

# Education News

Articles from Local Newspapers About or Affecting our District

June 1 – 15, 2009

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Kansan – June 1, 2009

## Kansas boys tracks results

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By NICK SLOAN, Sports Editor

### Kansas City Kansan

*Posted Jun 01, 2009 @ 09:48 PM*

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Kansas City, Kan. —

The Walker twins led Bonner Springs' boys track team to a top ten finish overall. Jonathan Walker claimed first place in an individual event, while the Piper boys team claimed a first-place relay finish.

#### Team Results – 5A

1. Newton 81.50
2. Gardner-Edgerton 46
3. Hutchinson 44
4. Topeka-West 40
5. Wichita-Bishop Carroll 39
6. McPherson 34
6. Tec-Shawnee Heights 34
- 8. Bonner Springs 31**
8. Wichita-Kapaun MC 31
10. Hays 30
- 23. Washington 6**
- 25. Harmon 2**

#### Team Results – 4A

1. Paola 66
2. Mulvane 37
3. Pratt 36
4. DeSoto
5. Wichita-Trinity 26
6. Hoyt 25
7. Osawatomie 23
7. Louisburg 23
9. Atchison 22
9. Baldwin 22
- 15. Piper 16**

### Bishop Ward

- 11th in boys 4X800 meter relay.

### Bonner Springs

- Jake Berran, 11th place in boys shot put.
- Jeremy Walker, 5th place in boys long jump
- Jake Berran, 13th place in boys discus throw.
- Brooks Ballou, 10th place in boys 3200 meter run.
- **Jonathan Walker, 1st place in boys 110 meter hurdles.**
- Jeremy Walker, 2nd place in boys 110 meter hurdles.
- Jeremy Walker, 3rd place in boys 100 meter dash.
- Jonathan Walker, 4th place in boys 100 meter dash.

### Harmon

- Jon Zeno, 13th place in boys triple jump.
- Marshawn Hargrove, 6th place in boys 100 dash.

### Piper

- Jordan Strange, 15th in boys long jump.
- Christian Buckner, 3rd in boys 110 meter hurdles.
- 1st in boys 4X100 meter relay.

### Schlagle

- Fletcher Clardy, 8th place in boys triple jump.

### Turner

- Edward Reed, 16th place in 1600 meter run.

### Washington

- Kyndale Prather, 16th place in boys long jump.
- Keith Slowter, 12th place in boys discus throw.
- Kyndale Prather, 6th place in boys 300 meter hurdles.
- Michael Watson, 4th place in boys 200 meter dash.

### Wyandotte

- 14th place in boys 4X800 meter relay.

Kansan – June 1, 2009

## Kansas girls track results

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By NICK SLOAN, Sports Editor

### Kansas City Kansan

*Posted Jun 01, 2009 @ 09:50 PM*

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Kansas City, Kan. —

Three Wyandotte County track stars claimed first place finishes at the girls track state events last weekend.

Washington High School's Letristan Pledger, Sumner Academy's Tyler Sloan and Piper's Danyelle Cole all won individual first-place events. Here are the full results, including team. Individual results are broken down by school and event.

Pledger also set a state record. Boys results will be posted later this afternoon.

#### Team Results – 5A

1. Shawnee Heights: 83
2. Kapaun MC: 55
3. Gardner-Edgerton: 43
4. Salina-Central: 40
5. Mill Valley: 39
- 6. Washington: 36**
7. Andover-Central: 35
8. Great Bend: 34
9. Bishop Carroll: 33
10. Emporia: 29

**(25. Bonner Springs: 2)**

#### Team Results – 4A

1. Concordia: 83
- 2. Sumner Academy: 56**
3. El Dorado: 49
- 4. Piper: 34**
5. Wamego: 33

### Bonner Springs

- Bridgett Bradley, 6th place in girls discus throw.
- Josie Freeby, 15th place in girls shot put.

### Harmon

- Sara Dominguez, 14th place in girls 1600 meter run.

### Piper

- Danyelle Cole, 2nd place in girls 100 meter dash.
- Lenia Goff, 6th place in girls 100 meter dash.
- 1st place in girls 4X100 meter relay.
- **Danyelle Cole, 1st place in girls 200 meter dash.**
- Lenia Goff, 5th place in girls 200 meter dash.
- 7th place in girls 4X400 meter relay.

### Schlagle

- Ramie Grayson, 8th place in girls 200 meter dash.

### Sumner Academy

- Stephanie Nelson, 4th place in girls shot put.
- Stephanie Nelson, 3rd place in girls discus throw.
- Stephanie Nelson, 4th place in girls javelin throw.
- Chanel Maddox, 2nd place in girls triple jump.
- **Tyler Sloan, 1st place in girls 100 meter dash.**
- 3rd place in Girls 4X100 meter relay.
- **Tyler Sloan, 1st place in girls 300 meter hurdles.**
- Tyler Sloan, 2nd place in girls 200 meter dash.

### Turner

- Demi Bradshaw, 9th place in girls 1600 meter run.

### Washington

- **Letristan Pledger, 1st place in long jump.**
- **Letristan Pledger, 1st place in girls 100 meter hurdles.**
- Letristan Pledger, 2nd place in girls 100 meter dash.
- Letristan Pledger, 2nd place in girls 200 meter dash.

## Penn National seeking KCKPS endorsement

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By **NICK SLOAN**, Sports Editor

**Kansas City Kansan**

*Posted Jun 01, 2009 @ 03:22 PM*

*Last update Jun 02, 2009 @ 04:22 PM*

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Kansas City, Kan. — Members representing the casino application from Penn National will address the Kansas City, Kan., Board of Education tomorrow night.

Among those who will speak to the board will be former Unified Government Mayor-CEO Carol Marinovich, who is currently the Senior Vice President and Partner with Fleishman-Hillard Inc.

According to a board agenda, the Penn casino – located within the district's boundaries – would result in a \$1.44 million net gain to the district, with an additional \$309,300 to the library.

Overall, just over \$2.1 million of tax would be collected, but the district would lose some of the net gain due to reduction in state aid.

The board is expected to vote on a possible endorsement following the presentation. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m.

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## Pledger sets record at state

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By **NICK SLOAN**, Sports Editor

**Kansas City Kansan**

*Posted Jun 01, 2009 @ 09:51 PM*

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Kansas City, Kan. — Washington High School's LeTristian Pledger set a state record at the Kansas 5A track and field state competition last weekend.

Pledger jumped a 19' 10.75" in the long jump, which was seven inches farther than the state record set in 1996.

She would later claim the state championship in the event.

Full track results will be posted later today.

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Posted on Mon, Jun. 01, 2009

## **Kansas health ranking puts Wyandotte County last, Johnson county third**

The Kansas Health Institute has posted its first-ever ranking of the health status of the state's 105 counties — a ranking that placed Wyandotte County last and Johnson County third.

To see the report, go to [www.khi.org/s/index.cfm?aid=2205](http://www.khi.org/s/index.cfm?aid=2205).

The report is based on more than two dozen health indicators, ranging from rates of seatbelt use and binge drinking to the number of flu vaccinations residents in a given county received.

Socio-economic factors played a strong role in the rankings. The percentage of children living in poverty, for example, is nearly twice as high in Wyandotte County as it is in the state as a whole.

| Mark Wiebe, [mwiebe@kcstar.com](mailto:mwiebe@kcstar.com)

Star – June 1, 2009

## Kansas State Track Photos



Le'Tristan Pledger (center), of KC Washington High School, competes during the 5A Girls 100 meters hurdles in the Kansas State High School Activities Association Track and Field 2009 State Championship on Saturday, May 30th, at Cessna Stadium Track in Wichita State University. She won with a time of 14.45 PHOTO BY: ALLISON LONG/THE KANSAS CITY STAR 052909 kshaa053009



Le'Tristan Pledger, of KC Washington High School, competes during the 5A Girls 100 meters hurdles in the Kansas State High School Activities Association Track and Field 2009 State Championship on Saturday, May 30th, at Cessna Stadium Track in Wichita State University. She won with a time of 14.45 PHOTO BY: ALLISON LONG/THE KANSAS CITY STAR 052909 kshaa053009

Photo Credit: ALLISON LONG



Le'Tristan Pledger, of KC Washington High School, jumps in the 5A Long Jump preliminaries during the Kansas State High School Activities Association Track and Field 2009 State Championship on Friday, May 29th, at Cessna Stadium Track in Wichita State University. HSP052909

Wyandotte West – June 1, 2009

## **Golf tourneys in the offing**

Among the upcoming benefit golf tournaments either located here or benefiting organizations here are the Rogers benefit, May 29; the KCK School Foundation scholarship benefit, June 3; and the Bishop Ward Golf Classic, June 19.

### **Rogers benefit golf tournament planned May 29**

-- The Rod Rogers Memorial Golf Tournament is planned May 29 at Painted Hills Golf Course, 7101 Parallel Parkway.

The tournament is held in memory of the late Rodney Rogers, former owner of Rogers Liquor Store in Kansas City, Kansas, who died of pancreatic cancer.

Jennifer Vogel, Rogers' daughter, said the tournament will benefit three groups: PanCan, a group that does pancreatic cancer research; Cancer Action, a local agency that serves cancer patients; and a fund that will award a scholarship to a Wyandotte High School athlete.

The fund-raiser includes a golf tournament, a lunch, dinner and an auction, she said.

The lunch begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by the tournament at 1 p.m. The dinner and auction will be held afterwards, she said. The golf entry fee is \$500 for a team of four. Dinner tickets are \$20 each. For more information, call Vogel at 913-558-0196.

### **Scholarship Golf Tournament, KCK Public School Foundation, June 3**

-- The 19th annual Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held Wednesday, June 3, at Sunflower Hills Golf Course, Wyandotte County Park, Bonner Springs.

The event, sponsored by the Kansas City, Kansas, Public School Foundation for Excellence, will be a four-person scramble.

During the past 18 years, the tournament has raised more than a half million dollars for 191 students from the Kansas City, Kansas, Public Schools.

