



# Manhattan Free Press

Vol. 19 Number 49

An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper

Thursday, May 26, 2011

## Budget, Taxes: Up, Up, Up

**Editorial**

By Jon A. Brake

"It's a fine mess you got us into this time Stanley."

Stanley of course is the past Manhattan City Commission. The past four to six years have been hard on the Manhattan taxpayer. In four years the Budget has gone from \$79.9 million up to \$105 million. The Debt has gone out of sight. The City Debt in 2007 was \$119 million, as of April of this year it is \$238 million.

Tuesday night Bernie Hayen, the City Director of Finance held the First Work Session on the 2012 City Budget and 2012-2017 Capital Improvement Program with the City Commission.

How would you like to have Mr. Hayen's job. "Ah, Commissioners our budget next year will go up \$11 million and the citizens will be paying only \$1.1 million in new taxes." And that is the good news.

How will Mr. Hayen tell about the years to come? "Ah, Commissioners the budget of Manhattan will go up \$24 million in the next seven years and the citizens will be paying all most twice the amount of taxes." (\$16 million in 2010 and \$32 million in 2017.

But Tuesday night was only the first work session. The Commission still has time to start putting a stop on spending. Oh wait, the last Commission purchased everything on long term, so there is not much these Commissioners can do.

They can stop the growth of City Government. They can stop the spending and they can stop putting everything on the Credit Card.

This is a new City Commission and from the first two meeting it looks like we have a good one.

**Projected City Budget: 2010: 98,858,450**  
**2011: 104,445,538**  
**2012: 115,297,842**  
**2013: 119,147,024**  
**2014: 121,652,720**  
**2015: 124,992,888**  
**2016: 127,292,077**  
**2017: 129,841,527**

**Projected Property Taxes:**  
**2010: 16,102,722**  
**2011: 18,296,294**  
**2012: 19,915,410**  
**2013: 24,713,534**  
**2014: 26,773,323**  
**2015: 28,867,666**  
**2016: 30,501,291**  
**2017: 32,689,069**

### City Budget Projections from Forecasts plus Property Tax Implications

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>General Fund</b>	23,122,213	23,253,312	<b>24,984,294</b>	26,127,286	27,244,695	28,111,707	28,824,427	29,657,351
Property Tax Projections	1,174,944	1,174,944	1,567,875	\$2,608,815	\$3,430,223	\$3,986,857	\$4,410,561	\$4,926,701
<b>City/University Projects</b>	488,300	570,700	<b>572,300</b>	576,500	585,100	592,200	599,300	606,500
<b>Aggieville BID</b>	36,000	37,000	<b>56,500</b>	58,760	61,110	63,555	66,097	68,741
<b>Downtown BID</b>	62,500	62,500	<b>65,500</b>	64,074	66,637	69,302	72,075	74,958
<b>Economic Development</b>	8,725,782	7,222,097	<b>5,376,096</b>	3,457,302	2,830,544	2,214,851	1,589,464	873,791
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	1,382,136	1,707,000	<b>1,794,000</b>	1,927,070	2,070,070	2,223,141	2,389,141	2,568,212
Property Tax Projections	318,232	628,250	693,785	720,244	967,886	1,120,465	1,285,968	1,464,538
<b>Fire Equipment Reserve</b>	591,591	451,399	<b>483,500</b>	349,269	514,962	632,327	586,327	540,132
Property Tax Projections	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,875	389,819	528,456	482,444	436,237
<b>KP&amp;F Pension</b>	675,916	597,940	<b>628,000</b>	659,400	692,370	726,989	763,338	801,505
Property Tax Projections	150,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	195,169	270,059	306,349	344,456
<b>General Improvement Fund</b>	64,647	62,716	<b>62,717</b>	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Property Tax Projections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Industrial Promotion</b>	420,429	295,000	<b>180,725</b>	157,041	154,837	152,197	151,108	151,612
Property Tax Projections	-	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	102,000	104,040
<b>Library</b>	1,980,219	1,999,494	<b>2,073,910</b>	2,177,406	2,286,326	2,400,680	2,520,689	2,646,488
Property Tax Projections	1,834,103	1,822,610	1,919,033	2,022,406	2,136,326	2,250,680	2,370,689	2,496,488
<b>Library Employee Benefits</b>	439,800	440,000	<b>439,800</b>	466,188	494,159	523,809	555,237	588,552
Property Tax Projections	402,296	399,776	403,717	419,188	440,159	469,807	501,233	534,548
<b>Park Development Fund</b>	78,898	61,495	<b>25,000</b>	25,000	50,250	75,753	101,510	127,525
Property Tax Projections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sales Tax Fund</b>	5,489,561	4,968,468	<b>4,916,154</b>	5,007,410	5,057,484	5,108,059	5,159,140	5,210,731
<b>Special Alcohol Programs</b>	552,349	603,500	<b>560,900</b>	430,460	434,763	439,108	443,497	447,930
<b>Special Park &amp; Recreation</b>	752,316	950,576	<b>979,313</b>	952,044	807,462	816,145	916,858	992,584
<b>Special Street &amp; Highway</b>	2,001,029	1,827,716	<b>2,103,167</b>	1,855,983	1,720,839	1,715,995	1,638,351	1,647,210
<b>Special Sunset Zoo</b>	321,775	264,250	<b>399,050</b>	366,710	332,281	376,986	306,081	354,222
<b>Tourism &amp; Convention</b>	920,110	1,158,143	<b>1,166,297</b>	1,143,103	1,223,567	1,276,694	1,332,396	1,390,802
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Health Department</b>	251,150	289,319	<b>311,997</b>	327,597	343,977	361,176	379,234	398,196
Property Tax Projections	229,207	266,957	286,509	304,506	320,886	337,982	356,041	374,899
<b>Riley County Police Department</b>	11,847,984	12,321,888	<b>13,054,500</b>	13,765,719	14,457,002	15,169,759	15,918,154	16,703,969
Property Tax Projections	11,038,936	11,479,371	12,269,074	13,028,379	13,728,972	14,446,908	15,201,104	15,993,376
<b>Capital Improvement Reserve</b>	2,234,930	2,770,000	<b>2,605,000</b>	1,770,019	1,775,019	1,780,019	1,785,019	1,790,019
<b>Downtown Redevelopment TIF</b>	1,925,000	2,700,000	<b>2,700,000</b>	2,061,996	2,331,406	2,396,253	2,449,778	2,505,773
<b>Bond &amp; Interest Fund</b>	13,484,910	17,655,525	<b>20,391,992</b>	25,071,361	25,503,215	26,655,127	27,338,175	28,160,945
Property Tax Projections	905,004	2,399,386	2,650,417	5,484,120	5,063,882	5,356,453	5,484,902	6,013,786
<b>Water Fund</b>	10,911,905	10,330,500	<b>13,993,490</b>	14,178,962	13,754,070	13,691,913	14,037,653	14,261,725
<b>Wastewater Fund</b>	8,240,000	9,377,000	<b>12,576,640</b>	12,891,206	13,478,366	14,012,425	14,263,357	14,254,424
<b>Stormwater Fund</b>	1,857,000	2,468,000	<b>2,797,000</b>	3,229,158	3,332,209	3,356,722	3,055,671	2,967,629
<b>Projected City Budget:</b>	<b>98,858,450</b>	<b>104,445,538</b>	<b>115,297,842</b>	<b>119,147,024</b>	<b>121,652,720</b>	<b>124,992,888</b>	<b>127,292,077</b>	<b>129,841,527</b>
<b>Projected Property Taxes:</b>	<b>16,102,722</b>	<b>18,296,294</b>	<b>19,915,410</b>	<b>24,713,534</b>	<b>26,773,323</b>	<b>28,867,666</b>	<b>30,501,291</b>	<b>32,689,069</b>
<b>Projected City Valuation:</b>	<b>431,845,310</b>	<b>436,502,248</b>	<b>443,049,782</b>	<b>450,803,153</b>	<b>459,819,216</b>	<b>469,015,600</b>	<b>478,395,912</b>	<b>487,963,831</b>
<b>Projected Tax Levy Rate:</b>	<b>0.43%</b>	<b>1.08%</b>	<b>1.50%</b>	<b>1.75%</b>	<b>2.00%</b>	<b>2.00%</b>	<b>2.00%</b>	<b>2.00%</b>
<b>Existing Debt, Reserves, and Delinquency</b>	<b>1.523</b>	<b>5.102</b>	<b>3.904</b>	<b>3.576</b>	<b>1.909</b>	<b>2.091</b>	<b>2.164</b>	<b>2.109</b>
<b>Approved Projects &amp; CIP Not Yet Bonded</b>	<b>0.496</b>	<b>0.053</b>	<b>0.969</b>	<b>3.051</b>	<b>3.231</b>	<b>3.172</b>	<b>3.103</b>	<b>3.043</b>
<b>Proposed CIP</b>	<b>0.076</b>	<b>0.261</b>	<b>0.309</b>	<b>0.976</b>	<b>1.399</b>	<b>1.773</b>	<b>2.016</b>	<b>3.073</b>
<b>Future Downtown Redevelopment</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.081</b>	<b>0.799</b>	<b>4.562</b>	<b>4.473</b>	<b>4.385</b>	<b>4.182</b>	<b>4.100</b>
<b>City Operations</b>	<b>3.921</b>	<b>4.417</b>	<b>5.387</b>	<b>7.664</b>	<b>11.055</b>	<b>12.805</b>	<b>13.770</b>	<b>14.911</b>
<b>Outside Agencies</b>	<b>30.770</b>	<b>31.486</b>	<b>32.848</b>	<b>34.992</b>	<b>36.158</b>	<b>37.324</b>	<b>38.523</b>	<b>39.756</b>
<b>Delinquency Rate</b>	<b>0.501</b>	<b>0.516</b>	<b>0.734</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>
<b>Total B&amp;I Levy</b>	<b>2.096</b>	<b>5.497</b>	<b>5.982</b>	<b>12.165</b>	<b>11.013</b>	<b>11.421</b>	<b>11.465</b>	<b>12.324</b>

### That's The Brakes - Social Security

See The Myths On Paul Ryan's Social Security page 3.

By Jon A. Brake

Democrats and Republicans are having fun with the political football called Social Security.

The Republicans say it is broken and needs to be fixed. The Democrats see a way to win an election, any election by saying that the Republicans are going to take away your Social Security.

Let me give you my take on the subject.

Social Security was passed by Congress in 1935, they didn't ask me, I was not born until 1940.

The history of Social Security tells us that a lot of folks didn't think it would work. The idea was good, pay money into the Federal



Jon A. Brake

Government when you were young and working and the government would pay you back with interest after you

hit the age of 65.

Social Security was a way to try and limit what was seen as dangers to old age, poverty and unemployment. They picked 65 because at that life expectancy in 1935.

In the eight-grade I started working at a local grocery store. At 25 cents per hour I did not need a Social Security Card. At age fourteen I did receive my first and only card, still have it today.

I did not use my Social Security card much until after I returned from the Army in 1962 and for the next forty-years I paid into my Social Security account. They did not ask me, they just took the 4% and then

6%.

Medicare and Medicaid were added in 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson's "Great Society" program. They didn't ask me, they just started taking out more money so that when I got old the government would see to it that I would get medical help.

