KU waives late payment charges for students affected by storms

LAWRENCE (AP) — The University of Kansas is giving students affected by recent natural disasters some extra time to pay their tuition. Tuition bills for fall semester will be sent out next week, with the first payments due Aug. 15.

The university said Tuesday that it will waive late fees and will work out individual deferred payment plans for students living in 10 counties hit by flooding and storms this spring and summer. Usually an initial $100 penalty is assessed after the deadline and additional penalties are applied each month the bill is overdue.
A weaver from Ghana creates the distinctive Kente cloth worn by many African Americans as well as Africans. (Special to the Courier)

Che St
hosting
Wrapped in Pride exhibit

ARKANSAS CITY — The Cherokee Strip Land Rush Museum is hosting “Wrapped in Pride: Ghanaian Kente and the African American Identity” through Aug. 16. The exhibit describes how Ghanaian Kente fabric is made and how African Americans identify with the fabric and how it has shaped their identity.

“Wrapped in Pride” is a beautiful exhibit. One of the best traveling exhibits we have had,” said museum director Heather Ferguson. Some events will be held in conjunction with the exhibit.

On July 21, there will be two programs, both of which are sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council.

“Zora Neale Hurston: Queen of the Harlem Renaissance (1891-1960)” will be held at 11 a.m.

This is a first person interpretation put on by Carmaletta M. Williams, a professor of English at Johnson County Community College. Williams is the college’s 2006 Distinguished Service Award recipient. She received her master of arts degree in English from the

(SEE: Exhibits, page 3)

A collection of dolls dressed in Kente cloth are part of the Cherokee Strip Landrush Museum’s exhibit “Wrapped in Pride.” (Donita Clausen/Traveler)
Exhibits

(Continued from page 1)

University of Missouri and a doctorate in English from the University of Kansas. Williams specializes in African American literature and has served as a guest speaker on the African American experience at churches, colleges and other groups in the Kansas City area, Kansas, nationally and internationally. She is also a Kansas Humanities Council book discussion leader. She joined the Kansas Humanities Council’s “History Alive” program in 1993.

At 1 p.m., the second program begins. It is called “Gordon Parks Learning Tree Experience.” This topic is discussed by Dr. John Edgar Tidwell, an associate professor of English at the University of Kansas. A native of Independence, Tidwell received his bachelor of arts degree from Washburn University, his master’s degree from Creighton University, Omaha, and his doctorate from the University of Minnesota.

Before joining the KU faculty in 1999, Tidwell taught at a number of schools, including Miami University and the University of Kentucky. His research specialties are African American and American literatures. He has edited the memoirs and collected poems of Kansas-born writer Frank Marshall Davis and has written more than 14 essays on the esteemed African American poet Sterling A. Brown.

Tidwell directed “Reading and Remembering Langston Hughes,”
a series of poetry circles that met at five sites around Kansas in 2001-02 to discuss selected works by Hughes. He joined the Kansas Humanities Speakers Bureau in 2000.

Everyone is welcome to the museum to meet these esteemed professors and hear their talks. And to see the “Wrapped in Pride” exhibit and learn about the fabric and its influence on the African American culture. For more information, call (620) 442-6750.
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"When your family home or business has been flooded out, you have more immediate concerns than a tuition due date," said Richard Lariviere, provost and executive vice chancellor.

Students may fill out a form on the university's Web site. The policy applies students in Elk, Miami, Montgomery, Neosho, Wilson, Edwards, Kiowa, Osage, Pratt and Stafford counties.
Law change hurts kids

By James L. Burgess

There has been a lot of attention on the flood of child-in-need-of-care cases in Sedgwick County since the Legislature mandated that such cases be brought before the court within 72 hours instead of 144 hours. A letter (Kids deserve better," June 30 Reader Views) and comments by Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services Secretary Don Jordan ("SRS cool to call to extend investigation deadline," July 1 WE Blog excerpts) showed there is a fundamental misunderstanding about the real issue behind this change in the law.

