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Health Center Promotes Games

Dr. Michael Schuster, Medical Director of Mercy Regional Health Center's Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit, has started a revolutionary use of the popular Nintendo game, Wii Play. He believes it will be a perfect tool to help patients with balance, eye hand coordination, fine motor skills and other important rehabilitation goals. Dr. Schuster stated that, "Complex visual spatial tasks, planning, execution, as well as motor activities, are performed providing multi-sensory feedback. This allows reinforcement of desirable activities and compensates for deficits and weaknesses. Perhaps one of the most appealing benefits of the Wii Play game is that it is fun and may increase motivation for some patients to participate in therapy."

In Wii Play, the star of the game is you. Using a motion detectable remote, you move your upper extremities to participate in one of five available games: bowling, boxing, tennis, golf or baseball. In baseball, you use the Wii remote to bat the ball and try to beat the computer

or a human opponent. Twist, rotate, tilt and turn the Wii Remote to control the direction and speed of the ball. Jackie Rawlings, Director of Rehabilitation Services, plans to purchase more Wii games including target shooting, billiards, and fishing. When fishing, you would move the Wii Remote like a rod: dip the hook in the water, wait for the fish to bite (the controller will rumble) and pull back hard to land it. Kevin Henry, CPTA, enthusiastically worked with 4 different patients the first week the game was installed. He was amazed at how popular the games were with the patients and how willing they were to work for longer periods of time to increase their scores.

Donna Kidwell, patient from Clay Center, enjoyed her first session of Wii Play. After some brief instruction, she got involved in a bowling game and worked hard to improve her technique. Her husband watched and cheered her on. Not only did she have a good time, she was willing to stand longer than in other more tradi-



One of the most appealing benefits of the Wii Play game is that it is fun.

tional therapy sessions. When she finally did sit down she was not ready to quit, and kept playing from a seated position. Needless to say, her therapy session went well and she is looking forward to her next

game.

For more information contact Mercy Regional Health Center at (785) 323-6796 or visit their web page at www.mercyregional.org.

Junior League To Host Annual Sale

The Junior League of the Flint Hills 17th Annual Next to New Sale returns to Pottorf Hall at CiCo Park in Manhattan on April 13 & 14, 2007. Doors will be open from 5-8 p.m. on Friday and from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Proceeds from the Next to New Sale will benefit literacy projects throughout Riley and Geary Counties.

Customers can take advantage of excellent pricing on both slightly used and new merchandise from over 30 area merchants. Merchandise

includes but is not limited to children's clothing, household goods, furniture, seasonal décor, toys, sporting goods, books, and baked goods.

The Junior League of the Flint Hills is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The Junior League of the Flint Hills purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

School Board Forum At Methodist Church

All seven candidates for USD 383 School Board have been invited to attend a city-wide candidates forum on Wednesday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church, Manhattan, Kansas. Questions will be provided to the candidates in advance and the mod-

erator will be Cathy Dawes of KMAN radio. The public is welcome to attend this forum.

If you have questions regarding this event, please contact Arlene Irvin, airvin49@yahoo.com, 539-2347 or Mike Fincham, msfin@cox.net, 539-2724.

Student Clean Air Group Prepares for New Semester

By Greta Kliever
Kansas State University

If Carol Kennedy had her way, more Manhattan businesses would tell people to take their smoking habit outside, she says. "I do not go into smoking places," said Kennedy at Students for Clean Air Manhattan's first meeting of the semester on Feb. 1 in Lafene Health Center's conference room. As Lafene's director of health promotion, Kennedy says working with SCAM is "very closely related to what I do, and I just believe in the health benefits of a smoke-free environment."

Kennedy is one of the driving forces behind the organization, a campus branch of the local group Clean Air Manhattan. SCAM's mission is to provide K-State students with information about the dangers of smoking, and to promote the benefits of smoke-free workplaces, according to its members.

Gauging interest in and pushing for an all-indoor smoking ban for Manhattan was one of SCAM's past efforts, said Kennedy. SCAM has published a brochure of smoke-free restaurants and bars, and will be distributing it.

Because Kennedy works for Lafene, a state-funded entity, she says she is limited in her political

sway on non-smoking issues. But this, she says, is where the students come in.

"I can't be political in what I do in my job. I can't go to campus and say vote for these commissioners. But students can, as an organization, and as a mission to support CAM, do that if they wanted to," she said. Although the ban was voted down 3-2 by local commissioners last year, the dedication shown by SCAM members was encouraging, participants say.

"The students were probably one of the greatest forces behind our campaign," said Liesl Ott, a SCAM board member and outreach coordinator for the Riley County Health Department. The smoking ban isn't the only issue SCAM is concerned with, said Ott. Simply educating the public about the dangers of secondhand smoke is something Ott became passionate about, she said.

"I wanted to ensure that other people were informed about that issue too, because I know that once they become informed that secondhand smoke is bad, they then can form an opinion, and they in return can do something in the process."

Kennedy said that SCAM accomplishes this by promotion of other campus anti-tobacco programs (such as Lafene's K-Staters Inspired to Stop Smoking) as well as videos and infor-

mation on the effects of secondhand smoke.

"If I can educate someone at the college level so that they can get this idea in their head that when they have kids in the future, that they're going to also maintain clean indoor air for them, and not let their kids be around smokers, then maybe I can educate them for their future life, too," she said. The organization is struggling to get students involved this semester, Kennedy said.

"If we had the money to market it better, and get the word out that we might have a bigger show, but right now we're kind of in a rebuilding process," she said. Ott, however, said she is confident that the students can make clean air a prominent issue if they choose to.

"Although they don't always show up for meetings, they are a strong and silent force, they really are, because they will take the time to write an e-mail to their commissioners, and they do take time to write letters to the editor," she said.

SCAM plans to work on publicity this semester, Kennedy said. Tentative promotion ideas include creating a SCAM Facebook group or inviting students to view a documentary on the effects of smoking, she said.

Grant To Help With Underage Drinking

The Riley County Police Department received a grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation's Bureau of Traffic Safety for the enforcement of underage drinking.

This grant will allow the Riley County Police Department to add to our enforcement of underage drinking and related violations. In the months of March, April, and May officers of the Riley County Police Department will be patrolling residential areas during weekend evenings. The areas chosen are based upon past complaints of underage drinking by the public and where officers have issued citations for loud parties and alcohol violations.

The officers will also do "Bar Checks" at drinking establishments not only in the Aggieville area but also in the outer lying areas.

It has been the experience of the Riley County Police Department that large residential parties are often attended by minors and lead to numerous complaints of loud music, alcohol violations, urinating in public, fights, and DUI's. All of which have a negative impact on the residential areas where the parties are held.

The goal is that with strict enforcement and education of underage individuals that they will understand that there are consequences for their decisions and be less tempted to drink

while underage.

Fines:
Minor in possession of alcohol:
-Conviction \$335.00 fine and 30 day suspension of their driver's license

-Diversion \$435.00 fine and 3 months probation
Unlawful use of license/fictitious license:

-The fine can be up to \$2500.00 and a year in jail depending on the circumstances and how it was used.

The Riley County Police Department would like to thank the Kansas Department of Transportation for their support in this effort.

Hiebert Drawing At Union

The next exhibit in the William T. Kemper Art Gallery will be a large wall drawing by Christine Hiebert.

Hiebert lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. She has focused on abstract drawing for almost 20 years and uses a variety of media on paper.

Some of her recent projects include drawings created directly on the wall by working over a period of time on-site. Much of this work is done with blue housepainter's tape. It's expendability "lends a sense of freedom and casualness to my process," Hiebert said.

This work deals with space and movement without being representa-

tional. "The loose, abstract forms and lines that emerge on the wall are less a depiction of forms than a suggestion of the forces at work in engineering movement through space," Hiebert said.

