KU names local club scholars

The University of Kansas selected Rebecca Sullivan, a music theory major, and Nicholas Curry, business accounting major, graduates of Shawnee Mission Northwest High School, as two of 16 Chancellors Club freshman scholars in October.
Sebelius appoints three to Gaming Facility Board

TOPEKA - Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has appointed three to the Kansas Lottery Gaming Facility Review Board to help ensure accountability in Kansas’ expanded gaming industry.

Appointed to the board were Matthew All, who will serve as chair, James Bergfalk and Jacqueline Vietti, president of Butler Community College.

All, of Lawrence, is the former chief council to the governor and worked extensively on gaming issues while in this position. A graduate of the University of Kansas and Yale Law School, All is a member of the Kansas Bar Association.

Bergfalk, of Mission, is president of SGB Communications and is the former executive vice-president for American City Business Journals.

Vietti, of El Dorado, has been affiliated with higher education for nearly three decades. Prior to Butler, Vietti has served in administrative posts at Crowder College in Neosho, Mo., and Labette Community College in Parsons. A graduate of Kansas State University, Vietti holds a master’s degree from Pittsburg State University and a doctorate degree from Kansas State University.
Enough denim for 14 new homes

A lot of you contributed to the denim drive conducted by a student group that I advise at Wichita State University.

The student chapter of the Public Relations Society of America collected jeans and other denim items to be recycled into insulation for homes being built for victims of Hurricane Katrina. It takes an estimated 500 pairs of jeans — 1,100 pounds of cotton — to make enough insulation for one home.

Our goal was 2,500 pairs of jeans, enough for five houses being built by Habitat for Humanity. We finished with just over 7,000 pairs, nearly three times our goal. According to our estimates, that’s roughly enough to make insulation for 14 homes.

Thanks to everyone who brought their denim to The News office and First United Methodist Church. You did your part to “change the world, one pair of jeans at a time.”

†††

Good friend Joe Norris of Wichita says he seldom dresses up for Halloween parties. This year, however, he did dress up, and he did it well.

He was Spider Mangino, part superhero and part KU football coach, complete with headset, KU ball cap and a lot of padding.

Speaking of Mangino, what a great story he and the Jayhawks are this football season. Picked fourth in the Big 12 North and not listed in the top 25 preseason, they are unbeaten and No. 2 in all the polls heading into this weekend’s showdown with Missouri at Arrowhead Stadium. No doubt the big guy is national coach of the year.

As a Missouri alum, it’s always good to see the Tigers do well. I have to admit, however, I’m pulling for Mangino and his team this weekend. It should be a heckuva game, even for those who go to the game and pay 22 bucks to park at the stadium.

†††

I’ve been riding my bike a lot to try to work my leg and knee back into playing shape after two surgeries. The weather’s been unseasonably mild, so it’s been perfect. That’s due to change this week, so I don’t know how much longer I can continue to ride.

One thing I’ve noticed is a lack of sidewalks in some Valley Center neighborhoods, especially north and west.

It’s good to know the city is planning to add sidewalks on Fifth Street west of Meridian. Pedestrians, especially school kids, need a safe place to walk.

I’ve been riding south on Meridian — or north, depending on the wind direction and how hard it’s blowing — as far as Riverlawn Christian Church, where the sidewalk ends. I have to use the sidewalk south of Main Street since it’s so dangerous to ride on Meridian.

I’m amazed how fast vehicles zip along Meridian. Of course, as slow as I ride, 35 mph seems like 55.

I prefer riding in town, where I can go at a more leisurely pace, even with all the dips and stop signs.

I joked with someone that I’m a lot like Richard Irby, retired VCHS English teacher, who used to run the streets late at night before he suffered an injury. He huffed and puffed so loudly that you could hear him coming a block away.

You can hear me when I begin riding each time. It takes a few blocks to get my knee going in a circular motion. I just have to remember to watch what I yell when I start in town.

†††

Looking forward to a big shopping day Nov. 23? Not me.

I’ll let all my bargain-crazed friends and relatives get up in total darkness to stand in line.

It’s a long holiday weekend. No planned shopping trips for me. I’ll settle for a cup of coffee a little later in the morning than usual.

Feel free to call, though — any time after 9 — to tell me what you bought that you can’t live without.

