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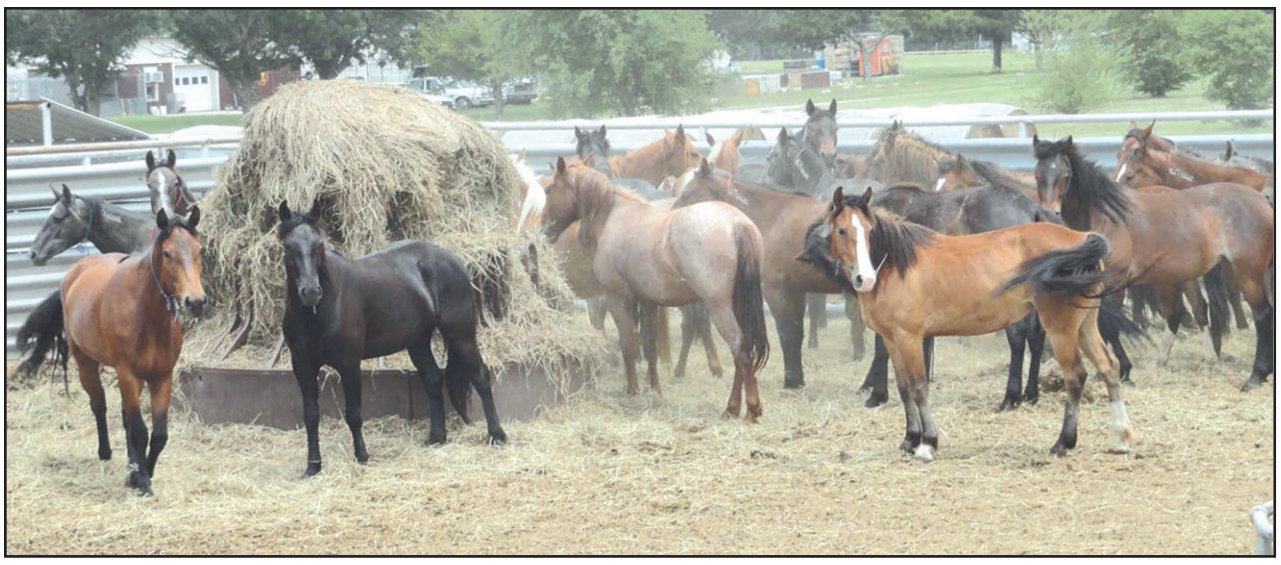
Manhattan Free Press

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 34 | An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper | Thursday, January 26, 2017



KDOC-trained Horses Marched in Inauguration Parade

The Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) had a hand in the inauguration of President Donald Trump Friday.

Or more accurately, make that a hoof.

Wild mustangs trained at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility (HCF) that are now used by military and border patrol groups marched in the ceremonial inauguration parade in Washington D.C. Friday.

Two or three of a group of Fort Riley soldiers who participated in the parade were riding mustangs trained at HCF. The fort's 1st Infantry Division Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard took 13 horses in total for the parade. The commander leading the color guard roade one of the mustangs trained in the KDOC program.

In the same parade, eight mustangs trained at HCF were ridden by U.S. Border Patrol agents of the Rio Grand Valley Sector. These horses are used in patrolling the border between the U.S. and Mexico.

The horses trained at the Hutchinson facility are wild mustangs captured on government land by the Bureau of Land Management. The KDOC wild horse and burro program, which operates under the auspices of Kansas Correctional Industries (KCI), employs offenders at HCF to provide initial training to the animals. The offenders at HCF help to make the wild horses useful for organizations and individuals who adopt them.

"It's a great honor and very exciting to see horses that were trained here in our program participating in such a historic and important event, said Dexter Hedrick, KCI Horse Program Manager. "The offenders who work with the horses are taking great pride in knowing that they contributed to something so meaningful."

Bayer Construction Awarded Governor's Mined Land Reclamation Award

MANHATTAN, Kan. — For the fifth time, Bayer Construction Co. Inc. located in Manhattan was awarded the 2016 Governor's Mined Land Reclamation Award presented at the 2017 Kansas Aggregate Producers Association annual convention in Overland Park, Kan., on January 13. This award is presented by the Division of Conservation in the Kansas Department of Agriculture to recognize a company that demonstrated excellence in implementing mined land reclamation and conveying a positive image of mining in Kansas.

Bayer Construction's Martin Quarry is located in Clay County and has been in operation since the 1950s. It has been the primary source of limestone aggregates for 10 north-central Kansas counties. The reclaimed area consists of 94 acres and was reclaimed in phases from 2011–2016. The reclamation plan developed with the landowner outlined how the property would be reclaimed into productive cropland. Bayer used heavy equipment to contour the land and spread stockpiled topsoil. To maintain productivity of the farmland, Bayer built a waterway to assist in proper drainage and reduce soil erosion. "Bayer Construction Company wants to be a strong partner in the community and holds itself to a high environmental stewardship standard," said Stan Hambright, safety and environmental manager for Bayer Construction.

Bayer Construction was established in 1935. Primary services include civil site preparation, water and sewer line construction, heavy highway construction and crushed limestone. They operate several portable crushing plants and are an employee-owned company with 140 employees operating quarries throughout northeast and north-central Kansas.

The KDA's Division of Conservation administers the Surface Mining Land Conservation and Reclamation Act as part of its mission to protect natural resources. It offers this annual award to raise the awareness and standards of reclaiming mined land and to recognize excellence.

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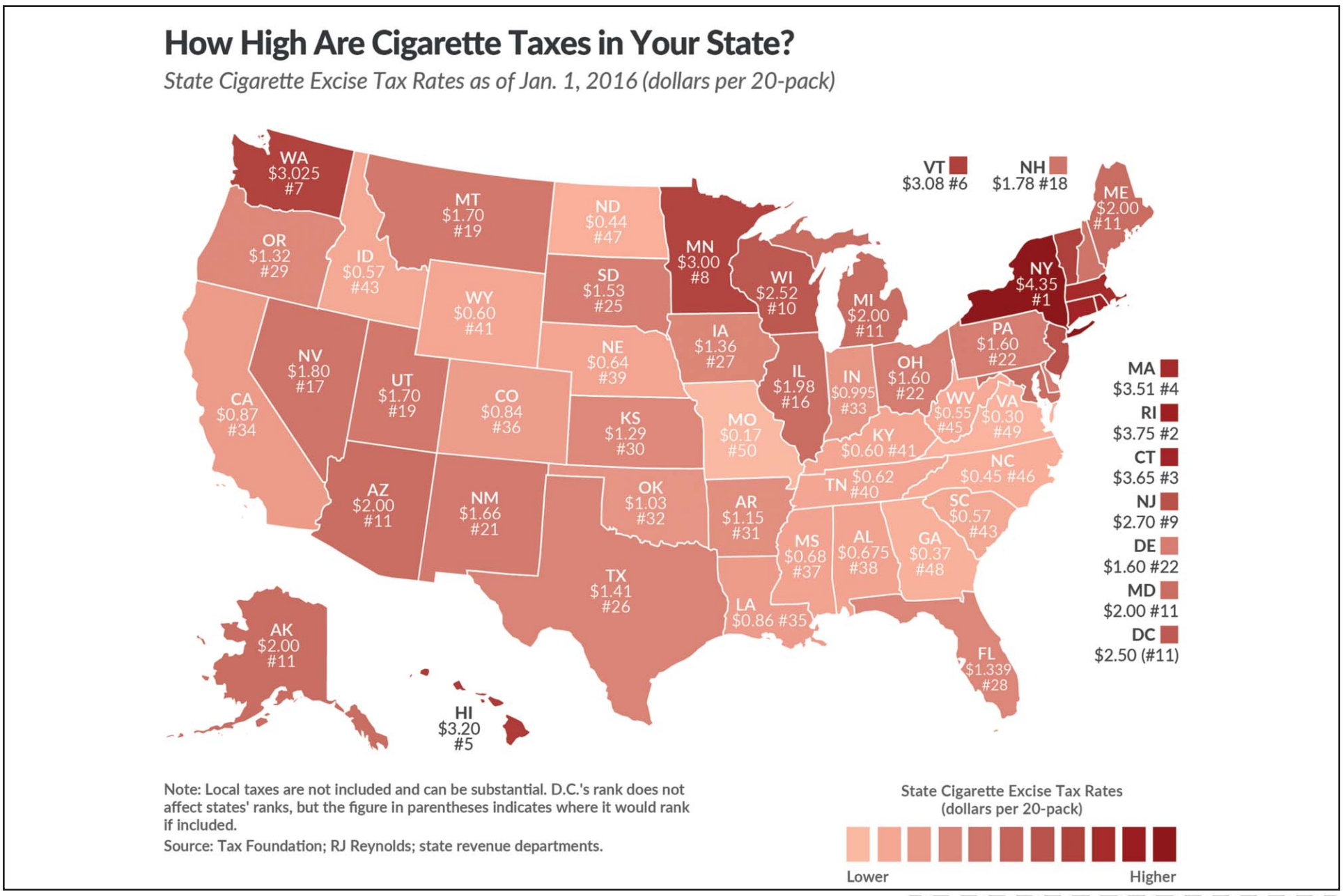
Kansas Legislators Looking At Higher Cigarette Tax



Study finds cigarette smuggling prevalent in states with high tax rates

Watchdog

New Yorkers smoke more smuggled cigarettes than they do those that are legally taxed in the state. It's also probably no coincidence the state has the nation's highest cigarette tax rate.

