Dole awards announced

LAWRENCE — Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., will receive this year's Robert J. Dole Leadership Prize from the Dole Institute of Politics at The University of Kansas Oct. 21.

Lewis has represented Georgia's 5th District in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1987. He has been at the center of the civil rights movement since the early 1960s.

He became a national figure after his role in the civil rights marches from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., when police beat him in public with the television cameras rolling. The beatings fractured his skull and left head wounds that are still visible today.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Noted giver dies at 88

Oldfather's gift helped fund TCT theater named after husband

From staff and wire reports

LAWRENCE — Hortense "Tensie" Oldfather, a philanthropist who gave millions of dollars of donations, including gifts to Topeka Civic Theatre & Academy and The Villages, has died. She was 88.

Oldfather died late Tuesday at a Kansas City hospice, said Chip Blazer, executive director of the Douglas County Community Foundation, which was established in 2000 by a $4 million donation by Oldfather.

"She was an extremely dynamic woman who believed in doing good," said Barbara Carswell, who served on the foundation's board with Oldfather.

Oldfather moved to Lawrence from Milwaukee in 1950, when her husband, Charles Oldfather Jr., joined the University of Kansas law faculty. He died in 1996.

The Oldfathers donated millions of dollars to community organizations and to KU, where their gift established Oldfather Studios, which house the university's film department. She also gave $1 million to help Kansas Public Radio move into a new studio in 2002.

Most recently, Oldfather was a major donor toward KU's acquisition of the 160-acre Suzanne Ecke McCol Nature Reserve, which was dedicated Sept. 29 by KU chancellor Robert E. Hemenway. "The land is part of KU's Field Station and Ecological Reserves, three miles north of Lawrence."

Hemenway issued a statement

Continued from Page 1B

Wednesday in which he said: "Tensie Oldfather made a lasting impact on the University of Kansas through her kindness and generosity. As recently as this past weekend, Tensie's gifts helped protect a treasured piece of Douglas County prairie. On behalf of the entire university community, I offer my deepest condolences to her family and the many others whose lives she touched."

In Topeka, Oldfather's gift of $500,000 provided the seed money for the $1.2 million, 150-seat, state-of-the-art second stage that opened in April at TCT.

Oldfather: Couple disliked 'being called heroes'

The theater is named in honor of Charley Oldfather, who was a well-known actor who appeared in several TCT productions, including one that won a national community theater competition.

"Both Tensie and Charley shied away from being called heroes," Carole Ries, TCT's president and chief executive officer, said Wednesday. "Heroes or not, Charley and Tensie Oldfather created a legacy which will benefit this community for years. Tensie said with humility recently, 'The greatest gift you can give is to give back to your community.'"

Obituary information hasn't been released Wednesday.
BRIEFLY

KU to host 'read out' of banned books

LAWRENCE — Sections of banned books will be read aloud today on the University of Kansas campus to commemorate the American Libraries Association's annual Banned Books Week.

KU Libraries will host the "read out" from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on the north side of Wescoe Hall, commonly known as Wescoe Beach. KU faculty and staff members and student volunteers will read passages from their favorite banned books.

Banned Books Week, observed by the American Libraries Association since 1982, celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinion, even if it might be considered unorthodox or unpopular, and the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them.

Banned and challenged books include such classics as Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huck..."
The Kansas Board of Regents is not an organization shy about touting its success. Last week, it proudly boasted that for the first time, enrollment at the state's six universities had exceeded 90,000 students.

The record mark was established because of an overall increase in enrollment of 557 students.

What the Regents didn’t point out was how the student body at Fort Hays State University, there would have been no need for such a press release. FHSU accounted for 466 of the increase, by far the growth leader. In fact, our local university has set the pace for the past five years with its 62.1 percent spike in enrollment.

Fort Hays is even ahead of its own aggressive enrollment goals. With 9,588 students either on campus or in the Virtual College, FHSU is well on its way to hitting the 10,000 target it has set for 2010. This, in turn, should help boost efforts to reach 15,000 students by the year 2020.

