

Manhattan Free Press

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City Budget Goes To \$105 M

What is another \$6 million to the Budget of Debt City, USA when the 2010 Budget hit the \$100 million for the first time and the Debt hit the same figure.

Tuesday night the City Commission worked on the 2011 Budget and it does not look good for the local taxpayer.

Over the years the Free Press has found that many people do not believe the Free Press when we tell how bad the City money problems are, so we will let Bernie Hayen, Director of Finance tell the story: This is his Memo to the Commission:

BACKGROUND

On May 25th, City Administration presented a broad overview of the proposed 2011 City Budget including a proposed mill levy increase.

After considerable discussion regarding several key issues within the proposed 2011 City Budget and the accompanying mill levy increase, the City Commission requested additional information related to a number of questions. City Administration has developed responses to these questions, all of which are attached or will be discussed within this memorandum.

The detailed budget information provided for the second work session corresponds to the summarized budget information presented at the first work session. No budgetary changes have been made since the last meeting.

DISCUSSION

This memorandum summarizes the detailed information that has been distributed which is related to the 2011 City Budget and 2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program. In particular, this memo will focus on the budget challenges facing the City's Bond & Interest Fund.

The City's Bond & Interest Fund, as previewed on several occasions with the City Commission, will experience a significant mill levy increase in 2011 due to the many projects associated with city growth in the past few years as well as a decline in fund revenues. Most likely, additional increases to this Fund's mill levy will also be required in the near future.

Overall, the proposed 2011 City Budget will increase over the 2010 City Budget due to a number of issues related to both the growth across the City as well as future projects that will have an effect on the City's budgeting process and property tax rates in 2011 and beyond.

General Fund

As proposed, the 2011 General Fund budget reflects a modest \$121,967 increase over the 2010 General Fund Budget or about 0.5%. However, this increase is due to operations supported by revenue sources other than property taxes. It includes an increase in the Rental Inspection Program of \$38,656 (offset by rental inspection fees) and an increase in the Discovery Center budget of \$89,066 (offset by an additional transfer of transient guest tax).

Of the total increase for the Rental Inspection Program and Discovery Center, approximately \$90,000 is related to the addition of four new positions. At the beginning of 2011, two new Rental Inspectors are anticipated to be hired to implement the new Rental Inspection program. The



The City of Manhattan has plans to redevelop downtown Manhattan using a tax on the businesses. The City and County properties in the Benefit District will also be assessed. The Poyntz Improvements Benefit District will include properties on Poyntz from 300 Poyntz Avenue to 431 Poyntz Avenue. The Alleys and Mews Benefit District will include all the the properties on Poyntz from 300 Poyntz avenue to 431 Poyntz avenue that are adjacent to the alleys related to this project. The A&M Benefit District will also include properties that are adjacent to the alleys on 300 & 400 Block that have a Houston, Humboldt, N 4th Street, or S 4th Street address. The previous benefit district, including type A improvements only, had a total project cost of \$531,462, a total assessment of \$177,154, and an annual payment of \$18,720. Example: Annual assessment for a parcel with 25 feet of front footage. a) Poyntz Improvement Project: \$805 b) Alleys & Mews Project: \$165 c) Previous Benefit District: \$293.

other two positions requested for 2011 include an office assistant and educator for the Discovery Center. The office assistant is budgeted to be hired in July of 2011 while the educator is expected to be hired in the last quarter of the year.

As presented at the first work session, the capital improvement program within the General Fund continues to decrease as efforts are made to keep property taxes flat with past years. Contractual and commodity expenses also remain flat among departments with the exception of the aforementioned increases in the Rental Inspection Program and Discovery Center budgets.

A troubling aspect of the 2011 General Fund budget and the budget years that follow, is the continuing downward slide of ending cash balances. For most of this decade, the Finance Department has forecasted revenues conservatively and expenditures more liberally which has produced ending cash balances that, in 2007, reached nearly \$5 million.

However, with annual operational expenditures continuing to increase due to unprecedented community-wide growth coupled with an attempt

to keep General Fund property tax levies low, ending fund balances have slowly declined.

As a result, the Finance Department is projecting a 2010 ending cash balance of less than \$2.1 million. The current multi-year forecast suggests that this decline will continue unless two things happen in tandem — a return of both assessed property valuation and local sales taxes growing at a rate of 6% to 8% annually.

Overall, the General Fund for 2011 represents a minuscule 0.5% increase in spending over 2010. This increase is completely offset by revenue

sources other than property taxes.

Bond & Interest Fund

The City's Bond & Interest Fund is the primary account from which annual principal and interest payments are made on debt issuances that have been approved by the City Commission.

The Bond & Interest Fund has continued to grow as the number of new city-wide benefit districts and related special assessments have increased across the city. Many other capital projects currently underway or in the design phase will also have a significant impact on the Bond & Interest Fund starting in 2011 and moving for-

ward. These projects include the Marlatt Avenue and US-24 intersection improvements (2011 impact), McCall/US-24 intersection improvements (2012 impact), two new fire stations proposed at the last work session (2013 impact), McCall Road benefit district (2014 impact), Downtown Redevelopment (2011-2014 impact), and several others. While some of these projects will have a related revenue source to offset the debt service on the bonds, many will require a prop-

See City page 2

Budget Schedule

Summary

Currently, the total City budget is proposed to increase by \$6,042,392 while property taxes are budgeted to increase by \$1,832,933, or 5.752 mills. For the second work session, City Administration would like feedback from the City Commission on the following items in order to continue to finalize the 2011 City

Budget:

1. Direction concerning the overall proposed City Budget for 2011 and the budgeted property tax increase.
2. A permanent financing recommendation for the City's obligation in the Lowery settlement.
3. Approval or disapproval of the three CIP requests submitted by Downtown Manhattan Inc. and recommendations for financing.
4. Direction regarding the proposed utility rate increases for 2011.

This is the second of four scheduled work sessions on the 2011 City Budget and 2011-2016 CIP. The third work session is scheduled to include presentations from the outside agencies requesting funding for the 2011 budget year as well as a multi-year outlook of all City funds. The follow-

ing is the current calendar regarding the 2011 City Budget and 2011-2016 Capital Improvement Program:

June 22nd Third work session with the City Commission on proposed 2011 Budget and 2011 CIP plus outside agencies appear before the City Commission to present 2011 funding requests. (Fourth Tuesday)

July 13th Fourth work session with the City Commission on proposed 2010 Budget and 2010 CIP. (Second Tuesday)

July 18th Publish notice of 2011 City Budget and CIP public hearing on August 3rd.

August 3rd Public Hearing on the 2011 Budget and CIP and first reading of an ordinance to approve the 2011 Budget and the amended 2010 Budget for select funds if necessary. (First Tuesday)

August 17th City Commission approves second reading of an ordinance approving the 2011 Budget and CIP and amended 2010 Budget for select funds if necessary. (Third Tuesday) Please note that the above budget calendar may change at the discretion of the City Commission in consultation with the City Manager.

A Cow For All Seasons

Hello Everyone,
First of all, let me introduce myself. My name is Sadie Lucinda Goodnow and I am a black and white Holstein cow made out of aluminum. I reside near the barn at the Goodnow farm. I am very much like the cow that once belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Goodnow who were early Manhattan pioneers.

I would like to share with you the story of the first Sadie whom I now represent:

In every way but one, she was a perfect cow! She was beautiful, friendly, a hard worker and provided the Goodnows and their neighbors with rich tasty milk and cream.

Unfortunately, she did have one fault. Sadie possessed a strong sense of curiosity and simply could not stay home!

Her wanderings were very distressing to Mr. Goodnow. He traveled many miles across Kansas raising money for Kansas State University and also for the First United Methodist Church here in Manhattan. He simply did not have time to go hunting for her every time she took a notion to go exploring, and that amazing curiosity took her to the Blue River as well as walks in the moonlight and to other interesting places.

At last, Mr. Goodnow just gave up and decided he had no choice but to take her to the next cattle auction. It was a sad day for both of them the morning that he reluctantly tied a rope around Sadie's neck and slowly left the Goodnow farm for the last time. (Or so he thought!)

Luckily, she had only been in the auction lot a few hours when her little friend came by and saw how forlorn she looked. Quick as a wink Sun Bear

crawled under the fence, quickly untied her rope, and opened the gate. Together they made their way down the hill and back to the Goodnow farm.

When Mr. Goodnow returned home that evening, he was astonished to see her! "Well," he chuckled to Mrs. Goodnow, "I guess if Sadie wants to live here that badly, I think we should let her." "Absolutely," replied Mrs. Goodnow.

From that time on, Sadie tried very hard to stay home most of the time. A year later, she presented the Goodnows with a beautiful new calf that they named Clara (and Sadie added Louisa because she thought it went perfectly with Lucinda.)

