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Manhattan Free Press



VOLUME 25, NUMBER 40

An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper

Thursday, March 9, 2017

WikiLeaks publishes CIA trove alleging wide scale hacking

WASHINGTON (AP) — WikiLeaks on Tuesday published thousands of documents purportedly taken from the Central Intelligence Agency's Center for Cyber Intelligence, a dramatic release that appears to expose intimate details of America's cyberespionage toolkit.

It was not immediately clear how WikiLeaks obtained the information, which included more than 8,700 documents and files. The CIA tools, if authentic, could undermine the confidence that consumers have in the safety and security of their computers, mobile devices and even smart TVs.

WikiLeaks said the material came from "an isolated, high-security network situated inside the CIA's Center for Cyber Intelligence in Langley, Virginia."

It didn't say how the files were removed, such as possibly by a rogue employee, by hacking a federal contractor working for the CIA or breaking into a staging server where such hacking tools might be temporarily stored.

The more than 8,000 documents cover a host of technical topics, including what appears to be a discussion about how to compromise smart televisions and turn them into improvised surveillance devices. WikiLeaks said the data also include details on the agency's efforts to subvert American software products and smartphones, including Apple's iPhone, Google's Android and Microsoft Windows.

The information dump could not immediately be authenticated by The Associated Press,

and the CIA declined comment, but WikiLeaks has a long track record of releasing top secret government documents. Experts who've started to sift through the material said that it appeared legitimate and that the release was almost certain to shake the CIA.

Jonathan Liu, a spokesman for the CIA, said: "We do not comment on the authenticity or content of purported intelligence documents."

WikiLeaks said the archive "appears to have been circulated among former U.S. government hackers and contractors in an unauthorized manner, one of whom has provided WikiLeaks with portions of the archive."

If the authenticity of the documents is officially confirmed, it would represent yet another

catastrophic breach for the U.S. intelligence community at the hands of WikiLeaks and its allies, which have repeatedly humbled Washington with the mass release of classified material, including hundreds of thousands of documents from the State Department and the Pentagon.

WikiLeaks, which has been dropping cryptic hints about the release for a month, said in a lengthy statement that the CIA had "recently" lost control of a massive arsenal of CIA hacking tools as well as associated documentation.

"There's no question that there's a fire drill going on right now," said Jake Williams, a security expert with Augusta, Georgia-based Rendition In-fosec. "It wouldn't surprise me that there are people changing

careers — and ending careers — as we speak."

One of the purported CIA malware programs is described in the WikiLeaks documents as a "simple DLL hijacking attempt" that had been tested against Microsoft Windows XP, Vista and 7 operating systems. The technique, which the document called a "Windows FAX DLL injection," introduces computer code that allows an attacker to gain access to a computer process' memory and permissions while at the same time masking the attack.

Williams, who has experience dealing with government hackers, said the voluminous files' extensive references to operation security meant they were almost certainly government-backed. "I can't fathom anyone fabricated that amount

of operational security concern," he said. "It rings true to me."

"The only people who are having that conversation are people who are engaging in nation-state-level hacking," he said.

WikiLeaks said its data also included a "substantial library" of digital espionage techniques borrowed from other countries, including Russia.

Bob Ayers, a retired U.S. intelligence official currently working as a security analyst, noted that WikiLeaks has promised to release more CIA documents.

"The damage right now is relatively high level," he said. "The potential for really detailed damage will come in the following releases."

Supreme Court orders state to increase spending on public schools

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Kansas' highest court on Thursday ordered the state to increase its spending on public schools, which could further complicate the state's dire budget problems and increase pressure to undo large tax cuts championed by Republican Gov. Sam Brownback.

The unanimous state Supreme Court ruling gave the Republican-controlled Legislature until the end of June to enact a new school funding law. Lawmakers were already working on one and considering raising income tax cuts to help close projected budget shortfalls totaling more than a \$1 billion through June 2019.

Brownback said in a statement that lawmakers have a chance to pursue "transforma-

tive educational reform" and called for new school choice measures, without being more specific.

The court did not specify the size of a school funding increase, fueling debate over how much lawmakers must boost the state's nearly \$4.1 billion in annual aid to its 286 school districts. Attorneys for four school districts that sued the state over education funding in 2010 said the increase must be at least \$800 million, but lawmakers didn't immediately accept the figure.

"We'll be like the proverbial chicken on a June bug if the state tries to do it on the cheap," said Alan Rupe, one of the districts' attorneys.

Many moderate Republicans and Democrats in the Legislature favor rolling back the large

income tax cuts enacted in 2012 and 2013, which the conservative governor pushed as a way to stimulate the economy. The state has struggled to balance its budget ever since, and even some Republican voters have come to view the tax cuts as a failure.

Lawmakers last month approved a bill that would have increased income taxes to raise more than \$1 billion over two years, but Brownback vetoed it. He favors raising cigarette and liquor taxes and business filing fees, along with internal government borrowing and other accounting moves.

Brownback and legislators have acknowledged that they couldn't fully settle tax and budget issues without some idea of what the court would

demand. The state spends more than half of its tax dollars on public schools.

"I'm sure that more funding will be required," said state House Majority Leader Don Hineman, a moderate Republican from western Kansas.

Brownback said lawmakers should "put students first" in a new funding law and focus on improving their performance.

But he added that if parents of struggling students do not believe their children get a good education at a public school, "they should be given the opportunity and resources to set their child up for success through other educational choices."

The court ruled that legislators were not fulfilling a duty under the state constitution to finance a suitable education for

each of the state's 458,000 public school students. The justices said evidence in the case showed that significant percentages of students, particularly minority pupils, are not proficient in reading and math.

In Wichita, community activist Djuan Wash, the father of a 9-year-old girl, said such problems create "a cycle of poverty." Other parents said they were pleased the court told lawmakers that the state's current spending is inadequate.

"Absolutely they should spend more," said Angie Sutton, a mother of two from Ottawa.

Yet the court's unsigned opinion also said that it rejects "any litmus test that relies on specific funding levels," leaving the exact increase open to debate. The state now spends about

\$8,900 per student on aid to public schools.

The lawsuit was filed by the Dodge City, Hutchinson, Wichita and Kansas City, Kansas, districts. If lawmakers adopted their figure for an annual increase, state aid would rise by more than \$1,700 per student.

Many legislators weren't ready to be pinned down. Even Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, a Topeka Democrat and an ardent supporter of higher education spending, suggested an annual increase of about \$800 per student, or \$367 million.

The justices also struck down a 2015 law that junked a per-student formula for distributing the state's aid in favor of "block grants" for the local districts.

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Judge Certifies Class in Challenge to Forfeiture Machine

AGENDA MANHATTAN CITY COMMISSION MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017

7:00 P.M.

