The Fort Hays Stamp Club will hold its 17th annual Stamp, Coin and Collectible Show on Sunday, April 29, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 3603 Vine St., Hays. Admission and parking is free. For more information, call 785-625-3066.

T&T
One of Smoky Hills Public Television's most popular fundraising events, the station's Signature Auction, will be broadcast live from The Mall in Hays Friday, April 20, through Sunday, April 22.

The Auction is slated to run from 7:00-10:00 p.m. on Friday, April 20, 5:00-10:00 p.m. Saturday, April 21, and 5:00-10:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 22.

Over 200 items, including fine art, antiques, furniture, jewelry, pottery, travel packages and other unique and interesting items will be up for sale, according to Tricia Flax, Auction coordinator. All proceeds from the Auction go to benefit the station.

You can check out all of the Auction items on the station's web site, www.shptv.org.

Among the unique and unusual items donated for the Auction are a University of Kansas 2006-07 Jayhawks autographed basketball, a vintage Schwinn tandem bicycle, and tickets to the Daniel O'Donnell concert in Kansas City in May.

Among the travel-related items available through the Auction, according to Flax, are:
KANSAS HONORS PROGRAM - Representatives from The University of Kansas were in Logan on Thursday, April 12th for the Kansas Honors Program which honors the top 10% of students in Smith, Phillips, Graham, Norton and Osborne counties. (above) Representing Logan High School was Bethany Clements, attending with her parents Karen and Lynn Clements. (below) Ashley Kingham, Andrea Lowry and Abigail Ponstein attended from Northern Valley.
KANSAS HONORS PROGRAM STUDENT - Donald Lowe, along with his mother Patty, attended the KU Honors Banquet on Thursday, April 12 at the Dane G. Hansen Memorial Plaza in Logan. The top 10% of students from schools in Smith, Phillips, Graham, Norton and Osborne counties were recognized at the annual banquet.
KANSAS HONORS PROGRAM - Representatives from The University of Kansas were in Logan on Thursday, April 12th for the Kansas Honors Program which honors the top 10% of students in Smith, Phillips, Graham, Norton and Osborne counties. The top ten percent of Phillipsburg High School seniors included seven seniors who are all 4.0 students. Attending were (l-r) Zach Ceman, Cole Malmberg, Brenna Long, Matt Smith, Tessha Troyer and Kyle Merklein. Nam Nguyen (right) was unable to attend. Phillipsburg High School Journalism/English instructor Vicki Constable introduced the students during the Awards presentation. KU Alumni, Dave Rankin and Robert Wenzl were coordinators for Phillips and Graham county and were on hand along with numerous KU Alumni members from Phillips County attending.
Regents seek $47.7M down payment on campus repairs

Regents officials have been lobbying lawmakers all year to address the backlog of $663 million worth of deferred maintenance and repair projects. But lawmakers have failed to come up with any solution.

In his letter to Sebelius, Robinson said the proposed $47.7 million would pay for the top needs at each regents school. That would include $8.8 million at Kansas University to repair and replace deteriorating utility tunnels and $7.9 million at KU Medical Center for repairs at the Applegate Energy Center.

“If we intend to keep the best and brightest students in Kansas, we must invest in and protect our state university infrastructure,” Robinson said.

Sebelius’ office declined to say whether the governor would issue a budget amendment for the funds, although she has said in the past that the Legislature must address the problem.

Sebelius’ budget director Duane Goossen said the governor will make budget requests today of at least $53.5 million to correct problems the state has had with the federal government involving Medicaid.

Essentially, the federal government has ruled that the state has taken too much money for Medicaid expenses related to special education, and it will cost $37.4 million to cover a decrease in federal funds coming to Kansas and $16.1 million to cover the reduced federal share going forward.

In addition, Sebelius will request approximately $20 million in disaster funds to help with repairs associated with a major storm that hit western Kansas.

Added to funds locked away for school finance and tax cuts, there’s not much left.

Despite the financial strain, budget experts Monday said the state economy is in good shape, avoiding some of the problems experienced in other states.

Sebelius said the economic news was “very encouraging.” She urged the Legislature to focus on health care and early childhood programs when it returns. The full Legislature starts its wrap-up session April 25 while budget committees started work Tuesday.

House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, said that while $36 million in tax cuts approved by the Legislature put a squeeze on revenue, the cuts will, in the long term, help the economy.

“I am confident the Kansas economy will remain strong,” Neufeld said.

The state revenue projections for the budget also don’t include funds expected from expanded gambling, officials said.
Eudora resident Alice Kuo is on a journey that might never end. It’s a path where her steps are taken by strokes of her paintbrush.

