By JODIE GARCIA
Herald Staff Writer

If a new cell phone was in your stocking this year, students from the University of Kansas want to take the old ones off your hands to help victims of domestic abuse.

Students at KU’s School of Social Welfare will collect cell phones and phone chargers until Jan. 24 for Women’s Transitional Care Services, which provides emergency shelter and services for domestic violence victims in the Ottawa and Lawrence areas.

Phones collected will go toward WTCS’ Dial for Help program. The phones provide an untraceable emergency phone for survivors, a news release from the students said.

“Because of the often-unpredictable behavior of batterers, these phones have the potential to serve as a lifeline in frightening or dangerous situations,” the release said.

As required by law, the phones will be capable of dialing 911 even without a cell phone plan.

Domestic violence survivors who feel endangered are encouraged to call WTCS and request a phone. Ottawa’s number is (785) 242-6300.

Purple drop boxes will be stationed at several locations throughout the Lawrence, Topeka, Ottawa and Kansas City areas. Some locations include:

- Ottawa: Country Mart, 2138 S. Princeton Circle Drive; and O2 Wireless, 212 S. Main St.
- Lawrence: Applebees, 2520 S. Iowa St.; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Douglas County, 1525 W. Sixth St., Suite A; Harper Corner Liquor, 2220 Harper St., Suite C; Miss Fortune’s Creation Station, 726 Massachusetts St.; Parkway Commons (apartments), 3601 Clinton Parkway; Riverridge Liquor, 454 N. Iowa St., Suite A; The Reserve on West 31st (apartments), 2511 W. 31st St.; and The University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, Twente Hall, 1545 Lilac Lane.

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Associated Press

LAWRENCE — A proposal to build an upscale hotel on Mount Oread has stirred up concern about the city’s skyline and the preservation of a historic neighborhood at the center of the University of Kansas campus.

The seven-story Oread Inn would be close to the student union and would replace a few rundown buildings and already closed businesses. The proposal also includes retail businesses.

Some architects and historic preservationists say the hotel’s design doesn’t fit with the historic neighborhood. They worry that a hotel atop the hill will alter the view of the city.

“People don’t understand how big and massive this building is going to be,” said Dennis Brown, president of the Lawrence Preservation Alliance. “It is going to change the skyline.”

A landmark for settlers traveling west, Mount Oread was a staging area for marauders before the Civil War and it was later the site chosen for the university.

Developers say the Oread Inn would fill an upscale niche that’s now unfilled at the campus.

“Of the Big 12 schools, we are the only college community that doesn’t have a hotel on campus or within one block of campus,” said Nancy Longhurst, general manager of the Eldridge and a member of the Oread Inn project team.

City Commissioner Mike Amyx said the project could be a great fit for Lawrence and the university.

“It’s a real positive,” Amyx said. “It could be a wonderful project for the city, and it’s connected pretty closely to the University of Kansas. It would be great for alumni or visitors to the city.”
LAWRENCE — The names of more than 1,600 candidates for degrees for the fall 2007 semester at the University of Kansas have been announced by the Office of Registrar.

Local graduates are Andrew Wayne Hauth, son of Larry and Laura Hauth, bachelor of science in general studies/psychology, Burlington; Laura Ashleigh McMurray, daughter of Jim and Linda McMurray, bachelor of arts/psychology, Burlington; and Jennifer C. Smith, daughter of Brad and Colleen Smith, master of accounting and information systems, Burlington.

Graduate and undergraduate degrees are conferred in December based on work completed during the fall semester. Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many students graduating in the fall or summer terms will return for the traditional walk down the hill and into Memorial Stadium on Sunday, May 18.

Five of KU’s 13 colleges and schools conducted recognition programs or hooding ceremonies earlier this month to honor those planning to graduate at the end of the semester: the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the School of Business, the School of Engineering, the School of Law and the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications.
Regents proposed funding increase greeted coolly

LAWRENCE (AP) — The state Board of Regents is seeking a budget increase of more than 18 percent for the next fiscal year.

Key legislators aren’t dismissing the proposal out of hand, but they’re not embracing it, either.

