here is what the Ameri-
can Meteorological Society
says in the climate change
statement it adopted last year.

Our effect on the climate

In recent decades, humans
have increasingly affected
local, regional, and global cli-
mate ...

“Strong observational evi-
dence and results from model-
ing studies indicate that, at
least over the last 50 years,
human activities are a major

“If it becomes an issue
of what you believe or
what you buy into.”

ERNEST ANGINO

retired geology professor

who are warning of the threat
posed by climate change?

“This statement is consistent
with the vast weight of cur-
rent scientific understanding
as expressed in assessments
and reports from the Intergov-
ernmental Panel on Climate
Change, the U.S. National
Academy of Sciences and the
U.S. Climate Change Science
Program.”

Mark Larson, the morning
meteorologist at KWCH-TV
in Wichita, said he is familiar
with the Global Warming Peti-
tion Project. Indeed, a “Mark
Larson” appears in the Kansas
list. This one doesn’t count
himself as a Climate Change
Doubter.

“I think we would be totally
remiss if we did not take active
steps to really reduce our
impact on the environment,”
he said. “To say that human-
kind has not had some type of
impact on the global climate, to
me, is ludicrous ... I was on the
mailing list.”

Arthur Robinson, a chem-
ist who is president of the
Oregon Institute of Science
and Medicine, is in charge of
the petition. In response to an
e-mail query, he said claims
of people who say they were
wrongly added to the list will
be reviewed.

Larson said he fully recog-
nizes that the issue is an emo-
tional one, and because of its
tremendous complexity comes
with various uncertainties.
He points out that some of his
peers raise legitimate ques-
tions about some of the conclu-
sions that humans are contrib-
uting to global warming.

And there’s no shortage of
instances in which people are
wrongly pointing to global
warming as the cause of some
change, he said.

“But to me, there are other
pieces of data that are irrefut-
able,” Larson said.

The debate changes

When the climate change
alarm bells were first sounded,
people who doubted the claim
suggested Earth’s climate
wasn’t warming at all. The
warming trend is now univer-
sally accepted. What’s more
likely to be debated is the cause
and consequence.

“According to what I can tell,
it’s been way overplayed,” said
Joe Eagleman, who retired five
years ago from the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Kansas.

He doesn’t see the warming as posing a serious threat.

“I think there is no convincing evidence it would be catastrophic,” he said. “Many places in the world would be improved.”

Actually, what scientists at the American Geophysical Union see are growing problems.

“In the next 50 years, even the lower limit of impending climate change — an additional global mean warming of 1 degree centigrade above the last decade — is far beyond the range of climate variability experienced during the past 1,000 years and poses global problems in planning for and adapting to it.”

And if the temperature goes up even more?

“Warming greater than 2 degrees above 19th century levels is projected to be disruptive, reducing global agricultural productivity, causing widespread loss of biodiversity and, if sustained over centuries, melting much of the Greenland ice sheet with ensuing rise in sea level of several meters.”

An overplayed card

Some of the Kansans who signed the petition suggested there is too much uncertainty to know whom to believe.

“It becomes an issue of what you believe or what you buy into,” Angino said.

The American Meteorological Society, which takes pains to emphasize the uncertainty, says that card is sometimes overplayed.

“Informed policy decisions of government and industry demand unbiased assessments of scientific results by the scientific community,” the group says in a position paper adopted in 2003. “The nature of science is such that there is rarely total agreement among scientists. Individual scientific statements and papers — the validity of some of which has yet to be assessed adequately — can be exploited in the policy debate and can leave the impression that the scientific community is sharply divided on issues where there is, in reality, a strong scientific consensus.”

Reporter Duane Schrag can be reached at 822-1422 or by e-mail at dschrag@salina.com.
Students from KU help with Greensburg recovery

By The Associated Press

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

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

The group of architectural students built the structure in a warehouse on the site of the old Farmland Industries plant. They started in January, gathering wood for the project at the former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant in De Soto. This week, they began disassembling their creation to get it ready for the 400-mile trip to Greensburg, which was mostly destroyed when a massive tornado struck the western town last May.

The drive to Greensburg is normally only 270 miles, but the journey to transport the building will take longer because the group will go east past Wellsville before heading west to avoid overpasses and narrow roads.

The 22 graduate students will live in southwest Kansas starting Monday and stay through May 4 — the one-year anniversary of the tornado.

The students will live in dorms at Pratt Community College and drive a half-hour to Greensburg each morning. They couldn’t stay in Greensburg because of a shortage of buildings.

