FDIC leader to speak

The Capital-Journal

Shella Bair, chairwoman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, will present the University of Kansas School of Business' 2007 Fall Chandler Lecture at 7 p.m. Monday at the Lied Center in Lawrence.

Bair will address such timely financial topics as subprime mortgages, payday loans and the financial literacy of saving and spending. The lecture is free and open to the public.

The School of Business also will host Bair at a round-table discussion with area bankers and in classroom sessions with small groups of business students.

Bair was sworn in as chairwoman of the FDIC in June 2006, having previously served on the organization's Advisory Committee on Banking Policy. During that time, she also served on the faculty for the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Prior to that, Bair held numerous positions, including assistant secretary for Financial Institutions at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, senior vice president for Government Relations of the New York Stock Exchange and counsel to then-Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan.

Bair was named last year to Smart-Money Magazine's "Power 30" list of the most influential people in investing.
"This is the best way to protect our state's health care system now and in the future."

REP. MELVIN NEUFELD, on a hoped-for agreement between The University of Kansas Hospital and KU's medical center

KU Med, St. Luke's system close to affiliation deal

Neufeld wants agreement with University of Kansas Hospital

The Associated Press

The state-funded medical school is closer to affiliating with a Missouri hospital system, but a key legislator says it is premature to talk about closing such a deal.

The University of Kansas Medical Center's top administrator, Barbara Atkinson, outlined a draft agreement Tuesday between the center and the St. Luke's system. For a yet-unspecified fee, St. Luke's would be allowed to call its hospital in midtown Kansas City, Mo., a research and teaching arm of the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Atkinson presented the draft agreement to The University of Kansas Hospital's board.

The University of Kansas Hospital currently is the primary teaching hospital of the university's medical school, and the hospital and the medical center share a campus in Kansas City, Kan.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius backs an affiliation between St. Luke's and the medical center, believing it will make the Kansas City area a center of biosciences research and attract a national cancer institute.

But House Speaker Melvin Neufeld worries the deal would hurt medical education in his state. Kansas hospital officials also worry it could hurt their institution enough to force it to cut off care to patients who can't afford to pay.

Neufeld said it is "critically important" for the medical center to have an agreement with the Kansas hospital before signing a deal with St. Luke's.

"This is the best way to protect our state's health care system now and in the future," Neufeld said in a written statement.

Atkinson told the Kansas hospital's board that the agreement with St. Luke's follows almost exactly "guiding principles" the medical center and the Kansas hospital signed in March.

"There are no significant differences that I know of," Atkinson said.

The draft agreement will go to St. Luke's board next month. Its approval, as well as that of Atkinson and KU chancellor Bob Hemenway, are required. Also, Sebelius said in April that the Kansas Board of Regents would have to approve the affiliation.

Meanwhile, negotiations between the medical center and the Kansas hospital over a new affiliation between those two are ongoing. Both Atkinson and Bob Page, the Kansas hospital's chief executive, said they think progress is being made, although they are staying out of the talks.

Atkinson and Hemenway said they brought the draft agreement between St. Luke's and the medical center to the Kansas hospital's board because the board had asked that it see any proposal before any action is taken.
COMMUNITY EVENT

The public is invited to a presentation on the Civil War by University of Kansas professor and author Dr. Jenny Weber at 10 a.m. Saturday at Westside Christian Church, S.W. 6th and Lindenwood. Weber will discuss her book, "Copperheads." The title refers to northern Democrats who opposed the war and were a thorn in President Abraham Lincoln’s side until the war’s end.
University of Kansas pledged 507 women during fall formal recruitment. The Phi Sigma Sigma sorority at KU's Panhellenic recently announced the number of pledges made by new members, and Laura Batey, program director for Fraternity and Sorority Life, extended bids to women who completed the recruitment process. Leavenworth County students accepted into Kappa Alpha Theta, Alpha Xi Delta, Kappa Delta, Delta Gamma, Delta Phi Epsilon, Pi Beta Phi, and Alpha Omicron Pi. Some of the new members include Taylor Jordan, daughter of done. More than 750 women took part in recruitment, and all 13 Kappa Delta's Panhellenic Association sororities added new members. When 550 students affiliated with sororities this fall, the number represents an increase from 2006. Fall recruitment
Students from 17 Kansas high schools will be honored Wednesday, Sept. 19, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 244 seniors from high schools in Douglas, Jefferson and Leavenworth counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars during a 7 p.m. reception program at the Lied Center, 1600 Stewart Drive in Lawrence.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Jennifer Sanner, senior vice president for communication for the KU Alumni Association.

