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Liberal Rage Won't Stop The Tea Party's Rise

By John Samples
The Cato Institute

The tea-party contingent in Congress drove the Republican leadership to bargain harder than it otherwise would have on last week's debt-ceiling deal. Liberals have rightly concluded that the tea party is changing political outcomes. Their response has been to equate tea-party members with terrorists.

Vice President Biden recently told House Democrats that tea-party Republicans had "acted like terrorists." And a New York Times columnist claimed that "Tea Party Republicans have waged jihad on the American people." Many people on the left no doubt take their cues from the vice president and the Times, so we should expect more such venomous rhetoric castigating the movement as an enemy of America.

Ironically, the movement being portrayed this way takes its name from an iconic event in American history. The Boston Tea Party of 1773 helped establish the principle of "no taxation without representation." And the members of the current tea-party movement clearly believe in the American system of representative government. They worked to change Congress through the election of 2010, and now they expect their efforts to bear fruit in the form of new policies.

Even if their anger is understandable, liberals should be ashamed of their over-the-top anti-tea party rhetoric.

"Tea Party Patriots" — the name of one tea-party organization — is closer to the truth. Far

from being enemies of America, these people believe deeply in the nation's history, promise, and Constitution.

Differing visions of America is distinct from the reality of the welfare state the country has built since 1936. So a powerful tea party is understandably disturbing to liberals — even if their recent campaign of vilification against it is reprehensible.

But is the tea-party movement really all that powerful? The budget deal, after all, hardly restrained the growth of spending over the next year, when the government will still run a deficit in excess of \$1 trillion. Even with the restraint prescribed by last week's deal over the long term, the federal government will still be spending \$4.25 trillion a year. The deal may lower federal spending, but it clearly will not bring about a substantially smaller government.

The evident rage among liberals, however, may have more to do with the battles to come than it does with the battle they've just lost (or won). We stand at the beginning of a long struggle. For the next few years — and maybe many more — our politics will be occupied by the same kind of fights over spending, deficits, and taxes.

These battles will be about more than just money. They reflect two different ideas of what the U.S. government should be. On one side is the tea party's vision. On the other is the welfare state of Franklin Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson,



These unruly Tea Party members were at a rally in Riley, Kansas in March of 2010. It is signs like this that get the Liberals so up set. How can anyone ask Congress to tell the Truth?

and President Obama, which taxes and spends more and more in pursuit of security and fairness for its citizens.

As recently as 2008, the big-government vision seemed poised to win the day. Then came the tea-party mobilization of 2009, which led to the election outcome of 2010.

Here to stay

That victory was remarkable but, in a way, unconvincing. After all, protest movements have emerged, affected elections, and then disappeared before. The Reform Party of

Ross Perot comes to mind. Last year, it was far from certain that the tea party would be more than a memory by the summer of 2011.

Even before the election of 2010, tea-party leaders were concerned that electing fiscally responsible members of Congress would not be enough to save the nation from financial ruin. They knew they had to follow up their victory with oversight to ensure that new members would remember who had elected them and why. The recent pressure on House

Speaker John Boehner from tea-party representatives reflected that strategic choice.

Political scientists tell us that to bring fundamental change to the nation, political movements must become permanent organizations. The civil rights movement accomplished such a transformation. Will the tea party also become a permanent part of our politics?

It's too soon to say, of course, but the debt-ceiling deal suggests the answer may be yes. In fact, the Republican Party might be the permanent

organization the tea party becomes.

Even if their anger is understandable, liberals should be ashamed of their over-the-top anti-tea party rhetoric. The tea party could become a lasting force in American politics — one that slowly ends the long era that began with the New Deal. Though it's often criticized as rooted in the past, the tea party may be a harbinger of the future.

U.S. Credit Rating Downgraded: Now They've Done It

By J.D. Foster, Ph.D.
The Heritage Foundation

Late on Friday, August 5, Standard & Poor's (S&P) downgraded the United States credit rating from AAA, and really best in class, to AA+. In one fell swoop, S&P sent two separate and powerful messages. First, as The Heritage Foundation and many others warned, the spending reductions in the deal negotiated by President Obama to raise the debt ceiling were entirely and woefully inadequate. Second, the global economy, the national economy, and state finances have all in their own ways been delivered a mighty and frightening body blow.

