meals. Kyle Bales, son of David and Lisa Bales of Lansing, Kansas, and a graduate of Lansing High School, will serve as the lead student leader for the "Reach for America" project in Chicago. The project was established at KU in 1995 with a spring break trip to El Paso, Texas. Since then, it has expanded with volunteer opportunities in a variety of domestic and international locations.

The program in partnership with KU's Center for Community Outreach, a student-run Alternative Breaks program, is an organized, volunteer-based program that runs 15 core projects and 15 additional local programs and participates in service-learning initiatives. The program costs participants $75 and covers their transportation, housing, and meals. The program provides opportunities to include educational experiences and help for people with disabilities.

Winter Breaks is a volunteer opportunity that provides students with the chance to participate in week-long winter breaks with KU's student-run Alternative Breaks program centers on service-learning trips that provide students with volunteer efforts in a student's experience. Students in Alternative Breaks will work from Jan. 5 to Jan. 9, with agencies in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, North Carolina, and Texas that focus on human rights, health care, environmental preservation, education, and rehabilitation.
Kansas may face shortage of pharmacists

Thirty-one of Kansas' 105 counties have only one pharmacy, while six others have none.

Experts say those numbers could get even worse if state budget cuts delay a $60 million expansion of the University of Kansas' School of Pharmacy.

The pharmacy project—which includes a new building on the Lawrence campus and expansion of a building at the university's Wichita campus—has been approved this year for $20 million in bonds from the state. Lawmakers also planned to spend $15 million of expected gambling revenues in each of 2010 and 2011 on the project.

The University of Kansas is raising the other $10 million. Of that, $5 million would pay for a second floor to the university's School of Medicine campus in Wichita to train 40 pharmacists.

The new building in Lawrence would add space for about 45 more students on top of the 105 already enrolled.

But Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' budget office has asked the Board of Regents to cut $15 million from its budget, a cut the regents have voted to appeal.

"The budget is so bad for 2010, if they only cut $15 million, they're going to be lucky," said state Sen. Jean Schodorf, a Wichita Republican.

Also, prospects aren't as clear that the gambling revenues will be there to pay for later phases of the expansion project.

University spokeswoman Lynn Bretz said the university needs the bulk of the pharmacy school money before construction starts and the bonds it will receive this year are only enough for the initial design phase.

She said if the money for the later phases isn't there, it brings up the question of whether plans for the expansion should continue.

Merlin McFarland, who owns Kingman County's only drug store, said he almost had to close last year because he couldn't find anyone to fill two open pharmacist positions.

"If I hadn't put the staff together, I maybe would have looked at closing the store down," said McFarland, who has owned Kingman Drug Store for 34 years.

He filled the positions with a University of Kansas pharmacy student he had recruited for a few years and a former pharmacist at the store whom he rehired.

Pharmacy staffing problems could shrink access to quality health care and even lead to mistakes that can harm customers, experts say.

Debra Billingsley, executive secretary for the Kansas State Board of Pharmacists, said the number of complaints to the state board this year is about twice as high as in recent years. Most of those involve customers who received the wrong medicine or dosage, she said.

Some of that increase, though, she attributed to people becoming aware they can report problems to the board.

Billingsley said the pharmacist problem in Kansas could grow worse as pharmacists, especially in western Kansas, reach retirement age and their positions become harder to fill.

"There are people out there who would like to retire but feel like they can't," she said.

— AP
KU chancellor will step down

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — After 14 years as chancellor at the University of Kansas, Robert E. Hemenway is retiring next year to teach and write.

In a news release Monday, Hemenway announced his decision to leave the chancellor's position next June 30.

Hemenway said there is no "good" time to step down. But he said the university's many recent achievements mean "I will return to the classroom knowing the University of Kansas is in excellent shape and ready for the challenges that face our nation's leading public universities.

In a message sent earlier to faculty, staff and students, Hemenway said he will take a sabbatical during the next academic year to work on a book about intercollegiate athletics and American values, and will then return to teaching and scholarly research at Kansas.

Donna Shank, chair of the Kansas Board of Regents, said the regents would appoint a committee to begin a national search for Hemenway's successor.

"The people of Kansas and KU alumni worldwide have benefited tremendously from Bob Hemenway's service," Shank said in a news release. "The accomplishments of the university during his firm and progressive leadership speak for themselves. KU has grown in size, strength and reputation."

Hemenway said he would stay committed to the university for the next seven months as it works through difficult economic times caused by the state's budget shortfall.
Sebelius not a Cabinet option

TOPEKA (AP) — Gov. Kathleen Sebelius removed herself Saturday from consideration for a spot in President-elect Barack Obama’s Cabinet, saying one reason is Kansas’ budget problems.

