Dukakis speaking at Dole Institute

LAWRENCE — Former Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis will give a lecture at the University of Kansas next week.

Dukakis will speak at the university’s Dole Institute of Politics at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 29. Dukakis was the governor of Massachusetts for three terms before running for president and losing the 1988 general election to George H.W. Bush.

Dukakis had risen from obscurity to take the Democratic nomination in a field that included Senators Al Gore and Gary Hart, as well as the Reverend Jesse Jackson.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
From Mexico, they make Kansas home

State health officials trying to assist Low German Mennonites

By Sarah Green
KHI News Service

SUBLETTE — The story is familiar, but it has a twist: Immigrants from Mexico move to southwest Kansas seeking work at farms, feedlots or meat processing plants. Public health workers in the region respond with literature and services in Spanish to meet the needs of the immigrants.

But a new wave of newcomers has arrived, pushing public health officials to adapt even further.

Though the number is impossible to pinpoint, an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 Low German Mennonites, distinct for their language and religion, have started settlements in southwest Kansas, said Cyndi Treaster, director of the Farmworker, Immigrant and Refugee Health Section in the Office of Local and Rural Health at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

“The last time Low German Mennonites settled in Kansas was in the 1800s,” said William Keel, a professor of German at The University of Kansas, referring to a group that settled on farms in central Kansas. “This is like the 19th century all over again.”

Please see Mennonites, Page 12A

THE SERIES
The Kansas Health Institute News Service takes a look at the relationship between immigration and its impact on health care systems in Kansas.

Friday: Kansas isn’t among a list of states that have expanded Medicaid plans to include prenatal care for undocumented immigrant women.

Today: Low German Mennonites, whose ancestors have migrated from Germany to Russia, then Canada and Mexico, are the latest wave of immigrants to settle in southwest Kansas in search of jobs.

Sunday: Somali refugees sent to Emporia to work in meatpacking plants bring with them multiple cases of latent tuberculosis.
Continued from Page 1A

The new arrivals are sometimes called Mexican Mennonites. Their ancestors migrated from Germany to Russia and then to Canada. In the early 20th century, to avoid Canadian public school laws, they migrated from Canada to Mexico. The families now moving to Kansas, Texas and Oklahoma in search of jobs typically come from the Mexican state of Chihuahua.

They began moving to Kansas in small numbers and appearing on the radar screens of health officials as early as the 1980s. But by the late 1990s and early 2000s, there were enough in Kansas that health officials began reaching out to the Low German Mennonite communities, several of which are in Scott, Gray and Haskell counties.

"It’s really interesting," Treaster said. "There’s not a lot of preventive health care in their community. They’re very isolated."

"From a theological point of view, some degree of isolation is not only expected but regarded in their faith," said Dorothy Nickel Friesen, the Western District Conference minister for the Mennonite Church USA, which is based in Newton. "They are self-sufficient and work very hard and don’t demand much from the world around them."

When they do need medical help, they typically are unaware of the services available. The Mennonite Church, in conjunction with the KDHE Farmworker program, has worked to provide translation, transportation and information services to them, Nickel Friesen said.

When services are offered to them — dental care, childhood immunizations, early prenatal care — they are accepted and utilized, Treaster said.

"I think what happens is that when they do get hooked up with clinics and health departments, oftentimes they go in because they’re going to put some children in public school and need immunizations," Treaster said. "Or they get pregnant and have a baby, and they understand that prenatal care is something we expect people to get here.

"And then after they have some of their children, they’ll have a follow-up visit from the health department, where they can talk about family planning, the (Women, Infant and Children) program and immunizations."

Mennonite Church USA leaders and volunteers help not only with translation and transportation but also offer, friendship and "a spiritual presence," Nickel Friesen said. The Low German Mennonite population in southwest Kansas isn’t affiliated with the Mennonite Church USA, she said.

"Our conference said that this was a matter of concern and justice," she said. "We knew there were people among us who needed care that had a language barrier that no one else could address. We care about those who are marginalized, as many of us in our own history know about being immigrants. That’s an important part of our ministry."

