Shakespeare Play
To Be Perform In Andover
The Wichita Shakespeare Company will be presenting "The Adventures of Pericles, Prince of Tyre" at six performances across the Wichita metropolitan area.

All shows will be free to the public and will start at 7 p.m.
The play will be performed at the Andover 13th Street Sports Park Sunday, Sept. 14.
The following is a look at other performances:
Friday, Sept. 12, College Hill Park in Wichita; Saturday, Sept. 13 at Buffalo Park in Wichita; Friday, Sept. 19 and Saturday, Sept. 20 at College Hill Park in Wichita; and Sunday, Sept. 21 at High Park Amphitheater in Derby.
The performances have been sponsored by Wichita Parks and Recreation.
For more information, individuals should call, 316-655-2017.

Alltizer In NIH Science Programs
Thirty-one students from the University of Kansas and Haskell Indian Nations University interested in biomedical science careers were invited to attend a welcome reception hosted by KU Office of Diversity in Science Training.

Preston L. Alltizer, an Andover Central High School graduate, was participating in the program.
The reception took place Wednesday, Sept. 10, at the Kansas Room in the Kansas Union. Those attending were students and mentors who were participating in 2008-09 programs funded by the National Institutes of Health that encourage minority students to pursue careers in biomedical science by supporting undergraduate research activities.

The 31 students were new participants in one of the five NIH programs at KU and Haskell: Bridges to the Baccalaureate, Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity, Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award, Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program and Research Initiatives for Scientific Enhancement.

Current and former participants from the five programs were recognized by James Orr, director of the Office for Diversity in Science Training.
The goal of these programs is to provide educational and research opportunities for students who seek to attend graduate school and enter careers in biomedical research," Orr said. "We are pleased to partner with Haskell in providing support for KU and Haskell students in the sciences." 

Alltizer, a KU senior majoring in microbiology preparing to study medicine will be in the Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity. His mentor will be Kristi Neufeld, assistant professor of molecular biosciences. He is the son of Richard Alltizer, of Wichita.

Livestock Show Set For Sept. 19-22
Youth from across the state have entered 1,548 head of animals for the 76th annual Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS). A total of 766 4-H and FFA members from 90 counties will show 128 steers, 313 heifers, 425 hogs, 285 lambs, 35 ewes, 175 wether dams and 187 goats. The competition will take place Sept. 19-22 at the Kansas Coliseum in Wichita.

There will be a total of 18 exhibitors from Butler County at the show.

Staci Wait, of Benton, will show two market barrows. Trent Wilkerson, of Benton, will show an AOB breeding heifer and a market lamb.

Sydney Hatfield, of El Dorado, a Circle High School graduate, will show a market barrow. Haley, of El Dorado, a student in the Circle School District, will also show a market barrow.

Marion County will be sending 28 exhibitors to the show, the most of any county in the state.

When the competition has been completed, the top five steers, hogs and lambs, and the top two goats, will sell during the KJLS Auction of Champions, at 7 p.m., Sept. 22. The public will be welcomed and encouraged to support the event by bidding on livestock in the live auction. In many cases, exhibitors of the winning animals use the money earned from the auction to help fund their college education and buy next year's livestock projects.

Prior to the auction, KJLS will present a number of scholarships ranging from $750 to $2,500 to exhibitors who have excelled academically, in community service and in 4-H/FFA. A total of $226,000 in scholarships has been presented to 191 KJLS exhibitors since the program's inception in 1993. Last year, a total of $18,500 was awarded to 11 exhibitors.

Persons interested in contributing directly to the KJLS scholarship fund can call 316-733-2345.

"This youth event has a large number of faithful and very generous supporters, which we hope will continue to grow," KJLS President Mary Kane of Manhattan said. "It is a great way for businesses and individuals to reward young people for their hard work and help them meet their educational goals."

In addition to the selection of livestock species champions, a showmanship contest will reward the top exhibitors. Champion showmen in the junior and senior divisions of each species will receive sil-
The Kansas Junior Livestock Association will sponsor a club calf show and sale during the KJLS. Steer and heifer prospects from some of the top club calf producers in the Midwest will be consigned. The event will take place Sept. 20. A portion of the sales proceeds will go toward KJLA scholarships and educational activities.

KJLS has been been sponsored by the Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas State University and the Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce.

