High School to induct two into Hall of Fame

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Bonner Springs High School once again will be inducting two Bonner Springs community members into its Hall of Fame.

On Feb. 3, John Harrington and Louisa Fletcher will join nine other Bonner Springs High School alumni who have been given the same honor.

"It's a very prestigious award," said BSHS principal Jerry Abbott. "We want to remember those people who have gone before us."

The Hall of Fame, which was started in 2006 with five inductees, is showcased in the Bonner Springs YMCA. Abbott said for a person to be chosen for the award, they must meet three criteria: They must be a BSHS alumnus, they must have made a significant contribution to their profession or community and they must have been a student in good standing.

John Harrington was a 1957 graduate of the high school. His family has owned Alden-Harrington Funeral Home for 100 years.

In addition to being involved in the family business since a young age, he has been involved in several community service organizations. He was a member of the JayCees in the 60s, is a past board member of the Chamber of Commerce and is still an active member of the Bonner Springs Lions Club.

One interesting part of Harrington’s life came in the 70s when Kansas established an eye bank, and he became one of the first licensed embalmers to harvest corneal material. He was a certified eye enucleator, which is a volunteer licensed to remove eyes for corneal transplant. He is also a member of the Eye Enucleator Association.

Harrington was the third generation to run the family business that provided the ambulance service for Bonner Springs until June 1974, and he is now joined by the fourth generation, his sons Jeff and Brad Harrington.

The second 2009 inductee is Louisa Fletcher, a 1937 graduate of BSHS. Fletcher was an integral part of the founding of the Bonner Springs NAACP and went on to be involved on the state and national level. She was elected the first woman president of the state NAACP National Board of
High school to recognize notable alumni

Directors in 1974 and also served as one of six national vice presidents.

In 1956, Fletcher participated in a lawsuit to integrate the elementary schools in Bonner Springs. The lawsuit was won and the elementary schools became integrated in 1957.

In 1977, Gov. Robert Bennett appointed her to the Kansas Public Employees Relation Board, where she accompanied a 23-person Labor Management People-to-People delegation to China, the Soviet Union and Finland.

She was recently honored when the former Lincoln School and head start building was named the Louisa Fletcher Learning Center.

The 2008 inductees were Pat Sheley and Melissa Chandley.

Sheley was a 1957 BSHS graduate and a teacher for 38 years, which included 31 years in Bonner Springs. She was a charter member of the Bonner Springs Historic and Preservation Society and helped plan the first American Cancer Walk for Life.

Chandley was a 2000 BSHS graduate who died on June 15, 2007, at the age of 25. She graduated from BSHS as valedictorian and attended Kansas University, where she graduated with a degree in elementary education. She became a third-grade teacher at Prairie Ridge Elementary in De Soto.
New State Representative Offers Info

Pat Maloney was recently appointed by Democrats to fill the unexpired term of Dennis McKinney, longtime District 116 Representative who became Kansas State Treasurer. The 116th includes Harper. Maloney wrote the following:

As Dennis McKinney’s replacement for the 116th District, I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve as your representative in Topeka. I would like to provide a brief synopsis of my background for those of you who are not familiar with me. I am a fourth-generation farmer/rancher in the southern part of Kansas. My son has formed a partnership with me, becoming the fifth generation of the Maloney family in this business. My roots in this area run deep, as you can see. I am a product of all that this area represents, and I am proud of my heritage. I am committed to my business, my family, my community, my church and many, many friends and acquaintances with which I have had contact in both the past and the present.

I look forward to enlarging that circle of those whom I know. I graduated from Kansas University with degrees in education and business and prior to farming and ranching, I taught school for seven years. I have served as a member of the board of directors for such establishments as various co-ops, the local hospital, Horizon Mental Health, Citizens Bank, Farm Bureau, FHA, and financial and building committees for my church. I currently serve on the State of Kansas Agricultural Advisory Board. I hope that this background will help prepare me for the many difficult issues with which we will be dealing in the state legislature.

My first week in Topeka was a busy one and especially for a freshman representative. The

Capitol renovation is in process. Therefore all legislators have been moved to the Docking Building for office space. Our committee meetings occur in both the Capitol Building and the Docking Building which requires a lot of walking.

I have been placed on two very important committees for the 116th District -agriculture and transportation. However, during the first week most of the attention has been focused on the budget problems the State faces. This issue is the most important issue I think we will face. The outcome of the budget affects all other issues that will come before the legislature. On Monday, the Governor announced her plan of selective cuts to balance the budget. The response was a 15% across-the-board cut. This has to be a bipartisan approach to solve our problems. This coming week bills will start surfacing and more information will be forthcoming.