“This will beg a lot of questions and a lot of answers,” Rep. Sharon Schwartz, a Washington Republican and chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee, told the Lawrence Journal-World.

The regents are proposing to increase their allotment of general tax dollars by nearly $151 million during the fiscal year that begins July 1. More than a third of those dollars, about $56 million, would go to maintenance projects. Earlier this year, legislators approved a plan providing an additional $184 million over five years for repairs on university campuses. However, that amount falls far short of what the regents said they needed to eliminate a backlog of projects and keep up with maintenance annually.

A legislative budget committee got its first look at the regents proposal last week. The Legislature convenes its 2008 session Jan. 14, and the higher education spending proposals will get greater scrutiny then.

The regents also are trying sell their proposal as a way to keep up with inflation and invest in programs.

Plans at the University of Kansas to train more math, science and special education teachers would get more legislative support, Schwartz said, if there were a way to ensure that the newly minted teachers would stay in Kansas.

A proposed school of construction at Pittsburg State University struck state Sen. Chris Steinenger, a Kansas City Democrat, as a duplication of trade schools run by private groups or labor unions. But southeast Kansas lawmakers said the Pittsburg State proposal would help fill a shortage of professional construction managers in their region. Reggie Robinson, the board’s president, said he’s encouraged by the questions legislators are asking.

“They know that we are asking for a significant investment of new dollars. But I took their reaction as a recognitior that some increase investment in higher education is appropriate at this point.”
Lawrence Journal-World, on public transportation:

A plan to seek joint proposals from prospective operators is another positive step toward combining the city and Kansas University public transit systems.

Lawrence city commissioners will be asked to authorize city staff to issue a joint request for proposals to operate the city’s T and KU’s bus system beginning in January 2008.

KU officials had specifically negotiated a contract that would end at the same time as the city’s contract to facilitate seeking a joint RFP.

The city’s public transit administrator is careful in his background memo to city commissioners to say that seeking a joint proposal is unlikely to reduce the city’s costs for operating the T.

Rising costs for fuel, insurance, wages, maintenance and other expenses are expected to make it impossible for the city to maintain its current level of service for a comparable cost after the current contract runs out.

The RFP will specifically ask for cost estimates on a reduced schedule of operation to lay out various options for commissioners.

Even though the city and KU may not see immediate cost reductions, it only makes sense in the long run to seek additional coordination between the two bus services.

Operating two separate public transportation services in a town the size of Lawrence simply isn’t efficient.

The city may face some painful choices as it negotiates a new contract to operate the T. The bus system is a costly venture for the city, but it may become increasingly important if rising fuel prices prompt more people to take advantage of public transportation.

Whatever the future holds for public transportation, it seems that both KU and the city will benefit from working together to meet those needs. A full merger of the two bus systems may make sense in the future, but for now, a joint contract for the operation of the two systems is a step in the right direction.
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Humboldt — Ryan M Scarrow, son of Virgil Scarrow Sociology, Bachelor of Arts/Sociology.

Chanute — Julia Christine Castellucci, daughter of Nancy Castellucci, Bachelor of Arts/French; Mark Wayne Kettle, son of Linda Stange, Bachelor of General Studies/Political Science; Marli Ann Smoot, daughter of Debora Smoot, Bachelor of Arts/Latin American Studies and Bachelor of Arts/Spanish.

Yates Center — Brent Daniel Porter, son of James and Tammy Porter, Bachelor of Fine Arts/Art,
The University of Kansas School of Nursing has a new educational program available, the Doctor of Nursing Practice.

The DNP prepares advanced practice nurses at the highest level of nursing practice and offers sophisticated, cutting-edge experiences that help nurses actively engage in a complex, dynamic and demanding health care field. These advanced practice nurses will be prepared to provide patient-centered care that is evidence-based practice and pursue leadership roles in a variety of health care and educational settings.

The DNP program was developed because the increasingly complex health care system created a need for more advanced education for clinical practice for all health professionals, including nurses, said Helen Connors, RN, PhD, FAAN, associate dean for academic affairs at the KU School of Nursing.

“With a strong foundation in both theory and practice, our graduates are well-prepared to succeed in the ever-changing, high-tech health care environment,” Dr. Connors said.

