The Kansas Board of Regents approved tuition increases for the six state universities on Thursday, though a much lower hike than in previous years.

Regents voted to increase The University of Kansas' compact tuition by 7.6 percent. They also approved a 5.9 percent bump in the cost for a Kansas resident to attend Kansas State University.

The compact rate, implemented last year, is paid by incoming KU freshmen and offers a fixed tuition for four years. For juniors, seniors, graduate and transfer students, the regents approved a 6 percent tuition hike at KU.

During discussion of the raises, board members voiced concern over the impact of a slowing economy on families and students paying the rising costs. But many said they needed to strike a balance.

"We need to make sure tuition is affordable and thereby accessible but also to make sure we keep the quality education offering out there," board Chairwoman Christine Downey-Schmidt said after voting for the increases.

Thursday's action was tame compared to previous years. Last year, the regents voted for a similar increase, but that followed at least five years of double-digit increases. In 2002, tuition for KU and K-State jumped 25 percent.

Downey-Schmidt said the lower rate hike Thursday illustrated the board's effort to respond to the lagging fiscal times.

Regent Gary Sherrer, the lone dissenter on many of the rate hike votes, said following at least five years of double-digit increases, he was happy to see a bit of a step back. But noting that students and families won't get a 6 percent raise in their salaries this year, he had hoped for a tuition increase more in line with inflation.

"There is a point where people are priced out of education," Sherrer said. "I don't want to be a part of a state that says wealth determines your ability to go to university, not your talent."

He pointed to declining in-state enrollment at some state schools and stagnant enrollment at others as a possible consequence of the sharp incline in education costs. The overall in-state enrollment at state universities increased 1.9 percent from 2001 to 2006. But some schools saw a decline. At K-State, in-state enrollment dropped by 1 percent in that period. Wichita State University's resident enrollment went down by 2 percent, and Pittsburg State University's declined by 6.9 percent.

Sherrer doesn't have any data on whether those drops are caused by rising tuition.

"It's hard to prove a negative," he said.

Downey-Schmidt wants to see the statistics on students being turned away because of money.

"I don't want to operate on anecdotes," she said.

She said any reduction in tuition would affect the broader economy.

"If we don't put more money into investing in students and the quality of education, they will not be producing the income and thereby the taxes for the state," Downey-Schmidt said. "We have to be careful of unintended consequences."

James Carlson can be reached at (785) 233-7470 or james.carlson@cjonline.com.
Sales tax to appear on November ballot

Mark Taylor
mtaylor@gardnernews.com

Voters will be asked Nov. 4 whether to approve a countywide one-eighth-cent sales tax to fund the Johnson County Education Research Triangle.

Johnson County commissioners voted 6-1 June 5 to put the sales tax initiative on the November ballot.

Sixth District Commissioner John Toplikar, who represents Gardner and Edgerton, cast the dissenting vote.

"The name of this reminds me of the Bermuda Triangle, where maybe the public’s money going in will never be seen again, although we can expect those who begin their projects with the public’s money will surely be back for more,” Toplikar said. “True economic development doesn’t need a tax to support it.”

The tax — which would have no sunset — is expected to generate about $15 million per year to fund the construction of three new research See SALES TAX, page 8
SALES TAX, from page 1

The proposed facilities include:

- A business, engineering, science and technology center at the University of Kansas Edwards Campus in Overland Park.
- A national food and animal health institute at the Kansas State University Innovation Campus in Olathe.
- A University of Kansas cancer clinical research center in Fairway.

The tax revenue would be divided equally among the three institutions.

"By statute, all of the proceeds of the authorized sales tax, other than up to .2 percent for administration, are distributed in equal shares to the three institutions, which in turn determine how the funds are spent, as that use falls within the purposes authorized by the statute," Don Jarrett, county attorney, wrote in a memo to commissioners.

Supporters say the research triangle would be a boon to the local economy and would make Johnson County one of the top research centers in the country.