A Lost Standard of Excellence

For decades past memory, United States government debt was deemed the gold standard of credit quality. Textbooks referred to U.S. Treasuries as the "riskless asset" against which all others were compared. Those days have passed, at least for now, because the U.S. government has rapidly piled debt upon debt and, on its current trajectory, evidences no inclination to stop. Under the circumstances, without a fundamental policy course correction, a repeatedly threatened credit rating downgrade became inevitable, with only the timing at issue.

President Obama and his allies in and out of Congress do not deserve all the blame for the downgrade. Unaffordable entitlement programs were built up Congress after Congress, President after President, and their imposing fiscal dangers for the future were ignored thereafter. To his credit, President George W. Bush tried to reform the lesser problem of Social Security, spending virtually all the political capital acquired in his strong re-election in doing so,

yet even many of his allies in Congress wanted no part of it. And so the basic facts regarding the tens of trillions in unfunded obligations in Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid remain and are not in dispute.

While not solely to blame, President Obama and his allies are most certainly preeminently to blame. Facing a rapidly growing budget deficit in 2009, President Obama pushed through a massive fiscal stimulus program followed by a succession of lesser efforts. As the anemic state of the economy attests quite clearly, those programs failed miserably — except in raising federal spending and national debt.

Then the President pushed through his disastrous and highly unpopular health care reform. On paper, these reforms give the appearance of improving the fiscal picture modestly. But as the Medicare trustees' report has reminded us every year after Obamacare's passage, this happy picture is an illusion. Aside from the damage it has done and will do to health care costs and services, from a fiscal perspective Obamacare ultimately is just yet another unaffordable entitlement piled on top of those already on the books.

A Lost Opportunity

In the recent debt ceiling fight, the President's initial view was that Congress should pass a "clean" debt ceiling, allow yet more borrowing, and attend to whatever deficit reduction might be possible later. The reaction by S&P demonstrates undeniably how wrong the President was. And the nation knew it. Rarely have the American people been more engaged in and more concerned about a matter of federal fiscal policy. Yet after ignoring his own high-profile if fatally flawed fiscal commission, and

after offering a budget in January that was utterly silent on these critical issues, the President told the Congress: Don't worry, be happy.

In the course of negotiations on the debt ceiling, congressional Republicans tried tirelessly to get the President and Senate Democrats to get serious about cutting spending. All Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) could do was carp about symbolic tax hikes on the rich, oil companies, and their latest silly affection — corporate jets. To be clear, despite the perilous state of the nation's finances, the President's sole objective was ideological and symbolic: Even if Republicans had caved on tax hikes, which they wisely refused to do, the revenue gains would have been inconsequential compared to the spending cuts that are necessary. The President played politics while the nation's credit rating was set to burn, and now it has.

Whether the congressional Republican leadership should have forced deeper spending cuts before agreeing to raise the debt ceiling is now a settled question. S&P settled it. Whether they could have forced deeper spending cuts in the face of a politics-playing President and Senate dominated by spenders will never be known. But the nation will soon see the consequences.

Failure Has Consequences

Taken in isolation, a credit rating downgrade will eventually mean higher interest rates on U.S. government debt. This may be hard to imagine given the recent drop in Treasury bond rates in response to events overseas. But higher future rates are certain, and that means that even more federal tax dollars must be dedicated to paying the interest on past government excesses. Higher interest rates and interest cost

means greater deficit pressures, which can mean more debt, which can lead to higher interest rates. This is why it is termed a debt spiral.

How will the credit rating downgrade of U.S. government debt affect the states and municipal governments' interest costs? Nobody knows for sure, but it cannot be good. As a practical matter, U.S. government debt is the foundation of the U.S. financial system, as a point of reference if for no other reason. Interest rates paid by state and local government can only go up as a result of the downgrade, unwelcome news indeed to states wrestling with their own massive deficits due in part to the failure of the economy and state revenues to recover.

