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88-year-old rebuilds home after Kansas wildfire

By AMY BICKEL
Hutchinson News
MEDICINE LODGE, Kan.
(AP) _ Don Gerstner saw it as a sign from God.

At age 87, he considered retiring from his carpentry trade. He thought about it a few times before, but the phone always kept ringing.

So when his home and barn burned to the ground in the Anderson Creek wildfire, Don and his wife, Carol, saw the miracle in it all.

Their wooden garage still stood - complete with all of Don's tools.

"Someone up there was trying to tell him something," Carol said. "You aren't supposed to retire yet."

She stood on the porch of their nearly finished home, amid a rolling Gyp Hills backdrop of cedar trees and prairie grass. Almost every day of the week for the past 15 months, Don, now 88, has been rebuilding a home on this spot just south of Medicine Lodge where they raised their three children.

All they need now is the air conditioning and television installed. Then, maybe, by next month, they might be moving to their new home, said Don.

He never even considered living anywhere else.

"I've always been an optimist," he said. "I've also been kicked around enough in my life I know you have to go on no matter what happens."

The Hutchinson News reports that Don comes from a long line of skilled craftsmen. His grandfather, on his mother's side, was a builder. His grandfather on his dad's side was a builder. His son, Kyle, is also a builder.

"I kind of got it in my

blood," Don said.

They bought a small, late 1800s house on this 40-acre parcel around 1960. Over the years, in between construction jobs, training pointers and delivering The Hutchinson News, he added on to the home - room by room, until it wasn't even recognizable, said his daughter Lisa Gerstner Boston.

"He is a good builder," Lisa, an artist and teacher in Colorado, said. "He has been doing this all his life; he just does it slower now."

She recalled a conversation five years ago when her father said he was thinking of finally retiring.

"He is always thinking of his future," she said. "He said he would like to build one more really nice house before he retires. He just didn't know it would be his."

But on March 23, 2016, Don and Carol were watching the reports of a wildfire blowing into Kansas from Oklahoma. It was heading toward Sun City when the wind switched, blowing it toward Medicine Lodge.

Don had just stopped hosing down the house when the electricity went out. His son, Kyle, called from Lawrence, telling him it looked like the fire was just five miles away.

"I hung up and looked out the kitchen window, and I would say 200 yards away was the fire - it was already here," Don said.

He called to Carol. They grabbed the vehicle keys and left.

"We left with nothing but the clothes on our backs," said Carol.

They headed down the driveway toward the highway, driv-

ing through a wall of fire. He thought about his hunting dogs and decided to go back and try to at least turn them loose.

"I got to the bottom over here and there was no air. I couldn't breathe. I know I couldn't make it to them. I just had to go back," Don said.

They drove to the top of a hill a little ways from the house and watched their home burn to the ground.

When they returned to their smoldering home, they found stairs leading to nowhere. A fireplace partially stood. The insurance adjuster told him it was a total loss.

His prize hunting dog died in the blaze. Two others escaped and were rescued by firefighters.

Don said he served in the Korean War. Things could be worse.

"Nothing bothers me," he said. "I knew I was going to rebuild from the start. This is what I've done all my life anyway."

Moreover, he said he didn't feel like he was 88. He'd never been sick a day in his life. He's only been in the hospital twice, once to take his tonsils out as a youngster, the other just a handful of years ago when he injured his back in a horse-riding accident.

"Heck, I still feel good," he said.

So he got to work. A local businessman loaned him a backhoe to tear out the charred remains. Kyle traveled from Lawrence to help pour footings and build walls.

The work continued each day with friends and family arriving at times to lend a hand. A GoFundMe account also raised

several thousand for the Gerstners.

"It is amazing how the community came together to help," said Lisa. "I don't think (my parents) knew how much they appreciated Medicine Lodge until the people came out of the woodwork, saying 'how can I help.' If you drive around Medicine Lodge, you will find many places he worked on. He left his mark all over town and with such a positive attitude. People remembered that."

A daughter, Gwendolee Ellison, a bank loan officer from Cherryville, came on weekends to help. Lisa came too, with her father teaching her to grout and lay tile.

"I didn't know how much finesse you had to have to grout Mexican tile," she said with a laugh.

Her parents taught her a good work ethic, one they both still live by.

"I think that is the reason he is as healthy as he is," Lisa said. "He loves what he does."

Today, a three-bedroom cedar siding home stands in place of the old one. It's complete with a fireplace, walkout basement and master bedroom with a hot tub bath. Don put in sliding glass doors and a small patio off the couple's bedroom so they can enjoy the scenery.

Don said he finished pouring concrete around the house last week.

"It's going to be a comfortable house," said Don.

Carol added, "I'm amazed he built this."

Lisa painted them some original artwork for their home, including one from a photograph that was taken of a cedar tree on the property right after the fire.

The painting depicts the sunset, she said, using colors that represent the blaze.

It hangs in their kitchen.

The work is nearly done, said Don as he walked out of the

basement to a concrete slab underneath the deck. When that happens, he is planning on throwing a party on this slab.

"We're going to have a dance," he said with a grin.

Don said he may retire when this project is done. But there are still a few ideas he might incorporate around the house to keep him active.

"I told Carol, when I get old and I'm not able to mow and take care of this place properly, I'll just put in a mini kitchen in

the basement and partition it off," he said. "And then I'll get some young people - that if you wash the windows and mow the lawn once in a while, you can live down here for nothing."

This comment doesn't surprise Lisa.

"This area just is such a magical place," said Lisa. "And my dad has a lot of energy in it. He always has been very positive. He is the type who makes lemons out of lemonade."



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Obamacare: The social program with 9 lives

WASHINGTON (AP) _ The Senate's surprise vote early Friday was only the latest narrow escape for "Obamacare" _ the social program with nine lives that has survived dozens of congressional attempts to kill it, and two Supreme Court challenges.

Not to mention the massive computer crash when HealthCare.gov was launched.

The saga of the Affordable Care Act illustrates how difficult it is to do away with a government program once millions are benefiting. In the latest episode, three Republican lawmakers broke with their president and leadership to join Democrats and deliver a dramatic defeat to repeal efforts.

Sens. John McCain of Arizona, Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska were backed by GOP governors worried about constituents losing coverage, hospitals that didn't want to go back to being stuck with bills for the uninsured, doctors trying to keep patients healthier, and people with pre-existing conditions fearful

they might be exposed to coverage denials because they let their policy lapse for a few months.

"It came down to people who didn't like 'Obamacare' realizing this was going to take away their chances for coverage," said former Rep. Henry Waxman, a Los Angeles Democrat who helped write much of the 2010 overhaul under former President Barack Obama.

Despite its problems _ rising premiums, shaky insurance markets _ the ACA extended coverage to about 20 million people, reducing the nation's uninsured rate to a historic low near 9 percent. It delivered by combining two approaches: subsidized private insurance, and a Medicaid expansion for low-income people that 31 states have accepted. The GOP bills would have dramatically reduced spending on both, leaving anywhere from 16 million to more than 30 million uninsured. The legislation also threatened to undermine protections for people with medical problems.