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

One of the students, Zack Arndt, said their deadline is May 4, but “we’d like to be done a couple of weeks before that, just so we can tie up some loose ends.”

The building will be named 547 Arts Center. It is a direct reference to the date the tornado ravaged the town: 5-4-2007.
KU to honor 20 Atchison County high school students

Twenty Atchison County high school seniors will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, during a dinner program in the Atchison Heritage Conference Center, 710 S. Ninth St.

They will be honored by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

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

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

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

Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals.

Honorees' names are listed at www.news.ku.edu/2008/march/13/khpatchison.shtml.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event.

Chad and Carri Ball of Atchison will be the site and county coordinators.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.
KU students work to clean up campus lake

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

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

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

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

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

The water quality issue is caused by the use of fertilizer on campus that then drains into the lake.

The fertilizer encourages algae growth, which can trap garbage and change the color of the lake. It also can cause an odor.

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

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

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

“The places where people could sit, where there’s grass, (are) often muddied because of a lot of foot traffic and a lack of paths,” Porter said.

“In general, we want to make Potter Lake the icon it once was and really restore what it once had.”

During the past 100 years, Potter Lake has been home to athletic events, including swimming, diving and fishing. But since the lake has become so polluted — cars were pulled out of it in the mid-1950s — those activities are not advised. The lake once was 16 feet deep but now averages less than 3 feet deep.

While there’s not yet a price tag for how much these improvements would cost, Kenny and Porter would like to fund the project through the Student Senate Reserve Account. The account is built up from student fees not expended at the end of the year. The account has a few hundred thousand dollars right now.
On to state

These three Iola High School students, Eileen Chase, left, Kellen Bolt and Laura Berg, as well as Teagan Perrymeant, will go the University of Kansas in Lawrence May 3 for the state high school journalism competition. They qualified in regional judging at Pittsburg State University. Chase was first in yearbook photography and Berg was first in yearbook design and second in advertisement design. Perrymeant received honorable mention for newspaper design and Bolt honorable mention for sports photography.
Legislators discuss immigration, education concerns

BY RACHAEL BOSSOW
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Representatives to the Kansas Legislature fielded questions from local residents and spoke about their activities during the 2008 Legislative session during a breakfast meeting on Saturday sponsored by the Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce.

Rep. Kenny Wilk, RLansing, said in his opening statement that the event helped legislators as much as it did their constituents, because it gave the legislators a chance to hear residents' concerns. Wilk spoke about a corporate tax package that will go to the House floor this week and could raise $22.5 million from multi-state companies.

"It's all about trying to incent an investment in Kansas and make us more productive," Wilk said.

The tax package would put multi-state companies whose headquarters are not in Kansas on the same page as companies that do have headquarters within the state.

Wilk said there is also a debate on a policy for nonprofit agencies that are tax-exempt.

TIMES PHOTO/RACHAEL BOSSOW

Rep. Candy Ruff, D-Leavenworth, speaks about the coal-fired power plant planned near Holcomb, Kan., at a legislative breakfast on Saturday that was sponsored by the Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce.

"There are currently 17,000 non-profit agencies that get exemptions," Wilk said. "It's out of control, and we are debating a policy on that."

Rep. Marti Crow, D-Leavenworth, called this the "slowest legislative session in 12 years," saying

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Legislators field questions from breakfast participants

Continued from page A1

that it seems like most legislators are running in place.

"There is a lot of committee work," Crow said. "I think a lot of things are being held back with the coal plant controversy."

Crow said the education committee has been busy working out a way for Kansas to recoup federal funds that were lost because Kansas schools did not properly count students receiving Medicaid.

"We lost $21,000 federal dollars, which are supposed to be replaced by state funding," Crow said. "I wrote a bill that the funding should be distributed to Medicaid kids, not to special education teachers as in the past."

Rep. Owen Donohoe, R-Shawnee, was attending his first legislative breakfast in Leavenworth County. As a member of the federal and state committee, Donohoe is working on an immigration bill that is designed to penalize employers who hire undocumented workers.

"Employers feel a pressure to be the immigration agency to the state," Donohoe said. "We are trying policies that don't penalize businesses to the point of closing, but control immigration."

Sen. Roger Pine, R-Lawrence, said he is also hearing of the immigration bill in the Senate. "There's a lot of controversy," Pine said. "Hopefully we can turn the debate to something positive to help us in that area."

Pine provided details on the Dec. 11, 2007, ice storm, which resulted in six deaths, 11 injuries and two hospitalizations across the state. At the peak of the storm, more than 183,000 customers were without power.