Fast forward 144 years to the present

Perhaps, now you can understand

what big hooves I have to fill as the stand-in for the famous Sadie. I've been to eight parades dressed in costume and matching the holiday theme the parade is about. If you have seen me in parades, you have probably noticed my sweet smile. That smile is because the first Sadie would be so proud of me for carrying on her tradition of roaming through Manhattan in search of new adventures.

Wait... there is one more thing I want to share. The pioneer Sadie even has a book written about her! You can get it and read all about her many adventures. The book can be purchased at the Riley Center Historical Museum or at Rod's Hallmark in Westloop. How many other cows can claim such an honor?

By Jan McIntosh



Sadie, Isaac Goodnow's Cow

Obituaries

Jayne Oppenlander

Edythe Jayne Oppenlander, age 88, a longtime Manhattan resident, died June 1, 2010, in Navasota, Texas. She was born October 21, 1921, in Pipestone City, Minnesota. Jayne was a homemaker. She was a member of the First Lutheran Church in Manhattan. On August 3, 1946, in Clay Center, Kansas, she was married to Eli H. Oppenlander. He preceded her in death on April 27, 1990. She was also

Mary Jo Bishop

Mary Jo Bishop, age 78 of Manhattan, died June 7th, 2010, at her residence. She was born July 8th, 1931 in Kansas City, Missouri, the daughter of Robert Page and Beatrice Estelle (Darby) Thayer, and moved to Manhattan in 1941. Mary Jo graduated from Manhattan High School with the class of 1949 and was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority while attending Kansas State University. Mary Jo was united in marriage to George D. Bishop, and later divorced. Survivors include three children born of this marriage: Brenda Williams, Bill Bishop, and Becky Blake and her husband Richard are all of Manhattan; one brother,

preceded in death by her sister Gwen Patnode; and one grandson, Chris Thompson. Survivors include two daughters: Lori Murphy and her husband Raymond of Anderson, TX, and Jeri Thompson and her husband Lewis of St. George, KS; and five grandchildren. Graveside services will be held at 10:00 A.M. Friday, June 11h, at Sunrise Cemetery in Manhattan with Reverend Dr. Keith Wiens officiating. Family and friends are invited to gather at 9:30 A.M. Friday at the

Donald Thayer and his wife Suzanne of Lower Gwynedd, PA; four grandchildren: Wendy Munson, Erin Williams, Amber Warner, and Andy Blake; four great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She was a homemaker until 1976 and then worked for the City of Manhattan as the Payroll Clerk until her retirement in 1994. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church and Manhattan High School Alumni Association. Mary Jo was an avid doll collector. She enjoyed traveling and studying her family history. Of greatest importance was her family, and she enjoyed sharing stories about her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her

Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home to form a procession to the cemetery. Online condolences may be left for the family through the funeral home website at www.ymlfuneralhome.com. Memorial contributions may be made to American Lung Association. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502.

parents and one brother, Robert Thayer. Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Friday, June 11th at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Chapel with Reverend Ben Duerfeldt officiating. Interment will follow in Sunrise cemetery in Manhattan. The family will receive friends from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Thursday, June 10th at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home. Online condolences may be left for the family through the funeral home website at www.ymlfuneralhome.com. Memorial contributions may be made to the Riley County Genealogical Society. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502.

City

from page one

erty tax increase. The Lowery Settlement is another future City obligation that could impact the mill levy in the Bond and Interest Fund as soon as 2012. Temporary notes in the amount of \$1.455M are scheduled to be issued in June 2010. The earliest call date for these temporary notes is June 2011. Currently, this obligation is projected to be permanently financed with a 115 year G.O. bond with payments starting in 2012. As a direct result of the City's growth as well as the City's obligation to budget for the debt service on the STAR and TIFF bonds, it is anticipated that the Bond & Interest Fund budget will increase by about 31.5% in 2011 in order to meet the future bond payments that will be coming due. The 2011 beginning cash balance in the Bond & Interest Fund is projected to be approximately \$970,000 lower than the beginning cash balance budgeted in 2010. In order to balance the fund, this decrease in cash balance must ultimately be offset by property taxes. As the community starts to realize the impacts of the past and future growth taking place, it will be increasingly difficult for the City to follow the Long-Term Obligation Policy (debt policy) that was approved by the City Commission in early 2002 with the passage of Resolution 031902-A. This comprehensive document has been successfully used since its passage and can be credited for the timely reduction of outstanding principal on City bonds as well as being positively received by the City's bond rating agencies as an unusual and effective tool. Of particular importance is the section related to the issuance of tax-supported general obligation debt. The City shall not assume more tax-supported general obligation debt (excluding special assessment bonds) than it retires each year without conducting an objective analysis as to the community's ability to assume and support additional general obligation bond service payments. Whenever appropriate, self-supporting revenue bonds shall be issued before general obligation bonds. While City policies are intended to provide consistent direction for past, present, and future City Commissions, they do not bind the Governing Body in the same manner that a Kansas statute or City ordinance would. Nonetheless, it is important for the City Commission to recognize the challenges that will be faced by the intent of this particular policy as it relates to growth issues facing the entire community. Special Revenue Funds It is anticipated at this early stage that most special revenue funds will not increase appreciably in 2011 compared to their 2010 budgets. However, the Riley County Police Department budget is currently forecasted to increase 5% over the 2010 appropria-

tion. The City Library budget is proposed to increase by 0.6% and the Health Department is proposed to increase by 8%. All of these budgets are supported primarily by property tax levies. The property tax impact associated with City's Employee Benefit Fund, which does not include health insurance benefits, is anticipated to nearly double in 2011. This increase is in part due to a change in KPERS regulations regarding the year of service requirement before contributions as well as an increased contribution rate for the City. However, the Kansas Police and Fire (KP&F) pension fund is forecasted to have a healthy fund balance in 2011 resulting in a property tax decrease of \$75,000. Enterprise Funds During last year's 2010 public budget hearing, the City Commission agreed to implement a 7% increase to water rates effective in January, 2010. At that time, City Administration recommended to postpone further rate increases planned on an annual basis to see if they were warranted. City Administration will be recommending another 7% increase to water rates effective in January, 2011. In addition, federal and state mandates requiring new treatment methods and a plant expansion will continue to require substantial rate increases for several years in order to pay for improvements to the City's wastewater treatment facility. At last year's public hearing for the 2010 budget, a 15% rate increase was forecasted for 2011. Due to increased expenses associated with the wastewater treatment facility and operations, City Administration will be recommending a 20% increase to wastewater rates effective in January, 2011. Although the City's Stormwater Fund is in much improved financial condition as the result of recent rate increases, it will be necessary to again increase fees by a recommended 5% in order to continue to improve and maintain the City's stormwater system. The City may also have a significant future cost associated with the upgrade of a portion of the flood levy. It is likely this project will be financed through the Bond & Interest Fund. Capital Improvement Program The City's overall capital improvement program (CIP) is proposed to be \$46,704,139 in 2011. This is a \$33,150,339 increase from the \$13,553,800 budgeted in 2010. The

majority of this increase is related to several wastewater capital improvements such as the wastewater treatment plant improvement, K-18 sewer line relocation, Blue Township sewer improvements, and the design and construction of the western interceptor relief sewer SCS-17. On the other hand, the 2011 CIP budget impact for the General Fund is proposed to decrease \$136,450 from the total \$289,650 budgeted in 2010. The 2011 General Fund CIP is currently set at \$153,200. Please note that citizen requests which are part of the 2011-2016 Capital Improvement Program booklet can be found under the "Citizen Request" tab. Of the four requests received, three of these requests were submitted by Downtown Manhattan Inc. City Administration is proposing a benefit district for the aesthetic improvements to the 300 and 400 blocks along Poyntz Ave. and adjacent alleyways. It is recommended that the benefit district finance one-third of the project cost with the City contributing two-thirds. City Administration is also recommending the improvements to the Town Center Plaza be funded through revenues generated from the past sale of the Mall. The other citizen request was for a sidewalk or trail along Knox Lane. Currently, discussions are taking place with the property owner of which the trail would be installed. If an easement can be obtained, and if it is the desire of the surrounding community, a limestone trail could possibly be implemented in the latter part of 2010. New Employee Positions There are several proposed changes to the City's employment structure within the 2011 City Budget. Out of the six new personnel requests, four are included in the General Fund and two in the Utility Funds. All positions within the General Fund will be offset by revenue other than property taxes. The two rental inspector positions will be funded by the rental licensing fees generated through the program while the two Discovery Center positions will be funded by a transfer of transient guest tax revenues.



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Kansas Profile - Now That's Rural: Pat Carver - Pats' Beef Jerky

By Ron Wilson, director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University.

