Lawrence Journal-World, on vote-getting strategies
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KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway is a member of the foundation board.

Politics is a funny, sometimes dirty, raw business.
Fowler picks school for deaf, blind as destination on ‘alternative spring break’

LAWRENCE — For spring break this year, 49 University of Kansas students took their pick of seven getaway spots — but not exactly for a carefree vacation. Their sandy beach might be a Hurricane Katrina recovery site, and their night on the town could turn into a 48-hour homeless experience.

KU students will work March 15-22 with agencies in Florida, Illinois, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Washington, D.C. Their roles will include providing volunteer help with issues such as children’s services, conservation, health care, hurricane relief, language and culture acquisition, environmental preservation and people with disabilities.

Among those participating is Megan Ann Fowler, daughter of Doug and Nina Fowler, a junior majoring in Chemistry. She will be going to the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind, Spartanburg, S.C.

The student-run Alternative Breaks program centers on service-learning trips that offer students a unique opportunity to make volunteer efforts part of their educational experience.

After students are selected for the program, they are required to attend the Special Projects in the Community course to prepare them for their trips.

An Alternative Spring Break counts as one unit for the University Honors Program, which requires students who want to graduate with honors to complete one or two honors units outside the classroom.

Ben Berning, Shawnee senior, and Ashley Bloom, Hutchinson senior, are Alternative Breaks co-directors. Heidi Pierson, Clay Center junior, and Lake Wooten, Mission Hills senior, spring break site coordinators, selected the sites.

Alternative Breaks was established in 1995 at KU with a spring break trip to El Paso, Texas. Since then it has expanded, with more sites and opportunities to volunteer being added every year. Alternative Breaks works in partnership with KU’s Center for Community Outreach, a student-run and student-funded organization that runs 15 volunteer programs and serves as a coordinating group for KU students interested in volunteer projects.
Helped at KU

To the editor:

As a winner of the Hixson Opportunity Scholarship, I am compelled to write to my hometown newspaper about my experience as a Hixson scholar and the opportunities it has presented to me.

I should start out by saying that if I had not received the Hixson scholarship, I would not have had the opportunity to attend the University of Kansas. It really is an honor to have received it. By being a student at KU, I have already made many lifelong friends and I have also had the chance to get an education from a highly accredited university. I have learned so many life lessons and feel that I am really growing as a person.

The Hixson program is great because it gives people who do not think they can afford to go to a university like KU the chance to do so. Not just that, but they also provide you with many tools to help you stay in school. Just by receiving the scholarship, I have gotten to be in many helpful programs such as HAWK Link and Supportive Educational Services, both of which provide free tutoring and have many wonderful advisors who can help with anything. It is great to know that if I have any questions about anything pertaining to school, whether it is about how to get a tutor or about my financial aid situation, and they can always help me find the answer.

When I first saw the application, I was slightly put off by the requirements of it, but I figured that it was worth a try. I think that everyone who is eligible for the scholarship should apply. The scholarship was developed to give other people a chance to get a top notch education and I think that education is very important because we students are the leaders of tomorrow.

Winning the Hixson Opportunity Scholarship forever changed my life and I feel that I am a better person for it. I have so many doors open to me now that I never believed possible before. I am living proof that if you want something bad enough, it is sure to happen if you really try for it. I do have to give some credit to my outstanding teachers at good ol’ BHS though. Thank you for being supportive and helping me get where I am today!

Kim Moore
Baldwin High School graduate
By CARL MANNING
Associated Press Writer
TOPEKA (AP) — A Senate Judiciary subcommittee plans to study a House-passed bill that requires law enforcement officers to request alcohol and drug tests for drivers involved in accidents where there’s a death or serious injury.

Chairman John Vratil assigned the bill to the three-member group Wednesday after the committee heard witnesses offer differing views on the bill. Some wanted to expand it to include everyone involved in such accidents, and others said it was too complicated.

"I think it's a lot of show and no substance and requires medical personnel to be law enforcement personnel in taking blood and urine," said Vratil, a Leawood Republican.

Heading the subcommittee is Sen. Terry Bruce, a former Reno County assistant district attorney.

"It's a mess," Bruce said. "It's a complicated area of the law dealing with implied consent. You could have cases where a person withdraws implied consent and then what do you do?"

The Hutchinson Republican said if a person refuses to submit to a test, the officer still would have to have probable cause to force the test.

Another subcommittee member, Sen. Phil Journey, a Haysville Republican, called the bill "an answer for lack of training by law enforcement."

As passed by the House, the bill allows an exception when investigators determine a driver's action didn't contribute to the accident.

Supporters say requiring testing in such cases could mean law enforcement officers don't lose valuable evidence of alcohol or drug use, which could disappear if testing is delayed.

Among those testifying for the bill was Dennis Bixby, of Tonganoxie, whose 19-year-old daughter, Amanda, was driving home from work last year when she was killed by a driver who was tested for alcohol but not drugs.

"As we have searched for answers to the cause of the crash, the lack of drug testing of the driver continues to be a glaring reminder that Kansas laws need to be updated," he said.