Good idea.

Yes, at 62 I started receiving a small Social Security check. And when I say small, I mean small. Forty-years in Newspaper work does not build up a large account. And, at 65 I did start receiving help in paying my medical and drug bills, I mean pharmacy bills. For the past 10-years I have

taken part in the largest government program in the world and the single greatest expenditure in the federal budget.

They did not ask me to participate they just took it. Now, I am getting it back.

I look at Social Security as an investment, just like many people look at the Stock Market or Annuities. You take part of your money each month to invest and hope some day it will still be there.

This program may have been doomed for the start, it was being run by the Federal Government. But I think the biggest problem was when the Federal Government started taking the money to run the gov-

ernment and replacing it with IOU's. If that money had been invested the program may have worked.

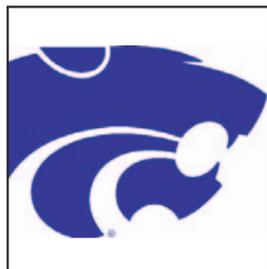
I know the system needs to be fixed and very few are willing to do it and then try to get re-elected.

Do I want them to take away Social Security? No. Do you want them to close down the Stock Market and keep your money? I invested in Social Security, it just was not a very good investment.

Is it broken? Yes.

Can Social Security be fixed? Yes. How? Now is a poor time to ask me.

At least someone is trying to fix the thing before the Country goes broke.



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# Kansas Streamlines a Transportation Plan

By Gene Meyer  
KansasReporter

TOPEKA, Kan. — Kansas transportation officials said Thursday they've retooled some parts of a statewide comprehensive transportation plan passed last year to increase economic opportunities across the state.

The changes include:  
--Increasing economic

development funding offered through the T-WORKS transportation plan to \$10 million annually from the current \$7 million. The extra money will come from state highway funds, said Alicia Johnson, a financial and legislative policy analyst at the Kansas Department of Transportation.

--Establishing a unit within KDOT to respond to communi-

ties' requests for economic development help more quickly when deadlines are tight. KDOT previously addressed such requests once a year. The new unit will respond to the most urgent request within 45 days, Johnson said.

--Creating a five-member Economic Development Advisory Panel, headed by Kansas Transportation

Secretary Deb Miller and Commerce Secretary Pat George, to help make quicker calls on applications for help with transportation projects around the state. The panel replaces the 36-year-old Kansas Highway Advisory Commission abolished this March by state legislators and will also deal with rail, air and other infrastructure requests

beyond the old Commission's authority.

Many of the economic development tools given KDOT in the T-WORKS program passed last May involve using highway funds on projects that will improve Kansas' transportation infrastructure to boost economic development across the state.

Last year, for instance, the

department engineered a quick redrawing and replacement of highways around a Hutchinson industrial park so that trucks hauling huge wind turbine parts to and from a manufacturing plant there could make turns that previously were too tight. The retooled decision making process is designed to make just such decisions more quickly in the future, Johnson said.

# Regulators Put Hard Luck Casino Deadline on Autopilot

By Gene Meyer  
KansasReporter

TOPEKA, Kan. - Kansas Lottery Commission members voted Wednesday to extend indefinitely deadlines for applying to develop a state-owned casino in southeast Kansas.

No one has applied to build or develop the casino in Cherokee or Crawford County, one of four authorized by state legislators in 2007, since 2009 in part because of the proximity

of competing Oklahoma facilities and general economic conditions. Commissioners since then have extended applications 10 times for 60 days at a time to hold the process open for potential bidders.

The commission chose to go to an indefinite extension to reduce any chance that some future extension deadline might be missed that might imperil any application for the casino, said Keith Kocher, the Lottery's gaming facilities director.

"We just didn't want anything to fall through the cracks," Kocher said.

If and when an application is made under the new indefinite extension, lottery officials will meet and set a new 60-day deadline in which other potential applicants can offer competing bids if they choose.

Kansas legislators in 2007 authorized the construction and development of four casinos in widely separate parts of the state. One, in Dodge City,

opened in December, 2009, and two others are under construction in Kansas City and near Mulvane, south of Wichita.

Lottery officials initially approved a 2008 bid by Penn National Gaming Inc. to develop a southeastern casino, but the Wyomissing, Pa., firm withdrew that bid, citing economic conditions. Penn is now a co-developer of the Kansas City casino. Another development company, Ozark Trail, which had strong Wichita ties,

applied to develop the southeastern casino in 2009, but lottery officials rejected that, saying Ozark failed to meet minimum requirements for the project. No one since then has applied.

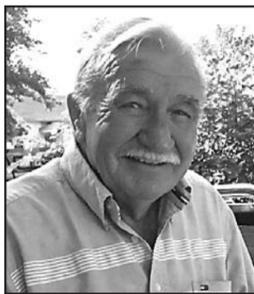
Two Kansas House members, state Reps. Doug Gatewood of Columbus and Bob Grant, of Cherokee, proposed legislation in the recently-ended 2011 Kansas Legislature to attract developers for a southeastern Kansas

casino by cutting a current \$25 million application fee to \$10 million and reducing the minimum required investment in the facility to \$100 million from \$225 million now.

The legislators, both Democrats, offered the bill to reduce unemployment in the region, which currently runs 8 percent or higher, compared to 7.1 percent for Kansas statewide. Lawmakers adjourned without voting on the bill.

# Obituaries

## Hector "Junior" Sincard



Hector Joseph "Junior" Sincard passed away at his home in Topeka, KS on May 20, 2011 surrounded by his family after an extended illness. He was born in Clyde, Kansas on February 24, 1931 to Edward

Sicard and Bernadette (Roy) Sicard.

Junior proudly served in the United States Army from 1951 to 1953 and was stationed in Korea. After returning home, Junior married Janice Simmitt in St. Joe, Kansas on February 6, 1954. They moved to Kansas City where he went to work for General Motors Company. He attended Barber School in 1956 and spent two years barbering in Shawnee, KS. In 1958 Junior and his family moved to Manhattan, KS where he took a job barbering in Aggieville at the Campus Barber Shop. In 1963 he opened Junior's Barber Shop, and became an Aggieville icon. After 51 years of barbering, in Aggieville, Junior closed the door to his barbershop and retired.

Junior was a proud member of the American Legion Post 17 and V.F.W. Post 1786, where he and Janice enjoyed many Friday nights with their close friends.

Junior's greatest joy was his family. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

Junior is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Janice. He is also survived by his three children: Jacqueline Murrell, Jeff Sicard and wife Julie, and Jim Sicard. His nine grandchildren: Darcy (Murrell) Wilhite and husband Brian, Ramey Murrell and wife Debbie, Kaleigh Murrell with Father Nate Warner, Amanda (Sicard) Garner and husband Bryce, Danielle Sicard and friend Dustin Holthaus, Wyatt Sicard,

Fate Sicard, Jed Sicard, and Chenea (Sicard) Werner and husband Josh. His nine great grandchildren: Genevieve and Adelyne Wilhite, Emerson, Bentley, and Denton Murrell, Cash Warner, Carson and Brylee Garner, and Hallie Werner. Junior is also survived by his siblings: Madeline Wright, Norman Sicard, and Elmer Gene Sicard and wife Athea. He is preceded by his parents, his sister Adeline Willoughby, and his brother Donald Sicard.

Memorial services will be held at 11:00 A.M. Thursday, May 26, 2011 at Seven Dolores Catholic Church with Father Joseph S. Popelka officiating.

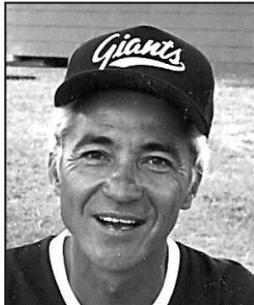
The family received friends from 5:30 until 7:30 P.M. Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at

the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home. A Christian Wake Service and Rosary was held at 7:30 P.M. Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Chapel.

Online condolences may be left for the family by clicking on "Send Condolences" on this

page. Memorial contributions may be made to the Flint Hills Summer Fun Camp for autistic children. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502.

## Rocky J. Racoma



Rocky Joseph Racoma, age 73, former longtime resident of Manhattan, Kansas, went to be with his Lord and Savior on May 16th, 2011. It was a peaceful home-going following a year-long battle with lung cancer.

Rocky was born on September 18, 1937 in Puunene, Maui, the son of Pedro Quiray Racoma and Virginia DeCambra. At nine years old, his mother passed away, so his grandmother raised him together with her four young sons. He was united in marriage to Shrine Waki in

1958, and they were married for 17 years. From this union he had two children: Tammy and Shawn.

Rocky's first job was a tray boy for the Dole Pineapple Cannery in Maui. Next he worked as a gas station attendant. In 1959, he moved his young family from Puunene to Honolulu where he started to work at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard as a Civilian Pipefitter in Shop 56. He worked there for a total of 33 years.

In 1978, Rocky was united in marriage to Jeanie Berggren, a girl who had recently moved to Hawaii. They were married in 1980 and this union lasted for the rest of his life. Rocky and Jeanie had two children: Chad and Heidi. In 1993, he retired from Pearl Harbor and took his family to Kansas, to live near Jeanie's family. While in Kansas, he worked part-time as an elementary school crossing guard for almost ten years. In 2010, he and Jeanie moved to Oklahoma to live near their daughter Heidi and her family.

Rocky will be remembered as a happy person who loved life. He was sincere in heart

and kind in spirit. He made many friends in the community, both working professionals and others, and he was always grateful for their love and care.

Rocky is survived by his wife Jeanie of the home in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and his four children and their families: Chad Racoma of Alexandria, Virginia; Heidi Wiley (husband Josh and son Carson) of Bartlesville, Oklahoma; Tammy Genobia (husband Larry, son Lance, and daughters Cheree and Chenoa); and Shawn Racoma (wife Linda and daughter Joy) from Maui, Hawaii. Other close members of his loving family include his step-mother Clementia Racoma; three brothers: Alfredo, Felix and Franklin Racoma; one sister, Elsie Demesillo; and their families, all from Maui and Oahu, Hawaii.

The family will receive friends during a visitation from 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 26, 2011, at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home at 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas, 66502.

Funeral services will be held 9:30 a.m. Friday, May 27, 2011

at the Westview Community Church, 3001 Ft. Riley Blvd. in Manhattan, with Reverend Pat Bennett officiating. Interment will follow in the Walsburg Lutheran Cemetery near Leonardville, Kansas.

Memorial contributions may be made in Rocky's name to Rivercross Hospice, 4150 South 100th Avenue, Suite 109, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74146. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

On-line condolences may be left for the family at this website by clicking on "Send Condolences."

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# Ten Myths Of Paul Ryan's House Budget Plan

By Brian Riedl, Robert Moffit, Ph.D. and Romina Boccia

Runaway spending and deficits continue to grow unabated in part because any attempts to rein them in are relentlessly demagogued by defenders of big government. The latest example is the budget recently authored by House Budget Committee chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) and passed by the House of Representatives.

Most critics have failed to provide any credible alternative to the House budget. Yet that has not stopped them from relentlessly misrepresenting the House budget with the following myths.

