New learning opportunities in Lawrence

The Chabad Jewish Center in Lawrence is offering two new courses as part of its Jewish learning opportunities. Join Rabbi Zalman Tiechtel of Chabad at KU for a journey of knowledge and inspiration, and find out all the secrets you missed in Hebrew School.

One course is "The Story Behind the Story." Discover what is happening between the lines of the weekly Torah portion in this exploration of the weekly parashah based on the teachings of Kabbalah and the Talmud, and see how topical the ideas and concepts are. This class will be held from noon to 1 p.m. on Thursdays and lunch will be provided.

Chabad Jewish Center is also starting a unique course for students at KU entitled "Judaism in a Semester." This eight-week lecture series will meet 8-9 p.m. every Tuesday and provides a basic introduction to Jewish philosophy and observance, covering such topics as: the Jewish Timeline, the Jewish Home, Jewish Literacy, Today's Jewish World and more. This upbeat course emphasizes the positive aspects of Jewish life.

Both classes take place at Chabad, 1203 W. 19th St. (near Naismith Dr). No prior knowledge necessary. To register or for more information call Chabad, (785) 832-TORA, or e-mail info@JewishKU.com.
The Chabad Student Center at KU sponsored a sukkah in the center of the KU campus in Lawrence, near Stouffer-Flint Hall. During all hours of the day students hopped into the well-stocked sukkah for a bite to eat, a drink and free holiday giveaways. The highlight of the holiday was the “Pizza in a Hut” Sukkot party with students celebrating the joyous holiday. Pictured are Ross Fishman (from left) and Jon Hurst-Sneh doing the lulav shake in the sukkah. Chabad also placed a sukkah at Naismith Hall for a day during the week-long holiday of Sukkot.
Jewish rock pioneer to visit KC area

By Barbara Bayer

A little over a decade ago, Dan Nichols noticed Christian teens spending a lot of time listing to Christian rock music. He and his friend, Mason Cooper, saw nothing similar for Jewish kids, so they founded Eighteen, a Jewish rock band. "Jewish kids weren't coming out of their high schools after a day of school, getting into their cars and putting on Jewish rock CDs. They were putting on their secular stuff," he said. "We thought putting Jewish values and themes and using Hebrew and fusing it together with truly modern-sounding music could be something neat."

Today the 38-year-old Nichols, who lives in Raleigh, N.C., tours the country playing 200 events a year, some as a solo performer and some with Eighteen. He will be in the area next weekend for three solo appearances. (See box for details)

Nichols defines Jewish rock as "modern-sounding music with Jewish themes and values."

"Hopefully, it's like what you would hear on the radio if you were listening to a modern rock station like Matchbox 20, Dave Matthews ... that kind of vibe, but topics that involve Jewish themes and incorporate Hebrew," he explained.

People seem to get it now, Nichols said, but it wasn't always that way. "When we started in '96, people would ask me what I did," he said. "And when I told
them what we were trying to do, there was a blank look or an awkward pause, and they would say, ‘Oh, that’s nice.’ But there was no understanding of it because nobody was doing that.”

Nichols said that before Eighteen, there was contemporary American Jewish music, but it was usually done in a folk style. Today, he said, there are several other successful Jewish rockers, including Rick Recht and Josh Nelson.

Nichols’ musical background is classical. He earned a bachelor of music degree from the University of North Carolina. Before he became a Jewish rocker, he sang opera professionally and gave voice lessons.

“I was also fronting a rock band and teaching religious school at my temple,” he said. His group performed with Hootie and the Blowfish and Ben Folds Five, among other notables.

His involvement in Jewish music began when he was invited to serve as head song leader at Goldman Union Camp Institute in Zionsville, Ind. He is an alumnus of the Reform Jewish camp and said GUCI was a formative influence in his life, inasmuch as both his parents are converts to Judaism.