That growth will bring its own challenges in the forms of physical space and faculty requirements. We’re confident the long-range plan under development adequately will address all such needs.

We’re hoping the attractiveness of Fort Hays State University will attract close attention by the Board of Regents. The growth here is helping overcome declines at both the University of Kansas and Emporia State University. Such efforts should be rewarded, whether through additional funding for long-term maintenance or a larger share of scholarship funding.

With its affordable success model, FHSU is helping raise the bar for all university students in the Sunflower State.
Johnson County leadership summit Friday in Overland Park

Elected leaders and top management representatives from Johnson County’s city and county governments will gather Friday for the second annual Johnson County Leadership Summit at the Overland Park Marriott Hotel, 10800 Metcalf Ave.

The summit is being organized by Annabeth Surbaugh, chairman of the Johnson County Board of Commissioners, with invitations extended to elected leaders, city administrators, and key managers from each of the county’s 19 cities.

The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. with breakfast and is scheduled to conclude at 1:30 p.m. The summit is aimed at bringing together city and county officials to focus on expanding networks, identifying shared interests, and gauging prospects for enhanced partnerships.

The program will feature a panel of local community leaders to offer their perspectives about “Opportunities for Local Leadership.” Panelists are Tom Riederer, president of the Southwest Johnson County Economic Development Corporation; Gary Sherrill, a member of the Kansas Board of Regents, former Kansas lieutenant governor, and now senior vice president of economic development for the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce; Marjorie Kaplan, superintendent of the Shawnee Mission School District; and David Warm, executive director of the Mid-America Regional Council.

Panel moderator will be David Adkins, vice chancellor for external affairs at the University of Kansas Medical School and a former member of the Kansas Senate and the Kansas House of Representatives.

Topics for small breakout sessions by summit participants will include insufficient influence over state/federal legislation impacting Johnson County; inadequate tax policies and over reliance on property tax to fund public services; better cooperation between the county and cities in economic development; lack of affordable housing options throughout the county for individuals and families; and, poor traffic flows due to an inability to maintain and enhance roads and transit systems.

Two of the issues – affordable housing and transportation – were among the top five concerns listed at the first summit last year.

More information about the 2007 Leadership Summit is available by contacting Surbaugh or Sarah Plinsky, assistant to the county manager at the Johnson County Manager’s Office, at (913) 715-0738.
Hillel on the Hill sponsored its annual kosher tailgate event for students, parents and KU Hillel Alumni before the football game against Toledo last weekend. Pictured above, senior Evan Golden (from left), senior Kevin Padawer, fifth-year senior Nick Lush and Program Director Matt Lehrman man the grill.
Beth Shalom Sisterhood holds complimentary luncheon

The first program of the year for Beth Shalom's Sisterhood is its annual paid-up membership luncheon at 12:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 9, at the Lamar Campus.

The program will feature a presentation by Mary Dees entitled "Keepers of Traditions" and will include a discussion of ethical wills as she guides participants in recording family life journeys and traditions.

Dees, a long-time area resident who has worked for United Way and the Jewish Community Foundation, is currently director of development for JF&I.

Ethical wills have a long tradition in Judaism and are mentioned in the Bible. Each person inherits a legacy of practices and beliefs, and we then become responsible for deciding what to pass along. During the program, participants will learn to develop their own ethical wills.

Invitations to the luncheon have been mailed to current Sisterhood members, but others are welcome to join and attend the luncheon.

Cathy Newman is chairing the luncheon with assistance from Dodie Krambeck, Dao Kruger, Rhea Nadler, and Julie Ullman. For more information, contact Newman, (913) 814-7404.
Olathe man sculpts bronze bronco for Spring Hill

JUDY SOUTHARD  staff writer

An Olathe man is creating a bronze statue of a bronco that current and future Spring Hill residents will talk about for years to come.

