

Coverage of the Edgar Heap of Birds Gallery, KU
Michelle Strickland
January 2022
KU Endowment

Native American artist Edgar Heap of Birds gave a gift that resulted in the naming of the gallery in the Department of Visual Art at the University of Kansas. Heap of Birds is a well-known artist nationally and internationally.

(Media Advisory included after clips)

The event was covered in both Lawrence newspapers, both before the event and after.

Lawrence Times 1-28-2022

<https://lawrencekstimes.com/2022/01/28/heap-of-birds-gallery-opening/>

Lawrence Times 1-29-2022

<https://lawrencekstimes.com/2022/01/29/photos-indigenous-space-exhibit-opens/>

Governor calls for investigation in restrained teen's death

By Heather Hollingsworth
Associated Press

Gov. Laura Kelly has ordered the Kansas agency that oversees foster care to investigate the death of a 17-year-old who was restrained face down for more than 30 minutes last fall at a Wichita juvenile intake center after his foster father called begging for help because the



Kelly



Lofton

teen was hallucinating. "This situation is tragic, and we must find a way to ensure something like

this never happens again," Kelly said in a written statement calling for the Kansas Department for Children and Families to review the case of Cedric Lofton and see if policies needed to be changed.

Meanwhile, the Sedgwick County Department of Corrections announced Tuesday that it was forming a task force to review what happened. Glenda

Martens, the department's director, said the work would be "painstakingly difficult."

The developments come one week after Sedgwick County District Attorney Marc Bennett expressed concerns about the handling of Lofton's case when he announced that he wouldn't file any criminal charges. He said he struggled with whether

an involuntary manslaughter charge was justified, but concluded that the state's "stand-your-ground" law prevented him from pursuing it because staff members were protecting themselves.

Kelly also said she was looking forward to hearing recommendations from Bennett, the Legislature and advocates on ways to clarify or modify the law.

According to Bennett's report, Lofton's mental health got markedly worse after the teen attended his grandmother's funeral. Lofton's family expressed concern to the foster father that Cedric "was having either a mental breakdown and/or he was having an onset of schizophrenia."

› TEEN, 5A

LAWRENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board approves 2022-23 calendar with a longer Thanksgiving break

By Austin Hornbostel
ahornbostel@ljworld.com

After a lengthy public comment session and discussion about proposed school closures, the Lawrence school board on Monday eventually tackled its agenda items, including approving additional vacation around Thanksgiving.

Students and staff will now get a full week off

at Thanksgiving, and 12-month staff will get an additional paid holiday for Juneteenth.

Other items approved for the district's 2022-23 school calendar included:

- School staff will return to work ahead of the fall semester Aug. 10, with parent-teacher conferences taking place prior to the start of the school

year. The beginning of the school year for K-12 students is set for Aug. 18, after a half-day for kindergarten, sixth-grade and ninth-grade students Aug. 17. The first day of the early-childhood program follows on Aug. 25.

- The district's spring break remains aligned with the University of Kansas' break, scheduled for March 13-17 in 2023.

- The calendar will include two classified professional development days; that addition was negotiated with PAL-CWA, a labor union representing the district's classified staff, which includes paraeducators, custodians and office staff, among others.

› BOARD, 8A

KU naming gallery after Native artist whose artwork was vandalized

Staff Report
news@ljworld.com



Heap of Birds

After his artwork on the KU campus was vandalized last semester, Native American artist Edgar Heap of Birds will have a new university gallery named after him and will be a guest of honor at its opening on Saturday.

KU Endowment and the University of Kansas Department of Visual Art are officially opening the Edgar Heap of Birds Family Gallery on Saturday in Chalmers Hall at the KU campus. The new gallery, which is inside the Department of Visual Arts, will host an

annual series of exhibits highlighting Native American art.

Heap of Birds and Norman Akers, an associate professor of visual art at KU, will be the inaugural artists to have works displayed in the gallery, KU officials announced on Tuesday.

Heap of Birds previously was selected to present as part of KU's Common Work of Art program.

