PAOLA CHURCH HOSTS KU QUARTET

A string quartet from the University of Kansas will perform two music selections at the 10:30 a.m. worship service Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church in Paola. The quartet also will join the organist to accompany the singing of hymns by the congregation, and the public is invited to attend, according to a news release from member Mary Ann Grimes. Members of the quartet are Melicent King and Cyril Cook on the violin, Nikki Taylor on the viola and Rachel Williams on the cello.

— Brian McCauley
KU student diagnosed with hepatitis A

LAWRENCE — A University of Kansas student was diagnosed last week with hepatitis A, officials announced Wednesday.

KU's Student Health Services has distributed informational letters on hepatitis A to fewer than 30 students who were in close contact with the infected student.

Hepatitis A, also called infectious hepatitis, is generally a mild illness that affects the liver. Symptoms include fever, tiredness, loss of appetite, nausea, abdominal discomfort, diarrhea, dark urine and jaundice. The virus is spread when people don't wash their hands after using the toilet or changing diapers.
Dukakis lets Mitt have it

Time to test your knowledge of current events.

Question No. 1: During an appearance at The University of Kansas, former Democratic presidential candidate and Massachusetts governor Michael Dukakis said this about another politician: "He's a fraud, has no moral core and was a lousy governor." To whom was Dukakis referring?

A. Bill Richardson
B. Mitt Romney
C. Bill Clinton
Correct answer: B
Question No. 2: The Kansas Department of Administration revealed it was proposing a $77 million overhaul of the Docking State Office Building. What was the construction cost of the building, which opened in 1956?
A. About half the amount of the overhaul estimate
B. About a quarter the amount
C. About one-ninth the amount of the estimate
Correct answer: C. The building cost $8.6 million.

Question 3: Which of the following wasn’t an actual breakthrough from the medical world this week?
A. Scientists claimed to have created a drug that mimics the ingredient in red wine linked to longevity and could lead to solutions for diseases of aging.
B. Compared with conventional mammography, researchers said, 3-D digital mammography cuts the number of false diagnoses of breast cancer in half.
C. Doctors discovered that Vice President Dick Cheney still, in fact, does have a heart.
Correct answer: C. But give yourself partial credit if you answered C, in light of the news that doctors administered an electrical shock to Cheney’s heart to restore it to a normal rhythm.

Question No. 4: Speaking of Cheney, the Kansas Democratic Party issued a news release this week criticizing Nick Jordan for inviting the vice president to be his guest of honor at a fundraiser for Jordan’s campaign for Congress.

The headline on the release was as follows: “Nick Jordan to Host Vice President Dick Cheney at Leadwood Fundraiser.”

Leadwood?
So here’s the question: Which of the following isn’t among the plausible explanations behind the headline?
A. The Democrats made a calculated “mistake” in reference to Cheney’s infamous hunting accident.
B. Typos happen.
C. Jordan held the fundraiser in the city of Leadwood, Mo.
Correct answer: C. The shindig was held in Leawood, although there really is a Leadwood, Mo.

Ric Anderson can be reached at (785) 295-1282 or ric.anderson@cjonline.com.
KU receives teaching grant

By Mike Hall
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

The University of Kansas overcame odds of about 4 to 1 to win a $2.4 million grant to produce more math and science teachers.

Out of the 50 universities that applied, KU is one of 12 universities in the nation receiving a grant from the National Math and Science Initiative.

The money will be used to boost a curriculum in which math and science students earn teaching credentials along with their bachelor’s degree in math or science.

In announcing the grant Friday in Topeka, KU provost Richard Lariviére said a goal of the program is to double the number of math and science teachers graduating each year from KU to about 50.

He said Kansas is expected to lose 680 math and science teachers at the end of this school year. Yet, the state’s colleges and universities are turning out only 228.

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Grant: Check presented to dean

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new math and science teachers each year.

The program is already under way at KU. It is called UKanTeach and is modeled after a program called UTeach at the University of Texas-Austin.

The UKanTeach pilot program last year graduated 30 students, and another 33 are enrolled this fall.