The City Commission Meeting will be televised live on local Cox Cable Channel 3 and also on the City's website at .

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATION

A. March 8, 2017, (Karen Tinkler, President, Manhattan's American Association of University Women, will be present to receive the proclamation.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

[Items on the Consent Agenda are those of a routine and housekeeping nature or those items which have previously been reviewed by the City Commission. A Commissioner may request an item be moved to the end of the General Agenda.]

A. Approve the minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting held Tuesday, February 21, 2017.

B. Approve Claims Register Nos. 2844 and 2845 authorizing and approving the payment of claims from February 15, 2017, to February 28, 2017, in the amounts of \$68,525.95 and \$3,621,041.50, respectively.

C. Accept the easements and rights-of-way, as shown on the Final Plat of The Highlands at Grand Mere, Unit One, generally located to the north of the dead end of Grand Mere Parkway, based on conformance with the Manhattan Urban Area Subdivision Regulations.

D. Accept the easements and rights-of-way, as shown on the Final Plat of Prairie Village at The Highlands, Unit One, generally located 280 feet to the north of the intersection of MacNaghten Drive and MacGillivray Drive, roads to be platted with The Highlands at Grand Mere, Unit One, based

on conformance with the Manhattan Urban Area Subdivision Regulations.

E. Approve Ordinance No. 7276 establishing a Rental Dwelling Unit Registration Program.

F. Approve Resolution No. 030717-A, Advertising in City Parks, Recreation or Open Spaces Policy, allowing the City Manager, or his/her designee, to approve and permit advertising in City parks, recreation and open space areas that arises from a public service provider's performance of a public service agreement.

G. Sunset Zoo Master Plan and Strategic Plan:

1. Accept the Selection Committee's recommendation; and
2. Authorize City Administration to negotiate a contract, with GLMV Architecture, of Wichita, Kansas, for master plan and strategic plan services for the Sunset Zoo.

H. 5th Street and Houston Street Stormwater Improvements (CIP #SW052P);

1. Accept the recommendation of the Selection Committee; and
2. Authorize City Administration to negotiate a professional services contract with the Olsson Associates, of Manhattan, Kansas, for the project.

I. Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an engineering services agreement, in an amount not to exceed \$196,526.00, with Amec Foster Wheeler Environment and Infrastructure, Inc., of Topeka, Kansas, for the Old Big Blue River Beautification/Stormwater Improvements, Phase 5, and Multi-Use Trail project.

J. Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement for professional services, in an amount not to exceed \$33,079.00, with SMH Consultants, of Manhattan, Kansas, for the Messenger Road Waterline Extension Project.

K. Authorize City Administration to submit an application to the Kansas Department of Transportation for the Geometric Improvements Grant for improvements to the US 24/Tuttle

Creek Boulevard and Kimball Avenue intersection and the City Connecting Link Program Grant for improvements along K-18 from South 4th Street to US 24/East Poyntz Avenue.

K. K. Historic Preservation Fund Grant

1. Authorize City Administration to submit a Historic Preservation Fund Grant application to hire a consultant to conduct a "historic resources survey" of City-owned properties in the Sunset area; and
2. Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a grant agreement upon award of the grant.

L. Authorize City Administration to purchase two (2) Mid-size Sedans (CIP #BM028E) utilizing State vehicle bids, in the amount of \$34,682.80, for the Zoning/Property Maintenance Inspectors.

M. Authorize the purchase of a John Deere 5075E utility tractor and loader (Unit #883, CIP # CP118E) for the Parks Division, from Concordia Tractor Inc., of Concordia, Kansas, in the amount of \$28,250.00 (Base Bid in the amount of \$40,250.00 less trade-in of current Unit #883 in the amount of \$12,000.00), to be paid from the General Fund.

N. Approve the following appointments by Mayor Reddi to various boards and committees of the City:

- Chad Broadway to the Aggieville Business Improvement District Advisory Board;
- Julie Hettinger to the Bicycle Advisory Committee; and
- Blane Hope to the Douglass Center Advisory Board.

GENERAL AGENDA

A. FIRST CONSIDERATION OF K-STATE FOUNDATION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

Kansas State University Foundation is planning to expand the K-State Office Park. The new construction, three-story, Phase II building will be approximately 59,000 square feet (sf) and will be located at 1880 Kimball Avenue, just west of the Phase I building at 1800 Kimball Avenue. The first floor will include a café to service the park as well as the common area and tenant space. The second floor will house tenant spaces ranging from a single office to 3,600 sf suites. It is anticipated that the third floor will be reserved for anchor tenants of 5,000 sf or larger, and will be build-to-lease.

B. CONSIDER UNSAFE OR DANGEROUS

STRUCTURE AT 1119 EL PASO LANE

According to records, the structure located at 1119 El Paso Lane was constructed in approximately 1940. It is a one-story, single-family, concrete block residential structure of approximately 648 square feet. A small one car carport is attached to the dwelling. The structure is currently vacant.

In late 2015, the City Code Services Division, during an inspection of properties in the area, noted that the house located at this address was in serious disrepair and had a number of code violations. Further investigation revealed that electric and gas service had been disconnected for over a year and water service disconnected for over two years.

Those utilities remain currently disconnected. As a result of the specific inspection of the exterior of this property conducted on December 10, 2015, the structure was condemned as unsafe and a placard prohibiting entry was placed upon the structure along with a copy of a notice to vacate. The notice to vacate and also a notice to repair or demolish was sent certified mail to the owners of record of the property, Gordon and Michael Eaves. That certified mail was accepted on December 14, 2015. Contact by phone was also attempted but was not successful. In addition, door hangers were left at the owner's address of record on multiple occasions asking them to contact the City but there was no response.

1. Conduct a Public Hearing
2. Approve Resolution No. 030717-B finding the structure at 1119 El Paso Lane unsafe or dangerous and setting April 7, 2017, as the deadline for repair or removal.

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY EVERY THURSDAY

"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

Manhattan Free Press

Jon A. and Linda L. Brake, Publishers

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1191, Manhattan, Ks 66505
E-Mail:
freepress@kansas.net or jonbrake@kansas.net

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Trump praises health care bill, but conservatives skeptical

WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Donald Trump and his top health official praised the new House Republican health care legislation Tuesday, even as surging conservative opposition complicated party leaders' drive to sell the proposal to rank-and-file lawmakers and the public.

Trump's morning tweet lauding "our wonderful new Health-care Bill" kicked off the day. Shortly afterward, Health Secretary Tom Price wrote to the chairmen of the two House committees that wrote the measures, saying "they align with the president's goal of rescuing Americans from the failures of the Affordable Care Act," former President Barack Obama's prized 2010 law.

Yet by lunchtime, conservative lawmakers and others were blasting the bill, underscoring the challenge Republicans face in pushing one of their top priorities to passage.

