WKMA Scholarships funded by annual belt buckle sales

Western Kansas Manufacturers Association, sponsor of the 3i SHOW, makes scholarships available annually to area colleges and vocational technical schools. These scholarships are for freshman students enrolling in industrial engineering, pre-engineering or business administration at Barton County Community College, Colby Community College, Dodge City Community College, Fort Hays State University, Garden City Community College, Kansas State University, North Central Kansas Technical School, Northwest Kansas Technical College, Seward County Community College, Southwest Kansas Technical School and the University of Kansas.

Qualifying students are residents of Western Kansas who have graduated from a Western Kansas high school.

WKMA scholarships are funded each year by the sale of 300 individually numbered, limited edition belt buckles commemorating the upcoming 3i SHOW. Proceeds from this fund provided scholarships for 11 students for the 2006-07 school year.

WKMA is proud to present the 2008 3i SHOW Commemorative Belt Buckle. This brass antique plated buckle (pictured in pewter) is the sixth in the Sixth Series. Buckles ($25), as well as hats ($12), are available at WKMA, 1700 East Wyatt Earp Blvd., PO Box 1382, Dodge City, Kansas 67801, (620) 227-8082.

An order form is available on the WKMA Web site at www.3ishow.com/3i/merchandise.htm. A complete inventory of past years' buckles is also available. Call the WKMA office for availability.
Crumrine named KU scholar

Jamie Crumrine, a senior from Hamilton High School was selected to participate in the KU Honors Program, held in El Dorado on Monday, October 22nd. The event is sponsored by the Kansas Alumni Association; the students participating are named as Kansas Honor Scholars. To be eligible the students must be ranked in the top 10 percent of their class their senior year.
Sarah Tidwell, a faculty member at Emporia State University's Newman Division of Nursing, is the new vice president of the Kansas State Nurses Association.

An active member of the association, Tidwell currently leads the Legislative Committee and is a registered lobbyist for the group. She has been a member of the board of directors and the American Nurses Association House of Delegates.

Tidwell, who earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing at Marymount College and a master's in nursing at the University of Kansas, is an assistant professor at the nursing school.
3-star Army general holds fireside chat with University of Kansas students

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Sebelius supporters may now be having voter remorse

It seems as if MoveOn.org has taken over the spin machine at the governor's office lately. And, trust me, Gov. Sebelius is appealing to that left-wing, radical group -- as well as others -- to thrust her into the national arena of politics, where many knew she was headed when she first ran for governor. Remember her acting the part of a moderate Democrat? She even fooled many right here.

Well, they all deserve what they got by supporting this woman -- and the liberal's-in-conservative-clothing legislators that control the House and Senate.

And Sebelius and the so-called moderates have not only allowed the Kansas Supreme Court to usurp power not entrusted to the judicial branch, they have conspired to turn this state into a state that welcomes and harbors illegal aliens, regardless if they are from Mexico or Iran.

Those who supported Paul Morrison are also getting what they deserve -- an attorney general who said abortionist Tiller might be guilty on a few misdemeanors, that planned parenthesis hands are clean, and he told a former assistant city manager -- KDHE Secretary Rod Bremby -- that it's OK to use nebulous reasoning to kill the $3.6 billion coal-fired plants in western Kansas. According to the state’s own Web site, here is Bremby’s qualifications to make this kind of a decision: “Bremby served as a research assistant professor at the University of Kansas and as associate director of the Work Group on Health Promotion and Community Development. His work involved providing technical assistance, evaluation support and community research for community health initiatives. Secretary Bremby has been a consultant for a variety of organizations including, community coalitions, advocacy organizations, local government agencies, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (Strengthening Democracy in Uganda).”

It's OK to yawn here.

Wow, and to think the scientists at KDHE approved the permits that Bremby side-stepped. What do they know?

Last week, this is what Sebelius' spin machine put out: "Recently, Republican leaders of the Kansas Legislature expressed concerns that the decision by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to deny an air-quality permit for two new coal burning plants would have negative consequences for other businesses and industries. These concerns are unfounded and inaccurate.

"Inaccurate?"

How can she say concerns for the future are inaccurate? Or for that matter, unfounded? We won't know for years the effect of this idiotic government.

And Sebelius won't care. She'll be schmoozing it up with George Soros and his ilk -- probably in California somewhere.

She also proposed, "... the 11 million new tons of CO2 projected to be emitted each year from this project are more than the combined emissions of all the permits in operation approved by KDHE over the past five years."

Whoop-de-doo. Is all electricity going to be generated by wind and solar NEXT YEAR?

Nothing she or her puppet Bremby say can be proved scientifically -- one way or another. One can find numerous well respected scientists on either side of the global warming issue, and there is no proof. They might as well ask, "Is there a God."

Take for example, the largest explosion known to modern man -- Krakatau volcano.