SMOKE 'EM IF YOU SMUGGLE 'EM: A study shows that states with high cigarette tax rates see higher rates of cigarettes smuggled into their borders.

That's the takeaway from a recent study by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and the Tax Foundation that found cigarette smuggling is a growing problem, particularly in those states that heavily tax the smokes.

The Empire State imposes a $4.35-per-pack excise tax rate on cigarettes, while smokers in New York City pay an additional $1.50-per-pack tax. And let's not forget that a federal tax rate of just over $1 per pack is also collected. That means a resident of New York City pays $6.85 in taxes for each pack on top of the actual cost of the smokes.

Even though states in the northeast tend to impose higher cigarette tax rates than the rest of the country — see a map of rates here — New Yorkers can still save quite a bit of money by going across state lines to buy cigarettes. Residents of New York City, for example, could cross the Hudson River into New Jersey and pay a $2.70-per-pack tax rate, saving them more than $4 per pack.

In all, an estimated 55.4 percent of cigarettes consumed in New York in 2014 were smuggled into its borders. New York is followed by Arizona (49.6 percent), New Mexico (46.2 percent), Washington (45.2 percent) and Minnesota (35.5 percent).

Massachusetts saw a big jump in cigarette smuggling, from 12 percent to 29.3 percent, between 2013 and 2014 after increasing the tax rate on packs of cigarettes from $2.51 to $3.51.

The Tax Foundation said rates are so high in some areas the levies amount to "de facto prohibition."

"Few politicians realize when they vote for higher excise taxes that doing so may dramatically increase cigarette-related crime, such as smuggling," wrote study authors Michael LaFaive, Todd Nesbit and Scott Drenkard.

"These crimes not only deprive local and state governments of tax revenues, they also tend to descend into violence, which produces all sorts of unnecessary damage. Policymakers should take these realities into consideration when contemplating how much to tax cigarettes."

The reverse is also true: Those states with lower tax rates tend to have a large percentage of cigarettes smuggled out of their borders. Take New Hampshire, which has an outbound smuggling rate of 81.1 percent, the highest in the nation (the next highest is Idaho, with 24.8 percent outbound smuggling). New Hampshire's $1.78-per-pack tax rate is lower than all surrounding New England states.

The authors point out that smuggling can range from residents buying smaller quantities of cigarettes and crossing state lines to commercial operations that have involved counterfeit state tax stamps, counterfeit cigarettes and hijacked trucks.

For each issue of the Manhattan Free Press look for us on Facebook.

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."
- Thomas Jefferson, 1787

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Free Press Second Front

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Centennial "secrets" to be shared on Kansas Day

The Riley County Historical Museum, 2309 Claflin Road, Manhattan, will celebrate Kansas Day from 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29, with an open house. The open house will feature some of the secret stories about objects in the new exhibit, "Celebrating 100 Years of History and Heritage: The Riley County Historical Museum." The open house is free and everyone is invited.

"We are planning to have staff members pick out one of the interesting objects in the exhibit and tell a little bit more, make connections with current events, people or other objects in the exhibit, so tell stories that connect in some way," Cheryl Collins, director of the museum, said. "The stories are secret mainly because they might not be well known."

Wagon train on Poyntz in 1863

The exhibit took approximately six months to create, according to Allana Parker, the museum's curator of design.

"This included completely clearing the west gallery space of previous exhibits and relocating objects to a new location," she said. "This involved moving large square-grand pianos, 1920s refrigerators, and washing machines."

Among items in the centennial exhibit are a section of the original seating from Manhattan's Wareham Opera House, a hand-carved sunflower clock made from local walnut and osage-orange wood for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, a gavel used during the first meetings of the Manhattan Town Association, Civil War uniforms, feather hats, saddles, a glove/handkerchief box from Leonardville's old Sikes Store, a 1920s swimsuit, a wreath made from human hair and many others.

There are many unusual objects with accompanying stories.

An "Aloe Electro-Therapeutic Cabinet," whose manufacturer claimed it could be used to treat high blood pressure, lesions and paralysis, was owned by Dr. William Clarkson, who started his practice in Keats in 1900 and who traveled by horse and buggy to see his patients.

A Nestle brand, permanent hair wave machine was used in a Leonardville, Kansas beauty shop during the 1920s and 1930s.

Another artifact featured in the exhibit is a traveling trunk from the Floberg family. The wooden trunk, addressed to Christina Floberg, was shipped to Olsburg, Kansas, "Nortamericka" in the 1870s from relatives in Sweden. Jonas and Catharina Svensdotter Johansson emigrated from Sweden to New York City in 1864. In 1866, the couple and their two children homesteaded near Olsburg, Kansas. Catharina changed her first name to "Christina" and the couple changed their last name to "Floberg" in 1872. In 1907, they moved to Randolph, Kansas.

The museum's first home was the Pioneer Log Cabin, dedicated in October 1916. It was moved to its hand-dug basement location in Manhattan's City Hall in 1957. The current building was dedicated in 1976 as a bicentennial project.

The museum staff currently administers a collection of 85,000 objects, a research/archives library of more than 4,500 books and monographs, 10,800 cubic feet of manuscripts and archives, and 27,000 photographic negatives and images. It also oversees eight historic properties. In partnership with the Kansas State Historical Society and the Riley County Historical Society, it operates the Goodnow House State Historic Site.

The museum's regular hours are 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 2-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday (excluding holidays). A research archive/library is open by appointment.

Kansas Supreme Court rejects KNEA lawsuit

The Topeka Capital-Journal

TOPEKA — The Kansas Supreme Court has unanimously rejected a lawsuit by the state's main teachers union challenging a 2014 law that ended teacher tenure but the union expects further court challenges over the law.

The law does not violate the Kansas Constitution by combining multiple topics into a single bill, the justices concluded Friday.

"All of its provisions relate to the same subject — education," wrote Justice Dan Biles in the 28-page ruling.

In a statement, Attorney General Derek Schmidt said, "Today's decision is protective of the legislative power granted by the Kansas Constitution and respects the important constitutional principle of separation of powers."

The Kansas National Education Association stressed that the ruling was narrow in scope — deciding only whether it was constitutional for the Legislature to merge multiple provisions into a single bill.

"In no way should today's decision be viewed as reflective of the court's opinion regarding the underlying due process protections formerly afforded non-probationary teachers," the union said. "KNEA will continue to pursue all avenues, including potential legal remedies as well as legislative action, to restore statutory due process rights for non-probationary teachers in Kansas."

Gov. praises ruling

Melika Willoughby, spokeswoman for Gov. Sam Brownback, praised the court's decision.

"Putting students first means ensuring Kansas kids have the best, most qualified teachers," Willoughby said. "This decision affirms and enables that priority."

Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, a Topeka teacher, said Democrats will introduce a bill to restore teacher tenure, and he is confident it will pass. He questioned the circumstances under which the 2014 change passed.

"It was actually brought before the Senate in dead of night," Hensley said. "There were no public hearings."

The 2014 Legislature sparked a storm of controversy when it folded provisions to end teacher due process rights into a K-12 appropriations bill.

The move came with little notice and no hearings on the matter, though a number of other bills had appeared in the Legislature in recent years that touched on curbing union influence. Teachers from across the state traveled to the Capitol to protest.

KNEA sued in August of that year, arguing the legislation was unconstitutional because it had tied together two unrelated topics — teacher tenure and school funding. The Kansas Constitution has a "one-subject rule" for legislation.

In 2015, Shawnee County District Court dismissed the case, but the union appealed.

Court rules on three questions

There were three questions before the Supreme Court: whether KNEA had standing to advance a constitutional challenge on behalf of its members, whether the controversy was ripe for a judicial decision because it was filed before a school district applied the new tenure rules and whether the legislation violated the one-subject rule.

On the first two questions, the court sided with KNEA. The justices ruled the union did not need to wait until a teacher's contract was dismissed before bringing a lawsuit and the matter was ripe for a Supreme Court decision.

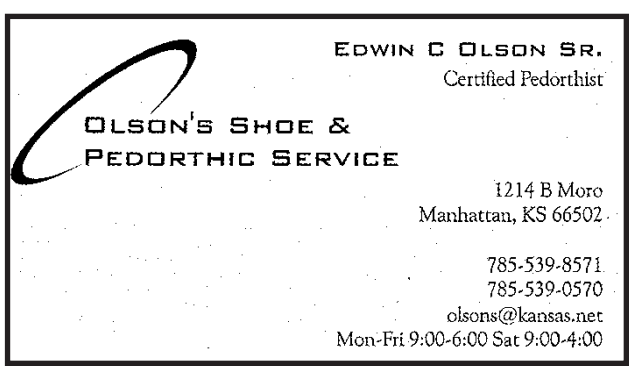
On the third question, however, the justices unanimously sided with the state of Kansas.