Commissioners voted May 8 to give their stamp of approval for the research triangle sales tax and place the ballot initiative on their agenda.

Toplikar walked out of that meeting in protest, saying the item did not appear on the agenda and there was no public notice that it would be voted on.

The one-eighth-cent sales tax is one of two sales tax questions before voters this year.

Voters will be asked in Aug. 5 whether to extend the current quarter-cent sales tax for economic development.

That tax — which has been supplementing the budgets of Johnson County’s six public school districts since 2002 — expires at the end of 2008.

The county wants to reclaim the tax and use the revenue for public safety needs.

The tax would go on the rolls in perpetuity and would be used to pay for operational costs as well as construction.

Each city in the county receives a proportionate percentage of the tax.

The county’s annual share of the sales tax is projected to be $19.6 million.

That money would be used to fund a jail expansion and future operations and build and operate a new crime lab and a juvenile service facility.

County officials have said the tax would have no sunset because public safety needs will be ongoing as the county continues to grow.
Bill's Basketball Boogie to be held at Kansas Speedway

Special to The Kansan

Alarmed by soaring rates of childhood obesity, and the medical, physical, and emotional toll the lack of physical exercise and engagement has on America's youth, University of Kansas Men's Basketball Coach Bill Self announced the creation of a new fundraising event to fight this public health crisis.

Self will host the inaugural Bill's Basketball Boogie on June 7 at Kansas Speedway. The event will support his Assists Foundation, a not-for-profit organization founded by the Self family to promote health and wellness among young people. The foundation will use the proceeds from the event for the development of athletic-oriented health and wellness facilities, including a one-of-a-kind campus, it plans to build in the greater Kansas City-Lawrence area.

"Serious problems require bold solutions, and we hope to create a first-class facility here in the heartland that can serve as a national model for like-minded organizations across the country," Self said. "Kansas Basketball stands for integrity, sportsmanship, tradition, and excellence, and we want to build places to play that will help the young people of our communities have the health and wellness skills necessary to embody these values throughout their lives."

In addition to host Bill Self, the Basketball Boogie will feature live performances by Sawyer Brown and Disco Dick and the Mirror Balls, a drawing for a 2008 Scion courtesy of Crown Automotive Group, food courtesy of The Salty Iguana and Cupini's, and both silent and live auctions. Individuals and organizations interested in sponsorships or tickets can visit the event's website, www.basketballboogie.org.

Proceeds from the event will be used, in part, to fund master planning, which is essential for site selection, budgeting, and long-range planning. The foundation envisions a campus that is accessible to young people of all socioeconomic backgrounds from both the Lawrence and Kansas City areas.

Planners hope to find a site within reasonable distance of both Lawrence and Kansas City that can accommodate expansion to include multiple buildings and dozens of athletic fields and courts for all types of health and wellness activities.

"Projects like this don't magically happen," Self said. "We can stand around and decry the problem, or we can take action to make a difference. It's going to take a lot of money, hard work, time, and dedication to make this vision a reality.
but we have to start somewhere. Cindy and I are committed to this area, and we are excited, and honored to lead this charge."

The Basketball Boogie planning committee members are Fern Badzin, David Ball, Jeff Boerger, Bryan Caton, Gina Danner, Laura Dixon, Cecil Kingsley, Tom Lipscomb, Bonnie Lowe, Steven Ortiz, Miles Schnaer, Cindy Self, Lance Snyder, Molly Snyder, and Cheryl Womack.

"All of our sponsors, and committee members have been instrumental in helping this event come to fruition," Self said. "The foundation is grateful to all of them for their generosity, support, and dedication to such an important cause. It's nice to know that so many folks share our vision for healthy and happy children who can enjoy a lifetime of success and wellness."

The mission of the Assists Foundation is to provide young people access to better lives. This is accomplished by identifying areas of need, and working with other community-based institutions to provide creative and lasting solutions. Founded in 2006 by Bill and Cindy Self, the Assists Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. For more information on the foundation, visit www.assistyouth.org.
County to request sales tax increase on Nov. ballot

Mark Taylor
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The tax -- which would have no sunset -- is expected to generate about $15 million per year to fund the construction of three new research facilities in the county.

