Potential Changes in Agriculture Shipping Rules Would Hurt Farmers...

The Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) recently proposed changes to its interpretation of a regulation regarding commercial motor vehicles and the movement of goods within and across state lines. The change in interpretation would affect Kansas farmers hauling grain to local elevators and cattle to Kansas sale barns. This week, I met with KCC officials to discuss the regulations.

While federal law regulates interstate commerce or trade between states, each state has the authority to set rules on intrastate commerce or trade within its borders. Historically, KCC has allowed most deliveries of grain from a Kansas farm to a market located within Kansas to be considered intrastate commerce. Now, however, KCC is proposing to consider the transportation of grain from a Kansas farmer to a local elevator as interstate commerce since the grain may ultimately be sold to an out-of-state buyer.

If KCC moves forward with this new interpretation, Kansas farmers would be subject to federal transportation rules designed for truckers. A farmer should not have to meet the same standards as that of someone whose sole job responsibility is the transportation of goods. Complying with these federal rules would raise the cost of business for farmers. I am working with KCC and state legislators to develop a policy that is compliant with federal law and at the same time limits the impact on the Kansas agriculture industry. Click here to listen to my thoughts on this topic.

Farm Bill Future Still Uncertain...

This week, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson and Ranking Member Bob Goodlatte sent a spending proposal to the Senate in hopes it would jumpstart stalled negotiations on how much the farm bill will cost. It appears the Senate Agriculture Committee is working on a response that will include more spending. While the White House has said it will allow the amount of spending in the recent Peterson-Goodlatte proposal, it is unsure where the additional revenue will be found in either plan.

It is time for Congress and the White House to remember that the farm bill is primarily about farmers and making sure they are able to provide food and fuel for our country and many others around the world. Differences must be worked out so an adequate safety net is provided for farmers and ranchers along with the hungry in our communities.

Beef Trade and Darfur Raised with Chinese Ambassador...

I met with Chinese Ambassador H.E. Zhou Wenzhong on Monday after he gave a Landon Lecture at Kansas State University. I spoke to the Ambassador about American beef supply and urged the Chinese to fully open their market. Since 2003, when the first case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) was found in the U.S., beef trade with China has been nonexistent. The Chinese market represents a real opportunity for Kansas producers to expand their business. I will continue working to help our ranchers gain access to China.

Additionally, I was encouraged to see the issue of China’s role in the Darfur conflict addressed during the Ambassador’s lecture. Constant pressure on the Chinese government is necessary for it to realize that supporting the Sudanese government only allows further killing in Darfur. I recently joined other Members of Congress in an attempt to persuade Chinese President Hu Jintao to take a firm stand against the violence.

Visiting with Marysville High School Students from Washington, D.C....

I make an effort every year to visit high school classes to speak to students about the importance of being active citizens. The decisions Congress makes today will affect young people for many years to come and they have a stake in making sure their voices are heard.

On Thursday, I visited with seniors in Ami Johnson’s government class at Marysville High School. Using video conference technology, I was able to have a conversation with the students from Washington, D.C. We discussed high fuel prices, No Child Left Behind and ways to improve...
the economy.

■ Speaking to Kansas Community College Trustees and Presidents...

I attended an event hosted by the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees this week in Washington, D.C., where representatives from many of the 19 community colleges in Kansas were present.

The event was a good opportunity to update trustees and presidents on action in Washington, D.C. and to learn about issues important to the colleges. I spoke to the group about the Higher Education Act, my continued support for financial aid programs, and career and technical education programs under the Carl D. Perkins Act. I appreciated the time the trustees and community college presidents took to share their expertise with me.

In addition, many representatives took time to visit with me in my office. Gary Eppler and Larry Kiley with Pratt Community College were in to emphasize the need for educational services that help disabled students. Hutchinson Community College President Ed Berger was in to tell me about plans to renovate the current science building on campus into a Physical and Biotechnology Science Center to better prepare students for health-related professions.