“I believe it is important to continue my service as governor,” Sebelius said in a brief statement.

Sebelius said she had asked to have her name removed from consideration, but spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran declined to provide more details.

Sebelius had been mentioned most often as a potential secretary of energy, education or labor.

She also was one of four finalists for the No. 2 spot on the Democratic ticket this...

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She also described being governor as “a job that I love,” a statement she has made repeatedly in the past.

Burdett Loomis, a University of Kansas political scientist who served on Sebelius’s staff for a year, said he believes only two or three jobs would be more attractive to Sebelius than being governor — and she concluded she would have more impact as governor.

“She’s a person who doesn’t jump into decisions lightly and certainly wouldn’t take a position just because it was offered,” Loomis said.

Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt, an Independence Republican, said he was sorry to see Sebelius not get a job with Obama’s administration.

County: Finney

31240-12-08_1002
Sebelius dropped from Cabinet list

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"I believe it is important to continue my service as governor," Sebelius said in a brief statement.

Sebelius said she had asked to have her name removed from consideration, but spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran declined to provide more details. Sebelius had been mentioned most often as a potential secretary of energy, education or labor.

She also was one of four finalists for the No. 2 spot on the Democratic ticket this summer, before Obama chose Delaware Sen. Joe Biden as his vice presidential choice.

"The possibility of joining President-elect Obama's team is exciting and compelling, but my service to the citizens who elected me is my top priority in these difficult times," Sebelius said in her statement.

She also described being governor as "a job that I love," a statement she has made repeatedly in the past.

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Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt, an Independence Republican, said he was sorry to see Sebelius not get a job with Obama's administration.

"It would have been good for Kansas to have a member of the president's Cabinet," he said.

But Christian Morgan, the Kansas Republican Party's executive director, questioned whether Sebelius received an offer — or was likely to get one.

He noted that Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, who worked similarly as hard campaigning for Obama, already has been announced as his homeland security secretary.

"She'll use the excuse, as I think as she has, of having to take care of the budget, but we've known about these budget problems for months," Morgan said.

However, Larry Gates, the Kansas Democratic Party's chairman, said Sebelius had growing reservations in recent weeks about leaving the governor's office because of the state's and nation's economic problems.

"I, for one, am very glad to see Cabinet on Page 2.
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that she's going to stay and keep her steady hand on the wheel," he said.

Sebelius is serving her second term, and the state constitution prevents her from running for a third.

Her decision Saturday is likely to fuel speculation that she will seek a Senate seat in 2010, though she has not expressed an interest publicly. Sen. Sam Brownback, a Republican, has said he won't seek re-election and is expected to run for governor.

Sebelius' statement came as she and her staff are preparing budget recommendations for the 2009 Legislature, which convenes Jan. 12. She and legislative leaders expect it to be a difficult year.

Legislative researchers project that the state will end its current fiscal year on June 30 with a $141 million budget deficit. The researchers also say that if the problems are left unaddressed, the gap between anticipated revenues and current spending commitments would exceed $1 billion by June 30, 2010.

Taking a Cabinet post would have created an upheaval in the state's political leadership as it tried to deal with those financial problems. An early departure is unusual for Kansas governors: only three of 44 have left office before their terms expired, the last one in January 1957.

A Sebelius departure would have elevated Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson to the governor's office. Parkinson is a former legislator and Kansas Republican Party chairman who changed his affiliation to run with Sebelius in 2006.

That party switch still angers some Republicans, particularly conservatives, and Parkinson also doesn't command as much loyalty among Democrats as Sebelius.

Loomis said having Parkinson elevated to governor would have made solving the state's problems more difficult because he would be — and is already — a potential gubernatorial candidate in 2010.

"The pressure would be great to make things more difficult, I think, for Parkinson," Loomis said. "The state would be best served by less partisanship."

But Schmidt doubted Parkinson's elevation would have made the budget debate more difficult because, "We would have worked with whichever one was governor."
Area residents graduate law enforcement training

Times News Report
reporter@eldoradotimes.com

Mark D. Hunsaker, police commissioner for Honolulu, Hawaii, congratulated 58 graduates of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center at a Nov. 21 ceremony at the 4-H Encampment Building at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson.

The graduates, who began their training course Aug. 18, represented 45 municipal, county and state law enforcement agencies from across Kansas. They were the 199th basic training class of graduates.

Among the graduates were: Mark Perry of Wichita who is a deputy with the Butler County Sheriff’s Department; Juan Barajas of Leon who is a patrol officer with the Garden City Police Department; and Shelby Sewell of El Dorado who is a police officer with the Andover Police Department.

The training center is a unit of University of Kansas Continuing Education. Established in 1968 as the central law enforcement training facility for the state, the center is near Yoder.