United Way Kicks Off Fundraising Campaign
United Way of the Plains kicked off its 2008 annual campaign Thursday, Sept. 4 to support the building blocks for a good life for all in Sedgwick and surrounding counties.

United Way officials noted that the organization has made an impact on the issues above by:

- Funding 94 programs at 37 agencies in the community;
- Forming partnerships with schools, government, nonprofits and companies;
- Helping people find services through United Way's 2-1-1 service (dialing 2-1-1 connects people to hundreds of local services-not limited to programs funded by United Way);
- Matching volunteers to needs through the United Way Volunteer Center; and
- Collecting and distributing in-kind gifts through the United Way Give Items of Value Program and more.

Results from companies that completed early Pacesetter campaigns this summer were announced: Allen, Gibbs and Houlik, L.C. raised $81,792; Andover Public Library raised $1,477; Family Medicine East raised $9,609; Hinkle Elkouri Law Firm I.l.c. raised $13,552; Jobbers Automotive Warehouse raised $8,538; Johnson Controls, Inc. raised $94,716; Life Care Center of Andover raised $3,458; MedicalLodges, Goddard raised $3,146; Nustar Energy, L.P. raised $57,570; Occidental Chemical Corporation raised $100,008; The Pepsi Bottling Group raised $31,808; The Sherwin-Williams Company raised $10,980; and Wichita Marriott raised $14,598.

The annual fundraising campaign will continue until Nov. 13 when final results will be announced at a report luncheon at Century II.
KU to honor 35 high school seniors

LAWRENCE — Students from 10 Kansas high schools will be honored Wednesday, Sept. 17, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 35 seniors from high schools in Sumner County will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at Wellington High School, 1700 E. 16th, in Wellington.

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 KU alumni staff members Heath Peterson, director of Kansas programs; and Michelle Miles, assistant director of Kansas programs.

David Johnston, director of marketing and Internet services for the alumni association, will speak to the students and their 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 $10 each.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Cathy Mitchell, David Carr and Colette Kocour, all of Wellington, will be the site and county coordinators.

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

Argonia High School seniors to be honored are: Mark Allen and Karissa Pankratz.

Conway Springs High School seniors are: Lauren Doffing, Allen Lange, Valerie Leddy, Cassandra Phillips, Angela Walker and Caroline Winter.
Community honors coach’s passing

BY KRISTIN BABCOCK
kbabcock@theolathenews.com

The scoreboards in the Gardner Edgerton High School gymnasium were set at 52-51 on Tuesday night — the final score of the 1996 4A state championship basketball game won by the GEHS basketball team. The winning score was a tribute to the coach that led the team to the victory, Don Bechard.

More than 1,000 people gathered for the “Coach Bechard Post Game Celebration of Life,” to pay tribute to the beloved GEHS teacher and coach who died on Sept. 5, following a two-year battle with sarcoma. Just months prior, the community gathered in the same building for a volleyball scrimmage to raise funds for Bechard’s medical fund. Community members were asked to donate $5 at the door. That night, $10,000 were raised to help the Bechard family, GEHS principal Tim Brady said.

“That was a neat night,” Brady said. “He said he wasn’t sure if he was going to stop by, he thought ‘nobody’s going to be over there.’ When he came over the place was packed. He was touched by the whole thing.”

Since Bechard was diagnosed with soft tissue cancer in December 2006, the Gardner community offered their support with fundraisers, food, visits and thousands of posts to the support Web site Caringbridge.

“What’s going on is we’re honoring Don and the Bechard family who are an integral part to our community,” Brady said. “They are so embedded in our community that part of our loss is how bad we feel for his wife and kids.”

Bechard was a social studies teacher and physical education teacher at GEHS in addition to being a coach. He served as both a basketball and volleyball coach. His wife, Jan is a teacher in Gardner, and they have three children.

Trickled throughout the gym Tuesday night were students, coworkers, athletes and community members dressed in...
A coach's chair was placed near the podium during a celebration of life service for former basketball and volleyball coach Don Bechard at Gardner-Edgerton High School Tuesday. Don Bechard died Sept. 5 after a two-year battle with sarcoma. Thousands attended the service which featured comments and stories from former players, family, assistant coaches and others. Bechard was 52.
GEHS Blazer blue. They wore t-shirts in support of Bechard and his family saying “We’ve got your back,” and “Our Hero Coach Bechard.”