On Friday, a large ceremonial check was presented to Rick Ginsberg, KU’s dean of the School of Education, and Joe Steinmetz, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, whose departments

WANT TO TEACH?
Math and science majors are being recruited for the UKanTeach program. If you know someone who loves math or science and would make a good teacher, have them call Janis Lariviére at (785) 864-8028 or e-mail her at jlariviere@ku.edu.

will work jointly on the new program.

The check was presented by Rosendo Cruz, representing Exxon Mobile, which has given $125 million to NMSI.

Two fifth-graders from Pinckney Elementary School in Lawrence participated in the check presentation. The UKanTeach students practice their classroom skills at their school. The students’ class had been invited to the event to participate as “journalists.” As participants in the event arrived, the students interviewed them.

Many education and government dignitaries attended the announcement at the Maner Conference Center, including Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Rep. Nancy Boyda, and members of the Kansas State Board of Regents and Kansas State Board of Education.

Mike Hall can be reached at (785) 295-1209 or mike.hall@cfnonline.com.
Phelps-focused documentary airs tonight on Showtime

By Bill Blankenship
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL.

An $11 million judgment against the Westboro Baptist Church for picketing the funeral of a Marine Corps corporal killed in Iraq has heightened the interest in a Kansas filmmaker’s documentary about the Topeka congregation and its pastor, the Rev. Fred Phelps.

K. Ryan Jones’ feature-length documentary, “Fall from Grace,” debuts at 9 p.m. today on Showtime.

The Oct. 31 verdict in the civil lawsuit filed by the father of Lance Cpl. Matthew Snyder came just as Showtime was preparing press releases announcing its acquisition of “Fall from Grace” and its debut.

“It was just totally fortuitous that we could kind of ride on the heels of that,” said Jones, a 2007 University of Kansas graduate who made the documentary while still a student.

Jones spoke Monday afternoon by telephone from New York, where he recently moved, bankrolled by proceeds from the Showtime deal and one by Netflix for distribution next year of the DVD of “Fall from Grace.”

Jones, who grew up in Wichita, said the proceeds from his first documentary is “enough for about a year without working,” during which he plans on making contacts in New York film circles, work on some screenplays and pursue other projects.

Jones began work on the documentary as a class project.

“My original thought was that I would work on this for a month, do a few interviews, attend a church service and a picket, and have a nice 10- to 20-minute short,” Jones writes in the film’s production notes.

A year later, “Fall from Grace” was five times longer and included interviews with Phelps, his children and grandchildren, theologians, Topeka Mayor Bill Bunten, former Topeka Police Chief Ed Kump, Topeka attorney Pedro Irigonegaray and Kelly Franz, the widow of a soldier from Tonganoxie, who was killed in Iraq in 2005 and whose funeral Westboro Baptist Church picketed.

Jones said reaction to “Fall from Grace” has been universally positive, including by Westboro Baptist Church members.

Jones screened the documentary on Nov. 26, 2006, at the home of Shirley Phelps-Roper, one of Fred Phelps’ daughters, one of the church’s attorneys and a co-defendant in the federal lawsuit, the verdict of which Phelps-Roper announced last week would be appealed.

After the screening, which Fred Phelps didn’t attend, Phelps-Roper told The Topeka Capital-Journal: “On a production level, it was good. The content was good. Anytime we get the word out there that we are a doomed country — a doomed generation — it’s a good thing.”

Phelps preaches that every calamity that has struck the United States in recent years, from 9/11 to Hurricane Katrina to casualities in war, are God’s punishments for the nation’s tolerance of homosexuality.

Jones said the only major change in the film since it was shown for the Phelpses and at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library in January is a new soundtrack featuring original music by KU professor Kip Haake.

Jones said one reason he made “Fall from Grace” was to shed light on Phelps and his followers. In his production notes, Jones quotes U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis who said, “Sunlight is the best disinfectant.”

“Perhaps, by shedding some light on Fred Phelps and the Westboro Baptist Church, by demystifying them, we can be better able to dismiss them,” he wrote.

Bill Blankenship can be reached at (785) 295-1284 or bill.blankenship@cjonline.com.
K. Ryan Jones, a 2007 University of Kansas graduate, spent almost a year filming members of the Westboro Baptist Church and its critics for “Fall from Grace,” a documentary that will debut tonight on Showtime.
An AP News Analysis: Military, academia building bridges in light of war

BY JOHN MILBURN
Associated Press Writer

LAWRENCE (AP) — When the United States faced the daunting challenge of World War II, the nation’s academics answered the call to assist the military in winning the fight. Vietnam ended much of that goodwill, with students and faculty alike outspoken about the war and the United States’ motives. The University of Kansas wasn’t immune, with the student union going into flames in April 1970 amid protests.

