LAWRENCE — The names of more than 50 University of Kansas School of Pharmacy undergraduate students were omitted from the all-university honor roll for fall 2006. The omission was due to a university oversight and included the following northwest Kansas students:

- Monique Renee Schrader, Hays, daughter of Lewis and Ruth Schrader, School of Pharmacy
- Tamara Lynn Zimmerman, Hays, daughter of David and Marilyn Jensen, School of Pharmacy
- Steven Brent Weltmer, Smith Center, son of Michael and Ladonna Weltmer, School of Pharmacy
- Robert Ray Tubbs, Levant, son of Ray and Julie Tubbs, School of Pharmacy
Cadet Peter Holmes, junior at the University of Kansas, followed by KU Cadet Allen Blair, surveys the area around Camp Miles over an eliminated member of the opposing force, portrayed by Cadet Chris Parker, senior at Kansas State University, during a situational training exercise for the state’s three ROTC programs April 14 at Fort Leavenworth.

Cadet Holmes, a University of Kansas junior, was followed by KU Cadet Allen Blair as he surveyed the area around Camp Miles over an eliminated member of the opposing force portrayed by Cadet Chris Parker, a senior at Kansas State University, during a situational training exercise for the state’s three ROTC programs April 14 at Fort Leavenworth.

Rotc cadets train on post

Rotc cadets from Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, and Pittsburg State University listen to an after-action review by Cadet Mitch Tener, senior at Pittsburg State, of their situational training exercise April 14 at Fort Leavenworth's Camp Miles.

Rotc Cadet Jesse Kangas, freshman at the University of Kansas, searches a member of the opposing force portrayed by Kansas State University senior Cadet Chris Parker, while Cadet Jordan O’Grady, sophomore at KU, stands guard during a situational training exercise April 14 at Fort Leavenworth.

Rotc cadets from Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, and Pittsburg State University sit near Camp Miles for an after-action review of their situational training exercise April 14 at Fort Leavenworth. More than 200 Reserve Officers’ Training Corps students from KU in Lawrence, Kan.; K-State in Manhattan, Kan.; and Pittsburg State in Pittsburg, Kan., participated in the weekend training. For first time in more than a decade the state’s three ROTC programs trained together on land navigation, situational training exercises and rifle marksmanship.
Regents seek $47.7M down payment on campus repairs

The Kansas Board of Regents has asked Gov. Kathleen Sebelius to submit a $47.7 million budget amendment as a down payment on repairs to state universities.

The action comes as lawmakers today start working on the final state budget and as available revenue shrinks because of natural disasters, a costly settlement with the federal government for Medicaid expenses and already-approved tax cuts.

"As you know, this is an issue that only becomes more expensive and more dangerous the longer it is ignored," Reginald Robinson, regents president and chief executive officer, said in a letter to Sebelius about the repairs at universities.

Budget experts met Monday to review state revenue and emerged announcing that the economy is in good shape but the state budget cupboard is bare.

And that means many critical areas — taking care of social-service waiting lists and fixing crumbling classrooms at universities — may get shortchanged.

Shannon Jones, spokeswoman for a coalition of human service groups, noted lawmakers approved tax cuts and expanded gambling during the first part of the regular session but failed to address key social service issues.

Sebelius' office declined to say whether the governor would issue a budget amendment for the funds, although she has said in the past that the Legislature must address the problem.

Sebelius' budget director Duane Goossen said the governor will make budget requests today of at least $53.5 million to correct problems the state has had with the federal government involving Medicaid.

Essentially, the federal government has ruled that the state has taken too much money for Medicaid expenses related to special education, and it will cost $37.4 million to cover a decrease in federal funds coming to Kansas and $16.1 million to cover the reduced federal share going forward.

In addition, Sebelius will request approximately $20 million in disaster funds to help with repairs associated with a major storm that hit western Kansas.

Added to funds locked away for school finance and tax cuts, there's not much left.

Despite the financial strain, budget experts Monday said the state economy is in good shape, avoiding some of the problems experienced in other states.

Sebelius said the economic news was "very encouraging." She urged the Legislature to focus on health care and early childhood programs when it returns. The full Legislature starts its wrap-up session April 25 while budget committees started work Tuesday.

House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, said that while $36 million in tax cuts approved by the Legislature put a squeeze on revenue, the cuts will, in the long term, help the
 economy.

“I am confident the Kansas economy will remain strong,” Neufeld said.

