



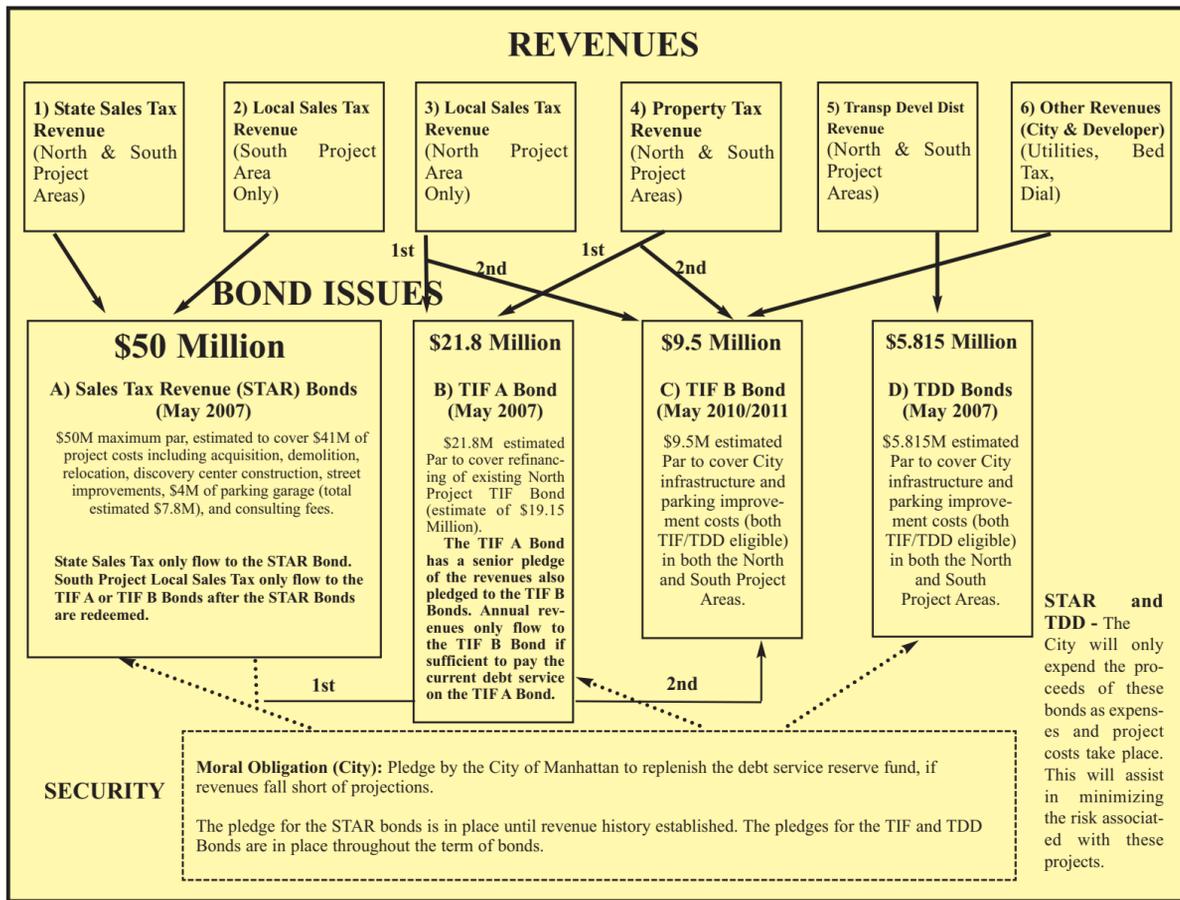
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Downtown Redevelopment Finance Plan: A Tangled Web



City Will Have A Moral Obligation To Pay Off Bonds

Editorial
By Jon A. Brake
Where is the outrage?
Where are the daily newspaper editorials?

Where are the radio call-in shows?
The City staff and the City Commission are about to put this City under a financial burden that could drive us into bankruptcy.

And no one will say anything. No one will stand up and say this is wrong. "Well, we know the city staff and the City Commission will do the right thing."

Oh... really.
In November 2005 the City signed a development agreement with Dial Realty that excluded the City of Manhattan from backing bonds for the Downtown Redevelopment Project.

The City had a financial plan that called for the construction of the project and then selling bonds. Buildings were going to be built, streets and sewers were going to be constructed and then bonds would be sold and repayment would start. After the project was completed.

A Financial Feasibility Study by Springsted Incorporated showed \$1 Million of Sales Tax and Property Tax being put in savings for 2007. Two million each for 2008 and 2009. A "Reserve" was being established before bonds were to be sold.

The total Financing Plan was one paragraph long. (See the Old Plan to the right)

Tuesday night the Manhattan City Commission passed a new plan that is three pages of debt for the City of Manhattan. The plan calls for public hearings on March 15th before they approve the complete plan.

Here are some of the things that the new plan calls for:

1. Bonds that were going to be sold in 2009 will now be sold in 2007.

2. Bonds that were to be sold without the full faith backing of the City of Manhattan would now state the city has a Moral Obligation.

The Old Plan

This is the COMPLETE finance plan approved by the City of Manhattan, Kansas on November 21, 2005 for the North Redevelopment of Downtown. It will be replaced with the plan on the left:

VI. Plan of Finance

The financing of Project Costs will occur in a two-step process. Initially in 2006, two temporary financings will occur. A temporary Bond Anticipation Bond will be issued by the City and purchased by the Developer to finance TIF-eligible costs. A temporary general obligation Note will be issued by the City to fund TDD-eligible expenditures. Once the North Project is moving toward or at completion based on market conditions then present in 2009, the City will issue definitive, long-term, special obligation TIF bonds, and it will issue definitive special obligation TDD bonds. All special obligation bonds are structured with estimated security components normally expected by the bond market, namely, coverage and debt service reserves. The City's general obligation Note will be structured such that the definitive financing can be in the form of a special obligation bond, if the City so decides at that time.

3. The City of Manhattan will now be required to repay any money taken for the "reserve funds".

And finally: The City of Manhattan will be making principal and interest payments before some buildings in both the North and South have been removed and made ready for construction.

As it stands now only one building has been completed and only one other business has signed a lease. The City could be making payments on \$87.11 million of debt and the area could still be a wasteland.

But don't take our word for it, here is the complete Plan of Finance as written by the city staff:

Plan of Finance

This Plan of Finance is preliminary based on the various project and financial factors known at this time. This Plan of Finance will become more final in the months ahead as additional information is provided, among other factors the completion of an independent market study of the project's public revenues.

As a reminder, in the 2006 Legislature, legislation was passed that has forced the City and Dial to move forward with the South End, and inevitably the North End, much faster than anticipated. Ideally the City would have allowed Dial to develop the North Project Area, generate the necessary histo-

ry of sales and property taxes needed to market a takeover bond for the North TIF, and a STAR Bond for the South Project. As a result of the legislation, the City and Dial are forced to consider a scenario where land acquisition on the South end must be complete by July 1, 2007. After July 1, 2007, no land in the State of Kansas may be purchased by any City through eminent domain for economic development purposes. This threat and use of eminent domain allowed the City in 1983 to move forward with the Manhattan Town Center project, and in 2006 with the North Project. Without the threat of eminent domain, one unwilling seller could bring a project to a stand still. Having said this, the City and Dial have begun a process to work with every property owner on the South End. Dial is actively negotiating contracts and working towards reaching deals with every property owner.

The Plan of Finance will center on the State's approval for the issuance of Sales Tax Revenue Bonds (STAR). The State's approval has limited the total principal amount of the STAR bonds to \$50M, and further limited expenditures from the STAR bonds to 46% of the Flint Hills Discovery Center and the South Development Entertainment Area total costs.

The projected sources and uses of funds involve the estimated types of financings described below. The City is not limited by the described financing methodologies. The City will ensure that each financing meets statutory requirements and follows the State approval described above.

A Sales Tax Revenue (STAR) Bond will be issued (estimated to occur on 4/1/2007) to provide \$41,000,000 of net proceeds to pay the above project costs. The projected security for these bonds includes an annual appropriation pledge of the City to replenish the debt service reserve fund, if drawn on.

A tax increment revenue bond (TIF A Bond) will be issued to refinance the existing North Project obligation at the same time. The projected issuance of this bond includes City annual appropriation support with revenues exceeding debt service 1.35 times. The current estimated financing will not fully refund the existing North Project bond. The City and/or the Developer will need to come up with approximately \$2M to retire the obligation in full. This will enable the pledge of South Project local sales tax revenue to be released, and be used as repayment for the STAR bond.

An additional TIF supported bond may be issued pledging revenues subordinate to the TIF A Bond described above (TIF B Bond). This bond will reimburse the City for TIF/TDD eligible public infrastructure and parking expenditures in both the North and South Project areas. The City plans to finance certain project costs upfront through their standard public infrastructure financing methods (which may include general obligation bonds). The reimbursement of any TIF eligible costs financed initially by the City is an eligible use of property and sales tax increment received throughout the term of the Downtown Redevelopment District.

