KU to honor high school seniors from Nemaha County February 18

LAURENCE — Students from nine Kansas high schools will be honored Monday, Feb. 18, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment. A total of 38 seniors from high schools in Nemaha and Jackson counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at First United Methodist Church, 1401 W. Fourth St. in Holton.

Nemaha County students include Christian Busch, Jordan Meyer, Jacob Nagely and Amber Teske, Sabetha High School; Scott Henry, Wetmore; Bryson Haverkamp, Bern; Courtney Huerler, Brittney Imholte, Laura Kohake, Stephanie Nordhus, Patrick Schulte and Stephen Winkler, Nemaha Valley; Katie Crowther and Derek Rempe, Centralia; and Brent Bergman, Michelle Bergman and Troy Lierz, B&B.

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/february/6/khpholton.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.

Lynn Bretz, director of University Communications, will speak to the students, 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 $9 each.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Jackie Olberding of Seneca will be the Nemaha County coordinators. Matt and Paula Taylor of Holton will be the site coordinators as well as Jackson County coordinators.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.
Students from nine Kansas high schools will be honored Monday, Feb. 18, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 38 seniors from high schools in Jackson and Nemaha Counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at First United Methodist Church, 1401 W. Fourth St., Holton.

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

Honored students will be guests of the alumni association and KU Endowment; parents and area alumni are welcome to attend at a cost of $9 each.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Jackie Olberding of Seneca will be the county coordinator for Nemaha County.

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

Nemaha County honorees are:

B & B High School: Brent Bergman, Michelle Bergman and Troy Lierz.

Bern High School: Bryson Haverkamp.

Centralia High School: Katie Crowther and Derek Rempe.

Nemaha Valley High School: Courtney Hueter, Brittnay Imholte, Laura Kohake, Stephanie Nordhus, Patrick Schulte and Stephen Winkler.

Sabetha High School: Christian Busch, Jordan Meyer, Jacob Nagely, and Amber Teske.

Wetmore High School: Scott Henry.
Five theater design students at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, earned top honors at the Region V Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in January at Omaha, Neb.

Area student Nicholas Kostner, Murdock, won a Barbizon Award for Theatrical Design Excellence for his designs for “Translations,” staged by University Theatre in October.

The awards are sponsored by Barbizon Inc., a premier theatrical supply house specializing in advance lighting.

for professionals
‘Wounded Warriors’ to attend KU

BY JONATHAN KEALING
KEALING@THEWORLDCHAMPION.COM

FORT LEAVENWORTH —

In just five months, an idea to offer wounded soldiers the chance to obtain advanced degrees at Kansas University moved from concept to reality. During a ceremony Feb. 6 at Fort Leavenworth, KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway and U.S. Army Secretary Pete Geren announced the first eight soldiers who would be eligible to receive master’s degrees at KU, in exchange for agreeing to serve a few more years in the Army. All eight were wounded in combat; some of them lost eyes, while others lost legs.

“Kansas University and the Army have a partnership that goes back decades,” Geren said. “It’s a great partnership for both institutions.”

Geren expressed surprise that KU and the Army could successfully navigate their extensive bureaucracies to bring the program, the Wounded Warrior Education Initiative, together so quickly. Under the announced framework, the eight current and former soldiers will be able to enroll in master’s level courses at KU, likely as early as next fall.

The soldiers will pay in-state tuition, covered by the Army, and will be enrolled full time. For every 12 months of education the Army covers, the soldiers will be responsible for three years of active service, often as military college instructors. Those soldiers who have retired, often because of their injuries, will be employed by the Army as civilians for three years for every 12 months of education they receive.

“For those of us at the University of Kansas, it’s a privilege and a pleasure to be a partner with the Army in this new program,” Hemenway said.

The KU program will serve as a pilot for other universities across the country. It was established about 12 months after a scandal embroiled the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, when it was discovered that wounded veterans were often not getting the care they needed.

The education program, Geren said, was born in part out of the Army’s response to that scandal.

“If there’s a silver lining in the dark cloud of that incident, it’s the awareness of the needs of our wounded warriors that has developed,” Geren said. “It was a tragedy for the Army, but some good has now come of it.”

The program was conceived by people already working to promote the relationship between KU and Fort Leavenworth’s Command and General Staff College, according to David Lambertson, a KU instructor and former ambassador to Thailand.

In September, Hemenway took the proposal to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Hemenway’s friend from Gates’ days as leader of Texas A&M University. Hemenway left Washington with the knowledge that the Army was committed to the program.

For now, the program will be restricted to eight members, but it could grow.

Participant Capt. Gates Brown, a soldier already stationed at Fort Leavenworth, said he was “pretty overwhelmed” by the opportunity.
After completing a degree in military history, Brown hopes to remain at Fort Leavenworth as an instructor.