Reach Les Anderson at les@arkvalleynews.com.
More or les
By Les Anderson
KU CHANCELLOR VISITS — Robert Hemenway, chancellor of the University of Kansas, made a brief visit to Coffeyville on Tuesday speaking to the Rotary Club and then visited The Coffeyville Journal. Learn what he said about his visit in Friday’s issue of The Journal.
KU, more than great football

By Jim Butcher
MANAGING EDITOR

Robert Hemenway's life has been marked by accomplishment as an administrator, teacher and scholar. And on Tuesday as speaker at Coffeyville Rotary — four days before the No. 2 rated Jayhawks football team meets the Missouri Tigers in a critical Big 12 game — the chancellor of Kansas University touched on several topics including football.

Sharing the latest cancer care treatment and knowledge with every citizen in Kansas is most important to the chancellor.

Five years ago he had prostate cancer. Thus, it is personal, but it is also an important aspect as chancellor.

The University of Kansas Hospital has been designated as part of the National Cancer Institute and Comprehensive Cancer Center. With this designation, Kansas City will join 39 other cities in the United States as home to an elite research, treatment and education center.

Robert Hemenway
Chancellor, University of Kansas
Hemenway believes firmly that a person should not be denied quality cancer treatment because of the geographical location where they live.

Thirteen-thousand Kansans are diagnosed with cancer each year and another 5,000 die. "Research is our number one priority," he said.

He explained to Rotary that following the July flood, the University recognized the burden students from the Coffeyville area would have trying to pay tuition. The University developed a relief program and 38 students from Montgomery County accepted the assistance of not having to pay their tuition as soon as school started.

"We sat down with each student and worked out how we could help them," he said.

Hemenway believes that the student is the center of the university and that is why he continues to teach a class at 7:30 a.m. "Most university chancellors do not teach, I do. I love to teach and I want to keep in touch with my student body." The university graduated 6,000 students last spring. He said later that about 60 percent of his students graduate from the university average about six years to earn a bachelor's degree.

He noted that "we train law enforcement officers — more than 2,500 plus every year. If you feel safe the University is playing an important role there, also."

For parents who are sending their children to KU, Hemenway said tuition increases will not be as high as they have been in the past few years. "We have capped tuition increases to no more than 6 percent and room and board to 4 percent a year."

As the 16th chancellor of the University of Kansas, he is the chief executive for the university, which spans the main campus in Lawrence, the Edwards Campus in Overland Park, the Medical Center campus in Kansas City, Kan., and its clinical branch in Wichita.

Leaders of other universities recognize Hemenway's administrative talents. In 2002, Hemenway was elected to chair the 18-member NCAA Division I board of directors, a position he held through January 2005. This appointment follows two terms as chairman of the board for the Big 12 Conference. From 2005-2006, he served on the NCAA Division I President's Task Force.

Since coming to KU in 1995, Hemenway has streamlined KU administration, made the university more student-centered, and overseen KU's growing national reputation.
Fort Hays State U. doubles its local enrollment

College focuses marketing toward Wyandotte County students; name change possible

By NICK SLOAN
Kansan Staff Writer

More Wyandotte County students than ever are heading west to go to a Kansas university, and that college is working harder to attract students from the Kansas City area.

Fort Hays State University President Edward Hammond visited with the Kansas City Kansan earlier this month as part of his annual media tour.

Hammond, the longest serving school president in the university's history, spoke about the university's goals and vision as far ahead as 2020 and how Wyandotte County can play a part.

"What's driving our plan is we are meeting all of our 2010 goals," Hammond said. "It's tempting to relax because of our
Fort Hays
Continued from PAGE 1

enrollment increase, but we have to work to get better or we will get worse over time.”

According to statistics from the Kansas Board of Regents, Fort Hays State has increased enrollment by 62.1 percent so far this decade, about six times that of Emporia State University, which increased its enrollment by over 11 percent.

During the same time period, Kansas State University grew by 3.2 percent, the University of Kansas increased by 3.8 percent, Pittsburg State University grew by 2 percent, and Wichita State University experienced an enrollment decrease of 3.7 percent.

Enrollment from both Wyandotte County and Johnson County at Fort Hays State has also doubled from last year.

Along with holding college visits typical to most universities, Fort Hays attempted to get creative last year when they hosted a mashed-potato sculpting contest-slash-recruiting event at The Legends at Village West.

Additionally, students from Sumner Academy of Arts and Sciences have traveled to the school as part of a working relationship between the two institutions.

Hammond said the university hopes to increase enrollment in the northeast corridor of Kansas, most notably in Wyandotte, Johnson and Leavenworth counties.