Underlying her drawing process is a desire for space and a predisposition for the open spaces of the rural west and Midwest landscapes that she experienced during her childhood.

Hiebert studied graphic design and fine art at the Philadelphia College of Art, and painting at Brooklyn College, where she also received her Masters of Fine Arts degree.

In addition to exhibiting at K-State, her work is currently on view at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Addison Gallery of American Art in Andover, Mass. Her drawings are also in the collection of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art.

To view this exhibit, visit the William T. Kemper Art Gallery, first floor, K-State Student Union March 2 to April 2, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The gallery is free and open to the public. For more information about the William T. Kemper Art Gallery, check out www.k-state.edu/upc.

Jim Richardson's Photos Of The Flint Hill Will Be In National Geographic

The gentle beauty of Kansas' Flint Hills have beckoned Lindsborg's Jim Richardson since he was in his first job as a news photographer at The Topeka Capital-Journal.

"I would photograph the Flint Hills but they were always frustrating," Richardson said. "I never was able to really capture them, to show what I felt when I was there."

Thirty years later, Richardson's frustrations about photographing the Flint Hills may be subsiding.

National Geographic Magazine is set to publish a 22-page story about this distinctive Kansas landscape by Richardson and respected essayist Verlyn Klinkenborg in its April 2007 issue.

The story will introduce the magazine's nine million subscribers worldwide to a rare landscape and ecosystem that Richardson believes some people in his home state take for granted.

"It is time that we all learned to stop looking beyond the borders of our state for inspiration, learn to see what has been here all along and cherish what we have. The Flint Hills should

never play second fiddle to our nation's more recognized landmark landscapes."

National Geographic's April issue will not reach mailboxes and newsstands until mid March; however, Richardson will host a public "sneak peek" show of 25 Flint Hills photographs in his Lindsborg gallery, Small World, from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 11. The show will continue on display at Small World Gallery for the rest of 2007.

On Monday, March 19, an exhibit of 34 large-scale photographs from Richardson's National Geographic story will be unveiled in the rotunda of the State Capitol. The exhibit is sponsored by the National Geographic Society, the Kansas Division of Travel and Tourism, Flint Hills Tourism Coalition, Epsom and Wolfe's Camera of Topeka.

Many photographs in the exhibit are nearly three by four feet to show an unusual level of detail. One is a multi-panel photograph eight feet wide that shows a lone Flint Hills tree against the rich night sky, filled by the stars of the Milky Way.



The Flint Hills of Kansas by Jim Richardson

The photographs in this Statehouse exhibit will travel to many Kansas communities this year and next, making one-week stops in more than 30 locations across the state. The first stops are in Olathe on April 2; Council Grove on April 9; McPherson on April 16, and Augusta on April 29. Other scheduled

exhibit locations include Manhattan, the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Arkansas City, Hutchinson, Abilene, Hays, Salina and Wichita. The traveling exhibit is being coordinated by Richard Smalley at the Kansas Department of Travel and Tourism; the full schedule will be posted at www.travelks.com.

Richardson proposed the Flint Hills landscape story to National Geographic editors two years ago as part of the magazine's ongoing coverage of the nation's great landscapes.

"It was important that the photographs allow our readers to see the Flint Hills in both their grand geologic scale and also in seasonal detail," Richardson said.

"I looked at the Flint Hills from airplanes so I could see the lay of the land. I looked at them down on my hands and knees with a micro-lens to see the working of a wildflower that is only three-quarters inch wide. I looked at the hills in the slow, almost imperceptible march of seasons. I also dwelled in glorious moments, such as when massive thunderstorms flash across the stoic hills.

He started work in spring 2006 as ranchers started to burn off the hills to seedling trees at bay and allow fresh grasses to grow. By the time he was done, frost was nipping at the red leaves of the sumac.

"I worked on the Flint Hills story over a year's time, but it seemed short even at that. When you see the Flint Hills in the distance from I-70, for example, the subtlety of the landscape

can be deceiving. When you try to get closer, its essence seems to slip away. It is not an easy landscape.

"In the end, I had to accept the Flint Hills on their own terms. They are like no other subject I have photographed."

The Flint Hills are generally accepted by geologists to be an area in Kansas that runs from southern Mitchell County in the north to Cowley County on the south. The band of hills is bordered on the west by eastern Saline County and on the west by western Wabaunsee County. The geology of the Flint Hills continues south into Oklahoma, where it is called the Osage Hills.

Within the Flint Hills of Kansas is the largest remaining unbroken area of tall-grass prairie.

Richardson, a Kansas native, is a veteran of more than 35 stories for National Geographic and its sister publication Traveler, where he is a contributing editor. He also is known for a respected body of black and white photography about rural Kansas life. He has lived in Lindsborg for nine years. More about Richardson's work can be found at smallworldgallery.net.

Kansas Profile -

Now That's Rural Stan Engdahl - Motorcycle Museum

By Ron Wilson,
director of the Huck Boyd
National Institute for Rural
Development at Kansas State
University.

The race is on. With a roar, the motorcycles take off from the starting line. It's a spectacle to behold, as they vie for position and make the turns. Today, we'll meet the man who has won more of those races than any Kansan in history. We'll also meet the new museum that he operates that honors the sport of motorcycle racing. Strap on your helmet, it's today's Kansas Profile.

Stan Engdahl is the retired motorcycle racer who with his wife LaVona, are curators of the new Kansas Motorcycle Museum in

Marquette, Kansas. Stan grew up at Marquette. He says that after World War II was over, he was looking for some excitement. He went to a motorcycle race and thought it looked like fun. He said, "I could do that. They're not going all that fast." Then he raced in the next one, and he says, "I found out they were going really fast!"

But he loved racing motorcycles - or motor-sickles, as he pronounces the word - and it got into his blood. That was the beginning of what might be the most dominant record over the longest time period of any sports figure other than a coach in Kansas. He has won more than 600 trophies, including numerous state and national titles, in races spanning every decade from the

1940s to the 1990s. Wow. That makes for more sequels than Rocky. Stan operated a combination TV repair and motorcycle shop in downtown Marquette. When he retired, he sold the building to the city for a dollar. Some city leaders had the idea to turn the building into a museum to display vintage motorcycles.

Stan says, "I told 'em they were nuts. We wouldn't get one row of motorcycles in here in a year." Wrong. Stan says, "Within 45 days after opening, we had this room full of donated motorcycles."

Labor Day weekend of 2003 marked the opening of the Kansas Motorcycle Museum in Marquette. Stan and LaVona agreed to be curators. Stan has all 600 of his trophies on display plus two championship

motorcycles, the steel shoe he wore to make the turns, and countless items of history and memorabilia.

For example, there's a black and white photo of Stan racing on his motorcycle with some funny looking thing attached to his leg. Stan explains, "I had broken my leg in a race and showed up at the next one on crutches. They weren't about to let me race. But I told 'em I was the two-time defending champion and deserved a chance to defend my title. Besides, this was a benefit for the Institute of Logopedics and they showed up with two busloads of crippled children, so I had to race for them."

Finally the race organizers had Stan sign a long legal release form and let him enter the race. The pic-

ture shows a piece of wood that Stan duct-taped to his cast. He not only made it through the race, he won first place.

There are countless other stories to go with magazine covers, uniforms, historical displays, and more. But most of all, there are motorcycles: Lots and lots of motorcycles. Stan says, "We've had motorcycles donated from all over the country." There are more than 100 bikes and 46 different brands, including rare, vintage, and one-of-a-kind bikes.

One recent donor brought \$200,000 worth of motorcycles in a single load. Stan says, "The people have been wonderful."

The people have also come to visit. I was the 16,154th person to sign

the guest register. This museum has had visitors from coast to coast and 24 foreign countries. All this in the rural town of Marquette, Kansas, population 537 people. Now, that's rural.

