Ray Nash recently sat down for an interview about his primary race against incumbent commissioner Dave Thurlow for the First Commission District. He responded to questions about the position and matters facing the county.

Why are you running for county commissioner?
“Because I’ve got some concerns,” Nash said.

What are the concerns?
“I’m not going to define those at this given time.”

Asked about his experience, Nash talked about his 23 years with the Clay Center Fire Department.
Former city fire chief cites experience

including the 13 years he served as fire chief.

While he was fire chief, Nash met Glen Boughton, a training officer for fire fighters who worked at KU.

“He was a big man and I respected him for his knowledge and experience. One time he told me, you pay attention to me, you better remember this; you purchase what your community needs, not what they want. I’ve never forgotten that.”

“You have to establish priorities; that’s the main thing. In the highway department, sheriff’s department, and the other county departments. You have to find out what the county needs, not what we want.”

“Being I’m a tax payer and somewhat semi-retired, I’m trying to slow down my business a little, I can pay more attention to things and maybe I can help in some way to help the county progress—not stalemate or slide backwards,” Nash said.

Nash said he doesn’t always agree with the actions of the current commissioners.

“I don’t think the county commissioners should be acting like a realty company,” he said.

About taxes Nash said, “You have to maintain the basis and with costs going up, it’s a touchy situation to do anything with taxes.”

Nash said he’s running in part because people do a lot of talking about the problems, but few step up to try to actually do anything.

He said an adage he likes is: To those that talk and talk this adage should appeal. The steam that blows the whistle shall never turn the wheel.

Nash said he found this adage on a piece of wood he saw someone throw away. He fished it out of the trash and saved it as a reminder that “some people talk a lot but never get off their asses and do any work.”

Nash said he’s running for commissioner instead of just talking about the problems.
KU awarded settlement for violations

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — A federal jury ruled Monday that a Lawrence clothing store must pay the University of Kansas $127,000 for trademark infringement for selling unlicensed Jayhawk-related merchandise.

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The award, though, was well below the $500,000 the school had sought. The jury also ruled that about 75 percent of the 206 shirts Joe-College.com sold did not violate any trademark.

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He also includes signs in his store and on his Web site making it clear he is not affiliated with the university.

The school contended that Sinks' shirts were close enough to the university's own offerings to confuse customers into thinking he's selling officially licensed apparel.

One shirt printed in connection with Kansas' trip to the Orange Bowl was blue, similar to the school's official color, and had "Hawk Football" on the front and "Orange You Glad We're Going Bowling in Miami," with the words "Orange" and "Bowl" printed in orange.

Another blue shirt says "Missouri, it's Your Turn to Pick Cotton (nice bowl game)," a reference to the University of Missouri playing in the Cotton Bowl this year.
Jana Mackey Another Statistic
In Cause She Was Fighting

By David Kiepper
Kansas City Star Correspondent
LAWRENCE - Sometime in the afternoon of July 2, Jana Mackey ceased being an advocate for women. Instead, she became another statistic in a cause she spent years fighting.

Mackey, 25, a University of Kansas law student, had lobbied state legislators for gay, lesbian and women’s groups. She assisted victims of rape and domestic violence.

She was killed by her ex-boyfriend, police say, a Cuban artist who went by the name of Fito Garche. After the slaying, Garche, 46, was arrested in New Jersey, where he hanged himself in his jail cell.

The bitter fact that Mackey was the state’s newest domestic violence victim shocked many in this college town. Friends and experts say Mackey’s death serves as a reminder: If it could happen to her, it could happen to anybody.

“Nobody’s immune to this,” said Sandy Barnett, director of the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence. There is no better way to honor her, and all the other Janas across the state, than to see this as a call to action.

Mackey had dated Garche for a year. An anti-Castro artist who told people he left Cuba on a raft, Garche cut a dashing figure.

He also had a dark side: He had served time in prison for attacking a previous ex-girlfriend with a knife.