Never hugely popular, "Obamacare" actually saw an increase in support as the "repeal and replace" debate intensified.

An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll picked up what could potentially be a bigger shift in public attitudes. The July poll showed that 62 percent of Americans think it's a federal government responsibility to make sure all Americans have health insurance, a 10 point increase from 52 percent who said that in March. Among independents, there was a 13-point increase.

H.W. Brands, a professor of U.S. history at the University of Texas at Austin, said people have little investment in a program's success before they experience its benefits.

"Whichever fan of the welfare state first applied the term 'entitlements' to these benefits was brilliant," said Brands. "People come to think they are entitled to them, and heaven help the politician who tries to take them away."

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Answers
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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

Serial rapist preying on KU, K-State students since 2000 now linked to 2015 case

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — Pleading for help in catching a serial rapist, authorities on Thursday linked yet another attempted attack to the man they say has been terrorizing students of Kansas' top two universities since 2000.

Police commanders from Manhattan and Lawrence on Thursday provided new details about the rapist and the crimes that occurred between October 2000 and July 2015. Before Thursday, the last known attack was in December 2008.

"These were all violent acts carried out by an assailant who did so in a cold, calm, calculated manner," said Brad Schoen, director of the Riley County Police Department. "In most cases, a handgun was displayed."

Investigators have linked 14 cases in Manhattan and Lawrence, including two attempted rapes. All the victims were students at Kansas State University or the University of Kansas.

All but one attack took place during academic breaks, such as summer or holidays. Most occurred between 2 and 4:30 a.m.

The suspect is described as a white male, about 5 feet, 10 inches tall with a prominent stomach and large thighs. Authorities estimate him to be in his mid-30s.

The last known case, an attempted rape on July 27, 2015, in Manhattan, occurred in the same block where K-State students were raped in 2003 and 2004.

Students in Lawrence and Manhattan questioned why police hadn't released any information about the 2015 attack until now.

"That's pretty awful that I haven't heard about it," said

Brynn Shaffer, who will be a junior at KU in the fall. "As a student, I feel like I should be aware of that."

KU senior Rute Muniz agreed, saying it was "crazy" that she hadn't heard about the most recent attack connected to the serial rapist.

"I had heard that there were rapes before, but that it was a past thing," Muniz said.

Riley County police did not say exactly when investigators officially linked the newest crime to the other attacks, but did say the connection was recent.

In some respects, the 2015 case had "significant similarities" to the others, Riley County officials said. But in other ways, it was different. It took time, they said, to follow up on leads and other information.

"Once we reached a conclusion that there was a high probability that they were indeed related, we undertook a lengthy internal discussion about whether or not to make that conclusion public," said Capt. Tim Hegarty, who oversees investigations for Riley County. "While it may not be immediately apparent, there are potential risks in doing so."

K-State student Kelsey Hoined said she had not heard about the attacks. She lives in the Chase Manhattan apartments in the 1400 block of Watson Place in Manhattan, where the 2015 attempted rape occurred — and where students had been raped in 2003 and 2004.

"They really should have given us that information," Hoined said. "That is super scary. Even before it was linked to the serial rapist. ... We have been living here unaware, and to hear about this now is dis-

concerting."

Her mother, Paula, who was with her daughter at the apartment complex, said she was angry that the apartment management had not informed its tenants about the rapes.

A woman who would not give her name but said she is the property manager at Chase Manhattan declined to discuss safety at the complex. "The last time something happened was in 2015," the woman said. "Two years ago. There hasn't been anything since then."

Hoined said she had planned to move across town even before hearing about the rapes. But in the meantime, she said she was heading out Thursday to buy another deadbolt for her door.

A K-State spokesman said the university would be sending out a campuswide message Friday including details released by Riley County police about the rape investigation.

"We did not know until today that the 2015 rape was linked," spokesman Jeff Morris said.

Authorities said they had created a website asking for the public's help. The site, www.kansascollegerapist.com, allows people to read information about the crimes and to provide tips and assistance to help solve the case.

An anonymous donor has provided a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the rapist's arrest and prosecution.

"We are here today because we need the public's help," said Anthony Brixius, Lawrence's interim police chief.

Investigators said they are working several leads but cannot discuss that information. "To do so may jeopardize the investigation and future prosecution," Schoen said.

Authorities trace the string of attacks to October 2000, when they say a man tried to rape a woman in Manhattan but, after a struggle, ran away.

Within a year and a half, in the same block, the first two rapes in Manhattan had occurred. But it wasn't until three or four years later, after more rapes, that police acknowledged the cases might all be connected.

By then, attacks of KU students in Lawrence, about 85 miles from Manhattan, had begun.

Attacks in both college communities occurred in off-campus apartments, duplexes and single-family houses.

In December 2008, a KU student was attacked and raped in her home. Contacted by The Star on Wednesday, she declined to talk about the case. She said she's told her story in recent years and didn't think she had anything to add as authorities planned to release more information.

Her attack was the 13th case linked to the same man.

The woman, who was a sophomore when the man entered her off-campus home late at night, spoke three years ago at Emporia State University.

"I was awoken by a man with a gun," she told the crowd of nearly 300, the Emporia Gazette reported. "He beat me, tied me up and raped me. He terrorized me for almost eight hours."

In 2009, authorities in Manhattan and Lawrence privately reached out to the Kansas attorney general's office for help in coordinating the investigations. In March of that year, the attorney general's office revealed that the cases shared similarities

and that the public should be told of the threat.

Authorities have said the rapist sees a woman and learns her routine. In each attack, authorities said, the man wore a mask. In some of the cases, authorities said, they do not know how he got inside the residence.

Investigators have not disclosed whether they have recovered any DNA evidence.

Students at both campuses are urged to take precautions, making sure doors are locked and sliding glass doors are secured. Report anything suspicious, police said.

Muniz, the senior at KU, sometimes works nights on campus and normally doesn't mind walking alone after dark. Now, she said, she'll think twice about it.

"Maybe I'll call someone else to go with me."

Serial rapist timeline

Authorities think the man began his string of attacks in October 2000 with the attempted rape of a Kansas State student in Manhattan. Two rapes in the same block followed in 2001 and 2002. The first rape in Lawrence was reported in 2004.

2000
Manhattan: Oct. 2. 2200 block of College Avenue (attempted rape)

2001
Manhattan: Aug. 11. 2200 block of College Avenue

2002
Manhattan: March 29. 2200 block of College Avenue
Manhattan: Dec. 31. 1400 block of Hartman Place

2003
Manhattan: May 30. 1400 block of Watson Place

2004
Manhattan: June 14. 1400 block of Watson Place
Lawrence: July 14. 3800 block of Clinton Parkway

2005
Lawrence: Jan. 29. 200 block of West Sixth Street
Manhattan: Sept. 5. 1400 block of Hillcrest

2006
Lawrence: June 13. 1900 block of Stewart

2007
Manhattan: Aug. 7. 900 block of Moro

2008
Lawrence: March 22. 3800 block of Clinton Parkway
Lawrence: Dec. 1. 2700 block of Grand Circle

2009
Authorities in Manhattan and Lawrence ask the Kansas attorney general's office for help coordinating their investigations. In March, the attorney general's office reveals that the cases share similarities and that the public should be told of the threat.