According to the state constitution, "No bill shall contain more than one subject, except appropriation bills and bills for revision or codification of statutes." The question was whether HB 2506's provisions on school funding and teacher tenure amounted to multiple subjects. It did not, the court found.

"KNEA decries the adverse impact it alleges results to its members and public education in general by H.B. 2506's tampering with the Teacher Due Process Act," Biles wrote. "But the wisdom of the public policy choices reflected in any individual part of a bill is irrelevant to whether the legislation as a whole contains more than one subject."

Legal challenges to continue

The union will continue separate legal challenges against the 2014 law based on other arguments. It has been representing in separate cases three tenured teachers who were allegedly fired without due process after the legislation took effect. A court in North Carolina has found that stripping already tenured teachers of their due process rights in that state is unconstitutional violation of property and contractual rights.



Editorial

Nanny State of the Week:

The revolution will not be livestreamed from Congress

Watchdog

It's against congressional rules to take photos or videos on the floor of the House of Representatives. But in response to a stunt by House Democrats, Republicans have moved to impose punishments that may violate the Constitution.

Last summer, Democrats held a "sit-in" for the House of Representatives in protest of what they said was the Republican refusal to bring a vote to the floor for gun control legislation. This continued when the House adjourned, which results in turning off the lights and cameras. During adjournment, Democrats used their smartphones to take photos and stream videos of their sit-in.

Photo courtesy of Flickr user Dave Williams

NO STREAM: House Republicans want to make it easier to punish members for violating photo and video rules. The problem? It may be unconstitutional.

While the action violated rules of Congress, Republican leadership doesn't want to go through the normal channels to sanction Democrats who violated the rules. Typically, sanctions must be meted out by the House Ethics Committee on a case-by-case basis. But a new rule from GOP leadership would give the sergeant-at-arms the power to fine members up to $2,500 without having to go through the Ethics Committee.

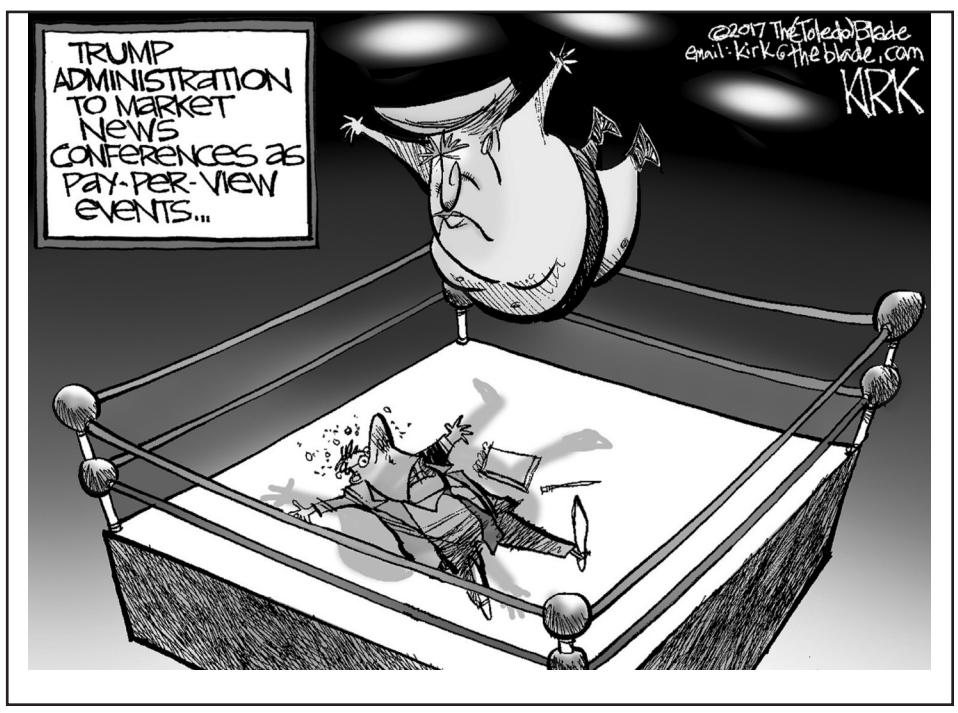
The new rules may be unconstitutional, according to people with experience on the issue. A former House consel to the Democrats told Politico, "It's the House that has the power, the self-disciplinary authority to do this. … I'm not sure they can delegate the disciplinary power to an individual house officer."

Republicans altered their proposal in response to these criticisms, allowing members who do get sanctioned to appeal through the House Ethics Committee. But Democrats still cried foul, and the rules were implemented on a party-line vote.

Sign-up for our Nanny State of the Week email list to receive the latest news and in-depth coverage.

Irked by a publicity stunt, Republicans appear to have overreacted and potentially run afoul of the Constitution. It was already against the rules for members of Congress to take photos and video from the floor, but Republicans thought it was too much of a hassle to actually enforce, so they delegated it to an unelected office.

The rule is frequently ignored, not only for publicity stunts like the Democrats pulled, but for major events. We'll see if the sergeant-at-arms deems any fines necessary when President Donald Trump addresses a joint session of Congress.



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Trump's Nominees Face 'Unprecedented' Democrat Obstructionism

Heritage Foundation

President Donald Trump starts his first full week in the White House with just two Cabinet secretaries confirmed by the U.S. Senate. That's the lowest number in decades and a sharp contrast from former President Barack Obama.

The Washington Post called the Democrats' tactics "an unprecedented break with Senate tradition."

Trump's picks have fared worse than past Cabinet nominees. Even though Trump enjoys a Republican-led Senate, Democrats have kept their promise to delay confirmation of his nominees, even if they lack the votes to ultimately defeat them.

Those six presidents had an average of 10 Cabinet secretaries confirmed in their first week in office. President Bill Clinton had the most with 13. President George H.W. Bush had two nominees confirmed in week one, although three others remained in office from the Reagan administration.

The Senate confirmed two Trump nominees on Inauguration Day: James Mattis to be secretary of defense (98-1) and John Kelly to be secretary of homeland security (88-11). Senators were also supposed to vote Friday on a non-Cabinet nominee—Rep. Mike Pompeo, R-Kan., to be CIA director—but Democrats objected and delayed the vote until Monday.

Most of Trump's nominees haven't yet advanced out of Senate committees. Some of those votes will take place this week. The Senate Commerce Committee, for instance, announced it would vote on the nominations of Elaine Chao for transportation secretary and Wilbur Ross for commerce secretary on Tuesday.

While it's possible the full Senate could act on those nominees this week, there's nothing officially on the calendar.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., didn't hold back in his criticism of Democrats for their delaying tactics.

"I urge colleagues to remember that we worked with the administration of former President Obama after he was first inaugurated," McConnell said in a Senate floor speech Friday. "We confirmed seven members of his Cabinet the day he took office, and nearly the entire Cabinet was filled within two weeks."

In 2009, Obama had 10 Cabinet secretaries confirmed after his first week in office. Nine of those nominees won Senate confirmation by voice vote, where an official tally isn't recorded. The Obama nominee who faced the greatest GOP opposition—Timothy Geithner for treasury secretary—was approved 60-34 on Jan. 26, 2009, less than a week after Obama took office.

Like Trump, Obama enjoyed a Senate controlled by his own party. Democrats had 57 senators on Jan. 20, 2009, when Obama took office. Today, Republicans have 52 senators.

None of Trump's nominees currently face the likelihood of defeat, yet that hasn't stopped Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., from delaying the confirmation process.

Schumer said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" that he would continue to play the role of obstructionist.

"There are so many of these nominees that have different views than what the president-elect, now the president, campaigned on that of course there should be scrutiny," Schumer said. "Now will we win some of these fights? Possibly. That's why we have a debate."

Friday's debate over Pompeo illustrated the divisiveness in the Senate.

A new president's national security team is usually the first to be confirmed. In the case of the CIA, both Director John Brennan and Deputy Director David Cohen resigned Friday, leaving the agency without a permanent director.