Chewy, flavorful, spicy, delicious. Those would be some terms to describe some wonderful beef jerky. This jerky has been shipped halfway around the globe, and it's made right here in Kansas.

It's the subject of this week's Kansas Profile.

Pat Carver is the owner of Pat's Beef Jerky, which is located in his hometown of Liebenthal, due south of Hays.

Pat's mother is from Liebenthal originally, and when his father retired from the military, they moved back there. After growing up in Liebenthal, Pat worked as a meat cutter at a locker plant in Oakley. It's too good to be true that someone named Carver worked as a meat cutter, but that's beside the point. Pat also cut meat for Boogarts Grocery Store.

Pat was working in Hays when a friend gave him a recipe for beef jerky. He tried it, experimented with various flavors, and hit on a style of beef jerky that he really liked. He gave some to his friends, and when people started asking him to make more beef jerky for them, he figured it could become a business. He saw it as an opportunity to involve his parents as well. "My parents were retiring and I thought it could give them something to do if we made jerky a couple of days a week," he said. "But it didn't work out that way. We had so much demand that we had to work five days that first week, and we have ever since."

Before that, however, there was the question of where to locate the business. Pat bought a historic bank building in Liebenthal and



Ron Wilson

remodeled it. The Liebenthal State Bank building is located prominently along Highway 183. The bank had been robbed in 1927 and subsequently closed in the 1930s. Pat did an extensive remodeling job on the building and opened Pat's Beef Jerky in June 1990.

"My youngest daughter turned three while I was working on the remodeling," Pat said. "We had ice cream and cake right there in the store. Now she's 23 years old!"

Pat started with one smoker oven and now he is up to six. So what is the secret to really good beef jerky?

"You want to make the jerky dry but pliable. I probably use extra flavorings compared to some companies, and my jerky is easier to chew," he said. "High quality beef jerky comes from the hard work of a good staff. We strive to make the best beef jerky in western Kansas. Our beef comes primarily from Kansas and Nebraska. Using various spices and smoky flavors, we create a taste that cannot be matched."

The beef jerky is available online, in local convenience

stores, and for walk-in traffic. An estimated 80 percent of his business is walk-in trade, which is remarkable considering that Liebenthal is a community of 110 people. Now, that's rural.

Yet Pat has had visitors from around the globe, including such places as Japan and New Zealand. Customers include the Gatlin brothers and Tiger Wood's golf caddy. Pat's product has also gone to servicemen and women serving in Iraq. Pat proudly displays an autographed flag which was sent by soldiers there in appreciation for his exceptional beef jerky.

He sells the jerky in various size packages, plus a pepper stick which is quite popular. For local pickup, he also sells bologna, summer sausage, and brats. His jerky has literally been shipped from coast to coast. For more information, go to www.patsbeefjerky.com.

A customer in Texas said, "This is no doubt one of the best jerky places." A customer in Colorado wrote, "His jerky was exceptional...great, thick, juicy jerky...spectacular results."

On June 26, 2010, Pat's Beef Jerky will celebrate its 20th year. Among the guests of honor will be Pat's mother and other family members, including his 23-year-old daughter, who were all there at the very beginning.

Chewy, flavorful, spicy, delicious - attributes of Pat's Beef Jerky. We commend Pat Carver, his family, and staff. Their hard work, entrepreneurship, and commitment to a quality product is making a difference by building a homegrown business in rural Kansas. That makes a lot to chew on.

K-State designated A National Center

By Katie Mayes
KSU News Service

Kansas State University's Center for Information and Systems Assurance has been named a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Research. The designation is made by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and National Security Agency and is effective through 2015.

"This designation speaks volumes about the cybersecurity and high-assurance software research taking place at K-State," said Kirk Schulz, K-State president. "Our researchers are among the best minds in the country when it comes to information and computer security."

K-State's designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Research - or CAER - became official at a ceremony June 8 at the National Electronics Museum in Baltimore, Md.

Research in K-State's Center for Information and Systems Assurance - also known as CISA - falls into two categories: cybersecurity and secure software system construction. Xinming Ou, assistant professor of computing and information sciences, led K-State's effort in applying for the designation.

"Most of the causes of cybersecurity problems have to do with software vulnerabilities, which are mistakes made by software developers," he said. "We've been investigating and exploring scientific methods for improving software quality by developing automated program verification techniques and language concepts that can be applied to improve software security."

K-State research on secure software system construction falls under John Hatcliff, professor of computing and information sciences and director of the laboratory for specification, analy-

sis and transformation of software, also known as the SANtoS laboratory. Hatcliff's research involves creating mathematical and logical models that can be used by special computer-based auditing programs to guarantee that information is shared with the right people at the right time and that leaks are prevented.

"We're moving beyond conventional quality assurance techniques in common use, like testing and systematic inspection, to using both logic and different types of math to model software," Hatcliff said. "Once we have these more rigorous ways of describing software behavior, we are then able to systematically establish - using mathematical reasoning and logical reasoning - whether the software is correct."

K-State's work in this area netted the university a \$3 million grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research in 2009. With the grant, K-State researchers are collaborating with researchers at Princeton University to develop tools to secure information systems so that when information is transferred across large systems, there is confidence that nothing is accidentally revealed.

On the cybersecurity side, Ou's Argus research group is formulating scientific methods for managing the security of complex network systems.

"Cybersecurity is an asymmetric warfare," he said. "The attackers only need to find one hole to compromise a system, whereas the defenders have to plug them all. Without automated reasoning, cyberspace will continue to be the Wild West, where bad guys will wreak havoc."

Ou's work seeks to improve cybersecurity by providing automated reasoning that a network administrator can use to reach a conclusion about what security breaches have happened and how they happened, as well as quantitative metrics to determine how

secure a system is. This line of work has been supported by a number of federal and industrial grants, including a \$430,000 National Science Foundation CAREER grant awarded to Ou earlier this year.

"This national designation is a recognition of the expertise K-State has built in this area over the last 20 years," said Gurdip Singh, head of the department of computing and information sciences. "We had one of the world's earliest scientific works in the area of secure information flow back in the 1980's. Today, the SANtoS laboratory and Argus group are taking that research to new heights."

"Cybersecurity research is a strategic area for our department as we build a strong educational program to train the next generation of leaders in the field of cybersecurity," he said.

The Center of Academic Excellence in Research program is in its third year, and K-State is the only university in Kansas that has received the research designation.

Other members of K-State's Center for Information and Systems Assurance are: Torben Amtoft, associate professor of computing and information sciences; Dan Andresen, associate professor of computing and information sciences; Scott DeLoach, associate professor of computing and information sciences; Robby, associate professor of computing and information sciences; David Schmidt, professor of computing and information sciences; Noel Schulz, professor of electrical and computer engineering; Craig Stapley, assistant professor of political science; David Stone, professor of history; Julie Thornton, instructor of computing and information sciences; Harvard Townsend, K-State's chief information security officer; and Virgil Wallentine, professor of computing and information sciences.

Woods & Williams Join Frontier Credit

Ken Woods and Chris Williams have joined the Manhattan lending team as Financial Services Officers. Their duties include retaining, marketing and servicing mortgage and commercial loans as part of the Manhattan team.

Ken has spent his career in lending with the Farm Credit System. He comes to Manhattan most recently from the Marysville lending office. Prior to that, he served agricultural producers as a loan officer and branch manager around Larned, Kansas for 10 years. Ken received his bachelor's degree from Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

Chris joined Frontier Farm Credit in 2004, as a Financial Analyst. Most recently he served as a Business Services Specialist, supporting tax planning and preparation, business plans and transition strategy. Chris is originally from Little River, KS where his family has a cash crop livestock

operation. He has his BS and MS in Agricultural Economics, both from Kansas State University.

Frontier Farm Credit, ACA, is a \$1.2 billion borrower-owned financial

institution serving more than 6,000 shareholders in eastern Kansas with agricultural loans, leases, crop insurance, appraisal services, tax preparation, recordkeeping and transition planning.

Ladies's Night At Beach

The next Ladies' Night at Kansas State University's Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art will feature an art project related to the museum's "Pieces of Time: Quilts from the K-State Historic Costume and Textile Museum" exhibition.

Ladies' Night will start at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 24, and be led by Kathrine Schlageck, senior educator at the museum.

"Pieces of Time" includes American quilts and quilted children's blankets from 1840 to 1950. Each work celebrates the art of the needle

and fabric. Ladies' Night participants will tour the exhibition and draw inspiration from the designs to help them in creating the night's art project: creating collage greeting cards.

"A group of women gathering to make art together is a nice variation on the tradition of quilting guilds," Schlageck said.

Ladies' Night is \$10 per person and includes all materials and a dessert. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the Beach Art Museum at 785-532-7718.