Among the top of Hammonds’ goals is to bring name recognition to the university for students across the state and regionally. Because of that, test groups have been arranged by the university to test a number of possible name changes.

Two possible choices Hammond said were tested are the University of Western Kansas and Eisenhower University, named after former president and Kansas native Dwight D. Eisenhower.

“The University of Western Kansas more appropriately communicates our location to a national and international audience,” Hammond said. “It also reflects one of our primary missions, which is to serve the post-secondary educational needs of western Kansas.”

Hammond said Fort Hays State and other universities have an important role in attracting people to the state, along with keeping students in Kansas.

“We have 28,000 high school graduates and 33,000 retirees each year,” Hammond said. “We have to find a way to grow the state, and we have to figure out how to increase its population.”

The university is expected to increase its overall enrollment to over 10,000 students by 2010 and reach 15,000 students by 2020. Along with wanting to see an increase on campus, Hammond said the university is looking to expand its virtual college to satisfy educational needs of over 7,000 students.

The virtual college at Fort Hays features a student from nearly every state in the United States, along with 2,000 students from China.

Hammond said adding more faculty jobs has helped keep the campus full of “small classroom environments.”

As for the 60 percent in increased enrollment, Hammond said two factors spurred the growth.

“It’s a combination of a reasonable cost and quality education,” he said. “Students are looking at saving $15,000-20,000 over a four year period. We are the best buy in the state.”
Reading specialist is named Kansas Teacher of the Year

LEANN SUZEN
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Just three years after she started teaching, Jeri Powers decided to leave education.

“What frustrated me is that I felt like I was not really good at anything,” she said. “I saw these students struggling with reading in the beginning of the year and they were still struggling at the end of the year.

“I just felt so defeated.”

It seems now she has come full circle.

Powers, now a reading specialist at Riverview Elementary School, was named Kansas Teacher of the Year Saturday at a banquet in Wichita.

As a stay-at-home mom for about 12 years, Powers credits her sons for getting her interested in teaching again, specifically reading.

“I noticed how my boys developed as readers, and they all developed differently,” she said. “They got me interested in reading again. That passion I had for teaching came back.”

So Powers went back to school and received her master’s in teaching and leadership from Kansas University. During her graduate courses, Powers learned more about teaching reading, and the more she learned the more passionate she became about the subject.

“That’s when it really became clear to me the reason why I struggled,” she said. “I did not have enough knowledge.”

Powers got a part-time job in the De Soto School District working with 13 first-graders who were struggling to read.

Fast forward nine years and Powers is Kansas Teacher of the Year and one of the driving forces behind how the De Soto School District now teaches reading.

“I left teaching after three years going ‘I’m not very good at this,’ thinking ‘Something is missing and I am not effective,’” she said. “It seemed very surreal this weekend.”

However, Powers won’t take all the credit for her honor.

“I think I was in the right place at the right time,” she said. “When I first came here, it was a small district and it was very much valued grassroots kinds of initiatives. I had a principal that very much valued my ideas.”

Not long after getting back into education, Powers and a colleague, Sandra Phillips, decided to write a grant for funds to experiment with the effects of a small reading group at Clear Creek Elementary School. They spent more than 100 hours working on the grant with the approval of then-principal Cathy Grube. Grube later presented the grant to the superintendent.

“If Cathy Grube had not supported us that year it would not have happened,” Powers said. “When you look back at your profession everybody has one person that really believed in them, really supported them and she was the one. I would not be here today, this is the honest truth, if she did not support me from the beginning.”

The small reading groups proved to be so successful that Grube had other teachers in the building come and watch how they were done. By the second semester, there was small-group reading instruction in all the classes at Clear Creek, Powers said.

At the end of the year the grant funds were gone, but the district decided to keep the program going. Now all elementary schools in the district have small group reading instruction, which many know as the PRIDE program.

“It changed the way our district had done reading,” Powers said. “I could have had all the ideas, all the things I wanted to do but if there had not been a climate in the district that welcomed those ideas or a principal that said ‘I’m going to support you, go for it,’ it wouldn’t have happened.”

Beginning in January, Powers will take a leave of absence for a semester to travel the state with the Kansas Teacher of the Year finalists. They will discuss their experiences with their districts and get feedback from other educators on different practices in the state. The team also will visit colleges to speak with college students about education.

Those college students need to be encouraged and they need to be given a more fair perspective of teaching,” Powers said. “The teacher shortage is real and we are going to feel the hurt of that in the next couple of years.”

Powers received a $4,000 cash award and $16,000 for an education technology package for the classroom.