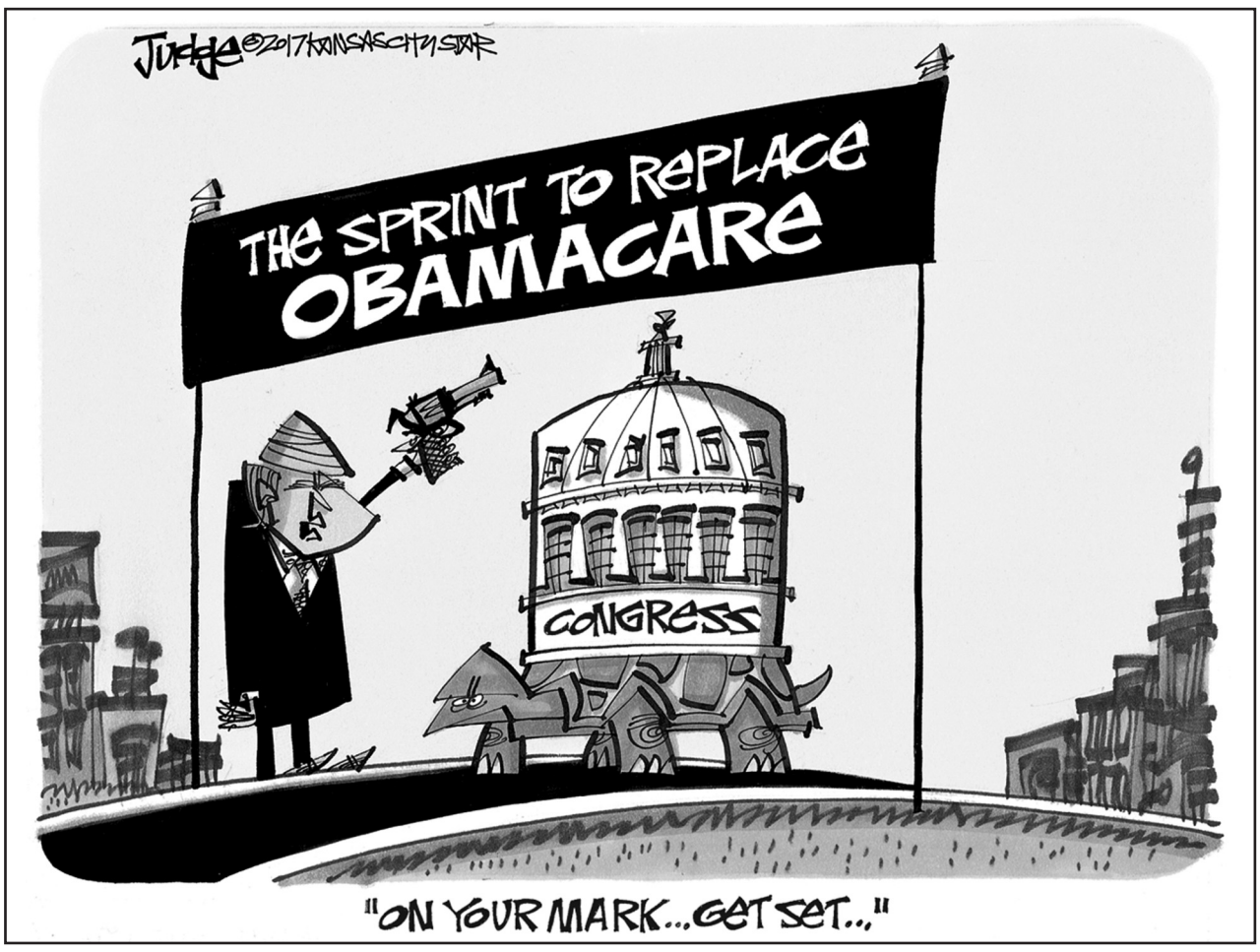
"It makes no sense to leave this post open," McConnell said Friday. "Not for another week, not for another day, not for another hour. America's enemies will not pause in plotting, planning, and training simply because the Democrats refuse to vote."

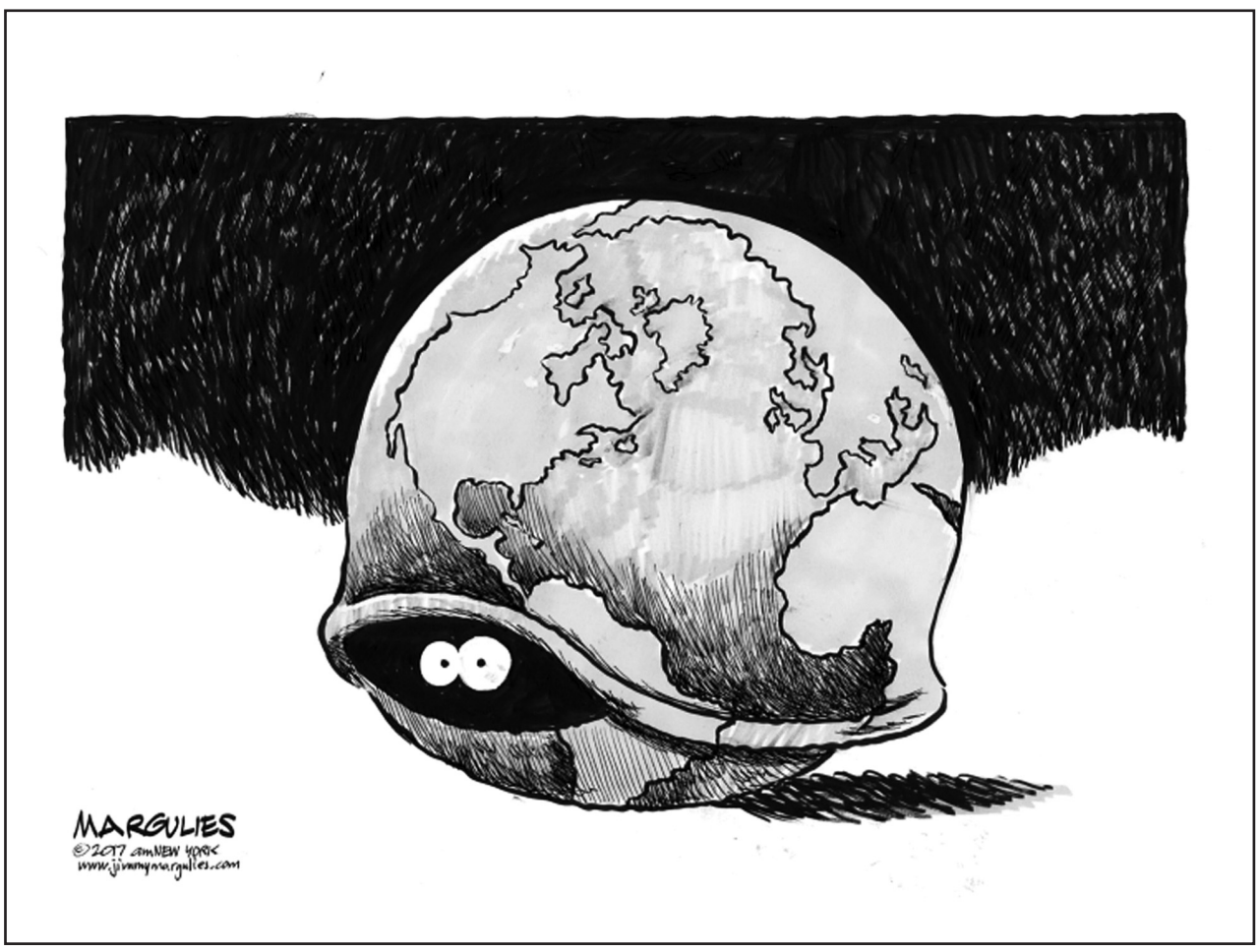
Schumer countered that Trump's nominees are "poorly prepared." He said Democrats were slowing down the process to conduct a more thorough examination.

"If I were the Republicans, of course I'd want to ram a Cabinet like this through. I'm embarrassed by it," Schumer said on "Meet the Press."

Earlier this month, The Washington Post called the Democrats' tactics "an unprecedented break with Senate tradition."

"Republicans treated a newly inaugurated President Obama's nominees fairly, and Democrats should do so now," McConnell said. "Our country is counting on it."





Kansas State stuns No. 7 West Virginia

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — After coming close on a few occasions this season, Kansas State finally picked up that elusive win over a ranked opponent.

Kamau Stokes and Barry Brown each scored 13 points to help Kansas State rally to upset No. 7 West Virginia 79-75 on Saturday night. Brown reflected on the team's ability to finally get over the hump and defeat a ranked team this season.

"It's great, I mean especially being on this team last year and not being able to get over the hump besides beating OU. Coach talked about playing with maturity, courage and just coming out with a win at home feels good."

The Wildcats (15-4, 4-3 Big 12) trailed by 12 late in the first half before Stokes keyed a late burst, hitting a layup right before the halftime buzzer to cut the deficit to two at the half.

Buoyed by that run, Kansas State went on a 14-6 run to start the second half and take a 50-44 lead on a layup by Dean Wade.

The Mountaineers (15-4, 4-3 Big 12) trailed 65-55 with 7:43 left before taking a 68-67 lead on Nathan Adrian's jumper with just under 5 minutes left.

Turnovers by the Mountaineers would eventually be their undoing. After averaging just a shade over 11 turnovers per game, the Mountaineers committed 23 in the loss.

"When you look at the amount of turnovers, and their halfcourt defense is not something to turn people over." West Virginia head coach Bob Huggins said following the contest. "We just threw it away. What kiss you is unforced turnovers. It us one that you are forced to play at a pace you cannot play, or your will have guys with the ball that do not know what to do with the ball. The unforced ones absolutely kill you."

Wesley Iwundu and Stokes combined to score the next seven points to help Kansas State get the win.

Tarik Phillip led West Virginia with 20 points.

BIG PICTURE

West Virginia: The loss by West Virginia marks the first time the Mountaineers have lost back to back games this season.

Kansas State: Saturday's victory against No. 7 marks the first time Kansas State has defeated a ranked opponent this season.

POLL IMPLICATIONS: West Virginia will surely take a tumble in next week's rankings after losing two in a row after being ranked 7th in the nation this past week. Kansas State may receive a few more votes in the AP poll this week, the Wildcats only received one in this past week's ranking.

