KU chancellor lauds recommendation of Kansas for biological defense lab

LAWRENCE — University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway issued the following statement regarding the recommendation that Manhattan be the site of a new National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility: "As a Kansan and as a member of the task force that led our state's effort, I am thrilled at the news that Kansas has been chosen to be the site of this critical lab," Hemenway said. "The National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility will be a major economic asset to our state and will boost bioscience research throughout the region, including at KU.

"When coupled with the cancer, pharmaceutical and other research taking place here, this lab will make Kansas an international center for bioscience research."
Wiley appointed district judge

STAFF REPORTS

An attorney long involved in the Leavenworth community is Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' pick to be the newest 1st Judicial District judge.

Sebelius on Friday named Dan Wiley to the bench in the 1st Judicial District serving Leavenworth and Atchison Counties.

"Dan's extensive experience in civil and criminal cases, both as an attorney and as a municipal judge, prepares him well for this new position," Sebelius said.

Wiley, Leavenworth, graduated from the College of Great Falls in Montana before earning his law degree from the University of Kansas.

Wiley has been with Murray, Tillotson and Wiley since 1993, primarily practicing domestic relations, employment, corporate, real estate, banking, and personal injury law. He has argued cases before the Kansas Court of Appeals, Kansas Supreme Court and Kansas Federal District Court.

Wiley also serves the Leavenworth area as a municipal judge for the City of Leavenworth and as a district judge pro-tem for the Leavenworth County District Court. He has more than 11 years of judicial experience in Leavenworth County.

Wiley has served as a school board member for USD 453 and also served on the board of directors and as president of the Leavenworth/Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce.

Wiley is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He is a member of the Leavenworth County Veteran's Day Parade Committee and this year served as the parade master of ceremonies.

He will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Frederick Stewart.

Wiley and his wife, Sonia, are parents to two children, Austin, 13, and Christina, 11.
Golden Key honors local doctoral student

Grace McConnell, Valley Falls, has accepted membership in Golden Key International Honour Society and was honored recently during an induction ceremony at the University of Kansas.

She is a doctoral student in the Speech, Language, and Hearing Department at KU and a graduate assistant teacher in the theories of language and language development.

Her interests include the areas of language development, children’s narratives, and assessment and intervention of culturally and linguistically diverse students.

She and her husband, Royce, have one daughter, Tess.
City may offer tuition help for LCC class

Parsons city commissioners will consider giving up to five scholarships for a new entrepreneurial class that Labette Community College will offer in the spring.

The class is designed to give start-up business owners a greater chance for success. The 10-week course will offer three college credits. Carolyn Kennett, economic development director for the city, said the class will begin at the end of January or beginning of February. Including books and tuition, the class will cost $250. Commissioners will consider during their Monday meeting setting aside $1,250 for a scholarship fund.

In conjunction with the class, the city will conduct a retail business plan competition for students who have completed the class. The winner of the contest will receive a year of free rent in the city-owned building at 1810 Main. Kennett said the city instead could offer an adjacent city-owned building if a business owner wants to rent or buy the 1810 Main location. The city bought both buildings when Parsons Fine Jewelry moved to 1722 Main and Parsons Computers and Radio Shack went out of business. The city bought the two buildings to ensure that retail businesses locate in them.

Mayor Bob Bartelli said the scholarships would be a good way to promote the class.

"I think it's a good start, and it might get interest stirred up. We certainly want to promote this," he said.

Also on Monday, the commissioners will consider giving a retail incentive package to Yalanda Wolke, who opened A-Blossom For Every Occasion in November at 105 S. 18th. The commission agreed during an earlier meeting to amend the city's policy on retail incentive grants to allow business owners who have already opened their businesses to be eligible for the grant. In the past, the business owners had to submit business plans before opening their businesses in order to be eligible.

Wolke is requesting a $5,000 grant to be matched by $15,000 of her money to buy displays, inventory and furnishings. There will be a minimum investment of $25,000. She will have to submit a business plan and documentation of her expenditures.

Wolke plans to offer gourmet fruit and cheese baskets as well as candy arrangements to distinguish her business from other floral shops.

In another matter, the commissioners will give an employee service award to Kenneth Steenrod, a detective/lieutenant for the police department, for 30 years of service to the city.

Commissioners also will receive

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a notification from Cable One that it is negotiating with KOAM, KFJX and KMYT for the right to continue carrying their signals on the Parsons lineup. The current agreement will end Dec. 31. Cable One thinks it can reach an agreement with the stations but is required by law to provide a 30-day notice to customers that the agreements will expire.

The commissioners will meet at 6 p.m. Monday in the commission room at the Parsons Municipal Building.

