Governor signs Kansas budget

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Shank said the flexibility in using the federal funds means a tuition freeze still is possible. Last month, the board suggested freezing tuition for the next academic year if its budget weren't cut more than 7 percent and if it could use some of the federal funds. With Monday's veto, both conditions have been met.

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alone, the state had expected to collect $427 million in taxes but received about $374 million.

"Based on what we heard for March, it's a harbinger on the consensus revenue estimates Friday which means we will have to relook at what we do for 2010, no doubt about it," said Senate Ways and Means Chairman Jay Emel, a Lindsborg Republican.

Emel said about two-thirds of the $5.8 billion state general fund budget is off-limits because further cuts could endanger the state's expected $400 million in federal funds. He said that includes public and higher education and mandated payments for social services caseloads. The remainder of the budget comes from federal and other funds.

"If you can't do anything with that, then it is going to be absolutely devastating for everything else," Emel said.

The Democratic governor criticized the Republican-led Legislature for not accepting more of her proposed budget which she said had more in savings. She said there's still some uncertainty about the minimum threshold in funding that the state must maintain to access the stimulus money.

"I encourage the Legislature to reconsider the revenue enhancements they have chosen to ignore, before further slashing education and other vital state services," she said.

Democrats advocate freezing estate and corporate franchise taxes at current levels, rather than phasing them out by 2011, as previously planned. They also say legislators should consider "decoupling" Kansas from the federal tax code to boost revenues. Because the Kansas and federal codes are tied, state revenues fluctuate as the federal tax code changes.

The stimulus package included tax breaks, and state officials estimate those breaks will cost Kansas almost $66 million during the next fiscal year.

Last week, House Minority Leader Paul Davis, a Lawrence Democrat, said legislators will have to consider tax proposals to boost state revenues.

Sebelius also blocked funding for the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corp., recommending that the agency be closed and some of its functions transferred to the Department of Commerce.

"KTEC, under its current organization and operation, has struggled to produce a solid return on our investment in recent years," she said.
KU pianist to perform Tuesday

FSCC PUBLIC RELATIONS RELEASE

The Fort Scott Community College Music Department will present a concert featuring Nathanael May, University of Kansas pianist, at 7 p.m. Tuesday night at the First Presbyterian Church, 308 S. Crawford. A reception will follow.

Nathanael May is a pianist with a penchant for new music, whose performances composers have heralded as “first-rate, dynamic, and refreshing.” To date, he has given the premiere of over two dozen works featuring the piano in solo and various chamber settings by established and emerging composers.

May has performed concerts abroad, presenting programs of the 20th century music for the piano in Europe and the Near East. Appearances in 2009 include recitals in San Francisco at University of California-Berkeley’s Center for New Music and Audio Technologies.

Mansfield University’s Keyed up for Winter series in Pennsylvania, and Bisbee Arizona’s For the Love of Music program, including more than a dozen performances at universities and colleges throughout the state of Kansas. His performances have been broadcast on National Public Radio affiliates around the United States, from Buffalo to Hawaii. May is also in frequent demand as a recording artist, and his recent collaboration with composer Brian Hulse can be found on CD with Albany Records.

In 2005, May founded the Cortona Contemporary Music Festival (in Tuscany, Italy) with the intent of providing international exposure and training for young artists. Now known as SCAPE, the festival unites composers and musicians from around the world in the performance of new music. Each summer, the festival hosts 40 participants for two See KU on page 3.

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weeks in Northern Italy, featuring workshops, master classes, and private lessons with an internationally renowned faculty.

May will complete the DMA in piano performance at the University of Kansas in May of 2009, where he has studied with professor Jack Winerock. He holds additional degrees from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. May will be joining the faculty of Missouri Western State University in August 2009, as an Assistant Professor of Piano and Pedagogy.

May’s appearance is made possible in part by the Department of Music and Dance, and the School of Fine Arts at the University of Kansas.
Hughes nominated for KU Med’s Rainbow Award

Special to The Sentinel

Dr. Tyler Hughes, general surgeon at Memorial Hospital, was recently nominated for the KU School of Medicine and KU Medical Center Rainbow Award. Memorial Hospital is the designated site in the South Central Region for the KU Medical Education Network. Hughes works with KU medical students, teaching and mentoring them as they work through their rural rotation in McPherson.