Her progression could be seen by the evolving style of her paintings. Eventually, she wants to reach to the highest ideal of her own expression, she said.

Her quest led her to blend her Chinese heritage and her ongoing American experience.

It also led her to the yellow fields, placid ponds and iconic silos of the Kaw River Valley that surround her Eudora home.

“I took a drawing class, and I had this special project where I had quite a few drawings and scenes of Eudora, and the professor indicated ‘Oh someone should hire you to do a Eudora documentary,’ Kuo said. ‘I don’t think there is such a documentary.”

Although her professor joked, Kuo tapped into the local scenery in different ways to expand her talents as a painter.

She was raised in Kaoshang, Taiwan, but has been living in Eudora since about 1990.

A series of her works are on display until Tuesday at the Johnson County Central Resource Library, 9875 West 87th St., Overland Park. The art will be displayed next from April 26 to June 28 at the Leawood Pioneer Library, 4700 Town Center Drive, Leawood.

With her works and weekend jaunts into the Eudora countryside, Kuo wants to emulate the manner in which ancient Chinese painters used to approach painting, she said.

“The paintings strive to express the inner spiritual belief of the ideal world,” Kuo said.

Her connection to the Chinese painters, known as the Chinese literati or literar painters, expands to more than the function of painting.

In ancient Chinese society, the art of a literati painter was an aspect of a well-rounded individual, Kuo said.

“They serve their role in society and also cultivate their art when they have leisure time,” she said.

Likewise, Kuo’s art is just one aspect of her life. She has earned several degrees, including a doctorate in education. She works part-time at Kansas University for the Transportation Research Institute and teaches an Asian art history course at Johnson County Community College. She even moonlights as a Chinese language journalist, covering local happenings for the Asian community in the Chinese language World-Journal.

“This is more like a weekend-type activity,” Kuo said.

Interspersed with her professional life, she also takes one art course per semester at KU.

She keeps a studio at the Art and Design Building on the KU campus filled with books, works in progress and supplies. Portraits, interior scenes and a light sketch of the Yellow Mountains in China hang at one end, while paintings of Eudora and the surrounding Kaw River Valley can be seen throughout the studio.

Through them, she can point to her evolving style.

Her subject matter has ranged from isolated farmlands, to bends in the Kansas River to the blue silo at Eudora’s Intech Business Park.

Her largest piece, a 60-inch-by-40-inch landscape
currently on display, reflects her early style, she said.

“At that point I was driving for color and for more realistic depictions of things,” she said.

As time passed, she’s focused more on abstract expression. Books with work by Henri Matisse and Richard Diebenkorn lay on a table in her studio next to an unfinished painting.

Although her method of translating a scene onto canvas has changed, the way she searches for pictures remains constant.

When she goes off on her own, she focuses on back roads, Kuo said.

“I just want to find something near in the country. I try to find angles that appeal to me,” she said.

She looks for contrast of light and shadows or a particularly striking composition while searching for paintings, she said.

“I like to take cameras and take pictures and then try to form my scene in a way that I can copy the scene,” Kuo said.

She attempts to make connections with local farmers in order to feel comfortable while painting. By meeting people while paintings, she has developed friendships with those in the community, she said.

“I find people are very friendly,” she said.

Alice Kuo points out a detail in her painting of a local pond.
Alice Kuo takes time between her work for the Transportation Research Institute at Kansas University, a teaching position at Johnson County Community College and a weekend job reporting for the Chinese language World-Journal to focus on her projects in her studio on KU's campus.
LAWRENCE — Sixteen seniors at the University of Kansas received awards for their presentations at the 10th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, held April 14 in the Kansas Union. A KU faculty member was also honored.

Award winners were selected from among 73 undergraduates who presented research projects on topics ranging from child welfare to DNA sequences. Winners were announced at a banquet following the symposium.

Mark Nesbitt-Daly, associate director of the University Honors Program, and John Augusto, research training coordinator for the Office of the Vice Provost for Research, presided at the awards banquet.

Among those receiving awards was:

**BARTON COUNTY**

Pawnee Rock - Kyle Hesed, senior in biology with a minor in linguistics, son of Larry and Laurie Hesed; Otis-Bison Senior High School; “Molecular Techniques Reveal Unrecognized Lizard Diversity in the Philippines”.
Forgoing carefree getaways during KU’s spring break, March 18-25, 68 KU students spent their time volunteering at locations in the District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, North and South Carolina, Utah and Wisconsin.