"The cost of that storm is $381 million and climbing," Pine said. "I believe that is the largest disaster in Kansas history."

Rep. Candy Ruff, D-Leavenworth, also provided commentary on the immigration bill.

"The bill allows Kansas to get employers who go after undocumented workers," Ruff said. "I think the majority of businesses get it. Employers who unintentionally hire workers don't have to worry about it."

Ruff also spoke about a new state pay plan, which will bring workers receiving lower pay grades to a higher level to compensate for the higher cost of living. According to Ruff, a number of those workers affected are employees of the Lansing Correctional Facility.

During the open session, Leavenworth City Manager Scott Miller asked if the immigration bill would put the strain of stopping illegal immigrants on local police departments.

Ruff said it was her understanding that law enforcement was limited in that regard, but that the bill focused on employers.

According to Donohoe, the bill that passed called for officers who arrested suspected undocumented workers to ask them if they were American citizens. He said employers have the opportunity to use an "e-verify" system that allows electronic checks to see if the worker is an illegal immigrant.

"It's not fool-proof," Donohoe said. "To be penalized, employers have to knowingly hire an illegal immigrant to go to court."

Lansing Mayor Kenneth Bernard asked about a document prepared by the League of Kansas Municipalities in the event that a situation like Greensburg occurs again, when all government offices are destroyed.

Wilk said the document exists and provides some ideas on disaster relief bills. The document is being kept on file and will be discussed again in the future.

One resident asked about creating a yearly cost of living assessment for members of the Kansas Public Employee Retirement System.

"KPERS is still an unfunded liability," Wilk said. "There are three buckets: New members, existing members and retired members. Those who are coming in get a cost of living increase, current members are not getting or not paying for it, and for those who are retired, who will pay?"

Wilk said KPERS is defined as a benefit without a yearly cost of living increase. Connie Hachenberg with the Leavenworth Convention and Visitors Bureau asked about a tourism bill in the Senate to create a state tourism agency.

"I think it's a good concept, but I
need to see the details," Wilk said.

Pine said the bill is similar to those that created the Kansas Bioscience Authority and the Kansas Turnpike Authority.

"People would serve in a collaborative manner in a public and private organization," Pine said. "I feel very positive about this."

The tourism agency would be separate from the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Resident Janet Renkoski asked about the teacher shortage in Kansas, and asked legislators not to approve anything that would "dummy down" requirements to become a teacher.

According to Crow, there are a number of bills being discussed in the education committee about alternative certifications.

"There are a lot of people who retire from one career and are interested in teaching," Crow said.

Crow said one problem in the teacher shortage is that there are current teachers who are eligible for retirement, but not enough students graduating from college that plan to teach who will replace the teachers.

"I think states and the federal government need to get back into teacher incentives," Crow said.

Ruff said Leavenworth is in a unique situation with experienced retired military personnel living in the community who have experience in the classroom.

"We can put them in a classroom and re-fashion the education requirements for those individuals," Ruff said.

One resident asked about keeping the cost of higher education down, such as at public universities like the University of Kansas or Kansas State University.

Crow said the cost of tuition is based on state funding, and the state has reduced the amount of funding provided to public education institutions. The remainder of the funding is generally paid for by student tuition contributions.

"The cost of higher education is competitive, and as a result, most families cannot afford to pay as you go," Crow said.

"In my opinion, students will find alternative ways to get degrees, such as junior colleges," Donohoe said. "The solution is not to take tax dollars and give it to the universities."

"We don't tell universities what programs to fund, or how much to pay their instructors," Ruff said.

Mike Kohene, the Leavenworth County representative to the Silver Haired Legislature, asked about the Grandparents Act that was passed in previous years. The Grandparents Act will provide $200 per month per child, up to $600, for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

"No one is able to use it because of the way the bill is written," Kohene said.

According to Ruff, the Social and Rehabilitation Services agency put in requirements as a way to determine what children were truly in need of assistance.

"SRS is backing away from the 'child in need of care' situations," Ruff said. "There is a high standard, and we have to keep an eye on it."

In her closing comments, Huff discussed the proposed coal-fired energy plant at Holcomb, Kan.

"Those who support it aren't anti-green," Ruff said.

Calling it a "matter of economics," Ruff said wind power and solar power call for considerable investments.

"We might be able to pay for it, but we need to be responsible for future needs," Ruff said.