In today's global economy, however, the U.S. credit rating

downgrade may prove catastrophic. Prior to the credit rating downgrade, Europe was already teetering on the brink. Last week European stock exchanges plunged 10 percent, their worst weekly losses since November 2008. The long-building government debt crisis in Europe, which had been so unsuccessfully papered over just a few weeks ago by its leaders, is reaching the boiling point, threatening to wash over not just the worst offenders like Greece and Portugal but also some of the pillars of the European Union like Spain and Italy.

This is a European government debt problem on top of a European currency problem on top of a European economic growth problem. But the 2007–2009 financial crisis taught an important lesson

about the intense interconnectedness of global financial markets — and that a great many of these connections are little known and poorly understood.

What happens in Europe will not stay in Europe. What weaknesses in global finance and financial supervision will this crisis reveal? No one knows, but what a terrible time for the dominant financial actor in the global financial system, the United States government, to suffer an entirely preventable credit rating downgrade. The dangers to the global economy, and specifically to the U.S. economy, have increased markedly as the U.S. credit rating has been marked down.

Perhaps the Last Opportunity That Must Not Be Lost

See U.S. page 5

Kansas Rejects \$31.5 Million Federal Health Grant

TOPEKA, Kan. — Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback announced Tuesday he will return a \$31.5 million grant the state received to help lay the groundwork for national health insurance reform, citing uncertainty that the federal government will be able to meet its financial commitments.

The cash-strapped state joins Oklahoma as the first two to announce plans to return the money for the so-called early innovator grants to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"There is much uncertainty surrounding the ability of the federal government to meet its already budgeted future spending obligations," Brownback said in a news release announcing the decision. "Every state should be preparing for fewer federal resources, not more. To deal with that reality Kansas

needs to maintain maximum flexibility. That requires freeing Kansas from the strings attached to the early innovator grant."

Republican House leaders praised the move, but Democratic leaders called it foolish.

State Democratic chairwoman Joan Wagnon said the decision showed Brownback cared more about pleasing Republican extremists than serving the people of Kansas.

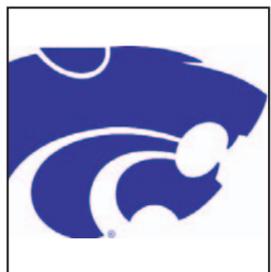
"It takes Kansas healthcare decisions out of our hands and puts it into those of the federal government," she said in a statement. "This destroys a chance to build a system for Kansas by Kansans. Legal challenges aside, the Affordable Care Act is the law, and returning money given to us does not change that fact." House Speaker Mike O'Neal

(R-Hutchinson) said in a news release that federal mandates tie the hands of the Kansas Legislature on too many issues.

"With strings attached, an unknown price tag and an unworkable timeline, the 'early innovator' grant involves unreasonable risk," O'Neal said. "The governor made the right decision. We must continue to focus on health solutions that meet the needs of Kansans."

Other GOP leaders voicing support for the move included Majority Leader Arlen Sieg Reid (R-Olathe) and Speaker Pro Tem Jene Vickrey (R-Louisburg).

Robert Moser, secretary for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, said the grant does not address the most important issue in health reform, slowing the rate of cost growth in health care.



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Obituaries

Robert Calvin Tout

Robert Calvin Tout, 84, of Manhattan died at his home on Monday, August 8, 2011. He was born in Wellington, Kansas on March 15, 1927, the youngest of four children born to Dr. James Franklin and Geneva Ruth Bobbitt Tout. Robert spent his early years in Wellington before the family

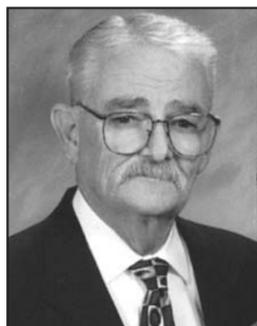
moved to Hereford, TX in the 1930's. In 1943, Robert was the Texas Golden Gloves Boxing Champion in the feather weight division. He graduated from Follett, TX High School and served in the United States Navy during WWII in the Pacific. After WWII Robert attended West Texas State in Canyon, TX and then attended Southwestern Medical School of the University of Texas in