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Government Consolidation

By Bob Strawn
Manhattan City Commissioner

My good friend Dick Miller and his wife, Jennie, are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this month. Isn't that great? Well maybe not for all of you. As in his absence John Matta and I will be writing this column. And for those of you who enjoy Miller's firebrand style, you may want to look elsewhere over the next four weeks. Because elected officials like me have to keep it pretty "whipped cream," so as not to alienate. Now Matta, he'll mix it up. I can assure you of that. Look for his words in a couple weeks.

Today, let me ramble on a bit about one of my favorite subjects, government consolidation. Coming from the business world as I do, I often wonder why we have all this government, all this redundancy. Do we really need 165 legislators wandering around Topeka, when a 100 or so could raise taxes and cut services just as well?

Recently, The Kansas Public Finance Center at Wichita State University published a study named the "Potential Cost Savings from Consolidation of Kansas Counties." Naturally, it caught my eye. The study was evidently commissioned by the legislature. You know rather than getting to solutions, politicians often commission studies instead. It gets us off the hook for the results, if they are ever implemented, which is seldom at best.

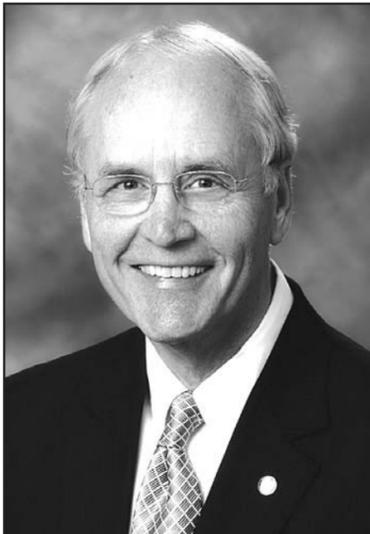
Anyway, this one is a worthy, albeit cursory read. And I strongly recommend it to you. Just "Goggle" the study title authored by J.D. Wong.

The purpose of this study was to compare potential cost savings from alternative county consolidation scenarios.

There are 89,476 total local governments in the U.S. Kansas ranks fifth among the states with 3,931. But our population ranks just 32nd falling between Mississippi and Arkansas. Kansas has 104 county governments (5th), 627 city governments (8th), 1,353 township governments (4th), 1,531 special districts (7th), and 316 school districts (16th). Our state is fifth in government but thirty-second in population. Yikes!

Not surprisingly, according to the study, the best of four alternatives would restructure Kansas to just 25 counties.

"Such a consolidation could reduce total statewide county expenditures by \$826 million. General expenditures could be reduced \$662 million. Salaries could be reduced by as much as \$317 million. Hospital costs could be reduced by \$230 million, utility costs could decrease by \$178 million, highway costs could decrease by \$130 million, sewerage costs could decrease by \$79 million, natural resource costs could decrease by \$66 million, police protection costs could decrease by \$45 million, health costs



Bob Strawn

could decrease by as much as \$33 million, and interest costs could decrease by \$33 million. In addition, the level of debt incurred could also be cut by as much as \$437 million."

Wildly optimistic? I don't know. But I do believe we cannot sustain the current structure and expect to have great schools, universities, highways and all the rest we expect of state government. There's not enough money to go around. It's really that simple.

The state just passed a sales tax increase to get us through the next budget cycle. Okay, I get that. I don't like it. But I understand the rationale.

What I don't get it that with the increase came no long term plans to fix anything. To make Kansas competitive with 21st Century needs. We should start that process right now. Looking at our county structure, it is clear that we don't need a system that dates back to our founding when, former county commissioner Bob Newsome tells me, the logic was to have enough counties so cowboys could ride to their county seats, do business and return to the ranch the same day. This is just nuts. Let's get on with fixing it.

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"Conscience of Kansas"

Ron Paul, whose side are you on?

Everybody takes sides. When the chips are down on important issues, everybody can eventually be found on a side of their choosing. Those that claim to be neutral on the important issues of life are either ignorant of the reality of where they truly stand or are attempting to deceive someone. Percentages are higher on the latter, which is unfortunate because it creates a disingenuous world where people carry false banners of affiliation and advertise ideological beliefs that contradict the way they really think and act.

Texas Congressman Ron Paul's interview with Don Imus over the Israeli embargo of the Gaza Strip raises a number of disturbing questions about where this self-proclaimed Republican stands on a number of important questions. Ron Paul, a longtime isolationist, shocked many when he not only admonished Israel's lawful blockage of the Gaza Strip, but also said that Israel's action were nothing short of an act of war. When Imus mentioned that Israel was not attempting to stop humanitarian aid in the region, rather weapons being smuggled to the terrorist organization Hamas, Ron Paul released a tirade of unbelievable statements.

Paul legitimated the terrorist organization Hamas and attacked both Israel's and America's attempts to restrain terrorist organizations using boycotts and embargos. Specifically, Paul denounced actions taken against known terrorists and enablers in Palestine, Iran and Iraq under Saddam Hussein. According to Ron Paul's thinking, the terrorist organizations and the countries that harbor them have been victims of Israel and America's inability to continue to reach out in friendly dialogue. Ron Paul told Imus, "America should tell Israel they are on their own." Paul's assertion that we should abandon our ally Israel is shocking but it is only the tip of the iceberg of the congressman's misguided thinking. If we are to question Ron Paul's anti-Israel stance, should we not also question his overt anti-America stance?

Ron Paul's interview with Don Imus is riddled with "blame America first" rhetoric. Paul starts like a modern day liberal by minimizing radical Islamic terrorism and placing the terrorists as victims and America as an imperialistic aggressor. The congressman also shows how naive he is regarding the differences between past aggressors of the world and the modern terrorist. Highlighting this point, Ron Paul casually says of Hamas, "Yeah, they're probably not the best people in the world, but you know, didn't we talk to the Soviets...?" This disconnect from the realities of terrorism combined with a "blame Israel and America first" mentality does not represent the Republican Party and is not in the same universe as conservative values. Ron Paul not only sounded like a Democrat when talking to Don Imus, but his rhetoric embraced the worst of the beliefs and values of the mod-



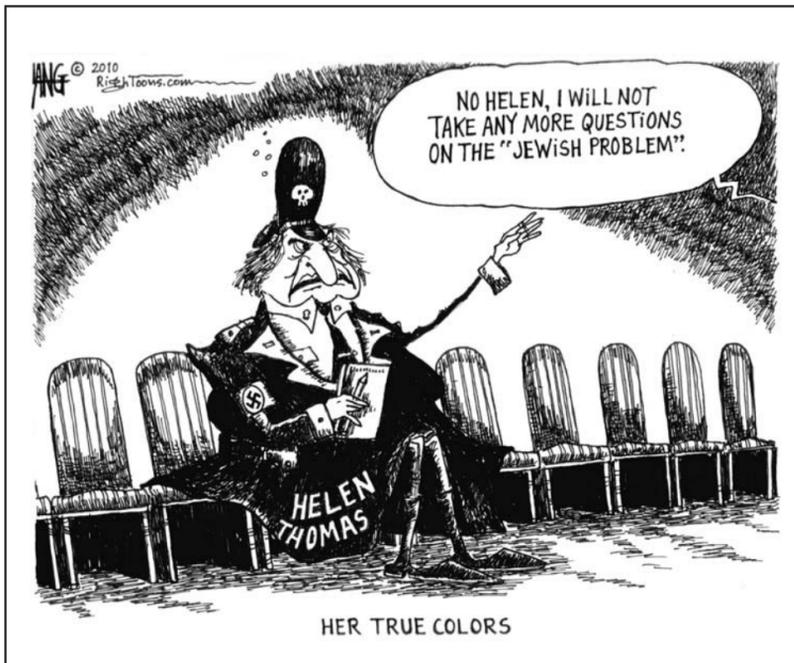
Paul A. Ibbetson

ern liberal. Ron Paul's own words demand that he be asked, "Whose side are you on?"

