LAWRENCE | Dorms open at 6:30 a.m. during heat

The University of Kansas will open dormitories at 6:30 a.m. instead of 8 a.m. to help students beat the heat while moving in. The new time applies to residence halls, scholarship halls and the Jayhawker Towers apartments, with the towers being the first to open for moving in today.

Benita Y. Williams, bwilliams@kcstar.com
FY2008 shaping up slowly; Mars approaches

Many things are happening that should be of interest to the residents of the State of Kansas. State-only revenues reported this past week were down slightly, about $7 million from the estimates, for the first month of the fiscal year 2008. This reflects a pretty good amount below the estimates and was lower than the June 2006 income by $24 million.

The biggest reduction was in sales tax receipts of $142.6 million was actually $7.4 million or 4.9 percent below estimates and 14.5 percent less than last year’s receipts.

Although fiscal year 2007 produced about $90 million more than expected, the slow start to FY08 is not good news, especially since national economic news isn’t very upbeat.

Back to school shopping in August may boost the sales tax receipts. Mortgages are still a problem; housing is moving relatively slowly so people are not buying new furniture and appliances. These big-ticket items normally have a huge impact on tax receipts. I guess we all need to go buy something.

A recent e-mail from a constituent stated that during the month of August the planet Mars will be the brightest star in the night sky. It will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye. Then on August 27 at 12:30 am, it will come within 34.65 million miles from the earth and it will appear we have two moons.

But if you miss it you lose! The next opportunity will not come until 2287; I doubt anyone alive today will ever see it again. Are there any science types or amateur astronomers out there that can verify this?

Yes, Virginia, there is a Kansas Buffalo (Bison) Association. This organization is made up of mainly Kansas citizens who own, raise, or have various interests in American Buffalo. Their stated “mission is to improve the buffalo industry in Kansas by producing animals, conducting live animal sales, promoting meat sales, educating others about all aspects of buffalo, and preserving this part of our Great Plains heritage.”

There are approximately 300,000 plus buffalo in the United States and Canada. In Kansas alone there are in excess of 10,000 animals, mainly in private herds. For more information contact Rick Eyestone, Kansas Buffalo Association, 3651 Union Road, Junction City, KS 66441. (785) 762-4103, jrbison@kansas.net
I would like to report more good news! Manhattan, Kansas has been selected as one of the 5 finalists for the $450 million National Bio and Agro-Defense facility (NBAF). This decision comes after months of intensive review by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security of 17 locations in 12 states. Now we need to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, which will consist of an extremely thorough and detailed review and analysis of each site. This is a great opportunity for major investments in the State of Kansas and the local area.

The Manhattan site is located on the campus of KSU, directly adjacent to the new Biosecurity Research Institute and near the College of Veterinary Medicine. Manhattan’s university research setting would immediately provide those working at NBAF with synergies and opportunities for cooperation and collaboration with those agencies that they would not otherwise have such ready access at other sites.

Grange: Weekly column

Why does this make sense? Currently nearly half of the nation’s fed cattle, 40 percent of the US hog population, and 20 percent of the U.S. beef cows and calves are located within a 350 mile radius of Kansas. Because Kansas is uniquely positioned in the center of the country it is surrounded by agriculturally focused private assets, research facilities, specialists, collaborative organizations, and academic institutions. These public and private sectors have aligned in support of the facility. This past July the Kansas Board of Regents awarded $600,000 in nursing grants to 17 public higher education institutions across the state. Institutions with registered nurse programs were eligible to apply to the board for these funds, which will be used specifically for additional nursing facility and supplies. The community colleges came out pretty well with our own Butler Community College being awarded $31,715 for one additional nursing faculty member. Barton received $38,280 for one faculty member, Cloud $39,712 for two faculty members, Emporia State $39,172 for one faculty member. The remainder of funds were distributed similarly to other community colleges, Kansas University, Ft. Hays State, Washburn, and Wichita State.

The 2006 Legislature appropriated $3.4 million to fund the first year of a 10-year nursing initiative to address the critical nursing shortage facing the State of Kansas. The 2007 legislature appropriated a total of $2 million in funds, which includes this $600,000. Since funding began in 2006, over 25 full-time and 23 part-time additional nursing faculty have been hired, 50 nurse educator service scholarships have been awarded and over 460 additional nursing students have been admitted into nursing programs statewide. I consider it an honor and privilege to serve as your representative, let me know what you think by contacting me at home; 1115 Rim Rock Road, El Dorado 67042, (316) 321-2087, or john@carisleinc.net, www.johngrange.net, or work (316) 321-6230.
Colleges get schooled in campus safety

More officer training and launching messaging systems and alarms are among steps in Missouri and Kansas.

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
The Kansas City Star

For three days this summer, law enforcement officers moved, with plastic guns drawn, through the halls of a building on the University of Central Missouri campus.

The 45 officers were involved in the first series of training sessions there to prepare campus police, Warrensburg police, and Johnson County Sheriff’s deputies for “an active shooter situation.”