**Myth #1: The House budget recklessly cuts taxes by \$4 trillion.**

**Fact: It cancels a future tax increase.**

Critics charge that the House budget is not serious about deficit reduction because it includes a \$4 trillion tax cut. This is patently false. The budget would keep tax rates at current levels. What critics call a \$4 trillion "tax cut" is actually the cancellation of a \$4 trillion tax increase that is currently scheduled to go into effect in 2013. Only in Washington is keeping tax rates at current levels considered a reckless tax cut. The House budget would leave tax revenues slightly above their 18 percent of GDP historical average.

**Myth #2: The House budget increases the deficit by giving tax cuts to the rich.**

**Fact: The proposed change is a revenue-neutral tax reform plan that simplifies the tax code.**

The House tax plan proposes reducing the top individual and corporate tax rates from 35 percent to 25 percent—and this is fully paid for by eliminating extraneous tax deductions, exemptions, and loopholes that currently allow some wealthy individuals and businesses to escape their fair share of taxes. Because this plan raises the same amount of revenue year by year as does current policy, it is not a net tax cut. The

President's fiscal commission endorsed similar tax reforms because these reforms would make the tax code more efficient, fair, and pro-growth.

**Myth #3: The House budget represents only minor deficit reduction.**

**Fact: It substantially reduces both short- and long-term budget deficits.**

Critics claim that the House budget cuts just \$1.7 trillion out of the 10-year deficit. As stated above, this measures the House budget against a baseline that already assumes \$4 trillion in tax increases—which even President Obama largely opposes. Since the House budget is relatively revenue-neutral compared to current tax policies, the main deficit reduction consists of \$5.8 trillion in spending reductions over the next decade. The savings include \$1 trillion from phasing down overseas contingency operations, \$1.6 trillion from non-defense discretionary spending, \$2.2 trillion from repealing Obamacare and block-granting Medicaid, and \$1 trillion from other entitlement and net interest savings.

Overall, the House budget would run \$5.1 trillion in deficits over the next decade, compared to President Obama's proposed \$9.5 trillion in deficits.

And these savings grow immensely in future decades. The Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) long-term baseline shows runaway spending driving the national debt to 95 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) within a decade and a staggering 344 percent by 2050. By contrast, the House budget would quickly stabilize the debt around 70 percent of GDP before reducing it to just 10 percent by 2050.

**Myth #4: The House budget exaggerates the long-term spending challenge.**

**Fact: The challenge is real and potentially calamitous.**

Some suggest there is no long-term fiscal crisis. This is demonstrably false. The coming retirement of 77 million baby boomers is not a theoretical projection. Social Security

is already in deficit, and the trust fund represents IOUs that must be redeemed by immediately raising taxes, cutting spending, or running additional deficits. Obamacare is projected to increase federal spending by trillions of dollars over the next few decades. Small reforms like eliminating corporate welfare, ending foreign aid, or repealing the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts for upper-income families would close merely a small fraction of the long-term debt.

In reality, the CBO estimates that the absence of fundamental entitlement reform would push the debt to levels that would create an economic catastrophe.

**Myth #5: The House budget balances the budget on the backs of seniors.**

**Fact: Current and near-retirees are exempt from reforms.**

Much of the attention given to the House budget has focused on the effects on retirees. However, virtually none of the \$5.8 trillion in spending reductions in the first decade would affect Social Security and Medicare. In fact, seniors would benefit from averting the large tax increases planned in current law and from tax reforms that lower their rates while closing unneeded loopholes. Those currently older than age 55 would be exempt from any future changes to their Social Security and Medicare benefits.

**Myth #6: The House budget would privatize Medicare and hand seniors vouchers.**

**Fact: Seniors would receive government support to purchase health insurance coverage on a tightly regulated government exchange system.**

A "voucher" is usually a certificate of specified cash value that is redeemable for the purchase of goods or services. Under Ryan's House budget plan, seniors would instead choose health plans and the government would make direct and adequate contributions to the premium cost of the plans of their choice. This "premium

support" would go to Medicare-certified and -regulated plans that would compete in a Medicare "exchange," which Ryan himself has described as "tightly regulated."

In effect, this premium support system is broadly similar to the kind of system that Members of Congress and federal employees and retirees enjoy today in the widely popular and successful Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). As for "privatization," virtually all participating Medicare doctors and hospitals (except public hospitals) are private, a quarter of all seniors are enrolled in private plans in Medicare Advantage, and 60 percent of seniors already purchase drug benefits through private plans in Medicare Part D. So, in effect, the House budget proposal extends the successful Part D financing model to the coverage of benefits under Parts A and B.

**Myth #7: Medicare is more efficient than private health insurance.**

**Fact: Medicare's administrative burdens are hidden and they outweigh private-sector costs.**

On paper, Medicare's administrative costs compared to the private sector appear comparatively small: 2-3 percent of benefit expenditures. Even accounting for radically different patient profiles and functions of Medicare and private insurance, administrative costs per person under Medicare compared to private insurance plans shows that Medicare's administrative costs exceed those of private health insurance.

Furthermore, Medicare's administrative costs do not include the enormous costs of provider compliance with massive Medicare red tape and paperwork. A 2001 PricewaterhouseCoopers study showed that for every hour spent treating a typical Medicare patient, hospital officials spent 30 minutes complying with Medicare paperwork.

One administrative cost that

is often overlooked is the tens of billions of dollars annually of Medicare waste, fraud, and abuse. In sheer volume, there is no comparable cost in the private sector or in the FEHBP. Private insurers have strong incentives to detect fraudulent claims, as undetected fraud hurts their bottom lines.

**Myth #8: The House budget plan would end Medicare as we know it.**

**Fact: Obamacare ended Medicare as we know it.**

Obamacare imposes record-breaking payment cuts for Medicare providers—plus an unprecedented hard cap on Medicare spending to be enforced by the newly created Independent Payments Advisory Board, an unelected board of bureaucrats empowered to lower provider payments to preordained levels indexed to inflation and economic growth. This will ensure rationing of care through provider payment cuts.

Furthermore, under Section 3021 Congress tasks the new Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation with transitioning from the current fee-for-service reimbursement system toward capitated or salary-based reimbursements. This would literally be the end of traditional Medicare fee for service "as we know it."

Both the House and Obama proposals impose external spending caps on Medicare. But the House proposal aims to control costs primarily through intense market competition—not just deeper payment cuts for Medicare providers—while preserving and enhancing the right of seniors to choose health care options.

**Myth #9: The House budget plan would shift Medicaid costs to the states and hurt the poor.**

**Fact: Medicaid block grants would help states lower Medicaid costs and provide them with the flexibility to better serve the poor.**

The House budget plan would remove the perverse incentives resulting from the open-ended federal reimbursement of state Medicaid spend-

ing. The block grant proposal would provide greater budget certainty at the federal and state levels. In addition, states would have greater flexibility and greater incentives to reduce costs. The proposal would also encourage states to spend their Medicaid dollars wisely and to consider innovative ways to deliver better care at lower costs.

**Myth #10: Most Medicare costs would continue to rise, and retirees would bear those costs with insufficient assistance.**

**Fact: Intense market competition would reduce costs and enable Medicare patients to secure value for their dollars.**

Projecting far into the future, CBO predicts that under the House budget proposal the government's share of retirees' health care costs would decrease from currently about 70 percent to just 32 percent by 2030. But that static analysis assumes that—despite a major change in economic incentives and intense market competition—health care costs will not be reduced. Behavioral responses to such powerful new economic incentives should not be ignored; experience with such changes proves otherwise.

**Just What the Doctor Ordered**

The House budget finally puts the brakes on soaring government spending. It is just what the nation needs in order to avert a debt-induced economic calamity. Its critics would do well to read the plan and understand it—and put forward their alternative—before dismissing it.

Brian M. Riedl is Grover M. Hermann Research Fellow in Federal Budgetary Affairs in the Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies; Robert E. Moffit, Ph.D., is Senior Fellow in the Center for Policy Innovation and Romina Boccia is Research Coordinator in the Roe Institute at The Heritage Foundation.

## Weather, Rising Energy Costs Slow Rural Growth

By Gene Meyer  
KansasReporter

TOPEKA, Kan. - Rising energy prices, dry western wheat fields and horrible upper Midwest planting weather dimmed growth prospects for the rural Kansas and the Midwest during May, according to a new report issued Thursday.

The monthly Rural

Mainstreet Index compiled by Creighton University researchers fell 4.5 points, to 54.6 on a 100 point scale in Kansas during May, said Creighton economist Ernie Goss, who heads the survey.

Similar drops were recorded in all but one of the states surveyed, Nebraska, dropping May's reading to 54.9 from 59.4 in April. On the survey's

100 point scale where 50 is the theoretical point at which prospects are neither growing nor shrinking, the latest reading shows prospects for growth in Midwestern small towns and farming communities are still positive, but not as much as they appeared to be a month ago.

"Even though the Rural Mainstreet economy is expand-

ing, higher energy prices are beginning to slow growth," Goss said.

Some comparable erosion also was found in many of the key economic indicators the Creighton researchers watch. Prospects for farmland price increases, rural banking activity, job creation and retail sales in rural America all fell from month earlier levels but remain positive.

Kansas farmland prices, which defied the regional trend

and rose to 77.4 in May from a month earlier 76.9, "are still holding steady to higher," Dale Bradley, chief executive of the Miltonvale Citizen's State Bank told researchers.

The index for farm machinery sales fell more than eight points, to 65.2, in part because disaster declaration wheat crops in western Kansas are hurting sales prospects.

"We need some good rains in Kansas for wheat," Bradley said. "Southwest Kansas is

very dry and wheat is not in good shape."

Overly wet weather is a bigger problem farther north, researchers found. Nearly a fifth of the rural bank chief executives surveyed, chiefly in Corn Belt states from Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois north, reported that less than one-fourth of the normally expected corn plantings in their areas were completed when the survey was taken.

## Regents Chair Resigns, Says Board Doesn't Trust Him

By Rachel Whitten  
KansasReporter

TOPEKA, Kan. - In an abrupt announcement at the beginning of the Kansas Board of Regent's monthly meeting, Chair Gary Sherrer resigned, saying he does not want to lead a panel that no longer trust his abilities.

After walking out of the meeting, Sherrer cited the Regent's decision not to put him in charge of the search for a new president of Emporia State University. That in conjunction with other situations he would not detail, created an environment in which Scherrer said the board is becoming a place he does not want to work, alongside people he does not want to work with.

"There were ways in which a loss of confidence was being expressed," he said. "If there's not trust on the board, I need to move on."

He declined to name the board members he feels no longer respect him.

"A negative relationship and one where there's not strong trust that one person is capable of doing a task because they're not trusted-- kids don't deserve that," Sherrer said.

When asked about the resignation, Sherrer's board colleagues were tight lipped.

"It's just a surprise," said Regent Janie Perkins, who served with Sherrer four years. "Each of us make our own decisions, and that's what makes a board a good board. We don't agree on everything, but I think that's the normal thing. We have always been very respectful of each other's

decisions and I think that's what most important."

Regents president Andy Tompkins said there was a discussion among board members about who should lead the search for the ESU President.

"There's a variety of opinions and that's all I want to say about it," Tompkins said.