A former basketball team manager of Bechard’s, Tony Dishman, spoke at the basketball-themed service. Dishman, now a student at the University of Kansas, said he knew faith would help the community get through the loss.

“He pretty much was the only thing in my life that was missing, a father figure,” Dishman said. It was Bechard’s “influence and spirit that gave me the inspiration” to succeed in his “dream of attending the University of Kansas.”

At the celebration, Don’s brother Rich Bechard said that Don called Dishman “the highlight of his professional career.”

“It wasn’t the state championships, it wasn’t the 500 plus volleyball wins, or 400 plus basketball wins,” Rich Bechard said. “Rather, it was watching a young boy develop and mature as a person that was most gratifying to

Don. Don saw value in a person far beyond what they eye could see. He knew small actions sometimes could make huge differences for kids.”

More than 100 people gathered the Tuesday before Don Bechard died to honor him as a GEHS Hall of Fame inductee. He was the third coach to be inducted at the school. Brady said Don Bechard was a “lock” to be an inductee, but the process was sped up so Bechard could be a part of the induction ceremony.

“We’re all going to miss him,” Brady said. “He had a way to connect with kids to make them feel special. He had a tough-love approach to coaching and kids respected him and prayed hard for him.”

As news broke at the school on Friday, counselors and staff were on hand to assist students and co-workers. They continued to be available throughout the week.

The Bechard family asked that memorials be made to the Don Bechard Memorial Scholarship Fund, to be awarded to future college students from Gardner Edgerton High School.
Chris Shaw, the point guard for 1996 state champion Gardner-Edgerton High School basketball team, talks about his former coach Don Bechard during a celebration of life service at the high school Tuesday. Bechard, 52, lost his two-year battle with cancer Sept. 5.
KU Receives $20.2M Federal Health Grant

By JOHN HANNA
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) -- University of Kansas researchers are joining a hunt for new, disease-fighting molecules through the largest federal research grant ever awarded in the state, officials said Monday.

The grant is worth $20.2 million over the next six years, and it's from the National Institutes of Health.

The university will become part of a network of nine institutions across the nation trying to create molecular "probes."

"This indicates that KU is competitive with universities around the country," Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said. "Good news on all fronts."

The University of Kansas will become part of a national team screening thousands of molecules to determine how they affect human biology — for example, by changing how cells act. The goal, officials said, is to identify molecules that show promise, then create more refined "probes."

Jeff Aube, the professor of medicinal chemistry who will lead the University of Kansas research team, compared the work to prospecting for gold, then turning nuggets into pieces of jewelry.

And Elias Zerhouni, director of the national institutes, said in a statement: "The information generated by this network will be important to developing a greater understanding of biology and its complexity, while hopefully discovering novel approaches to therapies and prevention, especially for rare or neglected diseases."

The university plans to establish a new Specialized Chemistry Center on its campus to produce the chemical probes. It also expects to buy new equipment and add 15 to 20 new positions because of the grant.

"It puts KU right in the middle of some of the most forward-thinking biomedical research in the country," Aube said.

The research also involves Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins University, Vanderbilt University and the University of New Mexico.

Previously, the largest federal research award in Kansas, also to the University of Kansas, was nearly $19 million, awarded in 2005 by the National Science Foundation.

That grant allowed the university to establish a center for studying the melting of polar ice caps and climate change and linked Kansas to NASA and 10 other universities.

"Research is fundamental to our academic mission," said Chancellor Robert Hemenway. "A national award of this magnitude confirms KU's ability to compete with the very best in the lab, the classroom and everywhere else."

Sebelius also saw winning the grant as part of the state's ongoing efforts to build a biosciences institute. The state formed the Kansas Bioscience Authority in 2004 to help nurture such efforts.

"There has been a concerted effort by the universities, with the help of the Kansas Bioscience Authority, to be more aggressive about getting research grants," Sebelius said.
State gets record revenue

Federal grant: More than $20 million to be aimed at health.

TOPEKA (AP)—University of Kansas researchers are joining a hunt for new, disease-fighting molecules through the largest federal research grant ever, awarded in the state, officials said Monday.

The grant is worth $20.2 million over the next six years, and it's from the National Institutes of Health. The university will become part of a network of nine institutions across the nation trying to create molecular “probes.”