The proposed facilities include:

- A business, engineering, science and technology center at the University of Kansas Edwards Campus in Overland Park.
- A national food and animal health institute at the Kansas State University Innovation Campus in Olathe.
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COUNTY, from page 1

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Summer Interns Join -
Kaw Valley Engineering

Kaw Valley Engineering, Inc. (KVE), provider of consulting engineering services, is excited to announce that ten interns have joined the firm for the summer. “Our internships have proven to be so popular that the positions are typically filled in March each year,” said KVE Human Resources Director Jeff Feist. Following is a list of KVE’s summer interns.

**Junction City**

Tim Coles and Ethan Britt are returning for their second year as interns with KVE.

Coles, a sophomore at Kansas State University majoring in civil engineering returns to KVE’s materials testing lab.

Britt, a 2008 graduate of Chapman High School, returns to surveying for KVE. Britt will be a freshman at KSU, majoring in Wildlife Biology.

James Dodin, a 2008 graduate of Junction City High School, will be working in the materials testing lab. Dodin spent his senior year as a drafting intern as part of the school’s job shadowing program. He will attend KSU this fall, majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a Nuclear Option.

Drew Britt joins KVE for his third summer in surveying. He will be a senior at Northern Valley High School in Almena.

**Lenexa**

Joel Camber returns for his second year with the materials testing lab. He will be a sophomore at the University of Kansas (KU), where he is majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Also in the materials testing lab will be Jessica Falbe, David Steele, Vinur Kaul, Cory Johnson, and Kyle Hess.

Falbe will be a senior at KU, where she is majoring in Civil Engineering. She is also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Chi Epsilon Honor Society.

Steele will be a junior at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, where he is majoring in Civil Engineering. He is also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and Sigma Phi Epsilon.

A sophomore at KU, Kaul is majoring in Civil and Environmental Engineering, and is a member of the KU Chapters of the Society of Women Engineers and Engineers Without Borders.

Also a sophomore at KU, Johnson is majoring in General Engineering.

Hess will be a senior at Gardner Edgerton High School.

“KVE values the contributions our summer interns make to the firm in the areas of materials testing, surveying, design and geotechnical services. These internships are a win-win proposition for both our students and our firm. They provide our firm with additional staffing resources during our busiest time of the year and we provide them opportunities for significant engineering-related experiences as they move forward toward their degrees. The exchange of fresh ideas and years of on-the-job experience enables both our interns and our existing associates to grow professionally. We look forward to a productive summer together,” added Feist.

KVE is a full-service civil engineering firm, providing civil engineering, geotechnical, environmental, surveying, steel inspection, welding inspection, construction inspection and materials testing services throughout the Midwest. KVE has offices in Junction City, Lenexa, and Kansas City, Missouri. Kaw Valley Engineering - Designing the ground where we live, work and play since 1982.
Work Zones: Driving safe, not sorry

By BARBARA PROFFITT
Linn County News Reporter
barbara@linncountynews.net

LINN COUNTY - With major highway construction still underway in the county, residents and visitors need to be more aware than ever of the dangers in work zones.

The expansion of U.S. Highway 69 has created a bottleneck effect for drivers in which the northern and southern edges of the county each have four-lane accessibility, but the center portion of the county is a two-lane highway with massive amounts of construction equipment running alongside it on a daily basis.

Changes occur on a daily basis and as construction moves ahead, dangers increase.

In 2006 two students at the University of Kansas completed and published a study of work zone crashes and factors that contribute to them. What they found was that despite the efforts by legislative and governmental agencies, the incidence of work zone crashes is not declining.

After examining 157 separate crashes it was determined that inattentive driving and misjudgment were the two most frequent human errors for all age groups under all lighting conditions. Males caused more fatal work zone crashes than females for these two reasons, but males and females caused the same amount of work zone crashes due to alcohol/drug impairment.