Two additional bonds will be issued to pay for transportation related expenditures supported by the TDD sales tax. The transporta-

See Downtown page a2

Clinton To Give Landon Lecture

By: Cheryl May
KSU News Service

Former President Bill Clinton will give a Landon Lecture at Kansas State University. His lecture, the 148th in the prestigious series, will begin at 3:30 p.m. Friday, March 2, in Bramlage Coliseum.

"We are delighted to welcome President Clinton to K-State for a Landon Lecture," said K-State President Jon Wefald. "We greatly appreciate assistance from Gov. Kathleen Sebelius in encouraging President Clinton to accept our invitation."

Charles Reagan, chair of the Landon Lecture series, said, "With President Clinton coming to K-State to give a Landon Lecture, we have now welcomed all recent presidents to the Landon podium. Ronald Reagan spoke twice — first in 1967 when he was governor of California, and in 1982 when he was president. We then welcomed Richard Nixon in 1970, President Gerald Ford in 1978, George H.W. Bush in 1985 when he was vice president, President Jimmy Carter in 1991, and President George W. Bush in 2006. In all, six U.S. presidents and three foreign presidents have given Landon Lectures at K-State."

William Jefferson Clinton was the 42nd president of the United States. He served two terms as president, 1993-2001. He was elected Arkansas attorney general in 1976, and won the governorship in 1978. After losing a bid for a second term, he regained the office four years later, and served until he defeated incumbent George Bush and third party candidate Ross Perot in the 1992 presidential race. Following his two successful terms in office, President



Former President Bill Clinton

Clinton founded the William J. Clinton Foundation, which works to solve some of our most pressing problems, including childhood obesity in the United States, climate change, global poverty and HIV/AIDS around the world.

Admission is free, but a ticket will be required. Landon Lecture patrons will receive their tickets by mail. K-State students, faculty and staff members will have first opportunity to obtain tickets, as will military service members from Fort Riley. Student and faculty-staff tickets will be allocated to the Salina campus on a proportional basis. The remaining tickets will be available for the general public. The time and manner of ticket distribution will be released at a later date.

Reagan said the doors to Bramlage Coliseum will open at 2:30 p.m. and everyone must be seated by 3:15 p.m.

KSU Faculty Granted Sabbatical

Sabbatical leaves are being granted to 32 Kansas State University faculty members during the 2007-2008 school year.

The purpose and length of each leave varies, with some faculty members using the time for research projects in the United States or internationally, to teach at other institutions or for other academic pursuits.

Faculty members being granted sabbatical leave include:

Katsura Asano, associate professor of biology; Anindya Banerjee, associate professor of computing and information sciences; Jodi L. Besthorn, Sedgwick County Extension agent; Zenghu Chang, professor of physics; Anita Dille, associate professor of agronomy; Kurt Gartner, associate professor of music; Daniel Hunt, associate professor of art; Michele Janette, associate professor of English; Loretta C. Johnson, associate professor of biology; Matthew A. Knox, associate professor of architecture; Laurel Littrell, head of general information services, K-State Libraries; James L. Machor, professor of English; Charles W. Martin, associate professor of geography; Rebecca McFarland, Franklin County Extension

agent; Richard McFarland, assistant professor of marketing; Wayne Nafziger, university distinguished professor of economics; Philip Nel, associate professor of English; Bonnie Nelson, associate professor of English.

R. Charles Pearce, associate professor of journalism and mass communications; Harald E.L. Prins, university distinguished professor of anthropology; David Sachs, professor and head of the department of architecture; Robert K. Schaeffer, professor of sociology; Andrea L. Schmidt, Riley County Extension agent; James E. Sherow, associate professor of history; Susanne Siepl-Coates, professor of architecture; Phillip W. Stahlman, professor of agriculture at the Agricultural Research Center, Hays; David Steward, associate professor of civil engineering; Amir Tavakkol, associate professor of finance; Uwe Thumm, professor of physics; John Tomich, professor of biochemistry; Todd D. Whitney, River Valley Extension District agent; and Bob Wolf, associate professor of biological and agricultural engineering.

Icebreaker Of The Year

The Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge is just a few days off. Please join us as we kick off the 2007 Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics.

Manhattan's 2006 Polar Bear Plunge Fundraiser was a huge success and this year we have set our goal even higher!! The Polar Plunge is a fundraising effort of the Kansas Law Enforcement Torch Run benefiting Kansas Special Olympics. Riley County Police Department, Pottawatomie County Sheriff's Office, Kansas State Police Department and the Kansas Highway Patrol have joined together with several businesses and local citizens for one simple purpose. To raise funds to enhance Special Olympics' mission: To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with cognitive disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. On an annual basis, the LETR contributes thousands of dollars to sup-

port these programs and services, and Kansas is the only state that can proclaim: First to Carry the Torch and Still Lighting the Way!

The Polar Bear Plunge provides a unique opportunity for individuals, organizations and businesses to collect pledges in exchange for plunging into ICY WATERS. This year's plunge is February 10, 2007, at Tuttle Creek State Park. Registration begins at 11:00 am, with the plunge at 12:00 Noon, followed by a benefit lunch and auction at the American Legion, 114 McCall Rd. in Manhattan, Kansas. Several prizes will be awarded like Wimpest Plunger or Best Costume, and the best part is you never know who or what you might see!! Local area celebrities Russ Briggs, RCPD Director Mike Watson, Pottawatomie County Sheriff Greg Riat, Riley County Attorney Barry Wilkerson, and Pottawatomie County Attorney Sherri Schuck will be on hand to judge this event.

Please show your support of our local area athletes in living the Athlete Oath: "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt!"

ANNA B. PETTY

Anna B. Petty, age 86, of Manhattan, died Thursday, February 1, 2007, at the Mercy Regional



Health Center in Manhattan.

She was born on July 4, 1920, in Emden, Missouri, the daughter of William S. and Dixie L. (Smith) Hockaday. She had been a Manhattan resident since 1962, where she was a homemaker.

Mrs. Petty was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Manhattan. She especially enjoyed spending time with children and operated a childcare in her home for many years. She also enjoyed fishing, gardening, flowers and reading.

On June 29, 1957, in Shelbyville, Missouri, she was united in marriage to Samuel T. Petty. He survives of the home. Also surviving is one daughter: Sharon Jensen of Manhattan and five grandchildren: James Roger McKenzie, Lorie Ann Miller and her husband Douglas, Angela Perez and her husband John, Paula Davis and her husband Jeff and Mary Greco and her husband Angelo. Twelve great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild also survive.

Mrs. Petty was preceded in death by her parents, one son, James P. Wood, two brothers, Fred and Henry Hockaday and one sister, Evelyn Hockaday.

Funeral services will be held 2:00 p.m. Monday, February 5, 2007, at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen

Funeral Chapel with Reverend Jim Reed officiating. Interment will follow in the Sunrise Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m. Sunday evening at the funeral home.

On-line condolences may be left for the family through the funeral home website at www.ymlfuneralhome.com.

A memorial has been established for the Terry C. Johnson Center for Basic Cancer Research. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

Twyla E. Wagner

Twyla E. Wagner, 74, of Wamego, Kansas, died Sunday, February 4, 2007 at Stormont-Vail Health Center in Topeka. She was a long time member of the community.

Twyla was born September 21, 1932 in White City, Kansas, the daughter of Edward "Bud" and Gladys Traner Martin. She attended local schools and graduated from Alma High School in 1950.

Twyla was a Nurses Aid and worked in earlier years at the nursing home in Alma and Cotton Wood Falls. After moving to Wamego she worked as a home health care provider. She was a member of the Wamego United Methodist Church and a past member of The Order of Eastern Star. Twyla loved her family and was especially proud of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She married Bill Wagner on November 16, 1957 in Wamego, Kansas. They were later divorced.

Twyla is survived by a daughter, Cynthia Trezza and her husband, Vito, Topeka; two sons, Randall Wagner of Texas and Jack C. Wagner and his wife, Heather, Paxico; a sister, Patricia Meinhardt, Overland Park; a brother, Roland Martin, West Gardiner, Maine; five grandchildren, John, Sarah, Kent Makayla and Richard; and three great-grandchildren, Tyler, Kelsey and Charlie. She was preceded in death by two broth-

FRANCES P. PALENSKE

Wamego-Frances P. Palenske, 90, formerly a lifelong resident of Alma, died January 30, 2007 at Wamego City Hospital. She had been a resident at Gran Villas in Wamego since 2002.

Born on February 9, 1916, in Alma, she was the daughter of Oscar and Ida (Moege) Zeckser. She graduated from Alma high school in 1934 and later married Paul Palenske on February 10, 1936 in Topeka. She was a dedicated hardworking wife and mother. Frances worked at the Dwight-Alma Dairy for several years. Paul later preceded her in death in 1995.

She was a member of the Peace United Church of Christ in Alma as well as a past member of their Women's Guild. Frances was very sports minded and loved attending all of her sons' and grand-children's sporting events.