2015
Manhattan: July 27. 1400 block of Watson Place (attempted rape)

2017
On July 27, two years after the last reported case in Manhattan, authorities announce that it is linked to the 13 cases from 2000 to 2008.

House moves to extend choice program, end VA budget crisis

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House overwhelmingly approved a \$3.9 billion emergency spending package to address a budget shortfall at the Department of Veterans Affairs that threatens medical care for thousands of veterans.

The bill provides \$2.1 billion to continue funding the Veterans Choice program, which allows veterans to receive private medical care at government expense. Another \$1.8 billion would go to core VA health programs, including 28 leases for

new VA medical facilities.

The bill was approved 414-0 Friday and now goes to the Senate.

The Choice program was put in place after a 2014 wait-time scandal that was discovered at the Phoenix VA hospital and spread throughout the country. Veterans waited weeks or months for appointments amid phony records that covered up the lengthy waits.

A priority of President Donald Trump, the program allows veterans to receive care from

outside doctors if they must wait at least 30 days for an appointment or drive more than 40 miles to a VA facility.

VA Secretary David Shulkin has warned that without legislative action, the Choice program will run out of money by mid-August, causing delays in health care for thousands of veterans.

The bill would extend the program for six months and devote \$1.8 billion to authorize 28 leases for new VA medical facilities and establish programs

to make it easier to hire health specialists. Costs would be paid for by trimming pensions for some Medicaid-eligible veterans and collecting fees for housing loans.

Major veterans' groups had opposed an earlier House plan as an unacceptable step toward privatization, leading Democrats to block that bill on Monday. The earlier plan would have trimmed VA benefits to pay for Choice without additional investments in VA infrastructure.

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New Report Exposes Thousands of Illegal Votes in 2016

By Hans von Spakovsky
The Daily Signal

A new bombshell study released by the Government Accountability Institute shows why President Donald Trump's Advisory Commission on Election Integrity has such an important job ahead of it.

The institute concluded in its report that thousands of votes in the 2016 election were illegal duplicate votes from people who registered and voted in more than one state.

The Government Accountability Institute, founded by Peter Schweizer, author of "Clinton Cash," seeks to "investigate and expose crony capitalism, misuse of taxpayer monies, and other governmental corruption or malfeasance."

Over the last few months, the institute sought to obtain "public voter information" from every state in order to search for duplicate votes. This is the same type of information the president's Election Integrity Commission has requested.

With this report, we may have a clue as to why some states are resisting providing this data.

The Government Accountability Institute was able to obtain voter registration and voter history data from only 21 states because while some states shared it freely, "others impose exorbitant costs or refuse to comply with voter information requests."

These 21 states represent "about 17 percent of all possible state-to-state comparison combinations."

The institute compared the lists using an "extremely conservative matching approach that sought only to identify two votes cast in the same legal

name." It found that 8,471 votes in 2016 were "highly likely" duplicates.

Extrapolating this to all 50 states would likely produce, with "high-confidence," around 45,000 duplicate votes.

The institute obtained this level of confidence by matching not only names and birthdays—which can be the same for different individuals—but also by contracting with companies, such as Virtual DBS, that have commercial databases to further cross-check these individuals using their Social Security numbers and other information.

According to the Government Accountability Institute's experts, "the probability of correctly matching two records with the same name, birthdate, and Social Security number is close to 100 percent." In fact, "using these match points will result in virtually zero false positives."

The probability of 45,000 illegal duplicate votes is the low end of the spectrum, and it does not even account for other types of fraud such as ineligible voting by noncitizens and felons and absentee ballot fraud.

To put this number of fraudulent votes in perspective, Hillary Clinton won New Hampshire by fewer than 3,000 votes out of over 700,000 cast. Just this number of duplicate votes alone has the power to swing state results and, in turn, elections.

Unfortunately, New Hampshire refused to turn over its data for this study.

There have been other razor-tight elections in recent years. In 2000, the presidency was decided by 537 votes out of a total of 105 million cast. In 2008, Al Franken won his Minnesota Senate race by a mere 312

votes. He ended up being the deciding vote that gave this country Obamacare.

Though the institute did not look at the 2008 elections in this study, there is little doubt that the 2016 numbers show that duplicate voting and voter fraud are a real problem that can have serious consequential effects.

The Government Accountability Institute also used the state of Rhode Island as a test case. Over 30 percent of all registered voters in Rhode Island have no Social Security or driver's license number on file.

While it is legal to register without providing this information, the institute notes that "confirming the identities of some of these voters is impossible using only the data contained in the state's voter registration system."

Without this "uniquely identifying information ... there is no way to confirm a voter's identity or citizenship ... " This shows the vulnerabilities that are ripe for any person or group wanting to take advantage of them.

The institute also found more than 15,000 voters registered at prohibited addresses "such as post office boxes, UPS stores, federal post offices, and public buildings." In some cases, more than 100 voters "were registered to the same UPS store locations."

They also found voters whose registered addresses were "gas stations, vacant lots, abandoned mill buildings, basketball courts, parks, warehouses, and office buildings."

The institute tried to bring some of these problems to the attention of Rhode Island election officials as part of its test case. It provided officials with

a list of 225 voters who "were registered using prohibited addresses."

But Rhode Island refused to do anything about the problem beyond sending a letter to the

voters. If a voter did not respond, the state refused to take any further action.

Instead, in an obvious attempt to deter the Government

Accountability Institute, the state said that the institute would have to file a "voter challenge" and would be subject to a misdemeanor penalty if it filed a "false challenge."



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Wisconsin leaders see \$10 billion Foxconn deal as 'transformational'

By Michael Carroll
Watchdog

Foxconn's decision to build a \$10 billion high-tech manufacturing plant in Wisconsin set off a wave of optimism among business leaders in the state, even with a taxpayer price tag that could reach \$3 billion.

"We are calling this development 'Wiscon Valley,' because we believe this will have a transformational effect on Wisconsin, just as Silicon Valley transformed the San Francisco Bay Area," Gov. Scott Walker said in a prepared statement.

The Taiwan company's campus, which the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. (WEDC) says will occupy 1,000 acres on a site in southeast Wisconsin, is projected to create 13,000 new jobs with an average annual salary of nearly \$54,000. A total of 22,000 indirect jobs, including positions in supplier networks, will also open up as the factory begins churning out liquid crystal display screens for consumer electronics, according to the WEDC.

