Newspapers join CentraMart network; will expand print, online services

The Wyandotte West, Piper Press and KCEase, community publications serving Wyandotte and nearby counties have joined CentraMart, a national network for community newspapers. Tonda Rush, president of Kansas Colloquies, Inc., owner of the publications, announced the affiliation publicly today and to staff last week. CentraMart is known nationally for its Web2Web program, which helps local newspapers develop new ways to combine print editions with online services.

Rush noted that the online partnership is intended to strengthen and not replace the newspapers.

"We will be increasing our print capability immediately," Rush said. "We've been planning to offer CentraMart's expanded services to readers and advertisers since late last year. We decided to advance
Partnership—
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our timetable when the Kansas City
Kansan announced it would print its
final edition on Jan. 10."

Former Kansan subscribers can re-
ceive a free three-month trial subscrip-
tion to any KCI newspaper, according
to Mary Rupert, managing editor. "We
want local people who are in 'print
withdrawal' to continue to have a great
newspaper experience. We are also
offering three months free to new and
existing subscribers," Rupert noted.
Details of the three-month offer
are listed elsewhere in this edition.

"We are newspaper people at heart!
The Internet is simply the greatest new
tool to help people use the newspaper
to manage their daily lives," Rush con-
tinued. As part of the planned expan-
sion, the three newspapers have already
begun reporting on new events in the
community. "We will expand our cov-
erage of community news, beginning
with obituaries and other important
items that only a newspaper can effec-
tively memorialize as part of the public
record."

Readers and advertisers will see
some improvements immediately and
others will be added on a regular ba-
sis throughout the year, according to
Rush.

Christopher Cooley, a regional busi-
ness manager for CentraMart, has been
designated general manager of the KCI
publications group. An area resident
for many years, he began his duties on
Monday. Cooley is a graduate of the
University of Kansas and has completed
advanced studies in entrepreneurship
at the University of Missouri-Kansas
City's Bloch School.

Jamie Ralston, who has been per-
forming in both sales and management
roles for the company, will take on new
responsibilities directly impacting local
businesses.

"Our job isn't to sell advertising.
Our job is to help local businesses sell
themselves to the readers, who need
these important businesses as key parts
of our economy. So our traditional ad
sales role will grow and transition into
a genuine business consultancy for
the benefit of our local marketplace,"
Ralston explained. "With CentraMart
affiliation, we will be able to show lo-
cal businesses many ways to increase
profits using both print and online
media."

CentraMart CEO Richard Ward
welcomed the Kansas Colloquies pub-
lications into CentraMart's growing
national newspaper member network.

"These publications are ideally suited
for continued growth. In particular,
the owners and employees of the Wy-
dotte West and Piper Press care deeply
about the communities they serve.
They pride themselves on timely and
accurate reporting and creating good
business value for their advertisers,"
Ward observed.

CentraMart Services LLC is partially
owned by the National Newspaper As-
sociation, the nation's largest and oldest
newspaper association. CentraMart's
mission is to "expand and enhance the
traditional role of a newspaper as the
central marketplace of the community,
by combining the power of print with
the opportunities of the Internet."
KU announces fall 2008 candidates for degree

The names of more than 1,600 candidates for degrees for the fall 2008 semester at the University of Kansas have been announced by the Office of the Registrar. Student candidates from this area are as follows:

**Sabetha:** Madeline Allen, Bachelor of Science in Business/Marketing, Sabetha High School; Meagan Deiter, Master of Music, SHS.

**Goff:** Jennifer Flentrope, Master of Arts/Speech-Language Pathology, Wetmore HS.

**Seneca:** Amanda Hermesch, Bachelor of Arts/History Nemaha Valley HS; Sarah Strathman, History/Business(minor), Bachelor of Arts/History NVHS.

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 17.

Five of KU’s 13 colleges and schools conducted recognition programs or hooding ceremonies last month to honor those planning to graduate at the end of the semester: the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the School of Business, the School of Engineering, the School of Law and the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications.
Schmelzle Among KU Scholarship Recipients

Joel Schmelzle, a sophomore in electrical engineering at the University of Kansas, has been named among 18 university students winning scholarships for the spring semester.

The K.U. mathematics department has recognized the outstanding math performances of the undergraduate students with academic scholarships totaling $3,600.