In May 2007, an annual motorcycle rally will be held in Marquette. For more information, go to www.ksmm.us.

The race is on. One can understand why people are racing to Marquette to see the Kansas Motorcycle Museum. We commend Stan and LaVona Engdahl and all those who are making a difference by supporting this remarkable jewel of racing history in rural Kansas. It's definitely worth a trip to the finish line.

Man's Quest For Forgiveness, One Women's Return To A Nightmare

By KRISTEN GELINEAU
Associated Press Writer
CHARLOTTESVILLE, Virginia
(AP) - William Beebe had been haunted by that night for years.

He'd tried to send the letter before and failed. Just like he'd failed to stick with rehab for alcoholism. Just like he'd failed at so much in life.

This time, he was staying with a 12-step program run by Alcoholics Anonymous. But should he really take that treacherous ninth step?

It told him to make amends to those he'd hurt - unless doing so would injure them further.

Some had warned him to leave it alone. But he'd prayed on it.

And so, he began to write.

"You got a letter," Mike Securo said, tossing an envelope onto his wife Liz's lap as he climbed behind the wheel of their minivan.

Who lives in Vegas? she wondered briefly of the postmark before her eyes stopped on the sender's name.

She froze. It was a name she had not uttered in 20 years.

Her body suddenly felt cold, her brain fuzzy. With shaking hands, she opened the envelope.

"Dear Elizabeth," the letter began. "In 1984 I harmed you."

She wept.

She was Liz Schimpf then, a 17-year-old blonde from the New York suburbs, just a few weeks into her first year at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

She was given a green concoction at a fraternity house party. What happened next in the early morning of Oct. 5, 1984, remains unclear. This is what she remembers:

The drink made her feel strange and panicky.

William Beebe, a student she didn't know, dragged her to his room. He pulled her onto his lap, kissed her neck, her ear.

Repelled, she pulled free and bolted from the room.

"HELP ME!" she screamed.

A fraternity member pushed her back. Beebe tore off her clothes and threw her on the bed.

She was a virgin. This wasn't how it was supposed to happen.

His weight was crushing, his smell a nauseating mix of alcohol and sweat. She fought him, clamped her legs shut. He pried them open.

The pain was blinding. She couldn't breathe.

She passed out. After that, she vaguely remembers movement, voices, touching.

In the minivan, Securo was crying so hard her frightened daughter began to wail.

"I can scarcely begin to understand the degree to which, through your eyes, my behavior has affected you in its wake," Beebe wrote. "Still, I stand prepared to hear from you about just how, and in what ways you've been affected, and to begin to set right the wrong I've done."

Over the next week, she felt afraid and vulnerable, overwhelmed by questions. Finally, she grabbed her

BlackBerry.

"How can you live with yourself?" she typed.

He e-mailed back the next day. "I always felt tremendous guilt for the ways in which I imagined my conduct had damaged you, and for years too the only solution seemed to be the bottle, which worked less and less over time," he wrote. "This is to say that the way that I lived with myself was of course not really living at all."

"It appears I have laid the groundwork for a shattered life, and I simply do not know what to do, save for doing what you ask."

But Securo didn't know what to do either. Yet she wanted to know why he had done it and wrote back. So began a two-month e-mail correspondence. Securo told Beebe of the devastating effects of his actions; Beebe detailed the devastating effects of the bottle.

After that night in 1984, Securo was never the same. She reported the attack to university officials and campus police, but immediately felt she wasn't believed.

She became a loner. Her grades plummeted. At 22, she entered a tumultuous marriage that quickly unraveled. Part of her felt dead. She suffered panic attacks.

Gradually, life improved. She married Mike, gave birth to beautiful Ava, and found success as an event planner in Connecticut.

But she never stopped wondering what had become of him.

His life, too, had been filled with miseries, he wrote. After that night, he was summoned to the dean's office and told of possible judicial proceedings.

"A day or so later I withdrew from UVA," he wrote.

)Drinking was already a problem. He entered rehab, but a month later he was drinking again. Over the next nine years, he wrote, he exhausted his parents, employers and friends. Women dismissed him as a drunken, selfish slob.

He came to Alcoholics Anonymous in 1993 and managed to stay with the rehab program. From the moment he read AA's eighth step - making a list of those he'd harmed - he wanted to contact Securo. But his sponsor said that would only hurt her.

Then his sponsor went back to drink, and a new one agreed he should search for Securo. Twice he wrote her, but the addresses were wrong, the letters returned. Eventually, he tried again to achieve the ninth step - make amends.

Securo read Beebe's e-mails with growing unease. Was this apology meant to help her - or him?

Her skepticism grew when they broached the topic of what happened that night in 1984.

"Were you my only attacker?" she asked. "I clearly have an impression of this being either a gang rape or a 'spectator sport' for the rushees."

Beebe's account was disturbingly different from hers; he suggested he persuaded her to stay in his room rather than walk home late at night.

"We started to make out in my room a while," he continued. "There was no fight and it was all over in short order. When we awoke in the morning it was still chilly out, so I lent you my jean jacket, and you walked home."

"There were no other men present. I was the only one."

There was certainly a fight that night, Securo responded angrily. She awoke wrapped in a bloody sheet, then walked to the emergency room.

"I thought after all this time, you realized you had raped me and were apologizing," she wrote. "I trusted that your apology came from a good and honest place and I see this is not the case."

What most bothered her was how he seemed to avoid using the word rape, but then Beebe responded.

"I want to make clear that I'm not

intentionally minimizing the fact of having raped you," he wrote.

"I did."

Securo felt confused and drained.

A few days later, she stumbled across a Web site dedicated to victims of rape at the University of Virginia. She was floored: the problem suddenly seemed bigger than her own.

Minutes later, she left a message with Charlottesville police.

On Jan. 4, 2006, Beebe was arrested in Las Vegas. There is no statute of limitations on felonies in Virginia, and with Beebe's written confession, it seemed an open and shut case.

Except Beebe, facing possible life in prison, suddenly denied raping Securo.

)She couldn't believe they were headed for a trial. Then she got another shock. She began receiving

critical e-mails and letters, many from Christians condemning her for pressing charges, admonishing her to forgive.

But she HAD forgiven Beebe. Couldn't she forgive and still want justice?

Her panic attacks returned. She suffered a miscarriage while nervously awaiting Beebe's arrest. It seemed Beebe was hurting her again. And could she forgive him for that?

On April 17, Beebe was charged with rape. Seven months later, he pleaded guilty - but to a lesser charge of aggravated sexual battery. The prosecutor recommended a sentence of two years in prison.

Why had authorities agreed to a plea bargain? It became apparent when the prosecutor dropped the bombshell: Investigators believed Securo was gang raped.

Securo had long suspected it. And prosecutors knew Beebe's cooperation could be key in bringing other possible attackers to justice. He is free on bond, and his help to authorities will be considered when he is sentenced March 15.

Outside the courthouse, Beebe made a statement: "Twenty-two years ago, I harmed another person. ... I have tried to set that right."

Securo has launched a fund to raise money for rape victims. Some people still tell her to accept Beebe's apology, but she feels forgiveness isn't so simple. She cannot forgive those who knew about or witnessed the events that night and remained silent. Nor can she forgive the university.

For Securo, forgiveness was never the issue. She sees it this way:

The apology was for him. Justice is for her.



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Salina Blast Does Millions In Damage

SALINA, Kan. (AP) - An explosion and fire caused an estimated \$2 million to \$3 million in damage at a Salina battery manufacturing plant.

Fire officials said no one was hurt and no hazardous materials were released from the explosion at the Exide Technologies plant just before 2 a.m. Sunday. The facility is the world's largest vehicle battery manufacturing plant.

Fire officials blamed a leaking propane tank for the explosion in a part of the plant where batteries get their electrical charges.