The legislation would primarily affect some 20 million people who purchase their own private health plans directly from an insurer and the more than 70 million covered by Medicaid, the federal-state program for low-income people.

In the first official though partial measurement to emerge of the bill's financial impact, Congress' nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation estimated it would cut more than 20 taxes imposed by Obama's law at a cost of nearly \$600 billion over a decade. The bulk of the savings would go to the wealthy.

The estimate did not include the cost of tax credits the measure proposes to help people buy coverage.

Republicans say they've not yet received an estimate of the bill's overall cost or the number of people it would cover from

the Congressional Budget Office.

"What Obamacare did was make insurance affordable but care impossible to actually afford," White House budget chief Mick Mulvaney said on NBC's "Today Show." "The deductibles were simply too high. So people could say they have coverage but they couldn't actually get the medical care they needed when they get sick."

"Obamacare" plans did typically come with high deductibles, but the law also provided cost-sharing subsidies to people with modest incomes. Those subsidies will be eliminated under the Republican plan, and it's unclear how high the deductibles would be under the new approach.

House committees planned to begin voting on the legislation Wednesday, launching what could be the year's defining battle in Congress and capping seven years of GOP vows to repeal the 2010 Affordable Care Act. Before prevailing, leaders will have to heal internal divisions.

In his letter, Price commended GOP plans to provide millions of Americans with a refundable tax credit - meaning even people without tax liability would receive the assistance. Congressional conservatives have opposed a refundable credit, saying it would create a new entitlement program the government cannot afford.

"It is a missed opportunity and a step in the wrong direction," said Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, one of three conservative senators who've criticized GOP leaders for not aggressively repealing Obama's law. He said it was unknown if the bill would make health care more affordable.

Conservative groups like

Heritage Action for America and the Club for Growth also piled on. Club for Growth President David McIntosh called the measure a "warmed-over substitute for government-run health care."

"As Republicans we have a choice," House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady, R-Texas, an author of the measure, told reporters. "We can act now or we can keep fiddling around and squander this opportunity to repeal 'Obamacare.'"

The Republican legislation would limit future federal funding for Medicaid, which covers low-income people, about 1 in 5 Americans. And it would loosen rules that Obama's law imposed for health plans directly purchased by individuals, while also scaling back insurance subsidies.

Republicans say their solutions would make Medicaid more cost-efficient without punishing the poor and disabled, while spurring private insurers to offer attractive products for the estimated 20 million consumers in the market for individual policies.

Democrats say the bill would make many people uninsured, shifting costs to states and hospital systems that act as providers of last resort. Individual policy holders might be able to find low-premium plans, only to be exposed to higher deductibles and copayments.

The plan would repeal the unpopular fines on people who don't carry health insurance. It would replace income-based subsidies the law provides to help millions of Americans pay premiums with age-based tax credits that may be skimpier for people with low incomes. Those payments would phase

out for higher-earning people.

Thirty-one states and the District of Columbia opted to expand Medicaid coverage under the Obama-era law to an estimated 11 million people. Around half those states have GOP governors, who are largely reluctant to see that spending curtailed.

In another feature that could alienate moderate Republicans, the measure would block for one year federal payments to Planned Parenthood, the women's health organization long opposed by many in the party because it provides abortions.

In a last-minute change to satisfy conservative lawmakers, business and unions, Republicans dropped a plan pushed by Ryan to impose a first-ever tax on the most generous employer-provided health plans. Instead, a similar tax imposed by Obama's law on expensive plans set to take effect in 2020 would now begin in 2025.

Popular consumer protections in the Obama law would be retained, such as insurance safeguards for people with pre-existing medical problems, and parents' ability to keep young adult children on their insurance until age 26.

To prod healthier people to buy policies, insurers would boost premiums by 30 percent for consumers who let insurance lapse.



Chris Biggs has joined Joe Knopp. The law firm is now Knopp and Biggs P.A.

Chris, a Manhattan native, is a graduate of Manhattan High School, Kansas State University (Phi Beta Kappa) and the University of Kansas School of Law.

Chris brings over 30 years of litigation experience and public service to the firm.

- Kansas Secretary of State
- Kansas Securities Commissioner.
- Democrat nominee for KS. Attorney General
- Elected Geary County Attorney (4 terms)
- Kansas Outstanding Prosecutor Award - 1998

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Bacon, soda & too few nuts tied to big portion of US deaths

CHICAGO (AP) -- Gorging on bacon, skipping on nuts? These are among food habits that new research links with deaths from heart disease, strokes and diabetes.

Overeating or not eating enough of the 10 foods and nutrients contributes to nearly half of U.S. deaths from these causes, the study suggests.

"Good" foods that were under-eaten include: nuts and seeds, seafood rich in omega-3 fats including salmon and sardines; fruits and vegetables; and whole grains.

"Bad" foods or nutrients that were over-eaten include salt and salty foods; processed meats including bacon, bologna and hot dogs; red meat including steaks and hamburgers; and sugary drinks.

The research is based on U.S. government data showing there were about 700,000 deaths in 2012 from heart disease, strokes and diabetes and on an analysis of national health surveys that asked participants about their

eating habits. Most didn't eat the recommended amounts of the foods studied.

The 10 ingredients combined contributed to about 45 percent of those deaths, according to the study.

It may sound like a familiar attack on the typical American diet, and the research echoes previous studies on the benefits of heart-healthy eating. But the study goes into more detail on specific foods and their risks or benefits, said lead author Renata Micha, a public health researcher and nutritionist at Tufts University.

The results were published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Micha said the 10 foods and nutrients were singled out because of research linking them with the causes of death studied. For example, studies have shown that excess salt can increase blood pressure, putting stress on arteries and the heart. Nuts contain healthy fats that

can improve cholesterol levels, while bacon and other processed meats contain saturated fats that can raise levels of unhealthy LDL cholesterol.

In the study, too much salt was the biggest problem, linked with nearly 10 percent of the deaths. Overeating processed meats and under-eating nuts and seeds and seafood each were linked with about 8 percent of the deaths.

The Food and Drug Administration's recent voluntary sodium reduction guidelines for makers of processed foods and taxes that some U.S. cities have imposed on sugar-sweetened beverages are steps in the right direction, Micha said.

A journal editorial said public health policies targeting unhealthy eating could potentially help prevent some deaths, while noting that the study isn't solid proof that "suboptimal" diets were deadly.

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Enough Delay on Obamacare Repeal

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, recently made headlines when she told her state's Legislature she would not support an Obamacare repeal bill eliminating the law's Medicaid expansion.

Apparently, there are a lot of short-term memories in Washington. No one reminded Murkowski that she already voted to repeal Obamacare's Medicaid expansion when in 2015 she voted for a reconciliation bill that would up being vetoed.

