Pelosi to visit Dole Institute

LAWRENCE — Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., speaker of the House of Representatives, will speak at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 9 at the Dole Institute of Politics at The University of Kansas. “Nancy Pelosi made history when she became the first woman speaker of the house,” said Jonathan Earle, interim director of the Dole Institute. “It is a privilege and an honor to have her visit the Dole Institute.”

Pelosi’s visit to KU is co-sponsored by the College Democrats of Kansas and is free and open to the public.

The Dole Institute will be closed until 10 a.m. the day of the event. Pelosi was elected speaker of the House on Jan. 4. As speaker, she is second in line to the presidency.

The Capital-Journal
KU program seeks families to host international students for Thanksgiving

Tom Grimwood of Burns is a Kansas State University graduate with a 50-year history of sharing Thanksgiving with University of Kansas international students.

He was 3 years old in 1954 when his mother, Betty, contacted KU with an idea to invite international students to spend the holiday with families in Burns, a farm community about 60 miles northeast of Wichita.

The tradition, which was named the Betty Grimwood Thanksgiving Homestay Program in 1999 after her death, is now in its 53rd year.

KU's International Student and Scholar Services office is again seeking host families for the program, which provides new international students the opportunity to experience Thanksgiving with a U.S. family.

Host families are needed for one or more international students either for the full Thanksgiving break — Tuesday, Nov. 20, to Sunday, Nov. 25 — or for Thanksgiving Day only — Thursday, Nov. 22.

Last year, 24 families from communities in Kansas and Missouri and 24 students participated. Interested families should contact Melissa Rogers, program coordinator, at 785-864-3617 or issanprogram@ku.edu. The application deadline is Nov. 1.

This Thanksgiving will be no different for Tom Grimwood. He and his wife, Nedy, and their young son plan to host a KU international student over the holiday as do a few other families in Burns. As youngsters, Tom and his brother, Charles, now living in Salina, and other Burns children learned world geography in part through international students from KU.

Their parents, Ted and Betty, kept in touch with their Thanksgiving guests and later visited some abroad. For 45 years, Betty Grimwood worked with the Burns United Methodist Women to organize the three-hour drive to Lawrence to gather international students.

"The Methodist church women continue to sponsor it," Tom Grimwood said.

He is a soil scientist who lived abroad for many years and now commutes to Wichita to teach Spanish, Italian and English to business groups. Although his father died in 2004, Tom Grimwood continues his parents' Thanksgiving tradition.

Host families from nearby 50 communities have participated in recent years, including Valley Falls.

This fall, 1,624 international students from 112 countries are enrolled at KU.

The 10 countries with the greatest number of students here are: China, 300, India, 224, Republic of Korea, 192, Saudi Arabia 118, Taiwan, 71, Japan, 70, Turkey, 32, Germany, 31, Canada, 25, and Peru, 24.
Autism as a second language

Autism is an affliction that I’ve never understood fully. I’m not alone in saying that the disorder is still a mystery to most of us, including scientists and psychologists.

What is it about the disorder that makes it so unique? I decided to find out for myself.

To understand how an autistic individual’s mind works, I decided to go to Lowell Elementary School and sit in their Imagine Autism Program classroom, to see what methods teachers use to reach children with the affliction.

Currently, the program teaches five students, from the Winfield and Arkansas City area.

Russ Hedge, a graduate of both K-State and KU, began working at Lowell three years ago to help integrate a more direct program for autistic children into the local school system. With a master’s degree in communication disorders and years of experience at the Bureau of Child Research for the University of Kansas, he possesses all the necessary skills to help create learning programs for each individual child.

With autism, a person simply doesn’t learn something by putting it in front of them and telling them what it is. Teachers must find what is interesting and captivating to that individual and fashion a way to relate those interests into learning basic skills.

Hedge says that catching a child’s attention is one of the major parts of the process. Once you can gain the child’s attention, and the attention turns into genuine interest, then the teachers of the program can determine what methods will work best with each student.