Frances is survived by: her son, Francis Palenske and wife Jean of Alma; her seven grandchildren; her eight great-grandchildren and five step-great-grandchildren; and her daughter in law Sylvia Palenske of Alma.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her son Marvin Palenske, a great granddaughter Chelsea Perez, and her two sisters Florence Henderson and Myrtle Butler.

Funeral Services for Frances will be Friday February 2, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. at Peace United Church of Christ in Alma. Burial will follow at Peace United Church Cemetery. She will be in state on Thursday from 1-6 p.m. at Stewart Funeral Home of Alma. A memorial has been established in Frances' name for McKnight Field c/o Alma Recreation Commission, Peace United Church of Christ, or to the donor's choice and may be left in care of Stewart Funeral Home, P.O. Box 48, Wamego, KS 66547. Online condolences may also be sent to www.stewartfuneralhomes.com.

Downtown from page one

tion related bonds will be issued in multiple series to correlate with the City approval process.

The revenue to service each of these bonds will be limited to the projected revenue streams and are projected to include a limited obligation of the City for repayment (Moral Obligation - a promise to replenish the debt service reserve fund if it has been accessed to pay debt service because revenues fell short).

The City will also have to consider a moral obligation or annual appropriation pledge on the STAR, TIF A and TDD bonds. The moral obligation or pledge is a security provided by the City in the event revenues don't meet projections. For example, if revenues fall short of the required principle and interest necessary on an annual basis, the City would have to budget for the following year to reimburse the debt service reserve fund. Keep in mind that this moral obligation is a security measure. Also realize the STAR bond moral obligation will go away with historical revenue (estimated at 3 to 5 years). The TIF and TDD bonds have been structured at a 135% and 125% coverage respectively. This means the bonds have been structured to provide more than adequate revenues to provide for the principle and interest payments necessary. It would require revenues to be less than 35% of what has been projected for the TIF bond, and less than 25% of what is projected for the TDD, before the City would have to reimburse the debt service reserve fund. Our financial advisors have provided us with an analysis that if revenues did come in at 40% less for the TIF, and 30% less for the TDD for 15 consecutive years, it would require the City to participate at approximately \$2,000,000 in total.

All special obligation bonds described in this document have been structured with estimated security components normally expected by the bond market, namely, coverage and debt service reserves, and are further based on the current interest rate environment and do not reflect a firm underwriting commitment. If the City finances certain public improvements that are eligible to be paid from tax increment financing with a City general obligation note, the City plans to structure the note so that the note can be refinanced with special obligation bonds.

The detailed Project Description, another component of the Redevelopment Plan, contains information about both the private and public improvements to be constructed on or near the site. The private development consists of a new hotel, restaurants, retail, theater, and residential uses. Dial plans to invest \$37 million in construction within the South Project Area. The City plans to construct 4th Street from Pierre to Fort Riley Boulevard, public streets into the Project area, the opening of 3rd Street at Pierre Street, a public park, a parking garage, and an underpass connection to the Depot. The Commission and public will review all of the private developments as part of the Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning process. Each of the public projects will also be considered by the Commission prior to construction.

As part of the TIF Law, the City is required to forward this Redevelopment Plan to the Planning Board for their consideration. The Planning Board is to review the Plan to make sure it is consistent with the City of Manhattan's Comprehensive Master Plan. The Redevelopment Plan also needs to be forwarded to the USD 383 Board of Education and Riley County Commission for their review. The USD 383 Board of Education and Riley County Commission are copied on this plan, but are limited to providing feed-

back to the City Commission but are not empowered to affect the outcome of the Redevelopment Plan through action of their respective governing bodies.

On February 5, 2007, the Planning Board will consider if the Redevelopment Plan is in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan. This evening the City Commission will consider a Resolution, setting a date for a Public Hearing on the Redevelopment Plan, and first reading of an ordinance. If a date is set, notices will go to every tenant and property owner within the proposed Project area within 10 days of the passage of the resolution. In this instance, it will be all the property owners and tenants within the south end of the redevelopment area (generally north and west of Fort Riley Boulevard, east of 4th Street, and south of Pierre Street). The Public Hearing must take place no less than 30 days, but no more than 70 days from the date the resolution calling for the public hearing is approved. It is proposed the Public Hearing will be scheduled on March 15, 2007. Since there is no protest period required on this item for the School or County, second reading of the item may take place on the same night.

- Redevelopment Timeline
- February 5, 2007 - Planning Board considers South Redevelopment Plan's conformance with Comprehensive Plan.
 - February 6, 2007 - City Commission sets date for Public Hearing to consider the Redevelopment Plan and considers 1st Reading of an Ordinance adopting the South Redevelopment Plan.
 - March 15, 2007 - City Commission holds Public Hearing and considers 2nd Reading of an Ordinance establishing the Redevelopment Plan

Lobbyists Again May Offer "Free Lunch"

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) - A small ethics reform intended to lessen opportunities for influence-peddling in the executive branch appears headed toward a quiet extinction, a decade after Gov. Bill Graves engineered its enactment.

His reform, a 1997 law, limited the ability of executive branch employees - including the governor - to accept free food, snacks and drinks from outsiders.

Now, legislators worry the law changed the Governmental Ethics Commission into the state's "food police," and the commission believes it is hard to enforce. Last week, the House passed unanimously and with almost no debate a bill eliminating most meaningful restrictions.

Perhaps the history of the food rules illustrates how ethics reforms can go awry, as some lawmakers contend. Or perhaps legislators, operating under their own rules, are receptive to changes because they're awash in lobbyist-provided hospitality each session.

"Things have to be sensible," said Senate Elections and Local Government Committee Chairman Tim Huelskamp, R-Fowler. "The whole idea is to make sure there's no undue influence, and this is probably a case where there isn't."

Graves, governor in 1995-2003, saw restrictions on executive branch officials' ability to accept free meals as a commonsense change that would make Kansans more confident that their government was operating on the up-and-up. He first imposed his rules as an executive order, then

sought a law.

The resulting law said executive branch employees - even the governor and the governor's spouse - couldn't solicit or accept anything of value in their official positions.

But it also contained a number of exemptions that make enforcing it more difficult. For example, an official can accept gifts, other than meals, worth less than \$40, if they were accepted during an official function, or if they were given by relatives or friends. Meals were acceptable during official business or "widely attended" events.

While legislators are limited in the gifts they can accept, the food, snacks and drinks provided by lobbyists don't fall under those restrictions, meaning lawmakers swallow as much as their stomachs can handle.

Lobbyists do have to report individual meals with legislators, and the ethics commission compiles detailed reports six times a year. It appears to be not much a disincentive for hooking up with a corporation or interest group's representative, given how often it happens.

There's even longtime legislative slang - "pigeon" - for a lobbyist who's been roped into buying.

Legislators have been finding flocks of pigeons for years, though the value of their largess varies. In 2004, lobbyists reported spending less than \$329,000 on food, snacks and drinks; in 1999, the total was nearly \$498,000.

For the first four months of 2006 - the bulk of the legislative session - lobbyists provided about \$350,000 in

yummies. To put that in perspective, it was enough to provide every legislator with six cheeseburger Happy Meals each of the 93 days they were in session last year, with money left over for a few hot apple pies.

And such a comparison is actually a good way to think of the scale of the influence - small perks that don't appear to amount to much individually but which in total add up to a tidal wave of freebies.

Some of it is dispensed one-on-one, some of it in receptions and dinners. There are enough of the latter for legislators that their staffs - at taxpayer expense - keep an official social calendar.

Letter to the editor?

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freepress@kansas.net

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Super Bowl Party Iraq Style

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — U.S. troops in Iraq tuned out of the war and tuned in to the Super Bowl — staying up late to watch the Indianapolis Colts beat the Chicago Bears and for just a few moments remind themselves of home.

Football fans of all ranks said they didn't mind staying up all night to watch the game as it was broadcast live — at 2:30 a.m. Monday in Iraq.

"It reminds me of all the people back home who are watching it," said 1st Lt. Lea Ann Fracasso, 26, of Cincinnati. "Even though they're not here, it's like we're watching it together."

Fracasso, who is with Task Force 134 and was rooting for Chicago, joined about 80 other troops for a Super Bowl party in a mess hall at Camp Victory, complete with chicken wings and hot dogs and a large cake covered with white icing and decorated with a football field and helmets for both sides.

She also said she knew the game would dominate her next telephone conversation with her husband, who is in Chicago.

It was not likely to be a happy conversation as the Colts defeated the Bears 29-17 during a rain-

soaked game in Miami.

The U.S. military went all out to make sure the troops could watch the game in style, putting up a big screen surrounded by three smaller TVs while paper footballs and cheerleaders hung from the ceiling and the walls.

Army Pfc. Scelester Purvis, 19, of Virginia Beach, Va., with the 16th military police brigade, said he expected nothing less.

"The Super Bowl is an unofficial holiday," said Purvis, who has been in Iraq since Sept. 1 and was already counting the days until he can go home. "We're putting our lives on the line. It's the least they can do."