› GALLERY, 8A

KU's online master's in special education is still the top-ranked program in the U.S.



By Chad Lawhorn
clawhorn@ljworld.com

The University of Kansas' online graduate degree program in special education continues to be the top-ranked program in the country, according to the new

rankings from U.S. News & World Report.

In addition, two other online degree programs in the school of education were ranked in the top 20, while the University of Kansas' online MBA program moved into the top 15 rankings among public business schools.

The online master's degree in special education offered by KU's School of Education & Human Sciences was ranked No. 1 by U.S. News & World Report in its recently released "Best Online Programs" report.

› PROGRAMS, 8A

Programs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3A

The special education program also was ranked No. 1 in the country last year.

In addition, the education school had its online master's in educational administration ranked No. 12, up from No. 13 a year ago, while the school's online master's degree in curriculum and instruction moved up one spot in the rankings to No. 14.

Overall, KU's school of education had its entire

slate of online master's offerings ranked as No. 34 in the country. The school ranked No. 10 for veterans seeking an online degree in education.

The KU School of Business ranked No. 16 nationally — and No. 13 among public universities — for its online master of business administration program. That was an improvement of four spots from last year's rankings. The report also ranked KU's online MBA program 10th for veterans.

KU's nursing and engineering schools also were included in the rankings. The nursing school ranked 57th for its online

master's in nursing program, while the engineering school ranked in the general category of No. 79-104 for its master's in engineering programs.

A few other universities in the state also had notable rankings from the U.S. News & World Report publication. Kansas State University ranked No. 24 for its overall online master's programs in education, No. 24 for its online master of business administration and No. 30 for its master's in engineering programs. Fort Hays State also ranked No. 29 for its master's in online nursing.

Gallery

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3A

His piece "Native Hosts" — which consists of five aluminum signs in front of the Spencer Museum of Art drawing attention to the Native tribes that have inhabited the region now known as Kansas — was vandalized last semester. In addition, one of the art panels was stolen but was later recovered.

The crimes sparked a public outcry from many members of the university community. Since that

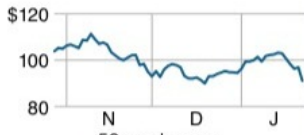
time, KU Endowment received a private gift that has funded the creation of the Edgar Heap of Birds Family Gallery, according to a statement from the endowment association. The association didn't provide details about the size of the gift or the donor.

Heap of Birds and Akers both will be on hand for Saturday's gallery opening, which runs from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Chalmers Hall, Room 300, 1467 Jayhawk Blvd. In addition KU Chancellor Douglas Girod and distinguished professor Robert Warrior are expected to deliver remarks. KU is limiting

attendance at the event because of pandemic social-distancing considerations, a spokeswoman for KU Endowment said.

Heap of Birds is a Wichita native who is a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Nations. The artist, who now resides in Oklahoma City, is a KU graduate and completed his graduate studies at the Royal College of Art in London and at Temple University. His works have been shown in the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art and New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, among others.

Close: **\$91.11** ▼ **-5.80** or **-6.0%**
The aviation, health and energy conglomerate's revenue fell short of Wall Street forecasts.



\$85.12 52-week range \$116.17

Vol.: **20.9m** (3.2x avg.) PE: ...
Mkt. Cap: **\$100.1 b** Yield: **0.4%**

SOURCE: FIS

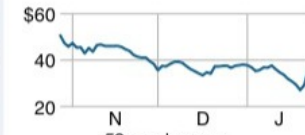
Close: **\$173.11** ▲ **14.18** or **8.9%**
The credit card company's fourth-quarter profit handily beat analysts' forecasts.



\$112.10 52-week range \$189.03

Vol.: **13.3m** (3.4x avg.) PE: **45.9**
Mkt. Cap: **\$134.1 b** Yield: **1.0%**

Close: **\$35.85** ▲ **6.62** or **22.7%**
Standard General is offering to buy the hotel and casino operator.