“When the interests are determined, teachers will then create an entire educational system from scratch, based on those interests,” said Hedge.
Autism

from page one

The reasoning for this type of approach is because autistic children don't see an object or a person as itself. Rather, they see a certain part of that person or object as interesting, instead of the entire entity. Teachers will then redirect the kids, through an associative process, to apply those interests to the whole person, object or whatever it is they may be learning.

For instance, a boy identified only as "Izzy," came up to me as I was sitting and talking with Hedge. I wear a chain wallet, and without saying a word to me, Izzy came up and sat down behind me and began playing with my chain. Hedge then explained to me that Izzy would always associate me with my chain, from then on. The "chain man," as Hedge described to me, is how he would remember me.

Hedge says that Izzy would then be able to recognize me later by my chain and since my wallet chain is unique.

Hedge says Izzy would be able to recognize me by the specific chain I wear, in contrast to other people he might see with a chain on their wallets.

This was absolutely amazing to me.

Hedge went on to say that if I personally knew Izzy and saw him often, then he would associate my name with the chain, and in turn, learn my name.

"It's a symbolic language," said Hedge.

Melissa Shirley, Izzy's personal teacher, has been with him for five years now. Melissa says Izzy has come a long way since she first started working with him. She says the early days were a bit difficult because area schools weren't equipped to deal with these types of disorders.

"When Izzy was younger he had trouble in class because he wouldn't sit down and pay atten-
tional systems for each individual makes it fascinating for her.

“Like being able to utilize some of my ideas to adapt to the students needs,” said Kill. “No two are ever the same.”

Kim Herrington, another teacher with the program, says she agrees with that notion.

“Everybody bringing in their individual ideas makes the program fun,” said Herrington.

“There is always a way for children to learn. We just have to find the way.”

Judy Hudson, also of the Imagine program, says the process may take time, but it’s always worth seeing the kids learn from what she’s helped create.

“It requires patience. These kids just need someone to take the time to figure out how they learn,” said Hudson.

Dale Jacques, the youngest teacher with the group, says even at 23, the kids can still spot his youth.

“I see a lot of myself in these kids, especially one-on-one,” said Jacques.

“The kids really respond to me. I don’t know what the future will bring, but I see myself being here for a while.”

Jacques went on to say that even when he goes outside with the kids for recess, they will exploit that youth, all over the playground.

“When we go outside, I’ll get mobbed,” Jacques laughed.

Lowell principal, Joe Muret, says he likes the idea of having the kids in the school because it will eventually give them the chance to be integrated into regular classes.

“I like having the kids in the building because they get to interact with the other students and it gives them access to classes they didn’t attend before,” said Muret.

“The kids are all fun and unique, when you get to know them.”

Russ Hedge may have the degrees and background for all this work, but he says without his team of teachers at his side, it may not have yielded the same progressive results.

“This is the best bunch of people I’ve ever had, even at universities,” said Hedge. “Each teacher in here has changed the life of the kids they are working with — and I mean changed.”
STATE VIEWS

Topeka Capital-Journal, on rising cost of college:

The cost of moving up is going up, rapidly.

A report released this week by the College Board showed the cost of obtaining a college education had jumped more than the inflation rate for the second year in a row.

The board certainly isn’t suggesting costs have risen so high that at least a bachelor’s degree isn’t a wise purchase. But the trend of increasing costs suggests higher education and government officials need to pay attention lest they place a college degree beyond the reach of those on the lower rungs of the economic ladder.

The College Board reported the price of tuition and fees at four-year public universities rose to an average of $6,185 this year, up 6.6 percent from 2006, when tuition and fees at public universities increased by 5.7 percent.

To bring the numbers closer to home, tuition at Kansas State University rose from $2,587 per semester for full-time resident undergraduate students last year to $2,812.50 a semester this year. At University of Kansas, tuition rose from $2,756.25 a semester for the 2006-07 school year to $2,922 a semester for the 2007-08 school year.