Regents directors earlier this month appointed three of their executives - Sherrer, Tompkins and Vice Chairman Ed McKechnie of Arcadia - to help organize a search committee and find an outside search firm to replace Michael Lane, who has been Emporia State's president after four and a half years. Lane resigned that position amid criticism for interviewing last fall for a leadership position at a private university.

The board named Wichita State University public administration professor Ed Flentje as interim president until a replacement is found. Flentje, who also has held cabinet level positions in the administrations of former Kansas governors Mike Hayden and Robert Bennett, has indicated he will not be a candidate for the Emporia State presidency.

Sherrer said if he owes any apologies, it's that he didn't handle the stresses of his personal life in conjunction with the stresses of the board. His wife died last year.

Because his term is up in June, he said his spot will probably go unfilled until Gov. Sam Brownback selects a replacement in July.

Sherrer was Secretary of Commerce in addition to serv-

ing as lieutenant governor under Bill Graves. He was appointed to the Board of Regent in 2007 by former Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

He said he "intends to serve on nothing else again," saying he'd rather spend time with his granddaughter.



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# Editorial "Green" Products and Free Market Conflicts

In recent years the move toward green products and technologies has gone into overdrive. Everything from the expansion of windmills and solar technologies to the hard rush toward passenger vehicles that run on alternative fuels is in the media. Few people disagree that America needs to continue to develop more efficient and cost-effective products. However, what has been a bone of contention with many consumers is the way in which many within the "green" movement have gone about attempting to integrate these new technologies into the market.



Paul A. Ibbetson

with the free market. American buyers welcome innovation and creativity. The expansion of green technologies would be no exception if they were presented fairly within the market place. That is, new technologies such as hybrid cars can and will do well if they can be designed to be cost-effective and equal in quality to their current competition. If not, they will and should fail and no government rebate will change that. When the government attempts to subvert the free market, products that should have been colossal marketing failures are wrongly saved and kept from their deserved and natural extinction. Let us illuminate a conflict between the pushers of green products and the free

market. Light bulbs—they are a major part of American life. No one will argue that a traditional light bulb has too short of a lifespan. Everyone who reads this article, who is honest, will admit to doing the "light bulb shuffle." That is, taking a working light bulb to different rooms within the home when there is a shortage of working bulbs but still the need for light. There is no shame here, just the realization that the technology could be improved. Here is a bright example where the green industry could work to fill a very needed and practical niche in American life. The criterion for success here is simply creating a better product for a competitive price.

Unfortunately, those pushing this green technology fail to embrace the free market and turn to the government to create buyer appeal. Despite the reasonable argument against energy waste when comparing new bulbs to traditional incandescent ones, the government decides to strong-arm the American consumer with an upcoming ban on 100-watt incandescent light bulbs even though the nearest LED alternative light bulb is reported to

come in at a cost of \$50 apiece. This is ridiculous. The "green" compact fluorescent light bulb brought about by the current environmental push is even worse. Why? They are not only expensive, they are dangerous!

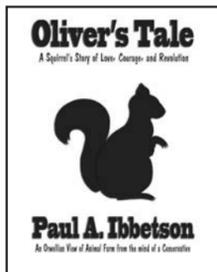
According to the Environmental Protection Agency's website, breaking a CFL light bulb is the equivalent of creating a hazardous material spill. Due to the poisonous mercury powder and vapor released when a green CFL is broken in common household settings, the EPA recommends that all humans and animals evacuate the room. Windows should be opened and the room should be aired out for five to ten minutes. Heating and air conditioning units should be shut down to limit contamination spread. Remains of the broken CFL should be placed in a glass jar with a metal lid and taken to a disposal location. Vacuuming the location of the CFL break incident is reported by the EPA to potentially spread mercury powder or vapor. In other words, if your new environmental friendly "green" light bulb doesn't kill your pocketbook, it might kill you personally. What were they thinking?

Bottom line, we are a free

market society and Americans have an engrained expectation of being able to decide what products are worthy of their purchasing dollar. Currently many of the green products and technologies being marketed to the public cost too much, underperform, are at times unsafe and are presented to the public under government mandate. This formula will at best yield weak economic results in the marketplace, and at worst will bring about strong resistance from the American people.

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 several books including the 2010 release "Oliver's Tale: A

Squirrel's Story of Love, Courage, and Revolution." Paul is also the radio host of the Kansas Broadcasting Association's 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 award-winning radio program, *Conscience of Kansas* airing on KSDB Manhattan 91.9 FM, [www.ibbetsonusa.com](http://www.ibbetsonusa.com). For interviews or questions, please contact him at [ibbetson91.9@gmail.com](mailto:ibbetson91.9@gmail.com)



Paul Ibbetson's new book is "Available at Amazon and the Manhattan Hastings Store."

# Editorial Letters to Tom

"Let them eat cake!" This is the quote attributed to Queen Marie Antoinette of France when she was told that the peasants were rioting over the shortage of bread. I thought about this quote when I read about the City of Manhattan's budgeting process, which began this week. The article appeared in the Manhattan Mercury and basically the message was that Manhattanites who pay property taxes are going to be hit with BIG tax hikes for as far as the eye can see, and there is absolutely nothing anyone can do about it.



Mike Kryschal

cities to set their own budgets -- we must pay, but we have no say. This is why I remembered the story about Marie Antoinette and cake. Who cares about the people who pay the bills? The agencies that ask for money don't care, they care about increasing their budget. Employees of the city government don't care, they care about increasing their salaries. Proponents of "economic development" don't care, they care about their projects and how the money is spent. The city staff doesn't care, they care about balancing the books. The media doesn't care - when is the last time you read or heard about taxes being too high? The article on the budget process made no mention of what these levy increases will mean to those of us who pay property taxes. In fact, property owners were not even mentioned, it's as though we don't exist. We are forgotten until it's time to pay.

According to the article, the increase in the property tax levy is related to two areas that cannot be amended by the City Commission -- funding for outside agencies and the city's bond and interest obligations. The outside agencies are the Riley County Police Department, the Riley County Health Department, and the Manhattan City Library. The bond and interest payments are obligations to pay for projects made by earlier commissions. Up to now, not much has been put out about the 'untouchable' nature of these items. When earlier commissions approved these projects, the fact that they would be paid for by the citizens of Manhattan was not emphasized. Instead, they were passed because they could be funded by STAR bonds. Most of the commissioners who approved the projects have left office and we are left to pay the bill. I say again, we are left to pay the bill! The issue of outside agencies is equally troubling. Manhattan's tax payers provide most of the funds to operate the Riley County Police Department (RCPD) but the City of Manhattan is limited to half of the votes on the board that approves the RCPD budget. This is wrong and must be reformed. Similar loopholes allow the other outside agen-

cies and decisions made by previous commissions have tied their hands. I don't buy into 'conventional wisdom' and neither should they. They have already sent the message that the city of Manhattan is under new management and that they will not automatically go along with spending because it was approved by their predecessors. This will not please everyone, but the fact is that Manhattan's property taxes are reaching a tipping point. Manhattanites who are on social security or federal pensions have not had a cost of living increase in the last two years, in spite of real inflation. The projected mill levy increase will make our city unaffordable to property owners on a fixed income. Dismissing the concerns of the peasants didn't turn out well for Marie Antoinette; assuming that property owners will go along with the notion that they have to pay for everything won't turn out well either.

Mike Kryschal is a native of Lorain, Ohio. He has a Bachelor's Degree from John Carroll University and a Master's Degree in International Relations from

Boston University. He served in the United States Army from 1972 to 1999. He commanded a company in the 82d Airborne Division, a battalion in the 1st Infantry Division, and a brigade in the 2nd Infantry Division. He served in the 1st Infantry Division in Desert Storm. Since retirement, Mike has been an adjunct professor of history, political science, and leadership. He lives in Manhattan, Kansas with his wife, Karen and their Siberian Huskies.

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# Jason King Earns Academic All-America Status

## KSU Sports Information

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — Kansas State junior third baseman Jason King has been named to the 2011 Capital One Academic All-America Baseball third team, the College Sports Information Directors (CoSIDA) announced Tuesday. The Dublin, Ohio, product earned his first academic all-America designation and it is the first for the Wildcats since Brett Scott was named to the second team in 2008. King is just the 10th player in school history to be named an academic all-American. The marketing major, who recently was named First Team Academic All-Big 12, holds a 3.96 GPA. On the field, King has been one of the Wildcats' top players. He ended the regular season with a .311 batting average, 10 home runs and 56 RBI. As the Wildcats enter play in the

2011 Phillips 66 Big 12 Championship on Wednesday, King ranks in the top 10 of the Big 12 in seven areas, including top-five marks in home runs, doubles, triples, RBI, total bases and slugging percentage.

Three other Big 12 players joined King on the academic all-America teams: Baylor's Chris Slater (first team), Nebraska's Casey Hauptman (second team) and Texas A&M's Ross Stripling (third team).

To be eligible for Academic All-America consideration, a student-athlete must be a varsity starter or key reserve, maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.30 on a scale of 4.00, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standings at his/her current institution and be nominated by his/her sports information director.

# LAND AUCTION

Thursday, June 9, 2011 — 10:00 AM  
Auction Location: West of Olsburg KS. 1/4 mile on Hwy. 16 at Greenwood Park  
OLSBURG, KANSAS



**General Description:** 82.15 taxable acres - that part on the Northwest Quarter of 23-07-07 Pottawatomie County lying west of Main Street of the Town site of Olsburg and South of the abandoned railroad right-of-way, less tracts in the Southeast corner and on the North boundary.

Great building site, farm ground or pasture next to the town of Olsburg. Good roads, schools and community. Presently in brome pasture rented for the 2011 season. Dependable well water supplied by a windmill. Pottawatomie County Rural Water District # 2 also has water lines in area. Zoned agriculture - Check with the Pottawatomie County Planning & Development office with building and zoning questions.

**Tract # 1:** That part of the above described 82.15 acres that lies in the East 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 containing approximately 26 acres.

**Tract # 2:** That part of the above described 82.15 acres that lies in the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 containing approximately 56 acres.

**Terms & Conditions:** 10% down day of auction, balance on closing. Closing cost and Title Insurance will be split 50/50. 2011 taxes will be paid by seller. Sold subject to the present tenants rights. Tracts will be split and offered in combination. If tracts are sold separately, survey will be the responsibility of the buyers.

Note: Joe Horigan Realty & Auction Co. is acting as an agent for the Sellers and not as an agent for the buyer. Property is selling in its present existing condition. Make all inspections and inquiries before auction. Sale is not contingent upon buyer financing. Information obtained from sources deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Not responsible for accidents. Statements made day of auction take precedence.

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Riley County Minutes

The Board of County Commissioners Of Riley County, Kansas May 9, 2011

The Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners met at the Riley County Plaza East Building May 9, 2011 with the following members present: Karen McCulloh, Chair; Alvan Johnson, Vice Chair; Dave Lewis, Member; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk.

8:30 Public Comment & Business Meeting

Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Paul Foltz; Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; and Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer, attended.

Shepek presented cost breakdowns for law enforcement in various communities, which reflect Riley County.

Volanti presented a communication device allowance request for a data phone for Steve Higgins.

Lewis moved to approve the communication device allowance request for a data phone for Steve Higgins. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

Foltz discussed the boundary lines between Pottawatomie County and Riley County.