Of the studied crashes, 46 percent were multi-vehicle collisions occurring under good light conditions and 25 percent were single-vehicle crashes in unfavorable lighting conditions.

In almost all light conditions, work zones on two-lane highways in rural areas had the highest fatal crash frequencies.

The study also found that male drivers caused most (75 percent) of the fatal crashes in Kansas highway work zones.

The study also noted that nearly 18 percent of the fatal crashes occurred during the 'slow' construction months of December through March.

According to information provided to the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse by the Federal Highway Administration, more than 40,000 people are injured each year as a result of crashes in work zones.

The following guidelines should be adhered to when traveling through work zones:

• Stay alert. Keep an eye out for workers and equipment.
• Expect the unexpected.
• Pay close attention to what is happening around you.

►Work Zones cont'd on Pg. A8
Work Zone
cont'd from Pg A6

front, behind and to the sides.
• **Turn on** your car's headlights so construction zone workers can more easily see your vehicle.
• **Keep a safe distance** between your vehicle and any ahead of you. **Do not tailgate**.
• **Follow posted speed limits** in and around work zones; **do not speed**, and remember, fines are **doubled** for speeding in work zones.
• **Don’t change lanes unnecessarily.**
• **Minimize distractions.** Avoid changing radio stations, eating or using **cellular phones** while in work zones.
• **Be patient.** Arriving safely at your destination is the goal.
Welcome to “This Week in Congress.” I hope you find this newsletter useful.

Kansans Express Frustration about High Energy Prices: Kansans have repeatedly expressed their frustrations and concerns about how high energy costs are harming their family budgets and communities. It is past time for Congress and the President to act. We need to work to increase the supply of energy and decrease the demand. We must be aware and work to conserve energy where we can. Research dollars should be directed into exploring additional alternative energy sources, new forms of bioenergy and more fuel efficient automobiles. We must also tap into the oil and natural gas resources within our own borders.

Welcoming the National Champion Kansas Jayhawks to Washington, D.C.: On Tuesday, I attended a ceremony in the Rose Garden at the White House where President Bush honored the Kansas Jayhawk basketball team for winning the 2008 NCAA championship. After the White House ceremony, the Kansas congressional delegation had the opportunity to honor the team at a ceremony near the Capitol. I enjoyed visiting with Coach Bill Self and many of the players and congratulating them on their successful season.

United States Assumes Presidency of the United Nations Security Council: In 2004, the United States declared the atrocities in Darfur to be genocide. Four years later, the Sudanese government continues to target innocent civilians. Approximately 500,000 have been killed and 2.5 million displaced. Every month, the Presidency of the Security Council switches among the 15 members of the United Nations Security Council. This month, the U.S. will head up the group giving it an important opportunity to shape the agenda. I joined other Members of Congress in calling for strong U.S. leadership and action to protect civilians and hold the government of Sudan accountable for its defiance of numerous Security Council Resolutions on Darfur.

Omar al-Bashir, Sudan’s President, has placed restrictions on the deployment of the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur, which has made peace difficult to achieve. In addition, a lack of helicopters and China’s continued support of the corrupt Khartoum regime are further obstacles to achieving peace in Sudan. This week, two concerned Wichita students were in my office to advocate on behalf of those suffering in Darfur. Patrick Regan and Varoon Bashyakarla from Wichita Collegiate School were in our nation’s capital advocating to bring justice to this region. I appreciate their and other Kansans’ efforts to improve the livelihoods of those in their community, across the country and around the world.

Dr. Bob Moser of Tribune to Serve on Veterans Advisory Panel on Rural Health: In February, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it was creating a national advisory panel on rural health to advise the top leaders of the VA about health care issues affecting veterans in rural areas. My nomination of Dr. Bob Moser of Tribune was accepted this week by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. Dr. Moser will serve on the 13-member panel that will provide guidance to Secretary Peake and Under Secretary for Health Dr. Michael J. Kussman.