Seven students received $200 Black-Babcock Mathematics Scholarships; nine first-year students received $200 renewable Rollin S. Wade Memorial Scholarships; and two students received $200 Albert F. Zernickow-Barbara Kile Scholarships.

Joel is a 2006 graduate of Onaga High School and is a son of Greg and Debbie Schmelzle of Onaga.
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Those from Jefferson County are:
- Grantville—Daniel Benedict, son of Dennis and Donna Benedict, bachelors in communication studies and minor in sociology; Jane Shirley, master’s in education.
- Oskaloosa—Aaron Landis, son of Armin and Nancy Landis, bachelor’s in American studies and journalism.
- Ozawkie—Colin Painter, son of Steven Painter, bachelor’s in atmospheric science; Adam Van Horn, son of Keith Van Horn, bachelor’s in computer science.
- Valley Falls—Paul Johnson, son of Chuck and Janine Johnson, bachelor’s in business, marketing.
- Lawrence—Malia Clark, bachelor’s in American studies and Spanish, Oskaloosa High School grad.
- Topeka—Cristina Johnson, bachelor’s in communication studies and sociology minor, Oskaloosa High School grad.
Kansas University (KU) at Lawrence will award $29.6 million in scholarship support to more than 6,500 students for the 2008-09 academic year.

Virtually all scholarships, fellowships, and awards at KU come from private contributions to the KU Endowment. This year’s recipients represent 103 of the 105 counties in Kansas.

The following Rose Hill High School students were awarded KU scholarships: freshman Meredith Belnap, daughter of Michelle Belnap, awarded the Robert H. and Ruth E Bradford Scholarship; freshman Jessica Thimesch, daughter of John and Sharon Metz, awarded the Cecil Mae Longabough Stucky Memorial Scholarship.
County attorney is sworn in

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

Kari Gilliland was sworn in by Terry Miller, county clerk, as Cheyenne County Attorney on Monday. She replaces Justin Barrett.

A member of the James Muliken Chartered law firm, St. Francis, Mrs. Gilliland was the county attorney from 1997 to 2001. She saw the need for a local county attorney and ran unopposed in the November general election.

She will continue to keep the county attorney office in the basement of the courthouse and will be there in the mornings. Office hours will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed during the noon hour. Dannielle Gardner will continue as the attorney’s secretary, keeping the office open when Mrs. Gilliland is not there.

In the afternoon, Mrs. Gilliland said she will be at her office downtown. I will be available if anyone needs me, she said at the Monday county commissioners’ meeting.

Mrs. Gilliland was born and raised in St. Francis, graduating from St. Francis Community High School. She then attended Boston University for 1.5 years before going abroad where she studied in Australia for a semester. She received her undergraduate degree from Kansas University in 1993 and went on to graduate from Washburn University School of Law with a Juris Doctorate degree.

She and her husband, Dustin, have two children, Molly and Joel. She is the daughter of Jim and Ruth Muliken, St. Francis.

SWORN IN — Kari Gilliland is sworn as Cheyenne County Attorney by Terry Miller, county clerk.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien
An open house honoring Chanute artist Phyllis Blackwood is scheduled for 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Chanute Art Gallery, 17 N. Lincoln.

More than 30 works of art by Blackwood will be on exhibit at the gallery beginning Saturday through Feb. 28.

A Chanute native and daughter of Don and Alberta Beach, she studied art at the University of Kansas and anticipated entering the commercial art field.

However, she married Dwight Blackwood while in school. Her husband entered the Air Force and after he completed his tour of duty, he received a doctor of optometry degree in Memphis, Tenn.

After returning to Chanute, her husband began work as an optometrist. In addition to artwork, she also does needlepoint and cross stitch.
KU's Self Distinguished Kansan of the Year

TOPEKA — A group promoting Kansas history is honoring University of Kansas men's basketball coach Bill Self.

The award from the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas follows KU's national championship last year. An awards banquet Jan. 30 in Topeka. Self is the Distinguished Kansan of the Year, an award that recognizes someone who is a native of another state -- Oklahoma.
HUTCHINSON (AP) — A Hutchinson man is working on a documentary about area survivors of polio, a crippling childhood disease that swept the nation in the 1940s and 1950s.

Nathan Guy said he got the idea for the film a year ago when he went to a meeting of the Central Kansas Polio Survivors Group in Hutchinson. Guy said he was moved to make the film because the polio survivors he met "have such a gung-ho attitude about overcoming obstacles."