The difference between now and then? Whereas everyone knew Obama would veto any repeal effort, with President Trump now in office, repeal might actually pass.

Apparently, that's giving some senators heartburn. Reports are drifting out of the Senate about many Republicans—all of whom voted for the 2015 repeal bill, except for Sen. Susan Collins—drawing lines they suddenly will not cross.

For some members of Congress, it seems, the trigger is a little bit harder to pull when they're firing with real bullets.

Before they delay the repeal effort into irrelevance, these members need to remember a few key things.

First, a continued delay in repealing Obamacare means a continued delay in keeping promises to voters. Republicans ran—and won—on repeal. This is a promise that needs to be kept.

Second, the rest of the Republican agenda hinges on the imminent passage of Obamacare repeal. Why? The rules and procedures of Congress—the Senate, in particular—require sequencing.

Congress has to pass a reconciliation vehicle for the fiscal year 2017 budget, which contains Obamacare repeal, before

they can move onto the fiscal 2018 budget, which will likely be comprised of major tax reform. In the meantime, Congress must also deal with a looming debt ceiling this summer, as well as a government funding deadline in April.

If Congress is going to repeal Obamacare, they need to do it. Now.

Third, while Congress continues to dither, Obamacare continues to harm American families. Congressional hemming and hawing over the possible fate of the insurance market post-repeal is akin to rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic. The insurance companies have already said they are prepared to handle repeal without too much disruption to the marketplace.

Moreover, it is the state of Obamacare—not some vague anxiety about what Congress may or may not do—that is causing insurers to exit the marketplace. In fact, even the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office has suggested that repeal of Obamacare would be less disruptive than repair.

More importantly, however, Obamacare is crumbling, which means that members of Congress aren't helping anyone by delaying repeal. Rather, by continuing to delay repeal, this Republican Congress is becoming complicit in perpetuating Obamacare's harm onto the rest of the country.

Consider just a few facts about the state of today's health care market. The average nationwide premium on the individual market has gone up 99 percent in the period between 2013 and 2017. For families, they've risen an eye-popping 140 percent.

How about all those insurance options we were supposed to have under Obamacare? Nope. About 70 percent of

counties in the U.S. have only one or two options for insurance. And forget the 20 million extra people who were supposed to be covered by Obamacare. Revised estimates put the figure at half that.

In what is about to be the third month of a Republican-controlled Congress, this state of affairs is not OK. It's even worse when one considers that Congress has a repeal bill they already passed in 2015 that they could simply cut, paste and pass again.

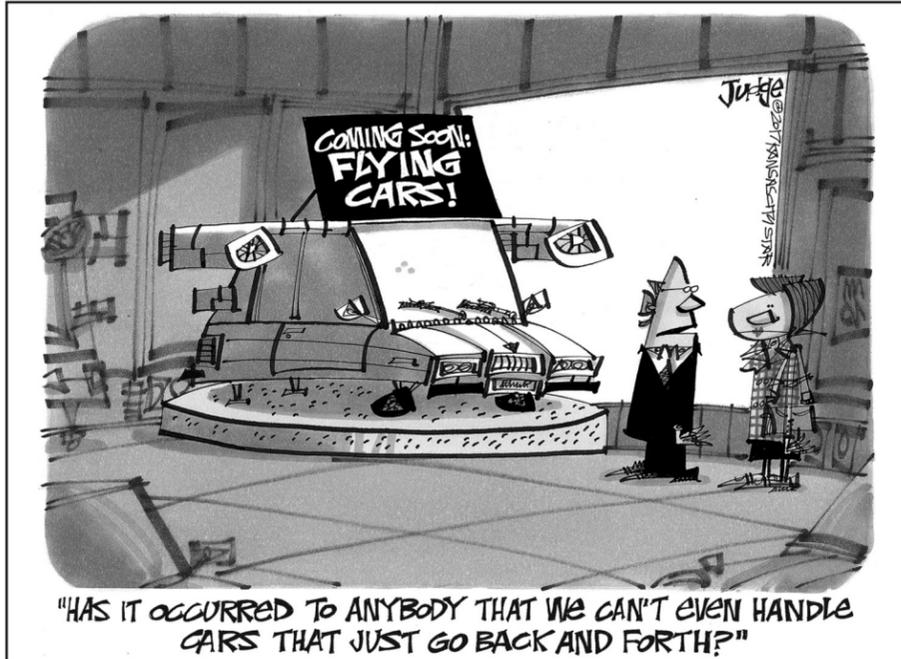
The Congressional delay to repeal Obamacare may have, to some, been understandable. But it is now inexcusable.

The 2015 Obamacare repeal bill got at the guts of Obamacare, targeting the major components of the law for elimination. It also contained a two-year phase out of the law, allowing Congress time to deliberate on—and build bipartisan consensus toward—what replacement should look like. Most importantly, though, it passed both the House and the Senate.

The country elected this Congress to repeal Obamacare and reform the health care system. Should this Republican Congress continue to delay—or to pass a repeal short of what they did in 2015—they risk owning the worst domestic policy issue in a generation.

The longer Congress waits to repeal, the more excuses senators like Murkowski will come up with to duck voting for a bill they've already supported. As everyone in Washington knows, delay is the first step toward doing nothing.

Obamacare repeal should have started yesterday. The good news is, it can start tomorrow. Congress has passed—and can pass again—the 2015 repeal bill, but only if members stop giving excuses to delay it.



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Get real, Democrats, there is no good reason for Sessions to resign

By Hans A. von Spakovsky
Heritage Foundation

Talk about “over the top”! The overblown rhetoric accompanying calls for Attorney General Jeff Sessions’ resignation reveals that Thursday’s brouhaha is driven by mere political grandstanding, not a real concern over unlawful behavior.

There’s a reason for that: the total lack of evidence that any illegal behavior occurred.

What sparked Thursday’s folderol was a Washington Post report that General Sessions, while still a U.S. senator, met with the Russian ambassador last year. Twice.

To characterize the first of these encounters as a “meeting” strains the meaning of the word—to the breaking point. But to claim that he “lied” when he did not reveal these “meetings” during his Senate nomination hearing is even more far-fetched.

Review the record of that hearing with an eye toward context, and you’ll find that Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) was clearly asking Sessions if he was aware of any meetings between Trump campaign staff or surrogates and Russian officials to discuss the election. Franken specifically cites a CNN story about a supposed “continuing exchange of information during the campaign between Trump’s surrogates and intermediaries of the Russian government.”

Sen. Sessions answered that he was “not aware of any of those activities.” Noting that he himself had “been called a surrogate at a time or two in that campaign,” he said that he had had no such communication with the Russians.