Krakatau or Krakatau or Krakatoa is a volcanic island in the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra in Indonesia. It has erupted repeatedly, massively and with disastrous consequences throughout recorded history. The best known eruption culminated in a series of massive explosions on Aug. 26-27, 1883.

Numerous scientists have estimated more CO2 was emitted those two days than all of mankind's recorded history.

The 1883 eruption ejected more than 25 cubic kilometres of rock, ash and pumice and generated the loudest sound historically reported: the cataclysmic explosion was distinctly heard as far away as Perth in Australia (1,930 miles) and the island of Rodrigues near Mauritius (3,000 miles). Near Krakatoa, according to official records, 165 villages and towns were destroyed and 132 seriously damaged, at least 36,417 (official toll) people died, and many thousands were injured by the eruption, mostly from the tsunamis which followed the explosion.

In the year following the eruption, average global temperatures fell by as much as 1.2 degrees Celsius. Weather patterns continued to be chaotic for years, and temperatures did not return to normal until 1888. The eruption injected an unusually large amount of sulfur dioxide (SO2) gas high into the stratosphere which was subsequently transported by high-level winds all over the planet. This led to a global increase in sulfurous acid (H2SO3) concentration in high-level cirrus clouds. The resulting increase in cloud reflectivity (or albedo) would reflect more incoming light from the sun than usual, and cool the entire planet until the suspended sulfur fell to the ground as acid precipitation.

The 1883 eruption of Krakatoa is among the most violent volcanic events in modern times (a VEI of 6, equivalent to 200 megatons of TNT -- about 13,000 times the yield of the Little Boy bomb which devastated Hiroshima, Japan).

Concussive air waves from the explosions travelled seven times around the world. The sky was darkened for days afterwards. Sea waves caused by the eruption were recorded as far away as the English Channel. The explosion is considered to be the loudest noise ever recorded to be heard by humans.

Now let's look at notes from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration:

"Human activity has been increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere..."
(mostly carbon dioxide from combustion of coal, oil, and gas; plus a few other trace gases). Pre-industrial levels of carbon dioxide (prior to the start of the Industrial Revolution) were about 280 parts per million by volume (ppmv), and current levels are about 370 ppmv.

"Global surface temperatures have increased about 0.6°C (plus or minus 0.2°C) since the late-19th century, and about 0.4°F (0.2 to 0.3°C) over the past 25 years (the period with the most credible data). The warming has not been globally uniform. Some areas (including parts of the southeastern U.S.) have, in fact, cooled over the last century. The recent warmth has been greatest over North America and Eurasia between 40 and 70°N.”

Hardly a scenario that all these pinheads like Sebelius and Bremby are screaming about.

Just remember when elections come around (and don’t forget those so-called moderate conservatives), “ye shall reap what ye sew.”
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Nick Adams, of Manhattan, arrived as the discussion ended. The general asked Adams to walk down two flights of stairs to the awaiting van and chat. Adams alluded to the Vietnam War, during which student protesters had set the University of Kansas union on fire, causing extensive damage. He asked Caldwell how important public opinion is and whether the U.S. can win in Iraq when the latest polls put support for the war at about 35 percent.

"The Vietnam War was lost on the homefront," Adams noted.

Summarizing Caldwell's response, Adams explained: "He said the military needs to inform people, because a lot aren't informed. Even then, a lot of people can support the military, while not liking what's going on politically."
Two and then none

A recent fundraiser that would've brought together the "two Nancys" actually turned out to be Nancy-less.

Neither 2nd District Congresswoman Nancy Boyda nor U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., attended a Nov. 9 evening event designed to raise money for Boyda's re-election campaign.

Pelosi also cancelled her speaking at the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas scheduled for earlier that day but could reschedule the talk later.

Republicans had criticized Boyda for trying to bring in Pelosi, saying the Kansas congresswoman wasn't living up to her claims of being independent, an accusation a Boyda official denied.

Boyda spokesman Thomas Seay said that a series of important votes scheduled for that Friday kept both politicians from attending the event. He said Boyda determined that recording her votes was more important than attending a fundraiser.

Seay said the event went well without the Nancys and that Boyda was looking forward to having Pelosi visit her state at a later date.

Selecting their preference

Kansas Republicans can gather at 64 locations across the state when the party votes Feb. 9 for a state GOP nominee for president.

State party officials announced the caucus sites in a news release Thursday. Party chairman Kris Kobach said the locations represent 61 counties and give 78 percent of registered Republicans the opportunity to vote within their own county.

The caucus will be the first in 20 years for state Republicans and the first time in nearly a decade that they will have a say in their party's nomination.

Lawmakers paved the way for both parties to have caucuses earlier this year by canceling the state's presidential preference primary.

In order to participate in the GOP event, voters must be registered as Republicans by Jan. 28 and must provide photo identification.