Dr. Moser is well qualified to serve on the advisory panel. He grew up in Tribune and returned there after completing medical school at the University of Kansas. He serves as the Medical Chief of Staff and practices at Greeley County Hospital. Dr. Moser was named the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians Family Physician of the Year in 2006. As a medical doctor working to provide the best care for his veteran patients living in a highly rural area of Kansas and Colorado, Dr. Moser’s perspective has been invaluable to me and will likewise prove beneficial to the VA.

House Hunger Caucus Looks into Long Term Solutions to Global Food Crisis: This week, I co-chaired a House Hunger Caucus briefing addressing the rising cost of food. This briefing focused on testimony from expert witnesses in the field of agricultural development. Scientists and representatives from organizations working with farmers testified about ways Congress can encourage higher yields, fertilizer, quality seeds and improving growing techniques can help improve
production, but many countries lack the infrastructure for farmers to market their produce. I was glad to see the Caucus begin this discussion. It is vital to increase the amount of food farmers in Kansas and around the world produce if we are to accomplish the goal agreed to last week at the United Nations World Food Summit – halving the number of undernourished by 2015.

Visiting with Employees and Officials at the Hawker Beechcraft Facilities in Salina: I visited the Hawker Beechcraft facilities in Salina this week where more than 450 people are employed. Hawker Beechcraft manufactures aviation products for businesses, governments, and individuals around the world. I recently visited the headquarters of Hawker Beechcraft in Wichita and wanted to utilize this opportunity to see the Salina facilities and visit with employees. As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Aviation Subcommittee, it is important to know what issues are affecting the aviation industry in Kansas. Thanks to Chairman and CEO Jim Schuster, Senior Vice President of Operations George Wynn, Mike Hammond and Todd Westerfield for showing me around the facilities.

Visiting Pawnee Health Services in Junction City, City Hall in Chapman: On Friday, I visited Pawnee Health Services in Junction City. Pawnee Health Services is a regional community health center that serves the mental health and substance abuse needs of a 10-county area in Kansas. Thanks to Executive Director Robbin Cole, Crisis Services Director Terry Becker, Community Based Services Director Vanessa Jones, Outpatient Supervisor Maria Ellis, and Junction City Office Supervisor Mary Shane for the tour and discussion about the difficulties they face serving the unique community in the Junction City area. With Fort Riley nearby, the center deals with Tri-Care, Medicare and Medicaid patients, as well as those with and without insurance. The message I received is that these governmental programs need to be more flexible. I appreciated the opportunity to talk with and learn from these professionals and commend them and all of our mental health centers for the tremendous job they do in serving an often unrecognized need.

After that, I made a stop at City Hall in Chapman to visit with local residents. I also enjoyed visiting with City Clerk Marietta Lucas.

Recognizing Lydia Porubsky of Porubsky’s Grocery and Meats in Topeka: En route back to Washington, D.C., I stopped at Porubsky’s Grocery and Meats in Topeka to present the Porubsky family with remarks I delivered in the House of Representatives in recognition of their late mother, Lydia Porubsky.

In the Office: Sandy Barnett of Topeka, Sharon Katz of Overland Park, Kay Anderson of Leavenworth, Sarah Terwelp of Lawrence and Charlotte Linsner and Chelsey DiPlacito of Faw were in with the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence to advocate for full funding of the Violence Against Women’s Act and the Victims of Crime Act. They also highlighted the importance of rural outreach efforts and the continued need to raise awareness about these issues.

Brad and Sherri Luthe, Connie Fahrbach and Rose Mary Mohr of Wichita; Gary Parker of Colby; and Karen Cook of Lawrence were in representing Mental Health America to talk about the importance of mental health insurance parity and the need for community support services. Mark Schreiber of Emporia was in with Westar Energy to discuss Westar’s recent announcement to build electrical transmission lines in Kansas, as well as the utility’s other power generation projects.

