

SOUND OFF

Q Is it true former Kansas University basketball coach Roy Williams celebrated a birthday this week?

A Yes. Williams turned 63 on Aug. 1. He was born in Marion General Hospital in Marion, N.C., and spent his early years in the western North Carolina towns of Marion and Spruce Pine. As a child his family relocated to Asheville, where he was a high school basketball and baseball star, before attending the University of North Carolina, where he is now head coach.

SOUND OFF

If you have a question, call 832-7297 or send email to soundoff@ljworld.com.

ON THE STREET

By Meagan Thomas Read more responses and add your thoughts at LJWorld.com

What have you done to make your home more energy-efficient?

Asked at Massachusetts Street

See story, page 1A



Bruce Eggers, letter carrier, Lawrence

"We put in a high-efficient air conditioner."



Rachael Love, student, Kansas City, Mo.

"We don't use air conditioning, and we turn off lights. We also have energy-efficient windows."



Erin Tompkins, graduate student, Lawrence

"I think we just got our air conditioner repaired so it works faster."



Mackenzie Conran, sales associate, Lawrence

"Whenever I leave for an extended period of time I turn down the air, or on the rare days it's cooler out I open windows or turn the A.C. off completely."

CORRECTIONS

Anyone interested in volunteering in Douglas County to manually count bicycles and pedestrians at specific locations next month must attend at least one training session, which will be from noon to 1 p.m. Aug. 26 and 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Aug. 29 in the Lawrence City Commission Room at City Hall, 6 E. Sixth St.; 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 5 in the Eudora Parks and Recreation Community Room, and from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 28 at the Baldwin Public Library. An incorrect date was published Friday. To sign up, visit http://www.lawrenceks.org/mpo/volunteer.

HOSPITAL

BIRTHS Kevin and Jamilee Grammer, Lawrence, a girl, Thursday. Vanessa and Jarrett Cobb, Lawrence, a girl, Thursday. Caitlin Hitt and Chad Carroll, Olathe, a boy, Thursday. Dustin and Jennifer Rice, Lawrence, a boy, Friday.

ON THE RECORD

LJWORLD.COM/BLITTER

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

There were no incidents to report Friday.

Chefs

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chocolate mint from Lulu's Garden of Baldwin City.

Next, 715 restaurant chef and co-owner Michael Beard with chimichurri-marinated seared and sliced leg of lamb over butter-poached potatoes, red and yellow tomatoes and Lebanese toum, a pungent lemon-garlic sauce.

Beard said he kept his dish simple — his trademark at the restaurant — and filled his presentation with cooking tips. Heavy cast iron skillets are best for a crisp sear, dissolving an anchovy (oily and salty, in a good way) with butter adds rich flavor to sauteed potatoes; maintain moisture by letting steak rest 10 minutes before slicing — that is, if you're not in a timed cooking contest.

Cherry on top: Joseph Hubbard the lamb rancher himself, imported all the way from Shannon Creek Ranch in Olsburg, to tell the crowd about his ranching practices and appreciation for connecting with customers through restaurants like 715.

Finally, chef T. Peterson, of Schereds Pub and Plate, scheduled to open this month at 746 Massachusetts St. Peterson prepared cold-smoked and grilled chicken with

creamy braised greens, to-mato-chili jam and waffle chips made from 4-H potatoes.

Cherry on top: There was Boulevard beer in those greens. And the guy who grew them, Nicholas Gregory of Hundred Acre Farm in Ozawie, came to

talk about his sustainable organic farming practices. Judges rated each chef on taste, creativity with local ingredients, presentation, execution, educational commentary and — the factor that may have pushed the winner over the edge — audience applause.

And the winner? Adding to the buzz surrounding his soon-to-open restaurant, Peterson was named this year's Chefs Challenge champion.

