

SATURDAY

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Manhattan Free Press



Downtown Redevelopment Project May Take A Hit

Editorial

By Jon A. Brake

The Manhattan City Commission voted Tuesday night to spend \$70,000 for a "Sales and Property Tax Feasibility Study." Why?

Is it Dejavu all over again?

The City of Manhattan has already paid Springsted Incorporated and Canyon Research for two other Financial Feasibility Studies.

The Springsted Incorporated study was made on November 21, 2005 so that the City Commission could give the go-ahead for the project. The State of Kansas wanted a different Feasibility Study before approving \$40,000,000 in Star Bonds. Canyon Research did that study.

Now, Assistant City Manager Jason Hilgers tells the City Commission: "In order to ensure that sales tax revenues and property tax revenues are sufficient to meet the annual principal and interest repayments on the aforementioned bonds, an independent estimate of such revenues is strongly suggested." Why?

The Springsted report said in part: "The estimated Project Benefits are \$34,146,439. The estimated Project Costs are \$32,042,738. Project Benefits exceed Project Costs by an estimated \$2,103,701." And concluded with: "Given the assumptions and representations of the various parties to the process, this feasibility study concludes that the project benefits exceed and are sufficient to pay the project costs."

As late as August 15, 2006, Jason Hilgers told the City Commissioners

that the Canyon Report stated: "Therefore, the Feasibility Analysis concluded that the Downtown Manhattan Redevelopment district is forecast to generate sufficient tax revenues to cover the anticipated debt service obligations for the requested STAR bond financing."

If the bonds can not be sold the Southend of the development will not be completed.

What has changed?

Why does the City Administration, Dial Realty, the City's financial advisors Springsted Incorporated and Gilmore & Bell, and the bond broker D.A. Davidson all want another Feasibility Study?

Could it be that the development of the North area is not going as well as Springsted and Canyon projected in 2004 and 2005? Most of the properties in the North have been removed and is being worked to begin construction but to date only two companies have signed leases. Best Buy is up and running and one restaurant is under construction. Bed, Bath and Beyond, Pet Co and Old Navy are said to be coming to Manhattan but they have not signed yet.

And what about the new Junction City project?

Junction City officials announced Wednesday that D.J. Christie, Inc. of Kansas City is building a \$200 Million Regional Shopping Center.

The Smoky Hill Marketplace will be built around a manmade lake and will take in 600,000 sq. feet of chain retail stores, a Dickenson Imax

Theater and restaurants. All of this is on a 300-acre site just off I-70.

Manhattan had plans for all of the Ft. Riley market coming here but with the new development in Junction City that may not happen.

It has taken the City of Manhattan and Dial Realty five years to get one store up and running. Junction City plans on construction starting in July and being completed in five years.

The Downtown Redevelopment has taken too long because the City of Manhattan took a simple project and turned it into a monster.

Dial Realty wanted to build on the only Steel and Pipe land, the City wanted to redevelop all of Third Street. Time marched on as the City held meeting after meeting, and it took time to produce the two Feasibility Studies. And then there was the State of Kansas and the STAR bonds. For months the City looked at what could become a regional draw so they could get money out of the State of Kansas.

Remember they were going to have a Tornado Museum? What a gust of wind that was. But, did they find anything better? No, who wants a museum of photos of grass? The City approved the Prairie Grass Museum just so they could get \$40 Million from the State of Kansas.

The City of Manhattan will have a Museum but they will lose \$600,000 a year.

The City of Manhattan has a problem with the Downtown Redevelopment, and it is of their own making.

all necessary materials.

If this program may be of benefit to you or someone you know or if you would like more information, please contact Dan Clayton, Social Worker, at 785-537-0688 or 800-748-7474.

Exhibit On Landon Lecture Series

Posters and photographs from past Landon Lecturers are being displayed in McCain Auditorium in honor of the 40th anniversary of the lecture series at Kansas State University.

Charles Reagan, chair of the Landon Lecture Series, said the exhibit highlights the list of prominent individuals who have given lectures as part of the series. The lecture today by Prince Turki Al-Faisal is the 147th in the series.

The exhibit also includes information about the history of the lecture series and list the chairs of the lecture series since its inception.

The Landon Lectures were inaugurated in 1966 by Kansas Gov. Alf Landon himself. Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter,

Reagan and both Presidents Bush have given Landon Lectures. Three foreign heads of state have appeared as Landon speakers. The entire list of speakers, the dates of their speeches and the topics on which they spoke are listed at <http://www.k-state.edu/landon>.

President George W. Bush spoke on Jan. 23, 2006. Former President of Poland Lech Walesa, Shell Oil President John Hofmeister and U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld also have recently spoken in the series.

Reagan said the exhibit will be available for much of the spring semester. The exhibit is in the north corridor of McCain Auditorium.

The group will begin on Tuesday, February 20th and end on Thursday, March 15th.

Attending the group is free of charge and Homecare & Hospice will provide

Colbert Hills Wins Tax Valuation Appeal Case

The Riley County Commission learned Thursday that they had lost a tax appeal case with Colbert Hills Golf Course.

The Board of Tax Appeals ruled that the Counties valuation of the property of \$5,500,000 was too high are ordered the appraised value for the tax years of 2003 and 2004 to be set at \$2,200,000.

County Appraiser Greg McHenry told the Commission that it cost \$18 million to build the course but that does not mean that it is the true value.

The Order stated: The County did not perform a sales comparison approach, a cost approach, or an

income approach to value the subject property for 2003 and 2004. The documentation in county Exhibit #1 that appears to be a CAMA cost approach was prepared only for purposes of allocating the \$5,500,000 among the four parcels.

The Order went on the state: "On cross-examination, McHenry admitted that nothing in County Exhibit #1 shows how the County valued the property except that it rolled the 2001 value. Although the County presented part of a 1997 appraisal by Golf Property Analysts, the County did not present evidence regarding the appraisal methodology utilized to

estimate a value of \$5,500,000."

The Order went on the state: "The Taxpayer called Gerald R. Maier, MAI Appraiser with Mainland Valuation Services, as a witness. Maier prepared an appraisal of the subject property as of January 1, 2003 and January 1, 2004. Maier performed the tree approaches to value: the cost approach, the sales comparison approach and the income approach."

The County will pay Colbert Hill more than \$100,000 that was paid under protest.

28th Year For KSU's Telefund

Alexander Graham Bell would be proud. Back in 1980, officials at Kansas State University used Bell's invention as the centerpiece of an experiment: Assemble a few dozen students and call a few hundred alumni in an attempt to raise funds for scholarships and educational support. K-State was a pioneer in telephone fund raising.