“GUCI was every bit a Jewish parent for me as my own mom and dad,” he said. “I learned to play my guitar at camp; I had my Bar Mitzvah at camp; I met my wife at camp; I met my best friend at camp; and I got my first song-leading job at camp. When I think about how I got to where I’m at today, especially with Jewish music, I would say it’s because of Goldman Union Camp Institute and the love and passion and excitement for living Jewishly that camp gave to me.”

Since 1994, Nichols has returned yearly as the camp’s artist-in-residence. For the past four years, he has also been on the faculty of Hava NaShira, a national song-leading program sponsored by the Union of Reform Judaism.

In fact it was GUCI’s director, Rabbi Ron Klotz, who gave Nichols and Cooper the gift of studio time to record Eighteen’s first CD, “Life.” The band’s most popular CD to date, “Be Strong,” was released in 2001, and in 2002 it released “Kol HaShabat” (The Voice of the Sabbath). A new, still unnamed, CD is expected to be released before Chanukah. (Visit www.jewishrock.com for details.)

One of Nichols’ stops in Kansas this time will be at KU Hillel, where he’s performed several times in the past. KU Hillel Executive Director Jay Lewis said the students and staff “love Dan.” “He always makes a huge effort to get to know students when he is here and develop relationships with them,” Lewis said. “We can’t say enough nice things about him.”
Nichols to perform

Dan Nichols will appear in Lawrence, Topeka and Overland Park next weekend. However, the local concert is not open to the public.

At 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26, Nichols will lead Shabbat services for KU Hillel at the Kansas Union on the University of Kansas campus. He will also lead a song session after dinner. The community is invited to attend. There is no charge, but donations will be accepted. For information and dinner reservations, call Matt Lehrman, (785) 749-5397, or write to: mlehrman@kuhillel.org.

A concert at Temple Beth Sholom in Topeka takes place from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 28. For directions or more information, call (785) 272-6040.

On Saturday evening, Oct. 27, Nichols will appear at a Congregation B’nai Jehudah event open to religious school families only.
Hallmark Foundation among Education Hall of Fame inductees

It was in 1910 that 18-year-old Joyce Clyde Hall stepped off a train in Kansas City with nothing but two shoeboxes of postcards under his arm and not enough money to take a horse-drawn cab to his lodgings at the YMCA.

What he did have, however, was an entrepreneurial spirit and the determination of a pioneer. Together with invoices, Hall started sending packets of a hundred postcards to dealers throughout the Midwest. A few of the dealers kept the cards without paying; others returned the unsolicited merchandise with an angry note. But about a third sent a check and within a couple of months, the teenager had cleared $200, opening a checking account and was in business.

With those two boxes and a vision, J.C. Hall had not only given birth to Hallmark, far and away the world's most successful greeting card company but laid the groundwork for the Hallmark Corporate Foundation.

One of the nation's most generous philanthropic organizations, the Hallmark Foundation will take its rightful place in the Mid-America Education Hall of Fame at Kansas City Kansas Community College on Saturday, Nov. 3. The Kansan will be running feature stories about all the inductees prior to the ceremony.

Four individuals and two organizations are being inducted into the Mid-America Education Hall of Fame at Kansas City Kansas Community College on Saturday, Nov. 3. The Kansan will be running feature stories about all the inductees prior to the ceremony.

Please see HALLMARK/Page 7
ny's success and that of its employees and fellow citizens,” said Brenda Calvin, Corporate Contributions Manager.

Most contributions go to organizations providing services in metropolitan Kansas City and other communities where Hallmark facilities are located, and are guided by a philanthropic vision which states that all children deserve the chance to grow up as healthy and productive people, vibrant arts and cultural experiences enrich the lives of all citizens, and communities need a strong infrastructure of basic institutions and services, especially for people in need.

Support of educational initiatives cross a range of needs. The PEN Faulkner Writers in Schools program brings accomplished authors into the classroom to instill in students excitement about the craft of writing, while adult education is the focus of grants to the Metropolitan Alliance for Adult Learning, which pools funding from area corporations and foundations to support adult literacy and job training.

