State's leadership program seeks nominations for 2004 class

sas, which is a leadership development program of The Kansas Chamber, has begun accepting nominations for its 2004 class, said John Federico, executive director of the program.

"The Leadership Kansas Class of 2004 will graduate in October following participation in a number of programs planned through-

key issues facing the state and to an educational and informational inspire participants to become ac- program consisting of sessions in the future holds for Kansas." tivists in creating future solutions,"

Each Leadership Kansas class is comprised of 35 people selected from more than 100 applicants and more than 500 nominations, Federico said. Once selected to participate in Leadership Kansas, the development of future leaders by

different communities across the

"The Leadership Kansas program is an important element of The Kansas Chamber," said Chamber CEO Lew Ebert. "We think it is

TOPEKA — Leadership Kan- out Kansas to inform the class of members of the class are engaged in engaging them in the serious con- Bill Graves, Commissioner of Edu- leadership responsibilities in their cerns and terrific opportunities that

A program committee and the organization's Board of Trustees develop the programming for Leadership Kansas. Now in its 26th year Leadership Kansas was founded to help identify and develop future important to be a catalyst for the leaders. Past program participants include former Kansas Governor

cation Andy Tompkins, Kansas Congressman Jerry Moran, and Jeff Turner; vice president and general manager of Boeing Wichita, among other graduates.

"As any of the over 850 distinguished Leadership Kansas alumni can attest, graduates of the program are better educated, energized and equipped to shoulder important

communities," Federico said. To learn more about the program

call Federico at (785) Editor's note: The Kansas Chamber is the statewide business advocacy group, with headquarters in Topeka. It is working to make Kansas more attractive to employers by reducing the costs of doing business

Rexford bridge group meets in Colby next month

Berneda Zoberst was hostess to the Rexford Bridge Club at her home. Helen Karls was a guest. Prizes were won by Bobby Young and Deb Stepper and Helen Karls. Next meeting will be with Joy Davis in Colby on Feb. 11.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Zoberst hosted a breakfast and gift exchange at their home on Jan. 3 at 10 a.m. Breakfast was served consisting of a casserole and bubble loaf along with milk and orange juice to the following: Mr. and Mrs. Ray Farmer of Salina, Don Barnett of Rexford, Jessica Barnett of Republic, Neb., Sharrel Harrison, Bailey,



Zula Horinek

Rexford Correspondent

Mrs. Greg Bruggeman of Selden, Judy Harger, Shawndra and Harley Jean of Colby, Shelby Barnett of Colby, Shaelum Barnett of Hays and Sue Hays of Oakley.

Joining the above group at the Community Hall at 1 p.m. for a potluck dinner were Mr. and Mrs. Murlin Krizek of McCook, Mr. and Ford Kemp of Wallace; Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Smalley, Kayla Smalley

and Travis Wyatt of McCook, Mr. Brewster to play for the Brewster and Mrs. Chet Hayes of Grinnell, Brenda Hayes of Topeka, Brett really wonderful potluck with them. Peterson of Hays, Mr. and Mrs. They were such a gracious audi-Dick Dempewolf and Galynn Anderson of Colby, Bonnie Stramel of Oakley, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Knopp and boys of Atwood and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Latimer of Gem.

The afternoon was spent playing cards and visiting. The smaller children really enjoyed the toys that were donated to the community.

ers Monday and on Thursday there were nine for pinochle. They had cookies and coffee to enjoy.

The Red Barn Gang Band went to Minnick and Sondra Barnett.

The Barnswallows had 12 play-

Heritage celebration. We shared a ence. They made us feel so special. During our Christmas programs we traveled 600 miles, we visited 12 homes and visited nine counties.

The Legion is holding a pinochle tournament on Feb. 17. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Those attending the coffee on Friday were Liz Rall, Eunice Sanford, Margaret Arasmith, Freda Ketchum, Cleda Moeder, Vesta Roth, Hulda Wark, Velma Barnett, Grace Cheney, Deb Stepper, Mary

Student News

Colbyite completes degree at Kansas Wesleyan

SALINA — Kansas Wesleyan University recently announced that Scott Walker of Colby was among many students completing degree requirements in the fall 2003 se-

Walker received a bachelor of arts degree in business administration, said Leslie Eikleberry, director of public relations.