More than a quarter century later, K-State's Telefund is the world's largest all-volunteer telephone campaign for higher education. In Telefund's first 27 years, nearly 20,000 student callers have raised \$21.1 million via 449,725 pledges from alumni. Telefund 2006 set an all-time pledge record at \$1.41 million with 17,493 pledges and 1,350 student callers.

Telefund 2007 kicks off Jan. 21. Organizers hope to recruit 1,600 callers for the 22 calling sessions and raise \$1.42 million via 20,000 pledges from all 105 Kansas counties and all 50 states, plus Canada and Puerto Rico. The campaign is dubbed "License to Call" and carries

a 007 theme. Gifts provide scholarships and educational benefits in K-State's nine academic colleges. Telefund activity is broadcast globally via the Telefund webcam at www.found.ksu.edu/telefund

While K-State was among a handful of universities to first launch a telephone campaign, today virtually every major university depends on Bell's invention. Unlike K-State's all-volunteer format, most depend on year-round systems with paid callers and automated calling systems. The all-volunteer student caller format is one of the reasons K-State ranks among the nation's leaders based on percentage of alumni supporting their alma mater.

"At K-State, students begin supporting their university while they are on campus," said Gary Hellebust, foundation president and CEO. "They give a precious resource — their time. Combining their enthusiasm with an understanding of the importance of alumni support builds alumni participation, and that makes Telefund efficient and effective.

While some consider Telefund's volunteer format antiquated, the outcomes speak for themselves."

Students from a specific college call alumni from that college, and gifts are directed back to that college.

In addition to raising money, students and alumni review classes, evaluate faculty and discuss career options. Caller recruiting is bolstered by a series of prizes from more than 100 businesses nationwide. The top prize is a new Nissan Altima provided by the Wichita Area Big Wheels and Davis-Moore Auto Group. The Capital City Cruisers will provide a pair of scooters.

Telefund gifts support the KSU Foundation's Changing Lives Campaign for Kansas State University, which is a comprehensive \$500 million campaign that will infuse new funds into virtually every dimension of the university. The KSU Foundation coordinates fundraising efforts with alumni, friends, corporations and foundations to secure private support for Kansas State University.

Straight Shooters' Take In Invitational

Sixteen youth from Riley and Pottawatomie Counties participated in the Wabaunsee County Invitational Shooting Match held Jan. 20 in Alma, Kansas. Youth participated in BB Gun, Air Pistol, and Air Rifle.

The Pottawatomie/Riley County Straight Shooters BB Gun team of Seth Brandon, Lindsay Bulk, Jacob Dietrich, Naomi Hawkinson and Kyle Weishaar placed 1st at the invitational with a score of 1735 points out of 2000 with Wabaunsee Co. placing 2nd with 1725 and Puerto Rico Co. placing 3rd with 1710.

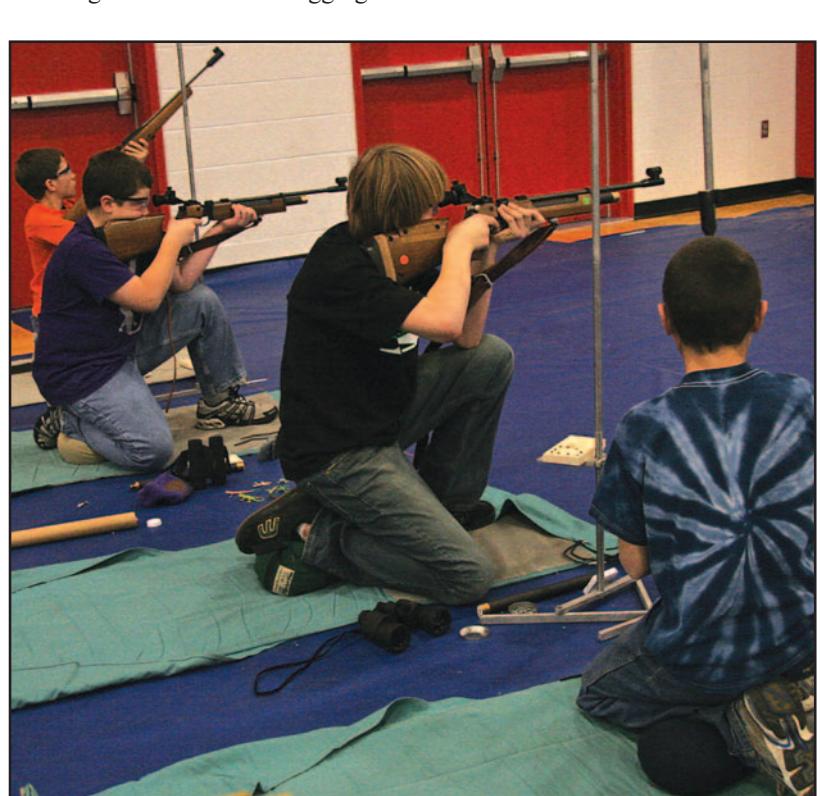
Wade Stroda placed 3rd in prone with 94 points of 100, 1st in standing with 86, 1st in sitting with 95, 1st in kneeling with 92 and 1st aggregate with 367 points of 400 in the 10 and 11 year division of BB gun. Naomi Hawkinson placed 6th in prone with 90, 2nd in sitting with 92, 5th in kneeling with 86 and 5th aggregate with 340. Morgan Reves placed 10th in the kneeling position with 83 points. Austin Becker, Hawkinson, Reves and Stroda all qualified for the Kansas State 4-H Shooting Sports Match with their scores in the BB gun discipline.

Jacob Stroda placed 6th in prone with 92, 1st in standing with 93, 1st in sitting with 100 of 100, 1st in kneeling with 97 and 1st aggregate with 382 of 400 points in the 12 to 14 year division of BB Gun. Lindsay Bulk placed 5th in prone with 94, 4th in standing with 85, 4th in sitting with 92, 3rd in kneeling with 91 and 2nd aggregate with 362. Seth Brandon placed 3rd in prone with 96, 9th in sitting with 90, 8th in kneeling with 86 and 6th aggregate with 352 points. Brennan Walter placed 4th in prone with 95 points. Jacob Dietrich placed 7th in prone with 92, 7th in standing with 83, 5th in kneeling with 89 and 7th aggregate with 351 points. Kyle Weishaar placed 6th in sitting with 92 and 6th in kneeling with

with 88 points. Brandon, Bulk, Dietrich, J. Stroda, Walter and Weishaar qualified for the Kansas State 4-H Shooting Sports Match with their scores in the BB gun discipline.

Grant Adams placed 5th with 137 points of 200, Luke Hull placed 6th with 122 points and Jared Rogers placed 7th with 119 points in Air Pistol 14 and over division. Adams, Hull and Rogers all qualified for the Kansas State 4-H Shooting Sports Match with their scores in Air Pistol.