### **Bishop Ward Golf Classic to be June 19**

-- Bishop Ward High School will hold its annual Alumni and Friends Golf Classic at noon on June 19 at Dub's Dread Golf Course, 12601 Hollingsworth Road, Kansas City, Kansas.

The event begins with lunch, a shotgun start at 1 p.m., as well as a social hour and dinner after the competition. Tickets cost \$125 per person or \$500 for a foursome. Alumni co-chairs are Kevin Connor, 1983, and Tom Mayfield, 1981.

New this year for the non-golfer or those who cannot spend the whole day on the course is a 7-hole miniature golf tournament. Various sponsorship opportunities also are available, from \$10,000 to \$250. For more information, contact Sarah Dee at 913-371-6901 or [sdee@wardhigh.org](mailto:sdee@wardhigh.org).

Bishop Ward High School is selling raffle tickets for a special golf getaway to San Diego, Calif., for four. The trip includes a four-night stay at Residence Inn, Marriott, two rounds of golf at Torrey Pines, one round at River Walk, \$1,000 airfare voucher, and a \$300 car rental allowance.

Tickets are \$100 and only 300 tickets will be sold. The winner will be drawn at the Alumni Golf Event on June 19. You do not need to be present to win. For more information, contact Sarah Dee at 913.371.6901 or [sdee@wardhigh.org](mailto:sdee@wardhigh.org). Alumnus chair Bill Mahoney 1982 and his family encourage you to purchase a ticket today in support of student scholarships at Ward.

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Wyandotte West – June 1, 2009

## **More vaccinations ordered for school children**

**by Mary Rupert**

Because of chickenpox outbreaks in Kansas last year, the state is requiring more chickenpox vaccinations for school-age children, according to local health officials.

“This year there are quite a few changes for the 2009-2010 school year,” said Melanie Vogts, nurse supervisor for child health at the Unified Government Public Health Department.

She asked parents to bring children in early for their shots, and not wait until right before school starts. The vaccine requirements come from the state Department of Health and Environment, she said.

Vogts said KDHE cited disease outbreaks in the state as a reason to step up the phasing in of the new vaccine requirements. While all the vaccines have been recommended for some time, they have not been required for school entrance until now, according to Vogts.

Instead of one dose of the chickenpox, or varicella, vaccine, students in kindergarten will need two, she said. Plus, students in sixth through ninth grade will need another dose of chickenpox vaccine.

The state also is requiring three doses of hepatitis B vaccine for students in sixth through ninth grades – something that wasn’t required last year, according to health officials.

Children who are 11 years old will require a diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (Tdap) booster, according to health officials. The booster was not required last year. According to health officials, students born between Sept. 1, 1997, and Aug. 31, 1998, and who will be 11 before Sept. 1, 2009, will be required to have documentation of Tdap vaccine, if it has been more than two years since the previous dose. Students older than 12 who last had a shot 10 years ago also will require Tdap.

Vogts said that students who are uninsured, underinsured or on Medicaid may receive their vaccines at the health department walk-in clinic. The health department does not deny services based on the ability to pay and will work with parents, according to a spokesman.

Other children should receive vaccines from private physicians or health care providers, she said.

For more information about new vaccine requirements, contact the health department clinic at 913-573-6710, or for information about immunization services, call 913-573-8888

## KCKPS looking at \$700K of more cuts

By **NICK SLOAN**, Sports Editor

**Kansas City Kansan**

Posted Jun 02, 2009 @ 07:45 PM

Kansas City, Kan. — Having prepared for a \$16 million budget cut this year, the Kansas City, Kan., Public Schools District is not quite done with cutting the budget.

The Kansas City, Kan., Board of Education met at a special board meeting this afternoon to discuss the budget and future projections for a few years down the road.

First things first: it appears \$700,000 in more cuts will be needed this year.

Along with state funding lost, the school district is also dealing with a possible 10 percent decline in assessed valuation. Should the projected number hold, it would bring the district down to its lowest projection since 2003-04.

The district's health insurance costs will increase by \$5 million, creating a scenario where the district would be \$16,752,679 in the red from last year. The board had already planned for \$16 million in cuts.

In 2011 and 2012, the situation could get murkier. Current projections have the State of Kansas \$568.6 million in the red for 2011 and \$896.3 million for 2012, if revenues do not increase.

That news – along with the fact Kansas was \$100 million short of expected revenues for last month – have district officials concerned about future cuts down the road.

"It's uncharted waters," said Bill Reardon, lobbyist for the district and former Kansas legislator.

"The picture is not looking good," said Cindy Lane, assistant superintendent of the district.

Because of the budget issues and the hit in assessed valuation, the board is looking at the possibility of increasing the mill levy. A projected increase suggested would result in an \$81 increase in taxes yearly for someone who lives in a \$100,000 home.

The district did not make a decision at the meeting.

## **Harmon students present stadium project to BPU**

by **Bettse Folsom**

June 3 – A new school stadium is in the works for Harmon High School, and students there thanked the Board of Public Utilities for its financial support of the Leadership 20/20 program that sponsored the students' fund-raising planning effort.

Representatives of Harmon High School and Leadership 20/20 approached the BPU board June 3 with heartfelt thanks. They also presented their working business plan for a new school stadium as part of their involvement with the program.

In 2008, Aaron Farish, Manuel Monoz, and Stephanie DeSpain were selected to work on the 20/20 Olympics program for a project-based learning experience part of the 20/20 Leadership program. Students in Wyandotte, Johnson and Jackson county high schools all presented an opportunity to make a major effect within their schools. Their written project plan had to contain a project idea, specify team member names with project responsibilities, a timeline for completion of duties and expected outcomes.

According to Marilyn Alstrom, executive director of 20/20 Leadership, awardees of the 20/20 Olympics for the gold, silver and bronze were all Wyandotte County high school students.

She said Harmon was awarded the gold medal for a "Hawk Turf Team." The school's original sports field, combination soccer teams and baseball teams, was constructed over a landfill that is beginning to deteriorate. There is also a natural spring that has caused flooding and water saturation issues for the stadium.

DeSpain said the group's goal is to raise \$300,000 through grants and fund-raisers. Another \$300,000 in corresponding funds has been identified and can be utilized to develop a twofold football-soccer field. The team will be holding a fund-raiser to sell personalized bricks for a permanent pathway on the stadium grounds and other contributive efforts.

Alstrom said that the silver medal was awarded to Sumner Academy 20/20 Leadership representatives for their project regarding school spirit. The bronze medal was awarded to Wyandotte High School for their project regarding teen pregnancy issues.

To learn more about the 20/20 Leadership and their projects and fund-raisers, go to <http://www.2020leadership.org/>.

In addition, the selection committee for the Ethics Commission introduced their final candidates including William Maher, Cynthia Smith and William W. Hutton. Hutton was also presented to the BPU board as the next chairman of the commission.

Furthermore, Cindy Cash, one of the selection committee members, suggested to the board that the commission should meet monthly instead of twice yearly and should review and revise the existing commission's document that was last updated in 2004. Another suggestion Cash made on behalf of the selection committee was that more information regarding the commission and future open positions should be more publicly posted.

The three candidates were approved unanimously and along with suggestions presented by the selection committee regarding the commission's future endeavors.

Lori Austin, manager of account and finance and chief financial officer, stated that 24 percent of the budget for construction was already spent, down 9 percent of what was anticipated. The level of cash and interest rates have dropped, however, overall, the decrease is not surprising with the effect of the economy, according to Austin.

Don Gray, BPU general manager, thanked David Mehlhaff, public affairs officer, and the staff for their work on the fourth edition of the BPU Connection, which will be distributed to the utility's clients. Within the document is a graphic display of a bill to explain specific charges.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. June 24.



Posted on Wed, Jun. 03, 2009

## Library's laptops will tattle on those who steal

By SARA SHEPHERD  
The Kansas City Star

Yes, some of the Kansas City Public Library's laptop computers have fallen prey to sticky fingers.

No, the thieves didn't get away with it — although some probably thought they did until police showed up at their doors with a search warrant.

Each of the library's 60 laptops, including 25 new ones purchased just for teens, is equipped with technology that basically phones home as soon as a thief tries to get online.

In one case, police traced a stolen laptop to a library employee's Kansas City home, then learned the woman had stolen four others and given some to relatives in St. Louis.

The library's computer-tracing software is the same kind used by the Kansas City, Kan., School District, where officials say it has helped retrieve computers and even solved other problems in unexpected ways.

Kansas City is the only area library system that loans laptops to the public. The library bought its first batch in 2005.

To help ensure the costly but easily portable pieces of equipment stayed inside the library, the library added the tracing software about a year and a half ago, said Cheptoo Kositany-Buckner, deputy executive director for operations.

Most laptops that leave the library are taken by forgetful patrons, Kositany-Buckner said. Users walk out with the computer in hand and their library card and photo ID at the checkout desk.

Usually, a phone call to the patron is enough to get those computers back.

The tracing software helps when it's not that easy.

When they got the library employee's address from the software company, Kansas City police searched her residence and found one stolen laptop lying on her bed, according to court documents. The woman told detectives she pawned one computer and gave one to a friend, one to her brother and one to her mother in St. Louis.

"We were able to recover them pretty easily," Kositany-Buckner said. The employee has since been charged in Jackson County Circuit Court with felony theft and no longer works for the library.

The tracing software, called Computrace, is permanently installed on each computer.

When one turns up missing, the library files a report with the Kansas City Police Department then forwards it to the software company.

The company tracks where that computer gets online and turns the Internet protocol address over to police. The company pays up to \$1,000 to replace computers it fails to find.

For laptops that contain confidential or sensitive information, the company notes on its Web site, theft can be more costly than the hardware alone.

Between phone calls, tracing software and some pre-software police work, Kositany-Buckner said, "we've recovered all of them that we've lost so far." She said those stolen laptops total fewer than 10.

