Conner McMullen has been selected to receive the Max Malin Memorial KU Scholarship for the 2007-2008 school term at the University of Kansas. He will be beginning his second year at KU pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Aerospace Engineering.

During his freshman year at KU he has continued to maintain the very high academic level that he held at Plainville High School.

Along with this he was a member of the Freshman Engineering Student Council and a participant in the Leading Edge Learning Community.

He has been working with a group of his peers, some graduate students and a University Professor on an aerodynamics project for the Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets (CRESIS).

In the community of Lawrence he enjoys working with youth as an assistant coach for the Kaw Valley Kids Club wrestling team.

He also served as a football scout for Mission Valley High School last fall. He did this for his former high school football coach Lee Weber who is now Head Football Coach at Mission Valley.

Connor is the son of Karen McMullen Hageman and the late Patrick McMullen. Other recipients of this scholarship in previous years were Jason Hrabe, Wendy Rohleder, Marcie Rohleder, Rebecca Seifers, Kelly Wilson, Heather Plante, and Jessica Casey.
Area students take part in Duke TIP ceremony

LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas hosted a state recognition program on June 3 for about 400 academically talented seventh-grade students selected for the Duke University Talent Identification Program.

Selection to Duke TIP is based on college entrance-exam scores that students take while still in middle school. The top five percent are chosen for the program. Students participate by taking either the SAT or ACT national achievement tests. Working with host academic institutions such as KU, Duke TIP sponsors 33 state ceremonies in its 16-state talent search region.

Area students who were chosen to participate are listed below:

- Jacob D. Harts, Haviland
- Justin R. Stackhouse, Cunningham
- Jake D. Beecher, Medicine Lodge
- Alexandrea J. Rogers, Medicine Lodge
- Eric R. Armstrong, Pratt
- Addison Millen, Pratt

The program is in its 27th year, and this is the ninth year KU has hosted the Kansas state recognition program.
Former Prattan earns PhD

Catherine Danielle Krammer received her PhD in special education on May 20 from the University of Kansas. The daughter of Rick and Vicki Davis of Pratt, she graduated from Pratt High School in 1992. She received a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 2000 and a Master of Science in special education in 2001, both from KU. She lives in Cleveland, Ohio, with her husband, Edmund J. Krammer Jr.
Jenny Wilson, a 2004 graduate of Wabaunsee High School, has been accepted for admittance to the Occupational Therapy Education Program at the University of Kansas. The Occupational Therapy Program at the University of Kansas Medical Center is a three year course of study with one year of undergraduate and two years of graduate work, culminating in a Master of Occupational Therapy degree.

34 applicants were granted admission for the summer 2007 class. 16 were accepted in the early admission phase in the Fall of 2006 and 18, out of 69 applicants, were accepted in the Spring 2007 application phase.

Jenny is the daughter of Scott and Charlene Wilson, Topeka, formerly of Alma.
New KU students to attend picnics

New University of Kansas students and their parents from Allen, Bourbon, Cherokee, Crawford, Labette, Montgomery, Neosho, Wilson, and Woodson counties will be welcomed into the KU family at one of two Jayhawk Generations Welcome Picnics scheduled in southeast Kansas.

New students may attend picnics Thursday, June 21, in Chanute’s Bowl-Mor Lanes at 1502 Santa Fe or Wednesday, July 11, in Galena’s Schermerhorn Park at 3511 South Main.

KU Alumni Association Tri-state Chapter officers Henry Menghini of Pittsburg, president, and Brian Smith of Galena, vice-president, and representatives of the KU Alumni Association will greet the next generation of Jayhawks at the picnics.

Some of the area students planning to attend KU this fall include Thomas Hughes and Logan Quails of Baxter Springs; Michael Aldighetti and Morgan Cheeseman of Columbus; Molly Fuller of Oswego; and Bethany Davis, Elaina Flinn, Bryce Jones, Autumn Wasson and Tiffany Woods of Riverton.
Sunflower Village’s population fluctuated between wars

This is the conclusion of a two-part look at the history of Sunflower Village believed to have been written by Floyd Talley, who was De Soto School District superintendent from 1961 to 1967.

The first school building was built in 1944. Before the completion of this building, children attended classes in various buildings. Some went to school in a building retained from Trailertown, and some were transported to the overcrowded De Soto Grade School. Mrs. Bartholomew taught the first kindergarten class at 202 Lane M, but later moved to the nursery building.

Additions to the school were made in 1945 and again in 1954. In 1951-1952, enrollment at Sunflower Grade School reached 1,029 in kindergarten through eighth grade. The building could not accommodate this many students. There were four first-grade teachers, each had two sections of one in the morning and one in the afternoon. One kindergarten teacher had three sections.

A new grade-school building was built on the east side of the new village in 1953 and an addition added in 1956.

