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Pulse 1C

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People 10B



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KEEPING THE PEACE AT STATE LAKES



Nick Krug/Journal-World Photo

TOPEKA RESIDENT KIRK KEBERLEIN prepares his boat before docking it Friday at the Rock Creek Marina at Perry Lake. A new state law puts a cap on noise levels emitted by boats. Keberlein, who has a 38-foot sports boat that exceeds the law's decibel level, and others are frustrated by the law. The boat, which now isn't legal to be on the water, was permitted over the weekend because of the Watercraft Poker Run event.

Boaters startled by new enforcement of noise law

2006 Legislature passed regulation without fanfare

By Christine Metz

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Kirk Keberlein and his 38-foot sports boat spent all summer on Perry Lake.

So it was like a splash of cold water in the face when on Labor Day weekend Keberlein was told that, under a new state law, his boat was too noisy. He was asked to leave the lake and not come back until the boat was quieter. "Say you bought a new Mustang and you woke up one day and found out that you couldn't drive it down the road anymore," Keberlein said. "Well, that is exactly what has happened here."

Keberlein and dozens of other regular Perry Lake boaters are concerned that a law approved in 2006 — but not enforced until the end of this summer — will force them off Kansas waterways.

The alternative is to spend thousands of dollars to upgrade exhaust systems. And even then, some boaters said, they aren't guaranteed their boats will meet the new noise requirements.

The law is aimed squarely at noise produced from high-speed sport

"I just don't understand this. We never hurt anyone; we never had an accident."

— Rhonda Hamm, of Perry, who has been boating with her husband for eight years, but recently listed their two sport boats for sale because of the noise law

boats and a feature many of them have — the captain's call switch — that makes the engine faster and louder.

"Our senators, legislators, representatives have passed a law that specifically makes certain boats just plain old illegal, no matter how much noise it puts out," Keberlein said.

Too loud

Dan Heskett was the one who proposed and wrote the law. He is assistant director of law enforcement and boating law administrator for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

The idea came from 12 years of enforcing laws on state waters and complaints he received in that time. Perry, Cheney and El Dorado lakes

produced more noise complaints than any other lakes in the state, he said.

Store manager for Lake Perry Yacht and Marina Mike Stanley is among those who have heard complaints about the loud boats. And he agrees.

"Quite honestly, people were glad to see the law go into effect," Stanley said.

From his home, which is near the lake, he can hear the boats running at night.

For years, Kansas had a law that required all exhaust systems to use water to help muffle the sound. However, that law was somehow discarded when the state updated its regulations in the early 1990s.

About 35 states have some kind of restriction in place. Kansas' law says a boat can't be louder than 86 decibels from a distance of 50 feet. Scientifically, the 86 decibel level is the amount of noise the average factory would make or the sound of city traffic inside a car.

Anecdotaly, on Keberlein's boat at dock, the sound of the idling engine is about as loud as a crowded restaurant.

Please see BOATERS, page 6A

SECURITY

KU investigates records breach

Newspaper anonymously receives personal information in mail

By Jonathan Kealing

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➔ **ONLINE:** See the 6News video report and take part in our online poll at www.ljworld.com

Graded student exams. Student ID numbers. Health insurance information. Social Security numbers. Cell phone numbers. Home addresses. Names.

An identity thief's dream. All of the above records — some originals, others copies — were contained in Kansas University documents mailed Tuesday to the Lawrence Journal-World.

The records were accompanied by an anonymous letter, written ostensibly by former mathematics

department teaching assistants and current employees of the KU Recycling Center, that said the records had been recovered from trash and recycling receptacles in the KU math department. The letter went on to say that the writers had repeatedly tried to persuade the math department to better safeguard personal information.

"We've been informed that personal documents and records were sent to the media, along with allegations of improper handling of private information," Lynn

Please see KU, page 8A

● See what they're saying on the Street. Page 5A



Nick Krug/Journal-World Photo

IN A MEETING WITH JOURNAL-WORLD reporters and editors, Kansas University spokesman Todd Cohen, surveys a stack of documents sent to the Journal-World and other newspapers Wednesday at the News Center, 645 N.H.

School board hears sports facility options

City, county don't have proposals in budgets

By George Diepenbrock

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➔ **ONLINE:** See the 6News video report and more about the school board at www.ljworld.com

They want options.

During a Wednesday evening study session, several Lawrence school board members directed administrators to present scenarios with costs, including alternatives to playing home football games at Haskell Stadium.

"I personally think that we need to make a move for a facility over which we have control, definitely

where football is played, because that's where we are totally dependent upon another provider," school board member Mary Loveland said.

After the discussion of outdoor athletic facilities, board members directed Superintendent Randy Weseman to report back to them with a list including costs of:

● Working together with Haskell Indian Nations University to improve the stadium, near 23rd Street and Barker Avenue, where Lawrence High School has played

Please see SCHOOL, page 6A



John Russell/AP Photo

SOLDIERS OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE take a cognitive skills test in preparation for deployment to Iraq in Fort Campbell, Ky. The tests are part of an Army program that records how soldiers' brains work when healthy.

Army begins testing soldiers' brains before deployments

By Kristin M. Hall

Associated Press Writer

FORT CAMPBELL, KY. — Before they leave for Iraq, thousands of troops with the 101st Airborne Division line up at laptop computers to take a test: basic math, matching numbers and symbols, and identifying patterns. They press a button quickly to measure response time.

It's all part of a fledgling Army program that records how soldiers' brains work when healthy, giving doctors baseline data to help diagnose and treat the soldiers if they

suffer a traumatic brain injury — the signature injury of the Iraq war.

"This allows the Army to be much more proactive," said Lt. Col. Mark McGrail, division surgeon for the 101st. "We don't want to wait until the soldier is getting out of the Army to say, 'But I've had these symptoms.'"

The mandatory brain-function tests are starting with the 101st at Fort Campbell and are expected to spread to other military bases in the next couple of months. Commanders at each base will decide whether to adopt the program.

The tests provide a standard, objective measurement for each soldier's reaction time, their short-term memory and other cognitive skills. That data would be used when the soldiers come home to identify mild brain trauma that can often go unnoticed and untreated.

One veterans group wants to ensure the Army doesn't use the results to deny treatment by claiming that soldiers' problems came from pre-existing conditions.

"We certainly think these tests should not be used to reduce the responsibility that the Army has to

tre at the soldiers who have served," said Jason Forrester, director of policy for Veterans for America.

Brain injuries caused by explosions have become some of the most common combat wounds suffered in Iraq. Thirty percent of soldiers taken to Walter Reed Army Medical Center since 2003 suffered traumatic brain injuries, according to the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center.

The brain-injury center, which has seven facilities around the country, has seen 2,669 patients between 2003 and 2007.

Warm



High: 88 Low: 67
Today's forecast, page 12B

INSIDE

Arts & Entertainment	1C-2C	Events listings	4A, 2B, 1C	Puzzles	7C
Business	11B	Garden	1C	Sports	1B-8B
Classified	3C-8C	Horoscope	10B	Stocks	11B
Comics	9B	Movies	6A	Television	2B, 10B
Deaths	4A	Opinion	10A		

COMING FRIDAY

An old windmill may be reborn as the base for a "freedom light" beacon at an area museum.



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