The Kansas City, Kan., School District — which leases take-home laptops to all high school students — has reported 123 stolen laptops to the company since enlisting its services last year, said Joe Fives, director of technology and information services.

Between Computrace and other means, the district has recovered 28 so far, Fives said. The software company has paid the district for another 28 it couldn't retrieve.

In a few cases, the tracing software has had unintended benefits, Fives said.

When two students' laptops were taken along with their car in a carjacking, police asked the district to trace the computers in hopes they might lead to the people who stole the car. Guardians have asked the district to help contact students who ran away from home and took their laptops with them.

"We never even thought about them being used that way," Fives said.

The library deployed its newest laptops in late May.

Five branches — L.H. Bluford, North-East, Southeast, Trails West and Waldo — each received five computers reserved for teen uses like podcasting, test preparation and Web chats with young-adult authors.

Johnson County and Olathe library officials said they plan to offer laptops for patrons later this year, though they still haven't settled on theft-protection plans.

Jim Staley, marketing and communications manager for Mid-Continent Public Library, said his library has discussed laptops for patrons but hasn't committed.

"Security is one of the big issues," he said.

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*To reach Sara Shepherd, call 816-234-4366 or send e-mail to [sshepherd@kcstar.com](mailto:sshepherd@kcstar.com).*

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## F.L. Schlagle alum Rolls adding punch for T-Bones

By **NICK SLOAN**, Sports Editor

**Kansas City Kansan**

Posted Jun 05, 2009 @ 02:14 PM

Kansas City, Kan. — After a minor injury in a bang-bang play in Winnipeg and a slow start at the plate, **F.L. Schlagle graduate Damian Rolls** is beginning to heat up for the team.

Following the T-Bones' recent nine-game home stand, Rolls has risen his average to about .300, hitting .293. Rolls is also tied for the team-lead in RBI with 13.

Still, the journey back to his backyard was a long one, filled with a number of stops in various professional leagues. He was originally drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1996.

In 1999, the Kansas City Royals picked up Rolls in the Rule 5 draft. However, the homecoming for Rolls would not last long, as he was almost immediately dealt to the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in a trade. He made his debut for Tampa Bay in 2000, which happened to be against the Royals.

Rolls hit .248, hit nine homers and drove in 73 runs in his major league career. But Rolls has one accomplishment many professionals do not: He once two home runs off of Roger Clemens in the same game.

Following his MLB career, Rolls played for the Atlantic League's Long Island Ducks, hitting 17 homers and 55 RBI in 2008.

Before the season began, Rolls spoke to *The Kansas City Kansan* about coming back home – this time more than just a few weeks before being traded.

**"It's strange and weird," Rolls said, playing just about 10 minutes away from F.L. Schlagle High School. "I didn't expect this opportunity to come up but it's great to get support from the fans and team."**

Joining the Northern League's defending champions, Rolls said he'll fit in to the team.

"This organization knows what it's doing based on results," he said. "And I want to fit in with what they are doing."

T-Bones manager Andy McCauley certainly has an idea of where Rolls can fit in, particularly in the area of being a veteran.

"He's bring veteran leadership to our club," McCauley said. "A lot of our younger guys are following his leadership. He's the first one here and one of the last players out. He's just been great and the best you can ask for."

**While he's known for his work with the bat and glove, Rolls excelled in a number of sports in basketball. He said during his time at Schlagle, Cecil Criswell, basketball head coach Chuck Minor and football head coach Steve Szczygiel impacted him.**

**"They taught me a lot," Criswell said. "I was just getting into high school and I needed it."**

McCauley said he can see the impact on Rolls playing in front of his home community.

"He's been like a kid with his dad being able to watch us play," he said.

Expect to see Rolls play a number of positions. McCauley said Rolls will play mostly in the infield. Rolls also saw action as a left fielder last week and as the team's designated hitter.

Rolls provided his home city great entertainment at the plate. During the home stand, Rolls hit home runs in three straight games, including one that tied the score at 2 in the bottom of the eleventh inning against Winnipeg.



Posted on Fri, Jun. 05, 2009

## Vote on KCK casino proposals delayed

By MARK WIEBE  
The Kansas City Star

After enduring more than five hours of debate Thursday night, Wyandotte County's governing body decided to delay a vote on endorsing two casino proposals.

Just minutes before midnight, the Unified Board of Commissioners voted 6-4 to schedule a vote on the endorsements for the two casino proposals in western Kansas City, Kan.

Commissioner Mark Holland said he wanted more time to think through the issue.

"This is the biggest development we're going to vote on in a long time, so I want to get it right," he said.

At issue are proposals for a \$387 million casino next to Kansas Speedway and a \$320 million casino and hotel next to Schlitterbahn Vacation Village.

Each proposal promises to deliver roughly \$14 million a year in property tax, sales tax and gaming revenues to Wyandotte County. The state would receive more than \$44 million.

Kansas Entertainment LLC, a partnership between Kansas Speedway and the Baltimore-based Cordish Co., wants to build a casino on the track's second turn. Its proposal calls for 2,300 slot machines, 86 table games, a classic-rock lounge and some restaurants.

The proposal comes with a promise to go after a second NASCAR Sprint Cup race. If Kansas Speedway can't deliver that race, it would give \$5 million each to the state and the Unified Government. The developers are also pledging to increase the cut in gaming revenues the county would receive.

The second proposal comes from Penn Hollywood Kansas LLC, a subsidiary of Penn National Gaming Inc. of Wyomissing, Pa., and owner of the Argosy in Riverside. The \$320 million casino and hotel would be located next to the Schlitterbahn Vacation Village, now under construction at Interstate 435 and Parallel Parkway. In its first phase, the casino would deliver 1,500 slot machines, 58 table games, a 250-room hotel, restaurants and lounges.

The two proposals were the result of the Kansas Lottery Commission's decision to re-open the casino selection process nearly six months ago. The decision came after Kansas Entertainment, after it had been selected to build a \$705 million casino, withdrew its proposal in light of the poor economy.

The scaled-back proposal it submitted also comes with scaled-back revenues. Its first proposal would have delivered an estimated \$31 million a year to the local coffers.

The Kansas Lottery Commission is scheduled to consider approving contracts for the two new proposals on June 17.

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To reach Mark Wiebe, call 816-234-7745 or send e-mail to [mwiebe@kcstar.com](mailto:mwiebe@kcstar.com).

## No casino endorsement yet from Unified Government

by Mary Rupert

The Unified Government Commission walked up to the brink of endorsing a casino applicant June 4 for Wyandotte County, then stepped back to wait a week.

On a 6-4 vote, the commission decided to return at 6 p.m. June 11 and vote on endorsement. The commission meeting room was crowded with supporters of the Kansas Entertainment Hard Rock Casino and the Penn Hollywood Casino proposals. Hard Rock is at the Kansas Speedway at I-70 and I-435, and Penn Hollywood is at I-435 and Parallel Parkway.

So far, of the options of selecting one, two or none applicants to endorse, none was the winner.

Before the vote to delay, the commission had heard testimony from Cynthia Lane, assistant superintendent for business of the Kansas City, Kansas, Public Schools, and Rich Kaminski, school board member, on how approval of Penn's proposal would help the district. Most of the Kansas Entertainment site is in the Bonner Springs district, while the Penn site is in the Kansas City, Kansas, district.

The Kansas City, Kansas, school board recently voted to support the Penn project, which would pay the district an estimated \$2.7 million in property taxes in the first year, according to UG figures. However, Penn estimated that property tax figure at \$1.6 million, based on a possibly lower valuation.

The Kansas City, Kansas, district would get about \$88,000 from Kansas Entertainment in property taxes in the first year; the Bonner Springs district would receive about \$3 million in property taxes if Kansas Entertainment is approved, according to UG figures. Kansas Entertainment officials said they would set aside an extra \$500,000 to be divided among the county's nonhost school districts.

The state recently cut \$16 million from the Kansas City, Kansas, schools, and the Penn project gives the district some hope by putting an "economic engine" in the district, Lane said.

In the past few years the district's students have made progress, but now 148 positions, most of them teachers, have been cut, she said.

"We are very fearful that we will lose some of the progress," she said.

She added that the governor recently told districts that the state may not deliver on what it has promised them.

Kaminski reminded the commission that the district is also the poorest district in the county, with 80 percent of students eligible for free lunches, and 300 students at Wyandotte High School who are classified as homeless.

After a question by Commissioner Ann Murguia, Lew Levin, UG director of finance, said that District 500 was the largest district in the county, containing about 75 percent of the students who live in Kansas City, Kansas.

The lateness of the meeting was cited as a reason for delay by Commissioner Mark Holland; about 11:30 p.m. he proposed waiting another week to vote. Holland expressed the concern that both applicants had been approved for gaming last year in Kansas, in different gaming regions, and both had pulled out at the last minute.

He said he was concerned about Penn's commitment to the community, and concerned that the Kansas Entertainment hotel wasn't going in right away.

"There's some compelling issues," Holland said. "This is the biggest development we're going to vote on for a long time, and I want to get it right."

Mayor Joe Reardon, who cast the sixth vote in favor of waiting, agreed that there was additional information and clarification needed. Also voting to delay the decision were Commissioners Tom Cooley, Nathan Barnes, Bill Miller and Mike Kane. Voting no were Commissioners Pat Petty, Butch Ellison, John Mendez and Ann Murguia.

During their presentations, casino developers did not totally agree with the UG staff's report June 1. Steve Snyder, vice president of Penn National, said Penn's charitable contributions here would be comparable to what the Argosy gave, which was \$271,000 in 2008, not a lower figure in the staff report June 1. Penn owns the

nearby Argosy casino in Riverside, Mo.

Penn has the strongest balance sheet and has cash on hand to build it, according to Snyder. It has experience in operating 19 casinos, he said.

“This will be the premiere gaming facility in the Kansas City market,” Snyder said. “It will be larger than any of the existing facilities in the Kansas City – both Missouri and Kansas – area.”