Hallmark support of scholarship programs includes the Hispanic Development Fund, the United Negro College Fund, and multicultural engineering programs at the University of Kansas and Kansas State University; and the sponsorship of students in the INROADS minority internship program; camp experiences for urban core youth at Wildwood Education Center; and an educational service center for the League of United Latin American Citizens.

In addition, Hallmark encourages involvement of its employees in support of education. The company matched more than $200,000 in employee gifts to educational institutions in 2006, and more than 50 employees in Hallmark’s Kansas City headquarters mentor students through YouthFriends.

A fund-raiser for the Endowment Association at Kansas City Kansas Community College, the dinner and gala induction ceremonies Nov. 3 are open to the public. Tickets are $65 and reservations can be made by e-mail at katchley@kckcc.edu or calling 913-288-7632.
The intricacies of battle

Today's lessons from the Civil War's Battle of Westport

JOHN TAYLOR
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Kansas City's Loose Park was its usual idyllic self.

Among the park visitors, two leashed Pekingese dogs frolicked with each other, pulling their master through a field of newly mown grass.

An elderly gentleman sat on a bench by a pond, staring off the peace of the inner city sanctuary with some Canada geese.

Gardeners pulled up plantings, preparing the park's flowerbeds for winter.

And a dozen university students gathered in a crescent, listening to a lecture.

The scenes last week made it all the more difficult to imagining what the lecturer, Curtis King of the Combat Studies Institute at Fort Leavenworth, was describing as having taken place on the same land 143 years earlier:

Cannon fire thundered over the park from points now occupied by million-dollar houses. Soldiers on horses battled one another in what, at the time, was a rare mounted-on-mounted cavalry charge. Gunfire rang throughout the area.

The topic of King's lecture was the Battle of Westport, the largest battle west of the Mississippi in the American Civil War.

The three-day battle pitted about 20,000 Union soldiers against 10,000 Confederate soldiers. Though dubbed the Battle of Westport, it took place over a vast expanse, stretching from the Little Blue River near Fort Osage, Mo., east of Kansas City, to the Big Blue River on East 63rd Street to just south of the modern-day Country Club Plaza.

It began as a plot by Confederate Maj. Gen. Sterling Price to ride across Missouri, install a governor with Southern sympathies, attract recruits to the Confederate cause along the way and, ultimately, capture of the arsenal at Fort Leavenworth.

It ended with Union forces repelling Price's raid at Brush Creek and forcing a full retreat by Price.

The ROTC students — seven of whom attend Kansas University, three from Washburn University and one each from Baker University and University of St. Mary — had been with King and his Combat Studies Institute colleague, Charles Collins, throughout the day on what the Army refers to as a "staff ride."

The first stop was Fort Osage High School, just east of the Little Blue, where the first skirmish in the campaign ended. The last stop was seven hours later, at a Plaza eatery, where the students and their lecturers broke down the daylong trek.

Mixed in between were discussions of the battle's principles, weapons used, strategies, miscues, battlefield promotions and demotions, politics of the day and opportunities and obstacles presented by the terrain.

The Army's Center of Military History says staff rides "represent a unique and persuasive way of conveying the lessons of the past to the present-day Army leadership for current application."

"Properly conducted, these exercises bring to life, on the very terrain where historic encounters took place, examples, applicable today as in the past, of leadership, tactics and strategy, communications, use of terrain, and, above all, the psychology of men in battle."

Collins put it more succinctly: "The history is secondary to the insights gained."

At the New Salem Cemetery, KU ROTC unit commander Lt. Col. John Basso imparted one of those insights to his students. King had just finished describing a stand by troops led by Union Maj. Gen. James G. Blunt, whose troops were outmanned in this skirmish by advancing Confederates led by Price. But Blunt's stand from atop the cemetery hill held up the rebels' advance for about a day.

The Union troops, though outmanned, had been able to use the high ground they occupied to their advantage.