Wade Stroda placed 1st in prone with 176 of 200, 3rd in standing with 108, 1st in kneeling with 160 and 1st aggregate with 444 of 600 in the Air Rifle 10 to 13 age division. Seth Brandon placed 2nd in prone with 1725 and 5th in standing with 101, 6th in kneeling with 124 and 4th aggregate



Jacob Dietrich, Wade Stroda, Seth Brandon and Quentin Brackenbury shoot for record in the kneeling position at the Wabaunsee Co. Invitational. Photos courtesy of the Stroda Family

Wallace (Wally) Adolph Gronquist

Wallace (Wally) Adolph Gronquist, 85, of Alma, Kansas, died Tuesday, January 23, 2007 at the Alma Manor. He was a long time member of the area.

Wally was born August 24, 1921, in Garrison, Kansas, the son of Gust and Agnes Carlson Gronquist. He attended local schools and graduated from Cleburne High School. During WWII, from 1942 to 1945, he served in the United States Navy in the Pacific Theatre.

Wally worked as the County Office Manager for the ASCS office in Wabaunsee County and retired in 1980. He then became a Motor Carrier Inspector and retired in 1988.

He was a member and past master of Masonic Lodge #161, Scottish Rite, Arab Shrine, Order of the Eastern Star, American Legion, VFW and in earlier years, Rotary Club. Wally was active in Boy Scouts and served as a Scout Master and Cub Master. He was a member of the Order of the Arrow. He was a member of Peace United Church of Christ and served as Consistory President. He enjoyed attending high school athletic events and over the years hosted five foreign exchange students.

Tyson Foods Fined After Death

SOUTH HUTCHINSON, Kan. (AP) — Tyson Foods has been fined \$40,000 for safety violations after a Haven man's death at the company's plant in South Hutchinson.

Michael Wiebe, 51, died and Bill Mumford, 55, was injured after an ammonia leak Oct. 31 at the plant. Wiebe died after breathing in ammonia and Mumford suffered chemical burns.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration notified the company of the safety violations and fines Jan. 11. Tyson was fined \$5,000 for each of three serious violations and \$25,000 for a repeat violation.

Tyson, based in Springdale, Ark., had until Monday to fix the violations found during the inspection,

Unemployment Improves Again

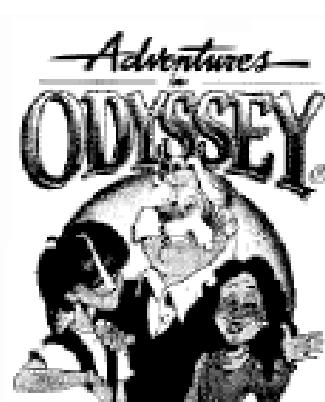
TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The state's unemployment rate continued to improve in December, dropping to 4.1 percent, officials said Tuesday.

According to the Kansas Department of Labor, the December jobless rate dropped from November's 4.2 percent, which was also better than the 4.3 percent in December 2005. Labor Secretary Jim Garner said economic indicators show the Kansas economy "continues to generally improve."

Overall, the number of jobs decreased by 400 for the month, with more than 1.36 million Kansans working. The December figure reflected a net gain of 11,000 jobs for the year.

Government added 5,300 jobs, primarily through the hirings by local school boards as part of the state's increased spending on public educa-

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He married Edith Ann Thowe on February 13, 1949 in Alma, Kansas. She survives at their home.

Wally is also survived by a daughter, Sara Schubert and her husband, John, Leavenworth; two sons, David Gronquist and his wife, Linda and Paul Gronquist and his wife Susan, all of Alma; a brother, Ivan Gronquist and his wife, Rose, Brighton, Colorado; a sister-in-law, Clara Gronquist, Blue Rapids; six grandchildren, Julie Gronquist, Jessica Gronquist, Kate Gronquist, Jacob Gronquist, Sadie Schubert, Colin Schubert; and one great-grandchild, Aaliyah Clark.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, January 26, 2007 at Peace United Church of Christ in Alma. Reverend John Austin will be officiating. Burial will follow in Peace United Church of Christ Cemetery. Mr. Gronquist will lie-in-state Thursday starting at 1:00 p.m. at Campanella-Gentry Funeral Home where the family will greet friends from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. They suggest memorial contributions to the Wallace Gronquist Memorial Scholarship Fund and those may be sent in care of the funeral home. Online condolences may be made at www.campanellafuneral.com

Sedgwick DA Drops Investigation Of Abortion Doctor

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — Sedgwick County District Attorney Nola Foulston punted the investigation of a nationally known abortion provider to the state's top prosecutor, telling protesters Monday that Attorney General Paul Morrison will decide whether there is evidence sufficient to warrant review by her own office.

Shortly before leaving office, former Attorney General Phill Kline, a Republican and vocal abortion opponent, filed 30 misdemeanor criminal charges against Dr. George Tiller in Sedgwick County District Court. But a judge dismissed the charges at Foulston's request, agreeing with her that Kansas law required Kline to obtain her consent to file a criminal case and that he didn't.

In a letter delivered to leaders of the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue as they picketed outside the county courthouse Monday, Foulston said she now plans to wait until Morrison, a Democrat and abortion-rights supporter, reviews the case before she decides whether she will look at it.

Foulston, a Democrat, also attacked Kline, saying her office requested in writing and in court all the underlying information that formed the basis for him to file charges.

"As Attorney General, he failed, refused and neglected to do so," Foulston wrote. "If there is any due process violation it would lie with Kline's refusal to forward to the proper prosecution authority in this jurisdiction, the Office of the District Attorney, the evidence that would be relevant to our review of the matter."

Kline, who lost the November election to Morrison and is now the district attorney in Johnson County, did not immediately return a phone call for comment.

Morrison spokeswoman Ashley Anstaett said the attorney general's office is reviewing the case and has not yet decided how to proceed.

"I do want to assure the public if there are violations of the law or we find evidence of a crime, Mr. Morrison will prosecute and he will enforce the law," Anstaett said.

About 50 protesters gathered outside the courthouse Monday to call for Foulston to continue with the

case against Tiller, one of the few doctors in the country who performs late-term abortions. In her letter, Foulston said she would not meet with the protesters, and several who went into her office were turned away.

The letter also warned that any attempt to influence her office and interfere with the administration of justice was criminal conduct.

"This is ridiculous," Operation Rescue President Troy Newman said as he read her letter to his supporters.

Kline alleged Tiller performed 15 illegal late-term abortions in 2003, for patients aged 10 to 22, and failed to properly report details about them to state health officials. Tiller's attorneys have called the allegations groundless.