According to Snyder, explaining why Penn was reluctant to commit to a specific dollar amount for charitable giving, Penn tends to “underpromise and overdeliver.”

“Go ahead and promise,” Holland urged him. “I would encourage you to go ahead and feel free to do that.”

UG commissioners questioned June 1 whether Kansas Entertainment would build a hotel. The hotel is in phase 1B, and would not open when the casino opens. There is also a phase 2A and 2B, which would include expanded entertainment space, convention room, pool and spa. Richard Kline, general manager for the Hard Rock Casino, said a hotel of up to 300 rooms would be built in phase 1B.

“We’re financially capable to build our phase 1A and 1B,” Kline said. “This is going to be a first-class facility.”

“We’re absolutely committed to build a hotel, a unique first-class hotel,” said Jon Cordish, a principal of the Cordish Co., which is a partner with Kansas Speedway in the Kansas Entertainment proposal.

However, Cordish said it is critical that a hotel is done in a manner that is economically feasible. Occupancy rates are now at less than 45 percent in Kansas City, Kansas, hotels, he said.

He said it was critical not to cannibalize or damage existing businesses in Kansas City, Kansas.

The contract with Kansas Entertainment calls for a \$250,000 payment to the UG if the hotel is not built in the fourth year, and larger penalties for subsequent years.

Holland said the UG wanted a hotel in its requests for proposals so that tourists can be drawn in from surrounding areas, and the casino doesn’t draw just from this area. The hotel can be used for conferences for out-of-town visitors, he said.

“So I think it’s a major hole in your proposal not to have a hotel in phase 1A,” Holland said.

Cordish said at last year’s state screening process, he heard a concern about business cannibalization that he took very seriously. By 2011, the situation may change and developers may be able to build a hotel without damaging neighbors, according to Cordish.

He said the Kansas Entertainment proposal is not competing against itself in the market, and would be able to maximize revenues for the UG.

Also, new figures were released on the number of jobs to be created by Kansas Entertainment. The numbers released June 1 included both direct and indirect employment, and the new figures include only direct employment. An estimated 709 construction jobs would be created and 1,129 ongoing operations jobs are estimated for the Hard Rock Casino.

Barnes was concerned that the applicants would contract with enough minority and women contractors and have minority and women employees.

When Penn talked about having the first union hotel in Kansas, Kane said there had been some labor issues and that he hoped Penn would work with all unions.

Petty asked about the casinos’ support of the Dotte Promise program for scholarships for Wyandotte County high school graduates.

If a Wyandotte County casino makes adjusted gross revenues of \$200 million, the Unified Government would receive 3 percent, or about \$6 million in local tax revenues. The state of Kansas would receive 22 percent, or about \$44 million. Kansas Entertainment also has pledged another 1 percent to the UG. The UG also would receive property tax estimated at \$1.4 million from Kansas Entertainment in the first year, and \$1.3 million from Penn Hollywood in the first year.

To reach Mary Rupert, managing editor, e-mail [maryr@wyandottepublishing.com](mailto:maryr@wyandottepublishing.com).

Posted on Sat, Jun. 06, 2009

## Education a possible target of Kansas budget cuts

Associated Press

Legislative leaders who've met with Gov. Mark Parkinson realize he likely will have to make additional budget cuts because of falling revenue, and say education cuts must be considered.

In the \$13 billion state budget taking effect July 1, legislators trimmed education by 2.6 percent and the overall budget by 3.3 percent.

Public schools, higher education and mandated social services and health programs account for 85 percent of state spending.

"The other 15 percent has been hammered pretty hard, so that doesn't leave a whole lot of room to maneuver," Senate President Steve Morris said Friday. "The governor only has so much flexibility to make additional allotments, and he'll probably have to look at all programs, including education."

Morris, R-Hugoton, said he has had heard complaints from some local school officials that the Legislature should have given the schools more money, even if it meant raising taxes.

"I don't know what planet they're living on," he said. "If the money's not there, it's not there."

He said he has also heard talk about the possibility of filing another lawsuit to force the state to spend more on schools. But he noted that the last lawsuit on that issue was filed in 1999 and it was 2005 before the Legislature was forced to act.

Morris and other legislative leaders met Thursday with Parkinson, who says he will consult with the leaders before making targeted cuts, known as allotments. Parkinson said this week he will wait on June revenue figures before deciding what to do.

"I still think there is some room in the education budget for at least a portion of the allotments that would be necessary," said House Speaker Mike O'Neal, R-Hutchinson.

Legislators return in January, and the budget that will take effect July 1, 2010, already has a projected \$669 million deficit, assuming 1 percent revenue growth.

"You don't have any good options. They're all bad," Morris said. "You just have to pick the best of the bad."

State revenue is driven by the economy, and income tax collections dip as unemployment rises. State economists project unemployment at 6 percent this year and 6.3 percent next year. The jobless rate in April was 6.1 percent, up from 3.5 percent one year earlier.

Counting the current budget year and the one starting next month, legislators made three rounds of spending cuts, accounting changes and revenue-raising measures. The state delayed income tax refunds and payments to public schools because of revenue shortfall.

Even so, the state still faces a deficit of \$29 million in the current fiscal year.

Last week, state revenue collections for May were estimated at \$103 million below expectations. An updated, final figure issued Friday put that at \$104.4 million.

Parkinson said Monday that income tax collections "tanked dramatically." He said what's not known is whether May collections were abnormally low or "the start of a very bad trend."

House Minority Leader Paul Davis, D-Lawrence, said he came away from the meeting with Parkinson with the clear impression that more cuts are coming.

"The governor has said all along that he would be willing to make allotments if the need arose and unless the revenue picture turns around, that need is going to arise," Davis said.

He said that because the state accepted the federal stimulus money for education, any cuts to public schools must be proportional with higher education reductions.

"We may have limitation on both K-12 and higher education, but they definitely are going to have to be on the table along with everybody else," he said.



Posted on Sat, Jun. 06, 2009

## Now with the T-Bones, Damian Rolls hasn't given up hope that he'll return to the majors

By KENT BABB  
The Kansas City Star

D amian Rolls sits in a folding chair, eyeing a box of fried chicken gizzards and considering his next move. Rolls plays baseball for the T-Bones, and the men who make his plans are considering whether Rolls should miss another game.

Josh Adams is the team's trainer, and he's nervous about Rolls' knee. It's a Friday in late May. Five days earlier, a runner slid into the 31-year-old utility player's leg and caused a deep bone bruise. It's better, but it hasn't healed. Adams doesn't have the heart to remind Rolls, a former major-leaguer, that he's not as young as he once was and might do more harm to himself — and the team — if he returns too soon.

Rolls sits in the clubhouse, shaking his head. It's 1 p.m., six hours before the game. Rolls is the first player at CommunityAmerica Ballpark. He could wait and react to what the men above him decide, or he could make his own luck.

"Already missed three games," Rolls says. "He wants me to sit another day. But I want to play. That's why I got here early, so we can get on the same page."

Three of Rolls' teammates arrive. Rolls sees Adams walking toward an empty hallway and follows him. Rolls smiles, the start of a sales pitch. He jukes forward and backward, to one side and then to the other.

"See?" Rolls pleads.

He wants to close the deal. He dribbles an invisible basketball and then backs up, bouncing to execute a pretend jump shot.

"Shoot the jumper!" he says.

Rolls looks Adams in the eye.

"Let me shoot the jumper," he says.

•••

For journeyman ballplayers such as Rolls, memories are catalogued not by years but by teams. And the walls of his parents' basement at their home in Kansas City, Kan., have been through a lot of teams. The pennants in a corner chronicle Rolls' path through the minor leagues, photographs that document his ride from high school to the day he buttoned that Dodgers jersey, a few weeks after Los Angeles drafted him in the first round in 1996. But what about that Kansas license plate, "D ROLLS" in blue letters, on a shelf?

"Schlagle," he says of his high school, shrugging. "Part of my adolescence."

Rolls grew up in Wyandotte County, and this basement was his baseball shrine. Helmets and old newspapers crowd shelves and overflow to the floor. Torn-out magazine photos hang on the wood-paneled walls, overshadowed during Rolls' youth by 150 posters, most of them featuring Ken Griffey Jr. and the swing that weakened Rolls' knees like first love. Rolls met Griffey a few years ago. He tried to play it cool until Griffey greeted him with a "What's up, D-Rolls?"

So many memories, many of them beginning to collect dust like those old keepsakes. Rolls has an apartment in Zona Rosa, a two-bedroom he shares with T-Bones pitcher Luis Villarreal. But most nights, Rolls sleeps in this basement, surrounded by a past he wants to experience again and a present he's not ready to give up.

"Once you get that taste of blood," he says, "all you want is to taste it again."

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The good thing about living in a basement is that family — his father, Al, and mother, Janice — sleeps upstairs. The bad thing is that family — Rolls' wife, three daughters and 2-year-old son — live in Clearwater, Fla.

"Not easy," Rolls says. "But this is something I have to do."

Rolls has reached a common junction in a pro athlete's life, when the mind begins to understand the game but the body starts to withdraw its willingness to play it. Muscles are slower, and healing takes time. People have suggested that Rolls move on, but he says he can't yet — even as he spends months away from Clearwater.

His dad understands. Al Rolls knows the life of a ballplayer and the jolt of giving it up. He wouldn't dare suggest his son lower his socks before he's ready.

“He should play until he doesn’t like it anymore,” Al says.

Al joined the Army in 1963, two years after signing a pro baseball contract at age 18. He decided Vietnam was more important, but in the years since, the game hasn’t stopped pawing at him.

A few weeks ago, Al showed his son something unseen for years. Al called Damian upstairs and opened a safe in his closet. Al kept his most personal possessions in here, things Damian never asked about — from Vietnam, reminders of gunshots and death, and from baseball. Al pulled out his original contract, 48 years old now. The Cubs gave him a \$600 signing bonus and \$350 a month. The father and son sat together for a long time, discussing the game that electrified both of them for years, the game that Al gave up before his ambitions were realized.