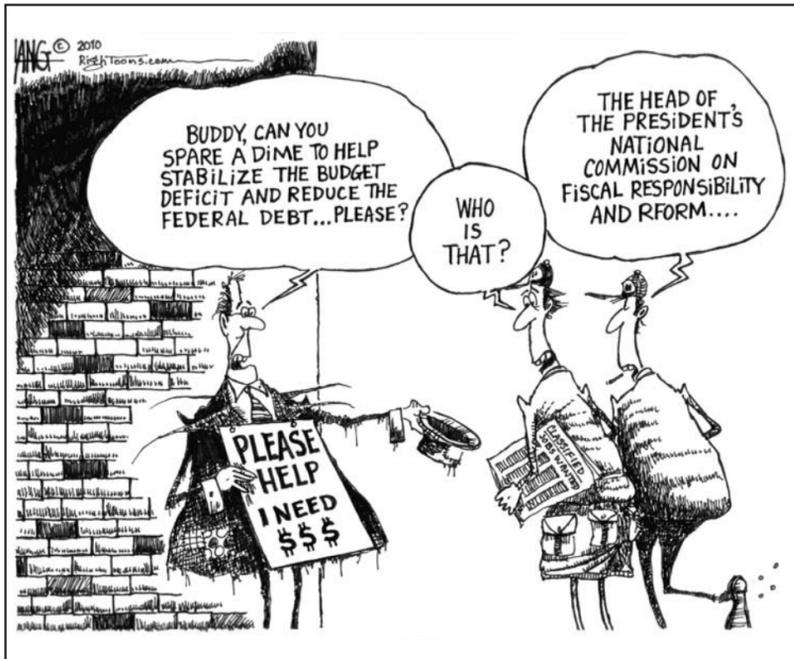
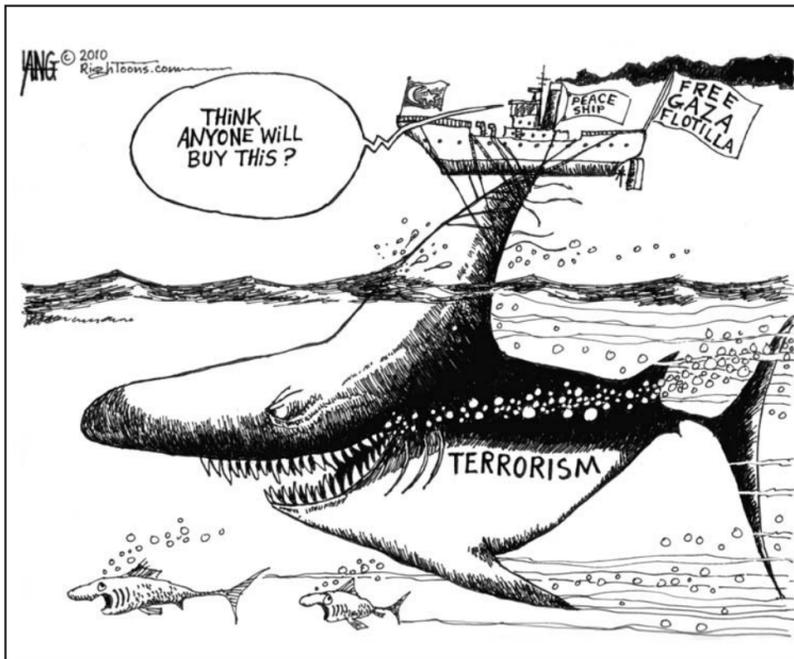
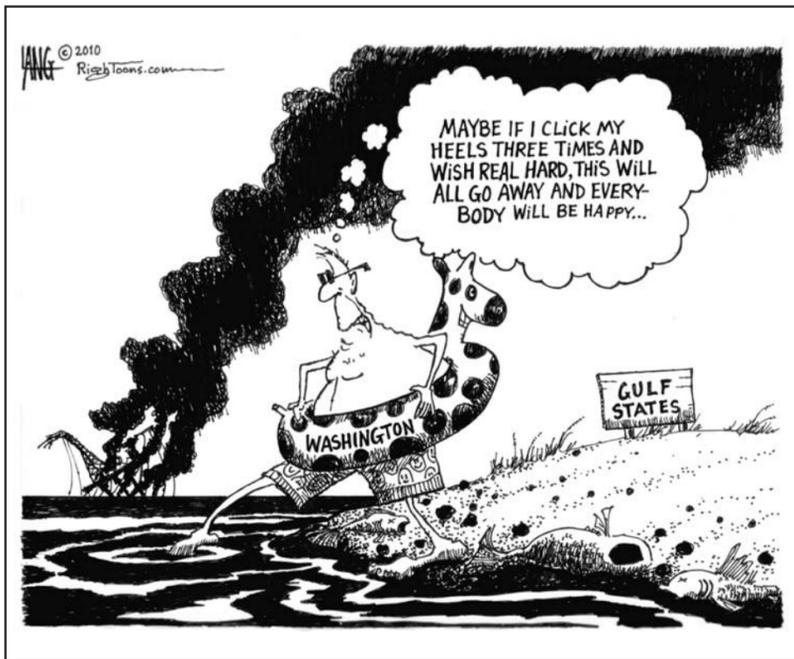
The assertion that because America supports elections in the world we must also support and lift up terrorist organizations such as Hamas is more than simply wrong, it's repulsive. If Ron Paul really believes that, then his long-term view of the world can be measured in inches. Americans have the sense, the ability and the right to reject terrorist organizations no matter how they come to power. America doesn't abandon its allies for its enemies. Israel is being attacked by Hamas daily and it is here that war has been declared, not in the country's attempt to safeguard itself through embargos.

We all take sides and we are all accountable to which camp that places us in. Ron Paul does not have to adhere to conservative values or even to the Republican Party. He is not required to be a friend of Israel or even to have positive American sentiment, but he needs to be clear about where he stands, which camp he really calls home. Ron Paul, whose side are you on?

Paul A. Ibbetson is a former Chief of Police of Cherryvale, Kansas, and member of the Montgomery County Drug Task Force. Paul received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Criminal Justice at Wichita State University, and is currently completing his Ph.D. in Sociology at Kansas State University. Paul is the author of the books "Living Under The Patriot Act: Educating A Society" and "Feeding Lions: Sharing The Conservative Philosophy In A Politically Hostile World." Paul is also the radio host of the Kansas Broadcasting Association's 2008, 2009 and 2010 Entertainment Program of the Year, Conscience of Kansas airing on KSDB Manhattan 91.9 FM, www.ibbetsonusa.com. For interviews or questions, please contact him at: ibbetson91.9@gmail.com



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4.

James Madison 1809-1817

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The Federalist Papers

**The Federalist No. 45
Alleged Danger From the Powers of the Union to the State Governments Considered
Independent Journal
Saturday, January 26, 1788
[James Madison]
To the People of the State of New York:**

HAVING shown that no one of the powers transferred to the federal government is unnecessary or improper, the next question to be considered is, whether the whole mass of them will be dangerous to the portion of authority left in the several States.

The adversaries to the plan of the convention, instead of considering in the first place what degree of power was absolutely necessary for the purposes of the federal government, have exhausted themselves in a secondary inquiry into the possible consequences of the proposed degree of power to the governments of the particular States. But if the Union, as has been shown, be essential to the security of the people of America against foreign danger; if it be essential to their security against contentions and wars among the different States; if it be essential to guard them against those violent and oppressive factions which embitter the blessings of liberty, and against those military establishments which must gradually poison its very fountain; if, in a word, the Union be essential to the happiness of the people of America, is it not preposterous, to urge as an objection to a government, without which the objects of the Union cannot be attained, that such a government may derogate from the importance of the governments of the individual States? Was, then, the American Revolution effected, was the American Confederacy formed, was the precious blood of thousands spilt, and the hard-earned substance of millions lavished, not that the people of America should enjoy peace, liberty, and safety, but that the government of the individual States, that particular municipal establishments, might enjoy a certain extent of power, and be arrayed with certain dignities and attributes of sovereignty? We have

heard of the impious doctrine in the Old World, that the people were made for kings, not kings for the people. Is the same doctrine to be revived in the New, in another shape that the solid happiness of the people is to be sacrificed to the views of political institutions of a different form? It is too early for politicians to presume on our forgetting that the public good, the real welfare of the great body of the people, is the supreme object to be pursued; and that no form of government whatever has any other value than as it may be fitted for the attainment of this object. Were the plan of the convention adverse to the public happiness, my voice would be, Reject the plan. Were the Union itself inconsistent with the public happiness, it would be, Abolish the Union. In like manner, as far as the sovereignty of the States cannot be reconciled to the happiness of the people, the voice of every good citizen must be, Let the former be sacrificed to the latter. How far the sacrifice is necessary, has been shown. How far the unsacrificed residue will be endangered, is the question before us.

Several important considerations have been touched in the course of these papers, which discountenance the supposition that the operation of the federal government will by degrees prove fatal to the State governments. The more I revolve the subject, the more fully I am persuaded that the balance is much more likely to be disturbed by the preponderance of the last than of the first scale.