“This indicates that KU is competitive with universities around the country,” Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said. “Good news on all fronts.”

The University of Kansas will become part of a national team screening thousands of molecules to determine how they affect human biology—for example, by changing how cells act. The goal, officials said, is to identify molecules that show promise, then create more refined “probes.”

Jeff Aube, the professor of medicinal chemistry who will lead the University of Kansas research team, compared the work to prospecting for gold, then turning nuggets into pieces of jewelry.

And Elias Zerhouni, director of the national institutes, said in a statement: “The information generated by this network will be important to developing a greater understanding of biology and its complexity, while hopefully discovering novel approaches to therapies and prevention, especially for rare or neglected diseases.”

The university plans to establish a new Specialized Chemistry Center on its campus to produce the chemical probes. It also expects to buy new equipment and add 15 to 20 new positions because of the grant.

“It puts KU right in the middle of some of the most forward-thinking biomedical research in the country,” Aube said.

The research also involves Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins University, Vanderbilt University and the University of New Mexico.

Previously, the largest federal research award in Kansas, also to the University of Kansas, was nearly $19 million, awarded in 2005 by the National Science Foundation.

That grant allowed the university to establish a center for studying the melting of polar ice caps and climate change and linked Kansas to NASA and 10 other universities.
Seventy student volunteers at the University of Kansas were honored recently for their service in the Student Ambassadors program during the 2007-2008 academic year.

"This is an outstanding group of students," said Summer Eglinski, a master's student in higher education administration from Lawrence and Student Ambassadors adviser. "They volunteer their time throughout the year in order to give tours to prospective students and guests who are visiting our campus. They are ambassadors in the truest sense of the word because they proudly represent the University of Kansas both on and off our campus and because they make the university proud by their excellent example, knowledge and citizenship."

Among those honored was Audrey Megan Allison, daughter of Carrie and Kevin Allison of Belpre, who is majoring in Speech-Language-Hearing.
Rice students honored by KU

LAWRENCE — Students from 15 Kansas high schools will be honored Sept. 24 by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

Seniors from Marion, McPherson and Rice County will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at the Holiday Manor Convention Center in McPherson.

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 KU Alumni Association representatives Danny Lewis, assistant director of alumni programs, and Stefani Gerson, student programs coordinator.

Aubrey Edwards of Sterling is the community volunteer for Rice County.

Honorees from Rice County include Anna Malone and Lina Malone from Chase High; Danielle Dougherty and Jessica Gadberry of Little River High; Merideth Cline, Makenzie Kirkhart, Jennifer Lecklider and Vance Stegman from Lyons High; Will Habiger and Katharine Phelan from Quivira Heights High; and Bailey Burgess, Christian Eckert, Jamie Gellerman, Samuel Leake and Jordan Robson from Sterling High.
Recently, in going through boxes that have been moved from one home to another without being opened, I made a discovery. Hidden beneath some clothing was a jewelry box with forgotten jewelry and my high school class ring, a memento of more than 55 years ago. In the same box of clothing was a small blue plaid wool blanket with a yellow duck embossed upon it — my baby blanket of more than 70 years ago. My discovery doesn’t have much meaning to anyone but me, but to me these keepsakes have some significance.

Jesus told a parable about a much more meaningful discovery. He compared the kingdom of heaven to a treasure hidden in a field which someone discovered. This treasure was of so much worth to that person that he sold all he had so he could buy that field. Again, Jesus compared the kingdom of heaven to a merchant finding a pearl of great value. He sold all he had to buy that pearl.

Jesus said, in the sermon on the mount that rather than storing up treasures on earth, we are to store up treasures in heaven, where rust does not consume and where thieves do not break in and steal. The spiritual treasures we receive from God are of much more worth than the things that we cherish. They are treasures to share and when we share, we yet have much more than enough.

When, by the power of the holy spirit, individuals begin to discover the difference that being in a relationship with Jesus Christ can make, lives are changed. We can appreciate our things, some of which have special meanings to us, but our greatest treasures are heavenly things and, especially, Jesus Christ himself, he loved us and gave his life for us, asking us to accept him as lord and savior.