All employees were evacuated and accounted for, Salina Fire Department spokesman Jim Weese said. The sprinkler system had extinguished most of

the blaze before firefighters arrived, he said.

"We were very fortunate that there were zero injuries," plant manager James York said.

Exide employs more than 800 workers in Salina and is the area's third largest employer. Plant officials said they hoped to have most workers back on the job by Monday evening.

The plant operates 15 battery assembly lines, producing about 40,000 lead-acid batteries each day. The fire was limited to two assembly line areas, York said.

York said the propane tank that exploded is part of an automated torch process that installs side terminal posts on batteries.



Cowgirls Down Wildcats 64-55

Big 12 Ends With Lose

Sports Information

Kansas State University

Danielle Green of Oklahoma State scored a career-high 24 points and Kansas State shot only 32.8 percent from the field as the Cowgirls defeated the Wildcats 64-55 Wednesday night at Bramlage Coliseum.

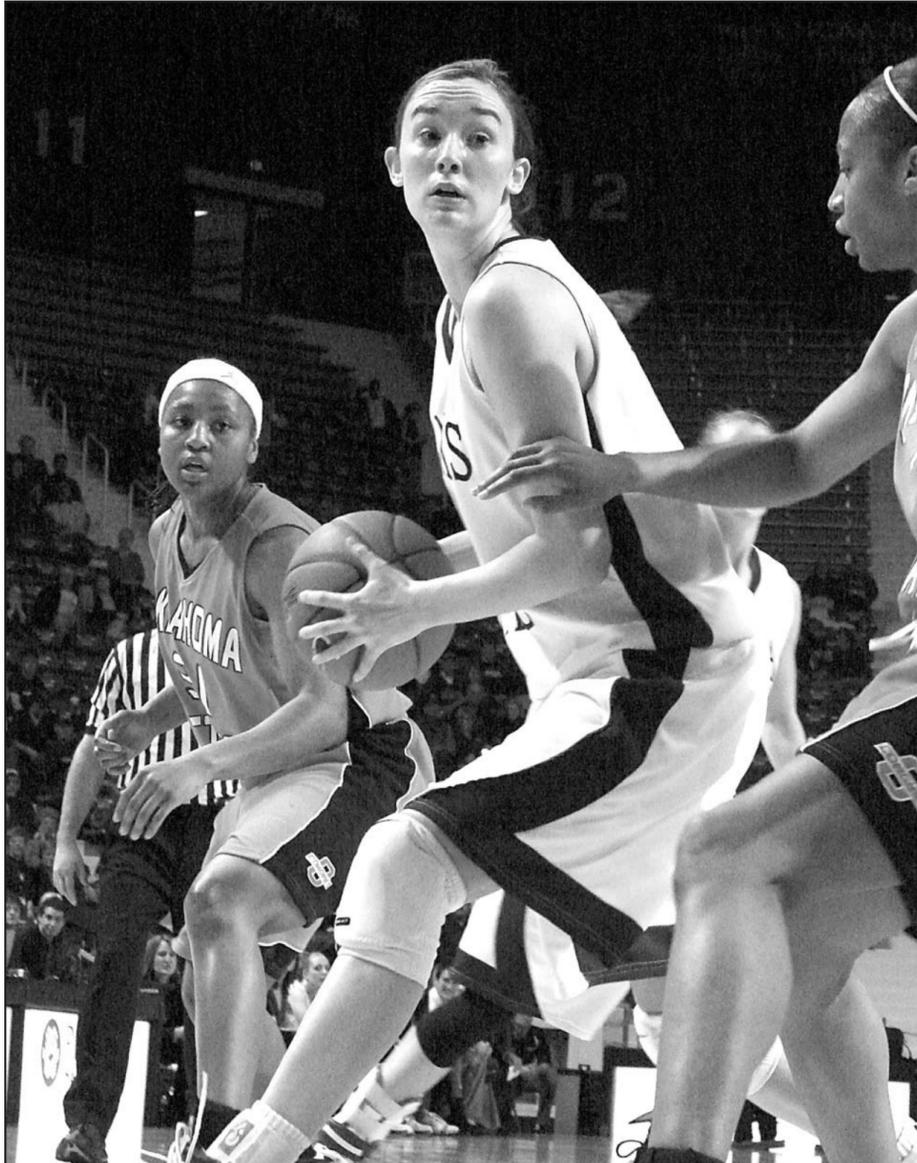
Kansas State (16-13, 4-12), down 35-27 at the half, struggled early in the second half as it hit just two of its first 12 shots and scored only six points in the first 8:40 of the second frame. Oklahoma State (20-9, 8-8) took advantage of K-State's poor shooting, building its lead to as many as 15 with 6:43 left in the game.

The Wildcats battled back to get within seven at 62-55 after a Kimberly Dietz three pointer with 1:10 left, but a pair of Green field goals iced the game for the Cowgirls.

The Wildcats jumped out to a quick 8-2 lead to start the game, getting back-to-back connections from beyond the arc by Danielle Zanotti and Claire Coggins. However, OSU went on a 9-0 run, coupled with a pair of 3:30 droughts by K-State, giving the Cowgirls a 19-15 lead. Kansas State shot just 32.3 percent, but half of K-State's field goals were threes, which kept them within eight at the break.

Dietz was the only Wildcat to score in double-figures, dropping 23 on 7-of-11 shooting and 5-of-11 from behind the arc. Coggins and Naytanda Smith, playing in their final home game, each chipped in six.

Kansas State's next action will be in the Big 12 Championship, beginning Tuesday, March 6. The Wildcats will be slated as either the 11th or 12th seed in the tournament and will play at either 2:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. next Tuesday.



Ashley Sweet starts a drive for two-points.

Kansas State Head Coach Deb Patterson Quotes

Sports Information

Kansas State University

Kansas State Head Coach Deb Patterson Opening statement...

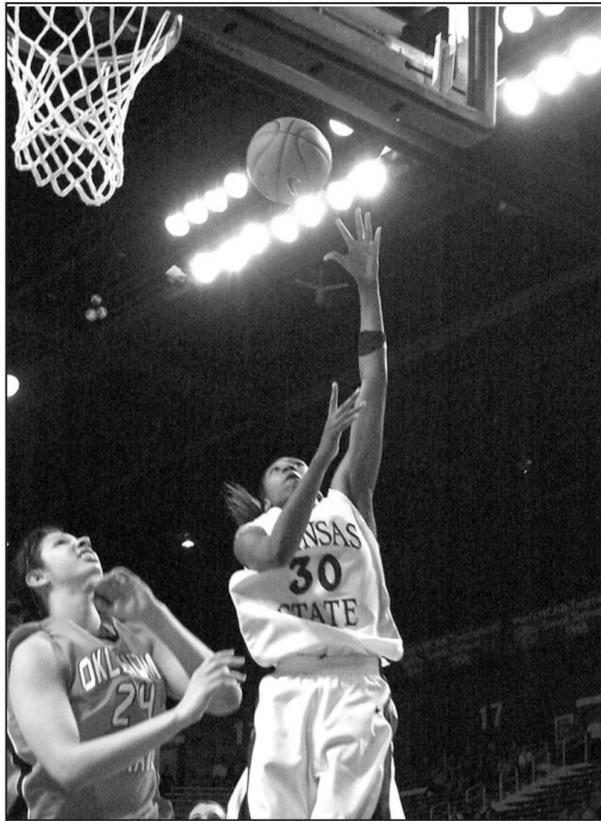
"I'm impressed with the fight and the aggressiveness and the tenacity of Oklahoma State. I think they, in every phase of the game tonight, out-toughed and out-competed us. That was really my biggest disappointment on the night. I felt that as a basketball team we didn't bring the quality of competitive intensity you need to bring in the Big 12 to even be competitive. They didn't bring that tonight and that was a major disappointment to each and every one of us.