Kurt Bauer, the president and CEO of Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, compared the Foxconn project to the economic riches that resulted from oil shale development in North Dakota's Bakken formation.

"Foxconn is to Wisconsin what the Bakken is to North Dakota," Bauer told Watchdog.org.

In manufacturing, for every factory job that's created, another 2.5 support jobs will come into existence, he said, and that will bolster the economy throughout the state.

"In 10 years, this area is not going to resemble what it looks like today," Bauer said.

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And the effects of the project

– it will be the only LCD manufacturing facility in North America – go beyond economic growth, he said.

"This is not just an economic gain for Wisconsin," Bauer said, adding that it would help Wisconsin shake its rust belt image. "This is an image and reputation gain."

The tax incentives Foxconn will be eligible for are projected to reach between \$200 million and \$250 million annually, according to the WEDC. Over the next 15 years, the company could gain a maximum of \$1.5 billion in state income tax credits as a result of its employee hiring; \$1.35 billion in income tax benefits from land, building and equipment investments; and \$150 million in sales tax exemptions.

Despite those costs, Bauer described the overall costs as very reasonable, especially since other states were ready to put additional economic incentives on the table to attract Foxconn.

"I ultimately think it's going to be a bargain for the state's economy," he said.

Tom Still, president of the Wisconsin Technology Council, agreed that the scale of the likely economic incentives fits the Foxconn package and its long-term impact on the state.

"They are in line with other state incentive packages for similar projects, although the Foxconn plant in Wisconsin will eventually be much larger than those projects, which have taken place in states such as South Carolina, Nevada and New York," Still told Watchdog.org in an email.

The incentive package will require the company to make capital investments and create jobs as a condition of receiving the tax credits, according to Still.

"It's a 'pay-as-you-grow' ap-

proach that should lend accountability to the process," he said.

Asked if Wisconsin would be able to supply the thousands of skilled workers needed to get the factory up and running by 2018, Still replied, "Yes, with help from our friends and neighbors, such as Illinois."

As a result of Foxconn's investments, more of the 75,000 people who graduate each year from the state's higher education system will stay in Wisconsin rather than searching for positions elsewhere, he said. In addition, the 300,000 Badger state natives now living elsewhere may look to return if the right opportunities present themselves, according to Still.

"There is a skilled labor pool close by in northern Illinois, some of whom may welcome an opportunity to work just a few miles over the border," he said.

The Foxconn project will also better allow the state to show off the varied expertise that now exists in Wisconsin, including the ability to produce electrical equipment and medical devices and a workforce skilled in technical areas such as software, virtual reality, robotics and artificial intelligence, Still said.

"Wisconsin, like much of the Upper Midwest, has technology sector strengths that are often overlooked by those who believe such expertise and talent is clustered only on the coasts," he said.

How the state legislature will go about putting in place the incentives remains to be seen. Although lawmakers will be in session until the passage of a state budget, a special session might be scheduled to pass the needed legislation, according to Myranda Tanck, spokeswoman for Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, R-Juneau.

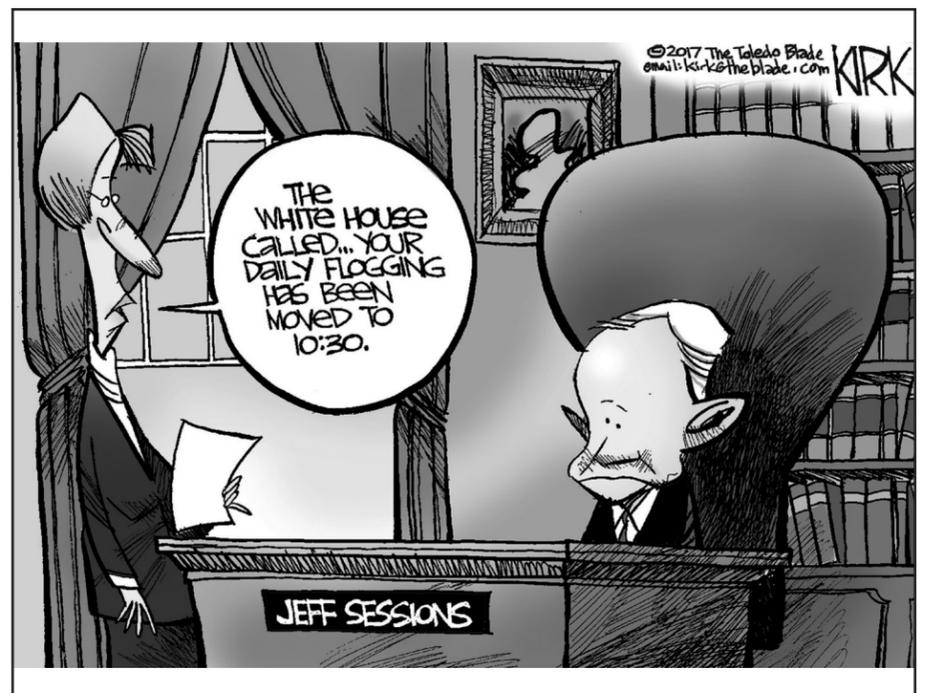
Fitzgerald has not been directly involved in the negotiation process with Foxconn, Tanck said.

"Negotiations with the company have largely been with the

Governor's Office," she said.

One of the colleges in southeast Wisconsin that will be involved in responding to workforce needs such as the Foxconn deal is Waukesha

County Technical College, where the dean of the School of Applied Technologies, Michael Shiels, looks forward to the challenge of working with Wisconsin's newest manufacturer.



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Riley County Fair - 2017



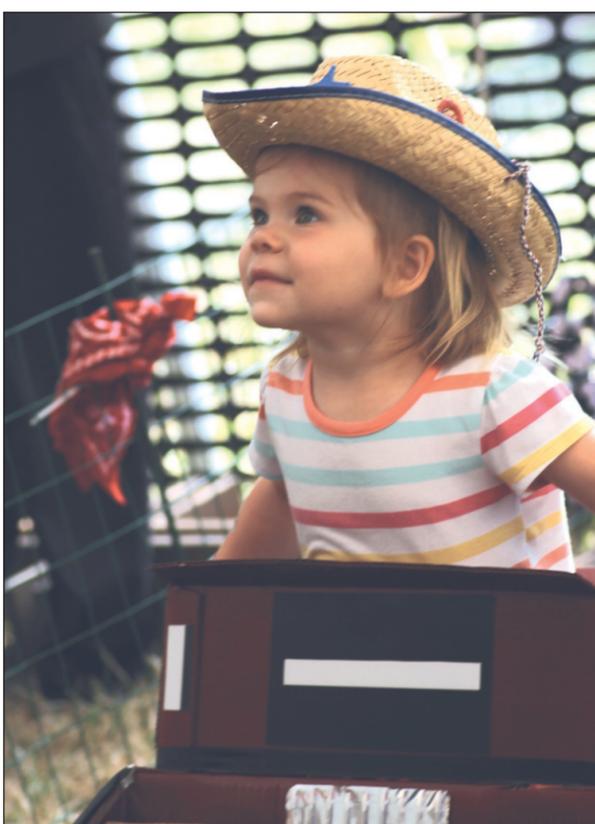
Be sure and have your eye wide open when you go to the Fair.