"It was a good delaying tactic," King explained.

A veteran of two tours in the Iraq war, Basso interjected.

"We're on the opposite side in Iraq," Basso told the students. "The insurgents are the ones with a small amount of force and little firepower. They're the ones delaying. You'll have to think on the other side of a delaying tactic when you are in Iraq."

As Basso finished his comments, a beaming Collins turned away from the students and commented such insight was just what he hoped the ROTC students could gather on the ride.

At the end of the day, as they snacked on pizza, students were asked to assess the battle with an eye toward lessons they could learn from the Civil War battle. Basso asked students to recount the dominant factors in winning first the skirmishes and ultimately the Battle of Westport.

The students answered: Skill and experience, strategy and tactics, speed of movement.

"Those all have to do with a smart leader making a good decision and motivating his soldiers," Basso noted. "The one constant in success — and a reason we're trying to teach you critical thinking — is because people analyzed a problem, made smart battlefield decisions and motivated their soldiers. That's something you can take away from this."

County:
Johnson

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MEMBERS OF the KU ROTC battalion and instructors from the Combat Studies Institute make their way up "Bloody Hill" near the Big Blue River in Kansas City, Mo. The hill was the scene of a skirmish in the Battle of Westport, Oct. 21-23, 1864.

CHARLES COLLINS of the Combat Studies Institute at Fort Leavenworth explains a Battle of Westport skirmish.
TOPEKA

Kansas University Chancellor Robert Hemenway received a 4 percent raise Thursday from the Kansas Board of Regents, bringing his total compensation to $332,051.

Of that, $260,660 comes from state funds, while the balance is made up of payments from funds generated by the KU Endowment Association through private gifts.

“The assessments we did with the CEOs were all exceptional,” said regents chairwoman Christine Downey-Schmidt.

“If we had twice as much money, we’d offer that to you,” she told the presidents.

Previously, Hemenway’s state compensation was $250,319, with a total compensation cap of $319,280. Hemenway and Kansas State President Jon Wefald are the only university leaders who make more than $300,000, with Wefald capped this year at $308,256.

Regent Bill Thornton, who is chairman of the committee that determined the raises for the chief executive officers of the six regents universities, said every CEO received a raise.

“We were fairly consistent in the size of the raises we gave,” Thornton said. “We probably were a bit conservative because so many of us are new.”

Five members of the Board of Regents have been appointed in the past six months. Downey-Schmidt said it was appropriate that all of the university presidents received raises because the regents were making their lives much more complicated.

“We’re introducing these five strategic questions,” she said. “We want their planning to fall under those areas.”

Hemenway was grateful for the raise, but generally does not comment on his salary, a KU spokeswoman said.

Downey-Schmidt also noted it was important to keep the CEO salaries consistent with peer universities because “if one of these presidents leave, that’s the price we’d have to pay to replace him.”

In other business before the board Thursday, regents CEO Reginald Robinson directed the Council of Presidents to examine whether it would be appropriate for the six state universities to require background checks for newly hired faculty and staff.

Robinson said the directive was in response to newspaper stories that discussed a policy change at Missouri where all non-student hires must undergo a background check. The Council of Presidents is made up of the CEOs of the six regents universities.

“I know it’s complicated,” Regent Gary Sherrer told the board, which will consider the issue in November. “But it would only take one serious incident to make it not as complicated as it seems.”

Also, the regents heard about potential legislative issues for the upcoming session. In addition to seeking more money for deferred maintenance, KU said it hopes to seek permission to double the size of the School of Pharmacy.
A University of Kansas student has won a national award for the business plan he developed for a bilingual tanning salon to serve Kansas residents. His winnings include a $2,000 scholarship renewable annually for up to four years.

Julio Mata Jr., a Kansas City, Kansas, freshman majoring in pre-business, earned first place for his presentation at the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s BizFest training workshop and competition held Sept. 19-22 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He is the son of Julio and Araceli Mata and a graduate of Sumner Academy of Arts and Science.