Others said the 3 1/2-hour game offered a welcome respite from the monotony of life on the sprawling U.S. base on the edge of Baghdad.

"They know that everybody's a sports fan. It helps boost the morale," said Air Force technical Sgt. John Garcia, a 33-year-old from Miami who is with the 260th MI Battalion.

Garcia, who had just flown in from Tikrit, former leader Saddam Hussein's hometown north of Baghdad, was four months into his first tour in Iraq.

"It just brings people out," he

said. One thing was missing — some of the commercials.

Instead of promos for Doritos and Coca-Cola, the troops watched ads produced by the U.S. Air Force Network promoting the military and discouraging smoking, along with previews for American TV shows such as "Ugly Betty" and "24." Several players also made special taped appearances to thank the troops.

Many of the troops were wearing civilian clothing, some in shorts, while others were in uniform, donning fluorescent yellow night strips. Half the room emptied out at halftime as troops had to start their shifts, but they were quickly replaced.

Col. Kent Abernathy, chief of staff for the Iraqi Assistance Group that oversees transition teams preparing Iraqi forces to take over their own security, cheered the Colts' victory, calling each of his three sons after the game to celebrate.

"They got it done and they did it with class," he said, wearing a blue Colts cap and T-shirt over camouflage pants while watching the post-game show in a conference room decorated with strategic maps at the IAG headquarters.

KSU KU Deans Collaborate For Exhibit

The Kansas State University College of Architecture, Planning and Design is offering the exhibit "Places," featuring the work of Dennis Law, dean of the college, and John Gaunt, dean of the School of Architecture and Urban Design at the University of Kansas.

"Places" will be shown from Monday, Feb. 5, through Friday, Feb. 16, in the Chang Gallery at K-State's Seaton Hall. The gallery is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Law has served as dean of K-State's College of Architecture, Planning and Design since 1995. Prior to becoming dean, he was a professor and head of K-State's department of landscape architecture. He also has been a visiting professor in the department of architecture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He earned a bachelor of science in park administration from Texas Tech University and a master of landscape architecture from K-State.

Law's professional experience is varied. He has served as the principal and partner of The Land Design Collaborative, where his commissions included subdivision design, parks and recreation facilities and disturbed land reclamation. He also worked at the Bureau of Land Management as staff landscape

architect and as a reclamation specialist in Wyoming. Some of his most creative work as a practicing landscape architect was as director of landscape architecture for a Six Flags' facility, AstroWorld USA, in Houston.

An expert on global environmental issues, Law has presented more than 75 lectures and papers, many at national and international forums. He has been an invited speaker in Central America, Southeast Asia, China and Europe, where he presented a speech to the Hungarian Parliament's Committee on the Environment in Budapest.

Law teaches design graphics and visual thinking to K-State landscape architecture students. He has taken up watercolor as his primary medium but also has completed many pen-and-ink drawings. He has studied watercolor under Christopher Schink, Richard Forsyth and Martha Mans.

A member of the Columbian Artists, Law has exhibited in galleries in Wamego, the WSKF Architects Gallery in North Kansas City, Mo., and the Strecker-Nelson, Commerce Bank and Espresso Royale Cafe galleries, all in Manhattan. Law was an invited featured artist at the famed annual Guthrie Art Walk in Oklahoma in

2000.

Gaunt has been a practicing architect for more than 35 years and has served as dean of the School of Architecture and Urban Design at KU for the last 12 years. His responsibilities include the strategic direction and management of the school. As an administrator and a teacher, he is centered on supporting and enriching the school's long tradition of excellence in architectural education. Gaunt has bachelor of arts and bachelor of architecture degrees from the University of Minnesota, and a master of architecture degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He also has taught design and drawing at Columbia University and at Barnard College in New York City.

His professional experience includes serving with Ellerbe Becket, based in Minneapolis, for 18 years. During his last six years with the firm, he served as its president and chief executive officer.

Gaunt's interest in freehand drawing for architectural students converges with his personal interest in recording experience through drawing. His work in the K-State "Places" exhibit includes his observations from his visit to Cuba in January 2006 with historic preservation students and faculty from the University of Kentucky.

Group Says Qualified Participants Denied

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — The number of people enrolling in Medicaid has dropped in several states over new ID and citizenship requirements intended to keep illegal immigrants out of the program, a national group said Friday.

However, the drop is coming mostly among U.S. citizens who cannot provide the requisite identity documents, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, which looked at programs in Wisconsin, Virginia, Kansas, Iowa, Louisiana and New Hampshire.

"This new law has reversed the course that states have been pursuing quite successfully for the past 10 years ... of making medicaid enrollment simpler and more streamlined," said Donna Cohen Ross, the study's author. "The people bearing the brunt are U.S. citizens who are otherwise eligible for the program."

The group released some of the same data last month; Friday's report contained more detailed information.

The law, which took effect last July, requires Medicaid applicants to produce both proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, and an identity document. Previously, citizens could sign a form declaring their citizenship, under penalty of perjury.

Immigrants granted asylum and legal residents who have been in the country at least five years also are eligible.

Tricia Brooks, president and chief executive of New Hampshire Healthy Kids, a nonprofit that helps enroll children in Medicaid, said for

the first time in the program's history, enrollment has dropped for several months in a row.

The number of applications that arrive with complete documentation has fallen by half and it is taking longer for families to come up with missing documents, she said. As a result, more applications are expiring — for example, pay stubs go out of date before they are complete.

"I don't think there's really any evidence that Healthy Kids Gold has been abused by immigrants whose children are not eligible," she said.

Young children are most affected because birth certificates are accepted only as proof of citizenship. Under the new rules, families must provide a separate identity document, such as a school or day care record, she said.

"For families who have young children who are 2, 3 or 4 years old and not in child care, there isn't anything they can provide," she said.

The new rules allow such families to sign a sworn identity statement with two witnesses, but states have been told they must accept those only in rare cases. The forms only became available a few weeks ago, she said.

Also, the full effect of the news rules is not evident yet because families must renew their eligibility every year. Come July 1, those who were already enrolled when the new rules took effect will have to provide more documents, she said.

"It's going to take us a couple of years to cycle through this before we see the full impact on families,

unless something's done," she said.

In a telephone conference call Friday, Ross outlined similar problems in the other states. She said difficulty in obtaining the needed documents is leading to delays in enrolling people, increasing administrative costs for state Medicaid programs.

The new rules also mean more families must apply in person, instead of online or by mail. That's a hardship for those who cannot take time away from low-income jobs or who live in rural areas and have to travel to an office, she said.

Dr. Pam Shaw, a pediatrician at University of Kansas Medical Center, cited a toddler she treated who was being cared for by her grandmother. The mother can't be located, so the grandmother could not obtain a birth certificate and enroll her in Medicaid.

The girl needed vaccines, a nebulizer and special medication for a chronic lung disease. The hospital absorbed the cost of those treatments, but could not get her the physical therapy and other help she needs for serious developmental delays, Shaw said.

"For children, especially those with special needs, the sooner you provide services for them, the more likely they are to become better citizens of our country," Shaw said.

Since the new rules were passed, the hospital has hired a lawyer to help families who are having difficulty getting Medicaid coverage for their children, she said.

Barclay College To Offer Free Tuition To Full Time Students

HAVILAND, Kan. (AP) — Administrators at a small college that offers training for the ministry wants to give its students less to worry about.

Starting with this year's fall semester, Barclay College will offer full-tuition scholarships to students who enroll full time and pay to live in the school's resident halls.

The \$10,000 scholarship means students pay a maximum of \$8,300 a year for their room, board and other fees, said Justin Kendall, admissions counselor for the school.

On its Web site, Barclay notes that because it is a nationally accredited four-year school, students are eligible for federal financial aid and other outside scholarships that can be applied to the cost of room and board. Barclay, which was founded by the Religious Society of Friends, is accredited by the federally recognized Association for Biblical Higher Education.

Ninety percent of Barclay's students end up in full-time ministry positions — careers not known for especially high pay, Barclay President Herb Frazier said.

"Our board of trustees felt that if we could do this and provide more students this opportunity, we'd save them from having a large amount of indebtedness when they graduate from here," Frazier said. "I think this had added some excitement to our students."

Junior Kate Willems, one of the 75 students attending Barclay this year, is paying her way out-of-pocket plus student loans and scholarships. The

tuition program is a relief, she said.

"It's a solid deal," said Willems, a Hutchinson native who's studying youth ministry and missions. "I won't have to pay anything on top of the loans I'm taking out."

Established in 1917, Barclay draws about half its students from Kansas. Most of the rest are affiliated with Quaker churches in Idaho and Southern California, Kendall said.

Frazier said the college would fund scholarships through private donations. Donations primarily come from area businesses and churches, as well as individuals.

"A lot of people are willing to donate money to help these students," Frazier said. "They're not all necessarily alumni, but people who

never went here and see the value of this college."

If students receiving the scholarship do not complete at least 60 percent of each semester, they will be billed for tuition, Frazier said.