Nearly 40 years later, the United States is again in an unpopular war, but the military and academics have mended their fences. Cooperation is coming back. In what one top general calls “graduate-level warfare,” soldiers are looking to college campuses for help.

“What we’ve entered into is a new kind of conflict where I think academics and military people agree we have to learn more about our enemies than we did,” said Jonathan Earle, interim director of the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas. “That takes it out of the old political rubric from the Vietnam era where it’s ideology, left wing, right wing.”

Throughout this year, professors at the University of Kansas have been collaborating with officers at Fort Leavenworth’s Combined Arms Center. They are sharing their experiences from deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, discussing the culture of those nations and how to avoid making mistakes on the battlefield that could undermine goals, let alone cost lives.

Recently, the officers and professors presented papers during a symposium at the Dole Institute. Later, Lt. Gen. William Caldwell IV held court with about 150 students in the student union.

Julia Groebelcher, a sophomore in political science, economics from McPherson, was able to ask Caldwell pointed questions about foreign policy and the military.

“This is one of the most enlightening experiences that we can have as students,” she said.

Earle went to Columbia University in New York, where he never saw anyone in uniform except when Nicaragua’s Daniel Ortega came to speak. As a professor, he regularly has Army officers in his classroom working on advanced degrees, giving him and students exposure to the military’s future leaders who have been to war.

“I find it very fruitful and very useful,” he said.

The military is known for its prestigious service academies, with most of the top leaders graduates of either West Point or Annapolis. But it is also known for the better part of a half-century for helping veterans further their education and pave the way after service through the GI Bill.

Jim Sweizer manages nationwide military outreach for the American Public University System, including American Military University. He said education programs blossomed

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Military

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in the 1970s and 1980s out of a need to serve a transient student body. The goal was to educate soldiers, help them transfer credits across the country and earn degrees in a timely manner.

“They are military friendly and the faculty understands the population that they are serving,” said Sweizer, who spent 33 years in the Air Force and as a civilian employee in education programs.

While the Department of Defense issued an edict to allow recruiters on college campuses, most of the tensions that existed at places like the University of Kansas and elsewhere have eased.

“The atmosphere that you describe in the 1970s is pretty much faded away,” Sweizer said.

“I think the biggest change you see is that everybody seems to be accepting of the military, understanding that we are here to serve the American,” Caldwell said. “What you are finding is they want to engage in a dialogue.”

He said Fort Leavenworth and the University of Kansas have more in common than might be imagined. Both Caldwell and University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway are looking for more ways to involve more aspects of each institution in the growing relationship.

Tapping the skills of academic expertise, such as the social sciences, will help the Army to better prepare when it goes to war or takes part in nation building. A mantra in the U.S. counterinsurgency fight in Iraq is cultural awareness, knowing how to make more friends than enemies.

Caldwell would like to nurture ties with the University of Kansas, and a new program directed by David Lambertson, former ambassador to Thailand, is a start. Putting civilians in military classrooms and vise versa will broaden perspectives brought to discussions.

Keep academics and the military too detached, and not only do they each not get the right information, but animosities can develop.

“Clear communication is what makes this democracy work,” Groeblacher said.

Caldwell said some in the military wonder what is the benefit for the Army to engage students and faculty. But there is enough support that he thinks it’s a win for the students and the military. He said it can give future business and political leaders a basic understanding of what the military is about.

“There is some push-back from some people, but I think it’s absolutely paramount,” Caldwell said. “I’m not interested in group-think. I’m not interested in reinforcing thoughts we have. I’m interested in exploring the way we’re doing things and asking ourselves if it’s right.”
A taxing issue

To the editor:

Some time ago the faculty of economics at the University of Kansas and members of the legislature met in a symposium asking the question, “Can Kansas Afford Its Future?” After much deliberation, the question was not fully answered, but many doubts as to anything hopeful or in the affirmative prevailed. Without delving into the whys and wherefores of that complex issue, it can be said that many factors such as a static population base, an aging population, a changing economic structure, tax policies and how we manage our lives, all played into a sometimes bleak outlook.