The Board discussed the KCCA Conference.

Lewis said he discussed P25 narrowband system with Pat Collins. Lewis suggested a regional approach when implementing the narrowband system.

Johnson moved to approve the revised Purchasing Card Policies and Procedure Manual. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

The Board of County Commissioners signed Riley County Personnel Action Forms for the following:

•Zachary Williams, a new hire, as a Seasonal Laborer, in the Public Works-Road & Bridge Department, at a grade A step 1, at \$10.29 per hour.

•Mark Savoy, a Temporary Election Worker, in the County Clerk-Elections Department, for Separation from County Service, effective May 6, 2011.

•Michael Champlin, a Temporary Election Worker, in the County Clerk-Elections Department, for Separation from County Service, effective April 15, 2011.

•Kenneth Patrick Wadick, a Temporary Election Worker, in the County Clerk-Elections Department, for Separation from County Service, effective April 15, 2011.

•Elke Weese, a Temporary Election Worker, in the County Clerk-Elections Department, for Separation from County Service, effective April 15, 2011.

•Brandon Heavener, a new hire, as an Engineering Tech Intern, in the Public Works Department, at a grade B step 3, at \$11.57 per hour.

•Brian Hentz, an Engineering Tech Intern, in the Public Works Department, for Separation from County Service, effective May 13, 2011.

•Thomas Sidlinger, a status change (transferring from As Needed Election Worker to Full Time Clerical position), as a Records Assistant II, in the County Clerk's Department, at a grade H step 1, at \$14.48 per hour.

Johnson moved to sign a Public Fireworks Display Permit for Bruce L. Zimmer, Randolph Lions Club for July 2, 2011 from dark 10:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. north of Randolph City Park. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Johnson moved to approve Out of State Travel Requests for Leon Hobson and Julie Winter to attend the 2011 International Public Works Congress & Exposition in Denver, Colorado September 17th - September 21st in the amount of \$1,824.00 each to be funded by the Public Works fund. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

McCulloh said the Board had agreed to no out of state travel cost, but the Board has approved every request, which has come forward. McCulloh stated there should be some oversight on the frequency of out of state meetings being attended.

of Manhattan annex Scenic Drive. Hobson said he will work with Holeman on the Marlatt Avenue annexation.

Hobson said staff will bring the Board the application to rezone the parking lot at 5th and Humboldt.

Hobson discussed Public Works projects.

10:40 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

•Administrative Work Session Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; Eileen King, Treasurer; Greg McHenry, Appraiser; Shilo Heger, Tax & Accounting Supervisor/Deputy Treasurer; Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; and Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; attended.

Cox discussed the Prawl mobile home park case.

Cox recommended the Board accept a compromise of 5% on the interest rate on the Prawl case.

The Board, by consensus, agreed to compromise to the 5% interest rate on the real estate taxes in the Prawl case.

Cox stated another matter is the personal property taxes as Prawl's attorney has filed to abandonment proceedings. Cox stated the personal property taxes due exceeds \$50,000.00.

Cox estimated the 2011 personal property tax due at \$6,367.06. Cox estimated 50-60 mobile homes in the park. Cox said the owner of the mobile home park would have to pay someone to remove the mobile homes, approximately \$1,000.00 each.

Cox said he has suggested the new owners of the mobile home park pay the 2011 personal property tax and that Riley County waive the remaining personal property tax. The new owner will take possession of the mobile homes and replace the mobile homes beyond repair.

Cox stated the replacement with new mobile homes will generate new tax revenue.

Cox stated the removal of the old mobile homes would assist the Appraiser's Office in cleaning up appraisal records.

The Board, by consensus, agreed to proceed with Cox's recommendation to the following Prawl bankruptcy personal property tax settlement.

Prawl 2011 tax (estimate) \$6,063.87

PLUS 5% (Ogden's mill levy \$303.19

increase for 2009 & 2010) TOTAL \$6,367.06

A Maplewind Community, L.L.C. (new owner of Prawl mobile home real property) pays 2011 tax.

Riley County release delinquent tax liens for 2007 through 2010.

Kansas Department of Revenue & IRS release tax liens.

Bankruptcy Court conveys mobile homes ownership to A Maplewind Community, L.L.C., which is responsible for removing junk mobile homes and paying taxes on remaining and new mobile homes.

Cox reported the KDOT eminent domain funds owing to RIM amount to \$1,923,858.85. Cox stated there are over \$13 million in claims against the bankrupt. Cox said he would like to have the ability to waive Riley County's interest on the back taxes. Cox stated there will be a settlement conference to establish the distribution of the funds.

Cox stated in general taxes and special assessments for the City of Ogden will collect \$768,693.95 excluding interest and penalties.

The Board, by consensus, agreed to allow staff to waive the interest and penalties in the RIM case, if necessary.

Cox reported the Deutsche Bank quiet title action should be filed this week.

11:00 Cheryl Collins, Museum Director

Monty Wedel, Planning/Special Projects Director; Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; and Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; attended.

C. Collins said the Riley County Historical Museum participated in Get Around 2 It! May 4th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in CiCo Park. This event was sponsored by the Manhattan Convention and Visitors Bureau to showcase the many things to see and do around Manhattan. The Museum had an exhibit on the history of toys and a table with hands on toys for visitors to try. They will also have a panel exhibit on the history of CiCo Park.

C. Collins said Matt McDonough, Riley County Historical Museum As Needed Museum Assistant, has been honored with a Kansas State University Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

C. Collins said the Museum has experienced two problems with water leaks in the last month.

11:20 Monty Wedel, Planning/Special Projects Director

Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; and Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

Wedel said at a previous meeting, he visited with the commission about the adoption of building codes in the unincorporated areas of Riley County. At that time, he indicated it would not be possible to guarantee the implementation of building codes by only using contract inspections on an as-needed or on-call basis. Wedel said since then they have also determined it would not be advisable to adopt building codes without the code required inspections to ensure compliance. Therefore, he has come to the conclusion that Riley County should not initiate the adoption of building codes unless we are prepared to fund a full-time position for a resi-

dential building inspector. So instead of preparing a resolution for adoption of building codes, as previously instructed, he has decided it would be more prudent to include a position in this year's budget proposal for discussion. This way the Board can determine whether or not adoption of building codes is financially feasible at this time.

Wedel said he would like to keep the working group and the Flints Hills Area Builders Association apprised of this approach and therefore he suggested that he send an email notifying them of this new strategy. Once he has done that however, the BOCC may receive communications regarding this matter. Wedel said he consequently wanted to consult with the Board before proceeding.

McCulloh asked how are we doing in implementing our V2025 Plan.

Wedel said he is working on drafting the implementation plan for review.

The Board discussed adopting building codes.

The Board agreed Wedel should present an estimated cost for the implementation of the code inspector position.

11:34 Greg McHenry, Appraiser

Clancy Holeman, Counselor /Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; and Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters, attended.

McHenry presented an Appraiser's Office report.

Holeman said there will be a pre-application meeting with the Manhattan City staff on the 5th and Humboldt proposed parking lot.

Holeman discussed various county projects.

Holeman said SB40 is now part of the annexation bill.

12:00 County Officials Luncheon

1:15 Pat Collins, Emergency Management Director

Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

P. Collins discussed the Riley County Emergency Operations Plan.

1:32 Judge Meryl Wilson

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; and Pat Collins, Emergency Management Director, attended.

Judge Wilson stated the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has asked for a review of our entire court system.

Judge Wilson discussed the Blue Ribbon Committee.

Judge Wilson stated there will be thirteen public meetings across the State.

Judge Wilson said there are four questions the Blue Ribbon Committee would like answered.

1.Are there things the courts do locally that could be performed regionally or at one central statewide location to improve their efficiency?

2.How could the courts use technology to make their operations more cost-effective or improve access to the courts?

3.How can the courts become more flexible in the use of people and facilities as workloads and funding fluctuate?

4.What other ideas, issues, or concerns do you want the BRC to consider?

Judge Wilson stated there are some efficiencies which could be gained.

Judge Wilson discussed the court system.

Judge Wilson said the Blue Ribbon Commission report has to be done by this December.

2:10 Lewis moved to adjourn. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

The Board of County Commissioners Of Riley County, Kansas May 12, 2011

The Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners met at the Leonardville Community Building, Leonardville, Kansas May 12, 2011 with the following members present: Karen McCulloh, Chair; Alvan Johnson, Vice Chair; Dave Lewis, Member; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk.

8:30 Public Comment & Business Meeting

Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Delbert and Cheryl Harrison, 3209 Driftwood Drive; Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director; Chris Welchans, GIS Director; and Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer, attended.

C. Harrison, 3209 Driftwood Drive asked about the letter they received about their benefit district.

Hobson stated originally the residents in the benefit district paid to have the road paved. Hobson said Riley County has been maintaining the road. Hobson said the purpose of the resolution is to allow Riley County to petition on behalf of the landowners to overlay the road. Hobson stated the resolution also allows for maintenance to be charged back to the benefit district. Hobson stated when Riley County sends out a notice to overlay the road the residents will have the opportunity to petition against it.

McCulloh explained this now allows Riley County to initiate the process, but the residents can petition against the overlay.

Johnson stated Stan Glaum replied to an e-mail from Steve Higgins on billboard signs on

Highway 24 meeting the necessary requirements.

Johnson stated he received an e-mail from Shannon Shaw on White Canyon Road, said there are eleven abandoned vehicles on her neighbors lot.

Lewis said Louis Kaylor e-mailed about trucks hauling rocks and dirt without covering their loads causing vehicle damage and RCPD not enforcing the laws.

Meredith stated haul loads are not required by law to be covered.

McCulloh moved to allow the City of Manhattan to use the Courthouse Plaza Area on Friday, May 13, 2011 from 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

McCulloh stated an energy audit company contacted her about providing a service to review our energy bills.

Shepek said she has received another request from another company on energy audits as well.

9:03 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

•Administrative Work Session Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director; Chris Welchans, GIS Director; Yvonne Rameriz, KMAN; and Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer, attended.

Holeman discussed the Riley County boundary issue. Holeman said C. Collins has found some information on the boundary. Holeman stated the issue was last discussed by Riley County in 1985.

Welchans said the statute states the boundary follows the center of the river channel of the Big Blue River.

Holeman said there has been litigation on the boundary issue in Pottawatomie County District Court in 1960 over the Blue River channel change resulting from the 1903 flood.

See Riley Minutes Page 6A

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# Riley Minutes

Holeman reported the legislature has agreed on a state budget compromise.

Holeman said SB40 on emergency repairs did pass.

**9:25 Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer**  
Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director; Chris Welchans, GIS Director; Yvonne Rameriz, KMAN; and Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer, attended.

Hobson presented updated and corrected information on equipment purchases.

Hobson discussed the Manhattan Trustees request for Riley County to take over the road maintenance on Messenger Road in Fairmont Park.

McCulloh said we need to be sure the township is not talking about other roads in Fairmont Park as well.

Hobson said he will ask Dr. Gardner to which roads he is referring.

Hobson stated we need to discuss where we will fund the McDowell Creek overlay and McDowell Creek bridge repair.

Shepek reviewed summary of 1/2 cent sales tax projects. Shepek said based on the lower price for Wildcat Creek Road we estimate a \$1.5 million ending balance.