Abortion protesters contend Kline's thwarted charges reveal violations of Kansas law, which restricts abortions after the 22nd week of pregnancy to cases in which the mother faces substantial and permanent health problems, unless it is determined the fetus is not viable. The state also requires a second physician not financially linked to the abortion provider to sign off.

"We can't get a single authority in the entire state of Kansas to enforce that law. Now that means that we are going to be forced to take this case outside of the state of Kansas if the authorities in the state of Kansas will not enforce the law," said Cheryl Sullenger, spokeswoman for Operation Rescue.

Gary Cass, head of the Fort Lauderdale, Fla.-based Center for Reclaiming America for Christ, a non-denominational religious organization that opposes abortion, told protesters that anti-abortion groups would try to get the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate, adding that the case has become "a political football" in Kansas.

"Nobody in this state will protect the civil rights of those children. Somebody has to step up and do it," Cass said, noting that people come from all over the country to have abortions at Tiller's clinic.

Julie Burkhardt, executive director of the Wichita abortion rights group ProKanDo, said threats to take the case to federal prosecutors is an

example of how extreme abortion opponents are that there is no stopping them.

"They want to shop this around and find another sympathetic ear, and they are not happy until women no longer have reproductive rights," Burkhardt said.

Fewer than 100 abortion protesters headed Operation Rescue's nationwide call to come to Wichita for a four-day event marking the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

In Topeka, however, hundreds of abortion opponents crowded into the Statehouse's second-floor rotunda Monday for a rally marking the Roe

anniversary.

The rally came after a half-dozen women who have had abortions spoke about their experiences during a news conference sponsored by the anti-abortion group Operation Outcry. They said they suffered depression, nightmares and other trauma because of decisions they now regret to terminate their pregnancies.

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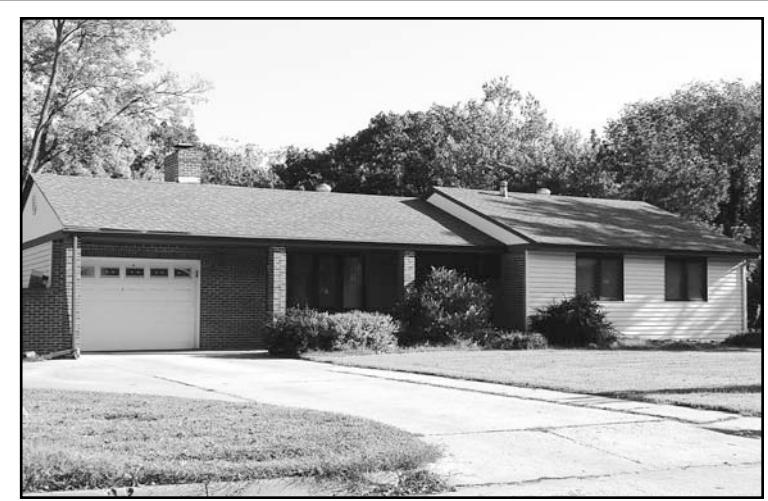
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Free Press Goodnow Diary

1870

Monday, December 5, 1870
Worked on Books/College.. Col. C.W. Lionhart &c arrived. Eve—dinner at boarding house & met with Regents & Visitors. Up till about 12 m. McCarty, A. Earhart, & Lionhart staid all night! Pleasant

Tuesday, December 6, 1870
Met the Board of Regents & reported. Recd of P. Higinbotham on Little's & Robinson's Note \$133.05. Sprinkle in Evening. Eve—went to Topeka with H.D. McCarty. Put up at Gordon House. Beautiful night.

Wednesday, December 7, 1870
Up early & off for Neosho Falls. Dined at Craig's, Burlington. P.E. Rier on the train, &c. Pleasant day. House going on well. General consultation on Land & town lot, matter. Cool evening.

Thursday, December 8, 1870
Cold morning. A.R. Webber arrived. Met Supt. White. Pleasant weather.

Friday, December 9, 1870
Beautiful day! House—brick work up to the square & one gable side. Talk with W. S. Houghanant. A.R. Webber left for Manhattan. Straightened out College accounts. Beautiful day.

Saturday, December 10, 1870
Left for Topeka. Dined at Burlington. T.B. Mills, Col. Jones, S.J. Crawford, Wilson. Arrived in Topeka at 8 P.M. Put up at Gordon House. Sold D.M. Adams \$2000, 52 1/2 in Scrip for \$2012 1/2. Took 2 checks \$500. each.

Sunday, December 11, 1870
A.M. Went to Baptist Church. Called on W.H. Simms & John Richey; Dined at D.M. Adam's. R.A.A. wrote.

Monday, December 12, 1870
2 1/2 A.M., left for Junction City, arrived at 6 A.M., went to Council Grove. At 5 1/2 with F. Smith, returned to Junction, & at 11 P.M. took a sleeping car for Sedalia.

Tuesday, December 13, 1870
6 A.M. arrived at State Line & then to Sedalia at 11 1/2 A.M.. Found R.S. Stevens & Charles Allyn, H.S. Denison, H.D. Mirick, &c. Up till 11 1/2 P.M. Consultation with Stevens & N. Eastman on Parsons.

Wednesday, December 14, 1870
Waiting for Gunn, &c. Maj. Gunn arrived in the evening. Meeting of board of Directors of Parson's town Company. Decided not to go on with improvements. Did not go to bed at all. Talk with F. Smith.

Thursday, December 15, 1870
Left with R. Allyn, N. Eastman for Humboldt at 2. A.M. Called at Kansas City 3 hours & went to

Manhattan Lions Club

Annual Biscuit & Gravy Feed

February 3

7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

College Avenue United Methodist Church

All proceeds will be evenly divided between Manhattan Crisis Center, Manhattan Emergency Shelter, Shepard's Crossing and Habitat for Humanity.

Leech ret'd to the Falls.

Wednesday, December 28, 1870
Returned to Neosho Falls. Hyatt Dunklee aboard. Col. Davis at Burlington, S.A. Brown Lumber. Mr. Chant paid him \$100. Met Mr. Smalley! House going on, weather moderating. H.D. Preston along! [no-Sup-2 !?]

Thursday, December 29, 1870
Worked in office & looked over House. Weather quite moderate. Carpenters at work. Interview with Smalley & Rowe. Looked over Bills.

Friday, December 30, 1870
Arranged about building & busi-

ness. Rowe to commence on chimney today. Tastinan, Dr. Torbet, Dr. Knowlton, Senator!! Went to Junction, Draft 2000. Ex-R.S. Miller & A.W. Catlan. Freight train to Manhattan, 1 1/4 A.M., walked home.

