Atkinson creating a cancer partnership, advisory board

Regarding the ongoing Kansas City hospital mess and cancer center designation: Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor for the Kansas University Medical Center, announced recently she is creating a cancer partnership, an advisory board. The board, according to Atkinson, would handle strategic planning and advise the director of the KU cancer center.

Those she is reported to have appointed to the board include herself, KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway, KU Provost Richard Lariviere and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, all of whom have been and continue to be strong supporters of KUMC and KU Hospital merging or affiliating with St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

Any question as to how the four above-mentioned board members will vote on matters supported by the governor, the chancellor or the executive vice chancellor? By the way, it is understood that representatives of various area hospital will have to pay $500,000 to be part of the advisory board.

Whether it’s KU athletic activities or other university-related affairs, such as the cancer mess, it’s all a matter of control and money.

--The Lawrence Journal-World
Musicians have ties to Kansas

Two talented musicians who have ties to Kansas are two-thirds of a trio which is nationally-acclaimed.

Annie (Davidson) Gnojek is a 1999 graduate of Russell High and is the daughter of Dennis and Lori Davidson, Russell, and is the granddaughter of Joe and Rita Malin of Plainville.

She has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in flute performance from the University of Kansas, and maintains a flute studio in Lawrence. She also serves as the adjunct flute professor for Ottawa University and principal flutist for the Lawrence Chamber Orchestra.


Ellen (Sommer) Bottorff is the niece of Dr. Calvin Hair and Jeanette Sommer, Plainville.

She is an interim professor of piano at the University of Kansas, and has toured throughout the United States and Canada, performing on live radio, regional and national conventions and competitions. She has degrees from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Missouri Western University.

The third part of the trio, Margaret Marco, who plays the oboe, has been associate professor of oboe at the University of Kansas since 1998 and has performed extensively throughout the United States and Europe.

This year, the trio, named Allegresse has performed at Ithaca College, Ithaca New York, Lawrence, Topeka, Salina, Great Bend, and Lawrence.

To learn more about the trio and to hear excerpts of their music, go to www.allegresse.org.
Kansas equipment exchange program saves Kansas taxpayers money, and improves lives

PARSONS, Kansas — A young man in Winfield with a spinal injury has a shower chair and cushion. A woman in Con-way Springs with health and mobility challenges is using a patient-care bed. One of the Greensburg tornado survivors now living in Great Bend has received a manual wheelchair.

These are a few of the success stories of the Kansas Equipment Exchange, a project that accepts used equipment and matches it with Kansans who need it. Since April 2003, Equipment Exchange has saved Kansas taxpayers more than $2 million.

“Most of the recipients of durable medical equipment don’t have medical insurance,” said Patty Black-Moore, Expanding Reuse Project Coordinator. “Kansas Equipment Exchange saves tax dollars while improving lives. We placed over half a million dollars in refurbished durable medical equipment last year.”

Since June 2002, durable medical equipment purchased by the Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA) is used by the recipients as long as they need it. When the equipment is no longer needed, it is returned to the Equipment Exchange. Items in good condition are refurbished and then reassigned to another Kansan with a disability.

Not all of the equipment originates with the KHPA. “We’ve received patient lifts, beds, wheelchairs, communication devices and other items from individuals and families who no longer needed them,” Ms. Moore explained.

“A lot of usable items are stored in garages and attics. We need and accept donations of durable medical equipment and assistive technology that will enable people to live more independently.”

With the increased concerns about electronic waste, Equipment Exchange has added PDAs, hearing aids, navigational/GPS systems and electronic communication devices to its list. The project collects serviceable used items and passes them to Kansans with disabilities.

“We’ve passed on Palm Pilots and HP iPAQs, Tom Tom and Garmin navigational systems, and Chat PC and Tech Talk communication devices,” Moore said.