Today I received my tax notices from the county treasurer and I pose a similar question now as a few years ago. Can the people of Baldwin afford our future? Basically, I am an optimist, but as I look at the future for myself and others in our town, I begin to have doubts.

First, the general economy of the nation is in great stress. Taxes are having a heavy impact on spendable income, costs of all petroleum products – gasoline and natural gas – are outrageous, health costs are going through the roof, housing and the credit markets are in disarray – in fact all living costs are on an incline which threaten all of us. And the school board wants another bond issue!

Add the present bonded debt of the school district, the city of Baldwin City and the costs to live that are very present, and ask yourself if this is a very sane approach to life in this town. Local “leaders” on the council and the school board have their thinking upside down if they believe the people of this town favor another bond issue for anything that hasn’t been shown to be absolutely necessary. Where are the urgent needs for more space? Is the space that is already there being utilized to the best effect? Can upgrades to existing space not be made at a greater saving than new construction? The school board has not made the case for a bond issue!

Today, other readers of The Signal also received their tax notices. Did you look at the percentage of tax that you are paying for school buildings? Look, and then decide whether or not we can afford our future, given the specious planning that some of our leaders are reflecting.

Ralph Tanner
Baldwin City
Chanukah comes to Lawrence, KU campus

The first grand Menorah Lighting and Chanukah celebration in downtown Lawrence will take place at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, at South Park.

The event will feature the kindling of the city’s largest menorah at six feet tall, as well as live music, dancing, latkes, gifts and holiday greetings.

On the KU campus, there will be a celebration of Chanukah with the grand “Chanukah Bowl” at the Jaybowl in the Kansas Union 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday Dec. 4. All students are invited to bowl for free, enjoy hot food, get a free T-shirt and participate in the large Menorah Lighting. Students also will participate in a Holiday Toy Drive to benefit sick children in local hospitals.

Chabad Jewish Center will host a Chanukah Story Hour and Olive Press Workshop at the Lawrence Public Library. For more information, contact Chabad, (785) 832-8672 or log on to www.JewishKU.com.
Military building bridges in light of war

LAWRENCE — When the United States faced the daunting challenge of World War II, the nation's academics answered the call to assist the military in winning the fight.

Vietnam ended much of that goodwill, with students and faculty alike outspoken about the war and the United States' motives. The University of Kansas wasn't immune, with the student union going into flames in April 1970 amid protests.

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Rotary

The November 20 meeting was called to order by Vice-President, Doug Ott. Father Jerry Adinolfi gave the invocation, followed by the pledge of allegiance and the 4-way test.

This past week, several Rotarians helped present a check in the amount of $8,000 to the Coffeyville Recreation Commission to assist in recovering from the flood.

Paul Kritz will be celebrating a birthday this week. Paul chose to donate $2 rather than have singing.

Neal Barkley won the drawing for $22. His share has been donated to the Cedar Bluff Camp Fund.

Dusty Delso was our Rotarian of the Day. Dusty introduced Garen Cox, CEO of Medicalodges. He gave a detailed introduction for our speaker of the day, Kansas University Chancellor, Robert Hemingway who is the 16th Chancellor for KU. He has been the board chairman of the NCAA Board of Directors, Chairman of the board for the Big 12 conference and has lead KU to achieve academic excellence among public universities. He says there are 136 students from Montgomery County attending KU. After the flood, the university contacted the students and gave them an option to defer their tuition payments if they had been affected by the flood. Thirty-six students took advantage of the policy. KU graduated 6,000 students in the spring of this year and has over 142,000 alumni living in Kansas. There are 83 students at KU that attended CCC. Hemingway indicated these students must be bright because they receive $330,000 in scholarships. He says his motto is “KU works for Kansas.” KU brings in almost $300 million in research grants and is on track to become a leading cancer center for Kansans. He is committed to keeping the focus on the students, in fact, teaches a 7:30 a.m. English class so he keeps in contact with the academic side. He is also very proud of KU’s athletic accomplishments and, in spite of his tie appearing to be black and gold, wants KU to beat Missouri on Saturday.

Next week: Club Assembly.