Saturday, December 31, 1870
Looked around. Went to Manhattan, dined at B.W. Power's. Five company's Looked into taxes. Henry L. Denison at home, spent the evening with us & George. Pleasant day.

Editor's Note—This concludes the Goodnow Diary series until more text is available from the Manhattan Historical Society. We appreciate their contribution to this project.

Widow Donates To Texas Town

DENVER, COLO. — GRANDVIEW, Texas (AP) — Wynona Pallmeyer never lived in Grandview, but once a month for more than a decade, she drove 35 miles (55 kilometers) from her home in Fort Worth to this small Texas town.

Few here knew her, other than those at the nursing home where her husband spent his last years. Now Pallmeyer has left a lasting mark on the town, bequeathing nearly \$4 million (euro3 million) to Grandview and the nursing home.

"I'm not surprised by her generosity — just that she had that much money," said Martha Bennett, a Grandview Bank vice president. Pallmeyer's relationship with Grandview, a town of about 1,400, began in the mid-1980s after her husband, Edward, became ill and needed long-term care. Someone referred her to the Grandview Nursing Home, a not-for-profit facility ranked among the best in Texas.

Pallmeyer was so pleased with the nursing home that she joined its board of directors and continued serving at monthly meetings more than a decade after her husband's death.

When the facility needed something — an ice cream machine, a whirlpool, a van, money for a chapel — Pallmeyer provided it, said administrator Barbara LeBaron.

Still, Pallmeyer never flaunted her money, friends said. Although she wore diamond jewelry and drove a

Wednesday, December 21, 1870
Went to Neosho Falls with C. Allyn, S.J. Crawford. Called on Col. Davis. Cold with a little Snow. Wrote to R.S. Stevens, &c. Cold!

Thursday, December 22, 1870
Clear Cold morning. Wrote Some. — P.M. C. Allyn left for Humboldt & home. Due him Jan. 1st 1871, \$1922. Slept Cold!

Friday, December 23, 1870
Therm. Sunrise -30°. At evening —7°. Ate quail. Col. Davis & went to Literary Society — School house. Slept well with brick to my feet!

Saturday, December 24, 1870
Leech went home. Wrote Oswald, Ellen, & C.H. Morgan &c. Therm. 6 A.M. -6°. Wind changed from N. to South. 2 Chicago men arrived looking for LAND. Long talk with Col. Goss. Leech gone home.

Sunday, December 25, 1870
Milder weather. Home all day reading & writing. Therm. at 12=29°.

Monday, December 26, 1870
Work & correspondence in the office.

Tuesday, December 27, 1870
Telegraphic Dispatch from R.S. Stevens, Parkerville town site. Went at 10-40. At Parkers in the evening. Up till 11 1/4 deciding Town site! Stopped overnight at Parker's.

Domann's ballad grew out of the taunting and physical bullying he saw inflicted on Ray, who was from

Ray eventually dropped out of school, and the two lost touch as Domann pursued his musical career and a musical ministry. But after "Howard Gray" began gaining airplay in the 1980s, Domann sent his old classmate a letter and a copy of the song — and Ray later surprised him by showing up at the funeral of Domann's father.

In school Monday, Ray said he's doing "nothing, really" these days but that his life is "all right."

One student, Daniel Sander, said he's teased about being short and a slow runner. Seeing Domann and Ray together got him thinking that he could make peace with his enemies — if they would apologize.

"I could forgive them," Daniel said, "if they asked me."

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Thoughts From The Prairie

Religion and Politics

The New York Times (January 16, 2007) published an article by Robin Toner entitled "Democrats Seek Middle on Social Issues" Toner writes that "The promise may not outlast their political honeymoon, but Democratic Congressional leaders say they are committed to governing from the center...and hope to bring that philosophy to bear on some of the most divisive social issues in politics, like abortion."

Don't be alarmed or get excited, they are not suggesting action to reduce abortions directly. According to Toner, rather than insist on their previous demand that abortion rights be covered in a universal health plan, they reintroduced a bill they said, "was indicative of their new approach: the Prevention First Act, which seeks to reduce the number of abortions by expanding access to birth control, family planning and sex education." Oh.

Embryonic stem cell research stays on the front burner, but instead of trying to reverse recent actions on same-sex marriage, the new Congress will focus on "hate crimes and employment discrimination..." For which of my views will I be prosecuted? So, there are skeptics who believe the "Democratic leadership will seek to advance the policy



Dick Miller

agenda of the hard core groups but do it under the cover of deceptive rhetorical campaigns." I wonder about the real purpose of Senate Bill 1/House Resolution 4682.

On the same day the above article appeared, Don Feder of Grassroots, posted a commentary on one of the many recent books that condemns American patriotism and the Religious Right, whoever that is. The book is by former NYT correspondent Chris Hedges and titled "American Fascists—The Christian Right and The War on America?"

Feder said Hedges makes it clear that he actually is comparing evangelical opponents of abortion and gay marriage to the monsters who burned books, ran death camps and plunged humanity into a world war that left 63 million dead. The author begins with a quote from one of his professors at the Harvard Divinity School.

"The Nazis," he said, "were not going to return with swastikas and brown shirts. Their ideological inheritors in America have found a mask for fascism in patriotism and the pages of the Bible."

Consider also this quote in Hedge's Chapter 1 regarding intolerant philosophies "(We) should claim the right to suppress them if necessary by force...We should therefore claim, in the name of tolerance, the right not to tolerate the intolerant."

One wonders how the new Congress will deal with such dichotomies between their new agenda and the pressure from the hard core Left that has apparently singled out the Religious Right to discredit and eventually remove from American culture. So why are the Democrats moving toward the Right? It is reported that Sen. Clinton has hired an evangelical Christian consultant, Burns Strider, who directs religious outreach for House Democrats and is the lead staffer for the their Faith Working Group, headed by incoming Majority Whip James Clyburn of South Carolina. Josh Dubois heads Obama's religious outreach. Sen. John Kerry has brought in Shaun Casey, an associate professor of Christian Ethics at Wesley Theological Seminary, as a consultant on religious outreach.

Are we experiencing another Great Awakening? Surely the fact that evangelicals make up at least 25 percent of American voters and normally side with Republicans has nothing to do with it, right? The real test will come during judicial nomination confirmation proceeding. We will see what happens.

think that's it.

Girl-power feminists who got where they are by marrying men with money or power — Hillary Clinton, Nancy Pelosi, Arianna Huffington and John Kerry — love to complain about how hard it is for a woman to be taken seriously.

It has nothing to do with their being women. It has to do with their cheap paths to power. Kevin Federline isn't taken seriously either.