DISASTER RELIEF: State officials said the winter storm that knocked power out to thousands of customers across Kansas continues to get costlier — which could create a budget issue for legislators.

The newest damage estimate put the figure at $381 million. The Kansas adjutant general's office and the Federal Emergency Management Agency said that makes it the most expensive storm ever to hit the state.

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting said the damage was particularly bad for rural electric cooperatives, which lost meters, poles and transmission lines when the ice and snow fell in December. Adding to the cost was that many of the lines were made of materials no longer manufactured, so they had to be rebuilt.

The storm caused six deaths and injured 11 others.

CHINA PROTEST: A Topeka human rights activist has organized a protest against China at noon Thursday outside the University of Kansas' Confucius Institute in Overland Park.

Two groups are behind the protest, both led by Sonny Scroggins: Bia Busters of Kansas and the Save Darfur Coalition.

Like other human rights activists, Scroggins believes China isn't putting enough pressure on Sudan's government to end violence in the Darfur region, a suggestion the Chinese government disputes. China is a major buyer of Sudan's oil and is considered one of its closest international partners.

Scroggins also wants Kansans to boycott companies that are helping sponsor the Summer Olympics in Beijing.

The Confucius Institute focuses on teaching Chinese to high school students, businesses and the general public.

UNDER THE DOME: Wednesday was the 52nd day of the legislative session, out of 90 scheduled.
Resource-full

By EMILY BEHLMANN
ebehlmann@gctelegram.com

Whether they were seeking support and advice for raising children, staying healthy, living on a budget or getting an education, Finney County residents found it at Garden City High School on Saturday.

The school district’s Community Fair, combined with annual Literacy Carousel activities, was full of booths and presentations intended to inform the community of available resources, according to USD 457 Supplemental Services Coordinator Janie Perkins.

The keynote speaker at the event, Kevin Honeycutt of the Hutchinson-based Educational Services and Staff Development Association of Central Kansas, addressed how parents could keep their children safe online.

Honeycutt praised the educational and social opportunities technology can offer, likening the Internet to the printing press in the sort of revolution it can bring about.

“Anyone can learn anything from anyone at any time,” he said, citing examples like the way his son was learning “Stairway to Heaven” on the guitar with instruction from a free video on www.youtube.com.

In addition to that, technology literacy will be essential to today’s children if they wish to compete in the workplace of the future, Honeycutt said.

Yet the benefits come with risks, and parents should realize that, he said.

Youth have grown up with technology like laptops, cell phones, video games and the Internet, but they don’t always realize the ramifications of how they use the tools, Honeycutt said. For instance, they don’t necessarily stop to think that if they post something online, it’s there for the whole world to see.

“There are kids burning
down their futures online, and they don’t even know it,” he said.

Another risk Honeycutt addressed is “cyberbullying,” a means of picking on someone not just in the hallways at

See Fair, Page A$.

Trang Le, 12, ties a blindfold around the head of Brooke Stroup, 9, so Stroup can play the pin-the-eye-patch-on-the-pirate game Saturday at Garden City High School during USD 457’s Literacy Carousel and Community Fair. Le, a sixth-grader, was working at the Charles O. Storah Intermediate Center booth.
Fair: Event full of resources

Continued from Page A1

school, but also via text messages, Web sites and chats. To ward off dangers, Honeycutt encouraged parents to get to know the technology their children are using, like instant messaging, MySpace and video conferencing. Parents, too, should be aware of what their children are posting online, he said.

Saturday’s fair also provided information for parents of younger children, who might not be ready yet for the latest technology.

Carol Schieber, of Parents as Teachers, said she wanted to share information about her program for parents looking for support in raising their children.

“A lot of parents have concerns about their kids,” Schieber said. “They’re always questioning ‘What else can I do so my kid can learn more?’”

Through Parents as Teachers, a parent educator visits the home once a month to provide developmental information and ideas on activities and homemade toys that could support growth, she said.

Other agencies at the fair focused on supports for

Keeping kids safe online

- Become familiar with technology your children use so you have an idea of what they’re doing.
- Don’t let your kids chat online with people you don’t know in real life.
- Ask to see what they have posted online, but give them some time first to remove things on their own that they think are inappropriate.
- Encourage safe and educational use of technology.

Source: Kevin Honeycutt, Educational Services and Staff Development Association of

Central Kansas

healthy living.

Marian Pedigo, Garden City’s coordinator of Prairie Land Food, said she attended the fair to get the word out about her program. The non-profit organization arranges for residents of Kansas, Oklahoma and Nebraska to purchase $22 food packages, worth $50 to $60, available monthly for pickup locally at the Finney County Senior Center.

It was started more than 20 years ago to help working class families who didn’t necessarily qualify for government programs but still needed some support, Pedigo said.

Educational opportunities were showcased, too, with presentations from Garden City Community College, Kansas State University, the University of Kansas and Fort Hays State University.

At the simultaneous Literacy Carousel, children explored activities like puppet shows, crafts and a “Dora the Explorer” camp site.

Wearing pirate hats and eye patches, Jenny Nguyen and Taylor Caine, sixth-graders at Charles O. Stones Intermediate Center, helped with their school’s pirate-themed booth. They said they wanted to participate because they enjoyed attending previous carousels when they were younger.