“I want to go to school and get a better understanding of counter-insurgency and how we’ve fought it in the past and how we’ll fight it in the future,” he said.
Couple gives KU $1 million

LAWRENCE — The Schiekelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies at The University of Kansas will benefit from a bequest of more than $1 million from a rural Chase County couple.

The gift from the estate of Wanda and Thomas Pyle will support research that benefits children with developmental disabilities. Wanda Pyle died in 2006 at the age of 92. Her husband, Thomas, died in 2001.

Longtime ranchers in Elmdale, the couple had no children but stipulated the bulk of their estate should fund research and service at KU that would improve children’s lives.

Steve Warren, director of the Life Span Institute, said the bequest will be used to enhance the institute’s efforts to pursue high-impact research on the causes and treatment of autism spectrum disorders, which affect one in every 150 children in the United States.
Council, facilitator to discuss goals

By Tim Hrenchir
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

The last time they met with an outside facilitator, in May 2006, members of Topeka's governing body left expressing a sense of optimism and camaraderie. City Councilman Jeff Preisner said that day's meeting had been the council's best since he joined it three years earlier.

City manager Norton Bonaparte again will bring in an outside facilitator for a strategic planning session Saturday with the governing body, which consists of the nine council members and Mayor Bill Bunten.

Bonaparte said the session will be from 8 a.m. to noon at the Kansas University Public Management Center on the second floor at 715 S.W. 10th.

"The purpose is to start the process of identifying 'big-picture' broad goals and objectives for the next three to five years, and strategies to achieve them," Bonaparte said.

Saturday's facilitator will be Charles Jones, director of the Topeka-based Kansas University Public Management Center and a three-term member of the Douglas County Commission.

Bunten said Bonaparte has told members of the governing body he hopes Saturday to build on what they did at a three-hour retreat Oct. 27 in which they discussed the city's needs and how to address them.

Saturday's session will be open to the public, though the public won't be allowed to speak.
Topeka playwright to stage his work in Lawrence

By BILL BLAXTONSHIP
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

LAWRENCE — Before he graduates this spring from The University of Kansas and leaves the state to pursue his craft, local audiences will get one more chance to see a play written by Adam R. Burnett, who grew up on Topeka's Helen Hocker Theater stage.

Buran Theatre Co., which the 2004 Topeka High School graduate and Bath House Players alumnus co-founded, will present Burnett's "Nightmares: An Artful Demonstration of the Sublime" at 8 p.m. today and Friday and 2:30 and 8 p.m. Saturday on the main stage of the Lawrence Arts Center, 940 New Hampshire.

Admission is free to the play, which is produced with the support of the KU Student Senate Activity Fee, the KU Honors Department and the Coca-Cola Foundation.

The theater company's Web site (www.burantheatrecompany.com) describes "Nightmares" as "a startling drama about the origin of passion, desire, jealousy, astonishment and terror as seen through the scope of 18th century painter Henry Fuseli."

The synopsis continues: "Joshua Chapman is happy with his life. He's an assistant professor at a mediocre college full of mediocre students with a best-selling book out on the life, art and philosophy of Henry Fuseli. He has a beautiful, adoring wife, a sleek apartment in a large choking city, and he has just recently purchased a copy of Fuseli's renowned painting, 'The Nightmare,' a personal dream fully realized as it hangs on his living room wall.

"But as the credibility of his book is questioned by a colleague, things begin to disintegrate and the painting on Joshua's living room wall becomes the crux of what will be his sublimely terrifying, irrational, violent downfall."

Burnett said he spent a year researching Fuseli and the sublime. Burnett then wrote "Nightmares" last summer over a four-day period at the LaMaMa International Playwriting Retreat near Spoleto, Italy, under the guidance of playwright Lisa Kron.

"Nightmares" stars Justin Knudsen, Erik LaPointe, Lara C. Thomas, Brady Blevins and Meg Saricks.

Burnett directs "Nightmare," the production team of which includes Val Smith, assistant director; Nick Kostner, scenic design; Kelly Vogel, costume design; Ann Sitzman, light design; and DeAndrea Herron, makeup design.

Christopher Luxem, a Topeka High alumnus, composed original music for the play, attendance at which isn't recommended for those younger than 17 because of objectionable content.

Burnett said next year he will be in New York or graduate school. "Although I plan to take the theater company with me, who knows when we'll be back in Kansas again to produce or perform," he said.
The British are coming! The British are coming!

A pair of concerts — one tonight in Lawrence, the other Saturday night in Topeka — bring to northeast Kansas pipers, drummers, dancers and musicians from Scotland and singers from Wales.

Two United Kingdom military musical ensembles will perform at 7:30 p.m. today at the Lied Center on the campus of The University of Kansas — the Pipes, Drums and Dancers of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the Regimental Band of Her Majesty's Coldstream Guards.

Although the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards today are an armored cavalry regiment whose tanks spearheaded the attack through Iraq during the Gulf War, the history of the regiment goes back to 1678 when the troops rode horses.