Standing alone, those numbers seem like a bargain, but they don’t begin to address the cost of obtaining a degree.

Anyone, student or parent, who is paying for a college education or has paid for one recently knows tuition and fees are only part of the picture. Those numbers don’t include books and accessories, and rare is the class that doesn’t have some other fee attached that isn’t included in the base sticker price. Then, there is transportation and room and board for students who move away from home to go to college....

Slowing rising admission prices at our public universities in Kansas — where the Board of Regents last spring asked the Legislature for more than $500 million for delayed building maintenance and more recently approved salary increases for top administrators — may not be easy or politically popular just now.

But education and government officials need to beware of the upward trend and do what is necessary to ensure our public universities remain accessible to all.
Shelton ranks as one of nation’s best

By Kassie Johnson
Staff Writer

A local student claimed the honors of being named an ‘All-American’ in the National Forensic League (NFL).

Michael O. Shelton, a 2007 graduate from Field Kindley High School, ranked 13th place in the top 25 NFL All-American members for 2006 and 2007. He was acknowledged as the top senior in Kansas.

Shelton was selected out of a field of over 93,000 students within the nation for his total number of points won in debate tournaments throughout high school seasons.

“Always knew I’d do something like this when I got to high school,” said Shelton. “What brought me in to debate was the research involved with topics - the investigating. I really enjoyed it.”

His success wouldn’t have been made, Shelton added, if it wasn’t for the influential help of FKHS debate coach Darrel Harbaugh, and four of Shelton’s debate partners.

“Mr. Harbaugh was probably one of the biggest influences in my life. That man is a legend,” Shelton said. “He’s coached for 30 years, hosted national tournaments, and comes in every day to do his best. He teaches only so much on debate, but he also teaches you to be smart.”

“It’s been a ton of fun to be around him, Mrs. Crane (assistant debate coach) and my partners.”

Shelton said that he was fortunate to have Megan Hatridge, Sarah Malone, Stephanie Irwin, and Rachel Caldwell as partners during debate tournaments.

“I was really lucky to have such amazing partners. It’s great to know that during tournaments, they were doing everything they could to win too, it helped a lot. I definitely couldn’t have done it without them.”

One of his most memorable debate memories included state and national tournaments, Shelton said.

“I liked state and national tournaments because of the prestige associated with them. They were always special. Tournaments on national levels had large fields of students, it draws high stakes, and that’s what I like. Subjects that were international based seemed more interesting to me than domestic issues.”

When it came to the ‘secrets’ of his success, Shelton modestly said that he had none – hardwork and dedication made up his spirit.

“I don’t consider myself the most talented person. I don’t have any secret or ‘key’ to success. I just went out there and did my best. It’s not about being All-American; the award is nothing more than recognition of four years of work. My memories of tournaments and researching are just as important to me as the award is,” Shelton said.

Now a student at Kansas University, Shelton plans on majoring in philosophy, and attending law school after graduation.

“I’ll always be around to judge high school debate, so it’s still with me. It was one of the best learning experiences I had in high school. I know it’ll come in handy.”

Michael O. Shelton
County scholars to be honored

Forty students from Montgomery County high schools will be named Kansas Honor Scholars Wednesday, Nov. 14 at Coffeyville Country Club. The University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment will recognize the students for their academic achievement at a dinner program at 6:30 p.m. at the Coffeyville Country Club. Each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions. KU Alumni Associations student program director Jennifer Alderdice will present the dictionaries, and University Honors Program director Stan Lombardo will be speaker.

Independence students to be recognized include Mary Bannwarth, Amanda Bohr, Blake Byrant, Danielle DelaCruz, Andrew Duke, Tracey Fienen, Grant Gartner, Adam Greenhaw, Matthew Hastings, Patrick Landrum, Jessica Lennon, Courtney Morrow, Cole Pasternak, Kayla Schabel, Samuel Schroeder and Michael Ysusi.