Hobson said the Budget and Planning Committee recommended adding McDowell Creek bridge repair to the CIP bridge projects and McDowell Creek Road overlay \$400,000 to the sales tax list.

Johnson moved to add McDowell Creek bridge repair to the CIP bridge projects. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Johnson moved to add McDowell Creek Road overlay \$400,000 to the sales tax projects. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Johnson moved to sign a General Application, Community Development Department City of Manhattan application for approval of county parking lot. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Johnson moved to approve an Agreement with Ebert Construction Co., Inc. for the Wildcat Creek Road reconstruction in the amount of \$1,701,245.64 and water main improvements in the amount of \$98,374.87. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to approve an Agreement for Professional Services with Schwab-Eaton, P.A. for McDowell Creek Road bridge and deck design in the amount of \$15,000 and an additional project amount of \$1,000. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

Johnson moved to approve an Agreement for Professional Services with BG Consultants for Mineral Springs Road bridge design in the amount of \$62,260.85. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Johnson moved to approve the Portable Communication Device Allowance requests for a data phone for Greg McHenry and Steven Oliver. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Johnson moved to sign a Public Fireworks Display Permit for Charles Copeland for May 14, 2011 from 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at the Leonardville Baseball Complex. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Johnson moved to approve a Renewal of Online Access Agreement with Parry, Inc. for the

Register of Deeds' Office. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Johnson moved to approve the minutes of May 9, 2011 as amended. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

**Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director**  
**Road, Bridge, and Park Tour**  
**10:15** Lewis moved to adjourn after the Road, Bridge, and Park Tour. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

**The Board of County Commissioners**  
**Of Riley County, Kansas**  
**May 16, 2011**

The Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners met at the Riley County Plaza East Building May 16, 2011 with the following members present: Karen McCulloh, Chair; Alvan Johnson, Vice Chair; Dave Lewis, Member; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk.

**8:30 Public Comment & Business Meeting**  
Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Shelly Williams, Community Corrections Director; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager; Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; and Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer, attended.

Volanti presented two shared leave donation forms.

Johnson moved to approve two shared leave donation forms. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

The Board of County Commissioners signed Riley County Personnel Action Forms for the following:

•Tanner Yost, a new hire, as an Engineering Tech Intern, in the Public Works Department, at a grade B, step 3, at \$11.57 per hour.

•Eric Gaulin, a new hire, as a Seasonal Laborer, in the Public Works-Road & Bridge Department, at a grade A, step 1, at \$10.29 per hour.

Volanti presented and discussed a Riley County Position Action Form for two intern positions. Volanti stated with the elimination of the Risk Reduction Specialist they will save \$10,573.52 and the two intern positions will cost \$15,346.58.

Williams stated they do have the funds available between July 1st and December 31st.

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for a Student Intern (2 positions), in the Community Corrections Department, at a grade B.

Lewis moved to approve the minutes of May 12, 2011 as amended. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

Holeman said he will draft a letter of support from the Board for the Health Department's participation in a voluntary national accreditation program.

**9:15 Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer**  
**Bid opening for Public Works/TCB lower level remodel**  
KC Gillispie, RM Baril General Contractor; Adam Richardson, Riley Construction; Bryan Newell, Riley Construction; Bridget Howland, Sunflower CASA Project; Andrew Gerth, Ron Fowles Construction; Lee Hecke, Carley Construction; Heather Peterson, Anderson Knight; Dan Knight, Anderson Knight; Cheryl Collins, Museum Director; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; and Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters, attended.

The Board of County Commissioners opened the following bids for the Public Works/TCB lower level remodel:

Company	Total Bid
R.M. Baril General Contractor, Inc.	
1600 Fair Lane	Manhattan, KS 66502
\$71,980.00	
Carley Construction Co.	16875 Ebel Road
Wamego, KS 66547	\$57,637.00
Riley Construction Co. Inc.	5020 Murray Circle
Manhattan, SK 66503	\$53,975.00
Ron Fowles Construction	4361 S. Dam Road
Manhattan, KS 66502	\$71,752.00
Engineer's Estimate	\$55,000.00

Johnson moved to refer the bids to staff for evaluation and recommendation. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

**9:30 Press Conference**  
Bridget Howland, CASA; Cheryl Collins, Museum Director; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; and Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

Howland reported Cycle CASA will take place Saturday, May 21, 2011, which will have three different routes to choose from. Howland said after the event a cookout will be held.

C. Collins said the Riley County Historical Society and Museum will host a Kansas 150 lunchtime lecture Tuesday, May 17th, at noon, at the Riley County Historical Museum, 2309 Claflin, Manhattan. Riley County Historical Museum Director Cheryl Collins will speak on "Pillsbury: the Man, the Bridge, and the Crossing." Everyone is welcome to attend this free program, and to bring a brown bag lunch.

C. Collins said future lectures will be held July 12, September 13, and November 15, 2011.

Hobson reported a public meeting on Charter Resolution No. 8 regarding road benefit district will be held May 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Manhattan Fire Station at Kimball and Denison.

Hobson said Senn Road will be closed for a culvert replacement beginning, Monday, May 16, 2011. The road will be closed 1/2 mile west of Crooked Creek Road. Traffic will need to use alternate routes throughout the duration of this project.

Hobson said repairs will take approximately two working days to complete, unless adverse weather conditions cause unexpected delays.

Rosewicz said the Wildcat Creek reconstruction and waterline project will begin May 23, 2011 and construction will take approximately 9 months.

Vargo reported on the Kansas Association of Counties Research Report, April 2011. Vargo said this report is an annual snapshot of Kansas' 105 counties, both in terms of basic demographics (population, density, land area, etc.) and fiscal matters relating to county governments (valuations, mill levies, and property tax rates). The purpose is to provide an informative guide that can assist one in comparing and contrasting the vast differences, county by county, Kansas encompasses.

Vargo said for 2010, Riley County was ranked seventh in population at 71,341.

Vargo said the property tax is the primary source of revenue counties rely upon for providing services. Assessed valuation, a key factor in calculating property taxes.

Vargo said for 2010, Riley County's Assessed Valuation was ranked 9 at \$499,124,258. Vargo said Riley County's 2010 Levies per Capita was ranked 104th at \$226.

McCulloh stated there were four items which came from the Riley County Retreat held Friday, May 13, 2011:

1. Funding capital improvements fully,

2. Meet with Manhattan City Commission and staff to work on shared projects and investigate future consolidated projects,

3. Look at a countywide facilitated discussion of a vision for our area,

4. Create a task force to look at the county manager issue.

**10:10** Hobson stated Haas Construction was the low bid on phase 2 and 3 of the K-18 project at \$55,336,000.00.

**10:11 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services**  
**Administrative Work Session**  
Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; and Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters, attended.

Holeman stated he will be attending his annual association meeting and participating on a panel and discussing the Niehlander case regarding relationships between elected officials.

Holeman discussed the rezoning application for the 5th and Humboldt lot.

Holeman discussed various projects in the County Counselor's office.

**10:30 Eileen King, Treasurer**  
Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; and Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters, attended.

King presented monthly financial reports.

**10:45 Ralph De Zago**  
Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters; and Mike Gillespie, attended.

DeZago said the Riley County Commission had previously granted him permission to operate on the Courthouse Plaza until Saturday, May 14th, but has denied permission on May 21st. While he does not know the reason for the denial, he was concerned that the reason could be the Riley County Commission wanted to see what the City of Manhattan was doing. It is for this reason that he is approaching the commission.

DeZago said he only operates his hot dog stand for a few hours on Saturdays. Although the merchants in Aggieville are afraid that this will allow others to do as he is doing, this situation is not before the county commission, nor is it realistic to expect the Riley County Courthouse Plaza to be inundated with food carts.

DeZago said he thinks attempt to legislate away competition rather than let the market decide is a violation of law, and he will deal with this as he deems appropriate. But that is not the issue here. This commission should not involve itself in city politics.

DeZago said the current city ordinance first came into effect 30 years ago.

DeZago asked the Board to consider allowing him to use the Courthouse Plaza area in the future. DeZago stated he believes the public likes seeing the service on our streets.

Lewis asked if he has all the appropriate licensing.

DeZago stated he has all the appropriate required licensing and just this weekend passed a surprise inspection.

DeZago said City staff presented an expanded food carts ordinance which was rejected March 2nd by the City Commission.

DeZago said the repealing Ordinance No. 3916 relating to mobile food vending is on the City Consent Agenda tomorrow.

McCulloh asked how are food vendors at the Farmers Market allowed to serve prepared food?

DeZago stated he does not know.

Johnson asked what is the difference between the selling of the hot dogs on Poyntz and selling of food in a City parking lot?

Holeman said he had not looked into the matter.

Holeman said Riley County does not have a history of allowing or disallowing commercial activity on the Courthouse Plaza.

Vargo stated the Farmers Market in the past was held in the Courthouse Plaza parking lot.

DeZago said there are several activities the county can restrict on county property.

Lewis said his concern is if we allow this, are we allowing the opportunity for a county food court.

Holeman stated the Downtown Manhattan membership is split on the matter.

McCulloh said she does not see an issue with this.

Lewis and Johnson agreed.

The Board discussed the possibility of a licensing fee.

**11:14 Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager**  
Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters; and Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services, attended.

Volanti presented the personnel policy changes to D-2 (d) pay increases.

Volanti said one recommendation within the McGrath Consulting Classification and Compensation Study is to acknowledge As-Needed Personnel who maintain as-needed positions for several years.

The Study states: "...movement to the next step could be based upon number of hours in the year, or a combination of hours and tenure. Without familiarity of the time commitments involved, the Department Heads would be in a better position to establish the step movement criteria. Once determined, it should be codified either in the job descriptions, or in the department's policy manual."

Volanti said departments that are directly involved with routinely maintaining as-needed positions include Clerk-Elections, Community Corrections, and Museum. The respective department heads met with the Human Resource Manager to discuss options of establishing a step increase.

Volanti said the option of adding a step increase to an as-needed

employee who maintained five years continuous service was agreed upon and forwarded to the County Department Head committee. The Department Head committee made slight changes and then approved to forward to the Board of County Commissioners.

Volanti said the personnel policy changes to section D-2 (d) Pay Increases are as follows:

**D-2 Pay Increases**  
d) Other Pay Increases. Pay increases for interns, as-needed, temporary, and seasonal positions will consist of any approved cost-of-living adjustment.

A seasonal or intern employee who has worked more than two thousand (2,000) hours is eligible to receive a one-step pay increase and eligible for a step increase for each additional two thousand (2,000) hours of work. Step increases will take place in the pay period following the completion of the 2,000 hours.

An as-needed employee who has maintained five (5) years of continuous service is eligible to receive a one-step pay increase. The pay increase will take place in the pay period following the completion of five (5) years, and each subsequent fifth year thereafter.

Temporary positions are not eligible for step increases.

Johnson moved to approve the Riley County Personnel Policies and Procedures, Article D-2 (d) Pay Increases to read as:

**D-2 Pay Increases**  
d) Other Pay Increases. Pay increases for interns, as-needed, temporary, and seasonal positions will consist of any approved cost-of-living adjustment.