Members of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce were in to update me on priorities for the city. In with the group were Mayor Mark Hatesohl, Lyle Butler, Ron Fehr, Neal and Debbie Farmer, Dick Hayter, Jeff Levin, Sue Peterson, Dick Carter, Mike Shilling and Linda Weis.

Cindy Luxem and Cindy Rush of Topeka and Roxanne Fanning and Tosha Baird of Baxter Springs were in with the Kansas Health Care Association to discuss quality retire ment home standards and the need to preserve Medicare and Medicaid funding. Peggy Johnson, Terry Barnett, Mary Anne Foxx, Gwendelyn Anderson and Teresa Carter of Wichita were in with the Susan G. Komen For the Cure Foundation to talk about the importance of early detection programs and cancer research funding. Chris Theel and Kris Overman, both Army Reservists in Salina, were in to discuss physical standards for service members.

Barb Downey of Wamego and Lonnie Busch of Leoti were in with the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association Young Cattlemen’s Conference to discuss challenges facing cattle producers. Hannah Miller of Enterprise, Tod Hildebrand of Junction City and Justin Thacker of Chapman visited Washington, D.C., for an FFA conference with their sponsors, Walter and Joelle Pitts of Chapman.
Michael Lerner, Deborah Graham and Eileen Kaplan of Overland Park and Warren Goz of New York were in Washington, D.C., for the American Israel Public Affairs Policy Conference. They stopped by the office to discuss security issues in the Middle East and the importance of a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. Eric Schmutz of Abilene also was in to visit.

Several Kansans visited my office this week for a tour of the U.S. Capitol building, including Michael Gillaspie of Ashland, Kristina Overman of Eskridge, Bruce and Nichole Mader of Junction City, Lance and Mary Graves of Ellsworth, Ernie and Jeannette Heikes of Buhler, Linda and Kathleen Nugent of Wichita, Chris and Cindy Theel of Salina and Jeff and Niklas Borchardt of Olathe. Also in were Gregory, Kay, Micah and Murray Heikes of Kingman; Kevin, Donna, Anna, Laura and Alexander Juenemann of Colby; Levi Smith, Taylor Schmidt and Shannon Webster of Greensburg; Mark and Tamara Wagoner of Hutchinson with their children, Sidney and Quentin Pease; and Duane, Stephanie, Jason and Eric Banning of Hutchinson. I also met with students from Saint Francis High School and Liberal Middle School prior to their tours of the Capitol.

Contact Me: It is an honor to serve you in Washington, D.C. Please let me know how I can be of assistance.
Elizabeth Erickson, Shawnee, KS, graduated with highest distinction from the University of Kansas School of Nursing on May 18, 2008. During commencement week, she was inducted into the nursing honor society, Sigma Theta Tau, and also was a recipient of the Outstanding Senior Award for Academic Performance given by the University of Kansas Nurses Alumni Assoc. Elizabeth is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Forrest Erickson, Shawnee, and the granddaughter of Velma Briggs, Quinter.
Scott Alan Reed received his Juris Doctor from the University of Kansas School of Law on May 18. Scott received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Kansas State University. He was president of his law class, a member of the law fraternity Phi Alpha Delta and participated in Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). He will take his Kansas Bar Exam in July.

Reed is the son-in-law of Max and Judy Reed of Great Bend and is married to Alicia Reed, who is a Grant Administrator for the University of Kansas. Scott and Alicia reside in Lawrence.
Reed chosen as isotope laboratory participant

Alexis Reed, a doctoral student in global change ecology at the University of Kansas, has been chosen to participate in the Stable Isotopes in Ecology Course, June 9-20 at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. Alexis was one of 24 participants chosen world-wide to attend the laboratory conference. The conference will deal with the application of stable isotopes to ecological research, which includes a wide range of study applications from global oceanic circulation to plant water usage studies.

Reed will work with isotope ratio mass spectrometry; hydrogen, oxygen, carbon and nitrogen isotope analyses; and forensics, biomarkers and atmospheric interactions.

She is the daughter of Max and Judy Reed and a 2002 graduate of Great Bend High School.