STAT OF THE NIGHT: Iwundu became the first player in Kansas State history to compile over 1,000 points, 500 rebounds, 300 assists and 100 steals in his career.

HE SAID IT: Huggins on Brown's 2nd Half Performance

"We decided to stand on the side of him and let him drive to the basket instead of staying in from him. I do not know why we do what we do. It is not what we practice. I promise you that is not what we practice."

Kansas State's Carlbe Ervin II drives the corner with three West Virginia players after him.

Kamau Stokes (3) hits on a running jump shot.

D.J. Johnson gets a dunk.

Wesley Iwundu (25) drives the lane and gets two points.

Dean Wade (32) works the boards.

Kansas State's Dean Wade (in black) is on the floor with the ball, he then calls timeout so K-State can keep the ball.

Wesley Iwundu (25) takes the ball to the basket.

Barry Brown (5) had a good second half to help keep the Wildcat in front.

Dean Wade (32) goes under the basket for a reverse layup.

Ben Brake

Free Press Photographer
16th Year of K-State Basketball

Some GOP lawmakers in Kansas looking to cut school funding

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) _ Some top Republican legislators in Kansas are looking to cut aid to public schools significantly to help close a hole in the state budget, a move that would fly in the face of past state Supreme Court rulings on education funding.

Such a proposal also would defy the Legislature's shift to the center.

GOP lawmakers who are pushing the idea want to avoid accounting moves proposed by Republican Gov. Sam Brownback, arguing that they're gimmicks that don't solve budget problems.

Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairwoman Carolyn McGinn, a Sedgwick Republican, said Friday that she's drafting a bill to cut spending to close the projected $342 million shortfall in the state's budget. She said it would reduce aid to schools by between $90 million and $125 million, and she hopes to have it ready next week.

Senate Majority Leader Jim Denning, an Overland Park Republican, suggested that legislators will pursue even larger cuts in education funding. He said public schools probably could ``stomach'' a $200 million reduction before the summer.

Their comments were in line with statements from Senate President Susan Wagle, a Wichita Republican, that Kansas should make immediate, structural changes in its budget to close the shortfall. Brownback has instead proposed liquidating a state investment fund and using the cash to back internal government borrowing to be paid back over seven years.

``Everything will be on the table,'' McGinn said of her proposal. ``School funding just happens to be where a lot of our money is.''

Talk of cutting education funding comes as Brownback, legislators and educators await a decision from the Kansas Supreme Court on whether the state is spending enough money on its public schools to provide an adequate education to every child. The court heard arguments in September in a lawsuit filed by four districts in 2010.

Kansas has been in and out of lawsuits over education funding for several decades, and past Supreme Court decisions have forced them to boost spending.

Also, other legislators, including some Republicans, are skeptical such cuts can pass. Voters ousted two dozen of Brownback's conservative allies in last year's elections, giving both GOP moderates and Democrats more power.

``It's somewhat of an aggressive move to take while we're waiting for a Supreme Court decision on school finance,'' said House Majority Leader Don Hineman, a Dighton Republican.

The state has struggled to balance its budget since Republican legislators slashed income taxes in 2012 and 2013 at Brownback's urging in what even some GOP voters now view as a failed attempt to stimulate the economy. Many legislators are ready to roll back part of those tax cuts but acknowledge they can't raise new revenues quickly enough to close a budget gap by June 30.

``While Governor Brownback's proposed budget makes cuts to education unnecessary, it is the Legislature's prerogative to propose such cuts,'' spokeswoman Melika Willoughby said in an emailed statement.

When legislators have trimmed education funding in the middle of past school years, the state's 286 local districts have reduced programs, cut schools days and left positions unfilled.

``I don't think there's any question that you'll see fewer teachers, and you're going to see larger class sizes,'' said Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, a Topeka Democrat.

But top Republicans argue that districts could tap contingency funds they've been putting away for emergencies. On Jan. 1, schools had $201 million of those funds, part of nearly $1.1 billion in cash reserves they carried into the new calendar year.

Districts have begun each school year with between $190 million and $217 million in contingency funds since 2010.

``It's a possible way for them to get through the cuts,'' McGinn said.

House Speaker Ron Ryckman Jr., an Olathe Republican, said legislators will review data about individual districts to determine whether cutting their aid is feasible.

But Hensley said school districts build up contingency funds because they're uncertain about the future and want to have a cushion for difficult economic times.

``That's not our money,'' he said.

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Free Press Big 12 Sports

No. 2 Kansas' backcourt shines in 79-67 win

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Shaquille Cleare turned the ball over on Texas' first two possessions. Not even 40 seconds had expired before Kansas' Devonte' Graham drained a 3-pointer in transition.

Thirty seconds later, Frank Mason III pulled up for a shot outside the arc to put Kansas up 6-0.

"I think that's the best we started a game in the past few games that we've played in," Mason said. "We have to do that every game moving forward."

Graham scored 18 points, Mason added 17 and No. 2 Kansas beat Texas 79-67 on Saturday.

Freshman Josh Jackson chipped in 15 points for the Jayhawks while Svi Mykhailiuk added 12 points and Landen Lucas had 12 rebounds.

Kansas (18-1, 7-0 Big 12) hovered between a six- and eight-point lead for most of the second half. The Jayhawks only pulled away with 60 seconds remaining, as Graham and Mykhailiuk hit corner 3-pointers in front of the Kansas bench.

Devonte' Graham goes underneath against Texas. (Photo by KU Sports Information)

"We were so good early, you're not going to keep playing that way," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "Texas, we kind of staggered them early and then the law of averages prevailed. They fought back. I don't think you should apologize for playing somebody even."

Texas (7-12, 1-6) opened the game with five turnovers in the first 4 minutes, letting the Jayhawks run out to a quick 10-point lead. Texas managed to cut the deficit to three points with 6 1/2 minutes remaining in the first half, but that was as close as the Longhorns would get.

Freshman Jarrett Allen posted season-highs with 22 points and 19 rebounds for Texas. Eric Davis Jr. added 12 points and Cleare scored 11.

BIG PICTURE

The next three games for Kansas are going to be the biggest test the Jayhawks have had all season. In a span of nine days, the Jayhawks will play three top seven teams. Two of those games take place in hostile road environments.

Kansas goes to No. 7 West Virginia on Tuesday and remains on the road to play at No. 5 Kentucky on the following Saturday. Kansas returns home that following Wednesday to host No. 6 Baylor.

The big win over the Longhorns should give the Jayhawks confidence heading into their tough test, but the big question is: Will Kansas have enough energy to get through it?

"This is a stretch that is probably as tough as we've had since I've been here," Self said.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Villanova leapfrogged Kansas for the No. 1 spot on Monday. With the Wildcats' definitive 30- and 10-point wins over Seton Hall and Providence this week, expect the top two spots to remain the same.

QUOTABLE

"It's kind of like the 'Twilight Zone' because it feels like there's nothing else going on here besides the game," Texas coach Shaka Smart said of Lawrence and the University of Kansas. "Everybody's locked in on the game. That's a testament to the program and Coach Self and what they've built over the years."

GOIN' STREAKING

The win over Texas gave Kansas its 50th straight win in Allen Fieldhouse and its 36th straight at home in conference play.

Big 12 Basketball Standings and Schedule

Big 12 Standings

School	Big 12	Overall	
Kansas	7 - 0	18 - 1	.947
Baylor	6 - 1	18 - 1	.947
Kansas State	4 - 3	15 - 4	.789
West Virginia	4 - 3	15 - 4	.789
Iowa State	4 - 3	12 - 6	.667
TCU	3 - 4	14 - 5	.737
Texas Tech	3 - 4	14 - 5	.737
Oklahoma	2 - 5	8 - 10	.444
Okla State	1 - 6	11 - 8	.579
Texas	1 - 6	7 - 12	.368

Kansas State Schedule

Fri, Nov 11	vs Western Illinois	W 82-55	1-0 (0-0)
Tue, Nov 15	vs Omaha	W 81-68	2-0 (0-0)
Sun, Nov 20	vs Hampton	W 89-67	3-0 (0-0)
Tue, Nov 22	vs Robert Morris	W 61-40	4-0 (0-0)
Fri, Nov 25	vs Boston College*	W 72-54	5-0 (0-0)
Sat, Nov 26	vs Maryland*	L 69-68	5-1 (0-0)
Wed, Nov 30	vs Green Bay	W 80-61	6-1 (0-0)
Sat, Dec 3	@ Saint Louis	W 84-53	7-1 (0-0)
Tue, Dec 6	vs Prairie View A&M	W 74-55	8-1 (0-0)
Sat, Dec 10	vs Washington State*	W 70-56	9-1
Sat, Dec 17	vs Colorado State*	W 89-70	10-1
Wed, Dec 21	vs Gardner-Webb	W 67-54	11-1
Fri, Dec 30	vs Texas	W 65-62	12-1
Tue, Jan 3	@ #3 Kansas	L 88 - 90	12-2
Sat, Jan 7	vs Oklahoma	W 75 - 64	12-2
Tue, Jan 10	@ Texas Tech	L 65-66	12-3
Sat, Jan 14	vs #4 Baylor	L 77-68	12-4
Wed, Jan 18	@ Oklahoma State	W 96-88	13-4
Sat, Jan 21	vs #15 West Virginia	W 79-75	14-4