Kendall said he hopes the scholarship offer will spark interest and allow students who couldn't afford it in the past to reconsider their options.

So far, 31 new students have filed for scholarship applications since board members approved it in December. Kendall said the campus could accommodate up to 134 students.

KSU To Hold Business And Hospitality Fair

From casinos and hotels to airplane manufacturers and department stores, representatives from more than 55 employers will be coming to Kansas State University to visit with students in business and hospitality majors.

The Business and Hospitality Career Fair will be 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, in the K-State Student Union Ballroom. Representatives from a variety of businesses will be on hand to speak with students about career and internship opportunities.

Participating employers include

Houlihan's Restaurant, Boeing, Harrah's Entertainment, Hyatt Hotels and Resorts, Koch Industries, Security Benefit, RubinBrown LLP, Tan-Tar-A Golf Club, Marina & Indoor Water Park, Farmers Insurance Group and Longhorn Steakhouse-Rare Hospitality. More information, including a complete list of employer participants, is online at <http://www.k-state.edu/ces/>

Students are asked to wear business casual attire and to bring along plenty of copies of their resumes.

The fair was organized by representatives of K-State's career and

employment services, department of management in the College of Business Administration and the hotel and restaurant management program, an offering of the department of hotel, restaurant, institution management and dietetics in the College of Human Ecology. Also on the committee was Jessica Golden, senior in hotel restaurant management, Manhattan.

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Over Easy

By Robert Strawn
Contributing Writer

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius last week proposed raising tolls on the Kansas Turnpike to pay for \$600 million in deferred maintenance at K-State and other Kansas Board of Regents schools.

Speaker of the Kansas House Melvin Neufeld countered by suggesting perhaps property taxes should be raised in the university towns to cover those costs. When I read Speaker Neufeld's retort to the governor, I laughed out loud.

Last summer the speaker and many other Republican leaders spent



Bob Strawn
bob.strawn@gat.com

an inordinate amount of time here in Manhattan supporting Republican candidates for the Kansas House. I happened to be one of those seeking office along with Mr. Dick Miller.

During one of his many visits, the Speaker called and asked me to attend a joint House/Senate committee meeting dealing with the maintenance issue. The two of us had breakfast at Early Edition and talked about ways to tackle the problem from bonded debt to new revenue

generation. Afterwards, we joined the committee of ten or so legislators at the Grain Science complex for a presentation by university officials regarding almost \$250 million in deferred maintenance at K-State alone.

So why did I chuckle at the Speaker's property tax proposal?

Well, you have to know my friend Melvin. He's one of those rock-solid west Kansas farm boys with an engaging smile, quick wit, competitive spirit and sense for the moment. You'd love him as an uncle - someone to confide in.

Here's what I think he was saying, "Hey, Manhattan, Lawrence and Wichita, if you want to constantly send Democrats to the Legislature don't look for Republicans to solve your problems." Serious or not, this was his first opportunity to return the favor.

In my view neither idea is very good. Kansas could, however, turn I-70 from Topeka to Colorado into a toll road, like the rest of the state. Put the tax dollars saved there into the university system and perhaps even cut property taxes. The result would be superb roads and well-maintained university buildings. We talked about that option too.



Wisdom...From Ronald Reagan

"Here's my strategy on the Cold War: We win, they lose."
- Ronald Reagan

"The most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help."
- Ronald Reagan

"The trouble with our liberal friends is not that they're ignorant: It's just that they know so much that isn't so."
- Ronald Reagan

"Of the four wars in my lifetime none came about because the U.S. was too strong."
- Ronald Reagan

"I have wondered at times about what the Ten Commandment's would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress."
- Ronald Reagan

"The taxpayer: That's someone who works for the federal government but doesn't have to take the civil service examination."
- Ronald Reagan

"Government is like a baby: An alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other."
- Ronald Reagan

"The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program"
- Ronald Reagan

"I've laid down the law, though, to everyone from now on about anything that happens: no matter what time it is, wake me, even if it's in the middle of a Cabinet meeting."
- Ronald Reagan

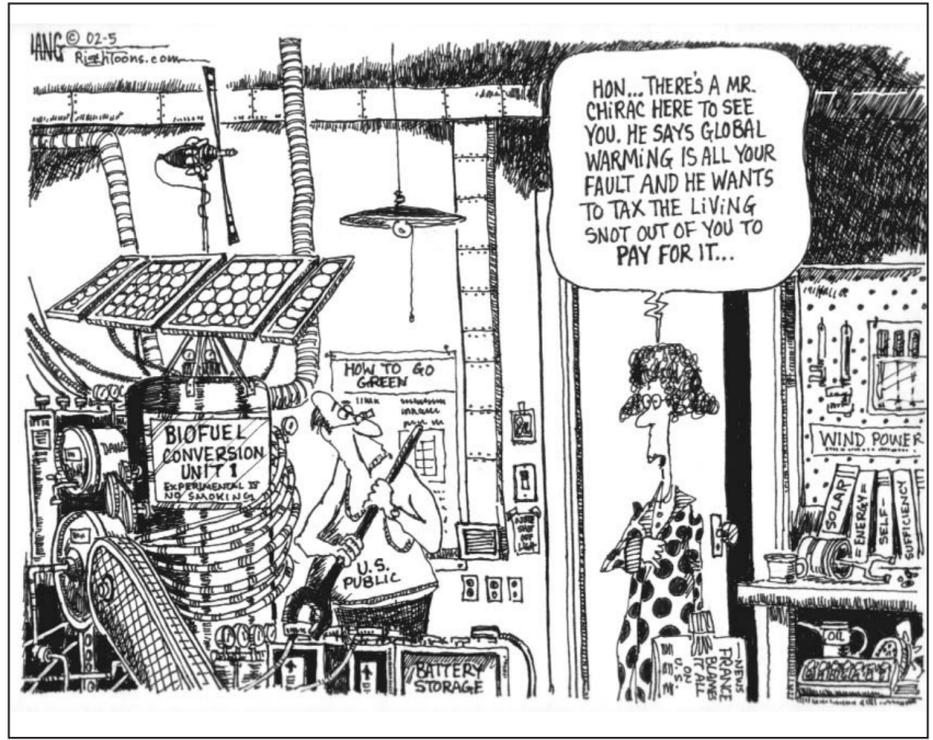
"It has been said that politics is the second oldest profession. I have learned that it bears a striking resemblance to the first."
- Ronald Reagan

"Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."
- Ronald Reagan

"Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed there are many rewards, if you disgrace yourself you can always write a book."
- Ronald Reagan

"No arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women."
- Ronald Reagan

"If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."
- Ronald Reagan



Roberts Lobbies Legislature

By JOHN MILBURN
Associated Press Writer
TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) - With the site for a proposed \$451 million National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility up for grabs, Sen. Pat Roberts returned home Monday to coach fellow Kansans on showing the right attitude for landing the jobs-generating project.

Speaking to a joint session of the Legislature, Roberts encouraged more state support to attract the project to either the Leavenworth or Manhattan areas, although he emphasized that he was not asking legislators to appropriate money. Roberts said state and local officials must be willing to help the federal government acquire land and extend utility services to the new lab, which would replace an existing Plum Island, N.Y., facility.

"The key point is that the Department of Homeland Security needs to know Kansas is serious about its commitment to the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility and has a plan to get the job done," Roberts said.

Eighteen sites in 12 states are competing for the new lab. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has said land acquisition, research capabilities, work force and community support are key criteria for site selection.

"We have to put a proposal and the incentives on the table that proves Kansas will support this effort," said Roberts, who has served 26 years in Congress, the last 10 in the Senate, and is seeking re-election next year. "That means financial incentives - in the form of local cost share proposals by Leavenworth and Manhattan."

Kansas officials believe the large number of agriculture research and development entities already along the Interstate 70 corridor make the state well-suited for the facility.

"It has been made clear to me by Homeland Security officials that one of the biggest factors in locating this new facility will be community, state and local support," Roberts said.

He added: "Given that there is strong competition from other locations, the current advantage and sup-

port we enjoy on this front is one we must maintain. To do so will take a coordinated effort on a daily basis."

Other states being considered include Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, California, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina and Wisconsin. The field is expected to be narrowed after the next round of applications are due Feb. 16.

Kansas already has pooled its efforts in the Bioscience Authority, created in 2004 to attract and develop agriculture and biological research and industries to the state. Roberts said that is the kind of support needed to land the project.

There are three bills in the House related to the federal project, including one to transfer land at Kansas State University to the federal government for construction.

The new lab would bring about 1,000 construction jobs, 250 science-based jobs and \$3.5 billion to the economy over 20 years. The project would be completed by 2015.

"Rarely do we have the opportunity to work together on a project so large that we can honestly say it has the potential to impact the lives of all Kansans, our children and grandchildren, and the economy of the state for years to come," Roberts said.

He noted that the region is already home to more than 100 animal health

companies, including 37 in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Those firms account for \$1.37 billion in animal health sales and \$4.3 billion in global sales.