We have seen, in all the examples of ancient and modern confederacies, the strongest tendency continually betraying itself in the members, to despoil the general government of its authorities, with a very ineffectual capacity in the latter to defend itself against the encroachments. Although, in most of these examples, the system has been so dissimilar from that under consideration as greatly to weaken any inference concerning the latter from the fate of the former, yet, as the States will retain, under the proposed Constitution, a very extensive portion of active sovereignty, the inference ought not to

be wholly disregarded. In the Achaean league it is probable that the federal head had a degree and species of power, which gave it a considerable likeness to the government framed by the convention. The Lycian Confederacy, as far as its principles and form are transmitted, must have borne a still greater analogy to it. Yet history does not inform us that either of them ever degenerated, or tended to degenerate, into one consolidated government. On the contrary, we know that the ruin of one of them proceeded from the incapacity of the federal authority to prevent the dissensions, and finally the disunion, of the subordinate authorities. These cases are the more worthy of our attention, as the external causes by which the component parts were pressed together were much more numerous and powerful than in our case; and consequently less powerful ligaments within would be sufficient to bind the members to the head, and to each other.

In the feudal system, we have seen a similar propensity exemplified. Notwithstanding the want of proper sympathy in every instance between the local sovereigns and the people, and the sympathy in some instances between the general sovereign and the latter, it usually happened that the local sovereigns prevailed in the rivalry for encroachments. Had no external dangers enforced internal harmony and subordination, and particularly, had the local sovereigns possessed the affections of the people, the great kingdoms in Europe would at this time consist of as many independent princes as there were formerly feudatory barons.

The State governments will have the advantage of the Federal government, whether we compare them in respect to the immediate dependence of the one on the other; to the weight of personal influence which each side will possess; to the powers respectively vested in them; to the predilection and probable support of the people; to the disposition and faculty of resisting and frustrating the measures of each other.

The State governments may be regarded as constituent and essential

parts of the federal government; whilst the latter is nowise essential to the operation or organization of the former. Without the intervention of the State legislatures, the President of the United States cannot be elected at all. They must in all cases have a great share in his appointment, and will, perhaps, in most cases, of themselves determine it. The Senate will be elected absolutely and exclusively by the State legislatures. Even the House of Representatives, though drawn immediately from the people, will be chosen very much under the influence of that class of men, whose influence over the people obtains for themselves an election into the State legislatures. Thus, each of the principal branches of the federal government will owe its existence more or less to the favor of the State governments, and must consequently feel a dependence, which is much more likely to beget a disposition too obsequious than too overbearing towards them. On the other side, the component parts of the State governments will in no instance be indebted for their appointment to the direct agency of the federal government, and very little, if at all, to the local influence of its members.

The number of individuals employed under the Constitution of the United States will be much smaller than the number employed under the particular States. There will consequently be less of personal influence on the side of the former than of the latter. The members of the legislative, executive, and judiciary departments of thirteen and more States, the justices of peace, officers of militia, ministerial officers of justice, with all the county, corporation, and town officers, for three millions and more of people, intermixed, and having particular acquaintance with every class and circle of people, must exceed, beyond all proportion, both in number and influence, those of every description who will be employed in the administration of the federal system. Compare the members of the three great departments of the thirteen States, excluding from the judiciary department the justices of peace, with the members of the corresponding departments of the single government of the Union; compare the militia officers of three millions of people with the military and marine officers of any establishment which is within the compass of probability, or, I may add, of possibility, and in this view alone, we may pronounce the advantage of the States to be decisive. If the federal government is to have collectors of revenue, the State governments will have theirs also. And as those of the former will be principally on the seacoast, and not very numerous, whilst those of the latter will be spread over the face of the country, and will be very numerous, the advantage in this view also lies on the same side. It is true, that the Confederacy is to possess, and may exercise, the power of collecting internal as well as external taxes throughout the States; but it is probable that this power will not be resorted to, except for supplemental purposes of revenue; that an option will then be given to the States to supply their quotas by previous collections of their own; and that the eventual collection, under the immediate authority of the Union, will generally be made by the officers, and according to the rules, appointed by the several States. Indeed it is extremely probable, that in other instances, particularly in the organization of the judicial power, the officers of the States will be clothed with the correspondent authority of the Union. Should it happen, however, that separate collectors of internal

revenue should be appointed under the federal government, the influence of the whole number would not bear a comparison with that of the multitude of State officers in the opposite scale. Within every district to which a federal collector would be allotted, there would not be less than thirty or forty, or even more, officers of different descriptions, and many of them persons of character and weight, whose influence would lie on the side of the State.

The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government, are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite. The former will be exercised principally on external objects, as war, peace, negotiation, and foreign commerce; with which last the power of taxation will, for the most part, be connected. The powers reserved to the several States will extend to all the objects which, in the ordinary course of affairs, concern the lives, liberties, and properties of the people, and the internal order, improvement, and prosperity of the State.

The operations of the federal government will be most extensive and important in times of war and danger; those of the State governments, in times of peace and security. As the former periods will probably bear a small proportion to the latter, the State governments will here enjoy another advantage over the federal government. The more adequate, indeed, the federal powers may be rendered to the national defense, the less frequent will be those scenes of danger which might favor their ascendancy over the governments of the particular States.

If the new Constitution be examined with accuracy and candor, it will be found that the change which it proposes consists much less in the addition of NEW POWERS to the Union, than in the invigoration of its ORIGINAL POWERS. The regulation of commerce, it is true, is a new power; but that seems to be an addition which few oppose, and from which no apprehensions are entertained. The powers relating to war and peace, armies and fleets, treaties and finance, with the other more considerable powers, are all vested in the existing Congress by the articles of Confederation. The proposed change does not enlarge these powers; it only substitutes a more effectual mode of administering them. The change relating to taxation may be regarded as the most important; and yet the present Congress have as complete authority to REQUIRE of the States indefinite supplies of money for the common defense and general welfare, as the future Congress will have to require them of individual citizens; and the latter will be no more bound than the States themselves have been, to pay the quotas respectively taxed on them. Had the States complied punctually with the articles of Confederation, or could their compliance have been enforced by as peaceable means as may be used with success towards single persons, our past experience is very far from countenancing an opinion, that the State governments would have lost their constitutional powers, and have gradually undergone an entire consolidation. To maintain that such an event would have ensued, would be to say at once, that the existence of the State governments is incompatible with any system whatever that accomplishes the essential purposes of the Union.

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By Michael D. Tanner
The Cato Institute

\$13,050,826,460,886.97
That's what the National Debt topped this week, a record.

Go ahead, let it soak in: Thirteen trillion, fifty billion, eight hundred twenty-six million, four hundred sixty thousand, eight hundred eighty-six dollars . . . and ninety-seven cents.

Seen on the "debt clock" in Times Square, that number seems little more than an abstraction, something almost impossible to process. But think about it this way: If you earned one dollar every second, it would take you 416,000 years to earn enough money to pay it off. Or consider: Alex Rodriguez earned \$33 million last year, making him the highest paid player in baseball. It would take nearly 400,000 Rodriguezes to earn that much money.

If Democrats and Republicans continue to spend like drunken sailors, it won't really matter who pays the bar bill.

But that's what our children and grandchildren now owe.

Actually, that's just part of the debt we have dumped on future generations. That's because most of what the government owes isn't on the official books.

Social Security, for instance, faces unfunded liabilities of more than \$15.8 trillion. And while that sounds like a lot of money, it is dwarfed by Medicare's looming budget shortfall of between \$50 trillion and \$100 trillion, depending on which accounting measure is used.

So the real national debt may be as much as nine times bigger than the official estimate.

No wonder the bond-rating firm Moody's recently warned that the US government was at risk of losing its AAA credit rating.

This is not a partisan issue.

When George W. Bush became president, the entire federal budget was \$1.2 trillion. By the time he left office, it was \$2.9 trillion, the biggest increase since World War II. A budget surplus in 2000 had become a \$400 billion deficit at the end of Bush's term.

Contrary to Republican mythology, it was not just because of increased defense spending and the "war on terror." President Bush increased domestic discretionary spending faster than any president since Lyndon Johnson. His signature accomplishment was a new Medicare prescription drug entitlement that added more than \$13 trillion to the program's future liabilities.

But President Obama makes Bush look like a skinflint. He's proposed a budget this year that would top \$3.8 trillion.

His signature initiative so far is a new health care entitlement, which will add hundreds of billions to the federal deficit over the next 10 years, and trillions more beyond that.

As a result of this bipartisan profligacy, federal spending topped 24.7% of gross domestic product last year, the highest peacetime percentage in US history. The optimistic projections of the most recent Obama budget see that declining ever so slightly to 23.7% by 2020 (for comparison, the historical average has been roughly 21% of GDP). But that respite, such as it is, will be only temporary. As the full force of entitlement programs kicks in, the federal government will consume more than 40% of GDP by the middle of the century, and rise to an unfathomable 80% of GDP beyond that.

Congress doesn't seem to care, treating debt as an abstraction, monopoly money, someone else's problem. Let them deal with what happens when the US becomes

Greece. Except that day may be sooner than they think.

There is no way to tax our way out of this mess. Just keeping up with currently projected spending would require raising both the corporate tax rate and top income tax rate from their current 35% to 88%, the current 25% tax rate for middle-income workers to 63%, and the 10% tax bracket for low-income workers to 25%.