Dallas, TX. He graduated in 1953 as a fourth generation physician. Dr. Tout interned at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Lexington, KY followed by private practice in Hutchinson, KS from 1954 until 1964. Dr. Tout was a Diplomate of the American Board of Family Practice and was Assistant Director of Oklahoma State University Student Health Service from 1964-1977. He came to the Lafene Health

Center at Kansas State University in 1977 as a Staff MD and then served as Director until he retired in 1989. Robert Tout and Billie Maxine McLarty were married June 8, 1947 and had daughter Shane and son David Mark. Dr. Tout was widowed in 1987 and married Garalyn Mae Avery in 1990. Dr. Tout was an active member of First Presbyterian

Church, serving in various capacities including the Board of Sessions. He enjoyed photography, travel, woodworking, antiques, reading to his grandchildren and a great game of cards and pool. Survivors include wife Garalyn Avery Tout, sister Eloise Annesley of Austin, TX, sister-in-law Barbara Tout of Round Rock, TX, son David and wife Donna Tout of Olathe, daughter Shane Tout of Pasadena, TX, step-son Dr. Robert and wife Karin Avery of Albuquerque, NM and step-daughter Carey Avery and partner Judy Hulden of Phoenix, AZ. He will also be greatly missed by grandchildren Todd Alan, Kevin Robert, Billie Michele, James Robert, Anna Elizabeth, Julia Grace, Thomas Bryant and great-grandchildren Tilly Vaughn, Keats Alder and Finley Penn.

held at the First Presbyterian Church, 801 Leavenworth,



Manhattan, Kansas at 11:00 am on Wednesday, August 10, 2011. Inurnment will be in Follett, Texas. Memorial contributions have been established for the Manhattan First Presbyterian Church and the Tout Medical Scholarship in Follett TX and may be left in care of the Yorge8nsen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home at 1616 Poyntz Ave, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

Brett Thomas Bolton



Brett Thomas Bolton, age 14, of Manhattan, died August 6, 2011, at Via Christi St. Francis Hospital in Wichita as the result of injuries from a car accident Friday evening. He was born August 7, 1996, at the St. Mary Hospital in Manhattan, the son of Thomas P. and Leigha A. (Bailey) Bolton. Brett attended the First United Methodist Preschool,

Marlatt Elementary School, Anthony Middle School and Manhattan High School. He was baptized at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, and was confirmed October 31, 2010 at First Lutheran Church. He was active in the youth program at First Lutheran Church and was very mature in his faith. Brett was an avid sports fan and was very proud to serve for several years as a ball boy at Kansas State University men's basketball games. At Anthony Middle School, he participated in drama, football, wrestling and track, and at Manhattan High School he played football and wrestled. During 6th grade, he played on the Panthers football team, and for the past seven years he was a member of the Manhattan Titans baseball team, playing catcher, first base, and pitching in relief. Brett worked in all of his endeavors, was always willing to help anyone, had a ready

smile, and was fun to be around. He also played the drums and worked with his father this summer at Bolton Electric. The Bolton family would like to thank everyone including his day-care providers, teachers, coaches, church leaders, classmates, neighbors, teammates, relatives, and friends, for having a positive influence on Brett's life and for helping make him the joyous young man that he was. Survivors include his parents of Manhattan; one sister, Jessica Bolton of Manhattan, NY; grandparents: Vaughn Bolton of Manhattan, Carolyn Wenke of Lincoln, NE, and Roger and Dolores Bailey of Tekamah, NE; four aunts and uncles and their families: John and Renee Bolton of Lenexa, KS, Katie and Alan Hartog of Chicago, IL, Marc and Krista Bailey of Pierce, NE, and Holly Peitzmeier of Lincoln, NE. Brett was preceded in death by three grandparents: Betty

Bolton, Opal Bolton and Richard Wenke; and two uncles: Jim Bolton and Doug Wenke. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 A.M. Wednesday at the First Lutheran Church, 930 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, with Reverend Dr. Keith Wiens officiating. Cremation will follow the services with private family burial in Sunset Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5:30 until 8:00 P.M. Tuesday at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home. Online condolences may be left for the family through the funeral home website at www.ymlfuneralhome.com. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Lutheran Church Youth Group. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502.