"On the flip side, I think Oklahoma State did that. I think their young players did it. I think they're a basketball team that plays above their means, so to speak. It's incredibly impressive what they've achieved this season competing in the very tough south division through the course of the year. I don't know that any team in our league has done a better job maximizing the personnel that they have on the floor, game in and game out. I was disappointed we didn't give

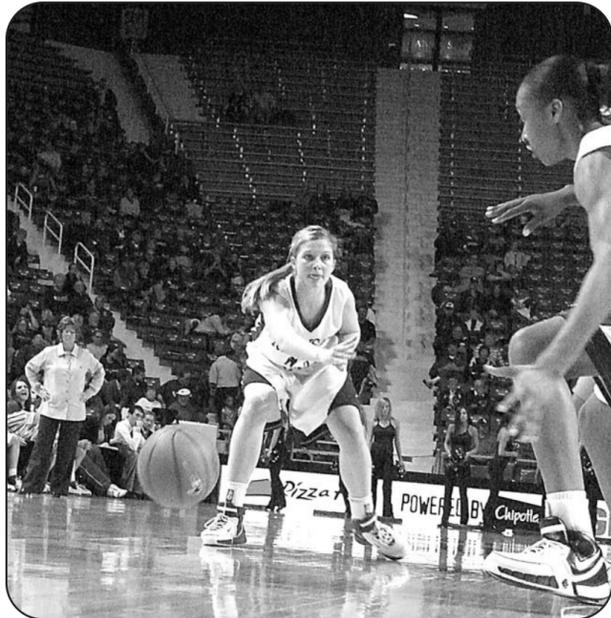
them a better battle tonight competitively. They competed hard as they have all year. They competed confidently. They beat us to every loose ball. They stepped up and made big plays. They were the more aggressive basketball team. I wish we would have been a more highly competitive basketball team tonight."

On OSU's Andrea Riley...

"She just heated up as the game went by. When we looked to extend the floor to try to create some pressure and turnovers late in the game, to try to create some energy and aggressiveness on our end, she was really just a one man answer to the pressure - she really did. She got to the rim very efficiently, with great aggressiveness, with confidence. There's a player that as a freshman, in a situation where she knew her opponents had to pressure to work to stay in the game, basically broke down the defense one on five. All credit to her, she did a tremendous job with that. She was by far the most aggressive, efficient, competitive and effective player on the floor tonight. She was the difference maker from my point of view."



Shana Wheeler gets a layup.



Kari Kincaid gets the ball to Wheeler

Kansas State Topped By Oklahoma State 84-70

By JEFF LATZKE

AP Sports Writer

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — Oklahoma State knew it couldn't lose any more games if it wanted to keep its postseason dreams from falling completely apart.

In one amazing stretch, Terrel Harris did everything he could to make sure that wouldn't happen.

Harris scored 16 of his career-high 22 points in the second half to help Oklahoma State build a commanding lead on its way to an 84-70 win against Kansas State on Tuesday night.

Harris matched his career-high with four 3-pointers as Oklahoma State (20-9, 6-8 Big 12) snapped a four-game losing streak and took the first step toward salvaging any remaining NCAA tournament hopes. "We knew we had our backs against the wall," Harris said. "We just got back to the old days when we were just hungry, trying to get in the top 10, trying to be No. 1 and trying to be the best. I think that really brought us back to life."

James On Curry snapped out of a two-game shooting slump and also scored 22, and Mario Boggan added 17 points for the Cowboys. It was only the second win in the past month for Oklahoma State, which had lost six of its previous seven games to plummet all the way from the top 10 out of the rankings.

Before the game, the Cowboys watched film of their better days — when they beat Pittsburgh in double overtime to start the season 12-1 — and noticed what they were doing then that they hadn't been doing in their recent slide.

"Smiling. That's all," Curry said. "When you're smiling, and having fun, that relaxes you."

Cartier Martin scored 19 of his 25 points in the second half to lead Kansas State (20-10, 9-6), which has alternated wins and losses for its last eight games and is trying to secure its own NCAA tournament bid.

"I still feel like we have a chance to get there," Martin said. "We just

have to take care of business on Saturday (against Oklahoma)."

Kansas State cut into a 16-point deficit with back-to-back 3-pointers, but Harris took over the game from there. He scored nine straight points, beginning with an acrobatic, left-handed tip-in of Curry's missed 3-pointer.

He stole the ball and earned a pair of free throws after getting fouled on a fast-break dunk try, then hit a 3-pointer from the right side and topped it all off with a right-handed jam off his own steal near midcourt to push Oklahoma State's edge to 62-43.

"I think I played just a little harder than I usually have been," Harris said. "I think I kind of got away from playing my defense like I usually do. I think that helped me a lot."

Martin scored 11 of Kansas State's next 13 points to begin closing the deficit, and the Wildcats got as close as 71-63 on David Hoskins' layup with 3:49 to play.

But Hoskins, the Wildcats' second-leading scorer, fouled out with 2:45 remaining and Kansas State's rally ended soon after. Oklahoma State scored 10 straight points to lead 84-66 in the final minute.

"We knew this was a big one and we let it slip," Hoskins said.

Oklahoma State's David Monds had 10 points in his final regular-season game at Gallagher-Iba Arena for his first back-to-back double-figure scoring performances since December 2005. Byron Eaton also scored 10.

"I think the biggest thing is we played hard," Cowboys coach Sean Sutton said. "We played hard and competed for 40 minutes."

Hoskins added 20 points for Kansas State, and Clent Stewart and Lance Harris each had 10.

Harris also had a pair of 3-pointers as Oklahoma State built its lead with a 10-1 run shortly before halftime. Monds' two-handed jam in the final seconds of the first half gave the Cowboys a 41-30 lead at the break.

K-State Places Six On 2007 Academic All-Big 12 Team

KSU Sports Information

Kansas State women's basketball team placed six players on the 2007 Academic All-Big 12 Women's Basketball Team, as announced Wednesday by the league office. K-State led the conference with most selections to the squad.

Juniors Carolyn McCullough and Shana Wheeler and sophomores Marlies Gipson, Shalee Lehning and Danielle Zanottie have been named to the first team while junior Kimberly Dietz was selected to the second team.

Nominated by each institution's director of student-athlete support services and the media relations offices, the academic all-league women's basketball squad consisted of 33 first team members combined with 13 on the second team. First

team members consist of those who have maintained a 3.20 or better GPA, and the second team are those who have a 3.00 to 3.19 GPA.

To qualify student-athletes must maintain a 3.00 GPA or higher either cumulative or the two previous semesters and must have participated in 60 percent of her team's scheduled contests. Freshmen and transfers are not eligible in their first year of academic residence. Senior student-athletes who have participated for a minimum of two years and meet all the criteria except percent of participation are also eligible.

McCullough along with Ashley Paris (Oklahoma), Chelsi Welch (Oklahoma) and Brook Baughman (Texas Tech) earned a perfect 4.0 GPA for the semester.

Cotton Bowl To Move To New Cowboys Stadium

DALLAS (AP) — Hoping to get the Cotton Bowl back on college football's national stage, the board that oversees the game voted Tuesday to move it to the new Dallas Cowboys stadium starting in 2010.

Cotton Bowl Athletic Association chairman Bruce Gadd declined to reveal details of the contract with the Cowboys but said it will last more than a decade.

"This is one of the most important decisions in the 71-year history of the AT&T Cotton Bowl," Gadd said in a statement. "Moving the Classic preserves the Classic's legacy and, at the same time, secures its future as one of college football's best post-season bowl games."

Backers want to get the Cotton Bowl into the Bowl Championship Series mix and make it the future location of a national title game.

The move was approved by a voice vote during a somber regular meeting of the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association board of directors, Gadd said. He said no negative votes were voiced, although some board members may have declined to vote.