As you can see, we have our work cut out for us over the next few months at the Capitol. The time has come to lead a real conversation about the challenges and responsibilities we face in Kansas. Vigorous debates lie ahead, but our most passionate debates are usually the most important. I welcome your feedback on these important issues or any other issue that impacts you and your family. This is the time for legislators to put aside political labels and do what is best for Kansas. With hard work and dedication, we will transform the challenges of 2009 into new opportunities for 2010 and beyond.

It is a special honor to serve as your state representative. I value and need your input on the various issues facing state government. Please feel free to contact me with your comments and questions. My office address is room 761, Docking State Office Building, Topeka, KS 66612. You can reach me at (785) 296-7647 or call the legislative hotline at 1-800-432-3924 to leave a message for me. Additionally, you can e-mail me at pat.maloney@house.ks.gov. You can also follow the legislative session online at www.kslegislature.org.
House to House

by State Rep.
Pat Maloney

To the Constituents of the 116th District

As Dennis McKinney’s replacement of the 116th District, I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve as your representative in Topeka. Last Monday I was sworn into the House in a most impressive ceremony, and I was deeply moved and humbled as I suddenly faced this unique and momentous responsibility that has been placed in my hands. Very few have the opportunity to serve in this manner, and I hope to fulfill this responsibility with integrity and good common sense.

I would like to provide a brief synopsis of my background for those of you who are not familiar with me. I am a fourth-generation farmer/rancher in the southern part of Kansas. My son has formed a partnership with me, becoming the fifth generation of the Maloney family in this business. My roots in this area run deep, as you can see. I am a product of all that this area represents, and I am proud of my heritage. I am committed to my business, my family, my community, my church and the many, many friends and acquaintances with which I have had contact in both the past and the present. I look forward to enlarging that circle of those whom I know.

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Dodge woman chosen to lead state's Commission on Autism

BY ERIC SWANSON
Dodge City Daily Globe

As the mother of an autistic child, Jeanie Zortman has spent countless hours advocating for autistic children across Kansas. Now, the Dodge City woman will chair a statewide panel on the subject.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius recently named Zortman chairwoman of the Kansas Governor's Commission on Autism, which advises the governor's office on issues related to the brain development disorder. The governor appoints 15 people—physicians, experts and parents—to the panel, which must be led by a parent.

Zortman told the Globe last week that she had previously served on the state's Autism Task Force and wanted to keep the task force's momentum going after it expired in November 2008 — although lawmakers may renew it this year.

So Zortman applied for the chairmanship of the Commission on Autism, and she learned on Jan. 16 that she had received the appointment. "It was an honor to be appointed by Governor Sebelius," she said. "But it's time for us to make the things happen that we've talked about so many years with our kids with autism.

And so honored but humbled, and knowing that hopefully under the guidance of this commission, we're going to make some other goals that we've set occur." Zortman serves at the pleasure of the governor, which means she will hold the position until she either resigns or is asked to step down.

Sebelius appreciates the commission's work and is thankful that its members are donating their time and experience to the cause, her spokeswoman, Beth Martino,

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said in an e-mail to a Globe reporter.

Zortman said the commission will push Kansas lawmakers to pass two pieces of legislation: One requiring insurance companies to cover therapy for autistic children, and one establishing additional scholarships for professionals in the field.

The commission's other goals include finding more money for autism research and working with Kansas universities to provide more outreach programs, which would help the state increase its supply of speech pathologists and other professionals who can work with children with disabilities.

Zortman has undergone extensive training on autism-related issues and is participating in the University of Kansas' Leadership in Education of Neurological Disabilities program, which she will complete in May. She was appointed to the Autism Task Force as a parent in 2007.

She said she was looking forward to her new role as chairwoman of the autism commission.

"I've talked to every one of the members," she said. "They're ready to get up and get started, and they're excited about the new leadership."

Reach Eric Swanson at (620) 408-9917 or e-mail him at eric.swanson@dodge-globe.com.
KU to honor local high school seniors

Students from 10 Kansas high schools will be honored Feb. 9 by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment at a dinner program in Belleville. The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. The honored scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school class.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardcover and CD versions. David Johnston, director of marketing and internet services for the alumni association, will speak to the students and their parents and guests.

Students being honored include Kirsten Hermreck, Jewell High School; Kesley Anderson, Rebecca Bohling, Mollie Carlson and Breonna Lindberg, Pike Valley High School; Brian Broeckelman and Tanner Peroutek, Rock Hills High School; Sheby Broeckelman and Claire Thiessen, St. John’s Catholic School.
Brush has belief in small town employees

By SHARON COY
Blade Staff Writer

Economic blockbusters are graduates from local high schools in small town America.

Doug Brush, chairman of the board of Brush Art Corporation, Downs, emphasized this belief when he spoke Saturday night at the annual CloudCorp dinner at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Hall.