The state revenue projections for the budget also don’t include funds expected from expanded gambling, officials said.
Teachers descend on Tonganoxie for meeting

BY ESTUARDO GARCIA

Alpha Delta Kappa, the international honorary organization for women educators, brought 50 members to its District 2 meeting on Saturday at Tonganoxie Community Historical Society's museum.

Despite the cold weather and the forecast for a few inches of snow, 50 of the 59 members who registered to attend made it out to the historic site. Helen Miller, one of the co-chairs for Alpha Delta Kappa's 2nd District and member of the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society, wanted to bring teachers to Tonganoxie instead of having the meeting in Kansas City, Mo., where the group is headquartered.

"There were many of them in the Kansas City area who had never been out to our historic site. They were impressed and we hope they come back," she said.

The meeting also included a tour of the museum and the other buildings on the grounds. "It's basically what we do with the third-graders, but more on an adult level," Miller said. Just before the meeting started, she jokingly challenged the teachers to see if they could do as well as the third-graders when it came to going from one building to the next.

Mike Yanez, city administrator, spoke to the group about Tonganoxie. He told them about the improvements and progress that has been made in the city since he's been in his office.

Besides helping to promote women in education, the organization also helps raise money for scholarships and for charities.

"Our main concern is with education and children," she said.

The Basehor chapter of the organization donates $1,000 scholarships to Basehor-Linwood High School and $500 to $1,000 to Tonganoxie High School.

For around 25 years, the Basehor chapter of ADK puts on its main fundraiser, an annual crafts fair, the first Saturday of November at the Basehor-Linwood High School.

Statewide the organization has a $10,000 endowment for Kansas University and Emporia State University. Miller said they are currently working on getting another endowment for Pittsburg State University.

During the organization's international conventions, Miller said the group will award $25,000 to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and $25,000 to Susan G. Komen for the Cure, a breast cancer research agency.

Alpha Delta Kappa was founded in 1947 by four women educators. There are approximately, 44,000 members and 1,600 chapters worldwide. Ten of those chapters are in District 2.
Virginia Seymour, a member of Alpha Delta Kappa, the international honorary organization for women educators, and a Tonganoxie Community Historical Society member, welcomes Alpha Delta Kappa members to Tonganoxie for their district meeting Saturday.

Alpha Delta Kappa members recite the pledge of allegiance at their district meeting. Fifty members of the group met Saturday in Tonganoxie.
THS, MHS students nominated for J-W's Academic All-Star Team

BY DAVE TOPLIKAR
TOPLIKAR@THEWORLD.COM

You might say they're the best. Or the brightest. Or the cream of the crop.

But what really makes 10 area high school seniors stand out among dozens of their peers to be named as the Lawrence Journal-World's 2007 Academic All-Star Team?

"They take the brains they've got and they put them to use," Andy Tompkins, former Kansas education commissioner, said recently at a luncheon honoring the students at Maceli's restaurant in downtown Lawrence.

And Tompkins, now an associate professor of educational leadership and policy studies at Kansas University, says that combination of brains and effort is just what America needs to compete in a knowledge-based world economy.

"It is a matter of effort," Tompkins said. "It is not just having the connections. It is actually doing something with it. They work hard."

Tonganoxie High senior Justin Smith was one of those 10 area seniors selected for the Journal-World's Academic All-Star Team. The other nine selected were: Baoqmg Zhou, Lawrence High School; Emily Krysztof, Baldwin High School; Andrew Petz, Free State High School; Charles Mersmann, Eudora High School; Jennifer Crawford, Bishop Seabury Academy; Shiv Subramaniam, Bishop Seabury Academy; Amanda Vander Tuig, Baldwin High School; Alexandra Prosser, De Soto High School; and Amber Peterman, Perry-Lecompton High School.

They and their parents were honored at the luncheon, and each student received a backpack.

"These 10 students represent the best of the best," said Chris Bell, J-W circulation manager, who organized the event.

Three judges selected the winners out of 31 high school seniors who were nominated for the annual team.

Other area students among those nominated included Tonganoxie's Kezia Huseman and McLouth's Amanda Cain, Kylie Campbell and Brett Lundmark.

The selection criteria was based on an essay written by each student on how they would spend $10 million; the extent of students' community achievement and involvement; students' academic achievements; and the judges' overall impression, Bell said.

The nominees came from a pool of 14 high schools in the J-W's coverage area, with the winners representing eight schools.