BizFest teaches 17- to 25-year-old students a variety of business techniques. Experienced local and national business professionals instruct students in the process of building a business plan, networking skills, presentation techniques and how to identify business opportunities. Students work one-on-one with participating mentors at the regional and national levels during intensive business development and leadership training that lasts three and a half days.

In addition to the scholarship, Mata has been offered an eight- to 10-week summer internship with the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation in Washington, D.C., and a fully paid trip to the foundation’s Legislative Conference to be held March 11-13 in Washington, D.C. Mata was also presented with a Sprint internship by Ralph Reid, vice president of corporate and social responsibility for the Sprint Foundation, Overland Park. National BizFest sponsors are Ford Motor Company Fund, Sprint Foundation and UPS.

Also among those making the trip to the national BizFest was sixth-place and alternate qualifier Susana Rodriguez, a KU freshman from Kansas City, Kansas, majoring in French and pre-medicine. At the regional and national levels, Mata said he learned a great deal about the intense planning and work involved in being an entrepreneur.

“I would tell everyone who has a chance to attend BizFest even if you don’t plan on going into business for yourself,” said Mata, who hopes to pursue a career in international business.

Working with his trainers during the Kansas City regional event, Mata had a dilemma in picking a type of business. One trainer told Mata, “Grab a phone book. Open the pages and see what businesses pop up first.” On the open pages were tanning salons and off Mata went into late-night research to get his plan ready in time for the next morning’s presentation. He perfected the plan for the business for nationals.

His national BizFest experience, he said, taught him the importance of being accurate with financial planning and being prepared to fully explain how he would repay the loan he had to take out to open his hypothetical business.

“You learn so much from so many people,” he said. “The greatest experience came from the networking. We (every contestant) all helped each other. No one said, ‘Oh, this is my plan. You can’t see it or hear it.’ We all just listened to each plan and helped each person be the best that he or she could be. I made friends that I will keep in touch with for a long time.”

For additional information about BizFest, including how to apply, go to www.ushccfoundation.org.
Will Kansas become New Mexico?

Professor says poor water practices, global warming threaten to turn state into desert

RYAN D. WILSON
STAFF WRITER

Kansas is becoming a desert, said a University of Kansas professor.

KU Environmental History Professor Don Worster painted a bleak picture while talking Thursday about when Kansas will run out of water. Village Presbyterian Church's Environmental Committee invited Worster to speak at the church in Prairie Village.

Kansas in a future with global warming will be more like New Mexico than the Kansas we know and love, Worster said.

"One of our most triumphant triumphs may become our greatest mistake, the fossil fuel based society," he said.

Global warming will result in more evaporation and more rainfall in other areas, including neighboring states Nebraska and Missouri, but not in Kansas. Rainfall will decline with higher temperatures, Worster said.

"I'd advise you to sell your house while you can and get ahead of the curve," he said.

Worster cited a Canadian climate-study that predicted air temperatures will rise 12 percent before the end of the 21st century with little to no rainfall in an arid, dry-weather Kansas.

Southern Kansas and the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles will see the worst conditions, but most of Kansas can expect to see Dust Bowl-like conditions, he said.

"Words from the future, a weather report might say, "Another hot and dry day, no rain in sight. Not much rain last year or the decade before. The ground has no plant cover. The wind is blowing topsoil. The blue unclouded skies are turning to darkness at noon."

Paradoxically, floods will become more disastrous because there will be less topsoil and vegetation to soak up rainfall, Worster said.

The Kansas Geological Society predicts irrigation will pump aquifers empty in 25 to 50 years and in a few fortunate places, 200 years, Worster said.

"The days of a center-pivot, irrigated world are clearly numbered," he said.

Nebraska's aquifers will have more water in them for longer, "but don't count on them sharing it with us," Worster said.

Western Kansas has lost nearly all the area's perennial streams, and perennial streams in the eastern part of the state are drying up, he said.