Al sits in a recliner now in that house off 72nd Street, thinking about their shared path. Al has to remind himself that his son really did play in the majors. Damian really did run onto Tropicana Field, under those lights and on that infield dirt. Both were brighter than Al had remembered. Now, he can’t forget.

“I just sat back and kind of reflected,” Al says. “This is the big-time here. It hit us: He’s really here.”

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It didn’t last. Injuries followed Rolls, and teams were soured after the Rays released him in 2004. Rolls’ 266 career games went by in a blur, and in the time since, he has been trying to retrace his steps.

Rolls says he’s seen as risky. After Rolls was cut, the Yankees and White Sox signed him, but he hasn’t appeared in a major-league game since October 2004.

He was 27 then, and he’s often reminded that he’s not 27 anymore. But Rolls wants to answer a question: Can he make it back? Or even get close? He’s learning the hard way. Rolls says the T-Bones treat players well but that’s uncommon among independent minor-league teams. He says his last team, the Long Island Ducks, travels on a bus without air conditioning.

“I’ve seen the best of the best,” he says, “and the worst of the worst.”

If there’s hope for another taste of the best, what he needs now is what he needed then: a string of games in the lineup to prove he can stay healthy. To prove that teams can trust his body to hold up, maybe even stronger than when he was 27. Entering Saturday’s game, he’s hitting .302 with three homers and is tied for the team lead with 15 RBIs.

But he needs luck, and some good karma couldn’t hurt, either.

Rolls exits the basement, says goodbye to his father, and heads toward the park.

“Have to make a little stop,” he says, settling into his Chrysler sedan. “This is my good-luck routine.”

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The Chrysler circles the drive-thru at Go Chicken Go, a restaurant off State Avenue in KCK. He orders gizzards, a large strawberry soda and two extra orders of fried livers. Rolls collects the food and pulls back onto the street, heading toward the stadium, hours earlier than most of his teammates.

He enters the clubhouse and pushes the greasy boxes of livers into two teammates’ lockers.

“My good deed,” Rolls says.

Now it’s time to work on the trainer. Rolls offers Adams a gizzard, which he declines. Plan B: Rolls deflects attention from his own injury and asks about another player with a bad knee.

“Early arthritis,” Adams says.

Rolls swallows hard.

“He’s my age, isn’t he?” Rolls asks.

Adams shakes his head.

“Younger, then,” Rolls says, his voice quieter.

His smile is gone. Now what?

Adams sees it every year: players in denial about age and longevity. They don’t like to admit their windows are closing.

“You can’t tell these guys they’re getting old,” Adams says. “But you’re not 21 anymore.”

Adams says Rolls really shouldn’t play on this night, that he should let his knee heal another day or two. Rolls won’t hear of it. He admits it’s unlikely that a big-league scout will watch a T-Bones game and be impressed enough to offer Rolls one last vacation to the majors. But it’s impossible if he’s not in the lineup.

Adams’ job isn’t to grant wishes, and independent-league baseball is no fairy tale. The games are long, and the bus rides are longer — 15 hours each way last month to Winnipeg — and Adams reminds Rolls it’s a long season and that he won’t heal, at his age, without time off.

Rolls doesn’t want it, but time is a rare luxury here. Monthly salaries are capped at a few thousand dollars, and bonuses — Rolls says he once received more than \$40,000 plus a couple thousand more for meals when the Rays played the Yankees in a series

in Japan — don't happen. Rolls teaches baseball lessons during offseasons for extra money. No posh hotels or crisply laundered uniforms. No one to clean mud and caked grass from cleats, either.

"This league tests your love," shortstop Mark Minicozzi says, taking a can of toilet cleaner and a rag to his weathered spikes. "If you didn't love it ..."

"You wouldn't be able to put up with it," Rolls says, his face intense and joyless.

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This could be Rolls' final season. He wants to coach, but if there's a chance the games alongside Griffey remain a faint possibility, he doesn't want to move to the dugout yet. Rolls wants to play until he stops enjoying it, and he doesn't see that happening soon. Stress disappears at the ballpark. Brotherhood thrives. The best thing is that when he's on the field, Rolls never feels 31. He says his family understands, even as he misses valuable moments in Clearwater.

Rolls stands in front of his locker and slides on a Tampa Bay Rays T-shirt, a gift from friend and Rays star Carl Crawford. Rolls has a Tampa Bay bat bag and other equipment that gives him a familiar feeling.

"Like I'm playing there," he says.

It's time to go now, a six-hour rehab schedule ahead to help convince manager Andy McCauley he's healthy. On the way to the ice bath, Rolls catches Adams and executes his basketball performance. Adams gives in. The trainer says he'll recommend that McCauley start Rolls in left field, a position with fewer risks than infield.

Rolls smiles, the joy flooding back in that quiet hallway. Whatever Rolls did, the luck or the karma or the lobbying, it worked. It gives Rolls hope, and he learned a long time ago that hope is one thing that doesn't weaken as a ballplayer ages.

"Anything can happen," Rolls says, opening a door. "This is my lifestyle. We have our ups and downs like everybody else. And no, it's not easy. But this is what I've chosen."

Kansan – June 9, 2009

## H.E.A.R.T. graduates ready for retail, hospitality careers



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*Alan Hoskins*

**There were smiles all around as Unified Government Mayor/CEO Joe Reardon joined Project H.E.A.R.T. graduates for a post-graduation photo – (from left) Project Manager Tammy Lewis, Arieras Long, Brenda Baker, Reardon, Maria Friskel and Thaddeus Watts.**

ADVERTISEMENT

By Alan Hoskins

**Kansas City Kansan**

*Posted Jun 08, 2009 @ 10:24 AM*

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Kansas City, Kan. —

They came from all different walks of life but when it was all said and done, it was one big happy family of graduates at the second H.E.A.R.T. commencement ceremonies at Kansas City Kansas Community College June 3.

An acronym for “Hospitality, Education and Retail Training,” Project H.E.A.R.T. is a collaborative effort between the Unified Government and KCKCC and made possible by funding through legislation introduced by Sen. Sam Brownback and supported by Rep. Dennis Moore.

“This day is about you,” said UG Mayor Joe Reardon in applauding the 18 graduates for their determination, commitment and sacrifices in getting through 13 weeks of intensive training in either Retail or Hospitality.

In their new roles where they’ll be meeting the public, Reardon challenged the graduates to help tell the story of KCK.

“It’s more than having product on the shelf,” said Reardon. “Every city has a story to tell and we’ve got a great city. You’re about to enter a different world with an opportunity to tell our story.”

Four students delivered emotional talks as part of the ceremonies – valedictorians Thaddeus Watts (hospitality)

and Brenda Baker (retail) and class representatives Maria Friskel (hospitality) and Arieras Long (retail).

Their talks included two recurring themes, the closeness and kinship of the students in each of the classes and a new outlook on life.

“We can do anything – but fail,” Long told the graduates, families and friends that filled the KCKCC Conference Center. “It was like a family everyday, working along side everyone,” said Watts. “Everyone was so motivated and so dedicated.”

Baker recounted how she learned of the program through a Job Fair and her apprehension about joining.

“I almost had second thoughts; that I wouldn’t be smart enough,” she said “I was very, very nervous but then I got positive reinforcement through the three D’s – determination, discipline and dedication.”

Called the “Heart of the H.E.A.R.T. project” and the glue that held together the whole class by Hospitality instructor Jonna Lounce, Maria Friskel spelled out the Hospitality program with the words Hot, Opportunity, Ideas, Talk, Attitude (positive), Learn, Improve, Today and You.

“It’s all about you,” Friskel said.

The other Hospitality graduates were Maria Hernandez, Haiti Hodge, Cedric Lee, Mariquio Madlock, Patricia Motes, Heather Reed, Atyra Tillman and Cynthia Townsend while Retail grads included Tanisha Fletcher, Melissa Castleberry, Geraldine Long, Michael Lea, Gabrielle Duarte and Octavius Manier,

Retail instructor Sheila Frazier, hospitality instructor Jonna Lounce and career coach Bruce Owens praised the students for their efforts and sacrifices in completing the 13-week program.

“It’s an awesome accomplishment,” said Frazier. “You now have the best tools to enter a career, not just a job.”

There is no cost to enroll in the program, which is open to any interested persons although aimed primarily at adults going through difficult times including high school dropouts, the unemployed and some who had been incarcerated or were on parole.

“It’s a win, win program, helping some people who may have just given up,” said Project Manager Tammy Lewis. “For some, they’ve never written a resume or had a job interview. Now they’re learning job skills and some kind of trade. So many have gotten jobs from the competency they have learned.”

Students in the program ranged in age from 16 to early 60’s. “All had different situations but they all stuck together,” said Lewis. “If a student didn’t show up, the other students would call to see if they could help or if there was a need. And if Mrs. Friskel heard of anyone having a birthday, she was always bringing pies and

cakes and food. I had one person tell me there were days they were so hungry and Mrs. Friskel had brought something for everyone to eat.”

The first H.E.A.R.T. graduation was held in February .

“We had 27 graduate and 17 of them have jobs and with Schlitterbahn opening, we’ve already had a couple of our new graduates hired.”

All textbooks, assessments and other costs to the students are covered by a government grant.

“The only thing the student has to do is find a way to the college,” said Lewis.

Another class is expected to start in the fall when the second year of a two-year grant kicks in. Persons wishing information on the program are urged to contact Tammy Lewis at (913) 288-7192 or on-line at [tlewis@kckcc.edu](mailto:tlewis@kckcc.edu).

Ten years as a staffing coordinator opening restaurants for Dave & Busters across the nation, Lewis joined KCKCC to fulfill a dream of introducing prospective employees to careers in retail and hospitality.

“I love my job and it’s so good to see everyone come together to provide the push that some people need,” said Lewis.