The thrust of the comments (and a major impetus for the change in the law) is that other districts get their cases to hearing within 72 hours so Sedgwick County should, too. But comparing Sedgwick County and other districts is like comparing apples and oranges.

One of the attorneys practicing in our court was at a meeting discussing the foster care system. A prosecutor from another district was presenting how that district handled its cases. When asked how many cases the district handled, the response was that 11 juvenile offender cases and four child-in-need-of-care cases had been filed for this calendar year. In Sedgwick County, we handle more than 40 juvenile offender cases every Wednesday, and it is very common to have four child-in-need-of-care cases filed in a day.

Sedgwick County has more children qualifying for free meals at school, more homeless families with children, more prisoners being released, and more kids in the juvenile system than any other district. The list goes on.

In spite of those facts, a University of Kansas study showed that Sedgwick County has the lowest rate of removal from home of any district. We also have the second highest safety rate for children.

When we had 144 hours to investigate police protective custody cases, 80 percent of cases were resolved without the need for children to go into custody. Alternatives were found that prevented foster care.

The comments by the letter writer and Secretary Jordan (and by some legislators) have indicated that Sedgwick County just has to suck it up and get the job done. But the fact is that we are getting it done.

Even though our cases have increased by more than 80 percent, we get every case into court and heard within 72 hours. That is unlike some districts that get a case into court within 72 hours, but if a party requests a hearing, it is continued to the following week.

Sedgwick County is getting the work done in spite of the fact that everyone in the system — judges, court services officers, social workers — is being strained to the maximum and the foster care system is incurring millions of dollars in what we consider to be unnecessary costs.

But none of that is the real issue. The real issue is children going into custody when they shouldn't have to. Whether it is days, weeks or months in custody, they shouldn't have to.

A proposed alternative to the current law provides that cases would be heard within 72 hours, but if at the end of the 72 hours it can be shown there is a reasonable prospect of the case being resolved without the need for custody, the court could grant an additional 72 hours. This has no effect on any other district that chooses to do its hearings within 72 hours, it keeps Sedgwick County honest on its efforts to resolve cases without custody, and it saves a lot of kids from going into foster care. It is a reasonable solution.

I hope an agreement can be reached. If it cannot, I do not want to have to face these children to tell them they just have to suck it up and go into custody.

James L. Burgess is presiding judge of Sedgwick County's juvenile court.
STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN YOUTH PROGRAM

Three students from Paola High school were among the 48 Kansas students chosen to participate in the Youth Civic Leadership Institute at the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas.

The youth program is designed to foster appreciation and involvement in public service. Students stayed overnight July 12 on the KU campus in a residence hall. Attending the program from Paola High School were Katherine Leslie, Jesse Lopez and Jackie Thompson.

“Within their high schools and communities, these seniors have demonstrated a commitment to civic engagement and an interest in public service. Their high school administrators selected these students to participate in the leadership institute,” said Bill Lacy, director of the Dole Institute.

The program focuses on civic engagement and practicing civic skills. The students worked in groups and discussed a range of issues that affected them in their schools and communities, and presented solutions. They attended a special Dole Institute public program called “Teddy Roosevelt: Mind, Body and Spirit” with Ted Zalewski, a historical interpreter.

Chuck Berg, professor of theatre and film, led the students in a discussion of the 1939 Frank Capra movie “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington.” Speakers included retired U.S. Navy Capt. Buck Newsom, a civic leader in Lawrence, and Brett Ballard, a former KU basketball player from Hutchinson who graduated with a degree in secondary education in 2003 and is now on the men’s basketball team staff.

The students also toured the Kansas Capitol and met with legislators.

The Dole Institute began the Youth Civic Leadership Institute in 2006 and provides the program at no charge.
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“When your family home or business has been flooded out, you have more immediate concerns than a tuition due date. We hope this will give those students under hardship some time and flexibility to focus on recovery and getting their lives back to normal,” Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Lariviere said.

Students may fill out a form on the university’s Web site to qualify.