Mackey and Garche broke up last month after Garche became possessive, friends said. Mackey moved on, looking forward to a summer of classes, cookouts and waterskiing.

On a lazy Sunday, three days before her death, she sat on her porch and talked with close friend Kelli Brandt.

“The world is my playground,” Mackey told her.

Everyone Was Welcome

When Mackey graduated from Hays High School in Kansas, her stepfather gave her a book by civil rights icon John Lewis, Walking With the Wind. On the first page he wrote, “Jana, find the courage to change the world.”

At KU, Mackey won election to the student Senate, directed campus plays and sang in choirs, bands and karaoke bars. Patsy Cline was a favorite.

Her calling came to her in a women’s studies course. Christie Brungardt recalls her daughter’s breathless phone call one day after class: “Mom, I’ve found my thing.”

She started volunteering at a women’s shelter. Worked a rape crisis hotline. Soon she was organizing marches and protests. Volunteering on political campaigns.

Her wraparound porch often hosted dozens of friends, old and new. She told friends it was a place where everyone was equal, everyone welcome. Gay and straight, old and young, American and foreign.

“But it was like the United Nations,” her mother said.

After graduating, Mackey worked as a lobbyist in Topeka for the National Organization for Women and the Kansas Equality Coalition. She fought against new abortion restrictions and the gay marriage ban — and for tougher laws on domestic violence.

She was often on the losing side, but she never lost heart, friends said. And she was imposing, this tall young woman chasing down legislators in high, black leather boots.

“Jana gave a voice to those in our society too often ignored,” said state Sen. Laura Kelly, a Topeka Democrat. “Not for civil rights. Not for women’s rights, not for gay rights. But for human rights.”

She saw law school as a way to expand her reach. Dean Gail Agrawal called Mackey “every law dean’s dream candidate,” more interested in what the law could do than how much it might pay. At a eulogy this week, Agrawal wiped away tears.

“I regret more than I can say that we will not come to know the lawyer Jana would have been,” she said.

An Artist With A Past

Mackey and Garche met while salsa dancing at a local Mexican restaurant. Garche was a good dancer, a great cook and, friends said, a charmer.

His real name was Adolfo Garcia-Nunez, though everyone called him Fito. He left Cuba in 1994 after police beat him and destroyed artwork critical of Fidel Castro. His colorful, sometimes melancholy art was marked with religious images and depictions of Cuba.

The pairing didn’t surprise Mackey’s family. Mackey often picked unusual friends and liked the depth of older men. More than once Garche joined the family at their lake house, and Brungardt said he was generous. Attentive.
We weren't crazy about the age difference, but he treated her so well,” she said.

(Continued on Page 4)

Jana Mackey

Jana Mackey (Continued from Page 1)

Mackey’s family didn’t know that in 2004 Garche broke into an ex-girlfriend’s home to attack her in the dark with a knife. After a violent struggle, the woman escaped.

Garche served a year in prison. Upon his release he vowed to stay sober and start again. Friends in the art community helped him find gallery space.

Garche lived in a small home north of campus. His son, 18, a daughter, 19, recently immigrated from Cuba and joined him in Lawrence a few months ago.

Neighbor Tara Lewis, a 25-year-old KU student, said Garche often entertained in his backyard. When Lewis moved in, Garche often entertained in his backyard. When Lewis moved in, Garche carried her Futon up a flight of stairs.

“I wouldn’t have figured him for anything like this,” she said.

Garche’s first victim left Kansas for fear he would attack again. She declined to comment for this article, but her friend, Erin Adamson of Lawrence, said Garche never hurt the woman while they dated.

“You wouldn’t know he was dangerous until you broke up with him,” Adamson said. “He was really charming on one hand and really manipulative and dangerous on the other.”

Mackey’s family and friends don’t think Garche mistreated Jana while they dated, either.

