Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division is taking several Kansas businesses and individuals back to court to collect \$3.6 million in unpaid judgments dating back to

merce is urging Kansans to nomi-

nate businesses in their local com-

munities for recognition by the state

"The commerce office sponsors

Business Appreciation Month as an

annual tribute to Kansas businesses

for the jobs they provide, the con-

tributions they make to the state

economy and quality of life, and the

support they give their local com-

during Kansas Business Apprecia-

tion Month in June.

Attorney General Phill Kline's will use all resources available to lection efforts." protect the citizens of Kansas,' Kline said.

"I would also encourage everyone against whom a judgment has been rendered to contact the Con-Nominations sought for outstanding businesses

rector of public information for the

The deadline for nominations

nominations may be submitted

online by visiting the Kansas De-

http://www.kansascommerce.com/

bam

The first 11 businesses and individuals targeted by "Operation Paydav" are:

• Direct Communication International, Value Vision, Inc. and Satelsumer Protection and Antitrust Di- lite Cable Systems, Inc.— "In filing these actions today we vision and work out a settlement in \$1,972,527 for deceptive and unare putting people on notice that we order to avoid our aggressive col-conscionable acts from February of \$71,000 for a default and consent control chemicals and Department

The Kansas Department of Communities," said Sally Lunsford, dialso available on the web site under recognition events to be held the Governor's Award of Excel-

"Any individual or organization

Nominations are being accepted

manufacturing, distribution, ser-

vice, or retail. Those nominated will

"Documents and Forms," or by

throughout the state.

she said.

news releases.

 Complete Home Security, Inc., and Alarm Professional Services— \$1,476,977.24 for deceptive and unconscionable acts from July of

Carlson Auction Service, Inc. —

"Every nominated business will

be honored, and regional winners

In addition to the regional recog-

nitions, one outstanding Kansas

business, selected from all those

nominated in the state, will receive

will be named in each category,"

judgment from September of 2000. of Agriculture licensing from July

• 4-Seasons Chimney Sweep Company — \$30,000 for a default and consent judgment from September of 1997.

 M & W Termite and Pest Con-• Bud Foster Enterprises and trol —\$35,399 for misrepresentation of guarantees, the nature of pest

lence, which Lunsford said is the

highest honor a business can re-

Award of Excellence will be an-

of 2001.

 Emberton Photography – \$6,079 for a default judgment from October 2002.

· American Chamber For The People Inc. — \$5,000 for willful use of misrepresentation and violations of the door-to-door sales rule from

April of 2000. David Pickett — \$5,131 for willful use of misrepresentation, innuendo and failure to deliver from February of 2001.

• Mark Rank — \$1,565 for a consent judgment from June of 2000.

 Corporate Financial — \$3,000 Finalists for the Governor's for violations including failure to register with the Kansas Consumer Credit Commissioner from August of 2000.

• National Air Defense Systems \$3,000 judgment from August of 2000 (\$2,400 has been paid)

Tourism group encourages travel in Kansas

state's department of commerce contacting Kristy Druse at (785)

will need to be received by 5 p.m., may nominate one or more busi-

Thursday, April 1, she said, and nesses in their area," Lunsford said

partment of Commerce web site at: in four categories that include

Printable nomination forms are behonored at seven special regional

department released the following event and festivals that are scheduled the second and third week of

This is only a few examples of Beverly Hurly, with the depart-"Check out these and other e-

vents on the Kansas Travel &

Tourism's web site, www.travel-For questions, call the specific places where the event is planned. In northeast Kansas, a sampling

of events include: • A Spring wonderland of thousands of tulips and daffodils highlight what is known as "Tulip Time at Binkley Gardens." This heavilywooded, 3 1/2-acre garden has dozens of flowering trees and shrubs along with other bright spring flowers and a pond. The event days begin April 10 and continue through April 21 at 4536 SW Elevation Lane, Topeka, Kan. 66610. For questions, call toll-free at 1-800-235-1030.

• The Downtown Topeka Farmers' Market with fruits, vegetables, arts, crafts, and more available. The market dates begin April 10 through Sept. 25 at 10th and Topeka Blvd., Topeka, Kan. 66612. The market will be open on Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. until noon. For information on the web go to: www.topekacvb.org or call (785) 286-1748.