Riley County Corrections were there.



Oh, don't take my picture.



How am I doing Mom?



Yea, I'm going to the Fair.



Yes, I have a new hat, why?

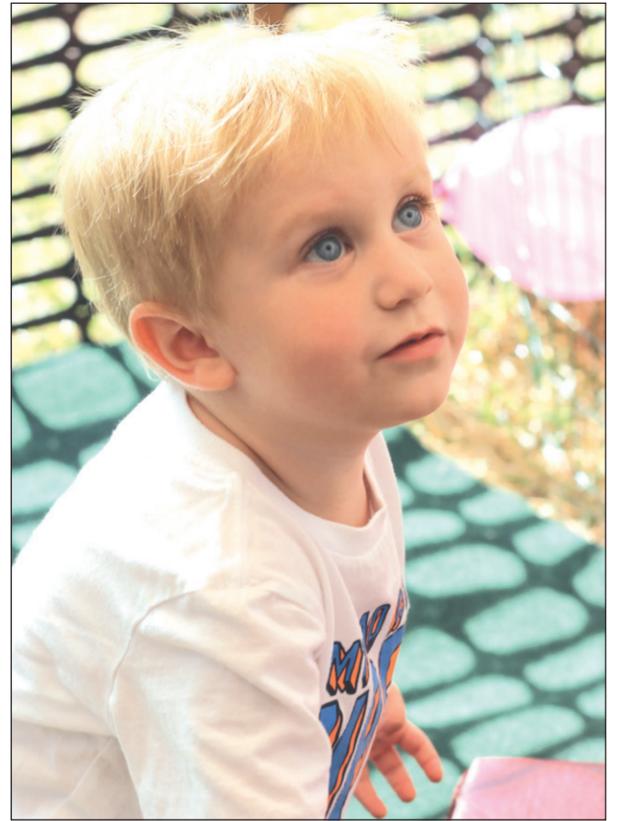


Hope they get out in time for school.

Riley County Fair - 2017



There were lots of people at the Riley County Fair Friday night.



Is this oK?



Look Mom no hands.



Look at me, look at me.



So, they made hamburger this way?



I want to go to the Fair.



A Fair takes a lot of time but you get to see a lot of people.

Snyder Named to 2017 Bobby Dodd Trophy Watch List

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Kansas State head coach Bill Snyder is one of 19 FBS coaches to be named to the watch list for the 2017 Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Trophy, the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl announced Wednesday.

Snyder, a 2015 inductee into the College Football Hall of Fame, is one of only two Big 12 coaches on this year's list, joining Oklahoma State's Mike Gundy. Snyder has won the Dodd Trophy on two occasions as he led the Wildcats to a 11-0 regular season in 1998 and a Big 12 Championship in 2012.

The Dodd Trophy, college football's most coveted coaching award, celebrates the head coach of a team who enjoys success on the gridiron, while also stressing the importance of scholarship, leadership and integrity — the three pillars of legendary coach Bobby Dodd's philosophy.

The watch list was created through a selection process by the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Foundation and Chick-fil-



A Peach Bowl, taking into consideration each program's graduation rate, commitment to service and charity in the community, projected success for

the 2017 season and Academic Progress Rate (APR).

Entering his 26th season at the helm of the Wildcats, Snyder

became just the sixth FBS coach ever to notch 200 career wins and only coach at one school as he enters the 2017 season with a 202-105-1 record,

including a 118-80-1 mark in Big 8/12 contests. He has totaled at least eight wins in 15 seasons, including nine years with 10 or more victories.

After being predicted to finish eighth in the Big 12 in 2016, Snyder led the Wildcats to a 9-4 campaign — including a 6-3 mark in league action to finish fourth — which ended with a victory over Texas A&M in the 2016 Texas Bowl. The Wildcats bring back 14 starters — eight on offense and six on defense — as they landed third on this year's Big 12 Preseason Poll.

Snyder has an impeccable reputation of developing players both on the field, in the classroom and in the community. In his 25 previous seasons, 84-percent of his players have obtained their undergraduate degrees, while the Wildcats lead the conference with 83 Academic All-Big 12 selections over the last three seasons, 20 more than the team in second place.

A valuable member of the community, Snyder has also led

the charge for his players to be active in the Manhattan area as they are involved in multiple community-service activities including: Senior Kats (visiting retirement homes); Junior Kats (visiting middle schools); Cats in the Classroom (visiting elementary schools); Special Olympics and Adopt-a-Family. K-State Football has also partnered with units from nearby Fort Riley and are currently active with the 1-16 Infantry Division of the U.S. Army, known as the Iron Rangers.

K-State embarks on the 2017 campaign and opens a seven-game home schedule on Saturday, September 2, against Central Arkansas, a game that serves as the ninth-annual K-State Family Reunion. As K-State draws nearer to running its consecutive sellout streak to 40 games, tickets can be purchased through the K-State Athletics Ticket office online at www.k-statesports.com/tickets, by phone at 1-800-221-CATS or at the main ticket office inside Bramlage Coliseum.

K-State Honored for Academic Excellence by USTFCCCA

MANHATTAN, Kan. — The Kansas State men's and women's track and field teams were honored for their academic excellence on Friday, as the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) announced their annual All-Academic Teams list for the 2016-17 season.

The Wildcat squads were among 360 Division I men's and women's teams (218 women's teams and 142 men's teams) honored for earning a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0

during the 2016-17 academic year. The women's team tallied a 3.328 GPA, while the men's team garnered a 3.278 GPA.

Overall, K-State was one of 13 Big 12 teams (four men's teams and nine women's teams) to be chosen for the academic recognition and one of just four league schools (Baylor, Iowa State and Oklahoma State) to earn it in both men's and women's track and field.

In addition to the team honor, 14 Wildcat student-athletes were selected for individual USTFCCCA All-Academic

honors, including senior Miles Bearden (Cartersville, Georgia), junior Mitchell Dixon (Rancho San Margarita, California), sophomore Simone Fassina (Vimercate, Italy), sophomore Brett Neely (Gallatin, Tennessee) and senior Zack Supple (Reno, Nevada) on the men's team and sophomore Morgan Coffman (Vassar, Kansas), junior Kayla Doll (Garden City, Kansas), freshman Helene Ingvaldsen (Bergen, Norway), sophomore Ranae McKenzie (Manchester, Jamaica), sophomore Shanae McKenzie (Man-

chester, Jamaica), freshman Wurrrie Njaoe (Shoreline, Washington), Konstantina Romaiou (Corfu, Greece), freshman Lauren Taubert (Casper, Wyoming) and senior Morgan Wedekind (Wichita, Kansas) on the women's team.