According to the KU School of Medicine Web site, “The Rainbow Award was established in 1998-1999 by the Medical Student Assembly in conjunction with the Dean of the School of Medicine to honor those heroes in medicine. This prestigious award acknowledges the KUMC physicians and community preceptors who display outstanding attributes of professionalism and excellence in medicine, while imparting these characteristics to their students.”

Hughes attended the recent award ceremony and considers it an honor to even be considered for this award. “The awards ceremony was amazing,” he said. “My fellow nominees were physicians that were impressive in every aspect of their careers. That I was included in this group is a major highlight of my medical career. The presenter stated that just to be nominated was among the highest of honors the Kansas University School of Medicine confers on a physician. To say that I was delighted to be so recognized by our state’s medical school would be a vast understatement.”

Medical students annually nominate those physicians who have had a significant impact on their educational experience and have exemplified excellence in the practice of medicine. Rainbow Award nominees are specifically recognized for possessing the attributes of altruism, accountability, excellence, duty, service, honor, integrity and respect for patients, staff and students.

While the award ultimately went to another nominee, Hughes considers the nomination a personal and professional honor and credits others for the success of the KU medical site in McPherson. “While this is a great personal achievement, it represents the kind of dedication that the McPherson medical community has toward teaching and excellence. Without the vision of Dr. Greg Thomas, who has worked tirelessly to make Memorial Hospital an extension of the medical school, I would have never had the opportunity to teach so many fine medical students. This honor is a wonderful mark of distinction for the entire McPherson medical community.”

Hughes
Power and religion are not compatible

Over the past couple of weeks, Lori Schultz, a regular columnist for this newspaper, has penned two columns which together present arguments that are flawed and sorely mistaken.

In her column “Jesus Banned from Graduation” (3/30/09), Shultz comments on the case of Erica Corder, a 2006 high school valedictorian who at her graduation ceremony chose not to deliver her prepared speech but instead gave a testimony about her faith in Jesus Christ. She was consequently denied her diploma by school officials until she agreed to release an apology in which she declared “I realize that, had I asked ahead of time, I would not have been allowed to say what I did.”

I honestly do not know what the right decision should be in this case, but Ms. Schultz wrote that, “She (Corder) discovered that many Americans don’t believe in free speech and a free exercise of religion.”

In her column, Ms. Schultz quoted Steve Crampton, the attorney representing Corder. Part of that quote reads as follows: “Forcing Erica to write an apology with which she did not agree is something you might expect in a totalitarian regime, but not in a free republic.”

This is a legitimate and respectable viewpoint and one Ms. Schultz is free to quote in defense of her point, but in her column “Traveling Down a Road of Moral Decline” (4/4/09) she mourns the loss of a culture that I believe has the potential to display characteristics of a totalitarian society.

“We were once a culture of decent, clean television. Married couples were never seen in bed. Profanity was never used. Sinful subjects were taboo. Now our youth and adults thrive on sexual scenes, homosexual relationships and mothers who knew how to wash a dirty mouth with soap,” Schultz wrote.

People have sex. People curse. People drink, smoke, gamble, steal and murder. It’s reality. Art should be a mirror reflecting back on us, showing us who we are. It should allow us to examine ourselves in all our dignity and dark imperfections.

When the primary purpose of art becomes the perpetuation of an economic, political or moral ideal, however, dangerous things begin to happen.

In her “Moral Decline” column, Ms. Schultz states that many of America’s problems “started and persist because of our moral decay.” In the column, she writes about issues which she believes are problems caused by this decay.

While doing so, she makes the following assertion: “Americans have come to expect food stamps, Medicaid, WIC, and thousands of similar programs that comprise nearly two-thirds of the federal budget.”

This is true. But it seems odd that Ms. Schultz is arguing that our moral decline has resulted in the popularity of government programs that actively help people.

Most people are familiar with food stamps and Medicaid, but some people may not be familiar with WIC, the other program mentioned. WIC stands for Women, Infants, Children. The WIC program provides supplemental nutritious foods, health care referrals as well as nutrition education.

The program specifically targets women who are low-income and whose children or themselves may be nutritionally at-risk.