Clyde Ancel Armstrong

Clyde Ancel Armstrong, 77, Manhattan, passed away Friday, August 5, 2011 at Meadowlark Retirement Center. Ancel was born March 27, 1934 in Trent, Texas. He was the son of Arnold and Lillian Armstrong, and brother to Dora Sanders, Leroy Armstrong and Joe Armstrong. Loving husband of Mildred and father of Theresa, Patrice, Melinda, Monica and Kristi, grandfather to Anna and Abigail Hoffman. Ancel grew up and attended school in Trent, Texas and later attended Kansas State University, graduating with a B.S. in Agriculture in 1958. He was a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, Alpha Zeta and The Kansas State Dairy Club, plus various other campus organizations. It was in college that Ancel met his bride Mildred, whom he mar-

ried on June 4, 1960. After graduating, Ancel was employed by Kansas State University's Kansas Artificial Breed Service Unit for eleven years, nine as general manager. In 1970, after much research and traveling in Europe, Australia and New Zealand he saw the opportunity to begin his cattle breeding and genetics program. He created New Breeds Industries in Manhattan, Kansas and began his life work. He has been a tireless force, not only on behalf of Simmental genetics, but the entire beef industry. He was known for his aggressive forward looking leadership and touched many lives in the cattle industry. Ancel devoted his work primarily to the Simmental Breed, serving as the Founding President of the Kansas Simmental Association and as a board member and President (1977) of the American Simmental Association.

Ancel was honored with many awards. Among these were: The Presidents Club at Kansas State University, Citation for his contributions and service to the Simmental Breed from The World Simmental Federation (1992), and North American Simmental Man of the Year (1978). His greatest achievement was his love of his wife, daughters, and granddaughters, as well as his dedication and friendship too many. Ancel is survived by his wife, Mildred; daughters Theresa Armstrong, Manhattan Kansas; Melinda and Jack Mugrage, Manhattan, Kansas; Monica and Todd Brown, Sherman, Connecticut; Kristi and Kyle Hoffman, Coldwater, Kansas; son in law Doug Rogge, Manhattan, Kansas and granddaughters Anna and Abigail Hoffman, of Coldwater. He is also survived by his sister Dora Sanders, Sulphur Springs, Texas; broth-

ers Joe and Joyce Armstrong, Valiant, Mississippi; Leroy and Carolyn Armstrong, Colorado City, Colorado. Ancel was preceded in death by his parents, daughter Patrice Rogge and brother in law Tom Sanders. Funeral Services will be held Wednesday, August 10 at 10 am at Seven Dolors Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Sunrise Cemetery in Manhattan. The family will have visitation and a Remembrance service Tuesday, August 9 at 7pm at Irvin-Parkview Funeral Home. The family request in lieu of flowers to send memorials in Ancel's name to The Kansas Junior Simmental Association Scholarship Fund or to Hospice/Homecare of Manhattan. The Irvin Parkview Funeral Home is responsible for arrangements. To send an email condolence or for more information, visit www.irvin-parkview.com.

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Editorial

The Kansas Conservative Movement: A Realization of Power and Responsibility



Paul A. Ibbetson

If you have ever watched a "super hero" movie you will hear at some point the cautionary warning that, "With great power comes great responsibility." Those are wise words indeed but what if an individual doesn't know that he or she has a unique power worthy of being considered "super," let alone the responsibility that goes along with it? Thus enter the people of the state of Kansas.

The conservative majority in what I call the beautiful flatlands of Kansas continually do what is right in the face of liberal opposition. Day in and day out there are examples of regular people stepping forward and not just fighting for the values of God, family and country, but also winning the day; yes, winning the day and returning to the regular work of daily life with little fanfare or celebration. This appears to be the routine of the unsung hero and after observing Kansas heroism for my entire lifetime, I don't believe most Kansans require nor look for a pat on the back for doing what is right. However, because of our state's significant influence on the national stage as a whole, and the monumental challenges facing all Americans today, it is time to give an account of some of the instances when Kansans have stepped forward against liberal opposition and were heroes.