A seasonal or intern employee who has worked more than two thousand (2,000) hours is eligible to receive a one-step pay increase and eligible for a step increase for each additional two thousand (2,000) hours of work. Step increases will take place in the pay period following the completion of the 2,000 hours.

An as-needed employee who has maintained five (5) years of continuous service is eligible to receive a one-step pay increase. The pay increase will take place in the pay period following the completion of five (5) years, and each subsequent fifth year thereafter.

Temporary positions are not eligible for step increases.

Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

**11:18** Lewis moved that the County Commission recess into executive session pursuant to the non-elected personnel matters exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act in order to protect the privacy of the employees, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 11:40 a.m. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

Johnson moved to go out of executive session. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Personnel Action Form for Jacob Terrell, a rehire, as a Seasonal Laborer, in the Parks Department, at a grade A, step 1, at \$10.29 per hour.

**11:42** Lewis moved to adjourn. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

**12:00 Law Enforcement Agency Meeting**

# 4 Wildcats Named to Phillips 66 Big 12 Teams

**KSU Sports Information**  
OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. - Kansas State had four players earn all-conference accolades from the Big 12 coaches as the Big 12 Conference announced its postseason awards Tuesday at the 2011 Phillips 66 Big 12 Championship.

Junior relief pitcher James Allen earned first-team honors, junior third baseman Jason King and freshman outfielder Jared King were named to the second team, and junior outfielder Nick Martini was placed on the honorable mention squad. The Wildcats have placed at least four players on the all-conference teams for three straight seasons.

Allen's designation marks the third-straight season the Wildcats have had a first-team honoree and he is the sixth player named to the first team since 2007. Jared King is the first Wildcat freshman named either first- or second-team all-conference since Andy Replogle in 1973. In addition, Jared King was also named a spot on the Big 12 All-Freshman Team.

Allen, who holds K-State records for single-season and career saves (29), ended the regular season with a 3-1 record and 15 saves to go along with a 1.46 ERA. Allen enters Big 12 Championship play ranked second in the Big 12 in saves.

Jason King earned the second All-Big 12 honor of his career after being named honorable mention as a sophomore in 2009. The redshirt junior ended the regular season with a .311 batting average with 56 RBI and 10 home runs to rank second and third in the Big 12, respectively. The Dublin, Ohio, product holds the K-State records for both career (29) and single-season (22) sacrifice flies, and his 22 career home runs is tied for 10th. His 33 extra-base hits this season ties him

for third-most in school history as he has tallied 17 doubles to tie for fourth in the Big 12 and six triples to tie for third in the conference.

Jared King, who had his season ended last weekend because of injury, held a .314 batting average with eight home runs and 40 RBI. He paced the Cats in Big 12 play with a .333 mark, which was 11th in the conference and third among freshmen. He led all Big 12 freshmen in home runs and finished the regular-season tied for eighth in the Big 12 in homers.

Martini became the first Wildcat since Pat Maloney (2001-03) to earn three-straight all-conference honors. The junior led the squad with a .343 batting average after hitting .417 over the final 16 games of the regular season to raise his average 26 points. The Crystal Lake, Ill., native ranks in the top 10 of 11 Kansas State career categories, including batting average,

hits, doubles, RBI, stolen bases and walks. The outfielder sits in the top 10 of the Big 12 in seven offensive categories entering play at the Big 12 Championship.

The Wildcats have totaled 17 all-conference honorees over the past three years. Since head coach Brad Hill's first season in 2004, Kansas State has had 30 players named All-Big 12.

Kansas State, the No. 6 seed for the 2011 Phillips 66 Big 12 Championship, will face third-seeded Oklahoma at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday at RedHawks Field at Bricktown in the first game of Division Two play for both teams. The double-elimination format continues on Thursday with the Wildcats facing either No. 2 seed Texas A&M or No. 7 seed Texas Tech at either 12:30 p.m., or 7:30 p.m.

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# K-State Heads to Phillips 66 Big 12 Championship

**Cats compete in conference tournament for fifth-straight year**

**KSU Sports Information**

MANHATTAN, Kan. - Fresh off a series sweep that punched its ticket into the Phillips 66 Big 12 Championship, Kansas State will take part in the double-elimination championship, held Wednesday-Sunday, May 25-29, at RedHawks Field at Bricktown in Oklahoma City, Okla. This season marks the fifth-straight year the Wildcats have qualified for the conference championship. K-State will take on No. 3 seed Oklahoma at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday evening in Division Two play. Joining the Wildcats and Sooners in Division Two is second-seeded Texas A&M and No. 7 seed Texas Tech. A double-elimination format will determine the two division winners, which will square off in a one-game championship on Sunday at 1 p.m.

Every K-State game in the 2011 Phillips 66 Big 12 Championship can be heard across the K-State Sports Network with Wyatt Thompson, Brian Smoller and Matt Walters on the call. Additionally, the entire championship can be heard on XM/Sirius (XM 202, Sirius 214), while live action will be video streamed free on the Big 12 Conference's official website, [www.Big12Sports.com](http://www.Big12Sports.com), for the fifth year in a row.

The Wildcats are coming off their third series sweep of Kansas in the last five years and have now won 15 of the last 18 meetings against the Jayhawks. Friday night's game

in Manhattan was full of dramatics as the Wildcats won an 11-10 thriller in 10 innings on Ross Kivett's walk-off single. The series shifted to Lawrence on Saturday only to see the game get suspended until Sunday in the seventh inning with K-State leading 5-3. Both teams went on a scoring spree as 10 total runs came across in the eighth, but the Wildcats held on for a 13-9 win to clinch the final spot in the championship. Playing for seeding in the series finale, the Cats trailed 2-0 early but scored multiple runs in four different innings to win, 10-6.

Kansas State's offense exploded against the Jayhawk pitching staff as the Wildcats hit .368 (43-for-117) with 13 doubles, a triple, three homers and 34 RBI in the series. The Wildcats combined for 15 multi-hit games, 10 multi-RBI games and 13 two-out RBI in the series, while they scored 34 runs over the three games, the most since putting up 43 in 1997.

The Wildcats, who are fourth in the Big 12 with a .283 team average, have six starters hitting .300 or better. Nick Martini leads the charge at .343, while Wade Hinkle (.331), Kivett (.321), Jared King (.314), Jason King (.311) and Dan Klein (.303) round out the top K-State hitters. The elder King paces the squad in 10 offensive categories, including home runs (10) and RBI (56).

Kansas State will use its top two starting pitchers in the first two games of the championship as Kyle Hunter earns the nod against Oklahoma on Wednesday, while Matt Applegate will start on Thursday. Hunter is 5-4 with a 4.18 ERA and tossed 7.2 score-

less innings to earn the win the last time K-State and OU met. However, the left-hander has struggled lately as he has not made it out of the sixth inning in his five Big 12 games since that start. Applegate holds a 5-3 mark and a 4.10 ERA after allowing one earned run on four hits in 4.2 innings last weekend at Kansas.

**DID YOU KNOW**

- The 2011 Wildcats became the seventh team in school history with 100 steals in a season. The 2011 squad is currently fourth in school history with 117 and is two away from tying for third.

- The Wildcats have hit .316 (227-of-719) over the last 21 games to raise their average 21 points to .283. Kansas State ranked seventh in the conference before the stretch, but is now fourth in the league in hitting.

- Kansas State currently has four pitchers that have thrown 15.0 innings or more with an ERA less than 4.00. The last time the Cats finished the season with more than four pitchers holding an ERA less than 4.00 was 1974 (8).

- Freshman outfielder Jared King is second in K-State history in home runs by a freshman. He is two shy of Brett Reid's record of 10 in 1999.

- Jason King's seven RBI against Northern Colorado are the most in a single game in the Big 12 this season.

- Jason King entered last weekend with the national lead in sacrifice flies. He now holds the school's career (22) and single-season (12) records.

- Nick Martini has seven steals in the last seven games to improve his career total to 61, which is tied for second in school history.

- Jason and Jared King is the

only set of brothers nationally to homer in the same game this season as they hit a solo- and two-run home run, respectively, in a win over No. 5 Texas A&M on April 3. They are also the only set with multi-homer games this year as Jason hit two against Northern Colorado on March 30 before two solo shots by Jared on April 26 at CSUB.

- James Allen has set new Kansas State records for single-season saves (15) and career saves (29). He broke the records of Daniel Edwards, who had 12 in 2008 and 26 in his career. Allen is tied for first in the Big 12 in saves this season.
- With three saves against Texas Tech, James Allen became the first Kansas State pitcher with three saves in a conference series in the Big 12 era (1997), while he was the first in the conference since Kansas' Paul Smyth in 2009 against Texas.

**THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF THE LONG BALL**

After hitting just 11 home runs in its first 30 games, Kansas State has seen its home-run total jump over the past month. The Wildcats have tallied 22 homers in its last 25 games, including 16 in the last 16 contests. Over the last 16 games, freshman Jared King has led the way with six of his season's eight home runs. Jared has teamed with older brother Jason King to collect 18 of the Wildcats' 33 round-trippers this year. Jared leads all Big 12 freshmen with his eight homers, five more than Texas' Erich Weiss. He is also two away from tying the Kansas State freshman record of 10 by Brett Reid in 1999.

The Wildcat home-run total was given a boost when they

tallied a season-high four round-trippers against Cal State Bakersfield on May 4. It was the ninth four-home run game for Kansas State under head coach Brad Hill and the first since hitting four against Chicago State on April 28, 2010. All four home runs against the Roadrunners came in the first three innings, the most in the first three innings of a game since also hitting four against Western Illinois on February 22, 2004.

**OKLAHOMA AT A GLANCE**

The No. 3 seed for this week's championship after finishing with a conference record of 14-11, Oklahoma enters the week with a 40-15 overall mark despite going 1-2 at Baylor last weekend. The Sooners, who are hitting a league-leading .316 as a team, are led by Ricky Eisenberg, who is at .366. Garrett Buechele has a team-high 61 RBI, while Tyler Ogle paces the squad with nine homers.

Oklahoma will start right-hander Michael Rocha against Kansas State. The senior is 10-3 with a 1.82 ERA in 14 starts, including five complete games. Last weekend at Baylor, Rocha suffered the loss, allowing four runs on eight hits in 4.2 innings.

THE OKLAHOMA SERIES Oklahoma leads Kansas State, 182-69-1, in the all-time series after the Wildcats won the regular-season series in Manhattan. The Cats won on Friday, 2-0, before dropping a 14-3 decision on Saturday. The

rubber match went the way of K-State as it won 6-2 en route to its first series win over Oklahoma since 2001. The Friday-night shutout was the first by K-State against OU since 1990. Wednesday will mark just the third meeting between the two schools in a conference championship, but the second in the past two years.

**CARDIAC CATS**

Kansas State has been involved in many close games this season as 25 of its 55 games have been decided by one or two runs, including 20 one-run contests in which the Wildcats are 9-11. K-State had been on the losing end of many one-run games earlier in the season, dropping nine of its first 14, before winning three in a row. Last week, K-State was 1-1 in one-run games, losing 7-6 at Wichita State in 11 innings on Tuesday before picking up an 11-10 victory in 10 innings over KU on Friday. The amount of one-run games this year is remarkable considering the Wildcats were only involved in 11 one-run games all of last year, going 8-3. Kansas State was involved in 22 one-run games in 2008 and 18 in 2009, going 12-10 and 12-6, respectively.