The Sunflower Child Care Center, more commonly known as the nursery, was opened in 1945. It was designed to take care of children while parents were employed in war production work at the plant. Following the war, need for the service still existed, although it was no longer possible to operate it through Lanam Act funds. Arrangements were made for the services to continue, first by help of the village council and U.S.O. and later the Sunflower Civic Association.

A village non-denominational community church first met Aug. 15, 1943, in the Old Trailertown building. This was arranged by the Rev. C.L. Harnen, pastor of the De Soto Methodist Church. The Rev. W.O. Watson became the second full-time pastor in October 1944.

The need for Catholic services in the village was recognized early. The Rev. Lorenz Reith of Holy Family Church in Eudora arranged for mass each Sunday morning in the game room of the community building. Later, when the recreation center was opened, the use of the theater portion was offered. Subsequently, both the non-denominational and Catholic congregations met in the grade school.

When Sunflower was at its peak during World War II, the population of the village was approximately 6,000 people living in 1,432 dwelling units. The units were furnished with refrigerators, gas ranges and stoves for heating. Rent including trash and garbage removal ranged from $29 to $3.50 a month, depending on the number of bedrooms.

Sunflower sprang up like a mushroom. It was called the fastest-growing town in Kansas. The population turnover was high during the war when families moved from war plant to war plant.

When the war was over, Sunflower was faced with the prospect of folding up. Instead, the government authorized the use of empty units for service men from military bases in Olathe, Topeka and Leavenworth. The service families were gradually replaced by Kansas University students, and the place was nicknamed Jayhawkville.

Approximately, 1,000 single male students occupied 26 buildings acquired by Kansas University. More than 1,000 student families moved into Sunflower also, and the nickname switched to Nursery Junction. Maternity and children’s shops opened in the commercial section and a nursery was added to the recreational center.

By 1950, the college student population was decreasing, and Sunflower was on the decline. But the Korean War started and the ordnance plant was reactivated for powder production and Sunflower’s population increased once again.

But with the war’s end, the population again slacked off. In December 1955, the federal government transferred title of the housing units in Sunflower to the Sunflower Ordnance Works, which started selling unoccupied units to private buyers. By September 1956, there were 977 dwelling units remaining, with only 147 occupied.

Frank Rother, who had operated the grocery store for nearly 11 years, cancelled his lease March 16, 1957. Paul Milberger, who operated the theater, bowling alley and restaurant, dropped his lease in May.

In 1961, Sunflower was sold to Quick Way Homes and is now (1972) low-rent housing.

The two school buildings, Sunflower building and the annex building are now owned and operated by De Soto USD 232.
ACCHS alum joins Jayhawk honor society

LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas’ Alpha chapter of Phi Beta Kappa academic honor society welcomed 103 new members, including an Atchison County Community High School alumnus, at a recent induction ceremony at KU.

Nathan Lee Ladd, son of Ray and Cindy Ladd, was welcomed into the society during the induction ceremony. Ladd, a graduate of ACCHS, is a senior at KU majoring in international studies and management.

Election to Phi Beta Kappa recognizes a student’s high academic achievement while pursuing a broad and substantive liberal arts curriculum. To be eligible for consideration for membership, students must have senior status and a minimum grade-point average of 3.65 on a 4.0 scale.

Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest national academic honorary society, was founded Dec. 5, 1776, at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. KU’s Alpha chapter, founded in 1890, was the first chapter west of the Mississippi and is one of 276 Phi Beta Kappa chapters nationwide.
Outstanding students in the Department of Theater and Film at the University of Kansas were recently honored with awards and scholarships. Several of the honorees are from Leavenworth County.

Lawrence Henderson, Lansing, received the Shirley and Tom P. Rea Memorial Award; Lucinda Koenig, Leavenworth, received the Alexis and Craig Stevens Performing Arts Scholarship; and Jonathan Matteson, Leavenworth, received the Richard Kelton Memorial Scholarship.
Amanda Spiker was awarded her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Kansas School of Law at the annual Hooding Ceremony held Sunday, May 20, 2007, at the Lied Center. The 135th annual commencement ceremony was held later that day at Memorial Stadium on the University of Kansas campus.

Miss Spiker, a 2000 graduate of Onaga High School, has accepted a position as an attorney for a firm in Kansas City, Missouri.

She is the daughter of Stan and Sharon Hartwich of rural Onaga and Lonnie and Sandy Spiker.
During an annual spring exhibition and competition, the University of Kansas Department of Art recognized 53 students with approximately $225,300 in scholarships and awards.

A faculty committee judged the nominated students' art projects displayed on the third and fourth floors of KU's Art and Design Building from May 3. Of the honored students, 41 received about $190,950 in scholarships of varying amounts, and 25 students received about $34,350 in awards in varying amounts.

Nicholas Allen Perry, son of Jean Perry, ArtBFA, senior, received the Pat J. Ellis Art Scholarship and Hollander Family Foundation Award.

Nicholas is a graduate of St. Marys High School.