"There were tears in the room," he said. "When it was over it was unanimous, and there was some applause. ... It was a move we had to make. There was not one incident of someone standing up and saying maybe we shouldn't do this."

The first game at the new venue in Arlington, located between Dallas

and Fort Worth, will be New Year's Day, 2010.

Plans for the \$1 billion stadium, scheduled to open in 2009, include a retractable roof that would cover a hole similar to the one at Texas Stadium in Irving.

A domed stadium is important to bowl game officials because of Dallas' sometimes cold January weather. Gadd said weather was a key factor that kept the Cotton Bowl from being included in the BCS when the postseason format was adopted in 1994.

"As anyone can imagine, this decision was difficult, but after completing our due diligence, we determined that a move to the new stadium would remove all weather concerns, keep us competitive in a changing college postseason landscape and provide a world-class facility for our partners, the players and fans," Gadd said.

The game, first played in 1937, has always been held at the Cotton Bowl, which opened in 1932. The stadium is also home to the annual Texas-Oklahoma and Grambling State-Prairie View A&M games, which are surrounded by the State Fair of Texas. Both are under contract there through 2010.

"We have no plans beyond that," said Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds, who has called the fair the basis of the Texas-OU tradition and the reason for playing it in Dallas.

Big 12 Women

Oklahoma	13-3	23-4
Texas A&M	13-3	23-5
Baylor	11-5	24-6
Nebraska	10-6	22-8
Iowa State	9-6	21-7
Okla State	8-8	20-9
Texas Tech	6-9	15-14
Texas6-10	17-13	
Colorado	6-10	12-16
Missouri	5-10	17-11
Kansas State	4-12	16-13
Kansas	3-12	9-19

Big 12 Men

Kansas	13-2	26-4
Texas A&M	12-3	24-5
Texas	12-3	22-7
Kansas State	9-6	20-10
Texas Tech	8-7	19-11
Missouri	7-8	18-10
Okla State	6-8	20-9
Oklahoma	6-9	15-13
Iowa State	6-9	15-14
Nebraska	5-9	16-12
Baylor	3-12	13-15
Colorado	2-13	6-19

Elko Bank Robber Nabbed 30 Feet From Bank

ELKO, Nev. (AP) — The thief had the bank-robbing part down, putting his finger in his pocket to simulate a gun at a northeast Nevada bank on Tuesday. It was the getaway that proved a bit more difficult.

The suspect, identified as Keith Woodall, 65, made it only about 30 feet outside the downtown branch of the Great Basin Bank in Elko before police nabbed him shortly after 11:30 a.m., Elko Police Lt. Rich Geneseal said.

The suspect had entered the bank a few minutes earlier and demanded money, pretending the pocketed finger was a pistol, according to bank employees. He told police afterward he had been in town for about a month.

"He spoke to the teller and told them it was a bank robbery and he was trying to attempt to make

them believe he was in possession of a firearm," Elko Police Chief Mike Smith said.

"The officers responded to the bank robbery and arrived in short order. He was taken into custody within that block of the bank," he said.

Charges were pending.

Great Basin Bank marketing director Mark Smith told the Elko Daily Free Press he did not know how much money Woodall stole before he was arrested.

Woodall was in possession of the money when he was apprehended and no weapon was found, Chief Smith said. He said they were trying to determine where Woodall came from and whether he'd previously been incarcerated because he told one officer, "I just wanted to go back to jail."

Newspaper Falls For Fake Ad

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Some people will do anything to get in the papers.

But few have the audacity of a man in Switzerland, who conned one of the country's biggest media companies into publishing a two-page advertisement he created of himself posing semi-naked beside a bottle of Gucci perfume.

The man, who claimed to represent the Italian fashion giant, called up the Swiss weekly SonntagsZeitung last week to book the expensive color spread in Sunday's edition, a spokesman for the paper said.

Christoph Zimmer told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the man asked for the 60,000 Swiss franc (US\$49,100; euro37,000) bill to be sent to Gucci.

"We've spoken to Gucci and apologized for the mistake," Zimmer said. "We're going to try and get the

money back from this guy, but we don't rate our chances."

The Milan-based Gucci, owned by luxury goods group PPR SA, could not be reached for comment.

Zimmer said the paper fell for the scam because the call arrived too late for the advertising department to check whether it was genuine.

It was not the first time that the mysterious model — a dark, handsome man appearing to be in his late 20s — tried to sneak into the limelight. The man has previously attempted to book concert venues by passing himself off as Puerto Rican singer Chayanne, according to the Zurich-based daily Blick.

The man is under investigation for other incidents of alleged fraud in the northwest Swiss canton (state) of Basel, police spokesman Meinrad Stoecklin said. Stoecklin refused to identify the man by name, citing Switzerland's strict privacy laws.

Messages From God Ordered Removed

SAN MATEO, California (AP) — A woman who has covered her roof and property with painted slogans she calls messages from God has been ordered to remove them or face possible fines or jail time.

The San Mateo City Council unanimously ruled last week that Estrella Benavides' writings violate city codes regulating the size of signs. The writings allege vast government conspiracies, among other warnings.

Benavides, 47, who also broadcasts the messages from a loudspeaker

on her car's roof, has said the messages come to her from God through a statue at her church and from the Bible.

She claims the city's ruling violates her free speech rights.

"They're telling me based on the San Mateo sign code that I'm violating the law," Benavides said. "I'm telling them based on the U.S. Constitution that their sign code violates the law."

The council ruling orders Benavides to remove the slogans or face fines of \$50 a day starting late next month. If she refuses to remove them or pay the fines, the city will sue her or file criminal charges, City Attorney Shawn Mason said.

Spring Is Time For Fruit Tree Pruning

Gregg Eyestone

Spring is coming and now is the time to prune fruit trees. Fruit trees require annual pruning for good growth and production. You are welcome to attend our free pruning demonstration on Saturday, March 10 at 1 P.M. The demonstration will take place at 6860 North 52nd Street. This is near Sedalia Church. Contact me if you have any questions.

Our North Star pie cherry tree that we planted last year only needs a light pruning. The scaffold branches that will be the main producing branches need to be selected and managed. Extra branches close to

these will be removed. This tree has a good central leader. A couple of the scaffold branches have tight crotch angles. The angles can be widened by placing a wooden brace between the trunk and the branch. A 60 degree angle is about right. It could even be as much as 90 degrees.

The old pear tree had some limb breakage from the heavy crop last year. All the broken and weaker branches need to be cut back to a growing point. Narrow crotch angles are common on pears. Limb spreaders are more important than much pruning.

Peach trees require the most prun-

ing. Healthy trees produce about 50% more branches than needed for good sunlight and air flow. Keep thinning wood until you can throw a ball through it. Because peaches often get frosted, pruning is sometimes delayed until after pollination. If there is sparse fruit production, then the unproductive wood is removed. Spray peach trees with a fungicide labeled for peach leaf curl prior to bud break.

We have two apricot trees. One tree has been there for 30 years without a crop. It blooms early and is frosted every year. I planted another one a couple years ago in the shade of another tree. The theory is that it will stay dormant longer. Hopefully, it will stay dormant until after the last frost.

Good horticultural practices are part of fruit production. They can be learned and applied. Another part of production is the Kansas environment. That is out of our control.

The K-State Research and Extension publication "Pruning Fruit Trees" is available from the Extension office to show you how to prune. We also have a video that may be checked out. Another important publication to have is the newly updated "Fruit Pest Control for Home Gardens." I will have them with me on Saturday. They are also available on our website at

www.oznet.ksu.edu .

If you have any question, please contact Gregg Eyestone at the Riley County office of K-State Research and Extension by calling 537-6350 or stopping by 110 Courthouse Plaza in Manhattan or e-mail: geyestone@ksu.edu

Hostile Breakup A Hoax

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — The Valentine's Day breakup of two North Carolina college students that featured singers, hundreds of spectators and a profanity-laced tirade was a hoax after all.