Kansan – June 9, 2009

## White, Jamison receive 5A baseball awards

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By NICK SLOAN, Sports Editor

**Kansas City Kansan**

*Posted Jun 08, 2009 @ 12:19 PM*

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Kansas City, Kan. —

The Kansas Baseball Coaches Association named a number of Wyandotte County baseball players and coaches on the 5A and 4A teams.

Washington High School senior Josh White was named the Kansas 5A Baseball Player of the Year for 2009.

White hit .654 this year for the Wildcats, hitting three homers, three triples, five doubles and driving in 21 runs.

White had an RBI in all but two games this season and had eight games where he earned at least three hits.

He did not go hitless in any game this season.

In other 5A honors, Turner head coach Dustin Jamison earned the 2009 Coach of the Year award. Jamison coached Turner to its first Kaw Valley League championship – in the team's first year in the league.

Turner also appeared in state, where they were defeated by St. Thomas Aquinas 6-0.

Three of Turner's players received individual recognition. Brandon Simmons was named to the 5A first team, while Jesse Castro and Josh Fishbaugh earned spots on the second team.

Wyandotte County also had its share of honors in 4A.

Four Bishop Ward Cyclones were named to the teams. Beau Stoker was named to the first team while Jake Kolenda, Joe Ramirez and Alex Orel were named to the second team.

The complete teams:

## CLASS 5A ALL-STATE

### FIRST TEAM

P Robbie Rea Topeka Seaman  
P Drew Palmer Arkansas City  
**P Brandon Simmons KC Turner**  
P Ben Minnihan Andover Central  
C Jay Sanders Hays  
1B Kevin Sweeney St. Thomas Aquinas  
2B Chris Hayes Kapaun  
3B Ben French Andover Central  
SS Kelton Rule Hays  
**OF Josh White Washington**  
OF Brandon Tangney Bishop Carroll  
OF Parker Gibson Lansing  
U Tyler Baker Shawnee Heights  
DH Zach Nielson Bishop Carroll

### SECOND TEAM

P Josh Bikus Andover Central  
P Tony Spiculglia Bishop Carroll  
P Devon Brogan Winfield  
**P Josh Fishbaugh KC Turner**  
C Ethan Vinson Salina South  
1B Jason Axtell Andover Central  
2B Laramie Kirkwood Topeka Seaman  
3B Sean McElgunn Bishop Carroll  
SS Chad Duling Bishop Carroll  
OF Bubba Starling Gardner-Edgerton  
OF Zach Stucky Bishop Carroll  
OF Ryan Nelson St. Thomas Aquinas  
U Aaron Boswell Kapaun  
**DH Jesse Castro KC Turner**

Coach of the Year: Dustin Jamison, KC Turner  
Pitcher of the Year: Robbie Rea, Topeka Seaman  
Player of the Year: Josh White, KC Washington

## CLASS 4A ALL-STATE

### FIRST TEAM

P Levi Schlick Colby  
P T.J. McGreevy Topeka Hayden  
P Jake Moore Ottawa  
P Tanner Poppe Girard  
C Cody Knuth Rose Hill  
1B Grant Dunnegan Clearwater  
2B Brad Girard Topeka Hayden  
3B Johnny Englert Wichita Independent  
SS Cade Carter Colby  
OF Zac Villalpando Wichita Independent  
OF Levi Schlick Colby  
OF Tyler Barnes El Dorado  
OF Shanan Engroff Topeka Hayden  
U Toby Cornejo Prairie View  
**DH Beau Stoker KC Ward**

### SECOND TEAM

P Toby Cornejo Prairie View  
**P Jake Kolenda KC Ward**  
P Skip Mayberry Chapman  
P Grant Dunnegan Clearwater  
C Cory Sager Colby  
1B Garrett Claar Prairie View  
**2B Joe Ramirez KC Ward**  
3B Rob Schlicht Tonganoxie  
SS Tyler Spencer Clearwater  
OF Stephen Dinkel Colby  
OF Austin Walls Rose Hill  
**OF Alex Orel KC Ward**  
OF Brandon Stein Independence  
U Ian Smith Wichita Independent  
DH Cody Schumacher Topeka Hayden

Pitcher of the Year: T.J. McGreevy, Topeka Hayden  
Player of the Year: Levi Schlick, Colby



Posted on Tue, Jun. 09, 2009

## Report: Kansas high school graduate rate increases

TOPEKA | A new report says Kansas' high school graduation rate rose from 1996 to 2006 and stayed above the national average.

Editorial Projects in Education, the nonprofit Maryland group that publishes Education Week, has released its Diplomas Count report for each state.

Kansas ranked 16th overall, with a graduation rate of 75.4 percent for 2006. The national average was 69.2 percent.

Since 2006, the report said, Kansas' graduation rate has risen 2.5 percentage points. That's a little slower than the national average of 2.8 percentage points.

But Kansas' graduation rates were above the national average in 2006 for all gender and ethnic groups, except Hispanic males and females.

| *The Associated Press*

Wyandotte West – June 9, 2009

## ***Area students to take part in Duke TIP recognition ceremony June 7 at KU***

The University of Kansas will hold a state recognition program at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 7, at the Lied Center for more than 300 of the more than 900 academically talented seventh-grade students selected for the 2009 Duke University Talent Identification Program.

Several Kansas City, Kansas, students are among those being recognized from 128 cities in Kansas.

Kevin Willmott, associate professor of theatre and film, will deliver a special address on his approach to filmmaking to the students and their families and guests. Teresa Porter, Duke TIP representative, will present the awards.

Selection to Duke TIP is based on college entrance exam scores that are in the top 5 percent while the students are in middle school. Students participate by taking either the SAT or ACT national achievement tests. Working with host academic institutions such as KU, Duke TIP sponsors 35 ceremonies in its 16-state talent search region.

Each Duke TIP student receives a medallion. The state recognition ceremonies honor seventh-graders who earned scores above the average scores of college-bound high school seniors. Of more than 74,000 applicants this year, 24,204 students qualified and have been invited to state recognition events, including more than 900 students being recognized at KU.

The Duke program is in its 29th year, and this is the 11th year KU has hosted the Kansas recognition program. Information tables to answer students' and parents' questions about KU programs and activities will be in the Lied Center lobby during the event.

Duke TIP is a nonprofit educational organization that identifies and helps cultivate the talents of academically gifted youth. Since 1980, more than 1.5 million students have taken part in the program that is supported by student fees and donations from individuals, corporations and foundations.

Students recognized from Kansas City, Kansas, include: Asha K. Barton, Brittany E. Baumli, Carly R. Benjamin, Jordan Callier, Aaron C. Dominic, Elizabeth Freeman, Ana Guerrero, Kennedy Hernandez, Jena L. Klaas, Michael W. Lake Jr., Jennie Littleton, Bridget McSorley, Eli T. Mitchell, Daniel R. Murga, Jessica Paxton, Hannah M. Sharp, Theresa A. Umscheid, and Saul Vasquez Jr.

## Five local students honored from KU

By **KANSAN STAFF**

**Kansas City Kansan**

Posted Jun 11, 2009 @ 11:32 AM

Kansas City, Kan. — The Center for Service Learning at the University of Kansas recognized 261 students in more than 50 disciplines for completing certification in service learning during the 2008-09 school year.

A ceremony was held May 7 to present students with their certificates. Andi Witczak, director of the Center for Service Learning, commended the students for their achievements and emphasized the impact of the students' efforts on their community and their education.

"Service learning connects the life of the mind with the habits of the heart, giving students the opportunity to experience how their discipline plays a role in civic engagement and service to the community," she said.

Service learning is a form of experiential education in which students participate in service that addresses community needs and increases students' understanding of course materials through application and reflection. This year, for example, Basow's service learning students applied their strategic communication skills to enhance public outreach efforts of several local nonprofit organizations, including KU's Counseling and Psychological Services, the Lawrence Historic Preservation Alliance, Parenting Initiative and the Kansas City Area Development Council.

To receive certification in service learning, students must complete four components: a service learning course, independent service project, set of directed civic engagement and leadership readings, and reflection upon their experiences.

Students honored from Wyandotte County

- Darian Jermall Nave, son of LaVeda Davis, Elementary Education Senior F L Schlagle High School
- Ashley Wallace, daughter of Tonya Crockett (Wallace), Applied Behavioral Science BGS Senior Sumner Academy Arts & Science
- Alyssa Nicole Taylor, daughter of Cheryl Taylor, Applied Behavioral Science BA Senior Sumner Academy Arts & Science
- Xavier Carlos Loya son of Tom and Yolanda Loya Strategic Communication BSJ Senior J C Harmon High School
- Matthew T Raplinger Male - Urban PlanningMUP Graduate

## Scholarship Fund honors 158 students

JOE ARCE AND TONY BALANDRAN

A Latino student — whose family sometimes wonders how to make ends meet — is given a chance to fulfill a dream by attending college, earning a degree and then becoming an advocate for the community. For 25 years, that is how the Greater Kansas City Hispanic Scholarship Fund has defined success.

Last night at an awards banquet at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown in the Muehlebach Tower, 158 students took a step closer to fulfilling their dream by receiving more than \$232,000 in scholarships.

“The Hispanic Scholarship Fund is proud to encourage our Hispanic youth to pursue college by consistently awarding scholarships each year,” said Ramon Murguia, chairman of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund advisory board.

The annual banquet, which occurred after deadline for the Hispanic News, brought together more than 400 civic leaders, students, Latino business supporters and college and university representatives for an inspiring evening to honor the year’s outstanding student achievers.

Janet Murguia, president and Chief Executive Officer of the National Council of La Raza, the largest national Hispanic civil rights organization, delivered the keynote address. Donald J. Hall Sr., chairman of Hallmark Cards Inc., and Tony Salazar, founder of the Greater Kansas City Hispanic Scholarship Fund, were honorary co-chairmen for the event.

The scholarship fund, since its inception in 1984, has awarded more than 2,331 scholarships totaling more than \$1.9 million through money raised from the public and private sectors, as well as matching scholarships from area colleges and universities.

Murguia said the 25th anniversary milestone allowed organizers a chance to look back on the purpose the scholarships have served.