Brush Art Corporation, an advertising and marketing firm, employs 30 people and boasts of little employee turnover in its 46-year history. Many of these employees, including Doug and wife Kay Brush's three children, are young people from small towns in Kansas and Nebraska, who after they graduated from college and had brief experiences seeing the "bright city lights" chose to return to a rural area to work.

Brush named a number of small towns where his employees were originally from including Natoma, Beloit and Downs. "Some of our sharpest people come from these little communities," he said.

In the 12-15 years since his children came back to Downs, Brush said his company grew 15 times its original size.

Brush also spoke of the importance of trust in running a business. Brush Art has expanded three times and has never had to go out of Downs for the money it has needed.

Doug, who attended Kansas State University and the University of Kansas, and wife Kay started Brush Art Corporation in 1963, which he said was 25 years before computers and three years before software. Prior to computers and the Internet, they drove everywhere to conduct business with customers which were only in Kansas and Nebraska.

With the use of computerization and improved technology, the business now has clients in all 50 states and Canada.

"Just because we're in a rural area, does not mean we're disadvantaged," Brush said.

Mottos that have served him well in his business include "if it isn't good for the client, it isn't good for Brush Art" and "We do what we say we'll do and for the price we say we'll do it for."

Brush advised his listeners to keep their fundamental values and reminded them that our young people are our greatest promise. "Don't lose touch with them," he said.

Following his speech, Brush answered questions from the audience.

Prior to Brush's speech, CloudCorp president Marsha Wentz, who was elected to her fourth term at a board of directors meeting preceding the dinner, introduced members of the board and gave highlights of 2008. These included establishment of the Meridian Way Wind Farm, which is seeking land options for phases 3 and 4, helping with the Sampler Festival, helping with the hospital building project, bowling alley, Taco John's, Shady Lake Development, TIF projects, revolving loan fund and downtown improvements.

Kirk Lowell, CloudCorp executive director, summarized successes of 2008 and gave an overview of 2009 projects. He said 350 construction workers were in the community in 2008 and that the countywide sales tax was up 20-24 percent. He also noted that local economists were saying that the $300 million Wind Farm project could possibly double or triple in size in Cloud County.

Lowell said Cloud County should celebrate the success of the wind farm and the Wind Energy Technology program.

Noting that little projects are important for CloudCorp too, Low-
ell said that he was working to get gas service back in Aurora, Glasco and Jamestown with credit card gas pumps. He also said he worked for the legalization of ATVs on the streets in Concordia which was approved in May. Aurora had already approved this in March.

Lowell also mentioned Shady Lake Development, East Hills Estates, North Development, O'Reilly Auto Parts and a proposal for Project Leopard as projects with potential for economic benefits.

Project Leopard, an international, global, renewable energy company desiring anonymity, is seeking to develop a manufacturing facility within the U.S. It must be strategically positioned to be productive, competitive and prosperous in the U.S. and global markets. (see Brush on page 8)

Brush

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Lowell introduced Richard Underbakte, president of Cloud County Community College who told about a Wind Energy Technology presentation he and other representatives of the College gave earlier this year in Florida. CCCC was one of 10 finalists chosen to do this and while it did not win the only award presented, the College did receive many favorable comments on its presentation.


New donors are Phil and Brenda Gilliland, Alan and Julie Corbell and City of Glasco.

Cloud County Community College Great Society Singers, directed by Everett Miller, sang the National Anthem to open the meeting and entertained during the meal.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Altar Society members prepared the meal, which was served by members of the Catholic Youth Organization. Eric Johnson gave the invocation.

This was the 10th Annual meeting for CloudCorp executive assistant, Donna Barrett, who was in charge of arrangements for the evening.
KU Moves To Preserve Campus History, Beauty

LAWRENCE (AP) — University of Kansas officials have a plan to preserve the historical and natural beauty of the Lawrence campus.

Its Campus Heritage Plan outlines ways to maintain existing features while being mindful of future development.

The plan was developed using a $130,000 grant from the Getty Foundation.

Some parts of the plan will take additional funds to complete such as the renovation of some historical buildings like Spooner and Dyche halls.

Other parts of the plan seek to preserve views on campus, with officials saying some of the campus' best views have been obstructed over time.

The provost and the chancellor are reviewing a new set of policies that put parts of the plan into action.
KU to honor 19 high school seniors from area counties

LAWRENCE — Students from six Kansas high schools will be honored Thursday, Feb. 12, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 19 seniors from high schools in Edwards, Pawnee and Stafford counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at the Knights of Columbus hall, Scenic Drive, Larned.

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. Honorees are listed below.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardcover and CD versions, presented by Heath Peterson, director of Kansas programs for the KU Alumni Association.