Students from Field Kindley High School in Coffeyville will be Yusif Abudu, Elizabeth Bell, Von Bentley, Micha Brown, Kari Buetow, Diana Cook, Kristen Davenport, Sarah Graham, Mary Kate Nicholson, Torwin Smart, Austin Thompson and Katie Wright.

Cherryvale High School students will be Adam Blaes, Katherine DeTar, Mitchell Huckle, Caleb Setbel, Amanda Stidham and Augusta Stidham. Caney Valley students are Alexandra Abilez, Jessica Holeman, Molly Robbins, Gabrielle Rodriguez, Paige Testerman and Abigail Walls.

The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has recognized more than 100,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals.

Honored students will be guests of the alumni association and KU Endowment. Parents and area alumni can attend at a cost of $15 each. Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Nancy Wright of Coffeyville is site coordinator with Garen Cox of Independence as county coordinator.
There’s no disputing something’s fishy here

By Mike Hall
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

If you think some of the creatures coming to your door tonight will be creepy, give some thought to the strange creatures nature has created — sometimes with a little help from man.

T.A. Hamilton, of Tecumseh, owns something he calls simply “The Thing.”

According to Hamilton, it was caught by a farmer near Osawatomie while he was fishing in his pond. It was alive when it came out of the water, but now it appears to be just a leathery, spooky-looking corpse of something.

So far, no one he has shown it to knows。“

Please see FISHY, Page 8A

A Tecumseh man says he bought “The Thing” from an Osawatomie farmer who fished it out of a pond. A KU museum curator says it is simply a well-crafted hoax.
Fishy: Curator calls it hack job

Continued from Page 1A

what it is. He said the pond where it lived was fed by an underground spring, so maybe the creature lived in subterranean water holes and just didn't come out much.

When he first saw it, it was tacked to a board, drying in the sun. Hamilton formerly had worked at Menorah Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo., and knew someone in the radiology department. They X-rayed the thing and at least were able to confirm there was a legitimate-looking skeleton inside.

"It is not a man-made model," Hamilton said. "This was an actual living, breathing creature."

He also has had it examined by experts at the University of Missouri Kansas City, at the Kansas City Zoo and the Missouri Department of Conservation.

"They didn't know what it was, but they sure wanted to keep it," he said.

Hamilton, who travels throughout the Midwest performing as comedian/magician/ventriloquist, said he doesn't often show the creature. It isn't part of his act.

He was fascinated by it and wanted to add it to his personal collection of oddities and historic magic tricks.

He bought it from the farmer, whose name he doesn't remember, about 10 years ago, he said. He recalls paying about $100 for it.

He said word was getting out about the find and the farmer was tired of people coming to his farm day and night wanting to see it.

After awhile, Hamilton gave up trying to find out what the thing is. And maybe he is better off not knowing, he said.

"I'm sure there is somebody somewhere who knows what it is, but then there wouldn't be a story, would there?" Hamilton said.

But it appears the professional trickster may have been tricked. What he has is the Gulf coast equivalent of the southwest "jackalope" — a stuffed rabbit with small antlers sold to tourists.

According to Ed Wiley, senior curator of fishes at the University of Kansas Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center in Lawrence: "It is a common marine skate, a shark relative, that has been hacked up to look like a 'devilfish' or 'priest fish.' Such hack jobs have been done since for centuries. I used to see them in shell shops down on the Texas coast. All you need is a poor dead skate and a sharp knife. Make a couple of slits for the 'wings' and mutilate the head."

And Andy Bentley, ichthyology collection manager at the KU museum, noted that the skate is a salt water fish. The chances of finding one in a Kansas farm pond are "virtually zero."

He said a skate placed in fresh water would live only about two hours.

He said it is common for inlanders to be duped by people selling the things.

"This story comes past us fairly often," he said.

Wiley did express admiration, though, for the detail of alteration on Hamilton's specimen.

