Competitive Indoor Color Guard Forming

The Performance Arts Foundation would like students ages 14 to 21 years old to audition for the PAFI Winter Guard.

A clinic and auditions will be held from 1-5 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 3 at the Rose Hill Middle School Multipurpose Gym. Parents/guardians must attend the 1 p.m. information session.

The Guard has combined music with marching drill, dance and equipment for a show that will be performed on basketball floors. The PAFI team has been a member of Winter Guard International and has competed in the Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma circuits.

Winter Guard season will run from November to April with competition beginning in February. Rehearsals will be mainly on Monday and Thursday nights and Saturdays.

For more information, contact Mike Cooper at 733-6076 or visit www.pafi.org.

KU Students To Attend, Present At National Conference

A poster about dinosaurs might sound like a grade school project, but it has been a serious academic subject for Celina Suarez, a graduate student in geology at the University of Kansas.

She was one of nearly 30 students from KU and Haskell Indian Nations University who attended the national conference of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science Oct. 11-14 at Bartle Hall in Kansas City, Mo. KU and Haskell were co-hosts of the event, which was expected to attract more than 3,000 participants from across the country.

Preston L. Alltizer, of Andover, was also attending the conference. The senior in microbiology and biology, Alltizer graduated from Andover Central High School. He is the son of Richard and Alltizer.

Thirteen KU and Haskell students presented at the conference. Suarez exhibited a detailed technical poster that presented part of her doctoral dissertation research on fossil bone. It was a continuation of work she did for a master’s degree at Temple University. She was interested in what the geochemistry of the bone can tell scientists about the animal and the environment in which it lived.

SACNAS provided an opportunity for universities across the country to meet and recruit potential graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. There were also oral presentations and poster presentations throughout the conference.

KU had a prominent exhibit at the conference, and more than 60 faculty from KU and Haskell were on hand to help promote graduate programs. KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway and Haskell President Linda Sue Warner spoke during the conference welcome ceremony Oct. 11.

KU hosted two field trips to the Lawrence campus for conference attendees Oct. 11. Participants visited the Natural History Museum and learned more about the Kansas Geological Survey and KU’s Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets, a program funded by the National Science Foundation.
Foundation.

Suarez, whose hometown is San Antonio and who plans to finish her doctorate in 2009, was interested in university teaching. “Geology has relatively few minorities in the field,” she said. “Attending SACNAS is a good way to get ideas about how to improve minority participation in the sciences.”

Her study of dinosaurs went way beyond Jurassic Park. “The bones are analyzed by crushing a sample, dissolving it in acid, and then analyzing the fluid,” she said. “What’s new about my presentation is I use a laser to study the chemical composition. I found that a single bone can have two different geochemical signatures. That has implications for how bones fossilize and how we study them in the lab.”

“SACNAS is a real opportunity for KU to shine and to highlight our existing partnerships with Haskell,” said Jim Orr, professor of molecular biosciences and director of KU’s Office of Diversity in Science Training. “We are making every effort to ensure the conference attendees from all over the country have a chance to see KU as a leading national research university.”

SACNAS is based in Santa Cruz, Calif., and was founded in 1973 with a mission “to encourage Chicano/Latino and Native American students to pursue graduate education and obtain the advanced degrees necessary for science research, leadership and teaching careers at all levels.” The group’s national conference is the focal point of its activities and receives underwriting from the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation.

Orthodontist Given Award
Dr. Terry L. Duncan, of Andover, has practiced orthodontics for 37 years in Wichita. He was a part of the Orthodontics practice of Drs. Rogers, Duncan and Dillehay. On Sept. 29, at a meeting in San Antonio, Duncan was awarded the Martin E. Dewey Memorial Award. The Martin E. Dewey Memorial Award has been awarded by the Southwestern Society of Orthodontists and was their highest award. His award was started in 1953 to recognize a person for his contributions to advancing the field of Orthodontics in education, practice or research.

Duncan has been active in many dental organizations. He is past president for the Wichita District Dental Society, the Kansas Dental Association, Kansas State Association of Orthodontists, Southwestern Society of Orthodontists, and the American Association of Orthodontists and to the American Dental Association. He is also part of a Diplomat of the American Board of Orthodontics and a Fellow of the American College of Dentists.
Governor Kathleen Sebelius has appointed former Kansas Representative Robert Wunsch to the Kansas Lottery Commission to serve a four-year term, succeeding Michael Gayoso.

