CORRECTION

In the Nov. 10 issue, Brian D. Martinek was listed as a Rice Scholar at the University of Kansas. He did not receive this award. Martinek received a law fee grant. Incorrect information was supplied by the university.
Persimmons ripening in Kansas

Pick one and it might predict the winter weather

By SARAH HENNING

Standing under the broad canopy of a tree in front of Kansas University’s Strong Hall, one can not only get a late fall snack, but also a glimpse of what winter will bring.

The tree, to the right of the main walkway into the building on Jayhawk Boulevard, is a persimmon tree. And for weeks now, it’s been dropping its golden fruit onto the lawn.

Split open one of the fruit’s seeds, and the shape might help you predict the next season’s character, says Mike Lang, campus landscape manager.

“You cut open a persimmon seed, and if (the shape) has a spoon in it, it’s a wet, snowy winter. A fork is a mild, powdery, snowy winter. And a knife is a cutting, cold winter. (That) is what they say,” he says. “I guess it’s one of those old things that goes around.”

That farmers’ tale, just like the persimmon, has been growing for a very long time.

According to the "Field Guide to Produce" by Aliza Green, American settlers learned how to eat the persimmon from the American Indians, who let them ripen through much of October until they were at their sweetest. It became an important fruit for the early settlers, who used it to make puddings, preserves and wine from its flesh.

But since then, the persimmon has been more of a mainstay on golf courses — where its wood is used in clubs — than in many grocery shelves, despite its American history.

Lorene Cox, who enjoys native persimmons that grow on her Linwood property, thinks she knows why.

“They’re more fragile, and they don’t have a shelf life like an apple or a peach,” Cox says. “And they have to be ripe to eat them, otherwise they will make you pucker, and you’re very sad that you bit into a green persimmon.”

Most native types must have gone through the year’s first frost to be ripe, including Cox’s fruit trees. The fruit is worth the wait,

says Cox.

“There’s a lot of recipes that have been used for years and years in making puddings and cookies,” she says, “and just eating them fresh, though, is a pleasure.”

Lang says the KU tree, which has sister trees on the north end of campus near the Sudler Annex building that houses KJHK, bore fruit for most of October, simply because of its variety.

“It’s on a planting plan that I have seen, and I would guess it was planted in probably the 1940s. It’s actually a named variety, it’s an early golden,” Lang says. “And if you notice, the native persimmons, it normally takes a frost to make them good to eat. But this one, the one on campus in front of Strong, has been, we’ve been eating on them for three or four weeks now.”

Lang and his grounds crew aren’t the only ones enjoying the fruit, which he describes tasting somewhat like “a jam that hasn’t been sweetened enough.” In fact, he says the tree requires little cleanup at all — the fruit is too popular to stay around long.

“Normally it’s hard to find them because people who work in Strong and other places, know about it. It’s definitely not a messy tree for us because they get picked up,” he says. “It’s really a nice, sweet one in front of Strong. I hate for everyone to know about it, but I think everybody does anyway.”

—AP
Former President Faces Hecklers

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The Associated Press

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A man in the front of the auditorium shouted a question at Bush and, when Lacy admonished him that the Dole Institute's goal was to promote a civil discussion of issues, the heckler replied, "There's nothing civil about war or war crimes."
Former President George H.W. Bush waves to the crowd Sunday during an appearance at the University of Kansas sponsored by the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics in Lawrence.
Governor makes law enforcement, firefighter appointments

By Travis Knight
Copy Editor

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius made appointments and reappointments to a state law enforcement commission and a firefighter committee, according to press releases from Sebelius’ office.

On Wednesday, Nov. 12, John Carmichael, of Wichita, was appointed to serve on the Commission on Peace Officers’ Standards and Training (KCPOST).

“Across Kansas, law enforcement officers are serving and protecting our communities,” Sebelius said. “This commission ensures officers are trained and prepared to perform their duties safely.”

Carmichael received his juris doctorate from the University of Kansas School of Law. He is a litigation partner at Wilson, Lee, Gurney, Carmichael and Hess. Carmichael is a member of the Kansas Bar Association, the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association and the American Trial Lawyers Association. He has been appointed to serve until 2012.

Major Samuel Breshears, of Kansas City; Frank Gent of Beloit; Ellen Hanson of Lenexa; and Vernon Ralston of St. John, were also reappointed to serve on the commission until 2012.

The KCPOST provides accredited instruction, which is required for permanent appointment of full-time police and law enforcement officers in Kansas. The commission also has the authority to suspend or revoke certification of police and law enforcement officers following administrative procedures.

An appointment was also made to the Kansas Firefighters Memorial Advisory Committee (KFMAC) by the governor.

“Firefighters risk their lives each time they report to work,” Sebelius said. “It’s the job of this committee to ensure those who have lost their lives in the line of duty are honored appropriately. We can never repay their sacrifice, but we can do our best to honor their service.”