The Coldstream Guards date back to 1650 when the regiment was formed by Gen. George Monck as part of Oliver Cromwell's "New Model Army," and can therefore claim to be one of the oldest regiments in the world.

Founded May 16, 1785, the regimental band, which is under the direction of Maj. Graham Jones, is one of the oldest military bands on the planet.

The British military musicians will perform a variety of marches, including a couple by John Philip Sousa, the U.S.-born "March King." In fact, the program features a "Tribute to America," which includes "Yankee Doodle," "America, the Beautiful," "When the Saints Go Marching In" and the anthems of the U.S. armed services.

The pipes and drums also will play Celtic folksongs, and a vocalist, Lance Cpl. James Scott, from the band, will sing selections that include "Danny Boy."

Dancers will do the Highland Fling, a traditional Scottish dance.

Tickets for tonight's show are $48 and $40, with $1 off for seniors 62 and older and a 50 percent discount for youths to age 18 and KU and Haskell Indian Nations University students. Tickets can be

Please see INVASION, Page 2B
The Black Mountain Male Chorus of Wales will sing Saturday night at White Concert Hall at a sold-out Topeka Community Concert Association performance.
SUBMITTED

Maj. Graham Jones conducts the Regimental Band of Her Majesty's Coldstream Guards, which performs tonight at the Lied Center in Lawrence.

Invasion: Wales chorus to bring harmonies to Washburn's White Concert Hall

Continued from Page 1B

purchased at the door or in advance by calling (785) 864-ARTS or going to www.lied.ku.edu.

At 7:30 p.m. Saturday, an audience at Washburn University's White Concert Hall will learn why Wales is called "The Land of Song."

The Topeka Community Concert Association will present the Black Mountain Male Chorus of Wales as the fourth show of the association's 2007-08 concert series.

Admission is by season ticket, which sold out before the first program.

Wales boasts more than 300 male choruses in an area about one-tenth the size of Kansas, and the Black Mountain Chorus has become a world ambassador of that musical tradition.

Under the direction of Clive Phillips, with the assistance of Keith Griffiths and the piano accompaniment of David Last, the chorus will present a program of Welsh hymns, folksongs and popular music; musical settings of the poetry of Dylan Thomas; and a tribute to American music, including jazz and Broadway show tunes.

Lloyd Davies, who was half of a highly successful U.K. musical duo, Rosser and Davies, serves as musical host of the concert, which features harpist Zoe Rasmussen and vocal soloist Llinos Daniel, who also plays harp.

Bill Blankenship can be reached at (785) 295-1284 or bill.blankenship@cjonline.com.
KU Athletic Director’s Honor Roll Recognizes 231 Student Athletes

The University of Kansas honored 231 student athletes named to the Athletic Director’s Honor Roll for 2007 during halftime of the KU-Iowa State men’s basketball at Allen Field house. Among those honored was Reece James Petty, Pre-Education Sophomore, and Football. He is the son of Rex and Eydie Petty of Liberal, KS.
Bill prohibits circumvention of meetings law

By James Carlson  
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

A state senator has introduced legislation seeking to address open meetings issues, such as the one that arose in December over the Topeka City Council's purchase of a police helicopter.

The bill would prohibit governing bodies from engaging in serial communication, a series of individual communications "that collectively involve a majority of a quorum and that share a common topic of discussion."

"Things that are close to the line, as a principle, should be opened up to the public," said Sen. Tim Huelskamp, R-Fowler, sponsor of the bill.

In December, Topeka Councilman Brett Blackburn came under fire for what some thought could have been a violation of the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

Five members of the council — Blackburn, Jack Woelfel, Jeff Preisner, Deborah Swank and Lana Kennedy — sponsored and voted for a "communication" placed on the council agenda authorizing the helicopter purchase.

It was later revealed that Blackburn had contacted Woelfel, Preisner, Swank and Kennedy by phone to ask for their support of the communication, a move some decreed as pulling together a majority of a quorum.

"One should not be using the exception for meetings of fewer than a majority of a quorum to generate a consensus on a single issue that ought to be discussed before the public," said Mike Kautsch, a professor of media law at The University of Kansas School of Law, who helped draft the proposed legislation.

Shawnee County District Attorney Robert Hecht conducted an investigation of the communication between Blackburn and the council members who voted with him. While Blackburn may have violated the spirit of the law, he hadn't broken the letter of the law, Hecht determined.

His decision was based on prior courts' rulings that found serial communications had to be "interactive" — each person Blackburn talked to had to understand they were part of the majority of a quorum.

The four council members said Blackburn had only asked for their support of the communication and never mentioned others to whom he was talking.

Blackburn on Thursday welcomed the proposed bill.

"I think any clarification in the law is a good thing," he said.

James Carlson can be reached at (785) 233-7470 or james.carlson@cjonline.com.