"The Kansas Lottery has provided the resources for economic development projects throughout the state for two decades," Sebelius said. "This commission will help further its success and continue to bring great games to Kansans."

Wunsch graduated from the University of Kansas in 1954 and the University of Kansas School of Law in 1958. Having practiced law for over 49 years, Wunsch is currently a partner at Geisert, Wunsch, Watkins & Graffman. Wunsch served in the Kansas House of Representatives from 1983 until 1988 and was chairman of the House Judiciary Committee from 1985 until 1988.

The Kansas Lottery Commission is comprised of five commissioners appointed by the governor to serve alternating four-year terms. The commission consults with and advises the Kansas Lottery's executive director in establishing policy, approving major contracts, rules and regulations for lottery games and promotions, and approving the annual budget.

Also reappointed to the commission was Joni Franklin Breitenbach.
KU names 17 Kansas Honor Scholars from EHS

KU grad finds new fruit bat species

LAWRENCE (AP) — University of Kansas graduate student Jake Esselstyn was collecting bat species in 2006 with a research team in the forests of the Philippines when a guide told him about an unusual fruit bat he’d seen.

The man described a bat with orange fur, white stripes on its face and a black beard on its throat. Its facial features resembled that of a fox, and its wing span was about two feet.

“I didn’t believe his description. I thought he was a prankster,” Esselstyn, 33, said. “And then a few days later we caught one.”

Although the “flying fox” bat had been known to Filipinos and bat hunters for a long time, he said, a specimen had never been captured.

Esselstyn said the Filipino government announced the discovery of the bat and “word spread.” Since then, he has been interviewed by National Geographic and other media.

“It’s a nice example of how little we know about the animals in the world,” he said.

Esselstyn, who grew up in Oregon, moved to Lawrence in the fall of 2004 to work on his Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology. His dissertation, he said, explores “genetic variations across geography.”

In the past three years, Esselstyn has made six trips to the Philippines to collect specimens.

The island country already was familiar to him because he had served as a Peace Corps volunteer there from 1998 to 2001, doing biodiversity and inventory.

He said little is known about the flora and fauna on the island, so finding a new mammal species is “not as uncommon as you might believe.”

Esselstyn said the researchers set up nets on farms, in forests and over streams to catch the bats while they were flying. Sometimes, they sought out the bats in caves.

“They get tangled up in the nets and getting them out is time-consuming,” he said.

The researchers have caught as many as a thousand bats in one night, he said.

“There are 75 to 80 (known) species of bats in the Philippines,” he said. “Some are common and then there’s others that are rare.”

The researchers determine which bats they want to euthanize and export to KU to study. Once the animals are at KU, he cleans some of the skulls and skeletons and preserves some of the bat bodies in jars filled with a preservative. The specimens are then catalogued in order to secure the data.

“I’m interested in how animals diversify, colonize a new area and evolve into a new species,” he said.

When the KU researchers are done studying the specimens, one-half is sent to the Philippine National Museum in Manila; the other half remains in the collection at KU’s Natural History Museum.

Esselstyn said the “flying fox” fruit bat is “the flagship species for conservation in the Philippines” because its appearance is so appealing it has the potential to change the way people think about bats.

On the island, many legends about bats flourish, he said. A popular legend involves a half-man who has wings and enters people’s homes to drink their blood and steal their bodies.

“It’s difficult for one species to overcome that legend,” he said, “but if we give the government a reason to protect a patch of forest it’s found in, that’s great.”

Esselstyn’s research is supported by small grants from the KU Natural History Museum Endowment Fund, American Philosophical Society, Society of Systematic Biologists, American Society of Mammalogists and National Science Foundation.

Esselstyn and a herpetology student from KU returned to the Philippines earlier this month. At one point, he hopes to collect samples from Malaysia.

Eventually, Esselstyn would like to work as a curator at a university-based museum.
Congress moves to put all armed contractors in combat zones under military control, increasing oversight

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress is moving to put all armed contractors operating in combat zones under military control, acting on a Pentagon recommendation that could run into resistance at the State Department.