In north central Kansas, the following examples of events and festhe Chase County phenomenon of

The state's Travel and Tourism will be downtown Cottonwood or call (785) 899-6442. Falls on Broadway Street. For ques-

the website: www.prairiefirefesti-

• There will be a Flint Hills Barn places to explore in Kansas, said Dance complete with contras, traditional squares, waltzes, and more. The dance is Saturday, April 10 at 901 Yuma Street, Doughlass Community Center Annex, Manhattan, Kan. 66502. Lessons begin at 7 p.m., with the dance from 7:30 to website: www.kansasfolk.org/contra/manhat.html or call (785) 539-

• Prairie Drifter Sunset Tour is an open air two-hour ride in a 1958 grain truck through 20 miles of the scenic Flint Hills back roads. The tour is Friday and Saturday nights only from April 1 through Oct. 31, at 215 Broadway, Grand Central Hotel, Cottonwood Falls, Kan. 66845 or visit the website: www.grandcentralhotel.com or call (620) 273-6763. Organizers are also offering sunrise, specialty, and midday picnic breaks by appoint-

Closer to home in northwest Kansas events include:

• Produce for Victory: Posters on the American Home Front, 1941-1945, highlighting 25 vintage replica posters from the Smithsonian Institute that illustrate the factory and the home, which were also arenas of war. Local community exhibits, speakers, USO shows, and film festivals are all part of this event tivals include: • The Prairie Fire from March 26 through May 7, Festival, which is a celebration of Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday Prairie Fire. Exhibits of fine art, and Mondays from 1 to 4 p.m. The music, quilts, poetry, and crafts of exhibit is at the Carnegie Arts Cenall descriptions. The festival will be ter, 120 W. 12th in Goodland. For April 9 and 10 beginning at 7:30 questions, either visit the website at a.m. The location of the fesstival www.goodlandnet.com/artcenter

• Burgess Shale: Evolution's Big tions, call (620) 273-6020 or go to Bang Exhibit explores current theories about the explosion of new life forms 600 million years ago. The exhibit runs from March 27 through Oct. 3 at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History, 3000 Sternberg Dr., Havs, Kan. 67601. For questions, call toll free 1-877-332-1165 or visit the website at: www.fhsu.edu/sternberg

• Parasols and Palmettos and 10:30 p.m. For questions go to the Nostalgic Tins Exhibits include 75 watercolor and oil works of Mary Lane McMillan. Also 500 tins dating from late 1800s-1960s with event dates from April 2 through May 16 at the Dane Hansen Musuem, 110 W. Main, Logan, Kan. 67646. For questions, call (785) 689-4846.

lowing is a sampling of events: • From digital to traditional-witha-twist, 2004 New Art Event at the Ulrich Museum of Art had many cutting-edge artworks by today's hottest young international artists are making their debut this year. The event, which started last week, will continue through April 25 at 1845 Fairmont at Wichita State University in Wichita, Kan. 67260. For questions, phone (316) 978-3664 or visit the website: www.ulrich.wichita.edu

 Messiah Festival of Art and Music is a week-long celebration of Handel's Messiah, Bach's St. Matthew Passion, concerts, theatre productions, and Midwest art exhibi-

The festival is from April 4 through April 11 at Bethany Col-

The locations of the regional nounced in May. events will be announced in later

ceive from the state.

Funding for Business Appreciation Month activities is provided by the Economic Development Initiatives Fund, derived from state lottery proceeds, and also by the Kansas Cavalry, a volunteer group whose members support economic development and serve as business ambassadors for the state.

"The mission of the Kansas Department of Commerce is to empower business and communities through bold leadership using strategic resources to realize prosperity in Kansas," Lunsford said about the department's goals.

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In south central Kansas, the follege, 421 N. 1st St., **Colby Country Club** St. Patrick's Day Dance **Saturday, March 20 ~ 9-12** ~ DJ - Tucker Stover ~ Featured Entrees: Prime Rib, Walleye, **Breaded Jumbo Shrimp** ••Limited Reservations••



Income tax help continues for low, moderate families

their refund deposited directly into their bank account usually have their refund in eight to 15 days, according to Judy Stengel, Internal Revenue Service senior tax specialist based in Wichita. "Tax returns that are in the system

at noon on Thursdays are transferred to a master computer, and refunds are processed a week and a day later. More time is needed for refund checks to reach taxpayers in the mail," Stengel said.

Low- to moderate-income indi-

Gay marriage ban could hurt

TOPEKA (AP)—Amending the Kansas Constitution to ban gay marriage could be bad for business, opponents of the proposal told a Senate panel Wednesday.

Anew argument was offered during Wednesday's committee hearing — that changing the Kansas Constitution would hurt economic development. "It sends a message to companies that companies with gay and lesbian employees are not welcome in the state of Kansas," said Bruce Ney, a Lawrence attorney. And Sandra Stenzel, of Wa-Keeney, economic development director for Trego County, said, "Don't make my job any harder" by adopting the proposed amendment.

"What drew me here was the freedom to be who I am," she said.

"There are plenty of businesses that don't want to deal with homosexual-lifestyle problems," said Sen. Kay O'Connor, R-Olathe, who supports the proposed amendment.

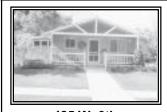
WICHITA—Taxpayers who file viduals and families who haven't electronically and opt for having prepared their tax returns yet may want to take advantage of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, she added.

> In Thomas County, call the extension office at 462-4582 Internal Revenue Service publications available by calling 800-829-3676.



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