Manhattan is home to Kansas State, which is known for its veterinary school and extensive agriculture research, including a new center constructed through the Bioscience Authority.

Leavenworth County is home to the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks and the Army's Fort Leavenworth.

Ron Trewyn, vice provost at Kansas State, said the Biosecurity Research Institute on campus could handle much of the research currently done at Plum Island and would be able to help the transition.

Bioscience Authority President Tom Thornton said \$250,000 has been set aside to assist Leavenworth and Manhattan with their bids and could be used to hire a lobbyist in Washington.

Roberts, the former chairman of the Senate's Intelligence Committee, lobbied Defense Department officials on the state's behalf in the last round of military base closings in 2005.

The state also hired a lobbyist during the latest round of base closures. Kansas fared well, gaining thousands of soldiers and the return of the Army's 1st Infantry Division to Fort Riley.



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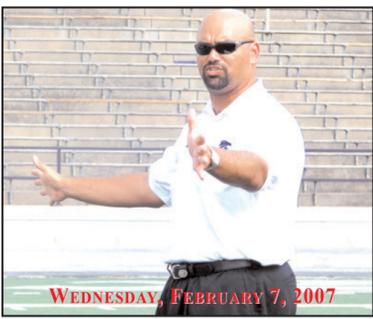
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"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."
- Thomas Jefferson, 1787



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Cats Defeat The #22 Ranked Longhorns

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Cartier Martin scored 20 of his 27 points in the second half, including Kansas State's last five points, to lead the Wildcats past No. 22 Texas, 73-72, Saturday afternoon before a sold-out crowd at the Erwin Special Events Center.

Lance Harris added 19 points and David Hoskins netted nine of his 13 after the break to go along with a game-high nine rebounds for Kansas State (17-6, 6-2 Big 12), which pulled off its first win over a ranked opponent on the road since 1996 and won at Texas for the first time since 1983.

The victory, which moved K-State into second place in the Big 12 standings, extended the Wildcats' winning streak to seven games. It also marked the first time K-State has won six in a row in conference play since 1987-88 and was the program's third straight league road win, a feat not accomplished since the 1987-88 campaign.

A 3-pointer by Martin with 41 seconds left, one of his career-high

seven on the day, gave the Wildcats a 71-68 lead. His two free throws with 13 seconds left made it 73-70.

Texas tried to set up for a 3-pointer to tie but Justin Mason's shot was way off the mark and the putback by Damian James at the horn left the Longhorns one point short.

Kevin Durant had 32 points and nine rebounds for Texas (16-6, 6-2), but didn't touch the ball on the final possession as the Longhorns' 22-game home court winning streak ended.

Mason added 12 points and was the only other Longhorn to finish in double figures as K-State clamped down on the rest of the team, including guard A.J. Abrams, one of the league's best 3-point shooters, who was just 2-of-16 from the field.

The Wildcats, meanwhile, were burning things up from beyond the arc. In addition to Martin's 7-for-11 effort from 3-point range, Harris knocked down five triples and Stewart drilled a pair as K-State shot a blistering 52 percent from long range and connected its most 3-

pointers (14) since canning 15 vs. Nebraska in 2000.

Durant's layup with 27 seconds left pulled Texas within one. But the Longhorns had been whistled for just four fouls to that point and had to watch valuable seconds tick off trying to get the Wildcats to the free throw line.

When they finally did, Martin calmly sunk both of his shots.

Durant had 11 points and only one rebound in the first half. He looked passive early as the Wildcats did a good job denying his teammates chances to pass him the ball. Akeem Wright, the Wildcats' best defender, dogged Durant when he got it, giving him little room to take passes or move when he had the ball.

Kansas State and Texas ran neck-a-neck through the first eight minutes of the game before Durant reeled off seven points during an 11-2 run and the Longhorns had a 25-16 edge with just over six minutes remaining in the half.

But Martin and Harris helped the Cats claw their way back into the

game. Martin hit a pair of jumpers, including a 3-pointer, and Harris, who had 16 first-half points, ripped four straight treys, the last coming with 48 seconds remaining to cut it to 35-33.

A 3-pointer by Mason beat the halftime buzzer and Texas took a 38-33 lead into the break.

The Wildcats trailed by as many as eight early in the second half when Martin hit three straight 3-pointers to put K-State up 49-48 with 12 minutes to go.

Five ties and three lead changes followed until Martin's triple with 41 seconds to go put the Wildcats on top for good.

Kansas State, which is off to its best start through 23 games since also starting 17-6 in 1981-82, returns to action on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at Kansas. The game is set for an 8 p.m. tip and will be televised throughout the Big 12 region on ESPN+Plus.

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Wildcat Women Drop Third Straight Game

Kansas State scored a season-low 34 points and dropped its third consecutive game in a 61-34 loss to Texas at Bramlage Coliseum on Saturday.

The Wildcats were held to their

lowest shooting percentage of the year as the Longhorns' stingy defense limited Kansas State to 14 of 55 (25.5 percent) for the game.

Kansas State scored the first basket of Saturday's game but missed its

next nine attempts as the Longhorns jumped out to a 9-2 lead. The Wildcats fanned on all eight three point attempts in the first half and trailed Texas 27-14 at the break.

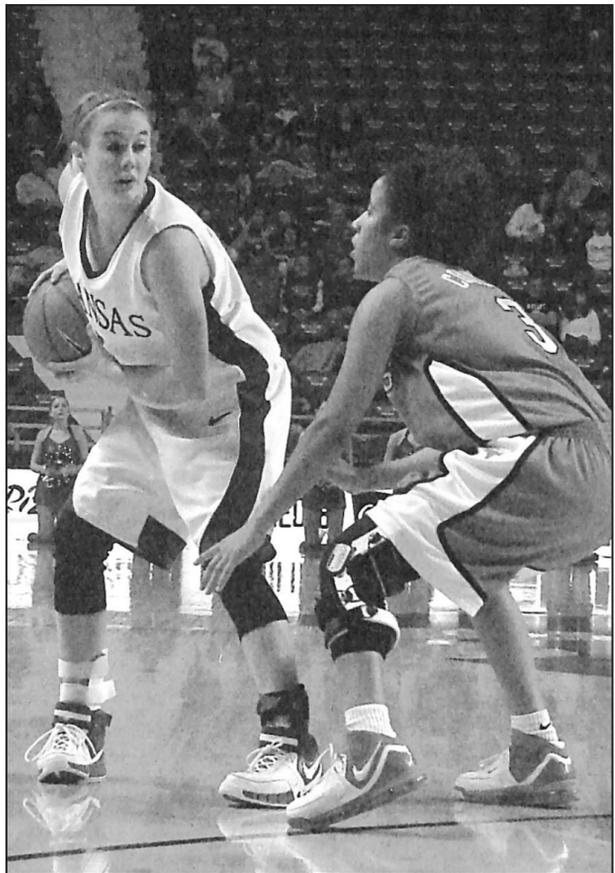
K-State got within 11 points after a basket by Ashley Sweat at the 14:28 mark in the second half but continued shooting woes kept the Wildcats behind by double digits throughout the rest of the game.

The Wildcats failed to connect from behind the three-point arc for the first time since Dec. 30, 2003 against Southeast Missouri State.

Sweat and Claire Coggins led the Wildcats with eight points each and Kansas State lost for the fifth time in the last six games without Marlies Gipson.

Tiffany Jackson and Erneisha Bailey paced the Longhorns with 12 points as Texas took its fourth win in the last five meetings between the teams.

The Wildcats continue their trek through Big 12 Conference competition and play host to Nebraska next Wednesday at 7 p.m.



Shalee Lehning calculates a pass

Photos By
 Shari Brown

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By Mac Stevenson

Basketball season moves ahead so quickly that vital victories are often quickly forgotten. Kansas State's win on the road against Texas last Saturday has long-term implications; foremost, it all but assures the Wildcats of an NCAA Tournament bid.

K-State's suddenly potent team should win their next three games (Colorado-Feb. 10, at Nebraska-Feb. 13, and Iowa State-Feb. 17) and reach the 20-win plateau.

When he came to K-State, Coach Bob Huggins did more for his future legacy than he would have had he stayed at Cincinnati; the turnaround by the Wildcats has been amazing indeed.

K-State's win over Texas—seen by over half of the nation on ABC—will do wonders for already impressive recruiting efforts.

Kansas State had just six turnovers in the hard-fought game with Texas; in today's college basketball, that's an impressive statistic. With their tenacious defense and ability to take care of the ball on offense, K-State will be a tough out for anyone in the Big Dance.

Slowly but surely, K-State's freshman center Jason Bennett (7-3, 260) is getting better. Bennett's conditioning has improved and he's showing more confidence on offense and defense. If his progress continues, Bennett will be a defensive presence that poses big problems for opposing offenses.

Kansas basketball coach Bill Self no longer has to worry about the Jayhawks peaking too early. KU has been a mystery team so far.

Kansas received great publicity from ESPN's game day last Saturday and then fell flat on their faces during the last six minutes in the loss to Texas A&M.