The Senate this month included such a requirement in its 2008 defense authorization bill. Sen. Carl Levin, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, told reporters Wednesday he is confident the House will go along with the idea and include it in a final bill sent to President Bush.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was to testify today about the subject before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

She has ordered new rules for the private guards who are hired to protect U.S. diplomats. They include increased monitoring and explicit rules on when and how they can use deadly force.

The steps were recommended by a review panel that Rice created after a deadly Sept. 16 shooting involving Blackwater USA guards.

Rice also called for better coordination with the military, but did not explicitly act on a suggestion by Defense Secretary Robert Gates that combatant commanders have control over the contractors.

Iraqi delegation to visit Turkey; Turkish president warns country running out of patience

CIZRE, Turkey (AP) — Turkey is running out of patience and will not tolerate the use of Iraqi soil for the purpose of launching terrorist activities, the Turkish president said today ahead of a visit from a high-level Iraqi delegation.

Turkey has threatened to stage an incursion into northern Iraq if Iraqi Kurds and U.S.-led coalition forces do not crack down on Kurdish rebels.

"We are totally determined to take all the necessary steps to end this threat," President Abdullah Gul said in a speech opening the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization foreign ministers' meeting in Ankara.

The high-level Iraqi delegation was expected to visit Ankara today after Turkey's top leadership recommended the government take economic measures to force Iraqi cooperation against Kurdish rebels and Turkey considered a possible military cross-border offensive.

On Wednesday, Turkish warplanes reportedly pounded rebel positions along the border. An AP Television News cameraman standing at the Habur border crossing today saw a pair of warplanes flying from northern Iraq back into Turkey. It was not clear whether the planes were on a reconnaissance mission.

Lebanese troops open fire on Israeli warplanes flying over Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Lebanese troops opened fire today on Israeli warplanes flying low over southern Lebanon, but no hits were reported, Lebanese officials said.

Israeli warplanes frequently fly over Lebanese airspace in what Israel says are reconnaissance missions, but this was the first time the Lebanese army has fired on the aircraft since Aug. 14, 2006, cease-fire ended a monthlong war between Israeli and Hezbollah guerrillas.

Lebanese soldiers opened up with machine guns and light anti-aircraft weapons mounted on armored vehicles at two planes that flew by just east of Marjayoun town near the border at mid-morning, a Lebanese security official said.

A total of 150 rounds were fired, he added.

A senior military officer also said the army "confronted" the Israeli planes, but gave no details.

House ready to retest Bush's veto clout on children's health bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — House members are about to learn whether some nips and tucks to a children's health bill will be enough to secure a veto-proof margin against a White House that wants major surgery.

The House planned to vote today on a modestly revised version of a bill that President Bush vetoed Oct. 3. Last week the House fell 13 votes short of the two-thirds majority needed to override the veto, which had been prompted by Bush's objections to a major expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

The bill's supporters now hope the revisions will attract the seven or more Republicans needed to change the outcome later this fall. GOP leaders urged their colleagues to resist, saying the changes are too minor to justify abandoning Bush on a high-profile issue.

As before, the bill would add would $35 billion over five years to the State Children's Health Insurance Program. The program, which now covers 6 million children, would enroll 4 million more. The increase would be paid for with a 61-cent increase in the federal excise tax on a pack of cigarettes, which Bush opposes.

Under the revisions, the program would exclude families earning more than three times the federal poverty rate.

Low-income childless adults, which some states cover, would be phased out in one year. And states would have to be more rigorous in checking the validity of applicants' Social Security numbers, an effort to exclude illegal immigrants.
Painter pushes through pain to create art

LAWRENCE - Six years ago, Debra Clemente took the back roads from her home in Lawrence to her native Wichita.

The trip, which usually takes 2 1/2 hours, took seven. She photographed the flowers, grasses and hills she saw along the way.

She saw vibrant hues — a contrast to the stereotypically boring sights most people think of.

"I see Kansas that way," she says. I want others to see that, too."

The result was a set of paintings on display at the Phoenix Gallery in Topeka.

The exhibition represents both an evolution in thought for the native Kansan and a major physical accomplishment — Clemente suffers from rheumatoid arthritis, celiac disease and, because of her hard work on the project, carpal tunnel syndrome.

But she's not backing down from her art, as difficult as it may be at times.