Cloud County Community College President Richard Underbakke and Faith Nyswonger of Concordia were in to underline the importance of the Higher Education Act and to bring me up-to-date on the college's wind energy project. Dr. Jackie Vietti and Ted Dankert of El Dorado, Ted Albright of Towanda and Carter Zerbe of Augusta were in with Butler Community College to discuss the importance of Carl Perkins programs and the Higher Education Act.

■ Speaking to Kansas Health Professionals...

With more than 20,000 Kansans living in our state's 350 nursing facilities, long term care providers play an important role in providing Kansans with accessible and affordable health care.

This week, I had the opportunity to speak at the Kansas Health Care Association Conference in Topeka about long term care, training and retaining a quality work force and the need for adequate reimbursement for Medicaid and Medicare services. Thanks to Kansas Health Care Association CEO Cindy Luxem for the invitation to address the group.

Meeting with Kansas State University College Republicans...

Before the Landon Lecture at K-State, I met with members of the College Republicans in the KSU Student Union to discuss a handful of topics. Members asked me about our nation's energy policy and its impact on our region and state, the 2008 general election and the importance of keeping Kansas communities viable.

Former interns in my office Taylor Calcara of Great Bend, Abby Dechant of Garden City and Mike Koss of Haddam also spoke to the group about their experience serving Kansans in our nation's capital. Thank you to President George Weston and the rest of...
The members for participating in the discussion.

**Discussing Economic Development in Kansas...**

After returning to Kansas this week, I attended a breakfast at the third annual Governors' Summit on Regional Economic Development hosted by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. Education, tax policy, health care and opportunities to benefit from renewable fuels were all discussed throughout the morning.

Creating economic opportunity for Kansans is a goal we all share. I appreciated the opportunity to meet with local business and community leaders and discuss ways to bring jobs to our state.

On Friday, I attended the funeral of Lydia Porubsky of Topeka. Mrs. Porubsky and her late husband Charles Sr. owned and operated Porubsky's Grocery and Meats for 61 years. As a state legislator, I was a frequent patron at Porubsky's. Lydia continued to work at the business until the week before her death.

Lydia's legacy will live on at Porubsky's as her family will continue to sell her renowned chili. My thoughts and prayers are with the Porubsky family as I join in celebration of this wonderful woman's life.

**Big First Listening Tour Continues...**

I continued my listening tour with stops this week in Council Grove, Atwood, Oberlin and Norton. Earlier today, I was in Holcomb and Cimarron. I am in Kansas this week for the President's Day District Work Period and will be in the following communities:

**Thursday, February 21**

Cheyenne County Tour Stop, St. Francis
Time: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Location: Main Street Coffee, 216 W. Washington

Wallace County Tour Stop, Sharon Springs
Time: 12:00-1:00 p.m. MST
Location: Rotary Club, Stephen's Restaurant, Junction 27 & 40

**Friday, February 22**

Ness County Tour Stop, Ransom
Time: 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Location: VFW Post #7972, 398 S. Vermont Ave.

**Contact Me...**

It is an honor to serve you in Washington, D.C. Please let me know how I can be of assistance. Very truly yours,

Jerry
A Marine’s Iwo Jima legacy

BY JOHN SAYLER

Fiftieth and seventy-fifth anniversaries are traditional, but sometimes there are reasons to deviate.


It’s worth revisiting in this off-year because author Ray Bradley’s new book, “Flags Of Our Fathers,” enjoys best-seller status; because it has been made into a significant movie by Clint Eastwood; and because at a Dillon Lecture last month in Hutchinson Bradley didn’t mention... Ted White.

White, a star guard on Lyons High’s state championship basketball team in 1941, and among Marines fighting their way across the South Pacific in 1945, was nearby when the first American flag was raised. But he wasn’t among those clustered around the original pole when it was taken down and replaced by a larger pole and flag, the one frozen in time by the Rosenthal’s famous negative.