Jean Graber, of Pretty Prairie, will be featured in the movie, as will fellow survivor Lois Wooten, of Hutchinson, and Eleanor Hageman, of Kingman, who lost a son to the disease and had three other children who survived it.

"(The friend) said I have to come to one of these meetings and hear their stories," Guy said. "One survivor spent six weeks in an iron lung."

Guy studied film at the University of Kansas and graduated from the University of Vancouver. He has been showing a nine-minute trailer of the film to raise $30,000 to complete the documentary.

"I have enough to start, but not enough to finish it," Guy said.

If Guy can finish the film, it will be shown at the Post-Polio Health International Conference April 23-25 at Warm Springs, Ga.

"There'll be hundreds of people from all over the world," Guy said. "It's a great opportunity for the community (of Hutchinson) to portray itself."

The imminence of the date will require Guy's production company, Indie Guy, to work quickly. He has bought the basic equipment. Film festivals won't show movies that aren't in high-definition video anymore, he said. Guy begins filming Feb. 2.
Sebelius' budget raises tuition fears

Students and state officials worried Wednesday that budget cuts sought by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius would force Kansas' public universities and colleges into big tuition increases to protect their programs.

Sebelius proposes to cut nearly $25 million from the current operating budgets of universities, community colleges and technical colleges, and an additional $56 million in the next fiscal year. The campuses also would lose funds promised for maintenance projects.

The campuses would lose 9 percent of their state tax dollars in the current and next fiscal years. The proposed reductions are part of Sebelius' larger plan to eliminate a projected $186 million deficit in the current budget and avert a projected shortfall of more than $1 billion for fiscal 2010, which starts July 1.

Some Republican legislators contend the Democratic governor's budget proposals unfairly target higher education for deep cuts. Legislators of both parties and higher education officials also believe pressure will build on the state Board of Regents to raise tuition to prevent the effects from being felt in classrooms.

"We're just starting to talk about that sort of impact," said Kansas State University student body president Lydia Peele, a senior from Olathe. "We don't want to price out our students."

Anticipating mandated cuts in their current budgets, universities and colleges already have frozen most hiring, delayed buying equipment and tried to reduce travel expenses.

Officials of the schools warned Sebelius' staff in November that another round of cuts could force them to eliminate staff. They're also likely to look toward shifting money from maintenance and other operating costs into academic programs.

"The classroom always comes first," said University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway. "You go back to first principles whenever you're dealing with a budget cut, and the first principle for an educational system like the regents system is educating the students."

Legislators allocated almost $853 million worth of state tax dollars to the higher education system when they approved the current budget last year. Sebelius' plan would trim that to $830 million, or by 2.7 percent. The figure would drop to $773 million — an additional 6.8 percent — for fiscal 2010.

Budget Director Duane Goossen acknowledged the cuts are significant but said See Tuition on Page 2
Tuition Continued from Page 1

higher education isn't being singled out. "The budget is tough on everybody," Goossen said. "Nobody escapes this."

But Sebelius proposed only a freeze in aid to public schools and attempted to keep most social service programs intact.

"When people ask me who is taking it on the chin in the governor's budget, I usually remark, 'the regents,'" said House Appropriations Committee Chairman Kevin Yoder, an Overland Park Republican. "If the governor's cuts are successful, we will probably see dramatic tuition increases."

The Board of Regents has sometimes used its power to set tuition rates without oversight from the governor or Legislature to fill in budget gaps.

Over the past decade, for example, tuition at the six Regents' universities has increased an average of 122 percent for full-time, undergraduate students from Kansas. In recent years, the regents have tried to hold down increases so that higher education remains affordable.

"What I'm hoping does not happen is that there's this sense that we can always put it on the backs of kids and families through much higher tuition," said Board of Regents member Gary Sherrer, a former lieutenant governor. "I've opposed that in the past, and I will again."

But Peele said her fellow students understand that they might have to pay more in tuition to help keep programs strong. Higher education officials said they don't want to price students off campus but also want to make sure they're getting valuable degrees.

Goossen acknowledged that the regents will face pressure to raise tuition, but he declined to predict what the board will do. Some Republican legislators are certain of the outcome if Sebelius' proposals are enacted.

"It's very drastic," said Republican Sen. Jean Schodorf of Wichita, who chairs the Senate Education Committee. "Tuition is high now, and they will have no choice but to increase tuition."

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