Kansas Schedule

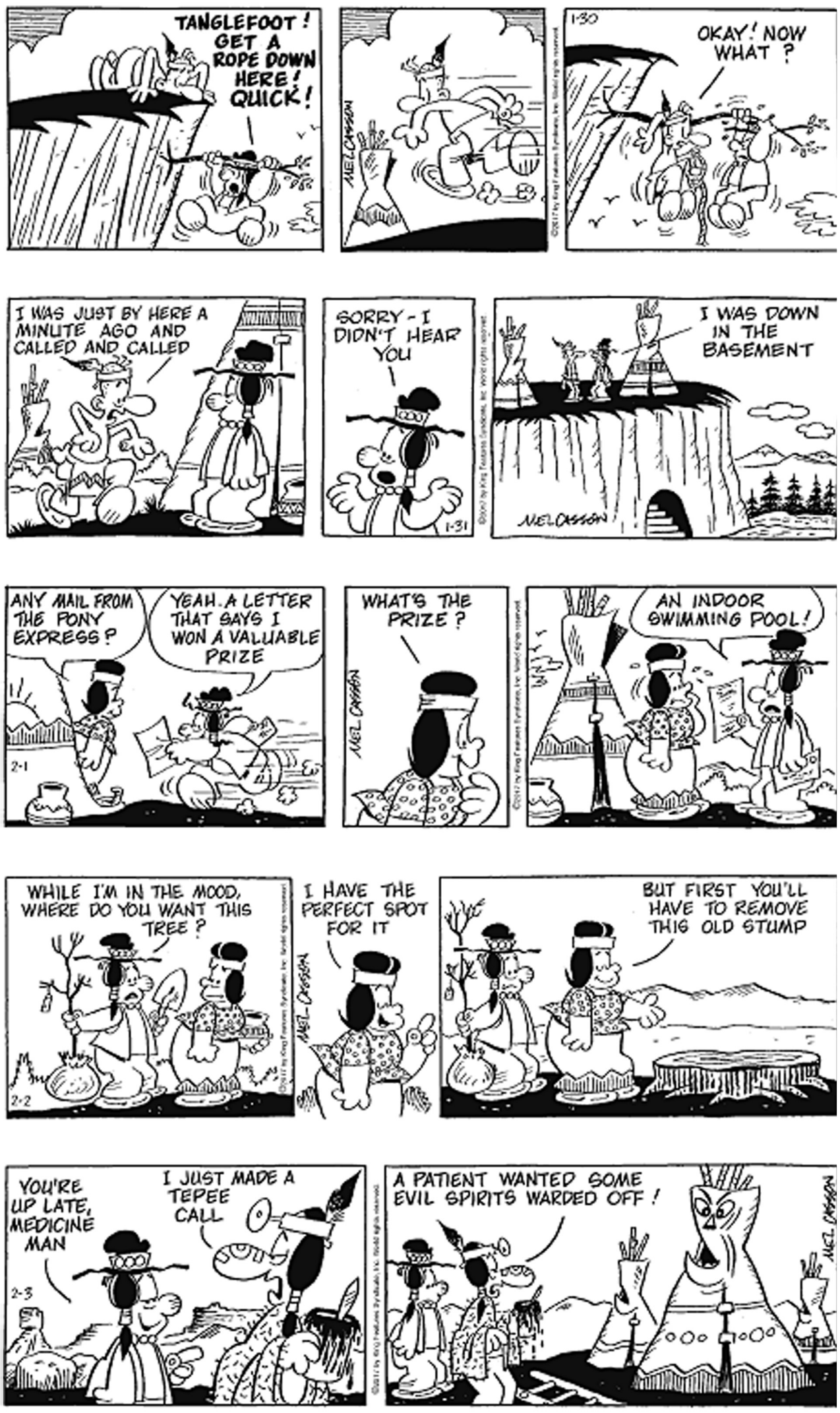
Date	Opponent	Time/	TV
11/11/2016	Indiana	L 99-103	0-1
11/12/2016	Duke	W 77-75	1-1
11/18/2016	Siena	W 85-65	2-1
11/21/2016	UAB	W 83-63	3-1
11/22/2016	Georgia	W 65-54	4-1
11/25/2016	UNC	W 95-57	5-1
11/29/2016	Long Beach State	W 91-61	6-1
12/3/2016	Stanford	W 89-74	7-1
12/6/2016	UMKC	W 105-62	8-1
12/10/2016	Nebraska	W89-72	9-1
12/17/2016	Davidson	W 89-71	10-1
12/22/2016	UNLV	W 71-53	11-1
12/30/2016	TCU	W 86-80	12-1.
1/3/2017	Kansas State	W 90-88	13-1
1/7/2017	Texas Tech	W85-68	14-1
1/10/2017	Oklahoma	W 81-70	15-1
1/14/2017	Okla State	W 87-80	16-1
1/16/2017	Iowa State	W 76-72	17-1
1/21/2017	Texas	W 96-67	18-1

Big 12 Men Basketball Schedule

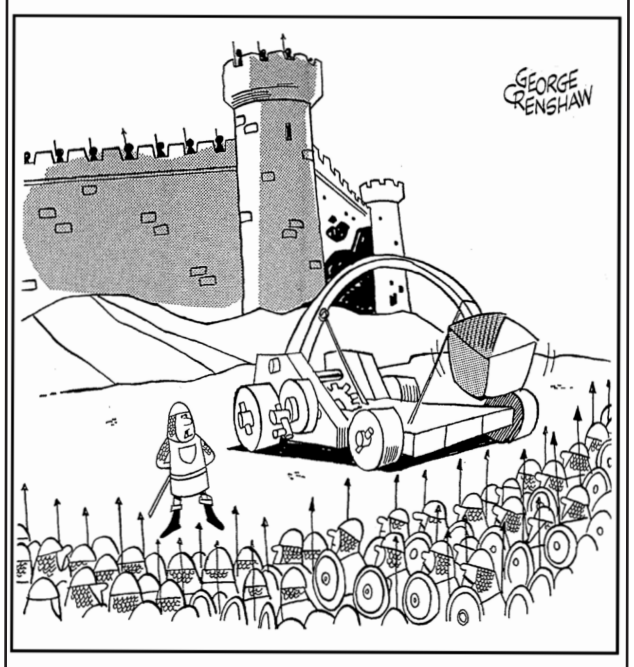
Date	Home Team	Away Team	Location	Time (CT)	Media
SEC / Big 12 Challenge presented by SONIC					
Sat, Jan 28	West Virginia	Texas A&M	Morgantown, WV	11:00 a.m.	ESPN
Sat, Jan 28	Tennessee	Kansas State	Knoxville, TN	1:00 p.m.	ESPN2
Sat, Jan 28	Texas Tech	LSU	Lubbock, Texas	1:00 p.m.	ESPNU
Sat, Jan 28	Oklahoma	Florida	Norman, Okla.	1:00 p.m.	ESPN
Sat, Jan 28	Vanderbilt	Iowa State	Nashville, Tenn.	3:00 p.m.	ESPN2
Sat, Jan 28	Oklahoma State	Arkansas	Stillwater, Okla.	3:00 p.m.	ESPNU
Sat, Jan 28	Georgia	Texas	Athens, Ga.	3:00 p.m.	ESPN
Sat, Jan 28	Ole Miss	Baylor	Oxford, Miss	5:00 p.m.	ESPN2
Sat, Jan 28	TCU	Auburn	Fort Worth, Texas	5:00 p.m.	ESPNU
Sat, Jan 28	Kentucky	Kansas	Lexington, KY	5:00 p.m.	ESPN
* Mon, Jan 30	Oklahoma	Oklahoma State	Norman, Okla.	8:00 p.m.	ESPN
* Tue, Jan 31	Iowa State	West Virginia	Ames, Iowa	8:00 p.m.	ESPN2

Fun Page

Redeye



LAFF-A-DAY

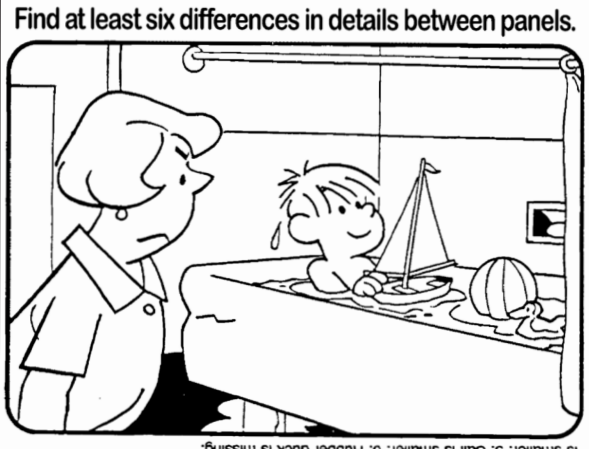


"Oh, come now! …Surely *somebody* remembered to bring the rocks!"