To qualify for USTFCCCA All-Academic honors, the student-athlete must have posted a cumulative 3.25 GPA and met one of the following athletic standards, which includes finishing the indoor regular season ranked in the national top 96 in an individual event, ranking in

the national top 48 in an indoor relay event or participating in any round of the NCAA Outdoor Championships.

The 14 Wildcats were among 1,268 student-athletes nationally to earn USTFCCCA All-Academic honors.

The team academic honor continued another outstanding academic year for K-State track and field, as a combined 20 Wildcats were named to the Academic All-Big 12 Team, including 13 on the first team led by senior Jeff Bachman and Morgan Coffman, who each

earned 4.0 GPAs. In addition, 10 track and field student-athletes earned their bachelor's degrees in May, including former national champion Akela Jones and NCAA Outdoor Championship participants Brady Grunder and Kyle Smith.

The honor also follows a trend of academic success by a number of Wildcat teams during the 2016-17 season, as baseball, women's tennis and women's volleyball all earned their respective team academic awards.

Missouri car show to feature vintage Rambler

By ERIC WILEY
Salina Journal

SALINA, Kan. (AP) — Salinan Sean Fischer has adored cars "since I was old enough to say the word car," he said.

His favorite type of car is the one that not everybody else has.

That's why it's no surprise that he owns one of the rarest muscle cars ever distributed: a 1969 SC/Hurst Rambler, the last car made in the U.S. by Rambler under the American Motors Corporation.

The car is so rare, Fischer said he has to carry with him the original advertisement "because no one will believe me when I tell them this is how it was made."

"Only 1,512 of these cars were made. This one was part of the first 500 made. It was 29th down the line," he said. "I'm a die-hard stick shift guy and real muscle cars have a clutch pedal. It's still factory correct. I haven't made any changes to it."

"I doubt there are more than 300 in the world today. I love cars that not everybody else has. That's usually the older models. The cars had more

character back then."

Visitors at this year's Kustom Kemps of America 37th Leadsled Spectacular, set for Thursday through Sunday at Salina's Oakdale Park, will get an opportunity to see the rare Rambler.

The Salina Journal reports that the show, the 13th annual in Salina, will kick off at 7:30 p.m. Thursday with the 7th Annual Spectacular Sundown Cruise down Santa Fe Avenue, between Mulberry and Ash streets.

"It's just continuously growing and it's more than just a car show now," said Jerry Titus, president of Kustom Kemps. "It's about an era of Americana that was the happiest time of the country, the '50s and '60s. You can't get into the show unless you have a car made in 1969 or before. It also helps that we offer 12 attractions at one event."

Fischer purchased his vehicle from the original owner, who lived in Pennsylvania, for \$6,500. When the car came out it cost \$2,998.

"Now I bet it could sell for 20 times that," he said.

The super car features the "A" red, blue and white paint scheme; red-line tires; blue mag-style wheels; a 390 cubic-inch, V-8 motor; red, white and blue headrest, and the word "AIR" on the hood scoop.

"This thing was originally advertised as going 100 mph in 14 seconds," he said.

Fischer's car will be among about 2,000 hotrods, dragsters and custom cars and trucks from all over America on display during the "Show & Shine," from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, 9 to 5 Saturday and 9 to 2 on Sunday at the 26-acre Oakdale Park.

Returning at 12:30 p.m. Friday will be the Kustom Kemps of America Hotrod and Custom Auction at Salina Auto Auction, 2845 Centennial. Vintage Market Place will be Friday and Saturday at the 4-H Building and Kenwood Hall. Admission is \$10 for the auction and \$1 for the Vintage Market Place.

The Run Whatcha Brung Drags will be from 5 p.m. until dusk Friday off Markley Road. Admission for bleacher seating is \$10 a person.

Fischer, whose rare super car will be featured in the "Show and Shine," in the past has entered his 1964 Dodge 330 in the drag races as well.

A member of Ozark Mountain Super Shifters, Fischer used to drag race professionally across the country.

"It used to scare the hell out of me every time I dropped the clutch," he said. "I've slowed down with the drag racing. I didn't think I would enjoy the car shows as much as the racing, but I do. It's a fun time and you meet interesting people from around the country during the show. I'm not sure if I'll enter the drag race this year, but I will be attending."

Tiffany Benien, sports and events manager with the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, said when the Leadsled Spectacular first came to Salina, it was held at Thomas Park.

"It was just a small little car show with a couple hundred cars. A few years later we encouraged Jerry and Devona Titus to consider Oakdale Park as a change in venues because we ran out of space and needed

more room for vendors and more staging for entertainment," she said. "Oakdale has the infrastructure needed to grow the event. Now, it's one of the largest events we work with as far as bringing visitors to Salina."

Benien said the chamber is typically conservative when estimating how much money an event generates for the city.

"I believe this event generates over \$1 million in direct visitor spending for Salina," she said. "That's from visitors and participants coming and spending dollars on hotel nights, gas, dining, shopping and just general purchases."

About 200 volunteers — some from outside of Kansas — help during the event, Benien said.

Volunteers with Salina AMBUCS, North Salina Community Development and other local organizations pitch in to help.

Deb and Terry Zuelow, of Hasting, Neb., have volunteered for the Leadsled Spectacular for the past five years. The event falls near the couple's July 30 wedding anniversary every year, Terry said.

"We volunteer during what we call 'the hot shift' at the Mulberry Street gate, usually from about noon to 2:30," he said.

Terry said he and Deb used to live in Belleville and frequently visited Salina. At one point, they traveled the country to attend big car shows, Terry said, but "now we just come to Salina and we don't go anywhere else."

"You can see everything you want to see at the Salina show. There are hot rods, custom cars, whatever you want to see," he said. "We really enjoy the cars and the people there. It's just a great show. We look forward to it every year."

Benien said the event is so successful because of the enthusiasm of Salinians.

"Salina has really embraced it. The community, especially the city of Salina and hotels, seem to look forward to it," she said. "The love of the community for old cars is amazing. When participants come here, they feel welcomed. They look forward to returning the next year."

Next Kansas governor is a surgeon; also a Brownback loyalist

By JOHN HANNA
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Jeff Colyer is preparing to become Kansas' next governor after nearly a decade helping fellow conservative Republicans shape health care policy by drawing on his background as a plastic surgeon who squeezed in medical relief missions to disaster and war zones.

Loyal to GOP Gov. Sam Brownback, Colyer would be elevated when his two-term running mate resigns to become President Donald Trump's ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom. Trump nominated Brownback for the post.

Brownback wouldn't say Thursday whether he'll wait to

be confirmed by the U.S. Senate to step down as governor or resign earlier. Colyer kept a low profile, turning down a request for an interview and not attending a Statehouse news conference at which Brownback discussed his nomination and tenure as governor.

Colyer would serve the remainder of Brownback's term, which ends in January 2019. The 57-year-old Colyer already was seen as a potential Republican candidate for governor next year because Brownback was term-limited. He was often the administration's spokesman on health issues and served in the Legislature before first running on Brownback's ticket in 2010.

