Moran, Glusenkamp to speak at Bethany commencement

LINDSBORG -- Kansas Congressman Jerry Moran will address the graduating class of 2008 at Bethany College during commencement ceremonies May 25. Pastor Ronald T. Glusenkamp of Bethany Lutheran Church, Cherry Hills Village, Colo., will preach during baccalaureate worship.

Moran, from Hays, is in his sixth term representing Kansans in the United States House of Representatives.

"I met Congressman Moran last September on a trip to Washington, D.C., and I was immediately taken by his passion for Kansas and his knowledge of Bethany College. At that time, I knew I had to invite him to speak on campus," said Bethany College President Edward F. Leonard III.

Moran has represented the state's "Big First" First Congressional District -- which includes 69 counties and covers 57,575 square miles -- since 1997. He is a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee and ranking member of the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management.

Before his election to Congress, Moran served eight years in the Kansas Senate, the last two as majority leader. Moran attended Fort Hays State University and later the University of Kansas, where he completed degrees in economics and law.

Glusenkamp was ordained in 1981 at Bethany Lutheran Church, Lindsborg, Kan. He since has served congregations in Wichita, Kansas City and St. Louis.

He was vice president of the ELCA Board of Pensions from 1999 to 2005, and currently serves as national president of the Religion Communicator's Council.

Glusenkamp is the author of "Signs for These Times -- Church Signs that Work," published by Concordia Publishing House in 1998. He holds a B.A. in Greek from Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Ind., and a M.Div. in biblical studies from Christ Seminary Seminex.
Dixson Keller Smull
University to honor three area students

Kaedra Dixson of Cheylin High School and Holly Keller and Gavin Smull of St. Francis Community High School are among 51 seniors from 15 Kansas high schools who will be honored on April 2 by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and University Endowment.

The seniors will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a dinner program at the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center in Oakley.

The honors program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior class and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hard back and CD versions, David Johnson, director of marketing and Internet services for the alumni association, will speak to the students and their parents and guests.

Mike and Brenda Day of St. Francis are county coordinators for Cheyenne County.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowments and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.
An international relay protesting the choice of China for the 2008 Olympic Summer Games will stop at the University of Kansas twice next month.

The Human Rights Torch Relay, an international campaign slated to span six continents, 40 countries and an estimated 150 cities, will be at the university and South Park in Lawrence on Wednesday, April 9, and Saturday, April 12.

Organizers say they want to draw attention to the ruling Communist Party's worsening human rights violations both inside and outside China's borders. Since China was chosen as the 2008 Olympic site, they say, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Reporters Without Borders have all noted a marked increase in violent repression aimed at silencing groups and individuals the party has labeled as enemies, including Tibetan Buddhists, Christians, Uighur Muslims, democracy activists and Falun Gong.

A torch march will be held Wednesday, April 9, at the KU campus. Saturday's activities will kick off at Wescoe Beach at the university and proceed to South Park. Activities from 9 a.m. to noon (Mountain Time) will include a rally and music, including singer Randall Effner and his song 'Feels like 1936.'

Lyrics to the song, which compares conditions in China to Germany under the Nazi regime, can be found at justicewillprevail.com.

Other activities include a symbolic Olympics run, bagpipe salute, petitions, information tables and balloons. Awards for best class project and sign that most reflects the relay will be given. Those attending are encouraged to bring a lawn chair for the 'sit in h for "No Human Rights \ No Beijing Olympics."'

Those who can't attend can participate by sending letters of support and proclamations to be shared at the Kansas event and to the relay's global sponsor.

Liaison for the Kansas event is Cathy Rooney, crooney@sunflower.com or 939 Fir St., Eudora, Kan. 66025.

Information on the relay can be found at http://humanrightstorch.org.

On Aug. 9, a year prior to the start of the Olympic Summer Games, the relay's flame was lit in Athens, Greece, to illuminate the Chinese regime's worsening human rights violations and to press for change. The relay's founding premise is: "The Olympics and crimes against humanity cannot coexist in China."

The relay has visited Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and Australia. Between appearances in Jakarta, Indonesia, and Gisborne, New Zealand, it visited Pasadena, Calif., Jan. 1, for the Rose Bowl Parade.

