Pinchas Zuckerman

Zuckerman plays, leads

LAWRENCE — Grammy Award-winning violinist Pinchas Zuckerman will solo with, as well as conduct, the London-based Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the Lied Center on the University of Kansas campus. The program includes Ludwig van Beethoven's Violin Concerto, his Seventh Symphony and the Overture to “Oberon” by Carl Maria von Weber. Tickets, which are $52 and $44 for adults, $51 and $43 for seniors 62 and older and $26 and $22 for KU and Haskell Indian Nations University students and youths to age 18, can be purchased at (785) 864-ARTS or through www.lied.ku.edu.
Miss Butler County, Jennifer Jones will be performing at the Butler Community College Basketball Game this Saturday January 19, at both halftime.

Jones' talent is baton twirling where she is the head twirler for Kansas University. She just returned from Miami where she performed in the Orange Bowl. Jennifer is a Senior at Kansas University and will be representing our area in the Miss Kansas Scholarship pageant this June 2008.

Jennifer will be on hand to sign autographs and photo opportunities. She is a very talented lady who juggles three batons with ease.
SEBELIUS APPOINTS ATTORNEY GENERAL

Judge Stephen Six is governor’s choice

The Associated Press

TOPEKA — Gov. Kathleen Sebelius appointed Douglas County District Judge Stephen Six attorney general today to replace Paul Morrison, who’s leaving office because of a sex scandal.

Six, from Lawrence, specialized in civil litigation with a Kansas City-area law firm before Sebelius appointed him to the bench in January 2005. His father, Fred, is a retired Kansas Supreme Court justice.

In picking the 42-year-old Six, Sebelius passed over other candidates who were better-known politically or who had served as federal or local prosecutors. When he ran successfully for attorney general, Morrison stressed that he’d served almost three decades as a prosecutor in Johnson County.

Morrison plans to leave office Jan 31, having acknowledged in December that he’d had an extramarital affair with a former subordinate. She also accused him of professional misconduct, which he denies.

Six will fill the remaining three years of Morrison’s term and is expected to seek a full, four-year term in 2010. His new job also comes with a pay cut of nearly $22,000: the salary for a district court judge is $118,297.
compared to $96,489 for the attorney general.

Six received his law degree from the University of Kansas in 1993 and then served as a clerk for Judge Deanell Tacha of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The following year, he joined Shamberg, Johnson and Bergman. The firm specializes in lawsuits dealing with defective products, transportation accidents, medical malpractice, health care fraud and environmental issues.

His wife, Betsy, is a professor at the University of Kansas law school. He was an instructor as well in 2006.

Sebelius cited his experience as a litigator when she appointed him to fill a newly created judgeship in Douglas County.

In December, shortly after Morrison announced he would resign, Six said the idea of being appointed attorney general was "intriguing" but added, "I'm pleased where I am."

His father served on the Kansas Supreme Court from September 1988 until January 2003, having been appointed by Republican Gov. Mike Hayden after a lengthy private legal practice.

As other potential replacements for Morrison, Democrats had mentioned at least 15 other people. They included Securities Commission Chris Biggs, a former Geary County prosecutor, who narrowly lost the 2002 attorney general's race; two former U.S. attorneys for Kansas, Randy Rathbun and Jackie Williams, and District Attorneys Nola Foulston of Sedgwick County and Charles Branson of Douglas County.

Sebelius hoped the new attorney general she appointed would repair the damage caused by the sex scandal that forced Paul Morrison from the office.

Sebelius held a news conference late this morning to announce her choice.

The governor had refused to publicly discuss the names on her short list, but she said finding a strong candidate was important so Kansas could "move on" past the scandal engulfing Morrison. Also, Democrats had expected Sebelius to pick someone who committed to running for a full term in 2010, giving the party a better chance of retaining the office.

Several Democrats, including legislators, had said Thursday they expected Six to get the appointment. Some Democrats also have noted that judges undergo extensive background checks before being appointed.
Professor: Judge selection process flawed

Political bias:
Ware says system lacks accountability.

By RACHEL DAVIS
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Law and politics, voting in secret and the power of a few over many were discussed Thursday night at Lone Star Steakhouse and Saloon as part of a presentation by Stephen Ware, professor at the University of Kansas School of Law.

Ware, who wrote a paper analyzing state supreme court nominations and selections, said Kansas is the only state in which the bar association has the majority of control on nominating judges.

He said in the state, judges are nominated through the Kansas Supreme Court Nominating Commission, which is comprised of nine members. Of those members, four are appointed to the commission by the governor and five are elected to the commission through the Kansas Bar Association.

The association is a group of legal professionals and has more than 6,900 members, including lawyers, judges, law students, and paralegals.

Ware said he researched the nominations of supreme court judges in the last 20 years and found that nine of the 11 selected to the court were of the same political party as the governor who appointed them.

"Members of the commission elected by the Bar want the public to think the selection process is based on merit and not politics," he said. "If that's the case, then why were the nine appointed from the same party as the governor? That's very partisan."

Attempts to reach Jeffrey Alderman, executive director of the bar association and media contact, at his Topeka office were not successful this morning.