Stephen McAllister, KU professor of law, will speak to the students and their parents and guests.

Students from Leavenworth County include:

FROM BASEHOR-LINWOOD — Charissa Beves, Kristen Beves, Clinton Brown, Caren Chellgren, Shanna Couch, Danielle Elliott, Natalie Freeman, Austin Hunter, Ashley Jeannin, Amanda Kane, Logan Kirk, Megan O'Bryan, Tia Oelshlager, Daniel Shaffer, Samuel Seaman and Cara Stubenrauch.

FROM IMMACULATA — Brett Chadwick, Matthew Metivier and Joseph Siebert.

FROM LANSING — Lauren Anderson, Christine Cordes, Griffin Davis, Cody Dressler, Rita Edmonds, Lauren Elkins, Eric Hansen, Kristian Hernandez, William Hilton Jr., Jasmine Holland, Maria Jackson, Lauren Judy, Harold Laurence, Kate Mock, William Pace, Rachel Pride, Liane Swisher and Christen Yaw.

FROM LEAVENWORTH — Claire Baechle, Grace Behrens, Kristy Bledsoe, Natalie Edwards, Karla Eldredge, Jessica Fox, Kari Freivogel, Aubrey Gasbarre, Tyler Graves, Rebecca Griffith, Regina Hanson, Jordan Hanson, Hilary Horvatic, Jessica Jordan, Traci Kohl, Melanie Lee, Mindi Lozenski, Vanessa McKinney, Logan Ortiz, Hannah Parrish, Jennifer Personious, Devra Redford, Elizabeth Reese, Timothy Reese, Jonathan Reynolds, Zachary Riggins, Sharon Roeder, Brian Seo, Stephen Sittnic, Alexis Stonestreet, DeeAnn-Rose Turpin, Amy Ward, Nakia Warfield and Maria Young.

FROM MCLOUTH — Kassidie Kramer, Leah Hoffhines, Ashley Logan, Martin Lucas and Mark Stewart.

FROM PLEASANT RIDGE — Diane Creviston, Ashley Flowers, Elliot Matthews, Kathryn Oliver, Zachary Rebarck and Meghan Ryan.

FROM TONGANOXIE — Amanda Albert, Elizabeth Baska, Kayla Beggs, Jake Bontrager, Laurie Chenoweth, Donald Dyster, Ann Erickson, Samantha Franjik, Tyler Gurrus, Tracie Hileman, Lindley Himpel, Ashlee Lohman, Cally Owsley, Kaitlyn Saathoff, Sarah Smith, Breanne Somolik, Kristen Titterington, Christy Weller and Matthews Williams.
75 years later, many farmers still depend on 'temporary' subsidies

BY AMY BICKEL
THE HUTCHINSON NEWS

HUTCHINSON, Kan. — Earl Hayes was just a 17-year-old kid in 1933, working on his family's Stafford County farm for 25 cents a week amid the Great Depression.

Now 92, Hayes easily recalls those days, and remembers spending his wages in one night on 10-cent-a-gallon gas and 10-cent movie tickets before heading to the pool hall to blow the rest.

"I'd go home broke," he said, noting his weekly situation on a Saturday night signaled what most in the farm sector experienced at the time.

It was around that same period that Hayes and his father had wheat on the ground at 30 cents a bushel during the June harvest, then picked it up and took it to the elevator for 25 cents a bushel. The younger Hayes watched as banks and mortgage companies foreclosed on one local farm after another.

"Times were tough," said Hayes, who recently moved from his Zenith-area farmstead to a senior apartment. "You could buy farms at a bargain price."

It was a time of mass exodus from rural America. Hundreds of thousands of farms went out of business. Drought and dust storms hurt income, with the average farm household making half or less than nonfarm households.

Commodity prices plummeted due to a surplus of crops. Some farmers found it more profitable to burn corn for fuel than sell it at 10 cents a bushel.

Hayes said there were two banks in Stafford, and the one his parents had their money in went belly up.

Then, Franklin Roosevelt became president, Hayes said, and his administration's New Deal programs were aimed at saving America's farms and rural areas. The plan helped farmers recover from the economic collapse of the nation's heartland.

"He started putting his loving arms around the farm people because he knew they were important," Hayes said of Roosevelt. "He brought around some farm action."

But when Roosevelt signed the first farm policy into law in May 1933, he promised it would be a temporary measure.

Yet more than 70 years later, the plan — though tinkered with over the years — still is in place, and many farmers remain dependent on subsidies to aid their farm income amid a tough farm economy that includes high fertilizer and fuel costs.