The relay is scheduled to return to the United States on Saturday with activities in San Jose, Calif., and then to tour U.S. cities in April and May, including Denver on Saturday, April 5. Activities are planned in several Canadian cities in May.
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Scheuerman Receives I Rating at Piano Festival

Lakin High School sophomore Kelsey Scheuerman played piano at the 2008 Kansas State High School Activities Association State Piano Festival on February 16 at the School of Music at Wichita State University. She received her second I rating from judge Dr. Richard Angeletti from Kansas University.

Kelsey played “Le Petit An Blanc” or “The Little White Donkey” by Jaques Ibert in the great Widemann Recital Hall.

“It was an amazing experience to play on that stage in front of the huge pipe organ. It was also nice to see my piano friends from Leoti, Ellis and Topeka. I had a great time,” said Kelsey.

Kelsey’s parents are Hal and Collette Scheuerman. Her piano instructor is Tammy Bunney of Garden City.
Burn trailer provides training for local firefighters

KU burn trailer in White City Saturday - Members of the White City, Wilsay and Council Grove fire departments participated in a training exercise (at left) Saturday in White City. The firefighters trained in the KU burn trailer as well as some other important exercises. Pictured above are those who participate from front - Rocky Beck, unidentified member of the Council Grove department, Denton Wilmore, Jim Parker, Justin Schmidt, Mark Young and Jay Egger; back row - Tracy Schmidt, Randy Dowell, Mike Markley, Chad Sanford, Jason Beck and Charles Akes.

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Morris

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University to honor students

Holly Keller and Gavin Smull of St. Francis Community High School and Kaedra Dixson of Cheylin High School are among 51 seniors from 15 Kansas high schools who will be honored on April 2 by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and Kansas University Endowment.

The seniors will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a dinner program at the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center in Oakley.

The honors program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior class and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hard back and CD versions.

David Johnson, director of marketing and Internet services for the alumni association, will speak to the students and their parents and guests.

Mike and Brenda Day of St. Francis are county coordinators for Cheyenne County.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowments and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.
Students from six Kansas high schools will be honored Wednesday, April 9, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment. A total of 38 seniors from high schools in Neosho and Wilson counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at Neodesha High School, 1000 N. Eighth St.

The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher education goals. Honorees' names are listed at www.news.ku.edu/2008/march/24/khp-neodesha.shtml.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Sarah Blaney, assistant director of Kansas programs for the KU Alumni Association. William Crowe, special assistant to the dean of libraries, will speak to the students and their parents and guests.

Honored students will be guests of the alumni association and KU Endowment; parents and area alumni are welcome to attend at a cost of $10 each.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Dennis Depew of Neodesha will be the site coordinator, and J.D. and Tonya Cox will be county coordinators for Neosho and Wilson counties.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.

Those invited to participate from Erie High School are: Kylie Angleton, Lauren Coover, Flora Sanders, Mallory Wimsett, and Sonnie Wyatt; and from St Paul High School are: Fawn Gahman, Breah Giefer, and Alexandria Smith.
KU to honor high school seniors

Students from six Kansas high schools will be honored Wednesday, April 9, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 38 seniors from high schools in Neosho and Wilson counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at Neodesha High School, 1000 N. Eighth St.

The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals.

Honorees include, from Neodesha High School - Jamie Johnson, Dyllan Landry, Erin Railsback, Brittany Rohling, Stevi Schultz and Robert Wilson; from Altoona-Midway High School - Paul Crawshaw, Dusty Glynn and Brooke Sloan; and from Fredonia High School - Ashlee Brown, Meagan Clabaugh, Haley Compton, Kendall Fiscus, Eddie Hedges, Kari Knight and Carissa Rogers.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Sarah Blaney, assistant director of Kansas programs for the KU Alumni Association.

William Crowe, special assistant to the dean of libraries, will speak to the students and their parents and guests.

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Tuesday election to decide McGinnis’ successor on Fredonia city commission

Two local residents have chosen to seek a city commission post and registered voters in the city of Fredonia will make their choice on Tuesday. The commission seat in question is currently held by Eldon McGinnis, who did not seek re-election this spring. Voting will take place in the basement of the Wilson County Courthouse from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday. Registered voters in all of Fredonia’s four city wards are eligible to cast ballots in this general election.