Ware said another problem with the selection process is loss of accountability among commissioners.

He said the commissioners take the pool of applicants and reduce the number to three finalists. The commissioners vote to determine who the finalists are, but do so in secret.

The secrecy gives commissioners free reign and zero accountability for the finalists they chose, Ware said. The finalists are submitted to the governor, who then chooses one to fill the vacancy.

Ware said throughout state history, a governor has never turned down all three finalists.

Harold Starr, a Garden City resident who attended the presentation, said instead of allowing the commissioners to choose nominees, the people should be given the choice to vote. If more people were better informed of the process, they might push for reforms.

Ware said reform options are available and of those options, senate confirmation has gained supporters in the Legislature.

Senate confirmation provides indirect popular control by allowing the governor to nominate and the Senate to confirm or deny the nomination.

He said through this process, voting to select a nominee would become public record and a system of checks and balances would be established.

Through a Senate confirmation system, the public has some input through elected representatives.

Garden City resident Jewell Murray, who also attended the presentation, said he agreed with Ware about reforming a system in which the bar association has too much power.

"People should have a say," Murray said.

Ware said in order for reform to occur, voters need to get involved.

He said voters should take their concerns to their elected representatives so they can push to have the system changed.
People for Institutional and Communal Harmony or "PINCH" will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, at the Sardis Missionary Baptist Church, 414 E. Second St. (corner of 2nd and Cedar) anyone interested in building community harmony, including those who completed the 2 day "Dismantling Racism" workshop.

The group is calling an extra meeting to work on final details for the Martin Luther King Parade and Program scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 19. One of the details concerns the costs of mileage and honorarium for our guest speaker, Dr. John Edgar Tidwell, Professor and head of the English Department of the University of Kansas.

Virgil Horn suggested .43 cents per mile from Lawrence (which is $130.00 for 302 miles round trip), plus the honorarium. We need to discuss the amount and how we will raise the total amount. Dr. Tidwell is an excellent speaker.

Please note the change of time to 4:30 p.m.

For more information contact Howard Bredesen 252-1813.
Academic Achievement

The university of Kansas chapter of Phi Kappa Phi honor society recently initiated 188 student members, including senior Blake Georgepaul Barrett, son of Gene and Kathryn Barrett of Hiawatha and a 2004 Hiawatha High School graduate.

Phi Kappa Phi is the nation’s oldest and largest all-discipline academic honor society, with chapters at about 300 colleges and universities in the United States, Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

At KU, the top 10 percent of seniors and the top 7.5 percent of second-semester juniors and the top 10 percent of graduate students are asked to join. The society’s primary objectives are to promote the pursuit of excellence in all fields of higher education and to recognize outstanding achievement by students, faculty and others by election to members.

He is the grandson of former Madison resident Mariel Barrett and the late Bob Barrett.
LAWRENCE — Sixty-eight students from 25 departments at The University of Kansas completed the Global Awareness Program during the summer and fall 2007 semesters.

The program recognizes students for studying abroad, taking courses with an international focus, learning foreign languages and being significantly involved in international co-curricular activities. All undergraduates are eligible to participate.

Among those was Morgan Rene Brickley of Peabody, who is a graduate of Newton High School.

"These students went beyond the call of duty, taking advantage of different ways in which an international experience can be achieved. It is hoped more students will follow suit," said Jane Irungu, program coordinator.
LAWRENCE — The Center for Service Learning at The University of Kansas recognized 50 students in 19 disciplines for completing certification in service learning during fall 2007. Students who completed the certification process this fall receive a designation on their transcripts and will be recognized in a ceremony in spring 2008. The notation will inform future employers and graduate and professional schools the students have dedicated significant time to classes and activities that foster civic engagement, community involvement and leadership.

Among those was Sarah Lynn McLeod of Peabody, a graduate of Peabody-Burns High School.
Four 2008 Donald M. Stewart Scholarships, in the amount of $3,000, are available to be awarded to people who have graduated from Abilene High School.

The annual scholarships are funded by a permanently endowed fund established by a grant from the Kansas Health Foundation at the University of Kansas.

Applicants need to be either attending, or planning to attend, KU in a health-related field, according to scholarship chairman Robert H. "Hank" Royer.

Applications are available at the Abilene High School guidance office, 1300 N. Buckeye, or the Royer and Royer law office, 101 1/2 N.W. Third, Abilene, KS 67410.

Completed applications must be returned by April 15, with recipients to be announced in May.
Lawrence: The names of more than 1,600 candidates for degrees for the Fall 2007 semester at the University of Kansas have been announced by the Office of Registrar.

Graduate and undergraduate degrees are conferred in December based on work completed during the Fall semester. Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many students graduating in the Fall or Summer terms will return for the traditional walk down the hill and into Memorial Stadium on Sunday, May 18, 2008.

Area students receiving degrees in December were Laura J. Wurtz, daughter of Raymond and Mary Jo Wurtz, in Accounting and Business Administrator, with a Bachelor of Science in Business/Accounting & Business Administrator; and Crystal Denise Lassen, Concordia, daughter of Sharon Lassen, Bachelor of Arts/English Award.