The Farmworker program also relies on people within the Low German Mennonite community, typically women, to serve as health promoters within the settlements and as liaisons with local health departments.

"We’re very fortunate that we have one individual in our community who employs members of some of the families on her farm," said Karen Sattler, administrator of the Scott County Health Department. "She herself has been helping with teaching them English, and she does speak some German. They’ve been very receptive to that."

Sara Green, a staff writer for KHI News Service, which specializes in coverage of health issues facing Kansans. She can be reached at sgreen@khi.org or (785) 233-5443, ext. 118.
Washburn student balances classes, residents

Holding down the fort

Jenna Hollis holds down what she calls a 24-hour job. She's not just a senior at Washburn University majoring in science and carrying 14 hours this semester. She's a resident assistant, on call for students residing in the Living Learning Center.

What is it like to be a resident assistant?

We do all types of programs to build community throughout the Living Learning Center and the campus. We try to get all the residents involved and show them the opportunities Washburn has to offer. I've gotten to know a lot of people through being an RA, and getting to know a whole bunch of people is something I like — talking to people, getting to know them on a one-on-one basis. If anyone has problems — if their girlfriend broke up with them or something — we're there as kind of a counselor.

How much of the job is being a role model or parent figure?

We're more like someone for them to look up to as an older brother or sister or a mentor. We're someone who has been down the same road, so they can ask questions about classes or what to do in certain situations.

How do you build and maintain trust with students?

I'll go to each room and hang out with the residents and just get to know them. I'll sit out in the hall lobby and have conversations with them. And I tell them know a little about me, too, so they don't feel like I'm just an authority figure.

How do you juggle your schedule?

Sometimes it's pretty late nights. My first year doing it I had a hard time trying to balance it. When I have time I really need to make myself go to my room or to the library and study. You have to organize your time, work out your schedule as much as possible.

What's the biggest challenge you see now students having?

The biggest thing is the change from being at home where you have parents who help you with classes and enrollment. It goes from being your parents' responsibility to completely yours. Some still have a hard time grasping that.

Any practical jokes pulled on you?

There's something called the duty phone, and we've gotten prank phone calls on that. People will call and say they're locked out at three in the morning, and we'll go there (to let them in), and there won't be anyone there. They were just kidding, but some of the residents we have this year like to be pranksters.

Alyssa Padilla was one of 69 University of Kansas students in the Dean's Scholars Program who were honored at the University Honors Program on Monday, Nov. 5.

The Dean's Scholars Program is part of the University Honors Program and includes academically talented students who are interested in pursuing graduate studies and who represent groups traditionally underrepresented in graduate education.

Padilla is the daughter of Linda Cooper.

She is a graduate of Leavenworth High School.
Plan seeks more pharmacies

Hope is KU expansion would serve rural areas

By BRIAN WILLIAMS
Herald Staff Writer

A local pharmacist supports having the state Board of Regents request the 2008 Legislature for state funds to expand the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy to help fill a shortage of pharmacists in rural Kansas.

"I think that's a good idea," Bill Allegre, owner of Allegre Pharmacy and Biscoe Pharmacy, said.

"It's difficult here, but not as difficult in some areas," Allegre who graduated from KU's pharmacy school in 1980, said.

Of the state's 105 counties, seven have no drug stores and 32 have just one. With retirement age approaching for many rural pharmacists, that shortage will be compounded unless things change, the dean of KU's pharmacy school, Ken Audus, said.

Allegre said an advantage Ottawa has over more rural areas in the state is its proximity to Kansas City and Lawrence.

"Frankly, that's why I came here," he said.

Other communities can get left out because the supply isn't keeping up with the demand.

Prescription for Kansas

For a map of counties with only one or no pharmacies. See Page 11.

As the only pharmacy school in the state, KU's six-year program currently graduates 105 students each year. It isn't enough to fill the rural void, Audus said, hoping to add some 45 more slots in Lawrence and 40 more at the medical school's teaching site in Wichita.

With additional space, the school could perhaps start to marshal the forces needed to keep small-town pharmacies going and help maintain communities as attractive places to live.