Still, White holds a distinction shared with just three other Marines, according to the daughter of the patrol’s leader. They didn’t take a flag up the mountain; they brought one down -- the Japanese flag at the pinnacle.

The flag revelation appears to have come to light within the past year, but White’s high-risk venture 63 years ago was known in Lyons the following day, through a lead story in the Lyons Daily News:

Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, Feb. 24 - AP - The first Marines to scale Mount Suribachi on the southern tip of Iwo Jima reached the summit two hours before a patrol planted the American flag on the captured volcanic cone yesterday. The honor of being the first to reach the highest point of the 566-foot cone goes to four men, including Pfc. Ted J. White, 21, of Lyons, Kansas.”

While the headline for the story was correct, “Lyons Boy Beats Flag Up Volcano,” the subhead may have over-reached a little: “Ted White among four Marines who captured two peaks.”

More technical aspects of the venture were reviewed in recent years by former Marine radio operator Raymond Jacobs, as a guest columnist for the Internet web site, “Soldiers for the Truth.”

His quest is recognition for unheralded “first flag” participants, in the course of which he details how the day began:

“Feb. 23, 1945, was a Friday, D+4 on Iwo. After four days of horrific fighting, my regiment, the 28th Marines, had smashed through fierce Japanese resistance to reach the base of Mount Suribachi. Our casualties were heavy.

“There was no enemy activity on our front that morning. Shortly after 8 a.m. Capt. Arthur Naylor ordered Sgt. Sherman Watson to take a small reconnaissance patrol to the top of Suribachi to look for signs of the enemy. He picked corporals Ted White and George Mercer, along with BAR gunner Pfc. Louis Charlo, to make the climb. About 40 minutes later, I saw them slipping and sliding down Suribachi’s steep sides on their return. Watson reported no signs of the enemy, but had seen many emplacements.”

see WHITE, page 3
A counterpoint to that rather straight forward account followed 50 years later, Feb. 19, 1995, after Hutchinson News writer Alan Montgomery interviewed White, then 71, and a retired insurance agent living in Indian Wells, California.

As White remembered it, he and two other privates (not corporals) were selected by Sergeant Watson to try and find a route to the summit, so another detail could bring up an American flag and plant it there.

White told the reporter how surprised he and his comrades had been to make it to the top without being shot.

“O1 don’t know why we weren’O’t killed. We got to the top and didn’O’t encounter any resistance. Then we ran and slid back down as fast as we could to report.”

When another patrol of about 30 men followed with a flag, White said he remembered going back up the mountain. “I was in a foxhole and saw a bunch of guys raising a flag. I was just glad I was all in one piece.”

While it lasted.

Six days later a Japanese bullet shattered the bone in his lower left leg. “We were supposed to take some kind of damn hill, and they shot the hell out of us,” White told Montgomery.

He was the fortunate one. A few days after White was wounded both Mercer and Charlo were killed in action on Iwo Jima. Sgt. Watson was wounded but survived and in his autumn years lived in Florida.

With Watson’s demise in 2002, White remains the only survivor. He doesn’t recall the flag, but Watson’s daughter, Linda Byak of Lakeland, Florida, tells of inheriting it from her father in a story last June in the Marine Corps Leatherneck magazine, under the heading, Woman Has Enemy Flag From Battle.

Through her father Byak knew of his three companions and their fates, though throughout his life he spoke little of his war experiences.

Byak explained: “He didn’t talk to me about Iwo Jima. Toward the latter part of his life he told me a little bit about it, but only a little’ Enough, judging from the article, to explain the flag’s enduring existence, and significance.

White may have no memory of the flag, but in his conversation with Montgomery he did recall his transformation from 1942 Lyons High graduate, to brief University of Kansas student, to frontline combat soldier:

“In October, I joined the Marine Corps. The flag was waving and all that bit. And I was flunking Spanish.”
TOPEKA -- To hold the line on future tuition hikes, state university leaders say they're going to need some more help from the Kansas Legislature.