Colyer may deviate little

from Brownback's policies on fiscal and social issues. In an Associated Press interview in December, Colyer described himself in classic "Star Trek" terms as a first-officer Spock to Brownback as Captain Kirk, saying, "We're working for the same goals."

But Brownback told reporters: "He's his own man, his own person. He's an accomplished physician, an accomplished public policy person."

Brownback is known nationally for aggressive personal income tax cuts in 2012 and 2013 designed to stimulate the economy. Kansas has struggled to balance its budget since.

The GOP-controlled Legislature in early June enacted in-

come tax increases over a Brownback veto that would raise \$1.2 billion over two years. Their changes will increase income tax rates, end an exemption for more than 330,000 farmers and business owners and largely roll back the past cuts Brownback championed as pro-growth policies.

If Colyer runs as expected for a full, four-year term as governor in 2018, he's likely face a crowded field. His ties to Brownback would be a liability in a general election campaign and "a mixed bag" even in a GOP primary, said Patrick Miller, an assistant political science professor at the University of Kansas.

"I don't sense that he has really strong name recognition or

a really strong personal brand," Miller said.

State Sen. Laura Kelly, a Topeka Democrat, who is part of a working group Colyer formed on Medicaid issues, said she thinks he will be "a little more open" to working with his political opponents than Brownback.

House Speaker Ron Ryckman Jr., an Olathe Republican, said he doesn't yet have a feel for how Colyer would govern but said the lieutenant governor would be guided by "a different set of life experiences."

"Ideologically, I think he's aligned with Gov. Brownback," Ryckman said. Colyer would face formidable opposition for the Republican nomination. Secretary of State Kris Kobach is running for governor, and at least five other GOP candidates are running or considering a run. Two Democrats have launched campaigns for governor as well.

While Colyer has been influential on health care policy and is personable, he's not as dynamic a stump speaker as Kobach and does not have as high a national profile. Kobach is vice chairman of a presidential commission on election fraud.

Yet Colyer's tenure as lieutenant governor has seen its own waves of attention and controversy. He oversaw an initiative that in 2013 turned over the administration of the state's Medicaid health coverage for the poor and disabled to three private companies.

He also made three \$500,000 loans to Brownback's and his

re-election campaign in 2013 and 2014 that were highly unusual for their size and timing; two were paid back within days. Prosecutors ended a grand jury investigation in 2015 without plans for criminal charges.

Colyer's friendship with Brownback began more than 20 years ago, when both were White House fellows; they occasionally attended Mass together.

Colyer owns a plastic surgery practice in Overland Park that performs cosmetic procedures as well as reconstructive surgery. He remains on call at multiple Kansas City-area hospitals to help trauma victims.

He also has continued going overseas with the International Medical Corps, a group with whom he's been affiliated since the mid-1980s. He's performed trauma and reconstructive surgery and trained local doctors in countries including Afghanistan, South Sudan, Rwanda and Iraq.

Colyer gained a reputation with the group for being adept at handling high-pressure, life-and-death situations.

The father of three daughters, Colyer ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 2002. He served in the Kansas House in 2007 and 2008, where he helped draft health care legislation. He won a state Senate seat in 2008.

Colyer was a vocal critic of the 2010 federal health care overhaul championed by former President Barack Obama, a Democrat, and still opposes expanding the state's Medicaid program as contemplated by that law.

Trump threat: End health payments unless there's an overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Donald Trump on Saturday threatened once more to end required payments to insurance companies unless lawmakers repeal and replace the Obama-era health care law.

In apparent frustration over Friday's failure by the Senate Republican majority to pass a bill repealing parts of the Affordable Care Act, Trump tweeted: "If a new HealthCare Bill is not approved quickly, BAILOUTS for Insurance Companies and BAILOUTS for Members of Congress will end very soon!"

No Democrats voted for the

Repeal-and-replace has been a guiding star for Republicans ever since President Barack Obama enacted the law in 2010. That goal, which Trump turned into a top campaign promise, remains out of reach even with Republicans controlling both the White House and Congress. The issue has dominated the opening months of Trump's presidency.

But Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said after the bill failed early Friday that he would move to other legislative business in the upcoming week.

Trump also tweeted: "Unless the Republican Senators are total quitters, Repeal & Replace is not dead! Demand another vote before voting on any other bill!"

The subsidies, totaling about \$7 billion a year, help reduce deductibles and copayments for consumers with modest incomes.

The Obama administration used its rule-making authority to set direct payments to insurers to help offset these costs. Trump inherited the payment structure, but he also has the power to end them.

The payments are the subject of a lawsuit brought by House Republicans over whether the Affordable Care Act specifically included a congressional appropriation for the money, as required under the Constitution. Trump has only guaranteed the payments through July, which ends Monday.

Trump previously said the law that he and others call "Obamacare" would collapse immediately whenever those payments stop. He has indicated a desire to halt the subsidies but so far has allowed them to continue on a month-to-month basis.