Obviously, Sessions was talking about discussions concerning the election.

So what are the two meetings that Sessions had? The first came at a conference on “Global Partners in Diplomacy,” where Sessions was the keynote speaker. Sponsored by the U.S. State Department, The Heritage Foundation, and several other organizations, it was held in Cleveland during the Republican National Convention.

The conference was an educational program for ambassadors invited by the Obama State Department to observe the convention. The Obama State Department handled all of the coordination with ambassadors and their staff, of which there were about 100 at the conference.

Apparently, after Sessions finished speaking, a small group of ambassadors—including the Russian ambassador—approached the senator as he left the stage and thanked him for his remarks. That’s the first “meeting.” And it’s hardly an occasion—much less a venue—in when a conspiracy to “interfere” with the November election could be hatched.

Sessions also apparently met with the Russian ambassador in September. But on that occasion, Sessions was acting as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, not as a surrogate for the Trump campaign. That’s why the meeting was held in his Senate office. His DOJ spokesperson, Sarah Isgur Flores, says they discussed relations between the two countries—not the election.

There was nothing unusual

about this: Sessions met with more than two dozen ambassadors during 2016, including the Ukrainian ambassador the day before the meeting with the Russian ambassador.

There is no reason for Attorney General Sessions to resign. The FBI has forwarded no investigation file regarding Russian campaign shenanigans to his office for review.

It also must be pointed out that, liberal wishful-thinking to the contrary, there seems to be no evidence that the Russians actually “interfered” in the election.

Former Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson told The Washington Post in December that the department had found no evidence whatsoever that hackers attacked our voting systems on Election Day.

The only “interference” that we know of was the hacking of the Democratic National Committee’s computer system. The emails purloined in that escapade embarrassed Democratic Party insiders by revealing that its claims of neutrality during the hotly contested Democratic primary were a total sham.

While the DNC may have tipped the scales against Bernie Sanders, there was no actual cyber-interference in the voting process in 2016.

Hans A. von Spakovsky is a Senior Legal Fellow at The Heritage Foundation and former Justice Department official. Along with John Fund, he is the coauthor of “Who’s Counting? How Fraudsters and Bureaucrats Put Your Vote at Risk” and “Obama’s Enforcer: Eric Holder’s Justice Department.”



Trump Refugee Order Balances Security and Compassion

Read any commentary on the just signed executive order on visa and refugee vetting from several countries in the Middle East and odds are the assessment will tell you more about the writer’s politics than be an analysis of the order.

I confess: I have a perspective as well. Mine comes from working on the presidential team on both foreign policy and homeland security from after the Republican convention up to the inauguration. I can’t share the detailed workings of the team. But what I can share, having worked on the issues, is what I believe guided the work.

And it all started with making America safe.

Not campaign promises, anger at any religion, or prejudice of any kind impacted our thinking on the transition team. What we were worried about were future threats.

As the space for the Islamic State, or ISIS, gets squeezed in the Middle East, the remains of the tens of thousands of foreign fighters will have to flow somewhere. Every nation, not just the U.S., believes they are most likely to flow to the countries cited in the order. That fact, and only that fact, is why those countries are included on the list. Indeed, when it comes to visa vetting, that’s why the European Union has restrictions that are comparable to the United States.

The reason why we all worry is because, from those countries, foreign fighters could well try to flow to the West, principally by using visas or posing as refugees. When they get to the West, they could carry out terrorist acts. We know that because they already have—specifically in Western Europe.

They haven’t come to the

U.S.—yet. Right now, our primary threat is Islamist-related terror plots that are organized by terrorists who are already here.

What this administration is doing is making sure we are ready for the next wave of terrorism as well—the outflow of terrorists from the countries of conflict where the foreign fighters are likely to go first.

There are already cries that the precautions are unfair—creating hardships. Fair enough, but terrorists attacks (like those at the Bataclan in France by the followers of ISIS) create unbearable hardships as well—and the government has the responsibility to find the right balance between security and compassion for its citizens as well as consider how U.S. actions impact others around the world.

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Free Press Big 12 Sports

Manhattan Free Press

Thursday, March 9, 2017

6

K-State beats Texas Tech 61-48 to help NCAA hopes

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — D.J. Johnson didn't want his final game in Bramlage Coliseum to be a defeat.

He doesn't want his final game to be in the NIT, either.

So, the senior forward for Kansas State responded to a backs-against-the-wall game against Texas Tech on Saturday with 19 points, leading the mercurial bubble-dwelling Wildcats to a 61-48 victory that gave their NCAA Tournament hopes an important boost.

"We just wanted to win. Nobody likes to lose," Johnson said. "We work hard for everybody. We work hard for this team. We don't play to lose. That's our motivation."

Fellow senior Wesley Iwundu added 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Wildcats (19-12, 8-10), who also snapped a four-game home skid and locked up the No. 6 seed for next week's Big 12 Tournament.

That means Kansas State will have a first-round bye for the first time in three years.

Texas Tech (18-13, 6-12) may have had its own NCAA Tournament hopes dumped with its ninth straight road defeat. The Red Raiders haven't won back-to-back games since December.

Keenan Evans and Niem Stevenson led them with 11 points apiece.

"I thought Kansas State outplayed us for 40 minutes," Texas Tech coach Chris Beard said. "This is one of the many

challenges in the first year, you're just trying to build something. Some days it looks pretty good, some days it doesn't. We'll just get back to work."

Kansas State controlled the game most of the entire way, opening with a 9-0 run and then answering a 16-2 spurt by Texas Tech with a 17-3 run over nearly eight minutes midway through the first half.

The Wildcats eventually pushed a 34-22 halftime lead to 17 points on a couple of occasions in the second half. Johnson was the biggest factor, getting loose inside for a couple easy baskets.

"He's one of the best players in the Big 12," Beard said. "Very consistent, very productive."

Kansas State's defense helped, too. Texas Tech had four shot-clock violations in the first half alone.

The Red Raiders closed the gap to 12 a couple of times in the second half, but turnovers and some faulty shooting prevented them from ever making it a game down the stretch.

"I think we played smart. We didn't play pretty but we played smart," Kansas State coach Bruce Weber said. "Got it to D.J. in the first half, Wes made some great post entries and we played our butts off."

BIG PICTURE

Texas Tech: Will play on the opening night of the Big 12



K-State's D.J. Johnson (4) puts a shot up high on the glass.

Tournament, and almost certainly needs to win four games in four days and claim the championship to earn a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

Kansas State: Still has work

left to feel comfortable on Selection Sunday. At least one victory at the Sprint Center would take some of the pressure off after missing the NCAA Tournament the last two seasons.

K-STATE'S INTERIM A.D.