The winners all rank at the top of their classes and were involved in activities that included band, government, student newspaper, debate and other activities, he said.

The primary judges were Robert Harrington, professor of psychology and research in education at Kansas University; Rand Ziegler, associate dean of faculty at Baker University; and Austin Turney, a former Lawrence school board member.

"The process of judging them was just fascinating," Turney said.

Sorting out the top 10 "was kind of tough because most of them would be deserving of honor," he said.

"My top criteria was really the overall impression," Turney said. Grade-point average was a basis, but other aspects of their lives, such as where they devoted their energies and some indication of their personality, also came into play, he said.

"These kids not only need to have the brain power, but develop it and put it to work," Turney said.

Dan Simons, president of The World Company's Electronics Division, encour-
encouraged the students to return to Lawrence after college.

"You are the type of leaders Lawrence needs," Simons said.

Justin Smith
Don't be surprised if Justin Smith can get more done in a day than most high school students.

One reason is because the Tonganoxie senior has figured out how to give himself more time — by figuring out a way to function with less sleep.

Smith is tied for first place with several other top students in his school.

Besides excelling in academics, he also participates in cross country and track and is involved in debate and forensics.

And recently, he began using a polyphasic sleep schedule designed to give him several extra hours of time a day.

"It's something a couple of friends and I are doing. It's working out kind of rough, I guess," Smith said, admitting it's difficult to deprive yourself of sleep. "The trick is to make sure you don't sleep through your alarm."

The idea is to divide your day up where you can take a series of short naps, rather than one long period of sleep.

A typical day would be going to bed to get "core sleep" between 2:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m., then getting a nap of 20 minutes or so at 12:30 p.m. during lunch, then another 20 to 30 minutes at 5:30 p.m., then another 20 to 30 minutes at 10:30 p.m.

"In theory, it should work that way," he said. "I've got a ways to go before I can stand going through that all the way."

If he does adjust, he will take his polyphasic sleep schedule with him next fall to Kansas University to study chemical engineering.

("While I'm not sure what I want to do, that sounds like an interesting and really stable field," he said. "I'm pretty open to doing a lot of different things. As of right now, that's the thing I've settled on."

School: Tonganoxie High School
Grade-point average: 4.0
Class rank: 1
Parents: Frank and Jeanne Smith, Tonganoxie
Honors, activities: Cross country, lettered (9-12); track, lettered (9-11); debate, lettered (9-12); forensics (9-12), lettered (9-11); National Honor Society (11-12); FBLA (12); Science Club (11-12); Foreign Language Club (12); Student Council, representative (9-12); Philosophy Book Club (11); math tutor (11)
College: Kansas University
Career plans: Engineering or economics

Amanda Cain
School: McLouth High School
Grade-point average: 3.96
Class rank: 3
Parents: Ivan and Shirley Cain, McLouth
Honors, activities: Queen of Courts (12); Homecoming candidate (12); Who's Who Among American High School Students (11-12); Principal's Honor Roll (9-11); Scholars Bowl (11-12); band (9-12), section leader (12); Art Club, secretary (12); cheerleader (9-12); captain (11-12); basketball, leadership award (10); track (9-11), manager (11); forensics (11-12), state festival medals holder (11); Student Council, female representative (9-12); freshman mentor (11-12); National Honor Society; FCCLA; 4-H Crackerjacks (9-12), secretary (9-12)
College: Kansas University
Career plans: Physical therapy
Major: Pre-med or biology

Kylie Campbell
School: McLouth High School
Grade-point average: 4.0
Class rank: 1
Parents: Mitchel and Shawnda Campbell, McLouth
Honors, activities: Principal's Honor Roll; Kansas Honor Scholar; ACTS Club

Here's a look at the other area runnerups:

Amanda Cain
School: McLouth High School
Grade-point average: 3.96
Class rank: 3
Parents: Ivan and Shirley Cain, McLouth
Honors, activities: Queen of Courts (12); Homecoming candidate (12); Who's Who Among American High School Students (11-12); Principal's Honor Roll (9-11); Scholars Bowl (11-12); band (9-12), section leader (12); Art Club, secretary (12); cheerleader (9-12); captain (11-12); basketball, leadership award (10); track (9-11), manager (11); forensics (11-12), state festival medals holder (11); Student Council, female representative (9-12); freshman mentor (11-12); National Honor Society; FCCLA; 4-H Crackerjacks (9-12), secretary (9-12)
College: Kansas University
Career plans: Physical therapy
Major: Pre-med or biology