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hair is different. 2. Sleeve is shorter. 3. Towel is missing. 4. Puddle is smaller. 5. Sail is smaller. 6. Rubber duck is missing.

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Fun Page too

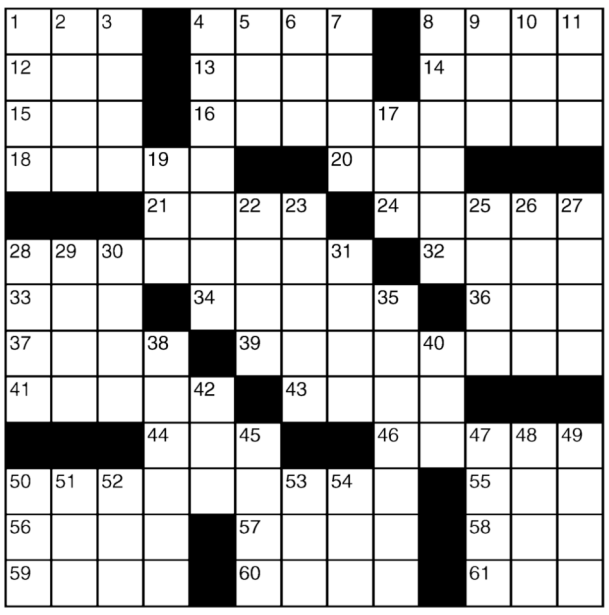
King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Stomach muscles
4 Graceful sprite
8 Wise one
12 Promise
13 Surrounded by
14 From the beginning
15 Mound stat
16 Make more acceptable
18 Picture puzzle
20 Thee
21 Sharp turns
24 Horse's call
28 Drool
32 Unrivaled
33 Hearty brew
34 Beethoven's "Fuer --"
36 Pitch
37 Campus mil. org.
39 Part
41 Man of morals?
43 Mediocre
44 Workweek end (Abbr.)
46 Poisonous
50 Asphyxiate
55 Cattle call?
56 Capri or Wight
57 Always
58 Puncturing tool
59 Bygone comedian Martha
60 College VIP
61 Blue

DOWN

1 State with certainty
2 Use a drill
3 Use a mop
4 Lethargic
5 Ostrich's cousin
6 Cage component
7 Without doing anything
8 Justice Alito
9 Literary collection
10 Obtain
11 Ram's mate
17 Charged bit
19 Submachine gun
22 Guys' dates
23 Pigs' digs
25 Tittle
26 Summertime pest
27 Present
28 Poet Teasdale
29 Lotion additive
30 "-- Make a Deal"
31 Hockey legend Phil, to fans
35 Oriental
38 Morning stimulant
40 Kanga's kid
42 Expert
45 On the rocks
47 Grand opening day?
48 Midwest state
49 45-Down, perhaps
50 Knightly address
51 Mex. neighbor
52 Aviate
53 "Hail!"
54 Alternative to 38-Down



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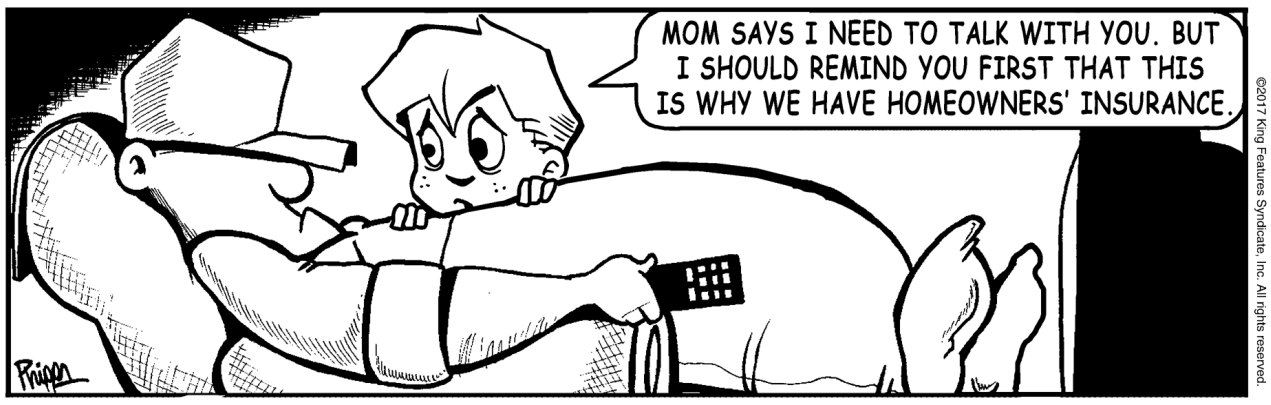
Answers page 2

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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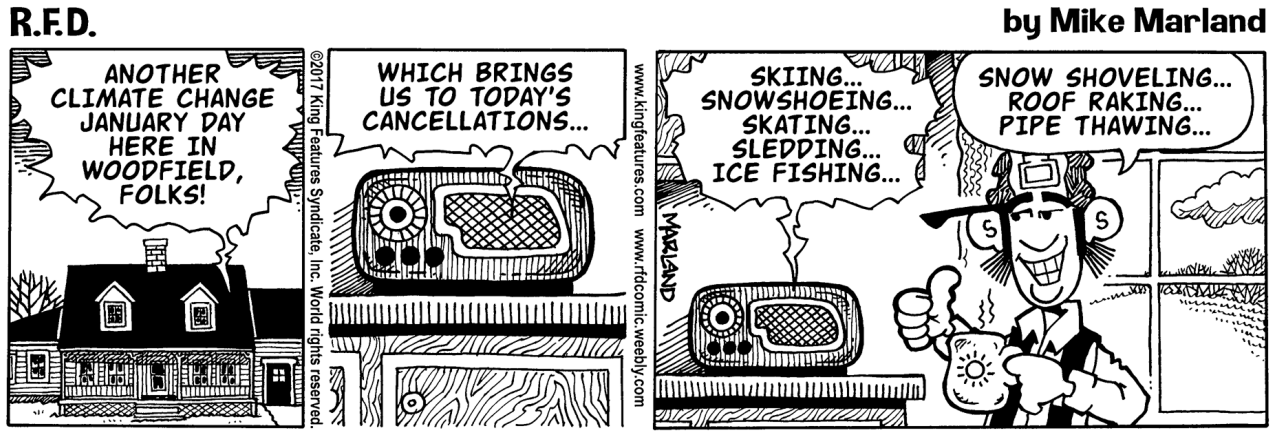
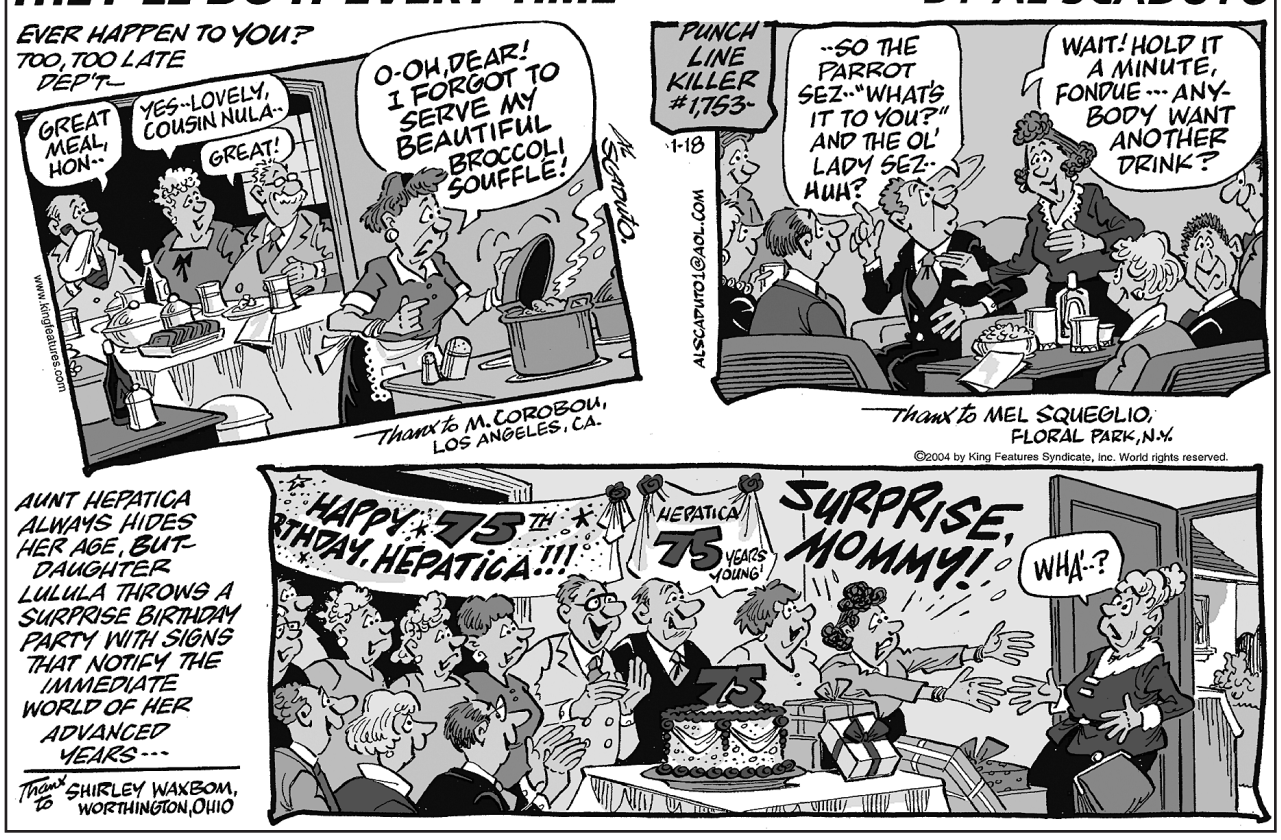
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