"We turn away 335 students per year," Audus said. "The most difficult letters I have to write are those saying, 'You're fully qualified, but we don't have the space.'"

"It's a very real dilemma," Rep. Don Hill, R-Emporia, a pharmacist and owner of two local Medicine Shoppe franchises, agreed.

Neighboring Chase and Wabaunsee counties have no pharmacy, Hill said. Nearby Greenwood County just watched one close, leaving only one left.

Even in Emporia, Hill knows of at least three vacancies.

"[Pharmacists] have a certain standing in the community," Audus said.

Audus said the school takes students on tours of the state's various regions, including rural towns. They also promote a program that places students with professional pharmacists during two summers of their studies.

Those who go to rural communities "have their eyes opened," said Audus, a former "drug store rat" himself, who spent his high school years stocking shelves for his hometown pharmacist.

"They get a little different view of what goes on in small towns, the very nice living conditions, a good place to raise a family. That gives them a little different feeling rather than just reading about it or hearing about it." Audus said the school's expansion is critical to continuing that work.

Harris News Service and the Associated Press contributed to this article.
Reading, math, and music

The issue: What music and the arts have to do with reading and math

Our view: Music and the arts need to be supported to achieve the No Child Left Behind Act's 2014 goal

As more and more emphasis is placed on Congress' mandated No Child Left Behind Act, which is pressuring the country's public school districts with law dictating that all students will be proficient in reading and math by 2014, the arts and music programs in these same schools are being pushed to the background. In some cases, they have been eliminated.

No one disagrees with the effort to stress reading and math skills. They are essential to being successful throughout life.

But non-academic lawmakers, even some school board members, tend to place arts and music programs in the same category as basket weaving despite the many studies that have been done proving how important student involvement in arts and music is in aiding these students to be better in reading and math.

According to a poll 2,565 adults released this past week by the National Association for Music Education, found that students with a musical background, whether in the high school band, orchestra, or chorus, went on to seek higher education and were able to garner larger paychecks. Nearly 90 percent of the people surveyed who said they had entered some postgraduate education, said they also had been involved in a public school music program. And 83 percent were earning $150,000 or more a year.

That supports a study by Christopher Johnson, University of Kansas music professor, that students who have gone through quality music programs have higher scores in math and reading.

Even though the poll and the study were done by
individuals connected to music, this kind of information isn’t new. Research exploring the effects of the arts and music on other core curriculum has been done by many independent groups and organizations. Not one study has ever returned a conclusion that arts and music have no effect on students.

So, as No Child Left Behind pushes our school districts to have all students proficient in reading and math by 2014, we suggest our non-academic government officials make sure the necessary funding is provided for the arts and music to make sure the proficiency goal is met.

Rhonda Humble, Chuck Kurtz, Mark Taylor and Danedri Thompson comprise the newspaper’s editorial board.
North grad finalist in ad contest

Patrick Crough, Merriam, a senior in journalism and mass communications, strategic communications emphasis, and a graduate of Shawnee Mission North High School, Overland Park, was one of eight finalists from the University of Kansas in a national advertising contest organized by Chipotle, a national restaurant chain specializing in gourmet tacos and burritos. Chipotle invited 120 colleges to submit entries.
Many accomplishments seen during past two years

by Bill Gregg

I have enjoyed a two-year run as president of the Wyandotte County Historical Society. The society did not accomplish all of the things I wanted; however, as I look back over the past two years, there have been many changes and other things are in progress.

The society is working on a website; it should be operational next year. Bids have been taken and the old Trowbridge-Barker Gallery should be refurbished soon. Membership is increasing. The history volume dealing with various communities is on the bookshelves. The historic sites book should be published soon.

It is impossible to accomplish much of anything without a dedicated board of directors. The society certainly has had good boards in the past; the boards in the last two years have been outstanding in their individual dedication to the mission of the society. Each member has been assigned to at least one task. They have carried out their work admirably. I want to thank them, including Roger Miller, the first-vice president; Suzanne Knowles, the second vice president; Rebecca Meditz, the secretary; John Feeback, the treasurer; Joe Vaughan, the historian; Pat Adams, the membership chairwoman; Betty Kirby, the gift shop chairwoman; Don Turner, the garden chairman; Loren Taylor, the immediate past-president; Trish Schurkamp, the museum director; and Murrell Bland, Betty Gibson, Don Jones, Dave Meditz and Ruby Smith, directors.