Kylie Campbell
School: McLouth High School
Grade-point average: 4.0
Class rank: 1
Parents: Mitchel and Shawnda Campbell, McLouth
Honors, activities: Principal's Honor Roll; Kansas Honor Scholar; ACTS Club
Kezia Sage Huseman
School: Tonganoxie High School
Grade-point average: 4.0
Class rank: 1
Parents: Brian and Terri Huseman, Tonganoxie
Honors, activities: Scholars Bowl (10-12); Science Olympiad (12); math team (9-12); Kansas State Leadership Scholarship (12); Hy-Vee Scholar Athlete nominee (12); I Dare You Leadership Award (12); Excellence Award (10-12); National Honor Society (10-12), secretary/treasurer (12); Science Club (10-12), president (12); student council class representative
College: Baker University
Career plans: Physical therapy
Major: Athletic training and physical therapy

Brett Lundmark
School: McLouth High School
Grade-point average: 4.0
Class rank: 1
Parents: Rob and Debbie Lundmark, Lawrence
Honors, activities: Regional music solo competition (10-12); science fair (10); Boys’ State, attorney general position candidate, Supreme Court position; band (9-12), section leader (11-12), jazz band (9-12); National Honor Society (11-12), treasurer (12); Scholars Bowl (9-12), captain (11-12); class president (12); track (9-12); Fellowship of Christian Athletes (10-12); forensics (11-12); choir (11-12); FCCLA
College: Kansas University
Career plans: Undecided
Major: Business management and leadership, study abroad
Terrible lesson

As university's response to shooting is picked apart, focus should be on what we can learn

Forever, Virginia Tech officials will be questioned about their response Monday to one of the deadliest shooting rampages in modern U.S. history.

Why, it will be asked over and over, did Virginia Tech not react with more of a sense of urgency after a 7:15 a.m. shooting at the West Amber Johnston dormitory?

We all know now that less than two hours later, the same deranged killer stormed Norris Hall, a classroom building half a mile away.

Two died in the dorm room. Another 31 were killed in Norris Hall.

What could have been done differently to prevent the massacre at Norris Hall? What should have been done differently?

The university did apparently distribute an e-mail just before 9:30 a.m., warning students and staff about the shooting at the dorm.

By that time, the gunman had already struck again, sometime around 9 a.m. at Norris Hall.

University officials said later they believed the early threat was contained to the dormitory; they believed the dispute was domestic in nature; they believed the assailant had left campus.

"We can only make decisions based on the information you had at the time," Virginia Tech President Charles Steger said. "You don't have hours to reflect on it."

We are sure that if Steger had a second chance, he and his university would have reacted differently. Unfortunately, those who perished in Blacksburg, Va., Monday, don't get a
second chance.
Rarely do unexpected events such as this afford the luxury of do-overs. Instead, we too often end up with an abundance of second-guessing and finger-pointing, much of it reckless, but all of it fueled by the searing emotion of an event unparalleled in our nation’s history.

As tragic as the massacre was, perhaps universities and security officials across the nation will benefit from this horrific wake-up call.

It was evident Monday, upon learning of the news in Virginia, many in leadership roles at our universities — not to mention all other educational meeting places — were looking in the mirror.

Could it have happened at The University of Kansas; could it have been Kansas State University; could it have been Washburn University?

Todd Cohen, KU’s director of government and university relations, said KU, like most universities in the United States, would look at the strengths and weaknesses of Virginia Tech’s emergency plan to perfect its own.

“It’s an unfortunate learning experience for us,” Cohen said. “A lot of campuses will be reviewing their own security system after what happened at Virginia Tech. It’s such a tragedy. The best we can do is learn from it.”

Cohen is right.

Even though we mourn those lost in this tragedy at Virginia Tech, and know that questions will forever be asked about Virginia Tech’s response, or lack thereof, let us not have those who were slaughtered have died for naught.

We are all so very, very sorry.
Topeka violinist Ruth Kuefler was the overall winner of the Topeka Symphony’s 2007 Youth Talent Auditions.

Although she has been fiddling around lately with a mandolin, violin virtuosity will be what Ruth Kuefler demonstrates Saturday night.

Kuefler, an 18-year-old homeschooled Topeka high school senior, will solo with the Topeka Symphony Orchestra as the overall winner of its 2007 Youth Talent Auditions.

