

# Offering historic hospitality

By Ron Wilson  
Huck Boyd Institute

"Hey, Pat. I'm going to a bed and breakfast meeting in Topeka. Want to come along?" It was a simple request, but it led to the creation of a remarkable bed and breakfast in an amazing, historic home. That bed-and-breakfast is now one of the longest running B&B's in the state of Kansas

Pat Lyons, or Miss Pat as she is sometimes called, is the innkeeper of the Lyons Twin Mansions bed, breakfast, hotel and spa in Fort Scott, Kan.

Pat was a military child. "I grew up in an Oldsmobile on Route 66," she said with a smile. While her father was stationed in Mississippi, she met and married Larry Lyons, a young Air Force officer from Kansas.

Larry grew up near the rural community of Fulton, population 162 people. Now, that's rural.

He went on to an Air Force career. While preparing for a one-year overseas deployment, he and Pat came to Fort Scott to see his family. She spotted a home where she could stay with the kids while he was overseas. Soon after, Pat visited a gorgeous mansion for sale in Fort Scott. It was a four-story Victorian Italianate home built in 1872-76 by wealthy bankers who had come to Fort Scott from New York.

"It was a dream house, a treasure," Pat said. They purchased the home, had repairs done and moved in after Larry retired in 1979.

In the late 1980s, as the kids were growing up, Pat had a request from a friend who had opened her home as a bed and breakfast. The friend was going to a meeting in Topeka and wanted Pat to come along, so she agreed.

Bed and breakfasts were a growing trend in the 1980s, encouraged by the work of K-State business professor Fred Rice. When Pat's friend had more guests than she could hold in her B&B, she asked if Pat could open up a room or two to hold the overflow. Pat did so and the business began to take off. Ultimately Pat's friend closed her B&B. Pat's business continued to develop.

Next door to the Lyons home was a virtually identical mansion which was also built by those New York bankers in the 1870s. In 2007, Pat and Larry's son Nate purchased the mansion next door and went into the business with his parents.

Today, Lyons Twin Mansions is one of the leading bed and breakfast enterprises in Kansas. Both historic mansions have guest rooms with plasma TVs and all the amenities, plus there is a day spa. The homes are exquisitely furnished, including items Larry purchased on Air Force tours, including Persian rugs from Persia.

Nate has opened Nate's Place, a restaurant and lounge, in the mansion he purchased. In addition, the Lyons family has a cottage across the street and up

stairs apartments downtown for extended stays, while managing yet another nearby mansion for an owner in Texas. Altogether, there are ten guest rooms.

Through the years, Pat has hosted guests from coast to coast and beyond. The average life span of a bed and breakfast business is five to six years, while Pat has been going for 22 years.

"We have reinvented ourselves many times," she said.

Why is this transplanted Kansan so passionate about her community and her state? "When we first moved here, I took my daughter in for her school shots," Pat said. "The next morning, the doctor's wife was at my door with a plate of cookies. My neighbor brought a loaf of bread. I cherish the people of Kansas."

"We are modernizing the rooms and embracing new technology," she added. "I appreciate this wonderful business and wonderful community."

For more information, go to [www.lyonstwinmansions.com](http://www.lyonstwinmansions.com).

"Hey, Pat, want to go to a bed and breakfast meeting in Topeka?" That chance contact has led to a remarkable inn-keeping career for Miss Pat and the Lyons family. We salute Pat and Larry Lyons, Nate and all those involved with the Lyons Twin Mansions for making a difference with their entrepreneurship. They offer historic hospitality.

# Color My World...



The Summer Show Choir presented "Color My World With Music" at the East Campus auditorium on Friday. Sixteen songs were sung by youth preschool through eleventh grade. Sixty-two participated and were led by three directors and three assistants. Some of the songs that were included were Purple People Eater, Dreaming in Color, Gold and Colors of the Wind. This is an annual event where the children learn songs and choreography for each number. A large crowd enjoyed the hour and a half long performance.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

# Apple liable for fixed e-book prices

Apple, Inc., has been found liable for violating antitrust laws by conspiring with major U.S. publishers to fix the prices of e-books, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt announced recently.

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York ruled that Apple "played a central role in facilitating and executing" the conspiracy to raise e-book prices, and that Apple's orchestration of the conspiracy was necessary to its success. The case against Apple was brought by the U.S. Department of Justice and 33 states, including Kansas.

"Kansas pursued this case

because the evidence showed that Apple had violated the law, resulting in Kansas consumers paying more for e-books than they would have paid in a competitive marketplace," Schmidt said. "Protecting Kansas consumers from unlawful business practices is one of our priorities at the attorney general's office."

At trial, the states and the federal government demonstrated that Apple and its executives were unwilling to compete on price with other retailers of e-books, and instead conspired with the publishers to fix and raise prices. The next phase of the litigation will focus on recovery of damages for consum-

ers harmed by the conspiracy.