KU Provost Richard Lariviere 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 $15 each.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. John Adams of Larned is site coordinator. County coordinators are Gary and Al Frame of Kinsley for Edwards County; Barbara Hammond of Larned for Pawnee County; and Gayle Cornwell of St. John for Stafford County.

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

Kinsley High School:
Kayla Brake, Jordan Ebert, Christine Eslinger and Sarah Hirsh

Larned High School:
Shantel Fairchild, Augie Morton, Sarah Peterson, Craig Schartz and Hannah Steimel

Macksville High School:
Kade Schnoebelen

Pawnee Heights High School:
Brice Olsen and Mason Salman

St. John High School:
Kaci Kilgore, Brenna Martin, Andrew Spare and Timothy Spare

Stafford High School:
Rebecca Engfer, Allison Jackson and Brennan McNickle
Stem cell advocate to visit Liberal

By Travis Knight
news@swtimes.com

An advocate for stem cell research will visit the Liberal Rotary Club tomorrow and Tuesday. Brad Kemp, the executive director of the Kansas Coalition of Lifesaving Cures (KCLC), will give members of the Rotary Club an update on stem cell research in Kansas.

"The coalition is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization that was formed in response to a variety of restrictions and even bans on certain kinds of research that had been repeatedly proposed in Topeka," said Kemp in an interview with The Times.

One of KCLC's main goals is to challenge proposed restrictions, to limit or criminalize certain kinds of research, that have been introduced and debated by the state legislature in recent years.

"The goal of the Kansas Coalition for Lifesaving Cures is to ensure that any stem cell research, therapies, and cures allowed under federal law remain legal in Kansas and available to Kansas patients," said Kemp. "When I visit communities around the state, my goal is to ensure that Kansans know enough about the science of stem cell research to make informed decisions about it -- and to recruit members to the coalition. We ask our members to be as politically active as possible, to ensure that lawmakers know that Kansans oppose unfair state-level restrictions on medical research and therapies and to work to elect lawmakers who feel the same way."

Kemp is a native of Kansas and a graduate of the University of Kansas and Kansas State University. He has a degree in journalism and architecture and possesses 20 years of marketing, public relations and grassroots organizing experience. Before he joined KCLC in 2005, he was a public relations officer for the University of Kansas and was director of public programs at the KU Natural History Museum overseeing the museum's exhibits and education programs.

The KCLC is a nonpartisan grassroots organization that advocates for stem cell research, therapies and cures in Kansas.

The group's members consist of citizens across the state and from over 70 leading patient and medical organizations, seek to protect the access to therapies of all Kansas patients and ensure scientists can search for cures to a host of diseases and injuries, including diabetes, Parkinson's, cancer, heart disease, ALS, sickle cell disease and spinal cord injury.

For more information about the KCLC, visit www.kansascures.com
Local sixth graders to play in honor band

Fourth annual clinic and concert hosted by Southwest Kansas Music Academy at GCCC

A group of up to 85 young musicians will come together February 7 for the Southwest Kansas Music Academy’s Sixth Grade Honor Band Clinic and Concert at Garden City Community College, and the public is invited to hear the group perform. Kyle Hampel, Bailey Harris, and Coraima Yanez from Greeley County Schools have been selected for honor band.

The fourth annual gathering of sixth grade musicians will conclude at 4 p.m. with a performance in the auditorium of the Pauline Joyce Fine Arts Building, conducted by Dr. Martin J. Bergee, professor of music education at the University of Kansas.

“This is a great opportunity for young instrumental musicians to share the experience of working and performing together in a large group,” said Jim McAllister, GCCC director of bands and coordinator for the event. “For many of them, it will be the first experience they’ve had like this.

Bergee will work with the students all day in focused music enrichment sessions, and the group will play approximately eight selections in the concluding concert.

“There have always been band clinics for students at the high school and college levels, but we wanted to do something that would also reach budding young musicians at an earlier stage of their development,” McAllister explained.

“This is also something that helps encourage them to continue their involvement in music as they reach the upper grade levels ahead,” he said, “and give them an idea of the band experiences to come.”

This year, band members have registered from Bernadine Sitts and Charles Stones Intermediate Centers in Garden City, as well as Jennie Barker School in rural Finney County. Students are also coming from Sunflower and Cottonwood Intermediate Schools in Liberal, and the sixth grades in the public schools of Scott City, Cimarron, Holcomb, Minneola, South Barber, Greeley County, Lakin, Satanta, Medicine Lodge and Elkhart, as well as Springfield, Colo.

Individual directors selected top sixth grade performers at each school for the honor band, and each student has already received sheet music for individual rehearsal. The idea is that the students will be somewhat familiar with the day’s music before converging, McAllister said. During the honor band sessions, Bergee will focus on key pieces from a larger repertoire of musical numbers.