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However, the effort to slow steep increases in tuition charges will hinge heavily on how much lawmakers choose to increase higher education funding in the future, school leaders say.

Several regents, state university officials and even student leaders emphasized this week that schools are trying to keep tuition hikes down, but can't do it alone.

"We need additional funding from the state Legislature or else we're going to keep seeing tuition going up," Matt Wagner, Kansas State University's student body president, told board members. In fact, several board members said this past week they were against setting a formal cap on tuition because it might reduce accountability for lawmakers.

"I don't want to take responsibility away from those across the street," Regent Janie Perkins of Garden City said.

Since 2002, the basic charges for attending the University of Kansas and Kansas State University have more than doubled. Tuition and fees at other schools have jumped by an average of more than 10 percent a year, except for Fort Hays State University, which has averaged an 8.5 percent annual hike.

Over the same period, though, lawmakers have bolstered the state's share of university funding by an average of about 2 percent a year.

Yet legislators remain divided over how much blame lawmakers should for tuition increases.

"It's impossible to give the Regents everything they want," House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, said, "so they will always be able to justify increasing tuition."

However, Senate budget Chairman Dwayne Umbarger, R-Thayer, said university leaders can make a "very good case" that the state hasn't put enough aid into the system.

"That is a very legitimate concern that they have," Umbarger said.
For KU fans, the last few months have seemed to fly by. The football team finished the season with a 12-1 record and a win at the FedEx Orange Bowl — and the basketball team is a steamrolling, morale-crushing juggernaut as it always is. With these accomplishments in mind, one can't help but think about what compels these players to do so well. What is this hidden force that drives the KU athletics machine?

The true lifeblood of KU is an assortment of people who are constantly mocked and underappreciated, but they always stay true to the school. This group of people, or team behind the team, so to speak, is responsible for bolstering the school's morale and sending opponents into a state of confusion and despair. This team I speak of is the KU marching and pep bands.

In every school, not just KU, the band is a pivotal part of a team's success. It seems to me that this is something that not everyone understands. Without the band, the fans wouldn't have their various cheers and would be no better than a disoriented rabble. With the band around, fans become an organized, powerful weapon. Their voices mixed with the band's melodies inspire our teams to achieve superhuman feats. Someone who fully understands the importance of the band is my brother and two-year member of the KU Marching and pep bands, Jeremy Vitt, a 2006 Hiawatha High School graduate.

"It's awesome to see the band and fans working in unison," he says. "The atmosphere created is just incredible. I love being a part of this team."

The bands have the opportunity to accompany their team to any bowl games or tournaments they get into. In the last year, the football band has traveled to Stillwater, Okla.; Ames, Iowa; and Miami, Fla. During the NCAA tournament last year, the basketball band went to Chicago, Oklahoma City and San Jose.

The school even provides scholarship money for a select few in the band. Sadly, my brother is not one of them. Most
sections of the band need not worry about trying out — all they have to do is register. The sections that do need to try out are the clarinet, trumpet, trombone and drums.

The KU band is relatively small compared to most schools, but it has a rich history and its members are some of the most devoted people I have ever set eyes upon. For instance, come tournament time, the members of the pep band will not shave or cut their hair until they suffer a loss.

“Things get pretty crazy during the tournament, said Vitt. “I remember last year one of my band-mates had us braid his hair and paint it red and blue. It didn’t come out for weeks.”

The commitment the bands show to their team is amazing. It is because of their unwavering loyalty to the school and remarkable skill that I am proud to call myself a Jayhawk.
More than 200 former players, coaches celebrate KU hoops

BY B.J. RAINS
For The Associated Press

LAWRENCE — Since winning the 1988 National Championship at Kansas twenty years ago, coach Larry Brown had never watched a tape of the championship game from start to finish.