Ryan Burke confessed Monday that the confrontation, which became an instant hit on YouTube.com, was all a stunt to show the power of Internet communities and the amount of money that companies make from them. The pair weren't even dating.

The fake breakup garnered plenty of attention, including more than 747,000 hits on YouTube, where users post video online, and local and national media coverage.

"The fact that actual news agencies are interested was a surprise," Burke told The Charlotte Observer. "We did think it would get some media attention but not from those outlets (like newspapers)."

Last week, Burke, 22, claimed he

and Moorman had been dating for four months but that he broke up with her because of alleged infidelity. He attracted a crowd by promoting the event on the social networking Web site facebook.com., and hundreds of students and several photographers were among the spectators at a popular gathering spot on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus.

When Moorman, 21, arrived, a cappella group sang the Dixie Chicks hit "I'm not Ready to Make Nice."

When Burke dumped her, Moorman's response was an angry rant filled with expletives.

Moorman, a sophomore at North Carolina State University in nearby Raleigh, said she didn't expect such a big reaction. "No, never, never, ever," she said.

Moorman's only regret: She cursed too much.

Marine Base Produces Garage Door Interferes

QUANTICO, Virginia (AP) — For many suburbanites, life without garage door openers is unimaginable.

But neighbors of the U.S. Marine base here have been reduced to just that after a strong radio signal coming from the facility began neutralizing remote-control openers.

Residents have had to spend hundreds of dollars (euros) on new systems.

"I feel there should be some kind of compensation," said Queen Carroll, who is in her early 70s and was forced to buy a new receiver and remote. "I am on a budget. When things like this come up totally unexpected, it is very upsetting."

Repair shops started getting a flurry of calls when the base began using the frequency in late December.

Last fall, residents around an Air Force facility in Colorado Springs saw their garage-door remotes stop working when the 21st Space Wing began testing a frequency for use during homeland security emergencies or threats. Two years ago, testing of a similar system in Fort Detrick in

Maryland resulted in similar problems.

For decades, the military has held a portion of the radio spectrum, from 138 to 450 megahertz, in reserve. That part was borrowed by remote-control manufacturers, with the understanding that the signal be weak enough to be overridden by the military.

The reserve frequencies became active after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, when officials discovered that first responders could not communicate with one another because they were operating radios on different frequencies. The Defense Department is using the mothballed frequencies in a system that eventually will link military and civilian emergency responders.

"Consumer wireless devices, such as garage door openers, operate on an unlicensed basis, meaning they are required to accept any interference from licensed spectrum users, including the Department of Defense," said Lt. Brian P. Donnelly, a spokesman for the Quantico base.

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Lawrence
Date: 3/3/07
Presented by KU's Department of Music and Dance.

Full Moon River Hike
Arkansas City
Date: 3/3/07

Take a hike by the light of the moon down to the Arkansas River...more

Gala 2007
Hays
Date: 3/3/07

A Folksong Celebration - Music From the World Over.

Lily Tomlin
Overland Park
Date: 3/3/07

One of America's foremost comedienne.

Merriam Heartland Artist Exhibition
Merriam
Dates: 3/3/07 - 3/25/07
11th annual national juried art exhibition in downtown area.

Fort Hays State University Spring Choral Concert
Hays
Date: 3/4/07
Concert Choir and Fort Hays Singers present their typical high-level performances.

Leahy
Manhattan
Date: 3/4/07

Celebration of Irish music and dance.

Salina Youth Symphony
Salina
Date: 3/4/07

Salina Youth Symphony concert.

Shawnee St. Patrick's Day Parade & Duck Race
Shawnee
Date: 3/4/07
Annual Saint Patrick's Day parade.

Smother Brothers
Topeka
Date: 3/4/07

Performance of the popular 60s duo of Tom and Dick Smothers.

St. David's Concert & Tea
Emporia
Date: 3/4/07

Celebration of Welsh heritage honoring the Patron Saint of Wales with music and traditional tea.

St. Francis Church German Meal
Munjoy
Date: 3/4/07
Traditional German feast.

Barton County High School Juried Art Exhibition
Great Bend
Dates: 3/4/07 - 3/18/07

Barton County High School Juried Art exhibition.

3A State Boys & Girls Basketball Tournament
Hutchinson
Dates: 3/7/07 - 3/10/07
State high school basketball championship.

4A High School Boys' & Girls' Basketball State Championship Tournaments
Salina
Dates: 3/7/07 - 3/10/07
The KSHSAA 4A High School Basketball State Championship Tournaments.

KSHSAA 1A Boys and Girls State Basketball Championships
Hays
Dates: 3/7/07 - 3/10/07
Kansas 1A basketball championships for high school boys and girls teams.

Topeka Collegiate All-School Concert of the African Diaspora!
Topeka
Date: 3/9/07
Topeka Collegiate All-School Concert of the African Diaspora!.

Wichita Grand Opera presents - Tosca
Wichita
Date: 3/9/07

A melodrama in three acts set in Rome in June of 1800.

Antique Show & Sale
Larned
Dates: 3/9/07 - 3/11/07

37th annual show with antique/collectible dealers from a 4-state area.

Murder in the Cathedral
Topeka
Dates: 3/9/07 - 3/11/07
Drama of church against state.

Flint Hills Festival of Wines
Manhattan
Date: 3/10/07
Annual wine-tasting event.

Grand - Sydney Dance Company
Overland Park
Date: 3/10/07
A celebration of the relationship between dance and piano.

National Philharmonic of Russia
Manhattan
Date: 3/10/07
Orchestral music, the National Philharmonic of Russia is one of the musical symbols of new Russia.

Trinity Irish Dance
Salina
Date: 3/10/07

Chicago dance company.

Wichita Grand Opera presents - Turandot
Wichita
Date: 3/10/07
A tale of legendary China set in three acts.

Consumer Extravaganza
Oakley
Dates: 3/10/07 - 3/11/07
22nd annual home and garden show.

Home & Garden Show
Hays
Dates: 3/10/07 - 3/11/07
See home, garden, and business displays and learn about lawn care and home improvement ideas.

Kennel Club Dog Show
Garden City
Dates: 3/10/07 - 3/11/07
This National Point Show features hundreds of "man's best friend" strutting their stuff.

Leavenworth's Home & Garden Show
Leavenworth
Dates: 3/10/07 - 3/11/07
Home decor, garden, kitchen and bath, landscaping, home improvement, decks, hot tubs, stonework, etc.

Wichita Symphony Classics Concert - Jumppanen for Joy!
Wichita
Dates: 3/10/07 - 3/11/07
The WSO presents Finnish phenom pianist Paavali Jumppanen in Grieg's famous Piano Concerto.

Hays Symphony Orchestra Concert

Hays
Date: 3/11/07
Performance by the Hays Symphony Orchestra comprised of students, faculty, and community members.

Turandot by Puccini - Bulgarian State Opera
Overland Park
Date: 3/11/07

A roster of distinguished singers, dancers, and musicians performing in the great tradition of European opera.

Lawrence Art Auction
Lawrence
Dates: 3/12/07 - 3/14/07
Annual Art Auction..

Riverdance
Lawrence
Dates: 3/13/07 - 3/14/07
Experience the original Riverdance. Now in its 11th phenomenal year.

ENCORE Series-The Lettermen
Hays
Date: 3/14/07
Fort Hays State University presents one of the greatest pop superstars of the '60s.

Mountain Man Living History Encampment
Arkansas City
Dates: 3/30/07 - 3/31/07
A gathering of mountain men showing their skills. Witness pre-1840s fur trade camps.

Smithsonian Exhibit: Between Fences
Larned | Dates: 5/4/07 - 6/17/07
A Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit weaving the history of fences into the story of America...more

Spring Expo
Emporia
Dates: 3/14/07 - 3/18/07
Get ready for 2007 while browsing booths representing area businesses and organizations.