IN OTHER BUSINESS, commissioners will consider:
• Approving the use of the Carnegie Arts Center for a University of Kansas Alumni Association reception preceding a performance by the KU Concert Choir March 10 at the Parsons Municipal Auditorium. The reception would be from 6:15 to 7 p.m. with setup beginning at 5:15 p.m. The association is requesting to be allowed to serve food, beer and wine.
• Approving an ordinance that will increase the city’s storm water utility rate from $1 per month to $2.50 per month.
• Approving a change order on a contract with Beachner Construction Co. for a Kansas Department of Transportation project on 16th Street that would extend the deadline on the work until Monday. The city then plans to suspend the project for the winter so that Beachner can focus on completing the Jothi Avenue project first.
• Approving a change order on a contract with Heckert Construction for the 2008 street resurfacing project. The change order would delete the entire project, which would have cost $143,319.38, including two alternates, because Heckert backed out of the project after winning the bid. Heckert said the price of asphalt had increased too much to do the project. The change order also would add resurfacing of South 13th Street from Main to Broadway, South 13th from Southern to Stone and the intersection of North 21st Street and Harding Drive at a cost of $17,037.47. That work has already been done, using a thinner layer of more durable asphalt in an experiment to determine if the thinner layer will hold up under heavy traffic. The money for the project will come from the city’s street sales tax fund. The commissioners also will consider approving payment to Heckert for the work.
• Approving a change order on a contract with Alfred’s Superior Tree Service that would add $4,235 worth of work for removal of trees at the water plant pump house, Parsons Lake dam site, Tolen Creek Park stone house and Oakwood Cemetery. The change order also would delete the trimming of a tree at the Parsons Municipal Building. The new adjusted contract amount is $63,015. The commissioners also will consider paying Alfred’s $8,845 for work completed.
Governor’s press secretary leaving

TOPEKA — Gov. Kathleen Sebelius’ press secretary, Nicole Corcoran, will be filling the newly created position of chief of staff for University of Kansas athletic director Lew Perkins.

“I’m very excited to be able to attract someone of Nicole’s skills to coordinate my activities and the increased demands on my time,” Perkins said Wednesday. “She will be a real asset to our team here at Kansas.”

Corcoran said Perkins called last month to see if she would be interested and she then interviewed for the job. She will start at the university on Feb. 2. The governor’s office has not announced a replacement for her.

At the University of Kansas, she will serve as the main clearinghouse for all requests to Perkins. She will oversee management of his schedule, coordinate his public appearances and organize special events.

Corcoran, 37, called the new job “a great opportunity” and said she was “humbled” to be part of the Sebelius administration.
Kan. governor press secretary heading to new job at KU

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She was Sebelius' press secretary when she was insurance commissioner from 1999-2002. She then worked in Sebelius' first gubernatorial campaign as her spokeswoman and has been with the governor since she took office in 2002.

"She will be very hard to replace in our office, but the chance to serve in this newly created position was too good an opportunity to turn down," Sebelius said. "And her boys will be thrilled with her new sports connection."

As press secretary, Corcoran is paid a bout $82,000 a year. Her new position is funded by private donations and other non-state revenues, so her salary isn't public record.

Corcoran said her departure shouldn't be viewed as any indication about the governor's future political plans. Sebelius is midway through her second term and is barred by the Kansas Constitution from seeking a third term.

"This one is totally about my future, not hers," Corcoran said.

A graduate of Washburn University, Corcoran received the 2005 Outstanding Alumnus award from the school's mass media department.

On the Net:
Governor's Office http://www.governor.ks.gov/
University of Kansas athletic department: http://kuathletics.ksu.edu

County:
Leavenworth

32429-12-18_8002
KU seeks sanctions against clothing retailer

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas has renewed its trademark fight with a Lawrence clothing store it says is illegally selling Jayhawk-themed T-shirts.

A federal jury in July determined Joe-College.com owner Larry Sinks and screen printer Clark Orth "willfully infringed" the university's trademarks on such T-shirts. Jurors ordered the defendants to pay $127,000 to the school and said around 50 designs were infringing.

An attorney for Sinks said there has been confusion over which designs are now off-limits. But university officials said Sinks is clearly violating the jury's decision.

They have asked a federal judge to declare Sinks in contempt, seize the offending products, force him to hand over triple the profits he has received from the items and charge the store fines of $1,000 or more per day.

Plus, they want attorneys' fees of $1.26 million and costs of $110,614.

"This is a fairly straightforward issue. ... These are the exact same shirts covered by the court's injunction," said Atlanta lawyer Charlie Henn Jr., one of the university's attorneys.

Sinks' attorney, Jim Tilly of Tulsa, Okla., said his client is trying to comply with the court's orders, but Sinks is unclear which apparel is problematic.

In July, jurors looked at 206 shirts and found about 50 were infringing.

Before the trial, U.S. District Judge Julie Robinson ruled that a couple of shirts had infringed the university's trademarks as a matter of law. But the jury didn't include those shirts on its verdict form.

Two weeks ago, Robinson modified the verdict to include those shirts, as well as others that she did not find to be infringing in her earlier order.

The university has filed motions accusing Sinks of deliberately ignoring the court's injunction.
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