On Friday night, Brown and members of that title team celebrated the 20th Anniversary of their special season by gathering around a TV and doing just that.

"You needed to have a video tape of that meeting last night because it was one of the best," said Scooter Berry, a member of the team that beat Oklahoma 83-79 in Kansas City to win Kansas' last NCAA title.

"It was so much fun, watching the game and ripping each other apart for all of the mistakes we made. We talked about all of the stories behind the stories and just had a blast. We laughed for two hours."

In addition to celebrating the 20th anniversary of the '88 title, more than 200 former players, coaches and managers were in town to celebrate the 110th anniversary of tradition-rich Kansas basketball. After meeting with former teammates Friday night, the group was recognized during halftime of the Jayhawks 69-45 victory over Colorado on Saturday afternoon and attended a private banquet Saturday night with the current coaches and players.

Besides Brown, former coach Ted Owens and former players Clyde Lovellette, Darnell Valentine, Dave Robisch, Bud Stallworth, Danny Manning and Wayne Simien were also on hand.

Dean Smith, who played on the Jayhawks’ 1952 National Championship team, was expected to attend but canceled at the last minute.

"It went by so fast," Brown said this week of the 20 years since he cut down the nets in Kemper Arena. "You look in the mirror, and you are reminded you are older. Personally, I feel the same as when I was coaching here. Danny (Manning) and I were talking about that ... it doesn't seem that long ago."

The sellout crowd of more than 16,000 came to its feet as the old-timers walked onto the court at halftime and remained standing as each one was recognized.

Both the players and cheerleaders wore 1988 retro blue uniforms to commemorate the celebration.

"You have some of KU's all time greats that came back," current coach Bill Self said. "But this weekend, those greats are no different than the guy that was the backup point guard on an average team or the walk-on that paid his own way. It's just one big KU group. I think our guys felt some pressure today to perform well."

Among those who returned were Rick Calloway, who played only one season at Kansas after transferring from Indiana, where he won a national championship under Bob Knight.

"I had some wonderful times when I was here," said Calloway. "I met a lot of wonderful people who have stayed in contact with me. Even though I was only here a short time, I feel like I am a part of the family and I never miss an opportunity to come back."
KU To Honor Al Frame For Outstanding Service

The University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment will honor an alumnus from Kinsley on Thursday, February 21, for his service to KU.

Al Frame will receive the Mildred Clodfelter Alumni Award to recognize the long-time support of the Kansas Honors Program. Barb Blaney, assistant Director of Kansas programs, and Kevin Corbett, president of the KU Alumni Association, will present Frame with the award.

Since 1971, the Kansas Honors Program, sponsored by the alumni association and the KU Endowment, has recognized the top 10 percent of high school seniors in each county in Kansas. For 35 years, Frame has helped coordinate the program in his area.

Frame is vice president of the West Central Kansas chapter of the alumni association and contacts Kansas legislators on KU’s behalf as a member of Jayhawks for Higher Education. He has volunteered for KU’s Office of Admissions and Scholarships in recruitment efforts. He is a lifetime member and Jayhawk Society member of the alumni association.

Frame received a bachelor’s degree in 1956 and a law degree in 1952, both from KU. As a student, he was a Summerfield scholar, a member of Phi Beta Kappa and senior class president. He was an All-American cross-country athlete, helping KU win nine conference titles and the 1953 NCAA title; he won nine individual conference titles and the 1954 NCAA individual championship. He is a member of the Track and Field Hall of Fame and the KU Sports Hall of Fame. Before entering law school, he pursued graduate studies in American history as a Woodrow Wilson scholar. As a partner in the firm of Wilson and Frame, Frame has practiced law since 1962. He also operated a wheat farm and cattle ranch for 30 years. He and his wife, Sally, have five children and 10 grandchildren.