The offensive pivot play by Sasha Kaun and Darrell Arthur has been holding KU back. Kaun showed signs of being an offensive threat, but has regressed to the point where

Coach Patterson Talks About Texas

Kansas State Head Coach Deb Patterson

Opening statement...
"From the Kansas State point of view, this is a game that we really struggled offensively tonight. We didn't have that snap-crackle-pop that you need to have offensively. We just never established a comfort level on the offensive end. Now, for three different halves it has kind of eluded us. It is something that we need to bring attention to and work through."

"Defensively, I thought we brought a good game to the floor. Probably, in the last 10 minutes of the game, when your offense is not scoring, your defense loosens up a little bit. It's really difficult when you are not making any baskets to defend with that same level of intensity. I credit our players hard for working to compete hard. I don't feel like anybody gave in or gave up. I just felt like we collectively struggled with our aggressiveness and knowing what we needed every possession. That is just something that I have to take responsibility for making my team better at. We are going to lineup against a team that has played as well in our league as anybody. So we have to come to come back strong and hopefully our team

will find a way to kick it back into gear."

On the health of some of the players...
"Danielle Zanotti has been sick since the Colorado game, (Shalee) Lehning is coming off the flu, so there is some adversity that everyone is fighting through. The nature of the game was that Texas was the better basketball team. We are short on numbers and that has not been a mystery since the beginning of the season. We have a whole lot of basketball left to play and we just need to work on getting better."
On what the team needs to improve on...
"I have got to put our players in a position to get to the rim. I don't think I did that enough for our basketball team tonight. We have great penetration players, (Kimberly) Dietz, Lehning and (Claire) Coggins and it is something that I have to bring attention to. The last game we shot 35 three-point shots and tonight we did not hit any and we have to have an answer for that. Texas is a great basketball team, they rely on playing great defense and they certainly did tonight. Give all the credit to Texas."

Texas Coach Jody Conradt Shares

Overall thoughts of the game...
"This certainly wasn't our typical match-up with K-State. We've had some of the most competitive, tightest games that I can remember with anybody in the Big 12. I understand how it is when you're injured. We've been there, done that and I know they were missing a key piece. Aside from that, I was really happy with our team in the terms of how we executed defensively and the patience that we showed on the offensive end. This team is growing up. This team is developing good chemistry and I think they are embracing their personality, which is to really D people

he's a liability. And Arthur hasn't been any better.

The missed practice time caused by a knee injury is coming back to haunt KU's junior center. Kaun's defense has been effective, but his offense has been nonexistent.

KU's team defense was stellar against Texas A&M; their offense led to the defeat.

Ironically, KU rebounded the ball better than they have for some time against A&M, but the Jayhawks got no offense from their centers.

Brandon Rush adds to the mystery. He'll play a great game and then can't get untracked in the next one. Rush is close, but he's been inconsistent.

Mario Chalmers isn't playing as well as he did at the end of his freshman season. Despite their substandard play against the Aggies, it's too early to give up on either Chalmers or Rush; they could still come on strong and have great seasons.

The exceptional play of freshman point guard Sherron Collins is all that has kept KU from struggling even more on offense.

Kansas lost more than a basketball game last Saturday; the Jayhawks lost a chance to take a stranglehold on the Big 12 race and move into the top four in the national polls. They also lost any chance for a top-four seed in the NCAA Tournament.

On the bright side, all of the shortcomings accumulated during the regular season will be forgotten when the Big Dance begins. However, if KU is going to make a run in the tournament, they must achieve offensive improvement in the next four weeks.

The Jayhawks aren't having a bad season—far from it; they just can't put it all together. But it's not too late for that to happen.

Kansas could still win the Big 12 because their schedule is much easier than Texas A&M's. The Aggies still have to play road games against Texas and Oklahoma State.

KU plays at Missouri on Saturday (Feb. 10) and that's always one of the Jayhawks' toughest games. They follow that with another road game against a relaxed and improving Colorado on Feb. 14. A stumble in either of these games would kill any lingering chance KU has for an undisputed Big 12 championship.

Wichita State coach Mark Turgeon has a formidable dilemma and it isn't his present team—it's the future of the Shockers' program.

Turgeon's recruiting has declined drastically; he doesn't have any young inside players who are going to help next season. And Ryan Martin (6-5, 220) and Kyle Wilson (6-8, 225) are seniors.

Wichita is going to drop even further if Turgeon doesn't come up with two or three talented inside players.

It's remarkable how quickly a coach can go from being in an enviable position to having major problems. At this time last year Mark Turgeon was on top of the basketball world and now he has disappeared from the list of most-wanted coaches.

Something is terribly wrong with Wichita's recruiting strategy and it has to change quickly or the Shockers are going to continue their downward spiral.

KSU Women Talk About The Texas Loss

Senior Guard Claire Coggins
On the responsibility of a loss ...

"I think our team relies, somewhat, well a lot on threes. At the Colorado game we shot 35. It's hard when we can't get threes to go down, that's a big part of our offense whenever Dietz or I hits the big three we all just kind of feed off of that. Whether or not we are hitting outside shots we got to find a way to get to the rim and get to the free throw line and do all those other things."

On the last three halves...

"Last season we got beat at Missouri and at Texas A&M by thirty or more too. It was a fight tonight, the only difference between last year and this year is that we keep fighting. It's disappointing but I can look at every single one of my teammates and know they are going to come back on Monday and work hard

and I know I'm going to come back and work hard. We can't let it get us down; we have eight games left, eight wins, look at our record, that's a great record. It's disappointing always to lose a game. This team doesn't die and we don't stop."

Sophomore Guard Shalee Lehning
On overall play...

"Texas game out and did a great job pressing us and forcing us to do things that we weren't able to do and that's what it boiled down to. We just weren't hitting shots. It's nice to see that we came out and competed a lot harder than in the Colorado game when we were a little bit passive. No matter what hit us, we still fought through it. Texas did a great job, it was just the fact that we didn't compete or execute and our shots weren't falling. Our shots

are going to fall and on any given night, our shots are going to fall. This is something we are going to bounce back from; we are not going to hang our heads. Texas did a great job and they won this game. We need to come to the gym tomorrow and practice a little better."

Freshman Forward Ashley Sweat
Thoughts on the game...

"Before the Colorado game we talked about how much bigger Texas was than us. Texas plays great defense, they were up in our face and standing next to Tiffany Jackson made me feel tiny. We have got to be more aggressive and get to the basket and our shots are going to fall. They played great defense."

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up, to be athletic, to make it hard for opponents to score and when you can shut Kansas State out with no threes I think you've done a really good job defensively."

On the defensive play...
"We've been really good on defense for the last month or so. Even the couple of games that we let get away from us, I thought we were good defensively. I think that we've figured out that we can play really tough defensively and when we do that we have the chance to win. We are not going to score 80 points a game because we don't have that kind of firepower."

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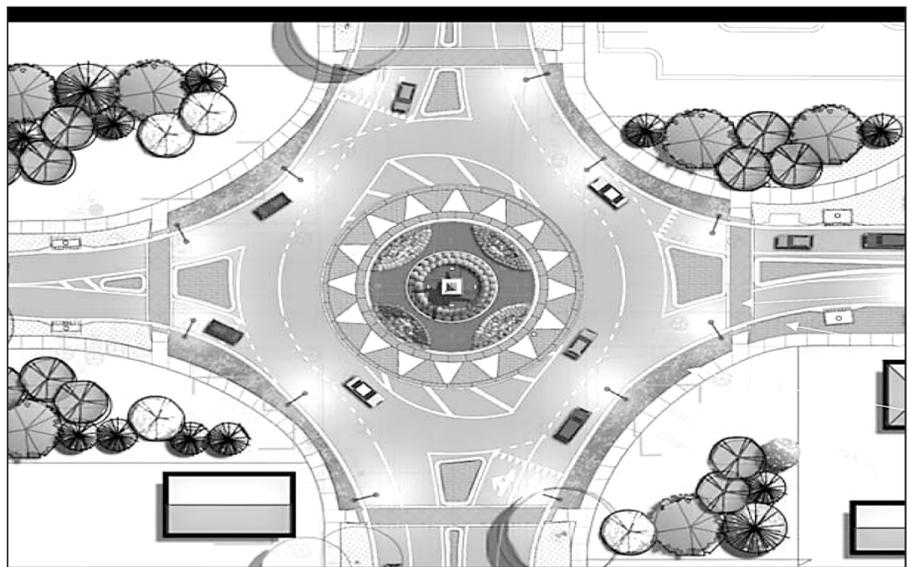
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City Commissioners Bruce Snead, Jayme Morris-Hardeman and Ed Klimek are up for Re-Election in April. Snead and Morris-Hardeman voted to give Manhattan a Roundabout at 4th and Bluemont. Third and Bluemont is the biggest traffic problem in the City and now they want to make the Bluemont problem even bigger with a Roundabout.

In the April Election vote against anyone wanting to put in Roundabouts.