Fort Hays State University Band Concert
Hays
Date: 3/15/07
Band concert featuring the musicians of the Fort Hays State University department of music.

Garrison Keillor
Overland Park
Date: 3/15/07
Garrison Keillor returns to the Carlsen Center, doing what he does best—talking and telling stories.

Steven Osborne, Pianist
Manhattan
Date: 3/15/07
Steven Osborne has emerged at the forefront of young British pianists.

Fine Arts Exhibit
Fort Scott
Dates: 3/15/07 - 3/16/07
15th annual multimedia, juried exhibit.

Country Pickin' and Good Old Gospel Concert
Olathe
Dates: 3/15/07 - 4/8/07
Great country music and rock-the-house gospel, complemented with amazing patriotic tunes.

Home & Leisure Show
Dodge City
Dates: 3/16/07 - 3/18/07
Exhibitors from Florida to California, showing home and leisure products.

Ozark Shorthair Field Trials
Eureka
Dates: 3/16/07 - 3/18/07
German Shorthair dog trials.

Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition:

Between Fences
Paola
Dates: 3/16/07 - 4/29/07
Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition: Between Fences.

Aggieville St. Patrick's Day Parade & Road Races
Manhattan
Date: 3/17/07
Parade, breakfast, and running events for children and adults.

Blarney Bash
Salina
Date: 3/17/07
2nd annual Blarney Bash..

Boot Hill All Star Basketball Classic
Dodge City
Date: 3/17/07
Boys and Girls All Star Basketball Classic involving high school seniors.

Little House on the Prairie Opening Independence
Date: 3/17/07
Season opening of Laura Ingalls Wilder's Kansas cabin with music, food, and wagon rides.

Saint Patrick's Day Parade
Leavenworth
Date: 3/17/07
Long-time annual huge parade in historic downtown.

St. Patrick's Day Parade
Lillis
Date: 3/17/07
Annual St Patrick's Day parade and dinner in historic Lillis Gymnasium

St. Patrick's Day Parade
Russell
Date: 3/17/07
Everyone can be Irish for a day. Put on your green and join the fun..

St. Patrick's Day Parade
Lawrence
Date: 3/17/07
Annual parade featuring a wide array of floats.

St. Patrick's Day Parade & Celebration
Topeka
Date: 3/17/07
Kick off the celebration with a parade, followed by an Irish street fair, activities, and more.

St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festivities
Rush Center
Date: 3/17/07
Food, game booths, parade, Irish Stew meal, and car show.

St. Patrick's Parade
Emporia
Date: 3/17/07
Annual St. Patrick's parade celebrating the Irish.

Tri State Toy & Card Show
Norton
Date: 3/17/07
Exhibit features antique toys, trading cards, and collectibles.

Fort Scott Home Show
Fort Scott
Dates: 3/17/07 - 3/18/07
Top of the line merchant's all under one roof for this special event.

Holton Home, Garden and Leisure Show

Holton
Dates: 3/17/07 - 3/18/07
Annual Home, Garden and Leisure Show.

Easter Bunny Arrival
Hays
Dates: 3/17/07 - 4/7/07
Come greet the Easter Bunny and have your picture taken.

Cuba Rock-A-Thon
Cuba
Dates: 3/18/07 - 3/24/07
Celebration of Czech heritage with entertainment, food, crafts, and 313 hours of rocking.

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Job Corps Students help unload Girl Scout Cookies.

Flint Hills Job Corps Students Lend Many Helping Hands

What do Girls Scout Cookies and Martin Luther King Jr. have in common? Flint Hills Job Corps... Unloading Girl Scout Cookies at the National Guard Armory and providing a birthday cake, hot chocolate, and security for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day community events, are just some of the annual community service projects that students at Flint Hills Job Corps participate in.

The mission of Job Corps is to attract eligible young adults and teach them the skills they need to become independent, employable and positive members of their community.

At Job Corps, students can earn their high school diploma or G.E.D while gaining skills in one of eight vocational trades. In addition to teaching hands on training, the trade instructors emphasize the value of community service by actively lending a hand in the community year round.

Students in each job trade are encouraged to find creative ways to use their time, energy and resources in community service projects. The goal is to teach students to show their appreciation by giving back to a community that gives so much to

them. With everything from repairing stable doors for Hope Ranch, raking leaves at Sunset Cemetery and more, the students earn a sense of pride by seeing the positive work they've accomplished in their own community.

For more information on getting help from students at Flint Hills Job Corps with community service projects, please contact Business Community Liaison, Julia Dunn, at (785) 537-7222 ext. 109 or dunn.julia@jobcorps.org.

Bill Targets "Obscene" Materials In Schools

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) - Legislators are taking aim at a legal protection for teachers, saying it allows obscene materials in the classroom under the guise of academic value.

Supporters of the bill said there is potential harm to minors in being exposed to obscenity or pornography in novels, plays, books and films.

The bill would strip the protection from criminal charges from elementary and secondary teachers, but retain it for college and university instructors and professors.

"The practical effect of this defense is that materials that would be illegal if sold at a porn shop may be legal if displayed to a kindergarten class," said Rep. Lance Kinzer, R-Olathe, who sought the legislation.

The bill, expected to be debated in the coming weeks, was endorsed by all but one member of the House Federal

and State Affairs Committee.

"This bill is not about stopping nefarious teachers," said the lone dissenter, Rep. Ann Mah, D-Topeka. "This bill is about giving nefarious district attorneys a tool to bring charges against English teachers."

Mah was referring to Johnson County District Attorney Phill Kline, the conservative former state attorney general. She said there was a test case for the obscenity bill in the Blue Valley school district, also in Johnson County.

The parent group Citizens for Literary Standards in Schools has sought for two years to get the school district to remove 14 books from its curriculum.

Rep. Benjamin Hodge, R-Overland Park, said state law regarding promotion of obscenity, a misdemeanor, gives school boards too much authority over classroom behavior.

Kinzer's bill, Hodge said, would "at least give parents in Blue Valley a voice."

Kinzer, however, said the bill's intent goes beyond a lone group of angry parents in a single district.

John Burford, who lives in Mission and serves as pastor of Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Mo., said school employees shouldn't have leeway to present obscene materials to minors.

"The last place that should be immune from prosecution for distributing obscenity to children is the schools we charge to teach them the truth," Burford said. "Obscenity is all about lies. Its lies include that sex is acceptable with anyone, at any time, in any place. Obscenity teaches that women will eventually enjoy rape if the rapist persists."

Workers Pay Boost Hits Snag

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) - Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' proposal to raise state workers' pay by 4 percent has hit a snag in the Republican-controlled Legislature, with an influential senator questioning whether the state can afford to be so generous.

Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dwayne Umbarger said Tuesday that he wants to postpone a decision on pay raises until the end of the legislative session in late April. Umbarger said he and his colleagues need to know whether approving the raises this year would leave the state short of money in 2010.

The GOP-led House Appropriations Committee also is likely to tinker with Sebelius' plan, but for a different reason. Republican leaders want to overhaul the system that determines what civil service employees are paid, and they're hoping to consider some small changes within the next two weeks.

State government has about 42,000 employees, making their pay raises a key budget decision for legislators each year. Sebelius' proposals would increase state spending by more than \$86 million a year.

"I'm just trying to figure out how to pay for it," said Umbarger, R-Thayer.

Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka, said he is frustrated that state employees would have to wait until the end of the session. He said state workers shouldn't come last in the budgeting process.

But Carl Hill, lobbyist for the Kansas Association of Public Employees, took Umbarger's statements in stride. He said what's important is that legislators improve longevity bonuses and give civil service employees a cost-of-living increase, as well as a raise for completing a year on the job satisfactorily.

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