Kuefler, the daughter of Vicki and John Kuefler, will play the first movement of Edouard Laborie’s “Symphonie Espagnole,” the piece with which she won the competition in January.

Kuefler has played violin since age 5 when she took her first lessons from Carolyn Sandquist, who plays viola in the Topeka Symphony Orchestra.

Later, Kuefler didn’t have to leave home for violin instruction as her older sister, Elizabeth Kuefler, took over as her teacher. The elder sibling is pursuing a doctoral degree in music at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

“IT was fun at first,” Kuefler said of playing violin, “and the older I’ve got, the more I enjoy it.”

Kuefler has played in the Topeka Symphony Orchestra’s youth ensembles. She was runner-up in the 2005 Youth Talent Auditions and won the string division last year.

Kuefler said she plans on majoring in violin performance starting this fall at The University of Kansas, where she already is a student of Dr. Tami Lee Hughes. She also studied with Ben Sayevich, formerly of KU but now teaching at Park University in Parkville, Mo.

It was Sayevich who initially suggested Lola’s “Symphonie Espagnole” as one Kuefler should master to showcase her talent.

“It’s really showy for the audience,” she said.

Kuefler now teaches others as she continues to develop her playing skills. She gives lessons to beginners and intermediate students at Hume Music in Topeka.

Recently, Kuefler has taken up an instrument other than the violin.

“My parents gave me a mandolin at Christmas,” she said. “I’ve always wanted to learn to play one because the strings are the same as on a violin. I just have to learn to do the picking because the fingering is the same.”

“I’ve had fun learning to pick some folk tunes. I enjoy listening to Celtic music,” said Kuefler, who placed second in 2001 in the Kansas State Fiddle Championship.

Her Web site at ruth.violist.com includes a music sample of her playing some Celtic music, as well as classical pieces.

Bill Blankenship can be reached at (785) 295-1284 or bill.blankenship@cjonline.com.

CONCERT

What: Ruth Kuefler will perform the first movement of Edouard Laborie’s “Symphonie Espagnole” with the Topeka Symphony Orchestra as part of its season finale concert

When: 8 p.m. Saturday

Where: White Concert Hall, Washburn University, with a free concert preview at 7 p.m. in the choral rehearsal room adjacent to the auditorium

How much: $30, $25 and $20 ($15, $12.50 and $10 for students)

Buy how: Call 232-2032
Rotary Club Guides Tour Through County

Indian Businesspeople Stop in Miami County
As Part of Study Exchange Program

Group Enjoyed Chance to See & Play in Snow

BY DOUG CARDER
DCARDER@MICONEWS.COM

Arun Shankar stood outside the doorstep of the Louisburg Cider Mill, munching on a cider doughnut and sipping hot apple cider. Clad in a short-sleeve shirt, he seemed immune to a brisk wind that had blown a snowstorm through the region the night before.

For the moment, he was enjoying soaking up a piece of American culture that a trip to Kansas provided for him and several other businesspeople from India as part of Rotary International's Group Study Exchange. Inside the mill, Sudeep Basu picked up a bag of red kidney beans and examined it for a moment before placing it back on the shelf.

"These are very popular in India," said Basu, team leader of the visiting group.

Basu's contingency spent a few minutes browsing through the cider mill before huddling in front of a glass window in the back of the retail shop to watch an employee rolling out doughnuts.

While Basu and other members of his group said they enjoyed visiting stops in the area, he said the Rotary program offered members a chance to learn more about the people and how businesses operate here in America," said Gangrade, assistant general manager-supply chain for Reliance Retail Ltd., a discount retailer similar to Wal-Mart.

Hosted by the Osawatomie Rotary Club, study exchange members took in sights in the region Saturday before heading out to other destinations in Kansas, including stops at the University of Kansas in Lawrence and Emporia in coming days.

Lisa Kolman, representing the local Rotary Club, served as a tour guide Saturday morning.

She said the exchange members had great fun in Friday night's snowstorm. "They stayed out making snow angels until 1 a.m."

Gangrade said he was grateful for the opportunity to witness such weather on Saturday, when area residents woke up to about 3 to 4 inches of snow.

"Most of us have never seen snow before, outside of snow on mountains," said Gangrade, whose group comes from Maharashtra, India's third-largest state, which borders the Arabian Sea.