The Mildred Clodfelter Alumni Award, created in 1986 by the alumni association, honors volunteers who serve as KU ambassadors in their home communities. The award is named for Clodfelter, who received a bachelor’s degree in 1941 from KU and worked at KU for 47 years, 42 of them at the alumni association. Clodfelter, known to countless Jayhawks nationwide, retired in 1986 and passed away in 2005.
Higher funding needed

Lawmakers must help in tuition control.

By CHRIS GREEN
cgreen@dailynews.net

TOPEKA (HNS) — To hold the line on future tuition hikes, state university leaders say they’re going to need some more help from the Kansas Legislature.

Higher education officials generally agreed during Wednesday’s state Board of Regents meeting to limit next year’s round of hikes to less than 6 percent.

However, the effort to slow steep increases in tuition charges will hinge heavily on how much lawmakers choose to increase higher education funding in the future, school leaders say.

Several regents, state university officials and even student leaders emphasized this week that schools are trying to keep tuition hikes down, but can’t do it alone.

“We need additional funding from the state Legislature or else we’re going to keep seeing tuition going up,” Matt Wagner, Kansas State University’s student body president, told board members.

In fact, several board members said this past week they were against setting a formal cap on tuition because it might reduce accountability for lawmakers.

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Since 2002, the basic charges for attending the University of Kansas and Kansas State University have more than doubled. Tuition and fees at other schools have jumped by an average of more than 10 percent a year, except for Fort Hays State University, which has averaged an 8.5 percent annual hike.

Over the same period, though, lawmakers have bolstered the state’s share of university funding by an average of about 2 percent a year.

Yet legislators remain divided over how much blame lawmakers should for tuition increases.

“It’s impossible to give the Regents everything they want,” House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, said, “so they will always be able to justify increasing tuition.”

However, Senate budget Chairman Dwayne Umbarger, R-Thayer, said university leaders can make a “very good case” that the state hasn’t put enough aid into the system.

“That is a very legitimate concern that they have,” Umbarger said.

State universities absorbed a 5 percent cut in state funding during fiscal year 2003 because of the state’s financial difficulties, according to Regents data. But over the past four years, the annual increases have ranged from 3 to nearly 6 percent.
Economic opportunity

By ARTHUR P. HALL


The business stimulus comes at an opportune time. The Kansas legislature is now debating a bill that will make the same type of tax deductions permanent for all Kansas businesses starting in 2009, a change that will leverage the federal stimulus and help make Kansas a permanently more desirable destination for capital investment, a key driver of high-wage jobs.

The Kansas legislation would allow all businesses an option to immediately deduct the full cost of an investment that federal rules disallow. It simulates at the state level a procedure that tax experts call "expensing," one of the key provisions in the federal stimulus package.

The Kansas expensing legislation emerged as a key feature of the state's strategic economic plan, as developed by Kansas, Inc., the agency statutorily responsible for crafting such plans. Community and business leaders from every part of the state helped craft the plan during dozens of meetings held last year.

An inspiring theme developed from the meetings: "Every business matters." Unwittingly or not, Kansas tax and economic development policies tend to play favorites. Yet, there is evidence that inclusive policies that create a level playing field for businesses of all types and sizes offer a superior long-term strategy.

Expensing is a tax policy that honors the level-playing field strategy. Through a simple procedure, it allows businesses to perceive the same expected investment return that would exist if there were no income tax. This powerful outcome gives the same pro-investment benefit to each business, and will make Kansas more competitive, even against states without income taxes, like Nevada, South Dakota, and Texas.

Kansans would win a trifecta if the expensing legislation passed this year. In the past two legislative sessions, Kansas lawmakers have modernized the tax system in a pro-investment direction by eliminating the property tax on new machinery and equipment and phasing out the archaic business franchise tax. Both of these reforms apply automatically and equally to every business, honoring the sentiment that every business matters. Expensing offers the perfect next step in the modernization process.