It is as easy to imagine Americans voting for someone like Margaret Thatcher or Condoleezza Rice for president as it is difficult to imagine them voting for someone like Hillary. (Or Kevin Federline.) Hillary isn't piggybacking on Thatcher because she's a woman, she's piggybacking on Thatcher because Thatcher made it on her own, which Hillary did not.

But the most urgent question surrounding Hillary's candidacy is: How will the Democrats out-macho us if Hillary is their presidential nominee? Unlike their last presidential nominee, she doesn't even have any fake Purple Hearts.

Sen. Jim Webb, who managed to give the rebuttal to President Bush's State of the Union address Tuesday night without challenging the president to fistfight (well done, Jim!), won his election last November by portraying himself as one of the new gun-totin' Democrats.

He once opposed women in the military by calling the idea "a horny woman's dream." But — as some of us warned you — it appears that Webb has already been fitted for his tutu by Rahm Emanuel.

Webb began his rebuttal by complaining that we don't have national health care and aren't spending enough on "education" (teachers unions). In other words, he talked about national issues that only are national issues because of this country's rash experiment with women's suffrage. I guess we should all be relieved that at least Webb's response did not involve putting a young boy's penis into a man's mouth, as characters in his novels are wont to do.

He then palavered on about the vast military experience of his entire family in order to better denounce the war in Iraq. As long as Democrats keep insisting that only warriors can discuss war, how about telling the chick to butt out?

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Ann Coulter

I Am Woman, Hear Me Bore

It's nice to have a president who is not so sleazy that not a single Supreme Court justice shows up for his State of the Union address (Bill Clinton, January 1999, when eight justices stayed away to protest Clinton's disregard for the law and David Souter skipped the speech to watch "Sex and the City").

Speaking of which, the horny hick's wife finally ended the breathless anticipation by announcing that she is running for president. I studied tapes of Hillary feigning surprise at hearing about Monica to help me look surprised upon learning that she's running.

As long as we have revived the practice of celebrating multicultural milestones (briefly suspended when Condoleezza Rice became the first black female to be secretary of state), let us pause to note that Mrs. Clinton, if elected, would be the first woman to become president after her husband had sex with an intern in the Oval Office.

According to the famed "polls" — or, as I call them, "surveys of uninformed people who think it's possible to get the answer wrong" — Hillary is the current front-runner for the Democrats. Other than the massive case of narcolepsy her name inspires, this would cause me not the slightest distress — except for the fact that the Republicans' current front-runners are John McCain and Rudy Giuliani.

Fortunately, polls at this stage are nothing but name recognition contests, so please stop asking me to comment on them. "Arsenic" and "proctologist" have sky-high name recognition going for them, too.

In January, two years before the 2000 presidential election, the leading Republican candidate in New Hampshire was ... Liddy Dole (WMUR-TV/CNN poll, Jan. 12,



Ann Coulter

1999). In the end, Liddy Dole's most successful run turned out to be a mad dash from her husband Bob after he accidentally popped two Viagras.

At this stage before the 1992 presidential election, the three leading Democratic candidates were, in order: Mario Cuomo, Jesse Jackson and Lloyd Bentsen (Public Opinion Online, Feb. 21, 1991).

Only three months before the 1988 election, William Schneider cheerfully reported in *The National Journal* that Michael Dukakis beat George Herbert Walker Bush in 22 of 25 polls taken since April of that year. Bush did considerably better in the poll taken on Election Day.

The average poll respondent reads the above information and immediately responds that the administrations of presidents Cuomo, Dole and Dukakis were going in "the wrong direction."

Still and all, Mrs. Clinton is probably the real front-runner based on: (1) the multiple millions of dollars she has raised, and (2) the fact that her leading Democratic opponent is named "Barack Hussein Obama." Or, as he's known at CNN, "Osama." Or, as he's known on the Clinton campaign, "The Soft Bigotry of Low Expectations."

Mrs. Clinton's acolytes are floating the idea of Hillary as another Margaret Thatcher to get past the question, "Can a woman be elected president?" This is based on the many, many things Hillary Clinton and Margaret Thatcher have in common, such as the lack of a Y chromosome and ... hmm, you know, I

think that's it.

Girl-power feminists who got where they are by marrying men with money or power — Hillary Clinton, Nancy Pelosi, Arianna Huffington and John Kerry — love to complain about how hard it is for a woman to be taken seriously.