\$26.11 52-week range \$75.92

Vol.: **5.6m** (8.9x avg.) PE: **22.4**
Mkt. Cap: **\$2.0 b** Yield: ...

AP

Financial Advisor Directory

Email advertising@ljworld.com to see your listing here!



Dan Cary, CFP®
Private Wealth Advisor



Trish Larue, CRPC®
Financial Advisor

Dan Cary and Associates
A private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC
785.856.7111
1311 Wakarusa Drive, Suite 2121
Lawrence, KS 66049
ameripriseadvisors.com/team/dan-cary-and-associates

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and CFP certification mark (with plaque design) in the U.S.



THE RIGHT TEAM FOR ALL YOUR FINANCIAL NEEDS.



INDEPENDENT | FEE-ONLY | FIDUCIARY

Meet Mike Davies, JD; Michael Carlisle, MBA; Jason Walker, MBA, CTFP; Mack Curry, JD; and Mackenzie Blakeslee, MS, CFP®, the right team in Lawrence for investments, financial planning, trusts, estate planning & settlement, and more. Contact us today for a free, no-strings consultation! TTCLawrence@TheTrustco.com

333 W. 9th STREET, LAWRENCE, KS 66044 | 785.371.9555



KU opens new gallery for Native American art



Photos by Chad Lawhorn • clawhorn@ljworld.com

Left: Artist Edgar Heap of Birds, left, and University of Kansas Chancellor Douglas Girod chat Saturday afternoon as part of an opening reception for KU's new art gallery inside Chalmers Hall. The gallery, Edgar Heap of Birds Family Gallery, will host an annual series of exhibits highlighting Native American art.
Above left: Heap of Birds' piece "As Your Sky a Perfect Shape" is among the pieces of art featured in the new gallery.
Above right: "Okesa" by artist Norman Akers is displayed in the gallery.

Districts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Thanks to a decade's worth of population growth, as recorded by the recently completed census, there's a chance to change that. Douglas County's population has grown by about 8,000 residents since the last time the boundaries were drawn for the House districts in Kansas.

That increase in population now makes it mathematically possible to have five Kansas House districts entirely within Douglas County. The four Kansas House members from Douglas County recently sent a letter to the state's redistricting committee, asking it to consider drawing a map with five districts entirely within the county.

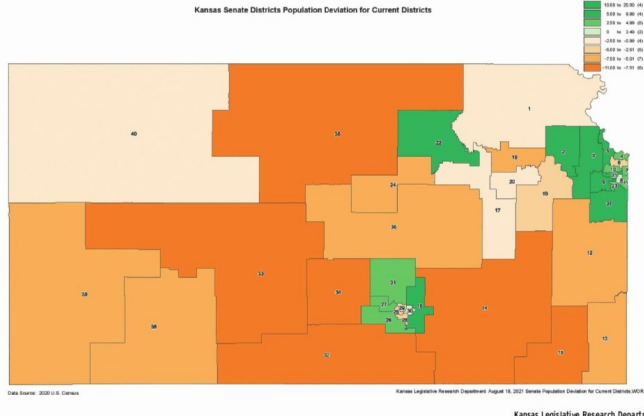
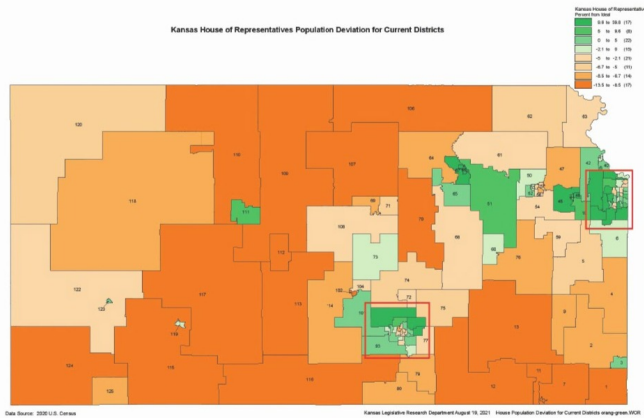
"We don't want to split Douglas County with other counties. I just don't think it works," said Rep. Mike Amyx, who represents the Kansas 45th House District. "The people representing Douglas County generally are going to know the problems their constituencies face."