Another area student completing her degree was Jennifer Henderson, BA, Physical Education, and Recreation, St. Francis.

In addition to these students more than 30 others from Kansas were

The university also had one graduate from Colorado, Florida, Texas and Taiwan, Eikleberry said. For questions, call her at (785) 827-5541, etx. 1127.

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Kansans call Bush performance confident, upbeat

sans in Congress were quick to embrace the plans President Bush outlined in his State of the Union his call for Congress to ensure the

Republican Sen. Sam Brownback was pleased with the budget priorities Bush discussed Tuesday, including halving the deficit over five years.

"I think that's one of the key new thrusts that you're seeing and that I think you're going to see a lot more played out as we go into the budget cycle now, to get back to a balanced budget," Brownback said.

The GOP-led Congress managed to balanced the federal budget from 1998 through 2001, but today lawmakers are responsible for the biggest federal spending increase in a

Brownback is sponsoring legislation that would create a closure commission for wasteful government programs similar to the military base closure panel.

"We want a balanced budget; we got to a balanced budget for the first time in 25 years," Brownback said. 'But then 9-11 hits, you're in recession, you've got to stimulate the economy. We have done that, but now's the time to start restraining that growth in spending."

Brownback suggested Congress and the president may have done too good a job, at least when it comes on the need for job training. to election-year politics.

this two-year cycle that we'd be judged on two things, the war on terrorism and the economy, and both are moving in the right direction," Brownback said. "Elections are never about the past, they're always about the future. So it's, 'OK, where are you going now?' This is a key time to articulate those new

Republican Rep. Jerry Moran also applauded Bush's call for fiscal responsibility.

"We need to be on a path of pay-

"To most Kansans, they see it as address to revive the economy and a moral issue; it's simply wrong to expect our children and grandchil- secretary of the Veterans Adminisdren to pay for things the government is providing them today."

> the president's budgetary goals depend on the economy and the events of the day.

"I don't think anybody could have predicted what would happen three years ago, with 9-11, the recession and all of that," he said. "I think we're on the right track. At least he has an agenda to halve the deficit in five years."

Roberts lauded the president's words about the potential for stability growing in Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and possibly even North

"It could well be the show of resolve in Iraq that led to these kinds of things," said Roberts, who chairs the Senate Intelligence Committee. "I think a case can be made for optimism, if we continue to show the resolve that we have."

Republican Rep. Todd Tiahrt, the Wichita area congresswoman, said Bush addressed the vital needs of his district, an aviation-dependent community that is struggling to recover from tens of thousands of lay-

He applauded Bush's emphasis

"It's important that we do every-"Most of us thought going into thing we can to create and retain jobs," said Tiahrt, who serves on the House Appropriations Committee. "There is strong evidence that tax relief has helped our economy.

> Rep. Dennis Moore, the delegation's lone Democrat, was disappointed that while Bush talked about reducing the number of uninsured Americans, he didn't mention trying to lower the cost of prescription medicine.

Moore and a bipartisan group of colleagues introduced legislation earlier Tuesday aimed at doing just

WASHINGTON (AP) — Kan- ing down the national debt," said that. The measure seeks authority country subsidized seniors in Ca-Moran, who represents western for the Health and Human Services secretary to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies for lower prices on drugs covered by Medicare; the

> tration has that power. "That's one way we can reduce Republican Sen. Pat Roberts said health costs in this country right now," Moore said. "Seniors in this even earlier.

nada, seniors in Mexico and seniors in other developed countries."

Rep. Jim Ryun, a Republican who represents eastern Kansas, applauded Bush's call for making his tax cuts permanent. Under Senate budget rules, most of the tax cuts expire in 2011, although some end

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