By the first of next year, students, faculty, staff and visitors at the new Spring Hill High School at 19701 S. Ridgeview Road will be greeted by the 1,000-pound horse — the school’s mascot — rearing up on its hind legs among the rocks in the Bronco Plaza at the front of the building.

John McCoy, a former dental supply salesman who now operates his own business, McCoy’s Bronze Works, has been working on the statue almost every day since Aug. 27, when he took the 17-piece bronco’s wax form to his temporary studio — the gymnasium of the Spring Hill Civic Center at 401 N. Madison St.

Commissioned in October 2006 by the Spring Hill Booster Club to sculpt and bronze the bronco, McCoy said the finished statue will be as tall as a 16-hand horse. Spring Hill students, the booster club and community residents have been raising money for the project for the last 12 years.

Tom Carbajo, technology teacher and wrestling coach at Spring Hill Middle School, said groups of sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students worked three summers parking cars and cooking hamburgers during the air shows at the New Century AirCenter to start a fund for the sculpture. Current booster club members Scott Robbins and Jack Hudgins have been instrumental in leading more recent fund-raising efforts for the project.

About his makeshift workplace on the stage of the old Spring Hill school gymnasium, McCoy said, “I’m delighted. Really, this is my first local piece, so I needed a place where people could watch me work. He added that all of his other commissioned sculptures are outside Johnson County.

“People usually just see statues, but they don’t realize what goes into actually making one,” he said. “It gives you a real appreciation of any bronze statue when you see one actually being made.”

McCoy said he started his project by sculpting a small clay model of a bronco called a maquette.

He then drew a blueprint of a life-size horse and used it to design a welded armature, or skeleton, made from 1/2-inch rebar, or reinforcing steel. Sheets of ordinary pink housing insulation material that McCoy wrapped around the steel formed the bronco’s core. While some sculptors simply apply clay to an already-prepared base before it is bronzed, McCoy said he plans to do all of the work on the project himself.

“How many 49-year-old men do you know who get to play with clay for a living?” he asked.

After he built the steel and foam core, McCoy said, he painted the statue’s entire outer surface with wax so that the oil-based clay — about 250 pounds worth — would stick to it.

Brownie Scouts, students on school field trips and many others, he added, have come by the civic center since the end of August to try their hand at adding clay to the sculpture.

For nearly 175 students on a field trip from Spring Hill’s new Prairie Creek Elementary School in Olathe, McCoy said he even scooped out an area on the bronco that had already been covered with clay so the children could say they had helped create the bronco. The letters “PC” will mark the spot where the children worked.

When he and all of his helpers — both young and young at heart — have finished putting the clay on the bronco, McCoy said he would take it apart again and make molds of each piece from plaster and silicone rubber. The plaster, known as a mother mold, he said, makes the pieces rigid, and the inner rubber molds lend details to each part of the horse.

With the plaster-rubber pieces completed, McCoy said, he will transport them to his studio in Olathe to prepare wax patterns for each one. He then will take the pieces to Tefft Terra Studios in Lawrence, which is owned and operated by his 87-year-old sculpting mentor Elen Tefft. He will help McCoy build a furnace around each mold and heat them up to 1,000 degrees for between three and seven days.

“Making the wax molds is the start of the bronzing process,” he said.

McCoy said that while he has enjoyed working with clay since he was 6 years old, he developed a serious interest in sculpting after reading an article about Tefft, a retired University of Kansas dean.

“Elden is an amazing man,” McCoy said of his teacher and good friend who created the huge Jayhawk statue that stands in front of the KU Edwards Campus in Johnson County.
Overland Park.

"I stand in the shadow of a giant," he added.

After the wax molds for the bronco have been heated, McCoy said, he will pour 2,000-degree molten bronze into each one.

After they are allowed to cool for about an hour, McCoy will break the fire plaster molds away from the bronco pieces, weld them together and apply a finish called a patina to his honey brown-toned subject.

"I'm going to try to make him look as realistic as my abilities will allow," he said.