Manhattan Free Press

Brownback Establishes His Platform

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — During a stop in South Carolina on Friday, Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback said he wanted to end abortion, pleasing conservatives who dominate the Republican base in this early primary voting state.

"I will commit to helping end abortion in America," Brownback said, responding to a question from a local minister who protests abortions almost daily at the South Carolina Statehouse.

Brownback told a gathering of about 240 people, who were treated to a \$12-a-plate lunch, that he also supported a ban on gay marriage and tax credits that encourage traditional marriage.

"We've got to rebuild the family in America," said Brownback, who favors overturning Roe v. Wade and sending the issue back to the states.

So far, Brownback and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee appear to have the widest appeal among Christian conservatives in this state, which in about a year holds the first Southern primary.

"That flank seems to be open," Francis Marion University political science professor Neil Thigpen said.

Conservative Christians have been critical of Arizona Sen. John McCain for not advocating a national ban on gay marriage. Some also have questioned whether former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney's Mormon faith adheres to fundamen-

tal Christian values, Thigpen said. Earlier this week, Romney dismissed questions about whether his Mormon faith would be an impediment to his White House aspirations. Romney also was questioned about his shifting stance on abortion.

Romney said he was making inroads with Christian conservatives in South Carolina.

Although Baptists make up the heart of the Christian conservative base in South Carolina, they probably won't have a problem with Brownback's 2002 conversion to Roman Catholicism, Thigpen said.

Jim Corbett, a Columbia lawyer and Roman Catholic on Brownback's steering committee, said the senator hasn't severed ties to his Methodist upbringing.

"He goes to Mass on Sunday, then goes to his hometown family church," Corbett said. "He's going to play well with everyone who wants a candidate with strong Judeo-Christian values."

Some Roman Catholics, like former U.S. Rep. Tommy Hartnett, a three-term Congressman from South Carolina during the 1980s, have found political success here.

Some Baptists see Roman Catholics' "views merging with those of fundamentalist Christians" in areas such as abortion, Thigpen said.

John Gillespie, of Greenwood, liked what Brownback had to say but

left uncommitted. "To hear someone speak the truth loudly and clearly is refreshing," Gillespie said.

Brownback also was asked about illegal immigration and said he supports building a fence along the border with Mexico. He also wants employers to have the ability to instantly check immigrants' Social Security numbers.

"We've got to up our level of legal immigration in this country and make it simpler," Brownback said.

Speaking on Iraq, Brownback said he favored a political solution, not a surge in troops.

He wants a three-state Iraq with Kurds, Sunni and Shiites controlling different regions, operating under a federal government in Baghdad.

"We've got to keep together here," he said of Republicans and Democrats fighting over the war. "We've got to get some political stability there and here."

Dodge City Debates How To Raise Numbers

DODGE CITY, Kan. (AP) — This western Kansas town is looking for ways to lure more racers and fans to its oval dirt track.

The stands at the taxpayer-funded Dodge City Raceway Park can hold 3,500 people, but typically race-goers number in the hundreds.

The attendance numbers have prompted a debate among elected officials and others about how best to improve the finances of the city-owned facility. Discussions include what ties, if any, the raceway should have with a competing oval in nearby Jetmore.

Dodge City Raceway Park, which opened in 2000, cost \$6.7 million with funds coming from a special half-cent city and half-cent Ford County sales tax.

Since 2003, local tax revenue has pumped nearly \$1.4 million

into the state-of-the-art short-track facility.

Racers describe it as the best dirt oval in the region.

"There's none better; there's just none," said C. Ray Hall, a longtime race promoter who operates the 81 Speedway in Park City. "It's the best money can buy."

Bart Boyd, a racer from Wright, said the raceway's future hinges on earning the confidence of drivers.

Fans follow the racers, and Boyd said a promoter selected locally will prompt more drivers to take Dodge City seriously. Officials are looking for a replacement for former promoter Mike Mathis, who stepped down after three years at the end of 2006 and who was from Colorado.

"They're going to have to bring in somebody local, somebody that

the racers trust," Boyd said. "When half of the local racers aren't racing there, I don't think the fans are going to follow."

He also said the operators of the Dodge City Raceway Park and the Jetmore Motorplex need to cooperate to minimize overlapping race days.

The competition between the racetracks remains a source of frustration for some.

A group of Hodgeman County businessmen and fans built the Jetmore dirt oval in response to the initial decision to make the Dodge City track asphalt. The Dodge City track was converted to dirt in 2004, but many still begrudge the initial decision to go with asphalt, which draws from a smaller pool of racers.

Chinese Cultural Festival

MANHATTAN — To celebrate the 2007 Lunar New Year, or Chinese New Year, Kansas State University's Chinese Students and Scholars Association will present the Chinese Cultural Festival, Feb. 7-11.

Funded by K-State's Diversity Programming Committee, the festival will include the Exhibition of Chinese Culture, the Interactive Chinese Food Show and the Chinese Spring Festival Gala. All events are free and open to the public.

"Our Chinese Cultural Festival was inspired by international friendship and multicultural exchange," said J. Jenny Yang, graduate student in journalism and mass communications and entertainment minister for the K-State Chinese Students and Scholars Association. "From children to seniors, we want the whole community of Manhattan to be a part of the festival."

The Exhibition of Chinese Culture will be noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, and Thursday, Feb. 8, on the ground and first floors of the K-State Student Union. The exhibition will include a martial arts demonstration by K-State Chinese faculty members, pictures of the landscape and development of China, and popular Chinese arts and crafts.

The Interactive Chinese Food Show will be 4-6 p.m. Feb. 8 at the International Student Center. The

show is sponsored by and features food prepared by the Bamboo Buffet, also known as the All Chinese Buffet.

"The food show is free and will be a real treat to those who love Chinese food," Yang said. "You will be able to observe and learn how to cook authentic Chinese dishes."

The Chinese Spring Festival Gala will be 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, in McCain Auditorium. Tickets are required but are free. They can be reserved by calling the auditorium's box office at 785-532-6428 or dropping by from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

The festival will include demonstrations of Chinese kung fu, dance and music. Performers include the Bates Pride Dancers from the Bates Dance Studio in Manhattan; a pantomime performance by the Randi Dale Dance Studio; and a cello recital by David Littrell, university distinguished professor of music at K-State. The event also will include students from 10 K-State academic departments in a creative dance that combines elements of kung fu and hip-hop. The dance was choreographed by Heidi Hilton, a K-State alum and director of the Bates Dance Studios. Support for the festival also has been provided by Commerce Bank, the Panda Express and several other local businesses, Yang said.

KU/ St. Lukes Agree To Affiliation

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Officials with the University of Kansas Medical Center, the University of Kansas Hospital and the St. Luke's Health System in Missouri have signed letters of intent to affiliate for teaching and research purposes.

Irvine Hockaday Jr., chairman of the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute, announced the agreements Thursday during an economic development summit featuring Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt in Kansas City.

He said the letters were signed late Wednesday and would go before the hospitals' boards of directors for approval later this month.

Hockaday said representatives for KU Med and the university hospital, located on the same campus in Kansas City, Kan., but separate entities since 1998, still must resolve some issues, but he expected a final agreement to be ironed out by March 31.

"To let parochial interests ... supersede this regional opportunity would undermine and destroy the purpose and hope of this conference," Hockaday said to applause from the audience of state and business leaders.

Later, Sebelius and Blunt voiced their support for the plan, which is designed to help strengthen Kansas City's drive to attract bioscience research and industry.

"I'm very much convinced that this is a great step forward," she said.

University of Kansas Hospital is the university system's main teaching hospital, while KU Med is the system's lead research and teaching arm. Under the affiliation agreement, medical students would also work at St. Luke's hospitals.

Kansas House Speaker Melvin

Neufeld, R-Ingalls, on Thursday repeated calls for the Legislature have a voice on the issue. He said he didn't feel there had been enough public input into the plan, and "I don't see any benefit to Kansas in this."

"I'm not opposed to expanding research. This agreement isn't about research," Neufeld said. "It's about siphoning out interns from Kansas to St. Luke's so that St. Luke's can expand their market share and gain a competitive edge against the leading hospital in Kansas City, which is the University of Kansas Hospital."

Hockaday said the agreement is designed only to boost research efforts, not give one side of the state line a boost.

"The drumbeat of concerns, perhaps even suspicion, that this is somehow a Jesse James bank robbery of funds in Kansas is just flat wrong," Hockaday said. "There is no such intent."

Dr. Mark McPhee, St. Luke's chief operating officer, said in a written statement Thursday that his hospital wanted to help improve medical research in the region and said the agreement would help increase recruitment of medical students.

"Saint Luke's is pleased to become the superior form of glue that may bond our medical community together, with the goal of helping Kansas City better serve patients through life sciences initiatives — medical research and medical education," McPhee said.

University hospital officials said Thursday they still want to make sure the affiliation doesn't leave them scrambling for students, doesn't hurt the hospital financially and doesn't interfere with efforts to get a National Cancer Institute designation for the university.

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