I simply don’t understand how a program that helps low-income pregnant women, new mothers and their children could be connected in any way to moral decline.

Ms. Schultz argues in her “Moral Decline” column that America and Christianity were once bonded together. She makes this argument, in part, by stating that most of our founding documents mention “our God.”

However, in the 85 Federalist Papers written in support of the ratification of the Constitution, the word “God” only appears once.

And finally, The Treaty of Tripoli, ratified in 1797, explicitly states in Article II, “As the Government of the United States of America is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion…”

The treaty was ratified by a unanimous vote in the Senate.

The most sweeping claim Ms. Shultz makes, though, comes when she writes, “We were once a country of great faith, strong values and leaders of the stature of heroes.”

Maybe I’m just ignorant of when exactly we were a country of great faith, strong values and leaders like heroes.

Was it when the “design of Providence” was invoked to justify the displacement of hun-
hundreds of thousands of Native Americans and the killing of many others? Was it when millions were legally enslaved and an entire economy was built upon their labor? Was it when a hundred thousand Japanese Americans were forced into internment camps during World War II? Was it when women were denied the right to vote until 1920? Was it when Alabama governor George Wallace infamously declared “segregation forever” in 1963? Was it when Richard Nixon conspired to cover-up the Watergate break-in?

The point isn’t that we are a horrible nation. The point is that there was never a golden time of moral leadership or behavior in this country. The history of this country time and time again shows that when people of faith collude with people in power awful things happen.

The strength of weakness that Jesus taught and lived is fundamentally incompatible with the power of might that all nations, and this country, practice.

Which is why, ultimately, Ms. Schultz is mistaken.

Jonathan Shorman, a McPherson native, is a freshman at The University of Kansas where he writes as a columnist for The University Daily Kansan, the student newspaper.
Governer signs off on $13 billion state budget

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"I encourage the Legislature to reconsider the revenue enhancements they have chosen to ignore, before further slashing education and other vital state services," she said.
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama’s health secretary nominee got nearly three times as much political money from a controversial abortion doctor as she told senators.

The Health and Human Services Department said Monday that the omission was an oversight that Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius would correct.

In a response to questions from the Senate Finance Committee made public last week, Sebelius wrote that she received $12,450 between 1994-2001 from Dr. George Tiller, one of the nation’s few late-term abortion providers.

But in addition to these campaign donations, records reviewed by the Associated Press show that Tiller gave at least $23,000 more from 2000-2002 to a political action committee Sebelius established while insurance commissioner to raise money for fellow Democrats.

Sebelius did not tell senators about that additional money, although Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., asked specifically about any Tiller donations to her PAC.

“There was an oversight in the initial answer provided to the committee,” HHS spokesman Nick Papas said Monday. “Obviously donations to the PAC are a matter of public record. The governor is updating the answer to this question and will resubmit it to the committee.”

It was the second time in her confirmation process that Sebelius had to explain a financial oversight to the Finance Committee. Earlier, she corrected three years’ worth of tax returns and paid more than $7,000 in back taxes to fix improper deductions.

Anti-abortion groups have sought to make an issue of Sebelius’ pro-abortion stance and her ties to Tiller, who was acquitted last month of misdemeanor charges stemming from procedures he performed but is now under investigation by the state medical board.

Opponents have criticized Republicans on the Finance Committee for not asking Sebelius about Tiller or abortion when they appeared for her confirmation hearing April 2. Senators raised the issue only in written questions submitted to Sebelius after her hearing, which were released last Thursday along with her responses.
Alcohol policy

Student's death raises questions.

University of Kansas officials deserve credit for trying to address two difficult issues related to the recent death of a 19-year-old student.

Jason Wren, a KU freshman, was found dead in his fraternity house last month after a night of heavy drinking. His parents have confirmed that his death was alcohol-related and have criticized the university for not communicating with them about their son's drinking problems, which led to his dismissal from a KU residence hall after the fall semester.

These are two difficult problems. What can parents, friends, a university or society as a whole do to try to reduce dangerous alcohol consumption by young adults? Lowering the drinking age hasn't helped.

Raising it would be an interesting, but perhaps dangerous, experiment. ...