And that's just at the federal level. State and local taxes would be added on top of that.

Does anyone really believe that our economy can survive that kind of taxation?

If Democrats and Republicans continue to spend like drunken sailors, it won't really matter who pays the bar bill.

Whether government borrows the money or raises it in taxes, every dollar that government spends is a dollar siphoned off from American workers, making us less productive, less prosperous and less free.

Sooner or later, someone is going to have to have the courage to say "No."

Surprisingly, that line may be drawn here — in New York and New Jersey. In Jersey, which faces a nearly \$1 billion budget shortfall, Gov. Chris Christie has refused to raise taxes, and has made real cuts in state spending. Meanwhile, Andrew Cuomo, the leading candidate to become New York's next governor, has rejected a proposal by Lt. Gov. Richard Ravitch to borrow \$6 billion to close the state's budget gap. Perhaps at least some politicians are learning to live within their means.

Now, if only a tiny bit of that courage would bubble up to Congress.

Michael Tanner is a senior fellow at the Cato Institute.

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Ann Harts Named To Most Influential

Ann Harts, a Kansas businesswoman, was named to the "Top 50 Power Ranking of Most Influential Executives" list by Nearshore Americas, the world's most popular media website covering the outsourcing services industry. Harts is one of two U.S.-based businesswomen named to Nearshore Americas' 2010 Influential Executives list, which includes representation from 16 countries in the Western Hemisphere.

The Influential Executives list identifies key executives of services industry outsourcing in the Western Hemisphere instrumental in facilitating investment, improving industry practices, and generally representing clients in the fast-growing offshore services industry.

President and founder of HartsGroup, Inc., based in Manhattan, KS, Harts specializes in strategic location and expansions of information technology companies, contact centers, and back office operations in numerous geographies (including but not limited to Mexico, Central and South America, Caribbean, Asia, United States and Canada). Harts is a contributing writer and expert for several publications and an award-winning speaker on site location and eco-

economic development. She began work in the field of site location and research as Vice President, Economic Development of the Manhattan (KS) Area Chamber of Commerce, being named "Outstanding New Developer of the Year" by her peers in the International Economic Development Council.

The ranking was based on a four-month review process by the editorial team at Nearshore Americas, following hundreds of nominations. Criteria for placement on the list included: personal impact on the growth and visibility of outsourcing of the Americas; record of corporate or government achievement; dedication to raising industry standards and demonstrated initiative as an industry thought-leader.

"Ann is a thorough and reliable advisor whose site selection and negotiation expertise make her one of the region's most knowledgeable partners in evaluating potential relationships and investment," said Kirk Laughlin, founder and editorial director of Nearshore Americas.

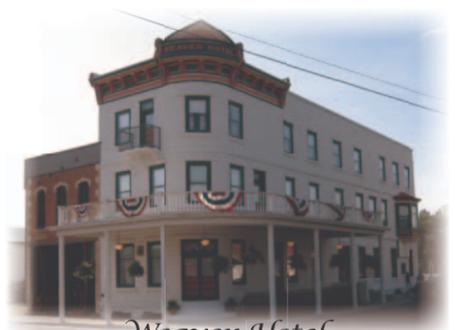
Harts said, "To be recognized by Nearshore Americas as one of the Top 50 Most Influential Executives, and listed with such respected industry

leaders is an honor. A perfect storm of business trends and customer needs makes it necessary to have data and information at the ready. I am pleased to be recognized for the work we provide our clients."

The complete list of 50 executives is available online by visiting Nearshore Americas at: <http://www.nearshoreamericas.com/power-50-ranking-nearshore-americas/>

About Nearshore Americas:

Nearshore Americas, launched in September, 2009, is among the world's most popular media websites covering the outsourced services industry, based on web traffic. The brand investigates key trends that underlie the emergence of Americas-based outsourcing, providing exclusive interviews and case studies, video reports and other features. The site is dedicated to providing valid, high quality analysis about developing successful partnerships in the region. The primary audience for Nearshore Americas includes C-level executives, investors and sourcing decision-makers. For further information, contact founder and editorial director, Kirk Laughlin: Kirk@nextcoastmedia.com



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Stop The Federal Spending Spree

By Tad DeHaven
The Cato Institute

Runaway federal spending has emerged as the chief issue on the minds of voters heading into the fall election season — and for good reason.

In 2000, the federal government spent \$1.8 trillion while debt held by the public stood at \$3.4 trillion. A mere decade later, the federal government is on pace to spend \$3.7 trillion while publicly held debt is approaching \$10 trillion.

There's no blame game left to be played. President George W. Bush left office having presided over one of the largest expansions of federal spending in history.

President Barack Obama appears intent on pulling off the amazing feat of making Bush look like a relative tightwad.

And Congress has become so addicted to spending that the new Capitol Visitor Center — itself a \$600 million fiscal boondoggle — might need to be converted into a giant methadone clinic.

So what hope do taxpayers have left? On the Democratic side of the

aisle, it appears that there isn't any. While the European welfare states are beginning to collapse under their own weight, the Obama administration and Democrat-controlled Congress are pushing the U.S. full steam ahead toward a similar fate of unsustainable social welfare spending.

Obama's latest budget would push publicly held debt as a percentage of GDP to 90 percent by 2020 — a height last seen at the end of World War II.

Back then the ending of hostilities and a post-war economic boom led to a steady and precipitous drop in the debt as a share of the economy.

In the present day, it is entitlement spending that's driving the debt explosion. Unfortunately, the president's expansion of the government's role in health care will exacerbate the problem, despite the administration's claims otherwise.

Meanwhile, House Democrats just pushed through another \$102 billion in spending for allegedly "stimulative" activities. The measures "only" add \$54 billion to the

deficit, thanks to \$48 billion in tax increases.

For their part, Republicans are getting pretty good at halfheartedly objecting to the Democrats' spending orgy. But at a time when citizens are warning both parties to stop their fiscally profligate ways, Republicans need to do more than just say "no." They need to point out the underlying problems with federal spending — for example, that continuing to extend unemployment benefits helps keep unemployment high.

But Republicans, just as much as their Democratic counterparts, are afraid of offending potential voters by threatening to take away their subsidies.

Republican lack of credibility on cutting spending can be seen in the House Republican leadership's new YouCut Web site. Each week the Web site lists five possible spending cuts for citizens to vote on. The "winning" cut proposal then goes to the House floor for a vote.

Engaging citizens in the government's spending crisis is a good idea. The problem: the cuts the

Republican leadership has selected thus far are minuscule.

For instance, one item recently proposed for cutting was \$1 million in mohair subsidies. In the world of federal agriculture subsidies, this cut represents chump change.

Republicans can't be considered serious about restraining the budget unless they put subsidies for wheat, corn, soybeans, rice and cotton on the chopping block.

The Republicans' anti-spending initiative has caught the attention of House Democrats. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer recently told Democratic chairmen that they "all need to find some programs to cut."

Unfortunately, the paltry cuts offered up by the YouCut Web site allow the Democrats to keep the bar low when trotting out their own gimmicks.

While neither party's leadership offers taxpayers much hope of ending the spending madness, a few rank-and-file Republicans do appear to understand that their party needs to take bolder steps.

Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) has introduced a blueprint for reining in runaway federal entitlement programs. Rep. Lamar Smith's (R-Texas) SAFE Act would cap annual growth in the federal budget to inflation plus population growth. In the Senate, Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) has repeatedly offered measures to eliminate unneeded federal programs.

The Republican leadership needs to embrace these efforts, which would signal to apprehensive voters that the party is ready to atone for its big-spending ways of the past decade. Saying "no" to Obama and congressional Democrats' bankrupting policies is fine.

But Republicans need to recognize that voters understand the difference between having one's own agenda and simply being against the other guy's.

Tad DeHaven is a budget analyst at the Cato Institute and co-editor of Downsizing Government.org.

Kansas Couple Tapped By 4-H

Growing up in Kansas is not a prerequisite for giving back to the people of Kansas.

Fred and Cathy Cholick, who are being honored this year with a 4-H Alumni Award, moved to Kansas from South Dakota in 2004, when Fred accepted the position as dean of the College of Agriculture at Kansas State University and director of K-State Research and Extension. He's since accepted responsibilities as president and chief executive officer of the Kansas State University Foundation, but a change in the title on the door isn't likely to curb this couple's commitment to giving back ... and helping others, said Gary Gerhard, coordinator of the Kansas 4-H state awards program.

Both are former 4-H members, and both recognize the value of youth development, said Gerhard, who noted that the award was presented by Brad and Karen Streeter, 4-H Alumni Award Donors, at the 4-H Emerald Circle Banquet, held June 3 in Manhattan, Kan.