There are a couple of things that stand out during my two years. They are the excellent work of museum volunteers; the other was a Memorial Day service at Quindaro Cemetery.

Volunteers Bennett Green and Jim Masson continue to work with Joel Thornton, the museum archivist, in inventorying and computerizing old records. The museum research gets better every day.

The Memorial Day service is difficult to describe – you almost had to be there to appreciate it. William Hogarty, a Civil War veteran, is buried in the Quindaro Cemetery. The society cooperated with Civil War re-enactors in honoring this soldier who received the Congressional Medal of Honor. It was a very moving and outstanding experience – one that will remain in our hearts for years to come.

Our programs at the museum during the last two years have been outstanding. Bill Nicks of Lenexa will present another outstanding program at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18. He will portray Dr. James Naismith, the inventor of the game of basketball and the first head basketball coach at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

I have enjoyed working with the museum staff. They have gone above and beyond the call of duty in helping me through some rough spots. Others besides Trish and Joel include Jennifer Laughlin, curator, and Jeff Jennings, the all-around handyman. The staff members are employees of the Unified Government and subject to its authority.

However, they all work hand-in-glove with the society. They manage the building; one of their main duties is to protect and preserve everything in the building including historical items, displays and equipment. They assure that all items are kept at the proper temperature and humidity; that they are in dust and smoke-free areas; and that they are stored in acid-free boxes or other similar wrappings.

Many organizations use the auditorium at the museum except during the months of October and November when

see ACCOMPLISHMENTS, next page
Dr. James Naismith, the inventor of basketball, will appear at the quarterly meeting of the Wyandotte County Historical Society at 2 p.m. on Sunday Nov. 18, in the auditorium in the Wyandotte County Museum. Actually, it will be Bill Nicks of Lenexa who will portray Dr. Naismith. Nicks will tell how the game was invented and how the basic 13 rules remain an essential part of the game, even after 116 years. The photo shows Dr. Naismith (left) with Dr. Phog Allen, the legendary head basketball coach at the University of Kansas, Lawrence. Nicks is the director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Lenexa. He has a bachelor’s degree from Washburn University, Topeka, and a master’s degree from K.U. Admission will be free and light refreshments will be served after the program. (Submitted photo.)

Accomplishments

continued from previous page

the annual quilt show is displayed. This fall, the show offered 50 quilts, including several that are very valuable antiques. Unfortunately, another organization was quite upset it could not use the auditorium. However, it was allowed to stage an event on the grounds near the museum.

The organization had a large open fire for roasting. The museum staff closed off the auditorium to protect the quilts from potential smoke damage. The museum, at its expense, provided 20 long tables and 100 chairs for the organization to use outside. Unfortunately, the museum staff was berated because it was doing its job in protecting the quilts.

The museum staff will bend over backwards to help visiting groups. However, such groups must abide by the rules. The foremost responsibility of the museum staff and the society is to protect and preserve the history of Wyandotte County.

Bill Gregg is the president of the Wyandotte County Historical Society.
Kaska named student leader

About 170 University of Kansas students have been selected as resident assistants, scholarship hall proctors, food board managers and housing organization officers. Among those is Sophia Kaska, daughter of Tek and Sarah Kaska, a sophomore biology major. She has been named a Lewis Hall resident assistant.
Stone part of KU No. 1 ranked debate team

Christopher Stone, a sophomore in political science and son of Douglas and Gloria Stone, was part of the University of Kansas debate team which celebrated being ranked No. 1 in the nation and a $1 million endowment raised by debate alumni to support the squad.
Stone competes with KU debaters

Christopher Stone, a sophomore in political science, son of Douglas and Gloria Stone, competed at Harvard with the University of Kansas debate team Oct. 27-29. The team of Stone and Nate Johnson finished in ninth place.