This year, the farm bill debate continues as Congress works on its latest measure — expected to pass sometime this fall. But it's a different era than Roosevelt's New Deal period, or even a decade ago.

Most Americans are far removed from the land that sustains them, unlike the 1930s when 25 percent of the U.S. population lived on farms. Today, that figure is less than 2 percent.

The top two priorities for Roosevelt's administration were to save "the family farm and help rural America," said Troy Dumler, Kansas State University agriculture economist.

But one question looms for an industry where there are fewer producers farming the same amount of land: Does a program started amid the Great Depression still help those it was intended to help?

"That's the million dollar question, you can basically argue both sides of that," Dumler said. "Some say it helps a lot. Others say not much."

The government stepped in when successful farmers started losing their farms during the Great Depression. Programs established target prices for certain commodity crops, such as corn, wheat, cotton and rice. The program included payments for taking land out of production, as well as conservation efforts, said Donald Worster, a University of Kansas professor who wrote "Dust Bowl, The Southern Plains in the 1930s."

The government has spent $164 billion on farm programs in the last decade, he said, noting the farm bill of the 21st century is no longer a poverty program.

"If you want to combat rural poverty, you give the money to the poorest," Worster said. "But the subsidies today are going to a relatively..."
small handful of people. They tend to be the richest farmers.”

Policy opponents, including the Environmental Working Group — an advocacy group that tracks farm payments — subsidies aren’t helping the rural communities or the small family farmers that the first farm policy intended.

Still, farm bill leaders, such as Rep. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., say the policy means a lot to a state like Kansas that ranks No. 1 for wheat and grain sorghum production, 10th for soybeans and seventh for corn.

About a dozen farm bills have been passed since the creation of the first farm policy during the Roosevelt administration.

Stafford County’s Hayes acknowledges he probably wouldn’t have stayed with farming if it hadn’t been for New Deal legislation.

His father gave him interest in 20 acres when he first started farming full time. Hayes expanded his operation to 2,000 acres that spread across portions of Stafford, Gray, Finney and Reno counties.

In the 1970s, he went to Washington, D.C, nearly every month to lobby for farm bill legislation as president of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers.

Hayes duly notes the consolidation in the farm sector, and has seen farms get bigger while communities shrink around them. Even the cooperative in the small town of Zenith, where he served on the board for 21 years, merged with a larger group.

Hayes began renting his land years ago. A new family moved into his farmhouse last month.

Still, he’d argue with anyone that subsidies are vital to rural America.

“Who pays the taxes in a rural community?” he asked. “It isn’t the person with the two or three children who is working for the co-op.”
KU gets info on Sept. 11 memorial support beams

Associated Press

LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas has learned the original location of two support beams from the World Trade Center that are part of the Sept. 11 memorial at the Dole Institute of Politics.

The university said Tuesday that World Trade Center engineer John Barson determined that the steel beams supported floors 58 through 61 in Tower One. Barson reached the conclusion through markings on one of the columns.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg gave the beams to former Kansas Senator Robert Dole to express his gratitude for Dole’s work on a scholarship fund for children of Sept. 11 victims.

The columns are in exactly the same condition as the day they were pulled from the rubble at ground zero, covered with debris, jet fuel and flame retardant foam.
EXCLUSIVE SERIES

Farm bill founded in days of exodus

By AMY BICKEL
The Hutchinson News

Earl Hayes was just a 17-year-old kid in 1933, working on his family's Stafford County farm for 25 cents a week amid the Great Depression.

Now 92, Hayes easily recalls those days, and remembers spending his wages in one night on 10-cent-a-gallon gas and 10-cent movie tickets before heading to the pool hall to blow the rest.

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See FARM, Page 3

Retired Zenith area farmer Earl Hayes, 92, was 17 when the first farm bill was enacted in Congress in 1933, while he was working on the family farm. Hayes still owns the land he farmed and just recently sold the family farm house and outbuildings. Hayes said the farm bill helped save family farmers in rural America.
(Continued from Page 1)

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Nearly 75 years later

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Yet more than 70 years later, the plan — though tinkered with over the years — still is in place, and many farmers remain dependent on subsidies to aid their farm income amid a tough farm economy that includes high fertilizer and fuel costs.

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A new New Deal

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Roosevelt saw the farm bill as a temporary measure to help boost farm income, Worster said.

“But it became quite permanent. Farmers became part of a welfare state. And for some people, it has meant a lot of money.”

The government has spent $164 billion on farm programs in the last decade, he said, noting the farm bill of the 21st century is no longer a poverty program.

