THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2012 75 CENTS

WICHITA READY FOR NATIONWIDE TOUR'S BEST

CIVIC GROUPS SEE DECLINE

BY SARAH TUCKER

The Wichita Eagle

n May 31, the Hypatia Club of Wichita disbanded.

Founded by Mary Elizabeth Lease, the Hypatias have called Wichita home since 1886. The club dedicated a statue to Lease earlier this year and in its early years was a strong advocate for women’s rights.

Now, after 126 years, the club no longer exists.

“As you get older and did less, people weren’t interested in joining us,” said Josephine Brown, the last president of the Hypatia Club. She said the club was down to 15 members, including two who live out of state and four who reside in care homes.

The fate of the Hypatia Club is a situation many civic organizations face today. Struggling with an aging membership and competing with others to make the connection, many groups wonder how long they can continue.

Changes in society

The Invicta Lions Club is one such organization debating its future. Phil Journey, a member since 1983, says the club is discussing whether or not to disband. Journey estimates the average age of members is over 65 and says it is sometimes difficult to recruit younger members.

“As the age difference becomes greater, it becomes harder for people to make the connection,” said Journey to CIVIC, Page 5A.

TUITION INCREASES

Regents OK new standards for KU, raise tuition overall

BY JOHN KANUKA

Associated Press

TOPEKA — The University of Kansas will have tougher admissions standards than the state’s other public colleges, and tuition at all of the institutions will rise by as much as 6.9 percent this fall because of decisions the higher education system’s governing board made Wednesday.

The state Board of Regents approved a tuition proposal from University of Kansas officials to boost entry requirements for freshmen, starting in fall 2016. Prospective students would have to earn at least a B average in high school to gain automatic admission, while others would have their applications reviewed by a committee.

The regents also approved tuition increases that are expected to raise an additional $13 million annually, to help offset rising operating costs at the state’s 16 universities and the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City.

DEPUTY SUSPECTED OF SEX CRIMES

FBI begins probe of alleged jail abuse

BY TIM PETER

The Wichita Eagle

The FBI on Wednesday began its own investigation of allegations of misconduct at the Sedgwick County Jail, an FBI spokesman said.

The development comes a day after the sheriff announced that jail deputy David Kendall, 21, had been arrested after being accused of multiple sex crimes. Previously, attorneys have said that two inmates alleged that they had been raped by a jail deputy.

“We have opened our own federal civil rights investigation,” FBI spokesman Bridges Franklin said.

Sheriff Robert HD Hudson said he welcomed the FBI investigation, adding that he has told the federal agency that “since today was to proceed with a separate investigation, we would give them 100

OBAMA INVOKES EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE

House panel holds Holder in contempt

BY PETE YOST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Setting up a potential constitutional confrontation, a Republican-controlled House panel voted Wednesday to cite Attorney General Eric Holder for contempt of Congress, just hours after President Obama invoked executive privilege — for the first time – to withhold documents demanded by the committee.

The party-line vote was 23-17 following hours of caucus debates. The controversy goes next to the full House, where Republican Speaker John Boehner said there would be a vote next week unless there was some resolution in the meantime.

Committee Chairman Darrell Issa of California was some resolution in the meantime.

COMING FRIDAY

A commemorative 72-page section of Kansas Trivia, compiled by Becky Tanner as part of the state’s 150th celebration of the state’s 150th birthday in 2011.

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