"It's really scary," she says. "This is what I do. I have to do this. I have all these things I have to express."

Clemente majored in visual communications at Kansas University and worked for a few years as an illustrator. She also has helped her husband, David, who is a homebuilder.

About 12 years ago, she decided to start to do her own paintings. Instead of painting with oils and a brush, she layered the oils on with a palette knife.

"I'm really glad that is the way I took my path," she says. "Along the way, I created my own signature, my own path. In the end, to market yourself, you have to be unique."

Now, Clemente's process works this way: She spreads out globs of paints into paper napkins, then uses a 5-inch knife to layer the paints onto a canvas. She usually has to complete her paintings within a few days or the paintings dry out too much to get the right layering.

"Most of the time," she says. "there's a blending effect, so it's not so separated."

Clemente suspects she's caused some of her own health problems through the years.

"I'd been pretty stupid with the way I cleaned up," she says. "I'd clean myself with paint thinner."

Now, making art with a palette knife means she can use bigger hand motions that don't hurt her arthritic hands as much as using a brush might. Still, she worked so hard on this show that she ended up with carpal tunnel syndrome — and that comes after last December when she ruptured a disc in her back and had to undergo surgery.

"Necessity allowed me to do what I ultimately wanted to do with my oils anyway," she says.

Her style of painting has earned her a top-tier art fan.

A painting of a sunflower by Clemente was included in an art exhibition at Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' office last year. Sebelius liked the painting well enough a donor was identified to purchase it, and now it hangs over her personal desk in her office.

"I think the painting is beautiful," Sebelius says. "It reminds me of the natural beauty of Kansas and this wonderful flower which turns to find the sun and provides beauty as well as great nutrients — a perfect Kansas symbol."

Over time, Clemente's work has become more abstract. Her latest exhibition at the Phoenix Gallery has brightly colored wheat fields, a barn that glows blue in the twilight sun and neon-blue Kansas skies.

"She really took a chance," says Kyle Garcia, the Lawrence resident who owns the gallery. "The color is extremely bold. It's a spin on Kansas that I don't think a lot of people have seen yet."
Neill joins in dental practice

From Page 1

"I am so happy to be able to return to my hometown, and to be able to work with Dr. Rick Hammel in supporting great dental health in our community means so much to me," Neill said in a press release.

Tina Wynn previously worked for Hammel and Dr. Duane Koltermann. Neill and his assistant, Tina Wynn, will begin seeing patients Tuesday, December 11th and appointments are now being scheduled. Kidder and Hanson have already begun seeing patients at the facility.

Kidder, a graduate of the Colby Community College Dental Hygiene program in May, grew up in Garden City and has a degree in Biology from Kansas State University.

Hanson is an experienced dental hygienist from Stromsberg, Neb. and along with the other hygienists at Clay Center Family Dentistry, Jill has training in the treatment and prevention of gum disease.

"This is such a great office to work in. I am so excited to be working for Dr. Hammel and Dr. Neill," Hanson said. "Their commitment to the community and providing a relaxing and comfortable dental experience is what attracted me to them."

An open house and office tour to introduce the new members has been set for 1 to 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2, 2007.

The team of Dr. Rick Hammel, Nancy Hammel, Shelly McClure, Linda Stirrett, Laurie Charbonneau, Nicky Fletcher, Alicia Spitler, and Bethany McCowan invite everyone to the open house to meet their new team members and to tour the office on Sunday, December 2nd from 1-5 pm.
Trio includes ties to region

*SPECIAL TO THE HAYS DAILY NEWS*

Three nationally recognized musicians — two with ties to northwest Kansas — have formed a trio that is gaining noticed.

Allégresse, the French word for "joy," describes the artistry of the trio. Friends and collaborators for nearly a decade, Annie (Davidson) Gnojek, flute, Margaret Marco, oboe, and Ellen (Sommer) Bottorf, piano, formed the ensemble to explore the rich and varied repertoire for their instruments. The trio plays a wide range of music, both classical and contemporary.

Their careers have taken them throughout North America, South and Central America, Europe, and Asia both as soloists and chamber musicians.