In honoring the Cholicks with a state 4-H Alumni Award, Gerhard highlighted their work on behalf of Kansas 4-H, youth development and the larger community.

Fred and Cathy were introduced at age five, when their mothers stopped to chat in a small community grocery store on Sauvies Island, Ore. They grew up attending the same schools, and both enrolled in 4-H, although Fred chose the local 4-H Livestock Club, where he focused on beef and crops projects, and Cathy, the Skyline Sheep Club, in which she worked to become both patient — and proficient — in showing sheep.

Both credit experiences in 4-H with helping to shape their lives.

Fred explains it this way: "4-H projects provide a way in which a child can learn and grow, but it's the child who is the project, not the beef

or sheep."

Fred is appreciative of opportunities in 4-H that allowed him to practice leadership, citizenship and public speaking, and says it provided him with life skills that have been helpful in his teaching and administrative career.

In his case, he said, money raised from 4-H livestock and crops projects covered college costs at Oregon State University for he and for Cathy. The Cholicks married at age 20 and were able to put a down payment on their first house as a result of money raised from the projects.

In speaking about her 4-H years, Cathy is quick to praise the benefits of the adult leadership and mentoring she experienced as a 10-year 4-H member: "My 4-H leader was a kind and generous man, and his willingness to invest time in helping me grow and learn as a 4-H member and as an individual helped to shape my life."

The Cholicks have two grown children — daughter Gina and son Matthew — who have both been 4-H members, so Fred and Cathy also have given back as 4-H parents and contributors to community clubs. Gina was a 4-H member in South Dakota, where the couple lived and worked during her 4-H years. Son Matthew followed in his father's footsteps by returning to the family farm (in Sauvies Island, Ore.) to help his grandfather each summer — and participate in the same 4-H project clubs in which his father had been a member.

"There are many ways in which to help youth," said Cathy, who joins her husband in supporting the power of education and the importance in providing opportunities that allow youth to grow into capable and self-confident young adults, able to evaluate peer pressure for what it is, and develop decision-making skills that will lead to healthy and productive lives.

The Cholick home often has served as a gathering place for youth in the communities in which the family has lived; Cathy has been a volunteer in the school system and a mother who was never too busy to bring treats to school and community events. As such, she also found the time to compile a school treat recipe book as a graduation present for students.

For the Cholicks, it would seem that no job is too big — or too small. Fred's former position as dean and director reserved a chair for him as a member of the Kansas State Fair Board, yet he and Cathy also worked diligently in helping to make the state fair a success.

And, while Cathy explains that she is a helpmate (the couple has approached their almost 40-year-marriage with a 'we're in this together' motto), she is a steady contributor to community in her own right as a ready worker, perennial blood donor, and talented quilter.

As a member of the Konza Prairie Quilters' Guild, Cathy has taken on the responsibility of coordinating the project that makes 150 quilts each year that are given to children through the Crisis Center of Manhattan. Many of these quilts are sewn from kits she and her friends put together.

The Cholicks are modest about their contributions to community, with both agreeing that giving back is simply a way of life.

In honoring Fred and Cathy Cholick, Gerhard praised the couple, saying: "no matter how busy, giving their time and talents to make good things happen for youth and adults in their community — and the larger world — is a priority and a lifelong commitment."

For more information about the Kansas 4-H award program, contact Gerhard at 785-532-5800.

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Explore the capital city! Pick up a treasure packet and first clue at Visit Topeka, Inc. Find all 15 treasures to be eligible for prizes! Details available at VisitTopeka.com

Smoky Hill River Festival
June 10-13, Salina
High-energy, low-cost family fun, featuring live music, fine art and good food. Music by Delbert McClinton, Kathy Matteg, The Steel Wheels & more. Oakdale Park, riverfestival.com

World of Outlaws at DCRP
June 11-12, Dodge City
Dodge City Raceway Park
Boo Hill Showdown
World of Outlaws Sprint Series
(620) 225-3277, dodgcityraceway.com

Lenora Jubilee
June 18-19, Lenora
Concerts Fri: Chris Young/RiverBilly
Sat: Confederate Railroad/Jimmy Dee
(785) 567-4860, LenoraJubilee.com

9th Annual Father's Day Car Show
June 20, Salina
Bring Dad to enjoy wild wheels and wildlife! Antique, classic, original & restored cars, trucks and motorcycles.
(785) 827-9488, rollinghillswildlife.com

2010 GTOAA International Meet
July 1-4, Wichita
International meet of Pontiac GTOs includes drag race, tech sessions, public car show. GR-RRR-8R Wichita GTO Club.
(316) 747-2772, gtoaa.org

Downs Annual Celebration
July 8-10, Downs
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The Science of SuperCroc
March 13-August 5, Flays
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Gold Orchestra Tours Southwest United States

Thirty-four members of the Gold Orchestra, directed by Kansas State University Distinguished Professor of Music David Littrell, along with parents, siblings and friends of the students, were on

tour May 31-June 5 in the Southwest United States.

The all-string orchestra performed at Faith Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at Heritage Square in Flagstaff,

Arizona, at a barbecue hosted by the Grand Canyon Rotary Club and at Totah Theater in Farmington, New Mexico.

Among numbers performed by the group were "Sansone" by

Robert Frost, "The Young Prince and Princess from Scheherazade" by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, "Bagatelle" by Antonin Dvorak and "Marche Slav" by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

The group also drove through Oak Creek Canyon, shopped in Sedona and hiked part of the South Rim of the Grand Canyon in Arizona and stopped at Four Corners Monument, where Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico meet.

Gold Orchestra members on the tour included Abigail Bennett, Junction City; Jake and Kristy Nixon, Kate Bowen, Lexy Witcher, Elizabeth Poppe and Kirstyn Norris, Riley; Miles Barber and Bryclin Alstrom, Marysville; Rachael Lillich, Abilene; Courtney Gardner, Alma; Abby Huddleston, Wamego; and Alex Huerta, Eli Redeker, Isaac Kim, Sarah Mortenson, Jordyn, Joel and Jacob

Moldrup, Anna Murphy, Brian, Timothy and Chris Zachary, Garrett Ellis, Patrick Guvele, Riley Ratliff, Grace Horton-Smith, Christina Minton, Catherine Lei, Alina Zheng, Shawn Sheu, Mindy DePaola, Carolyn Sager and Carter Nelson of Manhattan.

The Gold Orchestra was founded by Littrell in 1989 with 10 students in grades 3-6. The orchestra now numbers about 70 in grades 5-11. Orchestra members perform at area public and parochial schools each fall. The group toured England in 1997 and Seattle and British Columbia in June 1999 and performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City in 2001 and 2006. Members were in residence for five nights at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park in 2008.

In December, the group will perform at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago.



Gold Orchestra members photograph each other at the Grand Canyon.



Gold Orchestra members perform for the Grand Canyon Rotary Club.

Bike Safe And Food Savvy

On June 18th from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm the Riley County Police Department is teaming up with the Family and Child Resource Center, the Riley County Manhattan Health Department, Mercy Regional Health Center, Kansas State Research and Extension, and Big Poppi Bicycle Co. for an evening of fun and education!

Children are encouraged to bring their bikes helmets for an evening of safe fun. There will be an obstacle course to teach children age 5-12 the basics of bicycle safety. Big Poppi's will demonstrate proper bicycle maintenance and provide free tune-ups. Don't have a bike or helmet, but still want to learn? We can provide one! Just let us know when you call in to register for the event.

Research and Extension will also be on hand to show you how to pick and prepare produce to make sure your family is getting the right amount of fruits and veggies each day. There will be plenty of free samples for everyone who attends!

Free registration for the event is easy. Just call the Family and Child Resource Center at (785)776-4779 ext 274. Please indicate how many will attend, ages of participants, and any needs including bikes or helmets. Registration deadline is June 14th. Hope to see you there at Bike Safe and Food Savvy!

Board Makes Statement

Regents Affirm Joint Commitment of K-State & KU to the Big 12 Conference: Recognizing the success of Kansas State University (K-State) and the University of Kansas (KU) within the Big 12 Conference, Board of Regents' Chair Jill Docking, of Wichita, and Board of Regents' Vice Chair Gary Sherrer, of Overland Park, today issued the following joint statement:

"We are unwavering in our belief that the best course for K-State and KU is continued joint affiliation in the Big 12. The intra-conference rivalry between the Jayhawks and Wildcats is exciting for athletics fans both within the Sunflower state and nationwide. In addition, joint affiliation in the Big 12 fosters invaluable cooperation between our two universities when it comes to serving the academic needs of Kansas and the economic development needs of the state. Chancellor Gray-Little and President Schulz will continue to keep us apprised as Conference-related discussions continue, and we know our fellow Regents support their ongoing joint efforts to sustain and advance the Big 12."

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