John McCoy, Olathe, applied clay Sept. 21 to a mold of a bronco at the Spring Hill Civic Center. When completed, the bronze statue will weigh more than 1,000 pounds and be displayed in front of Spring Hill High School.
The agreement to build a bioscience and research park in Olathe was finalized last week.

Chad Bettes, a spokesman for the Kansas Bioscience Authority, said last week’s action was the next step in the legal process to build the park.

The project is a collaboration among Olathe, Kansas State University and the authority.

The City Council approved the project in early June, and the site at College Boulevard and Valley Road was unveiled.

The nearly 92-acre park will combine a K-State food safety and animal health research facility and research and office space for area bioscience firms. The university will occupy more than 354,000 square feet for education and research.

Frank Taylor, the Olathe Chamber of Commerce president, told councilmembers in June that the park would generate $150 million in public and private investment in the next 20 to 30 years. After the tax abatements expire, the park will yield about $2.4 million in property taxes annually. Nearly a half-million of that will go to the city, Taylor said. Taylor added that 3,000 jobs would be created as a result of the project.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed a bill in April that gives the county authority to put a two-tenths-of-a-cent sales tax, a 2-mill property tax increase or a combination of the two on a ballot possibly in November 2008 for the funding of the Johnson County education and research triangle.

The K-State park would be part of the triangle along with the University of Kansas Edwards Campus Business, Engineering and Technology Center and a KU Cancer Research Center proposed in northeast Johnson County.

K-State officials have indicated, however, that the park would move forward even if that sales tax, which would generate $15 million annually with no sunset, wasn’t put on a ballot or approved by voters. The university is seeking private interest and grants to fund the park. The sales tax revenue only would enhance its funding.

Bettes said the authority plans to announce partnerships with private companies that will be at the park when those deals are concluded.

“The interest from companies has been strong, and the (authority) is working closely with those who have expressed interest in the park to bring them to Olathe as soon as possible,” he said.

— Contact Jack Weinstein at 764-2211, ext. 130, or jweinstein@theolathenews.com.
Multi-Service intern learns a lot

Michael Trenary
newera@kc.rr.com

The multi-service center is providing even more than assistance to the community of Spring Hill these days; it’s also acting as a place of learning for Michelle Powell, a student from the University of Kansas.

Powell, who originally hails from Olathe, has been working as an intern at the multi-service center on Tuesdays and Thursdays since August. She plans to complete her bachelor’s degree in social work in May.

Originally an education major, Powell discovered her love for social work when she took an introduction to social work course.

“I just fell in love with it,” she said. “I love to help people, and I have a huge passion for it.”

Powell said she was drawn to Spring Hill’s Multi-Service Center because of its small town qualities.

“This is the perfect place for me,” she said. “I like the small town feeling of it... everybody’s so friendly. I wanted to get experience, and Stevie (Morris, multi-service center director,) does a little bit of everything here, so it’s a really good experience for me. The program’s not extremely specialized, so she really does it all. She’s been working in the field for so long, and she has mental health experience, which I’ve also been interested in. I’ve learned so much from her, so it’s been really nice.”

Morris said that Powell will encounter a wide range of experiences in social work during her year-long internship.

See MULTI, page 10

MULTI, from page 1

“We’re exposing her to as much variety and diversity as we can,” Morris said. “She has been and will be setting up programs with seniors, revamping our clothing exchange program, and also working with community volunteers, and much more. She is being exposed to a lot of different situations.”

As an employee with Johnson County Human Services and Aging, as well as a licensed social worker, Morris said she has worked with the University of Kansas for years and provided the social work program’s students with internship opportunities.

So far Powell has shown promise in the field of social work, Morris said.

“I think she’s really open and willing to try anything,” she said. “She’s not intimidated by new situations, which I find to be very, very helpful.”

Morris also said Powell is well-suited to Spring Hill.

“She likes small towns, so I think she feels very comfortable here,” she said. “She’s been exposed to a lot of different aspects of social work and different community situations. She’s adapted very well, and the members of the community who she has worked with have all been very open to her and willing to work with her.”