Bob Pape, Merriam, has served as the fire marshal at the Merriam Fire Department for over 30 years. He attended the University of Kansas for both his bachelor’s degree in personnel administration and master’s degree in public administration. He is active in numerous professional organizations such as the Kansas State Fire Chief’s Association and the Kansas International Association of Arson Investigators. Pape has been appointed to serve at the pleasure of the governor.

The KFMAC advises the Secretary of Administration and the Director of Facilities Management concerning the planned memorial to Kansas firefighters on the grounds of the state capitol. The committee also makes recommendations to the governor and legislature regarding the recognition of firefighters in Kansas.
Elder Bush speaks about son, history

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"I can't hear, unfortunately," the 84-year-old former president said. "I'm deaf and old."
Elder Bush met with hecklers

Former president talks war, economy at KU

By JOHN HANNA
AP Political Writer

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BUSH: Former president visits Kansas

(Continued from Page 1)

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“I can’t hear, unfortunately,” the 84-year-old former president said. “I’m deaf and old.”

He was interrupted a third time when he said Obama faces huge problems. A man in the audience shouted, “Whose problems are they? Who made them?” Bush didn’t answer as the man left.
Two area students attending the University of Kansas will be among more than 680 undergraduates receiving one of six top scholarships offered at KU that were honored Saturday during the KU football game against Texas.

Isaac D. Chappell, of Coffeyville, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering and Benjamin Mitchell, of Independence, a junior information systems major, are both recipients of the Solon E. Summerfield scholarship.

Chappell, a graduate of Field Kindley High School, is the son of Daniel and Marilyn Chappell. Mitchell is an Independence High School graduate and the son of James and Ruth Mitchell.

The Solon E. Summerfield scholarships for men and the Elizabeth M. Watkins-Emily Berger scholarships for women are awarded to top students graduating from Kansas high schools in recognition of outstanding academic achievements, community service and leadership. Summerfield scholarships are funded through an endowment established in 1929. Watkins-Berger scholarships were first established in 1943.

The scholarship recipients will be honored during halftime of Saturday’s football game and this year’s group is the largest since Scholars Day on the Field was instituted in 1999.
Derby native wins first-ever KU scholarship in health management

For the first time in its history, the University of Kansas (KU) Department of Health Information Management (HIM) has awarded a scholarship to one of its students, Derby native Kelsey Moffat.

“This scholarship has been a long time coming,” said Karl Koob, chair of the HIM department. “It has taken eight years to build a fund that can reward the hard work of our most talented students.”

The HIM scholarship, which is aptly named after the department in which it resides, was started eight years ago with a donation by former program chairperson Alice Junghans.

Since then, departmental faculty and staff members, as well as individuals in the health management profession, have continued to fund the grant.

The scholarship is strictly merit based – established as a means of rewarding scholastic excellence.

To qualify, a student need only submit a personal statement and two reference letters to qualify.

After that, the applicant’s academic standing determines their chances.

In addition to a stellar grade point average, scholarship recipient Moffat has long been interested in helping others.

“I always wanted to be in the healthcare field,” Moffat said.

“What’s great about health information management is that you’re benefiting individuals by helping the hospital to provide efficient care through management and oversight.

“We’re very proud of Kelsey’s hard work and dedication,” Koob said. “I’m sure she’ll make a positive difference in our profession.”
Derby grad part of winning KU debate team

The University of Kansas debate team of Brett Bricker, Wichita senior, and Nate Johnson, Manhattan senior, took first place at an annual Harvard University tournament involving 80 of the best teams in the country. Bricker also won the award for top individual debater at the tournament.

Two more KU teams finished among the top 25 at the Harvard tournament, and KU debater Chris Stone, a graduate of Derby High School and currently a sophomore in political science at KU, was third-place individual speaker at the tournament, which took place Oct. 31 to Nov. 3.

“Winning the Harvard tournament is an incredible accomplishment,” said Scott Harris, KU debate coach. “It is the most difficult tournament in the country to win.”

Derby native Stone and Mark Wilkins, Topeka freshman, won five of eight debates. KU’s team of Sean Kennedy, Leawood sophomore, and Dylan Quigley, Wichita junior, also won five of eight debates.

Stone is the son of Douglas and Gloria Stone of Derby.

Harris said Bricker and Johnson are the first KU team to win the Harvard tournament. KU debaters’ triumphs currently give them No. 1 overall rankings in the National Debate Tournament and Cross-Examination Debate Association.

This was the third consecutive year that KU had advanced to the finals of the Harvard tournament but the first time KU won the tournament. During three days of competition the Bricker and Johnson team won 11 debates to capture first place. In the tournament finals they defeated Northwestern University. In the semifinals they defeated a University of California-Berkeley team that had won the tournament last year, avenging a KU loss in the final round at last year’s Harvard tournament.