Persons wishing to donate equipment to the Kansas Equipment Exchange can call 800-526-3648 toll free. Kansas Equipment Exchange is a statewide project guided by individuals with disabilities, family members and the KHPA. It is affiliated with Assistive Technology for Kansans, a program coordinated by the Kansas University Center on Disabilities at Parsons.
Dukakis to speak at Dole Institute

LAWRENCE (AP) — Former Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis will give a lecture at the University of Kansas next week.

Dukakis will speak at the university’s Dole Institute of Politics at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 29. Dukakis was the governor of Massachusetts for three terms before running for president and losing the 1988 general election to George H.W. Bush.

Dukakis had risen from obscurity to take the Democratic nomination in a field that included Sens. Al Gore and Gary Hart, as well as the Rev. Jesse Jackson. After the election, he returned to Massachusetts to finish his third term.

Dukakis splits his time now teaching at Northeastern University in Massachusetts and the University of California-Los Angeles.
**Volunteers Protect Northeast Kansas Prairies**

**Woody Growth Attacked by Cutting, Spraying, Scouting for ‘Other Intruders’**

The Associated Press

TOPEKA — They cut down trees, spray weeds and scout for other intruders. Each month, a band of volunteers does its small part to protect some of the last vestiges of native Kansas prairie.

The group is organized by Frank Norman, who takes the members over the ground at the 140-acre Snyder Prairie, three miles east of Mayetta in northeast Kansas. Red cedars and other woody growth don’t stand a chance.

“Since 1998, we’ve been cutting trees to allow the prairie to grow,” Norman said. “Some of it is native prairie. It’s never been plowed.”

Called Groundhogs, the volunteers are associated with the Grassland Heritage Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Johnson County devoted to prairie preservation and education. They are doing their part to preserve and restore the prairie lands in Kansas.

“I’ve been working in the field for 18 years,” said Norman, who earned a master’s degree in botany from the University of Kansas in 1989 and is president of Norman Ecological Consulting LLC in Lawrence. “I really love the prairie.”

In September, the Groundhogs collected ripe seeds and spread them in areas they are restoring. Also this year, they have cleared dogwoods from an area with abundant Sullivant milkweed, sprayed sericea lespezea to keep it in check: dug thistles: burned trees and some prairie areas; and cut sumac, according to the foundation’s Web site.

“In prehistoric times, nature did the maintenance. Now the prairie needs some work to remain prairie,” said Sue Holcomb, a member of the foundation.

In late 1977, the late Rachel Snyder, author of “Gardening in the Heartland” and longtime editor of Flower and Garden magazine, bought 160 acres of land three miles east of Mayetta. Norman said the land has four small ponds and a river tributary.

Snyder, who also worked as a reporter for the Topeka Daily Capital and The Washington Post, rebuilt the stone homestead and replanted some of the land that had been used for crops or grazing with prairie grasses.

In the late 1990s, Snyder gave the 160-acre area to the Grassland Heritage Foundation, which sold 20 acres and kept the rest to restore. Part of the foundation’s mission is to educate others about the prairie.

Please see **Prairie**, Page 12A.
PRAIRIE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

and how endangered it is, Holcomb said.

"Most of the tallgrass prairie that remains is in Kansas," she said.

Norman said plants used to treat ailments and maintain health can be found on the prairie.

"The prairie also sequesters a lot of carbon," he said. "Plants take in carbon dioxide, convert it, and it goes into their roots and stays in the ground for years and years."

The grasses share the acres with raccoons, deer, bobcats, turkey and other animals spotted by volunteers.

The foundation would like to buy more land and restore more prairie, including some plots in Douglas County.

On the third Saturday of each month, Norman, who is volunteer coordinator for the Groundhogs, makes the trip to Snyder Prairie. The number of volunteers who show up varies, but rarely tops 10. Most of the volunteers come from the Kansas City area.

Norman would like to see more people from Topeka and Lawrence get involved in the preservation and restoration project at Mayetta.

"It’s really our heritage and our connection to the past," Norman said of the prairie. "There’s a deep, deep connection that goes back into time and into our psyche. People who are restoring it recognize that."