Across the country, campus security has been in the spotlight since April, when a mentally disturbed Virginia Tech student shot and killed 32 people and wounded 25 others before committing suicide. It was the deadliest campus shooting in U.S. history.

Now, as universities and colleges in Missouri and Kansas prepare to receive students for the fall semester, they are reviewing and upgrading campus security measures and launching emergency messaging systems and campus alarms. Campus police officers also have been undergoing more emergency-response
CAMPUS: Colleges in region step up efforts to ensure safety

FROM A1

training.

Also, student-life offices and campus public-safety departments said they were fielding a lot more inquiries from parents and students about campus safety.

A major part of freshman-orientation sessions in the spring and summer focused on campus safety, emergency-response times and monitoring student behavior.

"That was new for us," said Mel Tyler, vice provost for student affairs at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. "Usually most of the questions are about parking and other things."

UMKC this year will focus its freshman welcome program on campus safety counseling resources and where to report incidents. During orientation this summer, the chief of campus police talked to parents about emergency plans.

In June, UMKC police teamed up with the Kansas City police tactical unit and practiced room searches and how to approach a classroom where a gunman might be holding hostages. More UMKC officers this fall will go to tactical training sessions and response training.

"It's like risk management," said UMKC Police Chief Scott Shelton. "We need to train the hardest for the incidents that rarely ever happen."

Many campus police departments are getting such training. Strategos International, a Lee's Summit law enforcement and military-training company, has been bombarded with training requests from campus police around the country. This fall the company will train officers in St. Louis and at the University of Missouri-Columbia, said Vaughn Baker, company president.

At the University of Kansas this week, officials said they tested an emergency mass-notification system, the installation of which began 12 years ago. The voice-message fire alarm system also can broadcast inclement weather alerts and is linked with the Douglas County Emergency Management Department. It can be used from a central location to warn people on campus or to broadcast instructions in case of an emergency.

The system is now in 40 buildings, and the university expects to test it in an additional 16 buildings by the end of August. That system will couple with a new text-messaging alert system — free to students and faculty — that has been in place since June.

Several area campuses, including Park University in Parkville, Johnson County Community College and Kansas State University, will for the first time this fall begin operating software with cell-phone emergency-messaging capabilities.

University governing boards and state officials also have gotten involved.

The Kansas Board of Regents at its September meeting expects a report from each of its colleges and universities on campus security systems and safety procedures. Regents in May called for the reports.

In Missouri, a task force created by Gov. Matt Blunt after the Virginia Tech shootings is expected to report to the governor on campus safety and security by Wednesday.

While the task force did not evaluate security on each of the state's campuses, Missouri Commissioner of Higher Education Robert Stein said the report would make some recommendations for improving security and safety measures, and "emphasize an all-hazards emergency plan that includes responses for everything from natural disasters to active shooter ..."

Stein, who served on the task force, said that based on information it collected about campus security systems, "Missouri campuses are relatively safe places, but still there is a need for us to be diligent."

On the federal level, legislation that would create a National Center for Campus Public Safety and a federal grant program for campus security last week passed the Senate Judiciary Committee. The School Safety and Law Enforcement Improvement Act of 2007 would make $50 million in grants available for emergency communication systems, training and other improvements.

To reach Maré Rose Williams, call 816-234-4419 or send e-mail to mdwilliams@kcstar.com.
New faces, new year at USD 356

Callie Bartelson

Callie Bartelson is familiar with the Conway Springs area because she was born and raised in Argonia. After high school, she attended Emporia State University where she earned a BSE in English. Callie taught three years at Belle Plaine High School as an English teacher. She also assisted in coaching girls' basketball and track. Callie will teach English at Conway Springs High School this year. She is also an assistant girls' volleyball coach. Callie and her husband, Mitch, live in Mayfield.

Sarah Buss

My name is Sarah Buss and I will be one of the new math teachers at the high school this year. I received my degree from WSU and now live in Wichita. I have been married for almost three years. We have a dog, a Welsh Corgi named Rufus, but no children. I look forward to the upcoming school year and meeting all of my students.

Derrick Birdsell

I am originally from Hesston, Kan. and currently live in Derby. I graduated from the University of Kansas in 2004. I taught Special Education for two years at Derby High School before coming to Conway Springs. At CSHS I will be teaching English 9, reading/writing workshop, psychology and sociology. I will also be directing the Winter play. My wife, Amy, is a flight instructor at Hesston College in Hesston. When I am not teaching I enjoy spending time with my wife, reading, watching movies, golfing and cooking new foods. I am looking forward to the new opportunities and challenges that I will have this school year in Conway Springs.
Lori Rosenhagen

I am Lori Rosenhagen and I will be teaching first grade at Kyle Trueblood Elementary. I have taught at Maize for the past ten years. My husband, Greg, is assistant principal/athletic director at CSHS. We have two young daughters.

Katrina Penner

Hi! My name is Katrina Penner. I am the oldest of three, single and I love to teach. I was born in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Canada. My parents wanted to raise us in a smaller city than Wichita where my mom is from originally. Thus, we ended up in Newton, Kan. I went to Emporia State University and graduated with a degree to teach K-12th grade mathematics.