Graduates receive certificates of course completion and Kansas law enforcement certification from the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers’ Standards and Training, the state’s law enforcement licensing authority. The training course fulfills the state requirement for law enforcement training.
Womelsdorf completes KDWP training

Benjamin Womelsdorf of Iola will be working for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in Allen and Neosho Counties as a Natural Resources Officer I.

Womelsdorf is a native of Allen County and resides near Iola. A 2000 graduate of Iola High School, he also graduated from Allen Community College before receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Biology from Emporia State College.

He will patrol all of Allen County and the northern half of Neosho County. "It's great to know my area," commented Womelsdorf.

Mark D. Hunsaker, police commissioner for Honolulu, HI, congratulated 58 graduates of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center at a Friday, Nov. 21 ceremony at the 4-H Encampment Building at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson.

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Graduates receive certificates of course completion and Kansas Law Enforcement Certification from the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training, the state's law enforcement licensing authority. The training course fulfills the state requirement for law enforcement training. Classroom lectures and hands-on applications help train officers to solve the increasingly complex problems they face in the line of duty.

About 350 officers enroll annually in the 14-week basic training program. The center offered continuing education and specialized training to more than 2,500 Kansas officers last year. Funding for the training center is generated from court docket fees from municipal and state courts. No funds from the state's general revenue are used to operate the center.
KSU recommended for national biolab

SCOTT ROTHSCILDB
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A $450 million federal lab dedicated to protecting the United States from disease outbreaks and bioterrorist attacks should be built in Manhattan, Kan., according to the Department of Homeland Security.

The release of the draft report Wednesday was hailed by Kansas officials who have been waging an intense competition with other states to win what is called the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility or NBAF.

"Manhattan, Kansas State University and the state of Kansas have proven that we are the nation's leaders in plant and animal research and industry, and I am proud of the role Kansas will continue to play in agriculture security and innovation," said U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., who started the effort to land the facility.

At one time, Leavenworth was considered for the site.

"This NBAF will protect and build the state's agriculture economy for decades to come and further expand our national leadership in the biosciences," Roberts said.


But the deal isn't done yet.

The choice won't become final until after a 30-day period for comments on the decision, which could face legal challenges from losing states. Other finalist sites were Flora, Miss.; Athens, Ga.; Butner, N.C.; and San Antonio.

Texas officials already are fuming.

"We're going to be right up in their face," York Duncan, president of Texas Research Park, which was one of the finalists, told the San Antonio Express-News.

"We have decided to pull all the stops out and we're going to exploit every opportunity to steer this to San Antonio," he said.

The new lab would replace an aging facility on Plum Island, N.Y.

Under the DHS proposal, the lab would be used primarily to protect against animal diseases by conducting research on deadly pathogens, such as foot and mouth disease, Rift Valley fever and Hendra and Nipah viruses.

Construction, which would take about four years, could start in 2010.

The facility is expected to require 1,500 construction jobs. Once completed, it is expected the facility would employ 300 people, with an annual payroll of $25 million to $30 million.

In its Environmental Impact Statement, DHS said the Manhattan, Kan., site was preferred because of many factors, including cost.

The site's strengths included:
• Proximity to KSU and existing research capabilities.
• Workforce "relevant to the NBAF mission" because of the link to the KSU College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Agriculture and Bioscience Research Institute.
• Support of local, state and federal officials.
• "In-kind" contributions from the state. The Kansas Legislature and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius approved a $105 million bond package to develop the project.
• Environmental impacts fell in the "no impacts to minor impacts" category.
• Threat of pathogen release were comparable to other proposed sites.

The bottom line, according to the report: "The Manhattan campus was among the least expensive to construct and had the lowest planned operation costs of all the site alternatives."

KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway, who also served on the task force that worked on landing NBAF, said he was "thrilled" by the news that it was going to Kansas State University.

"The National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility will be a major economic asset to our state and will boost bioscience research throughout the region, including at KU," he said.
Bock receives law scholarship at KU

Jason Bock, son of Robert and Terri Bock, received the Judge Clayton and Cecile Goforth Brenner Scholarship in Law at the University of Kansas.

Bock is a graduate of Ellsworth High School and Fort Hays State University.
Ford spends winter break as volunteer

Mauntell Renee Ford is one of 63 University of Kansas students who will spend winter break as a volunteer.

Ford and 14 other KU students plan to work for the U.S.-Mexico border human rights organization, No More Deaths/No Mas Muertes, based in Tucson, Ariz. Other students are assigned to five other locations in KU's Alternative Winter Breaks Program.

Ford, a sophomore in pre-business, is the daughter of Allison Ford. She is a graduate of Wilson High School.