“If you want to combat rural poverty, you give the money to the poorest,” Worster said. “But the subsidies today are going to a relatively small handful of people. They tend to be the richest farmers.”

Policy opponents, including the Environmental Working Group — an advocacy group that tracks farm payments — argue that subsidies aren’t helping the rural communities or the small family farmers that the first farm policy intended.

Still, farm bill leaders, such as Rep. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., say the policy means a lot to a state like Kansas that ranks No. 1 for wheat and grain sorghum production, 10th for soybeans and seventh for corn.

“(It) is more than just about Kansas farmers and ranchers,” Moran told reporters in June during a House subcommittee hearing on the farm bill. “This is about whether or not we have people who populate our state, who live in our smaller communities and whether we have kids in our school systems.”
Artist’s work returns to Kansas

BY CHRIS GREEN
HARRIS NEWS SERVICE

TOPEKA — Considered the major visual artist of the Harlem Renaissance, Aaron Douglas hailed from Kansas but ventured outside the state to make his name.

Douglas migrated to New York to contribute to the cultural explosion that became known as the Harlem Renaissance, as did fellow Kansan and his good friend, poet and author Langston Hughes.

In a roughly two-mile section of upper Manhattan, Douglas joined black artists putting their stamp on American culture through their contributions to visual art, literature, drama, philosophy and music.

A major exhibition that opened Saturday and runs through Dec. 2 at the Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas in Lawrence represents a homecoming of sorts for Douglas, a Topeka native who died in 1979.

It is also the first-ever traveling retrospective of Douglas’ work — with future stops scheduled in Nashville, Washington, D.C., and New York — and features nearly 100 works of art by Douglas, plus several by his contemporaries and students.

The focus of the show is the artist’s career from the 1920s through the 1940s, bringing together many rarely seen works from public and private collections, exhibit officials said.

The artist’s signature efforts include his narrative murals, which fuse modern art styles with African and black American imagery and whose themes include overcoming racism and slavery.

There’s also a nod to the eclectic nature of the Harlem Renaissance with events that include a multidisciplinary national conference and a performance by the famous Fisk Jubilee Singers.

Some seven years in the making, museum officials said they expect “Aaron Douglas: African American Modernist” to bring renewed — and “richly earned” — national attention to Douglas as one of the 20th Century’s greatest American artists.

Saralyn Reece Hardy, Spencer Museum of Art director and former director of the Salina Art Center, said the exhibition also offered Kansans the opportunity to rediscover Douglas as well.

“There’s something about a museum for recollecting memories,” Hardy said.

‘Always had the fire’

Yet even for the Kansans putting on the exhibition, the question of where Douglas’ Kansas upbringing fits into his development as an artist outside the state remains perplexing.

“See, that’s a question that we’re still sort of wrestling with,” said Stephanie Fox Knappe, a Baldwin City resident who helped coordinate the exhibit and researched the chronology of Douglas’ life.

In fact, several Harlem Renaissance artists besides Douglas sprang from Midwest roots.

See DOUGLAS, Page 12.

DOUGLAS
Continued from Page 1.

but became known for their participation in an urban, East Coast movement.

Born to laborer parents in Topeka, Douglas graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1922 and taught at Lincoln High School in Kansas City.

He migrated to New York in 1925 to join Harlem Renaissance, where he became known as “the father of Black American art” and the Renaissance’s “tastemaker.” Later on in life, he earned a master’s degree at Columbia University and taught art historically black Fisk University in Nashville.

Beside Hughes and Douglas, Kansas has links to other significant black creative figures. Seven of those individuals will be featured in a mural by artist David Lowenstein, which will be unveiled Sept. 26 in Lawrence as part of the Douglas exhibition.

They include Oscar Micheaux, who grew up in Great Bend and is widely recognized as the first black filmmaker, and photographer, author and film director Gordon Parks, who was born in Fort Scott.

Douglas’ Kansas upbringing may have influenced his outlook as an artist, which has been described as being optimistic, Knappe said. That may spring from the fact that Douglas had to learn self-reliance to overcome obstacles to his pursuit of art.

Hints of Douglas’ Kansas ties also pop up within his work in some instances.
SCHOOLS

Miller graduates

LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas recently announced that Chelsea Lynn Miller of Galesburg, the daughter of Daniel and Tammy Miller, received her bachelor’s degree in accounting after the 2007 summer session.

Miller was among the more than 900 students who received degrees from KU this summer.

Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many of these graduates will return as members of the Class of 2008 to take part in commencement exercises May 18.