Laird Veatch has spent a hectic few days getting up to speed after athletic director John Currie left for the same job at Ten-

nessee. The associate A.D. takes over at a difficult juncture with Weber's status in question and football coach Bill Snyder undergoing treatment for throat cancer.



Isaiah Maurice (10) makes a good reverse layup.



Carlbe Ervin (1) keeps the ball going, as he looks for a way out.



Ben Brake

Free Press
Photographer
16th Year of K-State
Basketball

Kansas State To Play Baylor Thursday



Kansas State's Dean Wade (32) makes a block against Oklahoma State Saturday afternoon in Manhattan. Thursday night the Wildcats will play Baylor in the Big 12 Championship in Kansas City a 8:00 p.m.



Wesley Iwundu (25) puts up a three-pointer.



D.J. Johnson (4) plays defense late in the game.



Wildcat Coach Bruce Weber is talking to himself or someone on the court.



Dean Wade and the Wildcat were making free throws when they needed them.



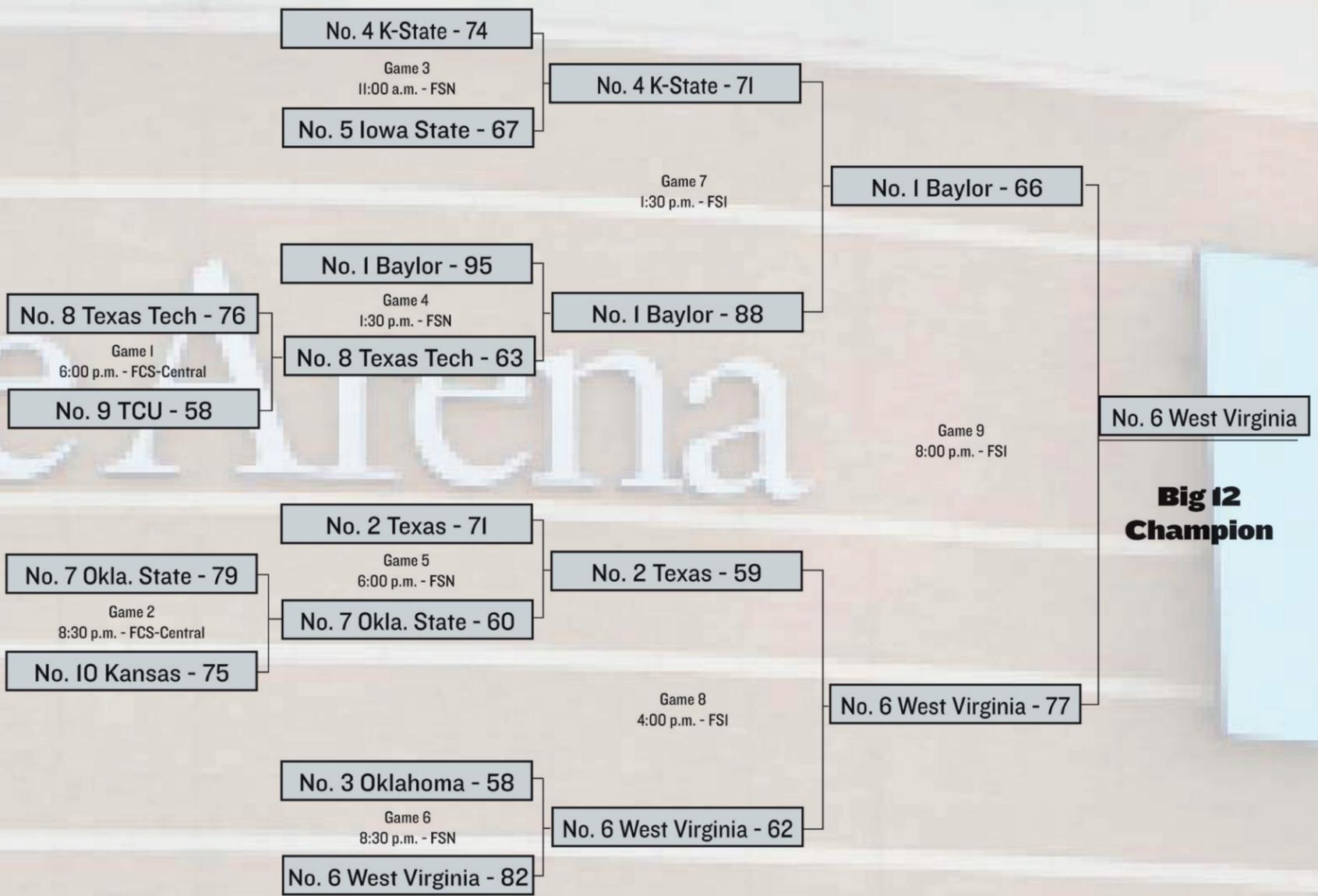
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Riley County Commission Minutes

Riley County Commission Minutes February 27, 2017
8:30 AM Call to Order

1. Public Comments
2. Commission Comments
3. Highway Use Permit, Westar Energy

Move to approve the Highway Use Permit to grant permission to Westar Energy to replace 35' pole with 40' pole and anchors, install 45' pole and #2 CID in highway right-of-way on County Hwy 895 S (Blue River Hills Road).

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner
SECONDER: Marvin Rodriguez, County Commissioner
AYES: Wells, Wilson, Rodriguez

4. Sign a Tax Roll Correction
Move to approve the Tax Roll Correction.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner
SECONDER: Marvin Rodriguez, County Commissioner
AYES: Wells, Wilson, Rodriguez

5. Out of State Travel Request to Kansas City, Missouri for Attendance at Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Annual Conference

Higgins presented the out of state travel request.

Move to approve an Out of State Travel Request for Steve Higgins to attend the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri in the amount of \$918.32 to be funded by the Planning & Development fund.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner
SECONDER: Marvin Rodriguez, County Commissioner
AYES: Wells, Wilson, Rodriguez

6. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Feb 23, 2017 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

RESULT: ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner
SECONDER: Marvin Rodriguez, County Commissioner
AYES: Wells, Wilson, Rodriguez

7. Tentative Agenda

8. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM Craig Cox, Deputy County Counselor

9. Administrative Work Session

The Board watched the KAC Legislative video update.

10. Pending County Projects

Cox discussed the work staff has done to create a couple of benefit districts.

Wells discussed his disappointment with the State Demand Transfers, which are not being paid to the local units of government.

9:15 AM Dennis Peterson, Noxious Weed Director and Linda Teener

11. Community Gardens Lease Renewal

Peterson presented a new lease agreement between Riley County and UFM for the Community Gardens land in the Hunter's Island area.

Teener discussed the establishment of the community gardens and the program. Teener said they are considering adding another acre of land to the garden.

Peterson said there are 10-acres set aside for the community gardens.

Peterson reviewed the proposed changes in the lease.

