

# Barton County College coaches sentenced to prison

WICHITA (AP) — Citing “institutionalized fraudulent conduct” at Barton County Community College, a federal judge Monday sentenced the last four coaches involved in the athletics scandal at the Great Bend college to serve time for their crimes.

A federal investigation into financial aid and academic fraud in the athletics department led to the convictions of the athletic director and seven coaches and to the firing of the college’s president. “This is something everybody knew was going on at Barton County Community College — and nobody put a stop to it,” U.S. District Judge Monti Belot said at the sentencing Monday.

Former basketball coach Ryan Cross and former athletic director Neil Elliott were both sentenced to four months in federal prison followed by three years of probation.

Belot sentenced former track coach Lyles Lashley to three years of probation plus 12 weekends in the county jail. Lashley also was ordered to help repay nearly \$19,000 in restitution.

Former track coach Lance Brauman was given a year and a day in federal prison followed by three years of probation. Brauman, the only coach to stand trial in the investigation, also was ordered to help Lashley pay nearly \$19,000 in restitution.

Belot said student athletes were the victims in the scandal because the coaches were essentially saying that they did not have to follow the rules. He said the fraud involved not only financial aid but also a lack of academic integrity.

“Some of the fraudulent conduct occurred in the classroom — this is not the message teachers and coaches should be sending to young students,” Belot said.

The highest ranking Barton County official indicted was Elliott, 42, who resigned as athletic director in May. He pleaded guilty to mail fraud for a scheme to get a medical hardship ruling for a basketball player who was not entitled to it, so that the athlete could play basketball for an extra year.

A jury convicted Brauman, 36, in July of one count of embezzlement, one count of theft and three counts of mail fraud for using a federal work-study program and campus jobs to get around a conference ban on giving athletes full scholarships and causing false academic credentials to be sent to the University of Arkansas on an athlete’s behalf.

Brauman told the judge he admitted being involved in the financial aid scheme at the college, and he said it struck him in his heart when the judge said earlier during the sentencing hearing that the coaches were teaching students something wrong.

“I made a huge mistake, and obviously I am going to pay for it,” he said.

Lashley, 33, pleaded guilty to one count of theft of programs receiving federal funds. Lashley, who worked at Barton from 2002 to 2006, admitted that he knowingly prepared false time sheets for student athletes representing work they did not do.

Lashley told the judge he was in denial and afraid when the federal investigation began: “As time went on, I came to realize I shouldn’t blame others.... I’ll live with the consequences.”

Cross, 33, the men’s basketball coach at Barton until 2002, pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud for his part in a scheme to defraud the University of Cincinnati of the services of basketball player Kareem Johnson, who lacked the necessary college credits to transfer to the university.

In his plea agreement, Cross admitted that while he was coach at Chipola Junior College in Marianna, Fla., he made arrangements for one of his assistant coaches to pose as Johnson and

take an online course from Barton County Community College in the summer of 2002 so Johnson could get the necessary credit.

Cross told the judge he never intended to harm Johnson and realizes now that he should have found a different way to help him. “I should have made him study more. ... Instead, I took a shortcut,” Cross said.

The fraud count to which Elliott

admitted guilt involved the mailing of documents to the National Junior College Athletic Association in Colorado Springs, Colo., seeking a medical hardship ruling for player basketball player DaJuan Clayton. Such a ruling would have allowed Clayton to regain a year of athletic eligibility.

Elliott apologized to the court, his family and Barton County

Community College.

“I admit I made mistakes,” Elliott said. “I wish I could go back and change some things.”

Former assistant basketball coach Matthew B. Skillman, former basketball coach David “Soupy” Campbell, former assistant basketball coach Shane Hawkins and former basketball coach Ryan Wolf are all serving probation after entering guilty pleas.

## To Give Away

**Halloween kittens.** Orange and black, 7 weeks old, litter box trained, cute and loving. 785-694-2266. —10/4-10/9—



## Public Notice

## Public Notice

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### NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of Thomas County will meet on the 16th day of October, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the Commissions Room, 300 N. Court, Colby, Kansas for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax.

Detailed budget information is available at the Thomas County Clerk's Office, 300 N. Court, Colby, Kansas and will be available at this hearing.

### BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2007 Expenditures and the Amount of 2006 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2007 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	2005		2006		Proposed Budget 2007		
	Prior Year Actual Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Current Year Est. of Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Amount of 2006 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	1,741,503	8.251	1,761,116	6.727	1,994,544	482,843	5.975
Road & Bridge	1,295,100	8.281	1,245,919	8.194	1,278,200	678,568	8.397
Additional Road Levy	52,734						
Noxious Weed	173,786	1.037	148,770	1.032	160,770	86,941	1.076
Employee Benefits	512,126	5.204	509,693	6.301	552,000	491,075	6.077
Ambulance Service	225,947	1.149	249,224	0.851	300,000	24,535	0.304
Reappraisal	66,007	0.792	88,583	0.768	90,183	63,015	0.780
Service Program for Elderly	68,269	0.810	68,010	0.810	69,828	61,727	0.764
Direct Election	12,550	0.200	42,665	0.538	31,200	24,682	0.305
Historical Society	66,981	0.760	65,000	0.763	80,000	75,542	0.935
Extension Council	96,361	1.254	109,500	1.277	119,676	96,848	1.198
Free Fair	67,000	0.800	67,000	0.777	67,000	59,420	0.735
Mental Health	45,928	0.520	44,000	0.524	44,000	39,705	0.491
Mental Retardation	84,071	0.956	80,639	0.961	80,639	72,772	0.901
Special Liability		0.201	15,149	0.178	31,000	14,009	0.173
Sanitary Landfill	289,879	1.436	321,520	1.969	346,050	153,028	1.894
Community College Tuition	636		5,222				
Special Alcohol Program	28,349	0.108	15,156	0.009	30,000		
County Health	234,579	1.041	174,275	1.046	239,770	122,111	1.511
Household Hazardous Waste	14,506	0.064	15,650	0.101	38,600	33,648	0.416
Building Maintenance	36,887	0.729	113,500	0.750	105,500	60,609	0.750
No Fund Warrants	157,717	1.930	157,716	1.912	177,716	159,478	1.973
Noxious Weed-Equip Reserve	7,097						
Ambulance-Equip Reserve	38,136		19,804		19,805		
Special Equipment	187,888				82,714		
Special Highway Improvement	96,616						
Equipment Special Reserve							
911 Fund	58,977						
Maternal & Infant Grant	201						
Family Planning	33,149				12,498		
Register of Deeds-Equip Reserve	30,000						
Revolving Loans	10,000						
Sheriff's Forfeiture	420,702						
County Attorney's Forfeiture	63,519						
Maternal Child Health	38,273				13,595		
Landfill Cell-Capital Project	11,204						
Landfill Closure							
Federal Forfeiture							
State Formula Grant	5				7,000		
Sanitary Landfill-Equip Reserve	21,301						
County Treasure Special Auto	50,189						
Prosecuting Attorney Training	3,984						
Community Van	17,646						
E 911	1,587						
Immunization Grant	450				3,042		
Bioterrorism P & R Grant	12,659				16,956		
Register of Deeds-Technology	10,029						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,384,528</b>	<b>35.523</b>	<b>5,318,111</b>	<b>35.488</b>	<b>5,992,286</b>	<b>2,800,556</b>	<b>34.655</b>
Less: Transfers	472,551		15,222		20,000		
Net Expenditure	5,911,977		5,302,889		5,972,286		
Total Tax Levied	2,729,762		2,782,995				
Assessed Valuation	76,846,263		78,959,399		80,810,297		

Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1,	2004	2005	2006
G.O. Bonds	86,000	72,000	58,000
Other	565,896	433,609	295,377
Revenue Bonds			0
Lease Pur. Princ.	757,455	764,259	719,648
Total	1,409,351	1,269,868	1,073,025

Fire Districts:	2004	2005	2006
#3 - General	47,855	1.972	48,270
#3 - Capital Outlay	0	0.000	0
#4 - General	15,585	2.000	15,190
#5 - General	6,560	1.323	6,677

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills  
 Shelly A. Harms  
 Clerk  
 (Published in the Colby Free Press October 4, 2006.)

## Public Notice

### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of Denise Nye, Deceased,  
 No. 2006-PR-30

### NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given to the heirs, devisees, legatees and assigns of Denise Nye, deceased, that a petition has been filed in the above-entitled Court, as provided by law, pertaining to the devolution of title to the surviving joint tenant with right of survivorship in the following-described real estate, to-wit:

An undivided 44.64 acres in the Southwest Quarter (SW) of Section Twenty-four (24), Township Nine (9) South, Range Thirty-two (32), West of the 6th P.M., Thomas County, Kansas,

and pertaining to the descent of the following-described real estate, to-wit:

An undivided One-half (1/2) interest in and to an undivided 115.36 acres in the Southwest Quarter (SW) of Section Twentyfour (24), Township Nine (9) South, Range Thirty-two (32), West of the 6th P.M., Thomas County, Kansas.

You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before October 26, 2006, at 10:00 A.M. of said day, in this Court, in the City of Colby, in Thomas County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

DERALD D. NYE  
 Petitioner

SPENCER & SPENCER, P.A.  
 P.O. Box 247  
 Oakley, Kansas 67748  
 (785) 672-4032  
 Attorneys for Petitioner

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# Our Orthopedic Services Make the Grade!

## 2006 REPORT CARD

### Hays Medical Center Orthopedics and Joint Care Receive National Recognition

HealthGrades, the nation’s leading independent reviewer of healthcare quality, has recognized Hays Medical Center for outstanding patient outcomes in orthopedic care.

Instrumental in achieving this recognition are Hays Medical Center’s team of dedicated orthopedic specialists. Their unique skills and training offer the most advanced orthopedic services to people in this region.

We think you’ll agree. Hays Medical Center’s orthopedic services deserve high marks, indeed!

- Recipient of the HealthGrades® 2006 Orthopedic Excellence Award™
- Ranked #1 in the Region in Orthopedic Care
- Ranked in the Top 5% in the Nation in Joint Replacement
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Gregory A. Woods, M.D.  
 General Orthopedics,  
 Sports Medicine & Joint Replacement



Robert L. Bassett, M.D.  
 General Orthopedics,  
 Hand Surgery & Joint Replacement



A. Ahad Haleem, M.D.  
 General Orthopedics,  
 Orthopedic Oncology, Joint Replacements  
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