The four legislators — Amyx, Rep. Barbara Ballard from the 44th District, Christina Haswood from the 10th District and Boog Higberger from the 46th District — said placing five districts entirely in Douglas County might make it easier for legislators and constituents to connect.

"Our experience is that legislators who represent only small portions of a county participate much less frequently in county-wide events, with the result that the views of the citizens in those areas are less well represented," the four legislators wrote in their letter to the House Redistricting Committee earlier this month.

Whether the Redistricting Committee will follow the recommendations of the four Douglas County lawmakers is unknown. All four are Democrats, while the Kansas Legislature is controlled by Republicans. Douglas County is one of the few counties in the state where Democrats outnumber Republicans, so it is uncertain that the committee would look favorably on ensuring that one more Douglas County resident would have a seat in the Legislature.

The two representatives who represent parts of Douglas County but live outside of the county — Lance Neely, who lives in Leavenworth County and represents the 42nd District, and Ken Corbet, who lives in Shawnee County and represents



THESE MAPS OF KANSAS HOUSE DISTRICTS (TOP) AND KANSAS SENATE DISTRICTS (BOTTOM) show the deviation from population guidelines set by the Kansas Constitution. Districts in green are above the population limit, and districts in orange are below the limit.

the 54th District — are both Republicans. The four Douglas County legislators, though, told the committee they believe five Douglas County districts can be created without "negatively impacting any of the current incumbents in neighboring counties, and we can provide a suggested map if it would be of interest to the committee."

Some House districts in Douglas County are essentially assured of getting a remake. Amyx's district, which represents parts of west Lawrence and western Douglas County, is expected to get a lot of attention in the redistricting process, as it has grown significantly in population. The Kansas Constitution requires that Kansas House districts be nearly equal in population, meaning its current

boundaries would make it too large from a population standpoint. "The 45th has really grown," Amyx said, "so my district is going to have to shrink down."

The redistricting process also includes Kansas Senate districts, which have the same equal population requirements. Kansas Senate District No. 2, represented by Lawrence resident Marci Francisco, also will require boundary changes. The district has much of its population in Lawrence but much of its land mass in Jefferson County. Francisco said it is 12,000 people over the ideal population after the latest census count.

"I will be sorry to lose any constituents," Francisco said.

Francisco said she supports making the House and the Senate more

compact and easier to understand for voters. The lines can be confusing and residents don't always know who represents them. She has proposed legislation in the past that would actually reduce the number of representatives in the House from 125 to 120 and draw lines that clearly connect the 40 seats in the Senate to House seats divided equally, then connect those districts to the larger congressional seats.

"I want a district map drawn by county clerks," Francisco said.

Splitting of counties has consequences in regards to election security and mechanics, said Douglas County Clerk Jamie Shew. The redistricting process impacts who winds up on voters' ballots. The more confusing those lines become,

the more difficult it is for residents to know who is representing them, Shew said.

"It's less of who ends up in what district but that the work is done fairly quickly," Shew said. "And not to split up precincts and the goal is not to split up townships."

Splitting neighborhoods and townships reduces the ability residents have to communicate with their legislators. And each split of districts — between congressional, state House and state Senate, county representatives, board of education districts and more — requires an additional ballot style, Shew said.

The more ballot styles workers and residents have to deal with, the more work there is to do and the more room for error there is, Shew said.

"We already have quite a few ballot styles in Douglas County," Shew said.

If the redistricting process drags on too long, it will put more pressure on counties preparing for elections. The 2010 redistricting process was decided by the courts, which meant counties received district maps after the election filing deadline in June, giving county offices two days to prepare ballots.

"The more drastic the change is within a county and the later you get it, the bigger the chance is for a mistake and people to end up in the wrong district," Shew said.

The redistricting guidelines suggest maps should be drawn according to major landmarks like rivers and roads. In 2010, legislators used a large power line to draw their map, which created additional confusion for the county.