“With this anniversary, it allows you to look back and get a sense of how you have helped people,” Murguia told Hispanic News. “When we have helped an individual get a college degree and they are out there working and they are now advocates for the community — that makes me feel like we had an impact.”

Murguia said much of that success falls on the shoulders of the fund’s founder, Tony Salazar, who believed in pooling resources and focusing on students who needed help the most. “Still, there are a lot of folks in our community who are not satisfied so we want to continue to push ourselves. We want to continue to give more scholarships and make them available to more students.”

About 200 students applied for scholarships this year. And despite all the money that has been awarded over the years, there is still a clear need for more contributions, Murguia said. “There is a lot of need out there, especially in these difficult economic times and we are conscience of that and we are trying to increase our amount of financial aid to these students.” He said fund organizers work hard every year to uncover more and more contributions.

Janell Avila, co-chairwoman of the scholarship fund’s 25th anniversary event committee, said, “Going forward not only do we want to grow the program, we also want to increase the number of Latinos actively participating in charitable giving in ways that are important to them.”

Murguia said, “Reaching out to more potential donors isn’t about finding the wealthiest people in our community It’s about giving people at all levels a way to get involved, whether it’s contributing \$25 for a scholarship or opening a family foundation fund. Either way, we want more people to discover that organized

philanthropy is a very rewarding experience.”

Sponsors to the program were: Adelante Fund, Bank of America, Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, Country Club Bank, DST Systems, Inc., Dunn Family Foundation, Francis Family Foundation, Esther A. Giffin, H&R Block Foundation, Hallmark Cards, Inc., Johnson County Community College, Kansas City Southern, KCP&L, Ramon and Sally Murguia, Carolyn and Bob Reintjes, Solorio & Avila Law Firm, LLC, The Sosland Foundation, Sprint Foundation University of Kansas, University of Missouri Kansas City-Agapito Mendoza Scholarship, University of Saint Mary.”

## 2009-10 Hispanic Scholarship Fund Recipients

Joshua Aguilar  
Ricardo Almaraz  
Carmen Alvarado  
Eduardo Alvarado  
Wendy Alvarez  
Aldo Alvidrez  
Edelis Andazola  
Kelly Arispe  
Alejandro Arriaga  
Jacqueline Ayala  
Juan Banuelas  
Kimberly Barrientos  
Laura Benitez  
Fatima Bichara  
Sergio Bichara  
Patsy Campos  
Samuel Carrazana  
Gustavo Carreon  
Cindy Cartagena  
Mikaela Casey  
Carlos Cazares  
Richard Cecena  
Iduara Chaparro  
Alejandro Chavira  
Juan-Carlos Chaurand  
Kinsey Chavez  
Marin Chavez  
Saira Conde  
Juan DeJesus  
Jaime Diosdado  
Carlos Dominguez  
Katherine Ebert  
Ana Escalante  
Kimberly Escobar  
Amanda Estrada  
Isaac Falcon  
Aaron Farish  
Michael Fierro  
Francisco Flores  
Yesenia Flores  
Angela Florez

Michael Florez  
Laedan Galicia  
Jacqueline Galvez  
Dimitri Gamez  
Danielle Garcia  
Jessica Garcia  
Jesus Garcia  
Lorenzo Garcia  
Marissa Garcia  
Samantha Garcia  
Brenda Garnica  
Paulita Gomez  
Stephanie Gomez  
Alexandria Gonzalez  
Justin Gonzalez  
Jose Gonzalez  
Philip Gonzalez  
Maritza Gordillo  
Sayra Gordillo  
Davin Gordon  
Crystal Guerra  
Jose Guerra  
Rebecca Gunter  
Cinthya Guzman  
Amanda Hall  
Andrew Hall  
Amanda Hernandez  
Delores Hernandez  
Iggy Hernandez  
Joel Hernandez  
Julia Hernandez  
Norma Hernandez  
Vianney Hernandez  
Aniseto Herrerra  
Alyssa Ibarra  
Monica Jimenez  
Montserrat Jimenez  
Stephanie Leal  
Lorena Longoria  
Jillian Lopez  
Kayla Lopez

Omar Lopez  
Paola Lopez  
Xavier Loya  
Betsy Lubian-Farfan  
Nancy Luna  
Robert Lyons  
Calvin Madrigal  
Mark Marquez  
Griselda Martinez  
Ivette Martinez  
Emily Menez  
Anthony Merino  
Joshua Messick-Vega  
Sarah Mills  
Arturo Mora  
Damian Mora  
Josselin Moya  
Cesar Munoz  
Manuel Munoz  
Anna Munoz  
Marco Navarro  
John Oropeza  
Cristina Ortiz  
Carlos Pacheco, III  
Helsy Padilla  
Stefany Penaloza  
Nicholas Perez  
Ernesto Pineda  
Genesis Pineda  
Maricela Pizano  
Veronica Pizano  
Eduardo Ramirez  
Felicia Ramirez  
Rigoberto Ramirez  
Angelica Ramos  
Toni Rank  
Andrew Reyes  
Elisa Rios  
Kevin Ritz  
Ana Robles  
Ariel Rojas

Wyatt Roldan  
Natalia Roldan  
Jacqueline Saavedra  
Xochitl Saldivar  
Aracely Sanchez  
Dalia Sandoval  
Cecilia Santacruz  
Alex Severns  
Gabriel Soberanis  
William Suarez  
Richard Suarez  
Jose Tabora

Daniel Tafoya  
Yajaira Tellez  
Crystal Tello  
Kristan Tinoco  
Julio Tovalin  
Alicia Vaca  
JoAnna Valdez  
David Valdiviezo  
Elvis Vargas  
Anabel Vargas  
Katty Vasquez  
Jose Vazquez

George Vega  
Gabriell Vega  
Natalie Veliz  
Gabriela Venegas  
Alain Villalpando  
Amelia Villa-Nueva  
Marc Wilson  
Jesus Zamarripa-Ortega  
Vebian Zamora  
Matthew Zamora  
Emiliano Zapata

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*Corrigan's Corner column*

## Generation Next

*A pair of prep baseball prodigies could be professionals*

**by Donovan Corrigan**

Kevin Young, David Segui, Damian Rolls and Ray Sadecki could have company. The aforementioned men are players from Wyandotte County who went on to play professional baseball.

There's a pair of prep baseball prodigies who could be joining the exclusive club soon. By the time this column is published, the Major League Baseball first-year amateur draft will be completed.

Scouts and draft gurus say that Bishop Ward's Beau Stoker and Washington's Josh White have the potential to play pro baseball, and could even be drafted this year. Most believe both have the abilities and intangibles to play at that level in the future.

White was the Kansas baseball Coaches Association's Class 5A Player of the Year as a senior (see related story) and Stoker was a Class 4A All-State first-team selection as a senior.

White is a combination of speed, athleticism and power. White covers a ton of ground in centerfield and has an above average arm. He was a member of the Wyandotte West and Piper Press Cream of the Crop football team as a quarterback. He stole 32 bases as a senior and 31 more as a junior. White has line-drive pop and is clutch with runners on base.

Stoker is a sure-handed shortstop with above-average range and a strong arm. Stoker has a left-handed stroke that produces power and runs. He helped Bishop Ward reach the 4A state tournament the past three seasons with two championship rings. Ward finished fourth this season.

Stoker, like White, was also a member of the Wyandotte West and Piper Press Cream of the Crop football team as a quarterback, and a punter and kicker. He is also a pitcher with a fastball that reaches 90-miles-per-hour. White also took the mound and pitched well for Washington.

Stoker and White also have something else in common—they and their families value education. Both have earned scholarships and will attend college. Stoker signed with Missouri State University, while White inked to play at Fort Scott Community College.

Several teams have been interested in both players, including the Nationals, Royals and Twins. Scouts have rung the phones at the respective high school coaches' offices and watched film on them. I'm sure visits have been made with both players' families, too.

I'm not saying either will be drafted in this season's MLB draft or that they are sure-bet prospects to play in the Big Show one day. I am confident in saying that you won't find many young players that work any harder than these two. I feel good about saying that White and Stoker will do whatever it takes to be successful on the diamond, in the classroom, and in their everyday lives as grow from boys to men.

I'm not supposed to root as sports reporter, but I have been known to go against the grain, so why stop now. Here's hoping both young men make it to the major leagues someday and give back to the youth of this community, so the next generation of young baseball players have the same opportunities.

*Editor's note: check [www.kcease.com](http://www.kcease.com) for MLB draft coverage on Friday.*

*Baseball news*

## **Kansas Association of Baseball Coaches 2009 All-State Teams**

### **Class 5A**

#### **FIRST TEAM**

P Robbie Rea, Topeka Seaman  
P Drew Palmer, Arkansas City  
P Brandon Simmons, Turner  
P Ben Minnihan, Andover Central  
C Jay Sanders, Hays  
1B Kevin Sweeney, St. Thomas Aquinas  
2B Chris Hayes, Kapaun  
3B Ben French, Andover Central  
SS Kelton Rule, Hays  
OF Josh White, Washington  
OF Brandon Tangney, Bishop Carroll  
OF Parker Gibson, Lansing  
U Tyler Baker, Shawnee Heights  
DH Zach Nielson, Bishop Carroll

#### **SECOND TEAM**

P Josh Bikus, Andover Central  
P Tony Spiculglia, Bishop Carroll  
P Devon Brogan, Winfield  
P Josh Fishbaugh, Turner  
C Ethan Vinson, Salina South  
1B Jason Axtell, Andover Central  
2B Laramie Kirkwood, Topeka Seaman  
3B Sean McElgunn, Bishop Carroll  
SS Chad Duling, Bishop Carroll  
OF Bubba Starling, Gardner-Edgerton  
OF Zach Stucky, Bishop Carroll  
OF Ryan Nelson, St. Thomas Aquinas  
U Aaron Boswell, Kapaun  
DH Jesse Castro, Turner