Before she was named as Kansas Teacher of the Year, Powers was nominated by students, parents and colleagues at her school. The district later narrowed down the finalists to Powers, representing the elementary level, and Mill Valley High School gifted facilitator Carmen Shelly, representing the secondary level.

District finalists then went on to a regional level, where Powers was named a finalist.

Powers will spend the next year traveling the state advocating for education and the teaching profession. She also will be eligible to be named National Teacher of the Year.

This marks the second time in four years the De Soto School District has had a teacher named Kansas Teacher of the Year. Keil Hileman, a teacher at Monticello Trails Middle School, was named Kansas Teacher of the Year in 2004 and later was named a finalist for National Teacher of the Year.

Powers said she felt humbled and intimidated because there are high quality teachers throughout the district.

“There are people in my dis-
strict that are just amazing,” she said. “The things they do with kids and the patience and the dedication and just the skill are remarkable. My job is to represent all those people as to what is really good in education in Kansas.”

Powers said sometimes she thinks about the students who have moved on to middle school, but mostly she is focused on helping the students she has now. “As a teacher you really want your students to know how much you care for them,” she said. “One of the boys said to a group, ‘Well Mrs. Powers is going to Texas for a week for a dyslexia conference and she’s going for me.’ I actually was going for several students, but that’s what you want your student to feel; that you would do whatever it takes to help them.

“I felt that I was really stuck on how to help them and it bothered me. I didn’t know he really knew it. That I really felt, ‘I want to do this for you.’”

AFTER BEING named 2007 Kansas Teacher of the Year over the weekend, Jeri Powers (center) is back at work Monday at Riverview Elementary School. Doing what she does best, Powers was working close, instructing two of her supplemental reading students, Audrey Meachum (left) and Brianna Nicholson.
The Neodesha Board of Education met Monday, Nov. 12, at the Board of Education Office for their monthly meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Julie Lair. Under the consent agenda, the board approved the minutes, warrants, treasurer's report and school activity reports. They also hired Patty Burgell as Heller Elementary crossing guard, Christina McCleary as North Lawn Elementary crossing guard and Robin Deacon as a cook's helper.

The board welcomed Rep. Forrest Knox to the board meeting. He entertained questions and concerns from the board regarding education.

Under communications, a thank you note was read from Josie Mardis in appreciation of the automatic door at the high school. Thank you notes for memorial remembrances were also received from the family of Connie Johnson and Faye Robertson.

Paul Stoner of EBH & Associates congratulated the board on the approval of the Safe Routes to School grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation in the amount of $250,000.

Jim West reported on the recent Tri-County Special Education Board meeting and Tonya Bell reported on the KASB Bullying Seminar she attended.

The board approved a trip request from Marilyn Graham to take the Neodesha Middle School and High School Chess Teams to a tournament at the University of Kansas on Dec. 8.

Under business, Jerry Rogers was hired as an Industrial Arts instructor at the high school for the second semester of the 2007-08 school year.

The board approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Neodesha in regards to the formation of the Recreation Commission. Rod Froebel was appointed by the board to a four-year term on the recreation board and Gayle Steele was appointed to a one-year term.

Jim Arnold shared information about the condition of the HVAC systems at Heller Elementary and the high school. The matter was tabled until the December meeting.

The board approved the JDDC policy as proposed which prohibits bullying and tabled discussion of the Section G policies and public comment policy until the adjourned meeting to be held on Nov. 19.

Under the superintendent's report, Mr. Pruter proposed hiring an independent party to compile and present health insurance proposals for next year. He also requested that the board consider adding four professional days to High School Principal Terry Wilson's contract. The board approved the request.

The board members were reminded of the upcoming District Holiday Dinner to be held on Nov. 20.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 and will reconvene at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 19 at the Board of Education Office.
Dole’s images go online

LAWRENCE — No longer will researchers and historians have to travel to Lawrence to see images of former Senator Bob Dole’s career.

The Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas has placed some 250 images spanning Dole’s career and personal life online. The images include some from his childhood in Russell through his retirement from public office.

There are nearly 4,000 boxes of papers, several thousand artifacts and more than 20,000 photographs in the Dole Archive at the institute. Two interns selected photos with the assistance of institute staff.

The archive’s role is to process and preserve Dole’s materials, while making them available for public review. The photographs can be seen at doleimages.ku.edu.
Dukakis to speak at KU

LAWRENCE—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 Thursday. 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 Senators 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.