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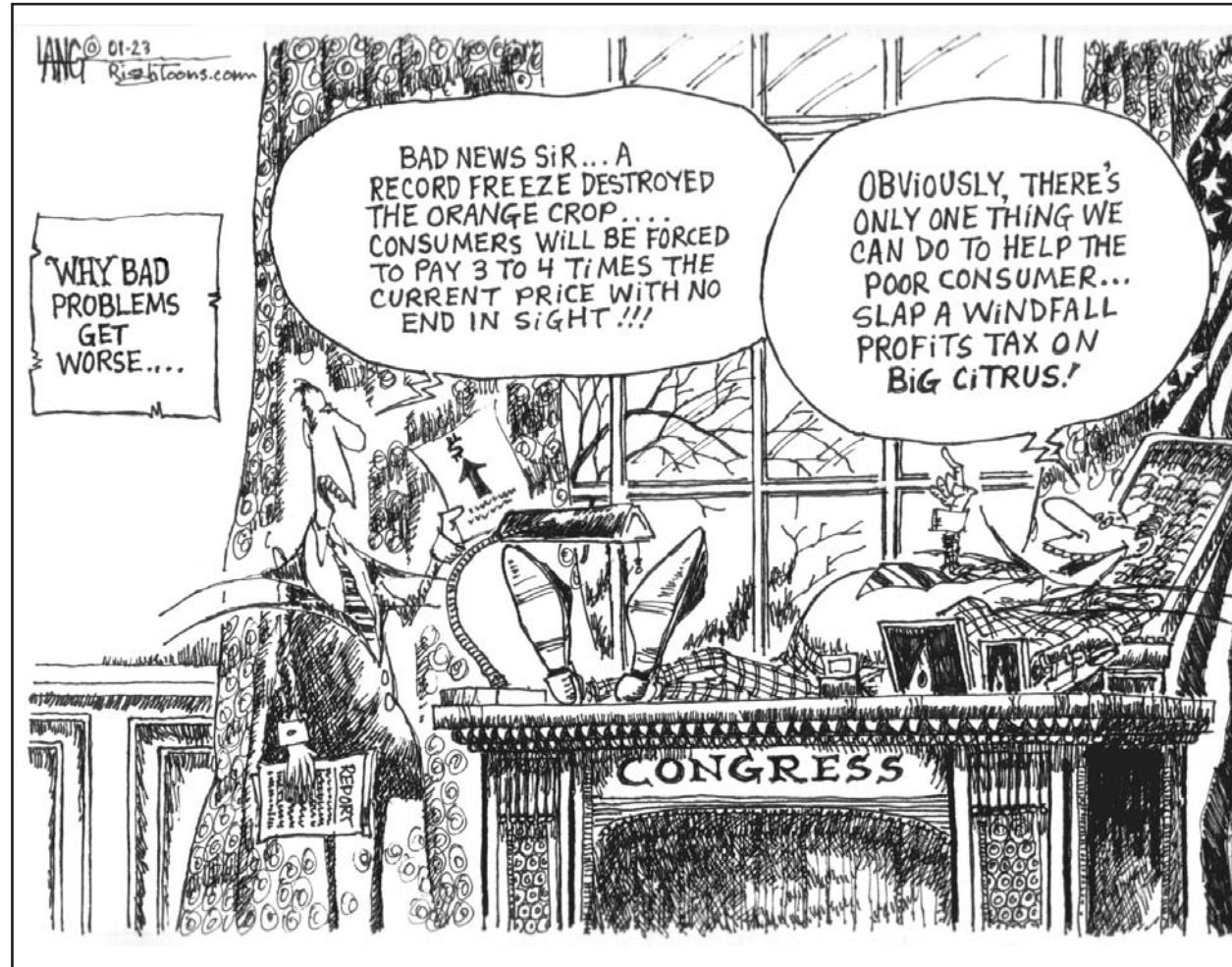
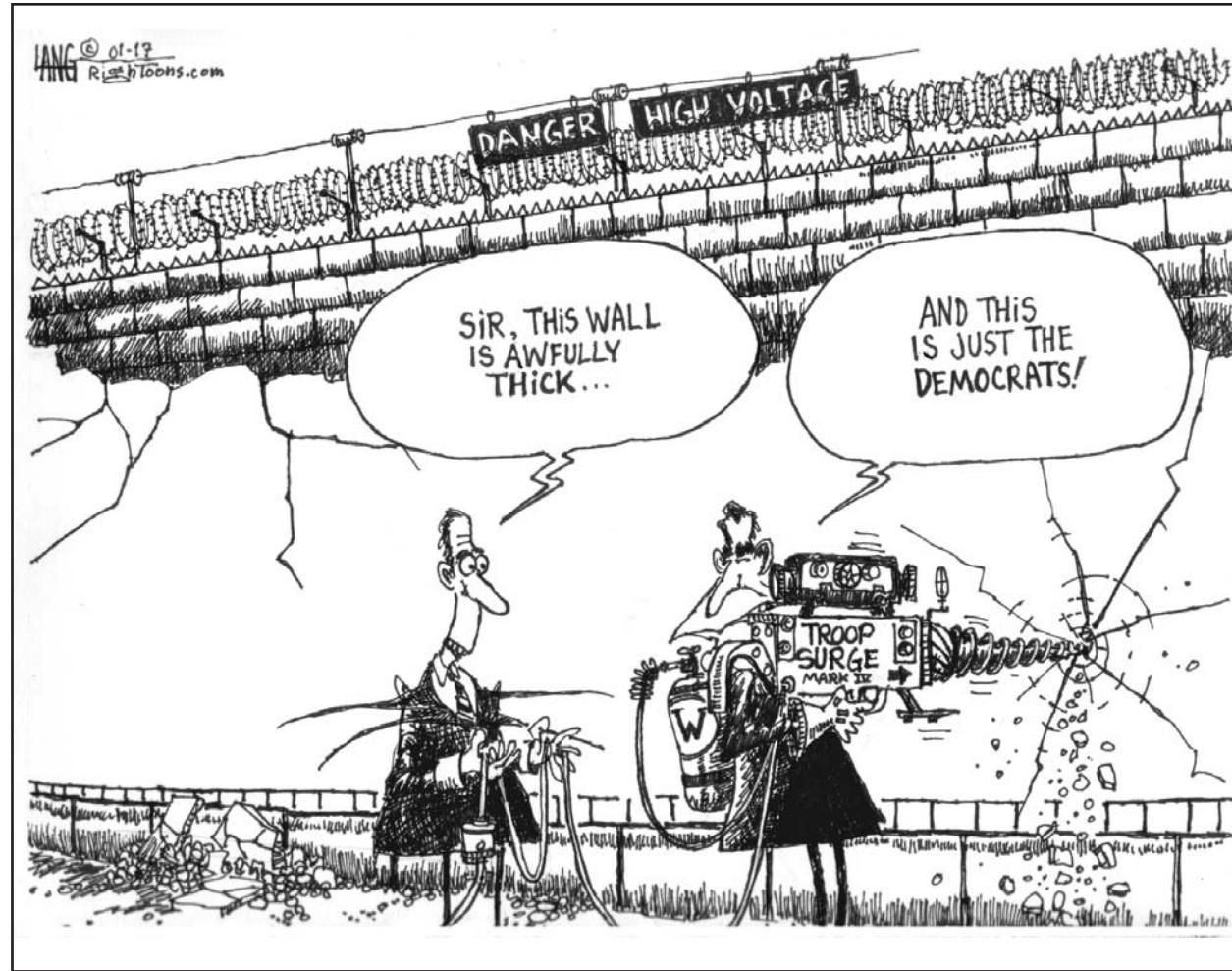
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Record Setting Spending In Topeka

By Karl Peterjohn
Kansas Taxpayers Network

Now that the inconvenience of the 2006 election is behind us, the statehouse is getting back to what it does best: spending your tax dollars. Governor Sebelius' latest state budget will set two new records for increased spending.

Is this news to you? State spending is growing at close to double digit rates so these fiscal milestones are being passed with a rapidity that would stun the frugal founders of this state.

The next state General Fund budget is proposed to be \$6.015 billion. That is a 7.7 percent hike above last year. That percentage growth is actually down from the 8.7 percent spending growth in the fiscal year that will end June 30. That's an increase of over 17 percent over two years.

Have you had a 17 percent pay hike in the last two years? Not many Kansans have had increases at half that rate as our average income continues to lag well below the national average.

A second dubious spending distinction was contained in Governor Sebelius' budget. The state's All Funds budget, that includes highway, Medicaid, and other federal program spending, is being revised up. Way up. The initial budget approved by the 2006 legislature kept

this spending growth under \$12 billion and 4.0 percent. The governor's revised budget raises this amount to almost \$12.4 billion, or an 8.2 percent hike.

There have been the usual complaints about spending growth but there have seldom been so many examples of dubious and wasteful spending to provide.

The rapidly growing spending for the state capitol remodel now has a price tag that could eventually exceed \$300 million.