They worked March 18-25 with agencies at 10 locations that address such issues as animal rescue, urban homelessness, conservation, health care, linguistics, environmental preservation, hurricane relief, education and help for people with disabilities.

One of those students was former LHS student, Suong T. Nguyen, daughter of Dat Nguyen, who is a Human Biology BA Senior. She spent her time with Emergency Communities, Buras, LA.

KU’s student-run Alternative Spring Breaks program offers students a unique opportunity to make service part of their university educational experience. After students are selected for the program, they are required to attend the Special Projects in the Community course. If they complete all course requirements, they can earn two college credit hours.

Emergency Communities, Buras, La. had seven participants.

Emergency Communities works to rehabilitate communities affected by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita by providing nutritional, logistical and emotional support to residents returning to their communities to rebuild their lives. KU students worked at a community center, cafe and distribution center in Buras in Plaquemines Parish near New Orleans where Katrina first made landfall.
Prom held this weekend

This week will be busy for the juniors and seniors at Centralia High School and their parents as they finalize the last minute details for the annual prom and after-prom party. All parents, friends and the community are invited to attend the “Parade of Dates” in the Centralia New Gym beginning at 8:00 P.M., Saturday, April 21st. The dance will begin at 8:30 and end at midnight. The after prom party will begin at 12:30 A.M at the CACA Center and will continue until 3:00 A.M.

Following is a list of additional donations received for the After Prom Party. The committee wishes to thank all the people who donated to help make this event a success. Spankys, The Tan Shack, Farm Bureau Insurance, Tom McGinnis Tax & Accounting, Corning Grill & Wild Fire Saloon, Tank’It Food & Fuel, Clark Chevrolet Pontiac-Buick, Inc., Applebee’s, Blue Valley Tele-Communications, Inc., Centralia E.M.T.’s, First National Bank of Centralia, Corning & Seneca, Lori Hilibrand, Kansas University, Knights of Columbus 1769, Eisenbarth Plumbing, Farm Bureau Insurance.
Sebelius signs tax cut measures into law

By John Milburn
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Gov. Kathleen
Sebelius signed a series of bills
Thursday designed to cut the tax
burden of businesses and some
Kansans by about $32 million in the
coming fiscal year.

The largest of the eight new laws
phases out over five years the tax
businesses pay for the privilege of
operating in Kansas, a cumulative
savings of $135 million. Other cuts
would help seniors by exempting
Social Security benefits from state
taxes, increase a property tax refund
for home owners 55 and older and
increase a tax credit for the working
poor.

Legislators approved the cuts in
earlier April before taking their three-
week spring break. They also have
approved a $12.3 billion budget that
covers the bulk of the state’s spend-
ing for the next fiscal year, which
begins July 1.

Sebelius sought to raise the
threshold at which businesses pay
the franchise tax so that it applied to
firms with a net worth of $1 million
or more. But legislators maintained
that eliminating it altogether would
improve the business climate and
create more jobs.

In signing the bill, Sebelius cau-
tioned that eliminating the tax could
create revenue problems in future
years.

“As we move forward with this
multiyear proposal, I intend to con-
tinue to urge the Legislature to
reconsider the out years of this tax
cut, and instead substitute other
business tax relief measures which
could result in increasing jobs and
growing the economy,” she said in a
statement.

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Sebelius

from page 1A

Sebelius said the state cannot afford to erode its tax base, “so we have to make choices.”

Legislators were pleased with Sebelius’ decision to sign the bills. House Speaker Melvin Neufeld said legislators were right to return some of the state’s unanticipated revenue growth to taxpayers, while still funding state government.

“We will stimulate much more in job and revenue growth in Kansas by returning unexpected revenue back into our economy than if we increase state spending,” said Neufeld, R-Ingalis.

Business leaders also praised the tax cuts, saying the reductions will allow companies to invest more in their operations and workforce.

“Our members have been frustrated with the franchise tax for years,” said David Cross, president of the Kansas Livestock Association. “The franchise tax is a burden on farming and ranching operations trying to build equity to maintain financially strong business.”

Sebelius also signed a bill that would establish the Johnson County Education Research Triangle, allowing local officials to raise property and sales taxes to fund development of bioscience facilities. Revenue generated by the taxes, if approved by voters, would go for the construction of research centers for the University of Kansas and Kansas State University in Johnson County.

The measure is the latest in the state’s ongoing efforts to attract and expand bioscience research and industry in Kansas.

“Bioscience research has an amazing potential for new treatment and cures. We want those cures to be discovered in Kansas,” Sebelius said. “That’s why we’ve made the recruitment of bioscience companies a top priority and why we’ve invested in bioscience research and education at our universities.”