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# Brownback Tours Kan. Tornado Damage

By JOHN MILBURN  
Associated Press  
TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)

Utility crews were working Monday to restore power to the small town of Reading after it was struck over the weekend by a tornado with estimated winds of up to 165 mph.

The storm claimed one life as it moved through a corridor of northeast Kansas, causing extensive damage to Reading, a town of about 250 residents some 50 miles south of Topeka.

Sharon Watson, spokeswoman for the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, said crews from Westar Energy hoped

to have electricity restored by the end of the day to 30 percent of the residents. Water and sewer service was out for all residents and no timetable was set for getting the functions restored.

Authorities have identified the person killed as 53-year-old Don Chesmore, who was in a mobile home that flipped over. He was taken to a hospital in Emporia, where he was pronounced dead.

The storm system brought tornadoes, hail, wind and rain. Watson said damage assessment teams concluded that 110 residences and other private buildings were damaged, with 26 being

destroyed and 30 uninhabitable. Some 21 commercial buildings, including the school, were damaged, with 10 destroyed and four deemed uninhabitable.

A preliminary damage assessment placed the destruction at more than \$2.2 million.

Watson said residents are receiving plenty of assistance from around the region and asked that volunteers call 211, a hotline established through the United Way, so the assistance can be coordinated.

"There have been a large number of volunteers. We really appreciate the support from Kansans," she said.

"Cleanup is certainly the biggest job ahead for residents and the community as a whole."

State and local officials, including Gov. Sam Brownback and Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer, toured the Reading area by ground and air Monday to see the damage

Brownback had flown to California on Saturday to participate in a national wind energy conference, where he planned to give a speech. But he flew back Sunday because of the tornado in Reading. He issued a disaster declaration on Sunday for 16 counties seeking federal assistance

dealing with tornado and severe thunderstorm damage.

U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp, who represents the 1st District in Congress, says Monday that volunteers are helping residents clean up and begin recovering from the storm. Huelskamp's district staff was also surveying the damage

Watson said a damage figure hadn't been determined Monday. It was unclear if the storm would meet the \$3 million threshold level that could trigger federal assistance. However, Brownback said he would seek emergency loans through the

Small Business Administration to assist residents.

Watson said there hadn't been a request from Missouri officials for assistance from Kansas to help with the aftermath of the deadly Joplin tornado, though she said it was several days after the Alabama storms before the state was asked for help. Kansas sent two teams of public information officers to assist with recovery from the Alabama tornadoes.

# University Officials Propose Tuition, Fee Hikes

By Rachel Whitten  
KansasReporter

TOPEKA, Kan. — Leaders at the six state universities hope to fill in decreases in state funding with increases in tuition and fees this fall.

The schools proposed hikes of varying size to the Kansas Board of Regents Friday. All of the schools said the gap between what the state picks up for education and what the students pay is narrowing. The original design for the public universities was for state funding to cover 75 percent of the cost of an education, while students cover the other 25 percent.

"Those days are really in the past now," said Pittsburg State University President

Steve Scott.

He added the balance now is more in the range of half state funding and half student costs.

Regents vice-chair Ed McKechnie, from Arcadia said the real challenges in paying for college usually fall to the student who come from middle class backgrounds. Typically, they don't qualify for federal Pell Grants, but their parents can't afford to pick up the tab for tuition.

"How do they pay?" McKechnie said. "It is a balancing act to make sure we're providing quality but not overpricing ourselves out of the market."

Pittsburg State is asking to increase tuition for under-

graduate state residents by 6.8 percent, which translates to a \$132 hike for a student taking 15 credit hours. That would bring tuition costs at the school up to \$2,066 per semester from \$1,934 where it is now.

The University of Kansas asked for the highest increase in tuition. The 35 percent of students who are not in a tuition compact, which guarantees the same rate for four years, will see a \$222 increase per semester if they enroll in 15 credit hours. That brings tuition costs for undergraduate Kansas residents up to \$3,805 per semester.

"The tuition proposal will allow KU to retain talented faculty and staff," said

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little.

Other proposals include: •Wichita State University asked for 6 percent increase in tuition, which works out to an additional \$141.75 per 15 credit hours, bringing up the cost of a semester there to \$2,502.

•Kansas State University requested a 3.96 tuition increase which would add \$132 to a 15 credit hour load, which would raise the cost of taking that many classes per semester to \$3,468.

•Emporia State University asked for the highest percentage increase, at 6.9 percent, but it equals out to the lowest increase in the cost of 15 credit hours, at an

additional \$125. The proposal would bring a semester's tuition costs up to \$1,932.

•Fort Hays State University retains its spot offering the lowest tuition of the six state universities. Their proposal asks for a 4 percent increase, which translates to an additional \$60.75 for 15 credit hours. A semester at FHSU costs \$1,578 in tuition.

The Board will vote on the proposals next month.

Kansas' 2012 fiscal year budget for the Regents system stands at \$742 million. That's down from fiscal year 2011, in which \$753 million was allocated from the state general fund. The fiscal year 2012 appropria-

tion includes a 1.193 percent cut that was applied to state agencies across the board.

State appropriations and student tuition and fees typically account for less than half the revenues that flow to Kansas campuses each year. A variety of special grants and contracts often are the schools' largest revenue source, while auxiliary enterprises, endowments and the sales of a wide variety of products and services all contribute lesser amounts. Use of funds from those sources, however, often is constricted by the specific arrangements that generate the funds.

# Education Officials Plan New Student Progress Model

By Rachel Whitten  
KansasReporter

TOPEKA, Kan. — Kansas education officials, hoping to steer student success measurements away from tough federally mandated standards, plan to develop an alternative system that tracks individual pupil progress.

In the wake of a disappointing waiver denial that would have let Kansas standards for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) settle at 2009-2010 levels, education leaders at the Kansas Department of Education (KSDE) and the Kansas State Board of Education are moving ahead with plans for a new "growth model" system anyway.

Kansas schools will still

be held to the AYP test score standards the state set for itself 10 years ago under the federal No Child Left Behind education reform law. Those standards, which have been ratcheting higher each year, now require 100 percent of students to achieve proficient or better marks in reading and math by 2014. Frustrated education officials say the ever increasing AYP targets don't show when schools achieve improvement, but fall short of that year's targets. That means schools can make progress but still be labeled as failing.

Last year 254 Kansas schools failed to meet the federal standards. Officials worry the number this year might be higher.

However, they hope the new growth system will give an alternative picture of academic development.

"We want to take a student when they start school and track them all the way through," said board chair Dave Dennis, from Wichita.

Dennis said he has supported the idea for years, but until recently the KSDE did not have the technology available to implement such a growth tracking method. Last year, a \$9.1 million grant awarded under the federal stimulus act provided the money to develop

such a database.

Establishing standards and implementing the new system is one goal laid out in a new strategic plan the board has made for itself through December 2012. The new growth model system, combined with evaluations on graduation requirements and dropout prevention are items Dennis said will appear soon on the board's agenda.

"All of those are things we want to concentrate on first," he said.

Meanwhile, schools that fail to meet AYP standards

could face penalties.

Schools that have more than 40 percent of students from low-income families draw federal Title I funding. If those schools fail to make AYP standards, they are placed "on improvement," which happened to 37 of 732 Title I schools last fall in Kansas. When schools are placed on improvement, measures such as allowing students to transfer to other schools that met the standards begin. And penalties are increased if failing schools don't improve. After three years of "on

improvement" status, the law requires penalizing steps such as replacing staff. Eventually, the school could be shut down if it fails to make its targets.

Schools that fail AYP standards but do not receive Title I funds can lose their accreditation.

Last fall, state assessments found that 211 of the state's 293 school districts met AYP requirements for the 2009-2010 testing cycle. Meanwhile, 1,126 of the state's 1,380 public schools met AYP goals.

# Reading Tornado Wreaks \$2.2 Million In Damages

By Rachel Whitten  
KansasReporter

TOPEKA, Kan. — An EF3 tornado that ripped through the small town of Reading on Saturday evening caused an estimated \$2.28 million in damages to residential and commercial property according to emergency management officials.

Gov. Sam Brownback and administration officials toured the widespread damages to the town of 250 people Monday morning. Wind speeds up to 165 mph destroyed or extensively damaged at least 70 homes, schools and businesses. One person died in the storm.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment advised residents to boil or purify water before use. Even as power is beginning to be restored to the community, safety inspectors continue to evaluate homes to determine if they are habitable.

Emergency management officials said that individuals looking to aid victims of the tornado should consider monetary donations rather than material goods at this point.

"We know the intentions are good, but giving money is often more helpful than sending food, water, clothing or any other sort of

physical items," said Angee Morgan, deputy director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. "Those types of items have to be sorted and stored somewhere before they can be distributed. Sometimes, there is no manpower available to do this or space to store the items. Money, however, can go directly to assist the disaster victims with their needs."

The state of Kansas, in partnership with the Kansas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, has established a donations management website to assist in connecting people who wish to donate money to responding agencies. The public is asked to go to [www.ksready.gov](http://www.ksready.gov) to make a donation to a voluntary organization active in disaster.

Some 1,282 tornadoes were reported in the U.S. last year, including 94 in Kansas, according to the Insurance Information Institute. More than 1,000 have been reported so far this year, including 875 in April, when storms devastated much of the southeastern U.S., according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

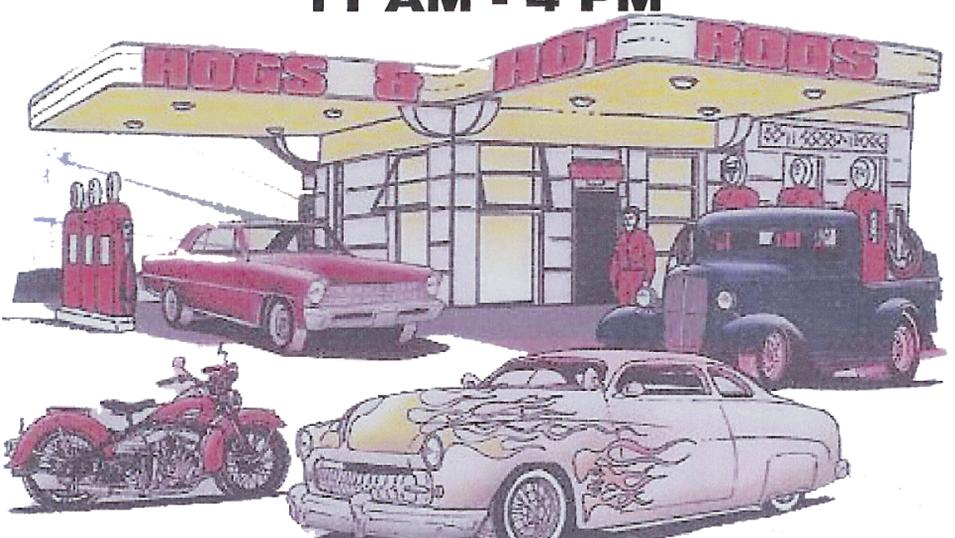
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