Move to approve the lease renewal agreement between UFM Community Learning Center

and Riley County for the community gardens at 1435 Collins Lane, Riley County, Kansas.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner
SECONDER: Marvin Rodriguez, County Commissioner
AYES: Wells, Wilson, Rodriguez

9:30 AM Press Conference

12. National History Day exhibit opens at the Riley County Historical Museum March 5 - Cheryl Collins (3 minutes)

C. Collins said the Riley County Historical Museum will showcase eight National History Day exhibits from Sunday, March 5th through Sunday, March 12th. Sixth grade students from Woodrow Wilson and Marlatt schools prepared the exhibits under the direction of USD 383 teacher Terry Healy.

9:39 AM Adjournment
Move to adjourn.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Marvin Rodriguez, County Commissioner
SECONDER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner
AYES: Wells, Wilson, Rodriguez

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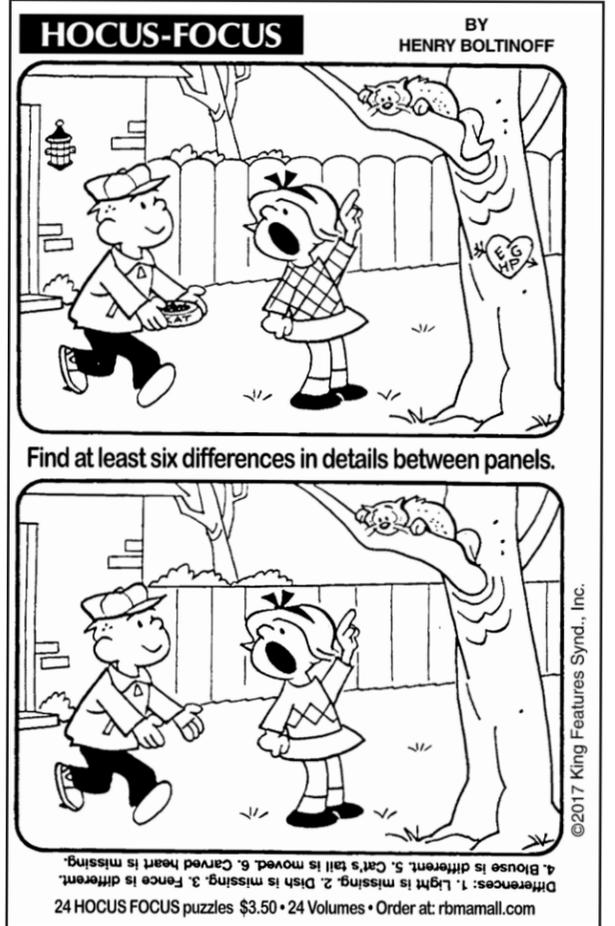
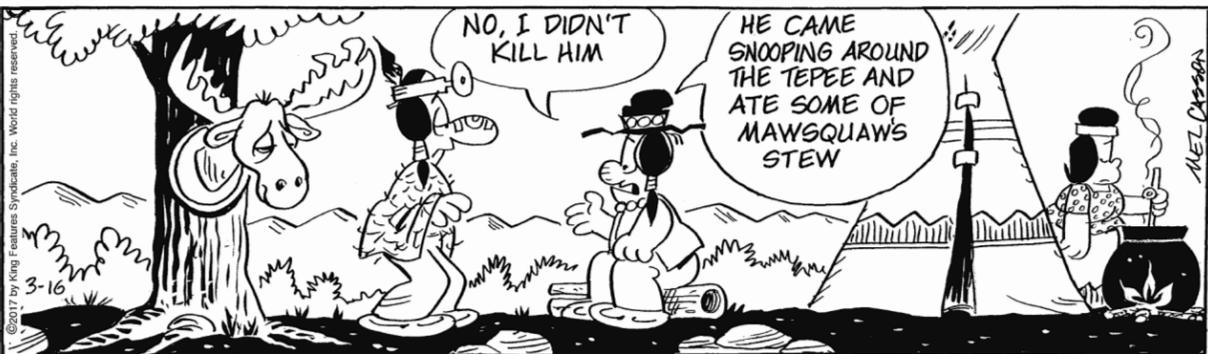
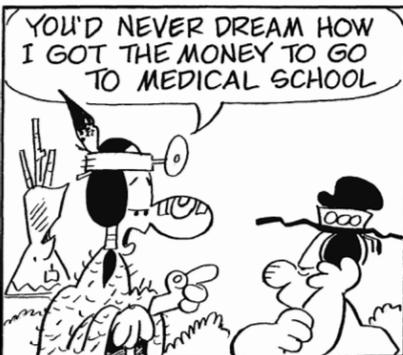
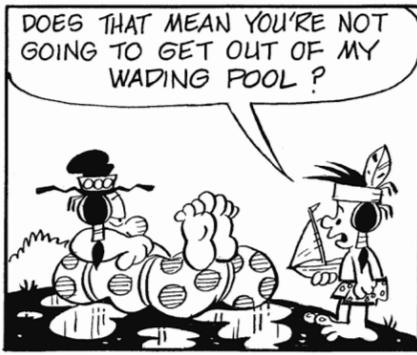
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 - 13 Meadow
 - 14 Toy block
 - 15 Time rival
 - 17 Dregs
 - 18 Recipient
 - 19 Brings forth
 - 21 Feudal worker
 - 24 Hooter
 - 25 Isn't well
 - 28 Hebrew month
 - 30 Discoverer's cry
 - 33 To and —
 - 34 Visit habitually
 - 35 Zero
 - 36 Coffee break hour
 - 37 Leave out
 - 38 On in years
 - 39 Martini ingredient
 - 41 Banish to Hades
 - 43 Cultural, as
- DOWN**
- 1 Beach matter
 - 2 Twistable treat
 - 3 Tennis venue, maybe
 - 4 Preoccupy
 - 5 Hearty brew
 - 6 Ball prop
 - 7 Create
 - 8 Let
 - 9 From Sunday through Saturday
 - 10 Curved molding
 - 11 Privation
 - 16 Teeny
 - 20 Electrical mea-
 - 22 Paper quantity
 - 23 Liquid
 - 25 Toward the stern
 - 26 Anger
 - 27 Classical music lover
 - 29 "Do — others ..."
 - 31 Hasten
 - 32 Ancient
 - 34 "— soit qui mal y pense"
 - 38 Aviatrix
 - 40 Bay, for one
 - 42 Bobby of hockey
 - 43 Recedes
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 - 45 Item in a pot, maybe
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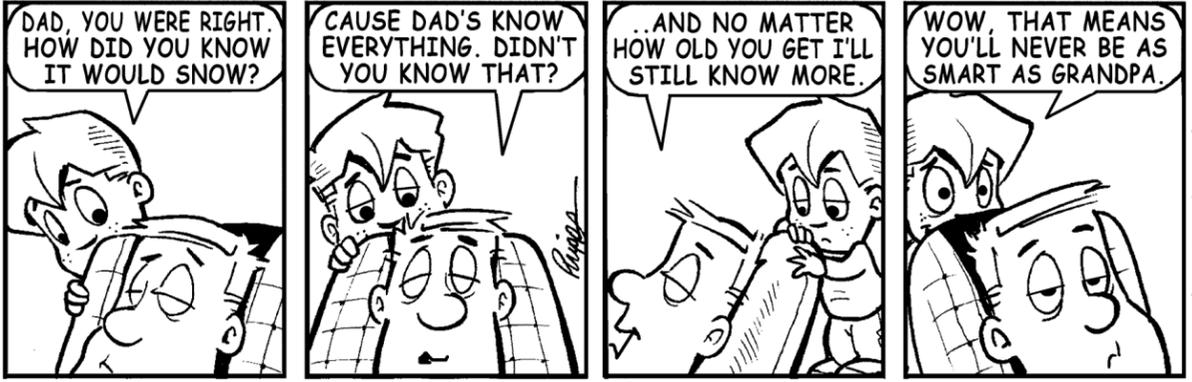
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Answers page 2