Chef Rick Martin, Douglas County Food Policy Council member and Just Food cooking teacher, said the cookoff aims to highlight different types of agriculture that Douglas County has to offer, this year including 4-H growers. He said the fair is a natural location and that local chefs are natural crowd-pleasers.

"People really like the star power, even if they're local and regional stars," Martin said. "It's a really quick connection with where our food comes from."

— Features reporter Sara Shepherd can be reached at 832-7877. Follow her at Twitter.com/saramaneshp.

Autism

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directly interact with the devices through touch and pictures is an aid to communication for children with limited communication skills.

Autism-related apps already are available, but studies done on them up to this point mostly have focused on children's ability to use them to communicate with adults. Thiemann-Borke and her team want to study whether the apps can help children better work and play with their peers in school.

The grant, awarded by the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, will fund a study of 48 preschool-aged children with autism who are non-verbal or minimally verbal. In addition, the team will train teachers and peers without disabilities to use the apps. The apps are designed to help children with communication disorders develop verbal communication skills by linking pictures to spoken words through the tablet's touchscreen.

The apps available to the research team include some that contain pictures or allow users add new photographs to the device. These might be photos of a playground, food or the student's peers. By touching the picture, the user triggers a voice that verbalizes an object or action. Students can then use the app, for example, to express desire for a snack or a turn at a piece of playground equipment. From there, users can add images and complexity to the interface.

Once students progress

in expressing themselves, Thiemann-Borke's hope is that the apps can then help them better develop receptive communication skills, which can be an especially difficult challenge for children with autism. The goal is for small groups of students to be able to use the device to communicate with each other.

Thiemann-Borke said the benefit of the technology is its affordability and accessibility to parents. Prior to the introduction of the iPad and other tablets a few years ago, technology existed to help children with communication disorders use pictures to develop verbal skills, but those specialized devices could cost as much as \$4,000.

"Families just couldn't afford them," she said. The tablet apps also are personalized by adding photographs of familiar faces and the user's own voice. Since similar apps were first developed, digital voice technology also has come a long way. Some earlier versions had fairly robotic voices, Thiemann-Borke said.

Both the study and the apps hold the promise to help students with autism gain stronger language skills and have more fun on the playground and in school.

"We're excited about it. It's a great project. We're happy to be funded," said Thiemann-Borke, whose team will be visiting the classrooms weekly to observe, coach, consult and collect data. "It's competitive out there."

LIBERTY HALL For accessibility info call 785-844-9972. THE WAY WAY BACK AUGUST 10-11, 2013. AN INCREASINGLY DARK ADVENTURE. KON-TIKI OPEN SUNDAY. VISIT WWW.LIBERTYHALL.NET

Roberts named to conference committee to work on farm bill

J-W Staff Reports



U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., will serve on the conference committee charged with settling differences between the House and Senate farm bills.

And the differences are great, the major one being that House Republicans removed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly referred to as food stamps.

"Obviously there is much work to be done on the nutrition title," Roberts said Friday. "I have called for more reforms

to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). We can restore integrity to the program and save the taxpayer more than the \$4 billion included in the Senate bill," he said.

Roberts voted against the version that was approved in the Senate, while U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., voted for it.

In the House, Republican leaders are calling

for \$40 billion in cuts to the food stamp program. President Barack Obama has said he would veto deep cuts to food stamps. Senate Republican leaders appointed Roberts to the conference panel.

Generally, Roberts said, "I look forward to representing the views of Kansas farmers and ranchers as we continue to work toward a farm bill."

"I want certainty for producers and will fight to protect crop insurance and programs critical to livestock producers who are still suffering due to drought."

Trade

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Afghanistan conflicts.

But a February 2012 article by The Kansas City Star clarified that Kansas City, Kan., officials had not donated any property to the group, but rather had expressed interest in providing a site if the project had been shown to be financially feasible.

Edwin Birch, a spokesman for the United Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, said that continues to be the case.

The February article in The Star also raised questions about how much money the small organization has been able to raise towards the memorial.