"Think about that - there's less water today than there was in 1819-20, when Major Stephen Long walked through Kansas," he said. "What he saw as the Great American Desert still had some water in its streams."

Worster said Kansans can survive with the changing climate, "but we need a better teacher."

He recommended looking to what had been discarded as useless - native grasses.

"Will we be here as long as they have been?" he asked. "Is there something they can teach us on how to survive here in Kansas?"

Organizations like the Salina-based Land Institute are studying using native plants for agricultural and urban applications.

Worster also suggested the area transition from fossil fuel energy to alternative energy like wind power.

"Building a coal-fired plant in Kansas right now just doesn't make sense," he said.
The opportunities for scientific research and medical cures in Kansas took a great leap forward in recent days. After months of planning and negotiations, agreement was reached on the Kansas Bioscience Park in Olathe. The project is the third point on a long-sought research triangle that features the University of Kansas Edwards Campus in Overland Park and the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan.

The park is the brainchild of the city of Olathe, Kansas State University and the Kansas Bioscience Authority. As its contribution, Olathe provided 92 acres of land near Kansas Highway 7 and College Boulevard. Kansas State and the Kansas Bioscience Authority, an agency created by the state Legislature to broaden scientific enterprise, will fund buildings for the complex.

Work on infrastructure, such as water lines and utilities, is to begin next year. K-State has wanted a footprint in the metropolitan area for years. The new center, called the Kansas State Olathe Innovation Campus, will be the only “true” research operation affiliated with a university in the Kansas City region, university officials observed.

On Tuesday, K-State officials said that Dr. Daniel C. Richardson, a veterinarian, will become chief executive officer of the Olathe campus in January. He is a K-State graduate and currently is an executive with the Pet Nutrition Center and Hill’s Pet Nutrition Inc. in Topeka.

K-State’s center will have both educational and research capabilities, including classroom instruction. The university will partner with the Kansas Bioscience Authority on other ventures.

Officials are proposing a 25,000-square-foot incubator laboratory. It would have highly specialized facilities that might not be available to firms in the early stage of their development.

The park will offer expansion space for existing bioscience firms as a way to keep successful operators in the Kansas City area.

The public/private science park concept is the key to successful research programs in the 21st century, Bob Kraus, K-State vice president for institutional advancement, said in an interview last week. It is the model for science-oriented centers around the nation, Kraus pointed out. Without these new and enhanced facilities, Kansas could not compete for outstanding faculty, researchers, graduate students, and other elements in the field of science.

The scientists, not the university, receive the grants. That is why the latest in laboratory and informational technology, along with equipment, is critical.

A research “package” of a full research professor, a team of graduate students, a lab and equipment, costs about $500,000 a year, Kraus said.

He cited two research operations, at the University of Washington in Seattle and the University of Pennsylvania, that attract...
$1 billion or so in grants a year, most of them from the federal government. That means that Kansas will have to draw around $850 million annually to have a chance at competing with the top programs, he said.

Kansas State has established itself as an international leader in animal health, food safety, plant science and biofuels. "We have been quietly building our program in the last decade," explained Kraus, "including a network around the world."

A key component is the new $54 million Biosecurity Research Institute on the campus in Manhattan. The Olathe satellite will have ties to the institute, he said.

The Olathe Chamber of Commerce estimated the economic impact of the park. Public and private investment will be $150 million, 3,000 new jobs that average $57,000 a year will be created, and $2.4 million in annual property taxes will be collected after abatements expire.

All of this is an effort to broaden the Kansas economy. Traditionally the three basics have been agriculture, petroleum and aircraft manufacture. In 2004, the Legislature passed the Kansas Economic Growth Act. The purpose was to add a knowledge-based component.

A provision in the law established the Kansas Bioscience Authority as the agency to attract world class scientists and help develop research centers in our state.

Kansas missed most of the economic dividends from computers and the Internet. The current push for a science-based segment in the Kansas economy stands to prevent a repetition of that.

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