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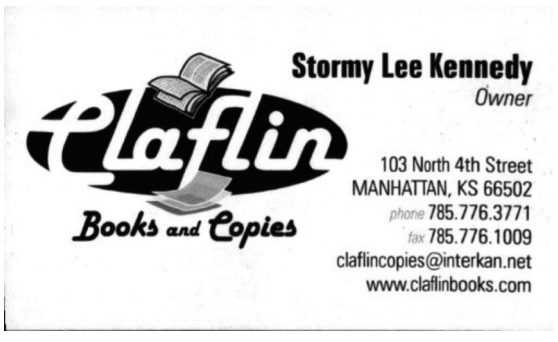

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History of the Crop Insurance Program

Congress first authorized Federal crop insurance in the 1930s along with other initiatives to help agriculture recover from the combined effects of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) was created in 1938 to carry out the program. Initially, the program was started as an experiment, and crop insurance activities were mostly limited to major crops in the main producing areas. Crop insurance remained an experiment until passage of the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1980.

The 1980 Act expanded the crop insurance program to many more crops and regions of the country. It encouraged expansion to replace the free disaster coverage (compensation to farmers for prevented planting losses and yield losses) offered under Farm Bills created in the 1960s and 1970s, because the free coverage competed with the experimental crop insurance program. To encourage participation in the expanded crop insurance program, the 1980 Act authorized a subsidy equal to 30 percent of the crop insurance premium limited to the dollar amount at 65-percent coverage.

Although more farmers took part in the program after passage of the 1980 Act, it did not achieve the level of participation that Congress had hoped for. Therefore, after a major drought in 1988, ad hoc disaster assistance was authorized to provide relief to needy farmers. Another ad hoc disaster bill was passed in 1989. A third one enacted in 1992 gave farmers the option of claiming disaster losses on a farm-by-farm basis for any year between 1990 and 1992. An extremely wet and cool growing season in 1993 caused more losses, and Congress passed yet another ad hoc disaster bill. However, dissatisfaction with the annual ad hoc disaster bills that were competing with the crop insurance program led to enactment of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform Act of 1994.

The 1994 Act made participation in the crop insurance program mandatory for farmers to be eligible for deficiency payments under price support programs, certain loans, and other benefits. Because participation was mandatory, catastrophic (CAT) coverage was created. CAT coverage compensated farmers for losses exceeding 50 percent of an average yield paid at 60 percent of the price established for the crop for that year. The premium for CAT coverage was completely subsidized. Participants paid $50 per crop per county subject to maximum amounts for multiple crops and counties insured by the same individual. Subsidies for higher coverage levels were increased.

In 1996, Congress repealed the mandatory participation requirement. However, farmers who accepted other benefits were required to purchase crop insurance or otherwise waive their eligibility for any disaster benefits that might be made available for the crop year. These provisions are still in effect.

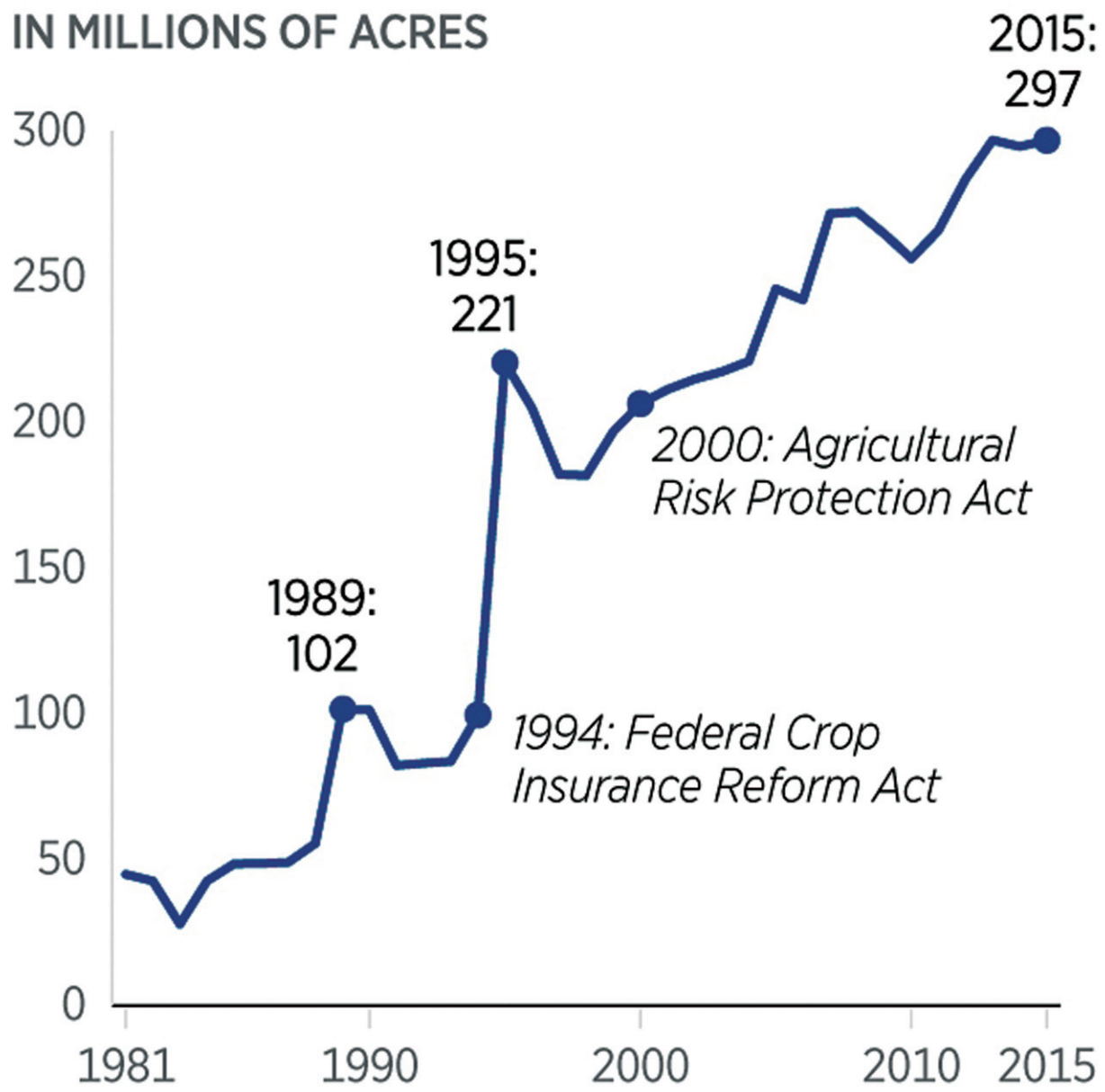
In the same year, the Risk Management Agency (RMA) was created to administer FCIC programs and other non-insurance-related risk management and education programs that help support U.S. agriculture.

Participation in the crop insurance program increased significantly following enactment of the 1994 Act. For example, in 1998, more than 180 million acres of farmland were insured under the program. This is more than three times the acreage insured in 1988, and more than twice the acreage insured in 1993. According to estimates by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, in 1998, about two-thirds of the country's total planted acreage of field crops (except for hay) was insured under the program. The liability (or value of the insurance in force) in 1998 was $28 billion, the largest amount since the inception of the program. The total premium, which includes subsidy, and the premium paid by insured persons (nearly $950 million) were also record figures.

In 2000, Congress enacted legislation that expanded the role of the private sector allowing entities to participate in conducting research and development of new insurance products and features. With the expansion of the contracting and partnering authority, RMA can enter into contracts or create partnerships for research and development of new and innovative insurance products. Private entities may also submit unsolicited proposals for insurance products to the Board for approval. If approved by the Board, these unsolicited insurance products could receive reimbursement for research, development and operating costs, in addition to any approved premium subsidies and reinsurance. After three years, the private entity may elect to retain ownership of the insurance product and charge a fee, as approved by the Board, to other insurance providers who sell the product or elect to transfer ownership of the product to RMA.

CHART 8

Land Enrolled in the Federal Crop Insurance Program



SOURCES: Joseph Glauber, "Crop Insurance Reconsidered," *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol. 86, No. 5 (February 2004), pp. 1179-1195, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/4739539_Crop_Insurance_Reconsidered (accessed April 14, 2016), and Risk Management Agency, "Summary of Business Reports and Data,"http://www.rma.usda.gov/data/sob.html (accessed August 1, 2016).

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