I taught in Wichita Public Schools from 2002 - 2005. I had a great time, but sometimes the stress of having up to 49 students in a class at one time was simply too much. I have been absent from the classroom for about one and one-half years, but there isn’t a day that goes by that I wonder how my kids are doing. I feel God has led me in the decision about it being time to go back. However, I knew I couldn’t return to such large classes again which led me to apply and take the position of math teacher at Conway Springs High School. God bless!
Getting geared up for school

Parents, students partake in ritual of summer's end

By FOSS FARRAR
Staff Writer

Micah and Mackenzie Hoskins interrupted their search for watermelon Thursday afternoon to talk about the end of summer and start of a new school year.

The two youngsters were at the Farm & Art Market downtown with their great-grandmother, Nancy Estes. They had opposite views on the start of school.

“I’m actually pretty happy to be going to school,” said Micah, 10. He is about to enter fifth grade at Jefferson Elementary School. His sister Mackenzie, 8, answered “no” when asked if she was ready for the first day of school next week.

Arkansas City Public Schools open Thursday for all students except preschoolers and kindergarteners, who start a week later.

“I want to go swimming every day,” Mackenzie said.

The responses of Micah and Mackenzie echoed those of some other kids who were downtown at the market or shopping in nearby stores. Some were anxious for school to start; others wanted to keep playing video games, see friends at the pool or go on vacations.

But summer days are almost over, and school days are around the corner, although not so close around the corner in neighboring towns.

Tyler Norris will be a seventh-grader this fall at South Haven Junior High School. He said he’s not ready for the start of school.

“We’re lucky because ours starts on the 22nd,” Norris said. “We have next week off and part of the week after that.”

Other students expressed ambivalence about starting school. Some said they were putting off doing shopping for school supplies.

John Kuffler was selling blackberries at the market, with his mother, Theresa Kuffler.

The summer has gone by “really fast,” said John, who will be a junior this year at Arkansas City High School.

SCHOOL
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Triston, 6, and his brother Taidon, 5, are helped by their mother, Holly Wills, of Winfield, as they try on new shoes for school at Jan’s Sport Shack in Arkansas City.
School

from page one

He said it will be good to return to school to see his friends but he also has enjoyed raising blackberries and mowing lawns for neighbors this summer.

“I haven’t done any back to school shopping yet,” Kuffler said.

Ark City High School sophomore Alyssa Zimmerman said she looks forward to high school football season. She is a cheerleader.

But though she is “a little excited” about the approaching school year, she also will miss some summer activities. This summer, she took a trip to Daytona Beach, Fla., and visited Universal Studios in Orlando.

Zimmerman was visiting The Brown’s Store. Other students were checking out shoes, sporting equipment and uniforms at Jan’s Sport Shack.

Store manager Jana Frazier said the word from parents in recent days is that their children are ready for school.

“We can feel the difference after the Cowley County Fair,” Frazier said. “That’s when people start to get excited about (the start of school).”

Cowley College student Lindsey Binford has worked full-time at Jan’s all summer. She will start her sophomore year at the college next week.

Binford said the summer has flown by, but she has planned ahead for next semester, when she will take a 16-hour per week class load.

“I got my books the first day they were on sale, Monday, so I wouldn’t have to wait in line" she said.

Another student who said he is ready for school is Douglas Befort, who will be an eighth grader at Arkansas City Middle School.

Befort said he recently won the reserve championship for showmanship for a lamb he presented at the Cowley County Fair.

“I’m using the money to shop for school,” said Befort as he looked at shoes in Jan’s.

Befort said he worked this summer with his uncle on a farm.

Also interviewed Thursday afternoon both at Jan’s and at the market were several nervous freshmen.

At the market was Alec Martinez, accompanied by his aunt, Carrie Hain.

Martinez will be a freshman this fall at Derby High School. He said he’s “not really” ready for school and isn’t “really sure” how he feels about starting high school.

This summer, Martinez enjoyed playing sports, including baseball, he said.

Arkansas City student Toby Wright graduated as part of the Ark City High Class of 2007 in May. He will be a freshman this fall at the University of Kansas.

Wright will attend KU on an academic and vocal scholarship. He is one of only 10 freshmen admitted into the vocal performance program.

“I’m pretty nervous,” said Wright, who was shopping for shoes at Jan’s. “It’s going to be a lot different than living in Ark City, but it’s going to be exciting — a new place, new people. I think it will be a lot of fun.”

Another freshman who is about to start high school is Briley Sparlin. She came to Jan’s to find a tennis uniform.
She admitted to being “kind of” nervous because of “the older people; they’ll probably be a lot more advanced.”

But two young brothers from Winfield, Triston and Taidon Wills, had little to say about school. They were busy trying on new shoes at Jan’s, and were accompanied by their mother, Holly Wills.

“In the summer we got to play with our friends,” said Taidon, 5, who will start kindergarten this fall.

He and his brother Triston, 6, a first-grader, will attend Country View Elementary School.

Nancy Wright sits with her son, Toby, in Jan’s Sport Shack. Toby will be a freshman this fall at the University of Kansas.