Helen Lemmel describes what this discovery can mean in these words: Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.
KU to honor area high school seniors

Students from 15 Kansas high schools will be honored Wednesday, Sept. 24, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 74 seniors from high schools in Marion, McPherson and Rice counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at the Holiday Manor Convention Center in McPherson.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by KU Alumni Association representatives Danny Lewis, assistant director of alumni programs, and Stefani Gerson, student programs coordinator.

A KU official will speak to the students and their 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.

Mary Kornhaus, McPherson, is the site coordinator. The county coordinator for McPherson County is Lawrence Chaney of McPherson County.

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

Honorees from McPherson County are:
- Canton-Galva High School: Kaitlyn Bressie, Kaitlin Dailey and Tyler Wedel.
- Inman Jr./Sr. High School: Toby Flaming, Nathan Isom, Scott Morrow and Seth Tolle.
- Little River High School: Danielle Dougherty and Jessica Gadberry.
- McPherson High School: Amber Anderson, Stacy Blagg, Carolyn Bruns, Kristine Clark, Margaret Davidson, Jamie Frye, Chantalle Hanischu, Gavin Harvey, Hanna Heidebrecht, Kathleen House, Courtney Huber, Aaron Koehn, John Krehbiel, Joseph Martin, Jamie McVicker, Alena Morrow, Ryan Morse, Kaci Norman, Kristen Reith, Clarissa Sents, Taylor Stevens, Natasha Orpin, Sabrina Reynolds, Natalie Stucky and Katie Vogts.
- Smoky Valley High School: Lars Berggren, Nickolas Carlson, Brandon Carlson, Sarah Gross, Ashley McGinnis, Cooper Nickel, Maggie Pihl and Eric Swenson.

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.
Retiring the robe

By FAYE MILLER
globe@npco.com

He enters the courtroom in the traditional black robe and everyone rises. The young woman facing the judge seems uneasy. Divorce is never easy. But when he addresses her with his shy smile and notable soft voice, there is a sigh of relief.

Another day, another docket.

After 17 years as a District Court Judge, Phil Lacey will retire Wednesday, Oct. 1, from the First Judicial District, having served both Atchison and Leavenworth counties.

“I’m looking forward to a career change,” he said recently, sitting comfortably in a juror chair. “I’m going to do some traveling, spend more time with the grandkids and work on a 40-year honey-do list.”

Before being appointed a judge in 1991, Judge Lacey practiced law locally beginning in 1970, shortly after finishing law school at the University of Kansas, an experience he called “sheer torture.”

“In college, you have to study, but I didn’t find it too difficult,” he said, adding that his major involved beer drinking and staying in school.

“But law school involves so much re-reading and study”

He shook his head. Becoming an attorney was something he thought about much before his time in the Marine Corps. After serving as an artillery officer in Vietnam and making the rank of captain, he was asked to serve in a lawyer-like capacity for other military personnel.

“Sometimes you were defending them, and sometimes you were prosecuting them, for offenses like being AWOL (absent without official leave.) I thought the work was kind of interesting,” he said.

It was interesting enough to apply and enter law school at KU, during which time he married his wife, Nancy, and they had their first child, Tricia.

After passing the bar, he considered a position with a firm in Wakeeny, but the western Kansas winds blew the idea right off the bargaining table for Nancy. So they chose to come east and settled in with the firm with Steadman Hall, Maurice P. O’Keefe Sr. and Bucky O’Keefe.

“In those days, that is what you did — went to work for established attorneys. They can help you with case examples you might not be familiar with, or statutes you might not remember.”

Judge Lacey says rural and small town lawyers have the opportunity to practice so many different kinds of law and rarely specialize.

“I have worked with some excellent attorneys in this community,” he said.

It is that wide experience and exposure to a variety of types of law that makes good judges, he explained, adding that making that transition from attorney to judge can be difficult.

“When you are someone’s attorney, you are paid to get people out of trouble and ask the questions,” he said. “It’s more of a challenge.”

As a judge, he explained, it is amazing the things you learn.

“This work is sometimes like being in a soap opera,” he said. “I think I have heard just about every combination of circumstances. When you think you’ve heard it all, the next week something new comes through.”

And the worst feature?

“The awful things people will say to each other, especially when there is a child present,” he said.

Dave Farris, a long-time professional and personal friend, said the judge is particularly good with juvenile and family cases.