Coach of the Year: Dustin Jamison, KC Turner  
Pitcher of the Year: Robbie Rea, Topeka Seaman  
Player of the Year: Josh White, KC Washington

### **Class 4A**

#### **FIRST TEAM**

P Levi Schlick, Colby  
P T.J. McGreevy, Topeka Hayden  
P Jake Moore, Ottawa  
P Tanner Poppe, Girard  
C Cody Knuth, Rose Hill  
1B Grant Dunnegan, Clearwater  
2B Brad Girard, Topeka Hayden  
3B Johnny Englert, Wichita Independent  
SS Cade Carter, Colby  
OF Zac Villalpando, Wichita Independent  
OF Levi Schlick, Colby  
OF Tyler Barnes, El Dorado  
OF Shanan Engroff, Topeka Hayden  
U Toby Cornejo, Prairie View  
DH Beau Stoker, Ward

#### **SECOND TEAM**

P Toby Cornejo, Prairie View  
P Jake Kolenda, Ward  
P Skip Mayberry, Chapman  
P Grant Dunnegan, Clearwater  
C Cory Sager, Colby  
1B Garrett Claar, Prairie View  
2B Joe Ramirez, Ward  
3B Rob Schlicht, Tonganoxie  
SS Tyler Spencer, Clearwater  
OF Stephen Dinkel, Colby  
OF Austin Walls, Rose Hill  
OF Alex Orel, Ward  
OF Brandon Stein, Independence  
U Ian Smith, Wichita Independent  
DH Cody Schumacher, Topeka Hayden

Pitcher of the Year: T.J. McGreevy, Topeka Hayden  
Player of the Year: Levi Schlick, Colby

## **Student Honors**

### **Seven KCK students on Washburn President's Honor Roll**

Seven students from Kansas City, Kansas, have been named to the President's Honor Roll for the spring semester at Washburn University, Topeka.

The students include Kristina A. Sink, Holly Dulaney, Rachel Alene Joly, Jennifer L. Mills, Jennifer Marie Steele, Aliuwaoma Tidi Unoke and Ada Bao Yang.

Students on the list are enrolled in at least 12 credit hours and attain a semester grade point average of 4.0.

### **Saint Mary Dean's List includes Wyandotte County students**

Several Wyandotte County students are on the Dean's List for the spring semester at the University of Saint Mary, Leavenworth.

The students include Megan Befort, Cameron Burch, Caitlyn Conrad, Sarah Harrington, Stephen Maurin, Austin Nigro, Matthew Reitemeier and Tyler Schuman, Kansas City, Kansas; Derrick Babcock, Michael Bille, Brandon Hoch, Christina Johnson, Alexander Perica, Shauna Putnam, Ryan Reed and Amanda Rhodes, Bonner Springs.

Students on the Dean's List had a grade point average of 3.5 or better.

### **KCK student makes dean's list at Drury**

Evan Franklin Youngblood, Kansas City, Kansas, has been named to the Dean's List for the spring semester at Drury University, Springfield, Mo.

Students on the list earned a grade point average of 3.6 or greater on a 4-point scale, while carrying a full-time course load of 12 or more semester hours at Drury.

### **Baker announces Dean's List**

Four Kansas City, Kansas, students and one Bonner Springs student have been named to the Dean's List for the spring semester at Baker University, Baldwin City, Kan.

The students include Rachel A. Adams, Kelsey M. Cobb, Cortney R. Harding and Andrew J. Roberts, Kansas City, Kansas; and Christopher T. Sifuentes, Bonner Springs.

Students on the Dean's List must maintain a 3.5 grade point average or higher during the spring semester.

### **Two KCK students named to Dean's List at Lincoln**

Jalisa L. Hall and Leatrice S. Palmer, Kansas City, Kansas, have been named to the Dean's List for the spring semester at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Mo.

Those on the Dean's List must achieve a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, with a minimum of 12 credit hours.

### **Bonner Springs student on Coe College Dean's List**

Chelsea Simmons, a 2008 Bonner Springs High School graduate, has been named to the Dean's List for the spring semester at Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Students who achieved a grade point average of 3.9 or higher achieved this honor this semester.

### **Six students on Dean's Honor Roll**

Six Wyandotte County students are on the Dean's Honor Roll at Washburn University, Topeka.

They include Hilary Ann Johnson, James J. Prather and Elizabeth A. Theno, Bonner Springs; Nathan R. Daniels, Steven Hargis and Tarrah Patricia McMillan, Kansas City, Kansas.

To be named to the list, a student must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours and attain a semester grade point average between 3.4 and 3.99.

### **Spring graduates announced at Washburn University**

Several Wyandotte County students have graduated from Washburn University, Topeka. Graduates from Kansas City, Kansas, include Raquel Boxum, Bachelor of Health Science, medical imaging; Melissa Dobbin, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, law enforcement; Jennifer Mills, Bachelor of Arts, history, summa cum laude, university honors; and Jamie Theno, Bachelor of Integrated Studies.

### **Student chooses Columbia College**

Julie Grillion, Kansas City, Kansas, has registered for fall semester classes at Columbia College, Columbia, Mo.

She recently attended an event for future students.

### **KCK student receives degree**

Karen E. Conyers, Kansas City, Kansas, has graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato, Minn., with a Master of Arts degree in English.

### **Bonner Springs student recognized**

Megan Kathleen O'Malley, Bonner Springs, was recognized with the Barbara C. Etzel Award for outstanding achievement in early childhood education at the University of Kansas.

O'Malley received a bachelor's degree in applied behavioral science at KU.

### **Five area students recognized at Washburn University scholarship banquet**

Jasmine Bryant, Makayla Horn, Kaitlynn Long, Zachary Mann, Colleen McCorley, all of Kansas City, Kansas, received academic scholarships from Washburn University. These students were among the 86 high school seniors recognized for their achievements at a banquet in May at Washburn University.

An academic scholarship requires a 23 on the ACT test, a 3.25 grade point average and full-time enrollment. The scholarships are renewable.

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## White wins Kansas Class 5A Player of the Year Honors

*Washington standout had stellar senior season*

**by Donovan Corrigan**

Josh White is a program-changing athlete.

The athletic and versatile standout transformed Washington from a Kansas City, Kansas, League football and basketball power to a respected baseball school in the KCKL, and statewide.

White, a speedy centerfielder, helped the Wildcats compile a record of 13-3 in the KCKL the past seasons with first and second-place finishes. Not known for its prowess as a baseball program in the recent past, Washington went 21-16 overall in White's junior and senior seasons.

White produced one of the finest all-around offensive seasons in the state as a senior. The centerfielder batted a whopping .654 with three home runs, three triples and six doubles. White drove in 22 runs, while scoring 34 in 15 games in 2009. White had 22 hits while stealing 32 bases without getting caught. White posted an eye-opening slugging percentage of 1,058 and reached base .705 percent of the time. White hit a robust .593 with runners in scoring position.

Despite all the exploits with the bat, his speed on the bases, and his steady glove and strong arm in the outfield, White received some pleasantly surprising words from Washington coach Shawn Lopez recently. Lopez called White to inform his star pupil that the Kansas Baseball Coaches Association named him the Class 5A Player of the Year.

"I was very surprised to get a phone call from my coach telling me that I was the Player of the Year," White said. "I don't know when the last time someone from Washington was the 5A Player of the Year in any sport."

White was also the KCKL Player of the Year this season. White was All-State first team and All-KCKL first team.

White was as gracious and humble in winning the prestigious award as he is swift and strong in the field.

"First, I would like to thank God on all my awards this season," White said. "This is a big honor. Our school was not known for having a good baseball program, and (coach) Lopez turned that around when he came two years ago. I didn't think anyone would pay attention to us as far as giving out these kinds of awards, but I guess when you are doing your job (and working hard) everyone is watching."

Lopez was proud of White and thought his team catalyst was well-deserving.

"Josh White had an amazing year for us this year," Lopez said. "Being named the (Class) 5A Player of the Year is quite an honor and achievement. There are a lot of exceptional baseball players in the state of Kansas, and for Josh to be recognized as having the best year, is extremely special."

**Editor's note:** For more high school baseball coverage and a complete listing of the Kansas Class 5A and 4A All-State baseball teams, go to the sports page at [www.KCease.com](http://www.KCease.com).

## \$760K in grants awarded to assist in health care for Wyandotte County

By **STAFF REPORTS**

**Kansas City Kansan**

Posted Jun 12, 2009 @ 02:05 PM

Kansas City, Kan. — A number of health organizations providing assistance to Wyandotte County residents have received \$760,000 in grants from the Reach Healthcare Foundation to provide access to health care for the county's poor and medically underserved children and adults.

“Job and income losses over the past year have underscored the difficulties millions of people have in obtaining and affording quality health care,” Reach Foundation president and CEO Brenda Sharpe said in a news release issued Friday. “Core operating grants are awarded to nonprofit organizations that have demonstrated their ability to provide essential health services to low-income and underserved individuals in our communities, and to advocate on their behalf.”

Along with core operating support, the Foundation also issued a number of grants to support innovative approaches to linking children and adults with primary medical, dental and mental health care. These included grants for referral networks that help low-income and uninsured patients obtain specialty medical care; school-based efforts to connect children and youth with mental health services; and programs that focus on specific, vulnerable populations, such as homeless adults and children.

A list of organizations receiving funding for Wyandotte County-based initiatives:

- **Communities in Schools of KCK/Wyandotte County (Oral Health) - \$40,000**
- Crittenton Children's Center (Mental Health) - \$52,210
- Duchesne Clinic (Safety Net Services) - \$100,000
- Jaydoc Free Clinic (Safety Net Services) - \$100,000
- KU School of Social Welfare (Mental Health) - \$80,145
- Silver City Health Center (Safety Net Services) - \$100,000
- Mattie Rhodes Center (Mental Health) - \$83,643
- Riverview Health Services, Inc. (Safety Net Services) - \$100,000
- Turner House Children's Clinic - \$100,000