The state's bonded indebtedness tops \$4 billion. That's almost \$1,500 per Kansan or over \$5,900 for a family of four.

The state's universities are seeking over \$700 million for facilities. This includes dubious projects like over \$607,000 for Chancellor Hemingway's home, guest house, and garage at K.U. That university would like taxpayers to provide \$8,176,385 to spend on Allen Field House. Where else could they find money to refurbish that sports facility? Ditto for K.S.U. that at least had a smaller request of \$3,171,040 for Ahearn Field House.

Wichita State University had initially included the usually vacant Cessna Stadium but pulled this off the official list when an Americans for Prosperity lobbyist raised questions about it being

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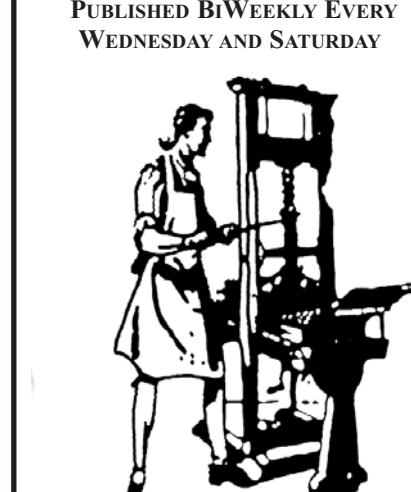
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"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

- Thomas Jefferson, 1787

Ron's Supermarket Combines The Best Of Both Worlds

Now That's Rural

Who's minding the store? That old saying takes on new meaning when we go to Ron's Supermarket in Pittsburg, Kansas, where we find an innovative store owner with a commitment to quality. He is definitely minding the store, having brought together the personal touch of an old-time neighborhood store with the convenience and technology of modern times.

Ron Rhodes is the owner of Ron's Supermarket in Pittsburg, Kansas. Ron has rural roots, having grown up on a farm near the northeast Kansas community of Hillsdale, population 300 people. Now, that's rural.

Ron went to Pittsburg State, where he met his wife Barbara, whose father had a small grocery store there. Ron served in the Army and then moved back to Pittsburg. He was interviewing for jobs when Barbara's father suggested that he work in the store carrying out groceries until he landed a permanent job. But Ron found he enjoyed the grocery business.

Ron says, "There was a lot of customer interaction. I enjoyed working around customers and employees."

In 1975, a small, old grocery store on the north side of Pittsburg came up for sale, and Ron and Barbara bought it. Ron says, "It was a great experience." This was truly a community store, in which people in the neighborhood felt very much at home.

"We had as many people come in through the back door as through the front door," he said.

From that humble beginning, Ron built the business and expanded through the years at various locations. He now has stores in Branson, Missouri and in Wichita. The current store in Pittsburg opened in 1996, adjacent to the mall. The name of the stores is Ron's Supermarket.

The first thing I noticed when entering Ron's Supermarket in Pittsburg is how clean the store is. Ron says with pride, "One emphasis of our store is cleanliness. We added a lot of features to brighten and whiten up the store." These included color selections and effective lighting.

Another emphasis is food safety. Ron says, "We are proud of our perishables." He is also an innovator.

His store was one of the first in Kansas to have TV monitors above the checkout stands showing amber alerts, school announcements, weather, and advertisements.

Ron says, "If you don't move forward, you're going to be passed by."

One interesting store feature is the free sanitary wipes by the shopping carts. Ron explains that when his grandchildren were born, he noticed that the new moms were wiping things around them in order to fight germs. Now when shoppers come into Ron's store, they can help themselves to free sanitary wipes to wipe off the shopping carts. Ron says, "It's a little thing, but some people really appreciate it."

Ron's Supermarket uses a rewards card to track customer's purchases. When customers exceed a certain level or frequency of purchases, the company will reward them with free products. These promotions are tailored to the customer. For example, if a person purchases enough baby products, Ron's Supermarket will send them coupons for free diapers. Other promotions are seasonal, such as free steaks around

Father's Day or free candy at Halloween.

A branch bank is located in the store, complete with drive-up window and ATM. Customers at his store can get money orders and pay utility bills too.

His latest innovation is video cameras at his Wichita stores which transmit images in real time to their computers in Pittsburg. Ron says, "We want customers to be sure they are in a safe environment."

Ron's company now has some 200 employees, and he is proud that many of those have stayed with him for years. He says, "We're committed to good management practices and good people. And we want to be a friend and a good neighbor to the community."

So who's minding the store? In this case, Ron Rhodes and his family are minding the store and making a difference with their innovation and commitment to service. Going the extra mile for his customers may take more time and effort, but it is clear to me that, for his store, he doesn't mind.



Claire Coggins (14) surveys her options

Coach Patterson Comments On The Game With KU

Courtesy Kansas State University
On the overall play in the game...

"I think that was just a very hard fought, very competitive basketball game that, statistically, I don't know that it was necessarily well played by either team, with the exception of Kansas, who I thought did a tremendous job on the boards. Other than that, I think it was just a grinded out battle. Certainly there wasn't any phase of the game where I thought that we were as effective, efficient or as good as we would hope to be in Big 12 basketball. Give credit to Kansas for taking us out of our game and for being very aggressive. Again,

it was just a very hard fought, but statistically, pretty ugly game."

On the lack of aggressiveness ...

"I really felt like we just didn't necessarily do a great job with our passing, our handling or establishing a post presence. I think, obviously, defensively, they guarded us and it just wasn't a night in which I think we were as efficient and as aggressive as we needed to be. You're going to be guarded in Big 12 play. I thought we were passive relative to the aggressiveness that they might have brought. I didn't feel it was anything extraordinary but I don't know that we played as well as I had

hoped as we continue to play through Big 12 basketball."

On rebounding differential...

"I think we just need to continue to work at being more disciplined, more fundamental, on the boards, on the defensive boards. If you look at the numbers both ways, you can see we were more of a passive team. I think a lot of times offensive rebounds are a reflection of the shots you are taking. Knowing when, where and who. Certainly we were ineffective and not efficient offensively so we didn't get a lot of offensive boards because of that. Defensively, I don't think we

brought a fundamental commitment to boarding the ball. So much of Kansas' scoring, although this wasn't a very high scoring game, were predominately points in the paint and I just don't think we established a physical presences there. A lot of those misses were rebounds to be found in the paint. I'm not sure we brought the discipline necessary to be effective there defensively, obviously, because we got beat numerically. I didn't think it was because of a lot of long, hard to get, situational rebounds. I thought it was a lack of fundamental execution."



Ashley Sweat (4) gets off the shot despite some interference



Kimberly Dietz (13) Lays it in for two

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