The publishers, Hachette Book Group, Inc.; HarperCollins Publishers, LLC; Simon & Schuster, Inc.; Holtzbrinck Publishers, LLC, d/b/a Macmillan; and Penguin Group (USA), Inc., had settled the states' claims against them prior to trial, resulting in consumers nationwide receiving over \$166 million in compensation.



# Linden-Bloom Engagement

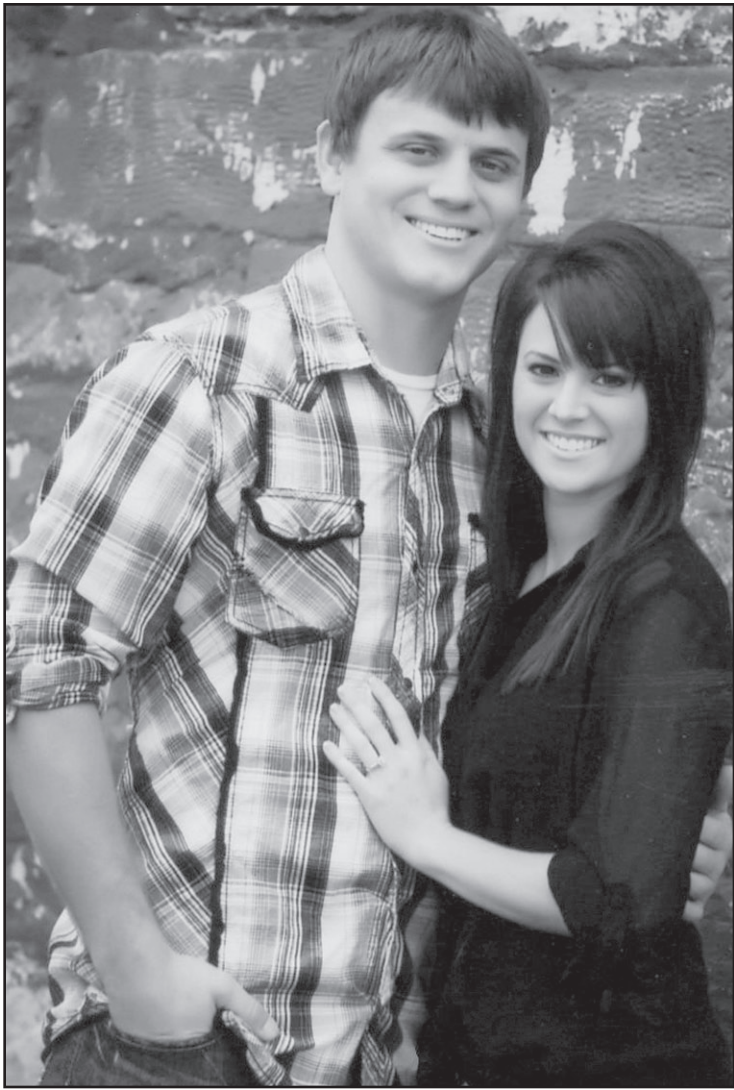
Emily Ann Linden of Goodland and Kade Edward Bloom of Phillipsburg plan to marry at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2013, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Goodland.

Her parents are Frank and Sheryl Linden of Goodland and her grandparents are Linda Fogo and the late George "Bud" Fogo of Goodland and Doris Linden and the late Guy Linden of Norton.

His parents are Garth and Mary Bloom of Wichita and Edie Lively of Phillipsburg and his grandparents are Homer and Roberta Lively of Phillipsburg and the late Ned and Darlene Bloom.

The bride-to-be graduated from Goodland High School in 2007 and from Fort Hays State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice in 2011. She is currently working at the Ellis County District Court in Hays.

The prospective groom graduated from Phillipsburg High School and currently attends Fort Hays State University in Hays working on a degree in secondary education.



# Energy assistance helps Kansans stay cool

Kansans with low income will have a little extra help paying their utility bills this summer, thanks to the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP).

"The summer heat can take a dangerous toll on our most vulnerable populations," said DCF Secretary Phyllis Gilmore said. "This extra assistance will help keep Kansans safe from extreme heat."

LIEAP provides an annual benefit to help qualifying households pay winter heating bills. Persons with disabilities, older

adults and families with children are the primary groups assisted. In the winter of 2013, nearly 48,000 households received an average benefit of \$386.

This year, funding is available to provide an additional benefit to those households for energy costs. This is not a new application period. Households that applied and received a benefit during the regular application period will automatically be issued a supplemental benefit of approximately \$103, bringing the average benefit for the year to almost \$490. The supplement

tal funds are in the process of being dispersed.

Funding for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program is provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Service through the Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

For more information on the Low Income Energy Assistance Program, visit <http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/eas/Pages/Energy/EnergyAssistance.aspx> or call 1-800-432-0043 toll free.

# CORRECTION

Due to incorrect information given to the Telegram a correction needs to be made for the front page story "Landfill sets budget" that ran on July 12. It

stated that crushed concrete could be purchased from the landfill. This is incorrect. The crushed concrete is not for sale.

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