The role of universities in supplying parent-like supervision of students' alcohol consumption and most other aspects of their lives has changed significantly in the last several decades. To respect students' status as adults able to handle their own affairs, universities largely have

Should colleges and universities communicate with parents when they discover a student has a drinking problem? Talk about it at swtalk.com/forum.

dropped their parental role. ...

Unfortunately, as a result, when something happens that parents should know about, they may remain in the dark because of university policies against releasing information to parents. It's difficult for a university to know where to draw those lines of communication.

Universities can't monitor students on a day-to-day basis and have legal restrictions on providing information, but they have the option to communicate with parents concerning the health and safety of their children without the student's written consent. ...

There are no easy answers, but it's good that Wren's death has raised the questions. Irresponsible consumption of alcohol by young people isn't something universities alone can solve, but perhaps new lines of communication can be drawn to allow parents to get involved and avoid similar tragedies in the future. It's at least worth a look.

— Lawrence Journal-World
14 are designated KU Honor Scholars

Students from five area high schools will be honored on Wed., April 15, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

Fourteen seniors from Scott, Lane, Wichita and Greeley counties, who have been designated Kansas Honor Scholars, will be recognized for their academic achievement at The Majestic Theater, Scott City. The dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

The honors program recognizes students who rank in the top 10 percent of their class.

Guest speaker will be William Crowe, special assistant to the KU dean of libraries.

Honored students will be guests of the alumni association and KU Endowment. Parents and area alumni are welcome to attend at a cost of $15 each.

Kristi Schmitt (872-3410), Scott City, is the community volunteer accepting reservations for those attending from Scott, Lane and Wichita counties.

Senior honorees from each high school are:

**Dighton:** Helena Harmison, Michelle Lawrence and Micah Roehl.

**Healy:** Kayla Grafel.

**Leoti:** Trinity Graff, Sarah Smith and Trenton Wilke.

**Tribune:** Jasmine Dixon and Brian Hampel.

**Scott City:** Jennifer Graham, Brinlee Griffith, Chaston Hoeme, Amber Kuckelman and Margo Sattler.
Summer camp means more than just Kumbaya

BY ESTUARDO GARCIA
EGARCIA@THEWORLD.CO.INFO

Summer is just around the corner, and soon area students will find themselves out of school with nothing to do.

But along with those long summer days comes the time-honored tradition of summer camp.

DD Gass, public relations chair for the American Camp Association’s Great Rivers office, said there was a national movement to get kids outside.

“One of the big benefits of the camp experience is being able to have a child be outside in the summer, being able to experience nature,” Gass said. “They get to learn about the importance of their environment and also about socialization skills, like working with others in their age group, while being able to do fun camp activities. Overall camp is fun. But what they take from it is that lifelong lesson that I made really good friends.”

But there are many things to keep in mind when choosing a camp, including what type of camp, the cost of the camp and where it is located.

Gass said good communication between children and parents would ensure they choose the right camp.

“One of the first things to do is to talk to children to make what they want out of the camp experience,” Gass said.

Gass said parents also needed to take into consideration the child’s age and what their experience has been like outside the home. She said for younger children who had never spent a night away from home, it might be good to start with a day camp.

To help make sure that parents and children find what they are looking for this summer, and to help the child have a positive experience, the AMA has set up a Web site, campparents.org, to help guide parents through the decision-making process and to help them make sure their children are ready for camp. It also provides advice to parents on different topics, including homesickness.

Gass said that when you find the right camp, it is important to get more information on the camp, talk to the director or even make a visit to make sure it is the right choice.

While thoughts of summer camp may revolve around the great outdoors, there are several different options that give the children a different experience by focusing on other activities.

This summer Kansas University will play host to several summer camps that will focus on various sports as well as a variety of other interests like math, music, writing and youth development. The university even has adult workshops in science fiction writing available.

More information on cost and the duration of the camps is available at camps.ku.edu/index.shtml.

There is also a week-long day camp that is geared toward future inventors.

The National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation has teamed up with schools across the country to offer Camp Invention, which teaches elementary school children about solving problems creatively while using science, math and technology.

“It’s learning disguised as fun,” said Michele Millikan, regional coordinator for Camp Invention. “The kids are learning about different things in science without really knowing it.”