Kolman said the group described Kansas to her as a tru representation of what America is all about.

Bundled in a heavy black coat, Arun Shankar scans a product display Saturday morning at the Louisburg Cider Mill. Shankar is part of a Rotary International Group Student Exchange from India on a tour of Kansas. The group was sponsored by the Osawatomie Rotary Club.
Roopali Deshpande paused at a table to study a gift basket at the cider mill.

“There are so many nice things, but my bag is already full,” she said, laughing. “The people have been very nice. This is a great opportunity for me. I’m enjoying my stay in America.”

A Rotary International Group Study Exchange contingent from India and their Osawatomie Rotary Club guides stopped to tour the Louisburg Cider Mill on Saturday during their trip to Kansas. Pictured (from left) are Arun Shankar, Dharmendra Gangrade, Roopali Deshpande, Himja Parekh, Lisa Kolman, Kelsee Kolman, Sudeep Basu and Jack Havenhill.

Jack Havenhill, district coordinator of the Rotary International Group Study Exchange, talks with professor Roopali Deshpande as they browse through the Louisburg Cider Mill on Saturday morning. Deshpande is a member of a study exchange group from India that was visiting the area. The group was sponsored by the Osawatomie Rotary Club.
Virginia Tech tragedy reveals shortcomings

Once again, an April day has brought horrifying images of panicked students and gunfire victims rushed into ambulances.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute on Monday became the site of the nation's most deadly mass shooting, with dozens dead and injured.

The tragedy will be engraved in the nation's memory as deeply as the senseless killings at Columbine High School in Colorado in April 1999.

Much remains unknown about what happened and why. What's definite, however, is that college administrators, law enforcement authorities and students themselves must take a hard look at safety on their campuses.

Students at Virginia Tech, a stately campus near Roanoke with 25,000 students and a prestigious engineering program, are right to question why many on campus had not learned about a shooting in a dormitory before more gunfire broke out in an engineering building two hours later.

Lynn Bretz, director of university communications for the University of Kansas, notes that most campuses are public. They have many buildings, often with numerous entrances.

"It's really impossible to screen everyone who's on campus," Bretz said. "You have to have a system in place to respond immediately should there be an event."

Campus security forces must be as well-trained as any city police department. They are often responsible for densely populated communities whose residents tend to move around often and in unpredictable patterns.

Monday's tragedy highlights the need for cooperation between campus security forces and local police agencies.

The immediate response is horror at the extent of the violence, and the deepest sorrow for the loss of innocent lives in a setting meant to prepare students for life, not for death.

--The Kansas City Star
Kansas lawmakers increase push for biodefense lab

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - A week before site selection teams visit Kansas, the state's congressional delegation is increasing the push for a new federal biodefense lab to be built in Leavenworth, Kan., or Manhattan.

A state task force formed earlier this year to land the site shows Kansas is making the National Bioand AgroDefense Facility a critical national and state priority, lawmakers said in a letter Tuesday to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff.

Eighteen sites in 11 states are competing for the new lab, which could pump $3.5 billion into the local economy over the next 20 years.

The field is expected to be narrowed in June and a final decision will be made in October 2008. The new lab would replace an existing facility on Plum Island, N.Y.

The letter outlines the merits of locating the $451 million research center in either city in Kansas. Lawmakers said the large number of agriculture research and development sites along the Interstate 70 corridor make the state an ideal location for the lab.

"Both sites have demonstrated the research capacity, strong public support and necessary infrastructure to meet DHS' requirements to fulfill and implement NBAF," said the letter signed by Sens. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and all four of the state's U.S. House members.

Pat Roberts, R-Kan., Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and all four of the state's U.S. House members.

The site near Fort Leavenworth is close to premier animal health companies and can draw on the University of Kansas and its experience in health research.

The other possible, the K-State campus in Manhattan, already has the National Agriculture Biosecurity Center and houses the Biosecurity Research Institute.

According to the letter, DHS researchers could use that facility to begin their work immediately after the site is designated, five years earlier than if the agency had to construct an entirely new building.

Other states being considered include Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, California, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

DHS officials have said land acquisition, research capabilities, work force and community support are key criteria for site selection.

The new biodefense lab would bring about 1,000 construction jobs and 250 science-based jobs to the community once the project is completed by 2015.

In a speech to a joint session of the Legislature earlier this year, Roberts, who has spearheaded the state's efforts to land the project, encouraged more state support to land the lab.