"It cut through people's farms," Shew said. "So we had to look and see, does your house sit north of the power line or south of the power line, to see what district you live in."

The deadline for redistricting maps is April 10, 2022, according to the Kansas Constitution. When legislators will start debating maps for the Kansas House and Senate districts is unclear. Thus far, the Legislature's attention has been focused on the redistricting process for Kansas' congressional districts. However, both the House and Senate passed a map this past week — the one that splits Lawrence and Douglas County — and it is now awaiting action by the governor, and possibly the courts if various groups follow through on threats to file a lawsuit.

The redistricting process is occurring in a major election year, meaning the new boundaries will impact who is eligible to run in races that will be decided in November. The deadline for candidates to file for 2022 elections is June 1. Primary elections, if needed, will be on Aug. 2. The general election will be Nov. 8.

While time is of the essence, the stakes also are high for how Douglas County is represented for the next decade, lawmakers said.

"Residents should be following this process close," Amyx said. "If they have concerns, they should call the members of the redistricting committee."

Residents who wish to follow the redistricting process can watch meetings live and archived at youtube.com/c/KSLegislatureLIVE and see maps and written testimony at kslegislature.org.



****Media Advisory and Photo Opportunity****
Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Michelle Keller/785-832-7336/ mkeller@kuendowment.org
Michelle Strickland/785-832-7363/ mstrickland@kuendowment.org

Dedication at KU gallery space features inaugural exhibit, program

LAWRENCE, Kansas — KU Endowment and the University of Kansas Department of Visual Arts are sponsoring an inaugural exhibit, “Indigenous Space” featuring Edgar Heap of Birds and Norman Akers, associate professor of visual art at KU. The program is celebrating the naming of the Edgar Heap of Birds Family Gallery, which was made possible with a private gift through KU Endowment.

- **Who:** Artists Edgar Heap of Birds and Norman Akers
- **What:** “Indigenous Space” is the inaugural exhibit at the Edgar Heap of Birds Family Gallery. A program featuring Native American songs and a blessing will celebrate the newly named gallery space, with remarks from guests Chancellor Douglas Girod and Distinguished Professor Robert Warrior.
- **When:** 3-4:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 29
- **Where:** Chalmers Hall, Room 300, 1467 Jayhawk Blvd., Lawrence, Kansas, 66045
- **Why:** This inaugural exhibit will showcase works by the eponymous artist and fellow artist Akers. The gallery will be the site of a planned annual series of exhibits highlighting Native American art, giving KU students and faculty the opportunity to explore and share ideas and inspiration from an indigenous outlook.
- **Artist interviews:** The artists will be available to the press at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, at the gallery.

About the artists

Edgar Heap of Birds

Edgar Heap of Birds was born in Wichita, Kansas. A member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Nations, he currently resides in Oklahoma City. He has a BFA from KU and completed graduate studies at the Royal College of Art in London. He holds an MFA from Tyler School of Art and Architecture at Temple University in Philadelphia as well as several honorary doctorates.

His artworks include multi-disciplinary forms of public art messages, large scale drawings, Neuf Series acrylic paintings, prints, works in glass and monumental porcelain enamel on steel outdoor sculpture. His artwork is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art and Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Visit cheapofbirds.com for more.

Norman Akers

Norman Akers was born and raised in Fairfax, Oklahoma. He is a citizen of the Osage Nation from Grayhorse District. He received a BFA in painting from the Kansas City Art Institute and a certificate in museum studies from the Institute of American Indian Arts. He received an MFA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

His artworks are in several collections including the Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri; Spencer Museum of Art, Lawrence, Kansas; Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and the Eiteljorg Museum, Indianapolis, Indiana. He joined the faculty in the KU Department of Visual Art in 2009. Visit normanakers.com for more.

###

KU Endowment is the independent, nonprofit organization serving as the official fundraising and fund-management organization for KU. Founded in 1891, KU Endowment was the first foundation of its kind at a U.S. public university.