"Whoever made this took their time with the head," he said.

Mike Hall can be reached at (785) 295-1209 or mike.hall@cjonline.com.
KU Alumni Association
to honor county students

Students from 10 Kansas high schools will be honored Monday, November 5, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 91 seniors from high schools in Pottawatomie, Clay and Riley Counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program in the Manhattan Country Club.

The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971, and has honored more than 100,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Sarah Blaney, assistant director of Kansas programs for the KU Alumni Association. Rick Ginsberg, dean of the School of Education, will speak to the students, parents and guests.

Doug and Joyce Elcock, Wamego, are the Pottawatomie County coordinators for the program. Pott County students to be honored are:

Flint Hills Christian School: Andrew Featherstone and Jacob Henkel.

Onaga High School: Christopher Niehues, Kelsey Rezac and Cody Zabel.

Rock Creek High School: Regan Baker, Taylor Blackwood, Derek Fike, Mindy Hodges, Audrey Peterson.

St. Marys High School: Regina Budden, Adam VandeVelde, Janel Wietharn, Megan Lueger.

KU Honors 91 Area High School Students

LAWRENCE — Students from 10 Kansas high schools will be honored Monday, Nov. 5, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 91 seniors from high schools in Clay, Pottawatomie and Riley counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at the Manhattan Country Club, 1531 N. 10th St.

The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals. Honorees’ names are listed at www.news.ku.edu/2007/october/17/kpmanhattan.shtml.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Sarah Blaney, assistant director of Kansas programs for the KU Alumni Association.

Rick Ginsberg, dean of the School of Education, will speak to the students, parents and guests.

Honored students will be guests of the alumni association and KU Endowment; parents and area alumni are welcome to attend at a cost of $13 each.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Mark and Toni Stremel of Manhattan will be the site coordinators and county coordinators for Riley County. Other county coordinators are Lucy Mulroney and Sylvia Mansfield, both of Clay Center; for Clay County; and Doug and Joyce Elcock of Wamego for Pottawatomie County.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.

Honorees’ names are listed below.

* Regan Baker Rock Creek High School 66535
* Taylor Blackwood Rock Creek High School 66549
* Derek Fike Rock Creek High School 66549
* Mindy Hodges Rock Creek High School 66502
* Audrey Peterson Rock Creek High School 66535

* Taellor Howland Blue Valley High School 66520
* Ashley Lund Blue Valley High School 66449
* Tara Pfaff Blue Valley High School 66554
* Andrew Featherstone Flint Hills Christian High School 66502
* Jacob Henkel Flint Hills Christian High School 66441

* Christopher Niehues Onaga High School 66432
* Kelsey Rezac Onaga High School 66521
* Cody Zabel Onaga High School 66521

* Jesse Bailey Riley County High School 66531
* Joel Eastes Riley County High School 66503
* Cassidy Fowles Riley County High School 66449
* Nathan Jones Riley County High School 66503
* Aimee Nanninga Riley County High School 66449
* Veronica Taylor Riley County High School 66503
* Mollie Winter Riley County High School 66503

* Regina Budden St. Marys High School 66536
* VandeVelde Adam St. Marys High School 66536
* Wietharn Janet St. Marys High School 66536
* Lueger Megan St. Marys High School 66536

* Faith Miller Wakefield High School 67487
* Brooke Nance Wakefield High School 67487