The policy applies students in Elk, Miami, Montgomery, Neosho, Wilson, Edwards, Kiowa, Osage, Pratt and Stafford counties.
Jeff Boschee Basketball Clinic

A camp featuring Jeff Boschee, University of Kansas basketball player form 1998-2002, will be held at Pittsburg High School on July 23-24, 2007. Instruction at the camp will emphasize the individual fundamentals of shooting, ball handling, and defense. In shooting, techniques covered will be feet, arms and hands placement, eyes, and follow through. In ball handling, five basic passes and five basic dribbles will be taught. In defense, proper stance and movement will be taught.

Directing the clinic will be David Devaney. David has coached on the high school, college, and professional level and he was a basketball graduate assistant at the University of Kansas for two years.

Helping with the clinic will be current Kansas players from the University of Kansas basketball team.

The clinic will be for two days. The clinic will be co-ed and cost $75 per player. Players going into grades 3-6 in the fall of 2007 will have their two day clinic from 10-12 noon on July 23 and July 24, 2007. Players going into grades 7-9 in the fall will have their two day clinic from 2-4p.m. on July 23 and July 24, 2007. The camp fee will include a camp basketball and a T-shirt and an autograph session. All camp sessions will take place at Pittsburg High School.

To enroll please mail: name, address, phone, age, Adult shirt size, email address, and session you will be attending along with check to: Jeff Boschee Basketball Clinics 821 East 120th Street Kansas City, MO 64146.
KANSAS CITY, Kan. - The University of Kansas Cancer Center and the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center are working together on a National Cancer Institute (NCI) funded investigational agent that is designed to prevent cancer. The project represents an opportunity to leverage the strengths of two research entities to fast track a new cancer prevention therapy to patients.

The two institutions are developing and executing an exploratory clinical trial. Several investigational formulations of the drug will be developed at KU under the direction of Roger Rajewski, PhD, Director of the Product Development Core. The investigational formulations will then be tested in clinical trials at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Mirm.

This joint research grant focuses on a drug designed from a naturally-occurring anti-cancer agent found in vegetables such as broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage. The agent, SR13668, is a synthetic version of a compound that naturally inhibits Akt, a protein that can stop a cell from destroying itself, thus keeping a malignant cell alive. This protein is abnormally active in many human malignancies such as breast, prostate, lung, pancreatic, liver, ovarian and colorectal cancers, and in cell and animal experiments, SR13668 has exhibited the ability to inhibit tumor growth, and potentially tumor invasion.

The proposed research is to conduct "pharmacokinetic" studies on a small number of healthy volunteers to determine how different formulations of SR13668 are absorbed, distributed and metabolized within the body. These short-term phase "0" studies are not meant to treat cancer or to demonstrate that these agents can prevent cancer - larger clinical trials may be held to determine the drug's effectiveness against cancer.

It is natural for the two institutions to work together to advance this particular investigational anti-cancer agent from development to clinical trials, according to Scott Weir, PharmD, PhD, director of the KU Office of Therapeutics, Discovery and Development. Paul Limburg, MD, MPH, Mayo Clinic gastroenterologist and co-investigator of the study, said this potentially novel drug might provide a new way to think about preventing cancer.

"While searching for treatment is important, even more so is finding effective ways to prevent cancer, and we hope to do so by working together in this effort," said Limburg, who also serves as the director of the Cancer Prevention Network, a nation-wide consortium funded by the NCI to organize, promote, and conduct cancer prevention research.

Weir said he hopes this initial project will set the stage for expanded collaborations with Mayo Clinic to jointly discover and develop anti-cancer agents. KU Cancer Center Director Roy Jensen, MD, said this joint effort illustrates the university's outstanding research strengths and capabilities in its effort to improve cancer care.

"Working with Mayo Clinic Cancer Center on this research grant is a further testament to the excellence of KU's School of Pharmacy and our Drug Discovery and Development program. This project demonstrates our ability to collaborate with others. It serves as a tremendous asset as we move forward with obtaining NCI's designation as a Comprehensive Cancer Center." Jensen said.