Candidates for the post are Randal Harkrader and John R. Settle, both of whom have lifelong ties with the community and also have prior experience with city government.

Harkrader, a 1976 graduate of Fredonia High School and 1983 graduate of Kansas State University, has worked for both the Fredonia Police Department and Wilson County Sheriff’s Department, in addition to 20 years’ experience in various jobs in the private sector. He also completed Kansas Law Enforcement Training in 2002 for his work with the city and county departments. He resigned from the police department recently to take a job with Cessna in Independence.

Settle spent 30 years as a partner and owner of Settle Insurance Agency and also served as Fredonia Fire Chief for 25 years — as a volunteer and in a full-time capacity. He was a member of Fredonia’s first planning commission, serving for 15 years, and also was a member of the Fredonia Housing Authority for 10 years. He currently is a part-time training coordinator with Kansas Fire Rescue Training Institute through the University of Kansas’ division of continuing education. He also is an FHS graduate, in 1953, and received a bachelors’ degree in business administration from Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia (now Emporia State University) in 1963.

In seeking public office, Harkrader says he enjoys public service, adding “I hope to help Fredonia through the challenges that are upon us.”

Having worked with and for the city of Fredonia since graduating from college, Settle says, “I have always felt that one owes the community something for living in it, something I like to call ‘civic rent.’ I believe my experiences working with an for the city have given me skills that can be helpful to the governing body. I am familiar with budgeting procedures and working with grants, and I have an understanding of the day-to-day operations of the city.”

Both candidates also addressed the specific issue of flood recovery, from the standpoint of issues with which the city commission will be dealing.

Harkrader pointed out that “there is no ‘free lunch’ in this situation,” but said the city should seek “all sources of federal and state monies that are available to us.”

“We will have to balance the cost of running the day-to-day activities of the city and making the investments we need for the future,” he said. “We will have to do this without placing an unfair tax burden on the citizens of Fredonia. Hard decisions are going to have to be made.”

Dealing with the effects of last summer’s flooding will be an ongoing concern, Settle said, with the main concern of Fredonia’s power plant.

“With estimates of more than $6 million to either repair or replace the existing facility, some very difficult decisions are going to have to be made,” Settle said. “The needs of the municipality to provide services must be balanced with the taxpayers’ ability to pay for them. It will be necessary to find out what expenses will be paid by the state and federal governments before
we can fully understand how much the city’s involvement will be. At that point, decisions will have to be made to determine what areas of the budget can be reduced in order to pay for these expenses.”

Both candidates also addressed long-term concerns. Harkrader favors pursuing industry in an effort to provide employment that will ultimately increase Fredonia’s tax base and provide capital to improve services.

“A city is like any living thing,” he said. “It grows and prospers, or it dies. We need jobs where our young people can earn a good living. We need to keep our best and brightest here.”

Settle addressed the city’s deteriorating infrastructure.

“We will need to find ways to maintain and upgrade streets, water, sewer and electric services,” he said. “I understand that the public is not an endless source of money and that a declining economy and an aging population make meeting these challenges much more difficult.

“It will be necessary to find new and creative ways to meet these obligations.”
KU to honor area seniors

LAWRENCE — Students from six Kansas high schools will be honored Wednesday, April 9, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 38 seniors from high schools in Neosho and Wilson counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at Neodesha High School, 1000 N. 8th St.

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During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Sarah Blaney, assistant director of Kansas programs for the KU Alumni Association.

William Crowe, special assistant to the dean of libraries, will speak to the students and their parents and guests. Honored students will be guests of the alumni association and KU Endowment; parents and area alumni are welcome to attend.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event.

Dennis Depew, Neodesha, will be the site coordinator, and J.D. and Tonya Cox will be county coordinators for Neosho and Wilson counties.

Contact any coordinator for ticket price information. The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.

Honorees from Wilson County are: from Altoona-Midway High School, Paul Crawshaw, Dusty Glynn and Brooke Sloan; from Fredonia High School, Ashley Brown, Meagan Claibourn, Haley Compton, Kendall Fiscus, Eddie Hedges, Kari Knight and Carissa Rogers; from Neodesha High School, Jamie Johnson, Dyllan Landry, Erin Railsback, Brittany Rohling, Stevi Schultz and Robert Wilson.

In addition, students will be honored from Chanute, Erie and St. Paul high schools.