Hutchinson, Salina, Hays, Garden City and Parsons are all scheduled to host caucus sites. A complete list of sites and more information about the event can be found at www.ksgopcaucus.org.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani became the first candidate to officially put his name on the state's ballot Friday. His campaign's representatives formally entered his name at the secretary of state's office. Kansas Democrats will hold their caucuses on Feb. 5, also known nationally as "Super Tuesday" for the large number of caucus events that day. The party has not yet announced sites.

And they're trying a stairway to...

Counting climbers has become a routine chore for Kansas State Historical Society tour guides as they monitor the success of their dome expeditions in the Kansas Statehouse.

Some 50,000 visitors have reached the dome's summit since it was reopened early in 2006. Prior to that, the stairways were closed to the public for 30 years.

"This is an amazing feat con-
considering that the balcony at the very top only accommodates about 30 visitors at a time,” said Capitol tour coordinator Andrea Burton. “We sometimes refer to it as the Mt. Everest of Topeka.”

The building is the tallest in town. It is the nation’s third tallest domed capitol. And it just takes 296 steps to reach open air at the top for a gander at surrounding landscapes.

To get there, visitors hike through an enclosed stairway, three rotunda levels, a catwalk stairway and finally a spiral staircase to the balcony.

Tours are available six days a week. For details, contact 785-296-3966 or visit the KSHS Web site at kshs.org.

Carbon on the farm

Policy talk in Topeka and Washington is heating up over the invisible gas and its effect on climate change.

Kansas State University has organized a December forum “Agriculture’s Role on the New Carbon Economy,” to share information on carbon sequestration and carbon trading markets, an issue that soon could become relevant to farmers and ranchers, lawmakers, regulators and others interested in carbon trading, biofuels and other climate change policy.

The event will be Dec. 17-18 at K-State’s Alumni Center in Manhattan.

Topics include whether federal legislation on storage of carbon dioxide is coming, what regulation might mean to the biofuels industry, what climate change might do to Kansas’ environment and other issues.

“Policymakers at both state and federal levels are becoming more interested in taking some kind of action on climate change, and agriculture needs to make sure it’s involved in the discussion,” said K-State agronomist Chuck Rice.

It’s important, too, to know how climate change could affect Kansas agriculture in the future, he said.

Tabled tennis

A legislative committee spent some of its time Wednesday playing a frustrating sport - what members referred to as “legislative ping pong.”

And no, lawmakers didn’t bring paddles, a ball and a net to their Special Committee on Assessment and Taxation meeting in the Statehouse.

As Rep. Kenny Wilk, R-Lansing, explained, legislative ping pong occurs when various committees whack troublesome topics back-and-forth to each other without coming up with a viable solution.

The tough issue this week was establishing a policy to determine which non-profits are eligible for tax breaks on their purchases and sales. Right now, the Legislature determines which organizations are worthy on an individual basis, prompting concerns about fairness and erosion of the state’s tax base.

The issue has been a topic studied extensively each of the past three years without resolution. Lawmakers couldn’t make any progress again this year. But the panel’s debates proved enlightening for at least one member, Rep. Jeff King, R-Independence.

“I’m certainly learning a lot of things about the sport of legislative ping pong,” King said. “It’s good because I need it. I’m a lousy ping pong player.”
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General chats with KU group

By JOHN MILBURN
Associated Press Writer

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(Cont. page 8, col. 1)
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She was affected by Caldwell’s story about a truck barreling through a military checkpoint in Iraq after the driver fell asleep. Soldiers fired shots in the air; then shot at the truck to disable it, then it stopped. Caldwell said the soldiers weren’t trying to kill the driver, realizing that he might not be trying to harm them. The driver woke up and wasn’t hurt.

Woods said that scenario isn’t something people in the United States think about.

Nick Adams, of Manhattan, arrived as the discussion ended. The freshman had hoped to hear Caldwell and perhaps ask a question. The general asked Adams to walk down two flights of stairs to the awaiting van and chat.

Adams alluded to the Vietnam War, during which student protesters had set the University of Kansas union on fire, causing extensive damage. He asked Caldwell how important public opinion is and whether the U.S. can win in Iraq when the latest polls put support for the war at about 35 percent.

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Summarizing Caldwell’s response, Adams explained: “He said the military needs to inform people, because a lot aren’t informed. Even then, a lot of people can support the military, while not liking what’s going on politically.”

When they finished talking, Caldwell pulled a commemorative coin from his pocket and gave it to Adams, explaining the symbols and their meaning. Such coins are frequently handed out by officers as a recognition of excellence or appreciation to soldiers, though on occasion to civilians.

Adams was impressed with the gesture and Caldwell overall. He never expected such access.

“He’s really down-to-earth,” Adams said. “Not only will I think more of him, I’ll always have feelings toward other military types I see on TV, wondering what they are really like just walking with them.”
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