Birch said he hadn't received any formal update on fundraising from the group, but said indications are that there still remains much work to do to make the project a reality.

"It appears to still be kind of early in the process," Birch said.

Diane Stoddard, an assistant city manager for Lawrence, said the request to place art in front of the Lawrence Visitors Center would be reviewed by various city departments and the city's Cultural Arts Commission. The arts commission is scheduled to discuss the project at its Aug. 14 meeting.

As for the art piece, information that was on the Fallen Warriors Web site but was taken down after the Journal-World began inquiring about the project stated that the

concrete block was part of a foundation wall that was "the only piece of the Trade Center area that actually was left standing from the original site after 9/11."

The concrete section is one of several that was saved by artist Sandra Priest when a portion of the wall was being removed to make way for the construction of a subway station near the World Trade Center site. Priest has chosen one of the other blocks to build a sculpture for the city of Bethlehem, Pa.

The request filed at Lawrence City Hall indicated the art work could be housed at the Visitors Center for two to three years until it could be moved to its permanent home as part of a Fallen Warrior Memorial.

Judge dismisses election lawsuit

TOPEKA (AP) — A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit arising from a close Kansas House race last year and the losing incumbent's attempt to contact voters whose ballots were set aside.

U.S. District Judge J. Thomas Marten ruled Thursday that a change in state election laws this year made the case moot.

Former state and Topeka Democrat Rep. Ann Mah wanted to keep the lawsuit alive to review new issues about contacting voters after balloting.

Mah lost her bid for re-election last year by 21 votes out of almost 10,800 cast.

After the initial vote count, Mah sued successfully to learn the names of voters whose ballots had not been counted, so she might then help correct flaws.

Lawmakers rewrote state law to prevent such a move again.

MOVIE GUIDE

2 GUNS PG Despite his incompatible build and fear of heights, a small-town plane driver of one day competing as a high-flying air racer. Regal Southwind Stadium 12

REG 2 *** R In the dark about each other's true identity, two undercover agents from competing bureaus go on the run together after an attempt to infiltrate a drug cartel goes haywire. Regal Southwind Stadium 12

THE CONJURING *** R Paranormal investigators Lorraine and Ed Warren confront a powerful demonic entity when they try to help parents and children being terrorized in their secluded farmhouse. Regal Southwind Stadium 12

SHARKNADO Not Rated A screening of "Sharknado," plus a behind-the-scenes featurette and gag reel. Regal Southwind Stadium 12

TURBO *** PG A snail gets the chance to escape his slow-paced life and race in the Indianapolis 500 when a freak accident gives him the power of superspeed. Regal Southwind Stadium 12

THE WAY WAY BACK *** PG-13 After his mother's lover betrays him, a boy befriends a water-park employee who helps give him the confidence to come out of his shell. Liberty Hall Cinema

WE'RE THE MILLERS R Indebted to a big-time drug lord, a pot dealer travels to Mexico with a fake family and a captive to pick up a large shipment and smuggle it into the U.S. Regal Southwind Stadium 12

THE WOLVERINE *** PG-13 In Japan and vulnerable for the first time, Wolverine confronts lethal samurai steel and grapples with the ghosts of his own haunted past. Regal Southwind Stadium 12

THE WOLVERINE 3D *** PG-13 A washed-up ex-pilot and an untested trainee must drive an old, obsolete robot in a last-ditch effort to repel a lethal force of monstrous invaders. Regal Southwind Stadium 12

PACIFIC RIM *** PG-13 A washed-up ex-pilot and an untested trainee must drive an old, obsolete robot in a last-ditch effort to repel a lethal force of monstrous invaders. Regal Southwind Stadium 12

PLANES PG Despite his incompatible build and fear of heights, a small-town plane driver of one day competing as a high-flying air racer. Regal Southwind Stadium 12

Drink Specials at: lawrence.com/drinkspecials

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