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 - 23 "Ivanhoe" author
 - 26 Rarin' to go
 - 27 Vagrant
 - 30 Aesopian also-ran
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 - 36 Spread seeds
 - 37 Household member
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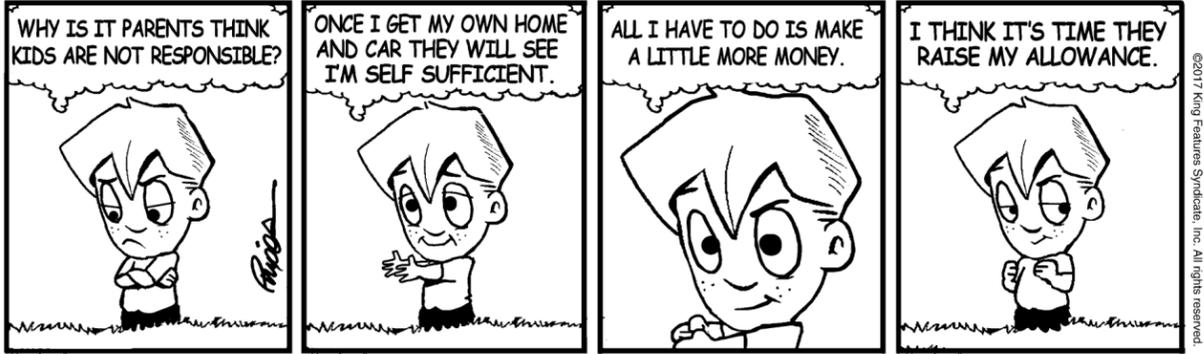
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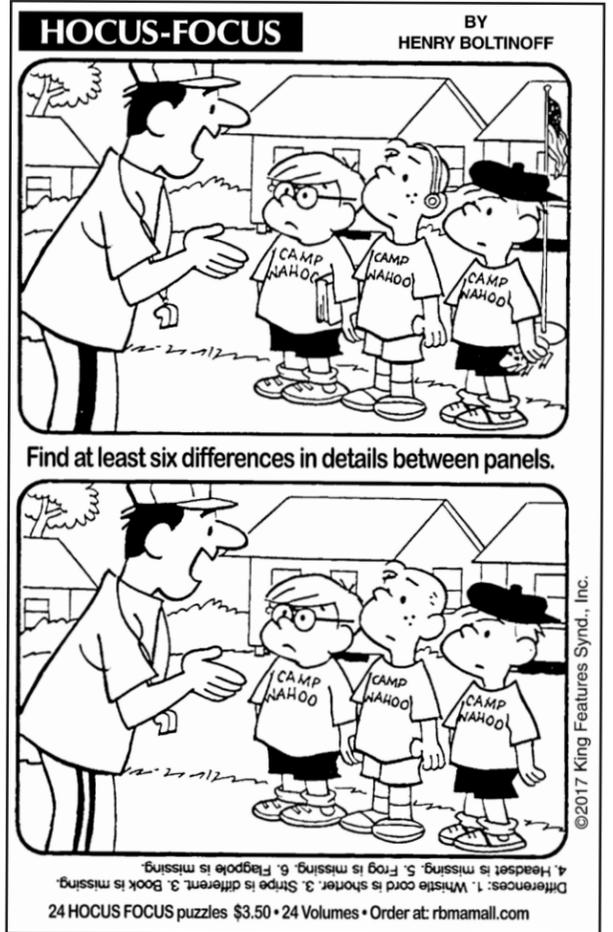
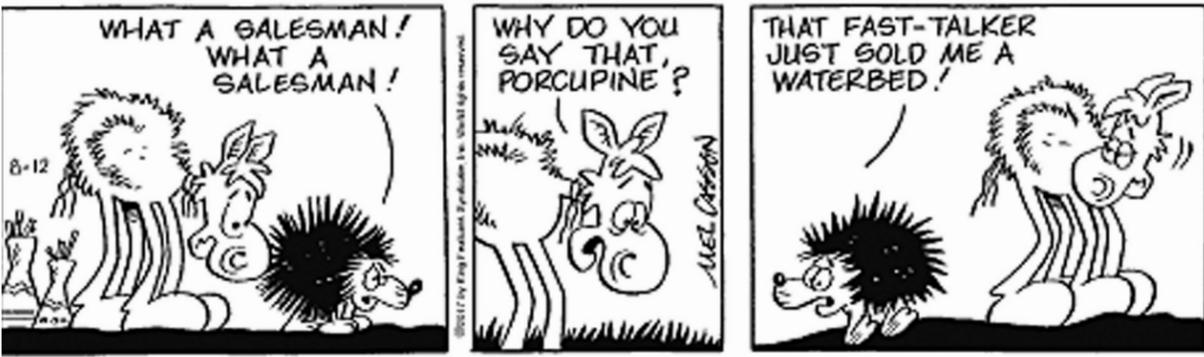
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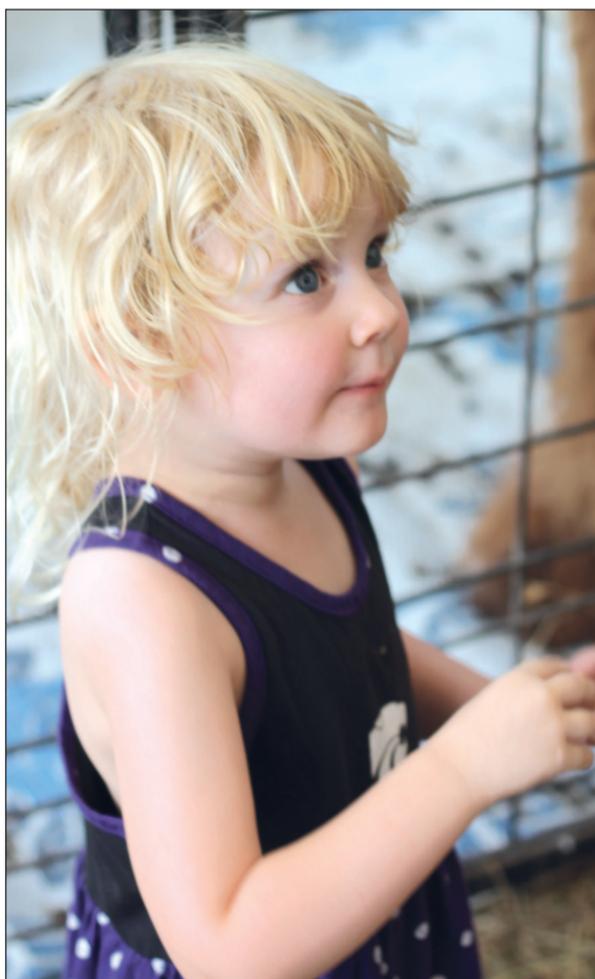
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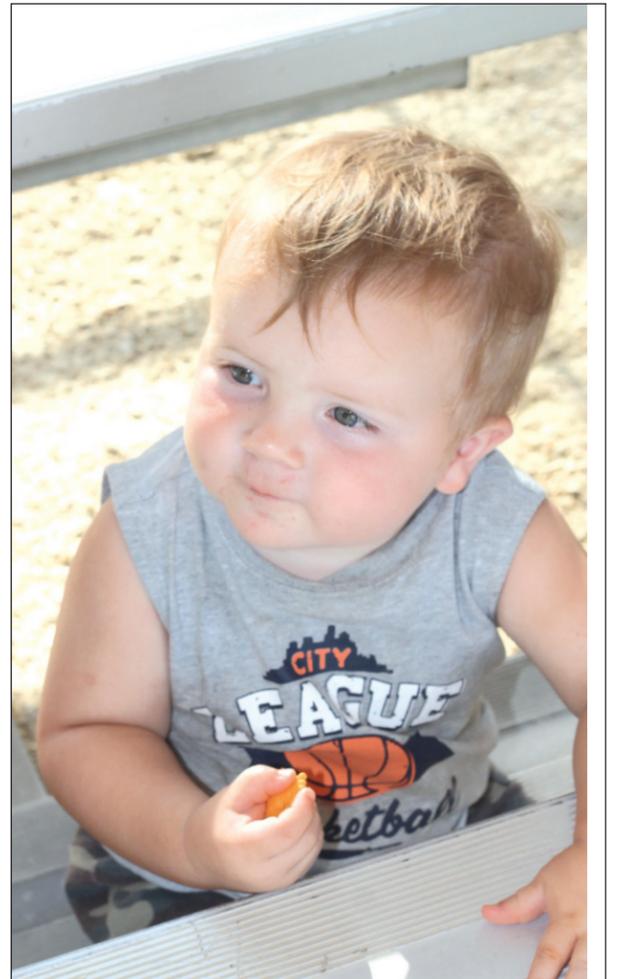
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