Information from The Topeka Capital-Journal.
Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Adrian Polansky today announced that he is appointing David Barfield chief engineer of the division of water resources. "The depth and breadth of Mr. Barfield’s understanding of Kansas water issues make him the most logical choice to fill this important position," Polansky said. "He has the experience and historical perspective needed to ensure continuity and the expertise to address new challenges so our state’s water resources are equitably managed for the benefit of all Kansans."

Barfield started working for the division of water resources in 1984. He has worked in all areas of water resource management, including municipal and industrial water use, dam safety and interstate water compacts. He was exclusively involved in interstate water issues from 1992 to June 2007, when he was appointed acting chief engineer. He has a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering and a Master of Science in water resources, both from the University of Kansas. He is a licensed professional engineer.

"I am honored by my appointment to this challenging position. I appreciate Secretary Polansky’s confidence in me, and I look forward to working with him and division of water resources staff to fulfill our statutory responsibilities," Barfield said. "My immediate plan is to ensure we continue to provide current levels of service while building on the solid foundation left by my predecessor."

Barfield was preceded by David Pope, who retired in June after 24 years as chief engineer. "Mr. Barfield is a good selection from my standpoint," Pope said. "I worked with him for many years, and I have full faith in his ability to carry out the duties of the position."
High schoolers get ahead with NCCC

Adam Vogler
Tribune Reporter

Saving time and money are just two advantages of taking college classes while still in high school, an option more than 100 area students are doing through Neosho County Community College.

The Jump Start Program at NCCC allows qualified high school students at Chanute, Erie and St. Paul high schools to take classes that earn them college and high school credit at the same time.

CHS Senior Mark Tripp’s decision to take a college class was based on making the most of his time.

“I had to have an English class this year,” Tripp said, so he signed up for English Composition I at the high school through the Jump Start program.

Called concurrent enrollment, high school juniors and seniors, as well as some sophomores, are able to earn up to 24 hours of college credit — about a year’s worth of classes — before they graduate from high school.

If the students attend NCCC after graduating from high school they can participate in NCCC’s Fast Track program, which allows them to earn their associate’s degree in one year rather than the typical two years.

Students wishing to transfer to a four-year university after receiving an associate’s degree receive automatic junior standing at any public Kansas university.

The program is a financial advantage for those students whose families can afford it. Students who take 24 credit hours through the program receive a year’s worth of college credits for $1,488; that’s $4,697 less than the national average for a public four-year college and $3,130 less than the average tuition at a Kansas public university.

“It’s a tremendous jump to their college career and a tremendous financial advantage,” said Chanute High School Principal Kent Wire. Wire said the advantage carries through whether the students go on to a four-year program with one year finished, or go on to finish an associate’s degree at NCCC in half the time it normally takes.

CHS has 130 students who are also enrolled in NCCC, Wire said. The program is open to high school juniors and seniors who have a 2.5 or higher GPA and sophomores who have been identified as gifted. Students also must have received a satisfactory score on the ACT, ASSET or Compass placement tests.

Wire said the school makes sure that the program is beneficial to students who wish to attend NCCC after graduation and those who will purse their education goals elsewhere.

“We make sure that all the classes we offer that kids pay

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Tuition and fees are based on 24 credit hours. Room and board is calculated using the least expensive option available. All information was obtained on the universities’ Web sites.
School:
Continued from Page 1

for will (transfer) somewhere besides Neosho County, otherwise we really don’t want them in our school,” said Wire, adding “that almost everywhere they can go will transfer.”

The classes are taught by a mixture NCCC and CHS instructors at CHS.

“You get more one-on-one with the smaller classes,” said CHS Senior Bryan Bell who is tackling CHS teacher Max Ruark’s English Composition I class.

“It’s a good class,” said Bell. “It’s hard but you get a lot out of it. I’d recommend it to anyone.”

Ruark also is enthusiastic about the class.