Millikan said there was a new module this year in which kids talked about superhero powers, but were really discussing things like Newton’s laws of motion and other principles in physics.

This year the camp will be on July 27-31 at the Kansas City Kansas Community College location in Leavenworth. The camp will also be July 20-24 at Kansas City Kansas Community College in Kansas City, Kan., June 1-5 at the Eudora Middle School in Eudora and June 1-5 at Mize Elementary School in Shawnee. More information and registration can be found at campinvention.org.

Beth Hecht, 4-H youth development agent in Leavenworth County, said there were several options for campers in 4-H who were interested in the organization.

There is a 24-hour camp for 7- to 9-year-olds at Camp Mt. Hermon in Tonganoxie. For older kids, there is a four-day and three-night camping adventure at the Rock Springs 4-H Center in Junction City. The 4-Hers also will have a photography camp from June 24-27 for 13- to 16-year-olds at the Rock Springs 4-H Center.

On June 25 and 26, the 4-H group will be trying something new and having an Operation Military Kids Day Camp. Hecht said the goal of the camp was to help families who had a loved one serving in the military overseas.

“This gives the parents at home a chance to have a day for themselves. Meanwhile the kids get to have a good time and join in on some fun activities,” Hecht said. “It’s just another way of supporting our military families.”

For more information on the 4-H camps, contact the county extension office at (913) 250-2300.

The price range can vary as widely as the camps themselves, with fees ranging from $10 to thousands of dollars.

Amanda Waters, divisional director of community relations for the Salvation Army, Kansas and Western Missouri, said
one of the organization’s longest serving missions was to provide the camping experience for youths.

The organization offers several camps, which cost between $10-$25 per child for three to six days. The camps are held at Three Trails Camp and Retreat Center in Kansas City, Mo.

Some of the Salvation Army’s camps this year include a music camp, a sports camp and Christian-oriented camps for children of all ages, as well as camps for children of prison inmates and camps for low-income families.

The cost to attend Camp Invention is $185 - $208; $20 for the 4-H Junior Campout and $125 for the 4-H County Camp; and $150 for the 4-H Photo Adventure Camp. The camps at Kansas University have varying cost depending on the camp.

Gass said it was important not to get discouraged by the price of camps because some of them have scholarships available for campers. But with the slow economy, there may be more competition for the money.
University of Kansas to look at student privacy

LAWRENCE (AP) — The University of Kansas plans to review its policies prohibiting the release of student information to parents.

Marlesa Roney, vice provost for student success at the university, says the office has formed a panel to get input from students. This comes after the alcohol-related death of 19-year-old Jason Wren of Littleton, Colo., about two weeks after he had been kicked out of a university residence hall for repeated alcohol infractions.

His father, Jay Wren, says university housing officials would not tell him the policies his son had violated. They cited the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Wren said he would have made his son leave school if he had an alcohol problem. Jason Wren was found dead March 8 at fraternity house in Lawrence.
Death of student makes colleges rethink policies on information

The University of Kansas is looking at changing its policy having to do with information it gives families concerning their students on campus. It is safe to describe that information as "not much."

The recent death of a student from Littleton, Co., has brought the matter to college officials' attention. Alcohol was a factor in his death. Parents of the student said they had tried to get information from KU housing officials about him, and that they would have taken him out of school had they known he had a drinking problem.

Early in the 1970's KU adopted a strict policy protecting students' privacy. There are many instances where such a policy could be a good thing. But parents are pretty familiar with their own students. Knowing their strengths and, especially, their weaknesses, it is not surprising they may be concerned when their offspring are turned loose on the world for the first time. Whether it is alcohol, or a low tolerance for studying, parents worry. They should be able to get information from their student's school about grades or dangerous behavior before they have a drop-out, or in this case, a child's death.

Speaking from the experience, i.e. snide remarks from a professor about a student not coming regularly to class, we said that if we had been receiving grades, we would have known he was goofing off. Due to the university's privacy information policy, they couldn't send parents a student's grades. But you certainly can send the tuition payment notices, we said. Why is that?

After that, we got grades.

Parents have the right to know what can negatively affect their children's lives and their futures. It is in the best interest of the students, even though they may not think so at the time. Students and their families will be better served if KU amend their policy.