The master’s degree historically has been the degree for specialized advanced nursing practice. With development of DNP programs across the country, this new degree will become the preferred preparation for specialty nursing practice.

DNP specialty tracks include adult-gerontological clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse midwife, family nurse practitioner, nurse anesthesia and more.

For fall 2008 and fall 2009, the DNP program will be a post-masters program only. Applications for the program are being accepted through March 1 for the fall 2008 semester.

For more information, go to www2.kumc.edu/son.
Wang initiated into KU honor society

Beilei Wang of Garnett was one of 188 students recently initiated into the University of Kansas chapter of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society. She is a senior majoring in Finance and Information Systems. Beilei is the daughter of Christopher and Cui Hong Fink, and is a 2004 graduate of Anderson County High School.

Phi Kappa Phi’s primary objectives are to promote the pursuit of excellence in all fields of higher education and to recognize outstanding achievement by students, faculty and others by election to membership and through various awards for distinguished achievement.
HUTCHINSON — Kansas City, Kan., Police Chief Sam Breshears congratulated 57 graduates of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center at a Dec. 21 ceremony at the 4-H Encampment Building on the Kansas State Fairgrounds.

The graduates, who began their training course Sept. 10, represented 38 municipal, county and state law enforcement agencies from across Kansas. They were the 194th basic training class of graduates. Jacob Brooke, Pratt, an employee of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, was a member of the class.

The training center is a unit of University of Kansas Continuing Education. Established in 1968 as the central law enforcement training facility for the state, the center is near Yoder.

Graduates receive certificates of course completion and Kansas law enforcement certification from the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers’ Standards and Training, the state’s law enforcement licensing authority. The training course fulfills the state requirement for law enforcement training. Classroom lectures and hands-on applications help train officers to solve the increasingly complex problems they face in the line of duty.

The center trains the majority of municipal, county and state law enforcement officers in Kansas and oversees the training of the remaining officers at seven authorized and certified
academy programs operated by local law enforcement agencies and the Kansas Highway Patrol.
LAWRENCE — Think taxes are boring? Recipients of tax advice from University of Kansas graduate students didn’t think so. This fall, 23 students in a business tax class used their knowledge to help meet community needs in a new service learning course.

The students completed two service learning projects as part of a tax research class with Raquel Alexander, assistant professor of accounting and information systems. The students drafted proposed federal tax legislation to provide assistance to disabled veterans returning to school. In addition, the students conducted tax and financial planning workshops for performing arts students and faculty in the School of Fine Arts.

From the beginning, the students were excited about helping others but didn’t realize the impact the project would have on the community as well as on their own learning.

Kristin Kuhn, a senior from Pratt, said she was surprised by how much the service portion of the class improved her understanding of tax research skills.

“Research has been very exasperating for me to learn, because it takes so much practice and I can’t be good at it immediately,” she said. “However, this service project made worth of all the time, frustration, and effort that I’ve put forth the past few months.”

She also said that the service allowed her an opportunity to see how her college education could be beneficial as she transitioned into a career.

“The class also helped me to understand why research is such a crucial tool to have as I begin my career,” she said. “This project defined the reason I chose this career to begin with: to help and serve others. It was very rewarding to stand in front of strangers, explain tax advice and observe their ‘ah-ha’ expressions or head nods. It really more accurately confirms the past four and a half years of my college education, and that’s a really comforting feeling.”

Alexander said she assigned the labor-intensive projects to allow students to develop skills necessary for a successful tax career. Students had to identify the client’s tax issues, perform research on those topics and then communicate the findings. Alexander said service learning projects were a perfect fit because of the strong student interest in community service activities.

Each year, tax students volunteer at the law school free tax clinic. Recently, tax students developed a Web site for Hurricane Katrina tax laws (www.ku.edu/-katrina) and created tax relief brochures for Greensburg residents.

Alexander said the students received positive feedback immediately during the presentations.

“While the student enthusiasm for the class’ service learning component has been incredible, the biggest response has been from the AIS Advisory Council. Our alumni and supporters have been quite moved by our students’ efforts to provide tax assistance in the community, in Kansas and across the nation.”