“Juvenile courts are tough stuff, and he is very personable. He talks to people and talks to parents about the effects of the divorce on the children,” Mr. Farris said.

“He’s prompt and decisive from the bench and is always very courteous to the lawyers.”

His ability to listen and respond to people in need from the bench is a hallmark of his service to the district.

Judy Kidwell, Judge Lacey’s administrative assistant for the past seven years, described him as a teacher.

“He tries to help people
Please see RETIRING/Page 8
Judge Phil Lacey will retire Wednesday, Oct. 1 from his position as First Judicial District Court judge.

Retiring
Continued from PAGE 7

and really cares about them,” she said. “I always learn things because he knows a little bit about everything, but he’ll ask question if he needs to.”

Brad Sherffius, a 28-year court reporter, said he was going to miss Judge Lacey.

“He’s almost like a brother to me,” Mr. Sherffius said. “He always has time or took the time when I had a concern. He makes time for people.”

Judge Lacey stated unequivocally that it is the people that he serves.

“They are the ones I am truly responsible to,” he explained. “And while the times might change, people don’t.”

During his lifetime, times have changed quite a bit for Judge Lacey. His father was a laborer and foreman in oil fields, so moving was part of life. He rattled off schools he attended in four states and said by the time he was 13, he was doing some kind of work for pay.

“I worked in the oil fields as soon as I was heavier than the iron I had to lift or move,” he chuckled.

After college, he went right into the Marines and served the country for five years. There was no break between the service and law school, so he’s been no stranger to hard physical work and mental challenges.

But the law, he explained, has required daily study.

“I had a roommate in service that was a helicopter pilot,” he said. “He put in a lot of hours and he explained that you have to do it every day to be proficient. It’s the same with law. You have to be following it every day.”

Reading for pleasure is something he hasn’t had much time for these past 40 years, and he added, “I always feel guilty if I’m sitting on my duff.”

Mentors for Judge
Lacey included a bankruptcy judge who had incredible patience and good sense of humor, Atchison County Judge J.W. Lowry, for his extensive knowledge of the law, and Dick Dempster for his people skills.

It’s those combinations of characteristics Judge Lacey has worked to emulate these past 17 years.

“One of the toughest parts of the job is to realize you are not here to please the public. You’ve got to do the job and develop a tough skin,” he said.

There will be a public reception for Judge Lacey from 3-5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25, at the County Courthouse.
University of Kansas receives $20.2M federal grant

John Hanna
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — University of Kansas researchers are joining a hunt for new, disease-fighting molecules through the largest federal research grant ever awarded in the state, officials said Monday. The grant is worth $20.2 million over the next six years, and it’s from the National Institutes of Health. The university will become part of a network of nine institutions across the nation trying to create molecular “probes.”

“This indicates that KU is competitive with universities around the country,” Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said.

The University of Kansas will become part of a national team screening thousands of molecules to determine how they affect human biology — for example, by changing how cells act. The goal, officials said, is to identify molecules that show promise, then create more refined “probes.”

Jeff Aube, the professor of medicinal chemistry who will lead the University of Kansas research team, compared the work to prospecting for gold, then turning nuggets into pieces of jewelry.

And Elias Zerhouni, director of the national institutes, said in a statement: “The information generated by this network will be important to developing a greater understanding of biology and its complexity, while hopefully discovering novel approaches to therapies and prevention, especially for rare or neglected diseases.”

The university plans to establish a new Specialized Chemistry Center on its campus to produce the chemical probes. It also expects to buy new equipment and add 15 to 20 new positions because of the grant.

“It puts KU right in the middle of some of the most forward-thinking biomedical research in the country,” Aube said.

The research also involves Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins University, Vanderbilt University and the University of New Mexico. Previously, the largest federal research award in Kansas, also to the University of Kansas, was nearly $19 million, awarded in 2005 by the National Science Foundation. That grant allowed the university to establish a center for studying the melting of polar ice caps and climate change and linked Kansas to NASA and 10 other universities.

“Research is fundamental to our academic mission,” said Chancellor Robert Hemenway. “A national award of this magnitude confirms KU’s ability to compete with the very best in the lab, the classroom and everywhere else.”

Sebelius also saw winning the grant as part of the state’s ongoing efforts to build a biosciences institute. The state formed the Kansas Bioscience Authority in 2004 to help nurture such efforts.