A Washington, D.C. policy group has alarmed state budgeters with news that the business components of the federal stimulus package will flow through to states. The group's Kansas estimate is a reported $87 million in lost revenue.

That number should be viewed with skepticism. It could be as low as $37 million. And that does not count the potential for offsetting sales tax revenue from the household part of the stimulus package: by mid-year, more than 1.2 million Kansas taxpayers will receive checks averaging about $1,100.

Nevertheless, optimists can view the federal flow-through as an opportunity. Kansas budgeters can use 2008 to make budget adjustments that will accommodate the expensing provision in 2009 and beyond.

Economists can demonstrate that expensing gives the same investment return to the state as it does to each business — a genuine partnership.

Investments require a short-term sacrifice to produce a long-term gain. Without a short-term budget impact there can be no long-term economic impact.

Arthur P. Hall is executive director of the Center for Applied Economics at the University of Kansas School of Business.
University of Kansas to honor area high school seniors

LAWRENCE — Students from six Kansas high schools will be honored Thursday, Feb. 21, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment. A total of 20 seniors from high schools in Edwards, Pawnee and Stafford counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at the Knights of Columbus, Scenic Drive, Larned.

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.

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.

Kevin Corbett, president of the KU Alumni Association, will speak to the students, parents and guests.

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. Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. John Adams of Larned will be the site coordinator as well as county coordinator for, Pawnee County. Other county coordinators are Al Frame of Kinsley for Edwards County; and Gayle Cornwell of Saint John for Stafford County.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program. Area honorees’ names are listed below.

William Fulls, Kinsley High School
Ben Burghart, Kinsley High School
William Burkhart, Kinsley High School
Jacob Finger, Larned High School
Brooks Hanson, Larned High School
Dennan Morrow, Larned High School
Lindsey Scheibmeir, Larned High School
Katie Vine, Larned High School
Michael Vratil, Larned High School
Jared Loomis, Macksville High School
Justin Bright, Macksville High School
Nicole Petty, Macksville High School
Samantha Crook, Pawnee Heights High School
Jordan Hann, Pawnee Heights High School
Christopher Housman, Pawnee Heights High School
Josh Hildebrand, St. John High School
Felicia Norton, St. John High School
Savannah Sievers, St. John High School
Erica Meyer, Stafford Middle/High School
Anna Zink, Stafford Middle/High School
Regents want to limit tuition increases

TOPEKA (AP) — The board in charge of Kansas’ higher education system wants to make sure the cost of attending a state university or college doesn’t increase too much next year, but it’s not ready to impose a cap.

The Board of Regents expects to receive proposals for new tuition rates from the universities in May and to vote upon them in June. On Wednesday, the board discussed whether it should give university officials any guidance — or impose a limit on what they can propose.

The regents voted 7-2 to let universities, community colleges and technical schools propose their own tuition rates. But they also strongly suggested that the increases sought be 6 percent or less.

The state’s six public universities have instituted double-digit percentage tuition increases in the last five years. Since 2002, increases have ranged from 42.2 percent at Fort Hays State to 136 percent at the University of Kansas.

Presidents of all six of the universities told the regents their tuition increases would be less than 6 percent next year.

Student leaders who spoke at the meeting said they had been involved in setting tuition at their schools and they don’t want lower tuition if it affects the quality of their education.

“We don’t want the increases to be outrageous,” said Courtney George, student body president at Emporia State University. “But we want our diploma to mean something. What matters most is how the money is being spent.”

Regents Chairwoman Christine Downey-Schmidt, of Inman, said she opposes a tuition cap because she wants to maintain the flexibility that university presidents have to address their campuses’ needs.

But regents Donna Shank, of Liberal, and Gary Sherrer, of Overland Park, who cast the only no votes, said they favored limiting tuition increases to 5 percent.

“I’m just saying: This year, in this economy, can’t we take a break and show some restraint?” Shank asked.