Pine provided information on several bills he is working on, including Senate Bill 555, which involves helping Basehor and Tonganoxie with a public water utility. He is also involved in House Bill 2617, working with the parents of Amanda Bixby, who was killed in an automobile accident last year on U.S. Highway 24-40. The bill calls for giving alcohol and drug tests to drivers involved in vehicle accidents.

Donohoe said the government has grown 2.5 percent in the last three years, while the debt has grown from $3.9 billion to $4.2 billion last year alone.

"We are headed into more debt, and we need money for education," Donohoe said. "We can't control our spending and we have to start looking for solutions."

Crow said this was expected to be an exciting week for bills to be debated in the House. A bill on late-term abortions is scheduled to be discussed Monday, a health care bill will be discussed Tuesday and the immigration bill will be discussed Thursday.
Rep. Kenny Wilk, R-Lansing, discusses plans to increase business in Kansas through a special tax package and cost of living increases for KPERS members during a legislative breakfast on Saturday at the Riverfront Community Center. Also pictured is moderator Ross Markle.
For spring break this year, 49 University of Kansas students will take a trip to one of seven locations to volunteer for alternative spring breaks, with activities ranging from Hurricane Katrina relief work to a 48-hour homeless experience.

The students will work from March 15 to March 22 with agencies in Florida, Illinois, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Washington, D.C. Among their duties, the students will volunteer to help with children’s services, conservation, health care, hurricane relief, language and culture acquisition, environmental preservation and people with disabilities. The program costs $250 and covers transportation, housing and meals for participants.

Kyle Buehler of Lansing, a sophomore biology student at KU, will participate in the Rebuild Lakeshore project in Lakeshore, Miss. Alison Pendley of Leavenworth, a junior pre-nursing major, will participate in the Extra Hands for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis program in Dallas, Texas.
LAWRENCE — Bill Lacy, director of the Dole Institute of Politics, will discuss his experiences running the presidential campaign of former Sen. Fred Thompson at 7:30 p.m. April 1 at the institute on The University of Kansas’ west campus.

The program is free and open to the public.

Before joining the Dole Institute in 2004, Lacy worked in Washington, D.C., as a campaign strategist, serving in senior roles in the five presidential campaigns from 1980 to 1996.

He served as White House political director for President Reagan and has had instrumental consulting roles in senatorial races, including Bob Dole’s 1992 campaign and the campaigns for Thompson’s victory in 1994 and re-election in 1996.
House panel OKs aviation funds

BY JEANNINE KORANDA
Eagle Topeka bureau

TOPEKA — A House committee approved a budget Friday that would give Wichita aviation training and research $5 million each, far more than recommended by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

Other key Wichita interests in the $12.4 billion budget plan, including doctor training and money for the city's aquifer recharging project, moved forward at the amount the governor recommended.

The proposal now goes to the full House, which could debate and vote on it next week.

The Appropriations Committee's recommendations included $5 million for the National Institute for Aviation Research at Wichita State University and $5 million for aviation technical training. Sebelius' budget included $2.5 million for training and $4 million for research.

The proposal did eliminate about $21 million for the Board of Regents Operating Grant, which included money for the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy's Roberts Center for Research, and added the same amount to disaster relief, said Rep. Ty Masterson, R-Andover, who sits on the committee and recommended that aviation interests receive their full funding request in a subcommittee.

Lawmakers also cut out about $81 million in new money from casinos and slot machines that Sebelius, a Democrat, had included in her budget recommendations.

Republicans have called it "money that doesn't exist." Instead lawmakers are looking to other funds — such as economic development or state reserves to pay expenses.

The Wichita Center for Graduate Medical Education, which Sebelius recommended receive $1 million, is still in the House budget at that level, said Rep. Joe McLeland, R-Wichita, who is on the Appropriations Committee.

The center, a coalition of local hospitals that oversees the residency program at University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, had asked for $9.6 million.

"We're still looking at a plan to come up with the rest of it," McLeland said.

The committee recommendations also included $1 million in the Kansas Water Authority's budget to help secure Wichita's future water supply.

The project would put about 65 billion gallons of water back into the Equus Beds, from where the city's water comes.

The Senate Ways and Means Committee is still developing its budget recommendation and could work on a final draft late next week, said Sen. Carolyn McGinn, R-Sedgwick, who sits on the committee.

Reach Jeannine Koranda at 785-296-3006 or jkoranda@wichitaeagle.com.
KU Students Aid
Reconstruction

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

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

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

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The students said they have a lot more work to do, including painting, installing electrical fixtures and laying flooring.