In 2005, in the heat of the Defense of Marriage Act debate, liberals within Kansas and across the nation attempted to push conservatives within the state into bypassing an initiative to vote on whether or not marriage should only be between a

man and a woman. Liberal politicians in Topeka appeared ready to stand firm on refusing an amendment vote, while hundreds of conservatives across the state went to the state capital and discussed, lobbied, and prayed that our government would let the people vote on the issue. During this period, liberals attempted the very same demonization that is now heaped upon the Tea Parties of this state, by saying that Kansans who believed in traditional values were "hate mongers, intolerant, prejudiced," and the list goes on. After a lengthy battle, the people of Kansas were allowed to vote on the issue and 70 percent of state voters stated their desire for marriage to be only between a man and a woman. Following this hard-fought victory in Kansas, states such as Wisconsin, Virginia, Tennessee, South Dakota, South Carolina, Idaho, Colorado, Arizona, Florida and even California would vote for traditional marriage. What one state can do, so can another.

It's not that Kansas is always a conservative bastion of perfection. We lose our way from

time to time. What makes us unique, or might I say heroic, as a state is that our moral compass is directed by people who will acknowledge their mistakes and will make the often-painful course corrections when necessary. A salient example, and one mentioned far less than it should be, was the massive conservative victory against the country's most liberal homosexual bill created and passed in Manhattan, Kansas. On February 8, 2011, a liberal majority within Manhattan's city government with support from a homosexual advocacy group, Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgender (LGBT) pushed through an anti-discrimination ordinance alteration that created arbitrary punishments for traditional Kansans, and ran counter to the values of Christians. In the face of heavy liberal opposition, Kansans came together and voted in a conservative majority in Manhattan, Kansas, and repealed the homosexual bill. What one town can do, so can another.

Today, Kansas leads the nation in bringing back to national consciousness the reality of the sanctity of life before birth. Kansas House Bill 2218 acknowledges medical evidence of the pain capability of the unborn, and bans abortion after 22 weeks in all cases except to save a mother's life. Under Kansas House Bill 2035, the simple but land-breaking word change found in all abortion law language will now describe the unborn as a "child" and not a "fetus." As

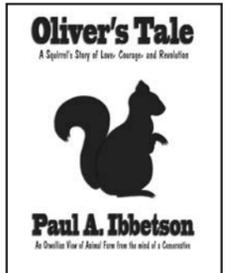
well, this bill requires that both parents, instead of one, be notified when a minor requests an abortion. Among other ground-shaking strides for life that are taking place in this state, Title X federal money for 'reproductive-related' services have been designated by law to only go to public health clinics giving full service primary and preventative care. Simply put, for the first time, Planned Parenthood does not qualify for those taxpayer funds. On this issue, Kansas is currently fighting Planned Parenthood in what can be seen as the conflict over "health dollars versus abortion dollars." Win or lose on this issue; once again, conservatives in Kansas are doing tremendous things.

Pick your issue, and you will see that time and time again Kansas conservatives do the right thing when doing wrong would be cheaper, easier and more politically correct. This is superhero work. While the people of our state get far less media attention for their many substantial victories, I can tell you with absolute certainty that the victories of the people of Kansas are on the minds of Americans throughout the country. Through my work in radio I have received e-mails from conservatives across the country, and in every state they praise the resilience and consistency of Kansas conservatives. Most notable are the conservatives of blue states that desire what we have here in the beautiful flatlands, a clear consensus on core value issues. Yes, the people of Kansas are superheroes to many across the

nation. There will be those that will attempt to diminish the value of what we have accomplished, and what we will do in the future. There will certainly be those that will attack me personally as the messenger and as one that holds the banner of conservatism in this state so proudly. I say on all counts, let them all come, and may the better values win. Praise has been earned by the people of Kansas, but with it comes the reality that the people of this state will continue to be challenged to do what is right, when doing right will be the harder thing to do. We must not fail, we must hold to our values to make a better state and in the end, to save this country. With great power comes great responsibility.