“I really enjoy it because most of the student who are in here are here for the right reason,” Ruark said. “Most of them have college in mind when they’re taking a class like this. They expect to come here and learn and they work really hard.”

“I think it’s a great opportunity for the kids, I really do,” said Ruark. “They get an chance to get college credit during their high school career and it’s going to transfer to almost any university.”

Wire said interest in the program has grown every year. The only negative aspect is that more CHS students aren’t able to take advantage of the program for financial reasons, Wire said.

Students who participate in the program must pay NCCC’s standard tuition of $40 per credit hour and fees of $22 per credit hour. Since they have not graduated high school, they are not eligible for any financial aid. Students who have a 3.6 or higher GPA qualify for a scholarship that covers the tuition for up to six credit hours each semester but they still have to pay the $22 per credit hour fees.
To the Forum

Congratulations Judy Brigham!

I just received an invitation from the 2007 class of the Kansas Certified Public Manager Program at the University of Kansas Public Management Center. The ceremony will take place Dec. 7 in Topeka. Judy will be one of the graduates.

The Certified Public Manager Program is a nationally recognized course of study for public managers. For those working toward advanced degrees, the University of Kansas offers academic credit at the graduate level for participants. Graduates of the program earn a national trademark designation of CPM (certified public manager).

And by the way, our city administrator has been invited to be a featured speaker at the graduation ceremony. Job well done, Judy.

Your community should be proud of you.

John McRae
Iola, Kan.
Chairman Edward F. Reilly Jr., Class of 1961, was inducted into the University of Kansas Army ROTC Jayhawk's Battalion Wall of Fame during homecoming on Nov. 3, 2007, at the ROTC Military Science Building at its third annual Battalion Alumni Association Wall of Fame ceremony.

Reilly received a bachelor of arts degree in political science in 1961 from the University of Kansas and was appointed by President George Bush in 1992 to chair the U.S. Parole Commission. He previously served 29 years in the Kansas Legislature representing Leavenworth, Wyandotte and Jefferson counties.

Reilly participated in the open house of the Military Science Building along with cadet demonstrations. He served seven years in the Reserve Officers Training Corps; three at Leavenworth High School and four at the University of Kansas.

Reilly remarked that the opportunity to participate in ROTC was a wonderful experience in that it helped shape his character and integrity to recognize that service to our nation is critical to its survival.

He is deeply honored and privileged to be included on the Jayhawk Battalion Wall of Fame.
Audubon Society to meet November 15

SALINA-Dr. Roger Boyd took part in a scientific expedition to Guizhou Province in south central China during April and May of 2006. He will share his experiences in a multimedia presentation to the Smoky Hills Audubon Society on Thursday, November 15, at the Carver Center, 315 N. 2nd, Salina. The expedition was organized by the ornithology Division of the Museum of Natural History with the University of Kansas. Dr. Boyd had the opportunity to visit a variety of habitats in Guizhou as well as Beijing. Highlights of the trip include Fujian Redstart, Red-billed Blue Magpie, Red-billed Leiothrix, Little Grebe, bulbuls and a wide variety of other species. We will also have the opportunity to see some of the numerous wildflowers in these areas of China.

Dr. Boyd has been teaching at Baker University in Baldwin City for 31 years. He is currently Senior Professor of Biology and Director of Natural Areas for the university. His background is in avian and prairie ecology, but he has taught a wide range of environmental and biology courses while at Baker, as well as a semester in England. As Director of Natural Areas, he oversees the management of an 18 acre prairie, 35 acre woodland, and the 573 acre Baker Wetlands near Lawrence. Dr. Boyd was appointed as Environmental Representative to the Kansas Water Authority by Gov. Graves and again by Gov. Sebelius, serving until 2005. He has been active in the Jayhawk Audubon Society since 1977, and previously made presentations to the Smoky Hills Audubon Society on natural history trips that he and his wife led to Peru and Ecuador.

For more information, contact Judy Zanardi, 785-827-8990.