“She wouldn’t put up with being a victim,” said Christie Brungardt. “No way. Not her.”

Friends said Mackey knew of Garche’s past but thought he got a bum rap in court.

Adamson said she wanted to warn Mackey when she heard Garche had found a new girlfriend. But since his release from prison, Garche had flashed dangerous looks at any friends of his first victim. Adamson, who was pregnant at the time, feared he might come after her if she got involved.

Now Adamson wishes she had said something.

Friends of Mackey struggle to understand how Garche could be so warm and yet so violent.

“You see the couple that we knew,” Brandt said. “Not the killer and a dead girl.”

A Fearful Search

Mackey was supposed to spend the July 4 weekend at the family lake house in Council Grove, Kan. She never made it. Mackey was last seen alive in class at 2:30 p.m. July 2. When friends and family couldn’t reach her the next day, they reported her missing. Family members drove in to help look.

Mackey’s car was found on the night of July 3 in the parking lot of a Lawrence hospital. The lot was near Garche’s home, and when he couldn’t be found, Mackey’s relatives began to fear the worst.

“I found myself actually hoping that he’d kidnapped her,” said Mackey’s stepfather, Curt Brungardt.

Instead, Lawrence police found Mackey’s body inside the home. Garche was last seen at a convenience store on July 2, shortly after police think he killed Mackey.

He and his children then drove 20 hours to Elizabeth, N.J., where the mother of the children lives. Police do not think he told them they were departing so abruptly.

Lawrence police put out Garche’s description, and early on July 4 his pickup was located by New Jersey police.

Garche was arrested on a second-degree murder warrant. He was taken to a cell where, 12 hours later, he was found dead.

Christie Brungardt called Garche’s suicide “the biggest favor” because it spared the family a painful trial and allowed them instead to focus on grieving for their lost daughter.

Police had not released the exact cause of Mackey’s death, in accordance with family wishes. But they did say Garche was bruised and bloodied when they found him. “I think he went down fighting,” said Curt Brungardt. “You wouldn’t expect anything else.”

A Call To Action

Every spring the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence holds a rally in Topeka. Often, the group releases stark statistics on the number of women killed by former of current partners.

Mackey was a regular at those rallies. Next year she’ll be another number and another name.

At her memorial service Wednesday, family and friends called on mourners to take on Mackey’s fight for social justice. Her stepfather said it was the only solace he could find.

“Why would God take her away – why now – when she was only 25? She had so much work to do,” Curt
Brungardt said. "Maybe through her death she can touch more lives."

That book on civil rights he gave her? When the family collected Mackey’s belongings, Curt Brungardt found it on a shelf, well-read.

The service was in Liberty Hall, a film and concert venue Mackey frequented. Several lawmakers and lobbyists attended. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius sent a state flag that had flown at the statehouse in Mackey’s honor.


The family had hoped a few hundred people would come.

Eleven hundred did.
ATCHISON — New University of Kansas students and their parents from Jackson and surrounding counties were welcomed into the KU family at the recent Jayhawk Generations Welcome Picnic.

The KU Alumni Association and its Northeast chapter greeted the next generation of Jayhawks from Jackson, Atchison, Brown, Doniphan and Nemaha counties at the Atchison home of Butch and Mary Ball. Area alumni, new students, those interested in learning more about KU and parents were invited to attend and enjoy complimentary food and beverages.

The alumni association invited incoming students whose enrollment deposits were received by the Office of Admissions and Scholarships by May 1. Jackson County students included, by city of residence:

- **Circleville**: Lea Anderson.
- **Holton**: Kelsey Krogmann and Melbien Anthony Tinio.
- **Hoyt**: Brodie Belt, Diana Benoit and Sheila Love.
- **Mayetta**: Brianna Christian, Breanna Eck and Jessica Huff.