They said they think reading will be important to their futures because of the knowledge and vocabulary it provides.

Perkins said she was pleased with turnout at the event, and that the school district intends to make it even bigger and better next year.

“I think we met our goal of providing information to the community,” she said.
Lucia Gutierrez talks with interested individuals at the Kansas Statewide Farm Workers’ Program booth Saturday in the Garden City High School cafeteria during the USD 457 Literacy Carousel and Community Fair.
- Tribune was very honored to have Dr. Barbara Atkinson, Executive Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean of KU School of Medicine, as well as David Adkins, Vice-Chancellor of External Affairs, visit Tuesday. Greeley County native Candi Hoffman Nigh, 2nd year medical student, came with them. We will have more on their visit in next week’s paper.

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Herington native seeking to be judge

WICHITA — Sharon L. Dickgrafe of Wichita, a Herington native, has announced she is a candidate for the position of Div. 10 district judge in the 18th Judicial District at Wichita. She is the former Sharon Chalker.

Mrs. Dickgrafe is seeking to succeed District Judge Michael Corrigan, who is retiring.

Most recently, she has been responsible for litigation and administrative matters on behalf of the City of Wichita.

Advising varies city departments, including police central inspection and environmental services. Mrs. Dickgrafe also has been instrumental in many community initiatives by providing legal guidance and assistance. Stop-Blight and the Wichita Start Program are two of the most recent projects.

Following graduation from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1980, Mrs. Dickgrafe joined the Wichita law firm of Foulston Siefkin. Her cases were primarily civil litigation.

In 1991, Mrs. Dickgrafe was hired to serve as the supervising attorney for the City of Wichita prosecutor’s office.

As chief prosecutor for the City of Wichita, she tried more than 150 jury trials and 200 bench trials in Sedgwick County District Court. Mrs. Dickgrafe has briefed and argued more than 80 cases before the Kansas Court of Appeals and the Kansas Supreme Court.

Mrs. Dickgrafe is a 1986 graduate of Kansas State University and a 1984 graduate of Herington High. She is a daughter of Harold and Betty Chalker of Dalhart, Texas, formerly of Herington.
OTHER VIEWS

VOTE-GETTING STRATEGIES:

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Lawrence Journal-World
Markley member of KU Concert Choir

LAWRENCE — A Chapman graduate, Emily Markley, was a member of the The University of Kansas Concert Choir that was selected to perform for the Southwest Division of the American Choral Directors Association convention, which was Feb. 20-23 in Kansas City, Mo.

Markley is the daughter of Joe and Sheila Markley, Chapman. She is a sophomore.

KU's Concert Choir performed Feb. 22, in the Folly Theater, 300 W. 12th St., Kansas City, Mo. Paul Tucker, KU assistant professor and associate director of choral activities, directed the 25-minute program titled "There is a Spirit."

The Southwest Division of the American Choral Directors Association is made up of seven states: Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri, and is one of seven divisions in the United States. Of all the university choirs from the seven states in the southwest, the KU Concert Choir was selected for the coveted final performance.
March is colorectal cancer awareness month

Colon cancer is unique in the medical world. It is one cancer that can actually be prevented if detected early before cancerous polyps have a chance to grow and spread.

Colon cancer can strike at any age, but nine out of 10 new cases are in people age 50 or older.

That is why colorectal cancer screening is recommended for men and women over the age of 50 and for anyone with a family history of the disease, regardless of age.

In Kansas, 1,733 individuals were diagnosed with colorectal cancer in 2005 and 1,604 died from the disease.

Nationally more than 145,000 new cases of colon cancer were diagnosed in 2005 and 56,290 Americans died. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer among both men and women, second only to lung cancer.

There is good news – the American Cancer Society reports a nationwide drop in colon cancer deaths in 2003-2004 due to an increase in screening and early detection.

The National Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance, co-founded by national news anchorwoman Katie Couric, has promoted colonoscopy tests since 2000 and part of the rise in awareness can be attributed to those efforts.

The ads “Are you the picture of health?” featuring Couric are being used extensively during March 2008 to raise awareness of colon cancer.

The Kansas Cancer Partnership (KCP), in conjunction with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, is using the Couric print ads, as well as TV and radio spots featuring other celebrities such as Morgan Freeman, Diane Keaton and Jimmy Smits in an extensive media campaign throughout the month of March.

The KCP also is partnering with 12 Cancer Centers across the state that are conducting local community information and screening activities.

The Cancer Centers participating in this year’s colorectal cancer activities include:
- The University of Kansas Cancer Center, Kansas City;
- Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital, El Dorado;
- St. Francis Comprehensive Cancer Center, Topeka;
- Mercy Regional Health Center, Manhattan;
- Hays Medical Center, Hays;
- Coffeyville Regional Medical Center, Coffeyville;
- Via Christi Regional Medical Center, Wichita;
- Tammy Walker Cancer Center, Salina;
- South Wind Oncology Associates and St. Catherine Hospital, Garden City;
- Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Lawrence;
- Four Tribe’s Women’s Wellness in Horton; and
- Heartland Cancer Center, Great Bend.