* Austin Atwood Wamego High School 66547
* Misty Campbell Wamego High School 66547
* Aaron Grunewald Wamego
High School 66547  
* Bobbie Horocofsky Wamego High School 66547  
* Amanda Huse Wamego High School 66547  
* Allison Jones Wamego High School 66547  
* Clifford Krebs Wamego High School 66547  
* Jarrod Krebs Wamego High School 66547  
* Patrick Mattia Wamego High School 66547  
* Katelin Morton Wamego High School 66547  
* Beth Neilsen Wamego High School 66547  
* Elizabeth Scherer Wamego High School 66547  
* Abby Bauer Clay Center Community High School 67432  
* Bethany McCowan Clay Center Community High School 67432  
* Megan McFall Clay Center Community High School 67432  
* David Parry Clay Center Community High School 67468  
* Abigail Roth Clay Center Community High School 67447  
* Joshua Sanneman Clay Center Community High School 67432  
* Brian Skinner Clay Center Community High School 67432  
* Alicia Snyder Clay Center Community High School 67432  
* Claire Unruh Clay Center Community High School 67432  
* Xiaoxiang Bai Manhattan High School 66503  
* Michael Bennett Manhattan High School 66502  
* Helen Bolton Manhattan High School 66502  
* Jessica Briggs Manhattan High School 66502  
* Monica Carlson Manhattan High School 66503  
* Austin Carnes Manhattan High School 66502  
* Hannah Dodds Manhattan High School 66502  
* Timothy Ellis Manhattan High School 66502  
* Isaac Fees Manhattan High School 66503  
* Kaitlin Gannaway Manhattan High School 66503  
* Kaleb Hawk Manhattan High School 66502  
* Meghan Herde Manhattan High School 66503  
* Chad Hobson Manhattan High School 66503  
* Stafford Hughes Manhattan High School 66503  
* Elizabeth Hungerford Manhattan High School 66503  
* Chelsea Johnson Manhattan High School 66502  
* Sam Kenney Manhattan High School 66502  
* Patrick Lin Manhattan High School 66503  
* Benjamin Lowman Manhattan High School 66502  
* Zachary Lyman Manhattan High School 66503  
* Amanda Marcus Manhattan High School 66503  
* Brooke Marston Manhattan High School 66502  
* Trevor McCarty Manhattan High School 66503  
* Asa Miller Manhattan High School 66502  
* Daniel Myers-Bowman Manhattan High School 66502  
* Gavril Nagy Manhattan High School 66503  
* Kelley Nelson Manhattan High School 66502  
* Richard Nelson Manhattan High School 66502  
* Michael Place Manhattan High School 66503  
* Dhithya Ramaswamy Manhattan High School 66503  
* Srikant Reddi Manhattan High School 66503  
* Kendra Schuler Manhattan High School 66502  
* Kathryn Scott Manhattan High School 66502  
* Heather Smith Manhattan High School 66502  
* Wendy Snyder Manhattan High School 66503  
* Preston Stephens Manhattan High School 66502  
* Wesley Strouts Manhattan High School 66503  
* Brian Sultana Manhattan High School 66502  
* Cara Walker Manhattan High School 66503  
* Sushu Wang Manhattan High School 66503  
* Kelsey Welliver Manhattan High School 66502  
* Tae Hyon Whang Manhattan High School 66503  
* Benjamin Yunk Manhattan High School 66502  
* Kathryn Zapletal Manhattan High School 66503
There can be no doubt that Jewish artists have shaped the modern American theater, from the Gershwins and Fanny Brice to John Kander and Barbara Streisand. Nor can there be any doubt that the theater, from "The Jazz Singer" to "The Producers," has often provided a place to explore the relationship of Jews to the broader American culture. To honor this rich heritage, the Lewis and Shirley White Theatre will host a series of post-show "talkbacks" titled "Jews and the American Theatre: Schmoozing Broadway" — one for each show in the 2007-2008 Center Season. The first one takes place following the matinee performance of "Children of Eden" on Sunday, Oct. 28.

Moderated by Henry Bial, University of Kansas theatre professor and author of "Acting Jewish: Negotiating Ethnicity on the American Stage and Screen," the talkbacks are each expected to last about an hour. Participants will have a chance to discuss the Jewish ideas and themes at work in each play with Director Mark Swezey and members of the cast. Audience members can learn how these ideas influenced the original creators of each musical, as well as share their thoughts about what it means to experience these plays in the Kansas City Jewish community today.