Chad Ball of Atchison, chapter steering committee member, and alumni association members Stefani Gerson, coordinator of student programs, Jen Alderdice, assistant vice president of student programs, and Lindsey Lawrence, student intern, coordinated the event. Alumni association staff and current KU students, alumni and university representatives were on hand with the signature KU trailer full of grills, burgers and brats for the festivities.
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The school contended that Sinks' shirts were close enough to the university's own offerings to confuse customers into thinking he's selling officially licensed apparel.
Teachers honored

LAWRENCE — The School of Education at the University of Kansas has honored 797 teachers from 173 school districts statewide with certificates recognizing 25 years or more of service to education in Kansas.

Three teachers were recognized for 36 years of service in Kansas, including Jeannie Presson of Cherryvale, a secondary teacher with Cherryvale-Thayer USD 447 who has been in Kansas for 36 of the 37 years she has been teaching.

Teachers who received certificates from the area were: USD 503 Parsons, Sherry Bowin, 25 years of service, Tammy Sevart, 25 years of service; USD 504 Oswego, Catherine Campbell, 26 years of service, Kimberly Franklin, 26 years of service, Debra Preston, 26 years of service, Lavonne Williams, 26 years of service; USD 506 Labette County, Debbie Hucke, 25 years of service, Chris Kastler, 25 years of service; USD 447 Cherryvale-Thayer, Bob Blackard, 29 years of service, Jayne Knight, 27 years of service, Joyce Long, 25 years of service, Jo Neuburger, 31 years of service, Steve Pefley, 30 years of service, Jeannie Presson, 36 years of service, Sharon Thompson, 34 years of service, Earlene Waltmire, 30 years of service.
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An attorney for Joe-College.com said the store will remain in business.
The Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas has announced 128 new Senator Robert J. Dole Public Service Scholars for the 2008-2009 academic year. Area students who received the scholarships are Kristen N. Davenport, of Coffeyville, and Haley L. Compton, of Elk City. Davenport will attend the University of Kansas majoring in elementary education, and Compton will attend Kansas State University majoring in mass communications.

The program recognizes graduating Kansas high school students who have volunteered in their communities and maintained a 3.0 grade point average. The 2008 recipients received a $1,000 scholarship, renewable up to three years with a commitment of completing 100 hours of civic activities annually.

The new scholars will enroll this fall at one of the six Kansas Board of Regents universities or Washburn University in Topeka. Regent universities are KU, Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University and Wichita State University.

Funded by NASA, the scholarships are distributed among the state’s four congressional districts to ensure the broadest statewide participation.

The new scholars were announced during a luncheon program at the Dole Institute where the scholars and their guests received a surprise phone call from Dole who offered his congratulatory remarks to them.
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KU ED SCHOOL HONORS NEARLY 800 EDUCATORS STATEWIDE

Special to the Daily Leader

LAWRENCE — The School of Education at the University of Kansas has honored 797 teachers from 173 school districts statewide with certificates recognizing 25 years or more of service to education in Kansas.

Three teachers honored this year have 40 or more years of service. Ronald Daniels of Great Bend, secondary guidance counselor with Great Bend USD 428, has taught for 44 years, all in Kansas; Marilyn Quinn of Holton, elementary teacher with Holton USD 336, has 42 years experience in Kansas; and Charlotte Nelson of Salina, coordinator with Salina USD 305, was honored for 40 years of service in the state.

Two teachers from Holton were honored for 39 years of service in Kansas schools: Sharon Karns, elementary teacher, and Mary Schulz, middle school teacher, both with Holton USD 336.

Mary Mattley of Derby, middle school teacher with Mulvane USD 263; and Shirley Lett of Joplin, Mo., elementary counselor with Columbus USD 493, were honored for 38 years of service in Kansas.

Three teachers were recognized for 36 years of service in Kansas, including two from Holton USD 336: Carolyn Bell, Holton, elementary teacher; Judy Swisher, Holton, secondary teacher. Jeannie Presson, Cherrycave, secondary teacher with Cherrycave-Thayer USD 447, has been in Kansas for 36 of the 37 years she has been teaching.