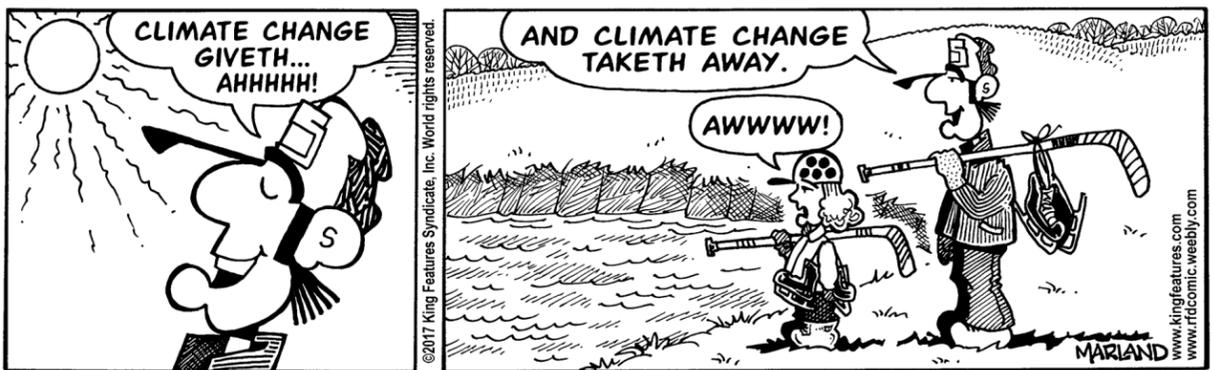
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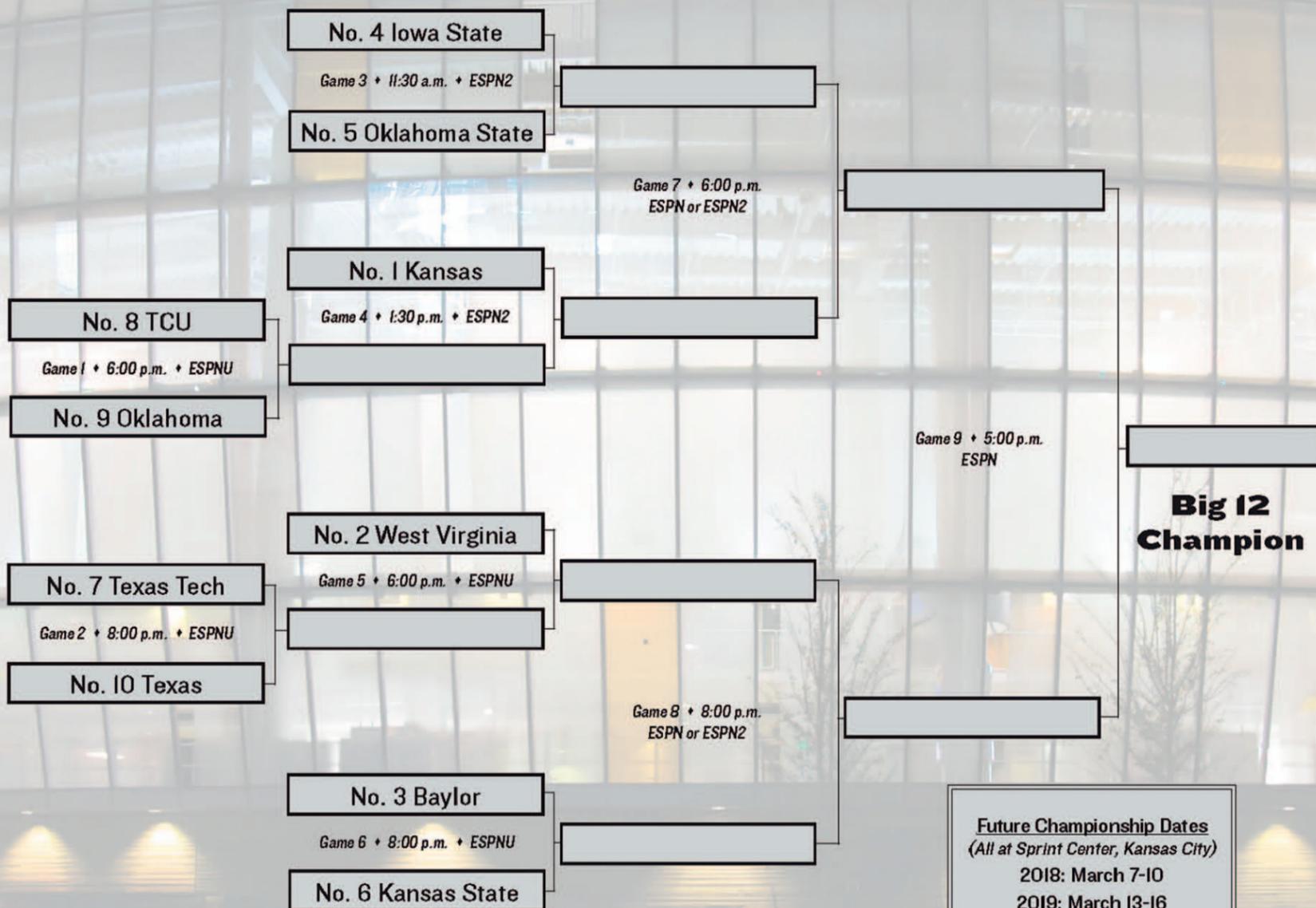
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