Gnojek is a 1999 graduate of Russell High School and the daughter of Dennis and Lori Davidson, Russell, and the granddaughter of Joe and Rita Malin, Plainville. She has both bachelor's and master's degrees in flute performance from the University of Kansas. She maintains a full-time flute studio in Lawrence as well as serving as the adjunct flute professor for Ottawa University and principal flutist for the Lawrence Chamber Orchestra. She placed at the national level in the Music Teachers National Association young artist woodwind competition in 2003, 2004 and 2007.

Bottorf is niece of Dr. Calvin Hair and Jeannette Sommer, Plainville. An interim profes-

sor of piano at the University of Kansas, Ellen is sought after as a collaborative artist in the professional community. She has toured extensively throughout the United States and Canada, performing on live radio broadcasts, regional and national conventions and competitions, and in many other venues. She has degrees from University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Missouri Western University.

Marco has been associate professor of oboe at the University of Kansas since 1998 and has performed and taught widely throughout Europe and the United States. She is co-principal of the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra and performs frequently with the Kansas City Symphony, Kansas City Lyric Opera and Kansas City Ballet. She has degrees from Northwestern University, the University of Iowa and University of Illinois.

The trio has performed this year at Ithaca College, Ithaca, N.Y., Lawrence, Topeka, Salina and Great Bend. They will appear Nov. 14 in Lawrence.

To learn more about Allégresse and to hear excerpts of their music, log on to www.allégresse.org.
Professor upset over ad campaign against coal-fired plants

LAWRENCE (AP) — A University of Kansas professor is upset about being used in an advertising campaign critical of the proposed coal-fired electric power plants in western Kansas.

Dr. Steven Simpson, an associate professor of pulmonology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, said Thursday that when he agreed to allow his photograph and name to be used in the anti-coal ad, he didn’t know that the ad was being paid for by a natural gas company.

“I would not have done that at the behest of a natural gas company,” Simpson said. “That’s a whole different ball of wax.”

The company — Chesapeake Energy Corp., headquartered in Oklahoma City — has launched a multimedia campaign criticizing coal-fired power plants, specifically the ones proposed near Holcomb. The ad in newspapers and on television and a Web site, http://www.knowyourpower.net, does not mention Chesapeake.

Last week, the Kansas secretary of health and environment, Ron Bremby, denied an air-quality permit for Sunflower Electric Power Corp.’s $3.6 billion project near Holcomb because of potential carbon dioxide emissions. The decision upset legislators who saw the project as an economic boon for western Kansas, while environmentalists praised the decision.

Simpson said he agreed that coal-fired plants lead to health problems but that he didn’t want to get involved in a fight between coal interests and natural gas interests.

“I don’t want to combat their competitor,” he said.

Simpson said he was asked to allow his picture to be used in the ad by the American Lung Association of Central States and assumed the ad was sponsored by health groups.

Contacted by the Lawrence Journal-World, the American Lung Association of the Central States issued a written statement saying it knew of Chesapeake’s support of the ads.

“We appreciate their strong support of this important public health issue,” the association said.

The statement did not address Simpson’s assertions.

Chesapeake has come under fire for running the ad campaign without mentioning its involvement.

“We’re not being dishonest,” said Michael Grimaldi, a communications consultant with Corporate Communications Group Inc., a firm hired to represent Chesapeake.
Five Galena High School students were honored as Kansas Honors Scholars on Monday, October 15, 2007 at Labette County High School in Altamont, Kansas.

The students were chosen as Kansas Honors Scholars because they rank in the top ten percent of the 2007-08 Galena High School senior class.

The ladies honored were: Adrienne Dodge, daughter of Don and Holly Dodge, Noemi Lopez, daughter of Antonio and Maria Lopez, Ashton Titus, daughter of David and Denise Titus, Whitney Wade, daughter of Troy and Dianna Wade, and Stephanie Watson, daughter of Kelly and Patty Watson.

The ladies and their families enjoyed a meal and awards program, including guest speaker, Chancellor Hemenway of the University of Kansas. They also received a special edition copy of The American Heritage Dictionary.
Around town

Ryan Carl Magnuson of Lawrence, son of Mary Ann Magnuson of Iola and the late Dr. Larry N. Magnuson, has recently been recognized as a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, a national leadership and honors organization at the University of Kansas. Sigma Alpha Lambda is an organization dedicated to promoting and rewarding academic achievement and providing members with opportunities for community service, personal development and lifelong professional fulfillment.