Seven teachers each were honored for 35 years of service in Kansas:

- Sharaon Buscher, Topeka, elementary teacher for Topeka USD 501
- Martha Ann Jones, Olpe, elementary teacher with Emporia USD 253
- Walt Koontz, Sedan, secondary counselor with Chautauqua County USD 286
- Patricia Simonson, Topeka, elementary teacher for Topeka USD 501
- Nancy Wendling, Mankato, middle school teacher with Republic County USD 109
- Gwenda R. Wilcox, Topeka, middle school teacher for Topeka USD 501
- Mark B. Wilson, Topeka, director of special education with Holton USD 336

“Strengthening education is among the more important public policy issues facing our country,” said Rick Ginsberg, dean of the School of Education. “Good teaching is at the core of any success that students achieve. As leaders debate the best ways to attract and retain high quality teachers across Kansas and the country, it is important to recognize those who have dedicated their professional lives to our Kansas classrooms. The time that these teachers have given to the students in our state is significant, and we are pleased to offer this small recognition for their work and dedication.”

KU’s School of Education annually invites Kansas school district officials to identify educators who are eligible for recognition. Certificates are issued based on responses from individual districts; some school districts do not participate in the recognition program.

The teachers represent 83 of the 105 counties in Kansas, including Grant, Haskell, Meade and Sedgwick. Local and area educators honored include:

- Ulysses USD 214
- Topeka USD 501
- Liberal USD 480
- Sublette USD 374
- Meade USD 226
- Elkhart USD 218
- Liberal USD 480
- Meade USD 226
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Three among Dole Scholars

The Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas has announced 128 new Sen. Robert J. Dole Public Service Scholars for the 2008-09 year.

The program recognizes graduating Kansas high school students who have volunteered in their communities and maintained a 3.0 GPA. The 2008 recipients received a $1,000 scholarship, renewable up to three years with a commitment of completing 100 hours of civic activities annually.

Among the new scholars from the 2nd District are Kristin M. Brown of Rossville, Joshua A. Baden of Silver Lake and Michelle A. Taylor of Silver Lake. Baden and Taylor will attend KU to study genetics and pre-law, respectively.

"The Dole Institute of Politics provides diverse opportunities for Dole Scholars to become involved in civic engagement and stimulate interest in public service," said Barbara Ballard, director of the scholarship program and associate director of the institute. "Public service is an honorable profession, and hopefully the scholarships will encourage students to pursue public service as a career."

The new scholars will enroll this fall at one of the six Kansas Board of Regents universities or Washburn University in Topeka. The Regents universities are KU, Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University and Wichita State University.

Aligned with the primary mission of the Dole Institute, the scholarship program encourages young Kansans to get involved in politics, government and community service.

"Part of the Dole Institute’s primary mission is to encourage young people to get involved in politics, government and community service," said Bill Lacy, director of the institute. "Our goal is to improve the public service capacities of future public officials and help students understand the challenges, and rewards, of public life. We are encouraged that so many outstanding young people from across Kansas have chosen to make public service a part of their lives."

The scholarship program began with a federal grant that funded 40 scholarships each in 2005 and in 2006. In 2007, 128 scholarships were awarded. Funded by NASA, the scholarships are distributed among the state’s four congressional districts to ensure the broadest statewide participation.

The Dole Public Service Scholarship is administered by Scholarship Management Services, a department of Scholarship America, a national non-profit educational support and student aid service organization that seeks to involve and assist the private sector in expanding educational opportunities and encouraging educational achievement.

Ballard formally announced the new scholars during a luncheon program at the Dole Institute. The scholars and their guests received a surprise phone call from Senator Dole, who offered his congratulations and remarks to the scholars. The scholars were individually recognized and presented with a Dole Scholars lapel pin.