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. For interviews or questions, please contact him at ibbetson91.9@gmail.com



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Editorial

Letters to Tom

Heads They Win, Tails We Lose

Congratulations! If you own a home in Manhattan, Kansas your property taxes will go up by at least 7% next year, and there's nothing you can do about it. That's the good news. In the years after that your property taxes are projected to go up even more, into the dou-

ble digits! Again, there's nothing you can do about it. Our political masters have devised a fool proof system to squeeze tribute out of the hobbits living in the Shire. More than that, they have already spent the money they are going to take from you this year, the year after that, and into perpetuity. No one escapes: if you own a home or property you are taxed directly, if you rent the cost is passed along to you indirectly. There's nothing you can do about it.

Here's how it works. The city, and the board of education, and the county decide how much money they want. Allowing each entity to come up with its own budget allows them to divide up the responsibility for the big bill. Once they determine how much they want, they work out how we will pay for it. Now for the genius of the system. The county decides how much your home is worth, the appraisal. If the total value of appraised properties is enough to provide the amount of money that the city, the school system, and the county want (through property taxes), we are told that we should be happy because the mill levy will not be increased. If the appraisal is not enough to provide the money necessary to satisfy the needs then the mill levy is increased. If they want to soften the blow they go through the charade of announcing a large mill levy increase and then back it down to what they decide is a more 'reasonable' increase. No matter what they get their money. We get to pay.

What happens if we do try to do something about it? As an individual you can file an appeal of your appraisal and you may be able to have your property tax adjusted. As voters we have the ability to elect new commissioners and members of the board of education. In the 2011 election for City Commission three of the five candidates were committed to holding the line on taxes, one



Mike Kryschal

was noncommittal, and one was in favor of increasing taxes. We elected two who were in favor of holding the line. The results for USD 383 were less promising for property owners. When the commission directed the city staff to reduce spending, the response was a proposal to reduce road maintenance. I'm surprised that they didn't threaten to reduce emergency service and police. When one commissioner suggested that funding for programs should be prioritized and that some programs should be defunded he was rebuffed and his proposal was rejected. At the end of the day the budget was passed and we lost.

What does this mean? Did any of you receive a 7% raise this year? The answer for most of us is a resounding no. In fact many of us have not had a raise since 2009. This means that inflation and tax increases are reducing our income. Don't worry though the city is still hiring, in fact they are advertising for a Planner. Just what we need, another bureaucrat to plan ways to spend our ever decreasing income.

Can anything be done about it? While we can't undo the most recent increase we can and should continue to fight growing government at the expense of the governed. The property tax system must be reformed. The system as it stands has become undemocratic. If elected officials continue to rubber stamp tax increases then the authority to approve mill levy increases should be returned to those who pay the

bill. The city should freeze hiring for any position other than public safety and law enforcement. Finally, we must decrease the size of the city staff. The city website claims that the staff is comparable to that found in other city's. So what? We need to cut back. If the mill levy is increased by 7%, it is not unreasonable to decrease the size of the staff by 7%. Again this decrease needs to be visited upon the planners and administrators, not the cops, firemen, and maintainers. A government that has the time to regulate hot dog and ice cream sales is overstaffed.

In the last few months the city commission has worked hard to undo some of the damage done by earlier commissions. They need to continue this trend by providing tax relief to the citizens of Manhattan. Right now, the game is fixed in favor of the house. Our elected officials need to change that and give the tax payers a sporting chance.

Mike Kryschal, Colonel (Retired), United States Army, has a Bachelor's Degree from John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio and a Master's Degree in International Relations from Boston University. He served in the United States Army from 1972 to 1999. He was a platoon leader in the 25th Infantry Division, company commander in the 82d Airborne Division, battalion commander in the 1st Infantry Division, and brigade commander 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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“Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”
- Thomas Jefferson, 1787



Riley County Minutes

The Board of County Commissioners Of Riley County, Kansas July 28, 2011

The Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners met at the Riley County Plaza East Building July 28, 2011 with the following members present: Karen McCulloh, Chair; Dave Lewis, Member; and Cindy Kabriel sitting in for Rich Vargo, County Clerk. Alvan Johnson, Vice Chair, attended at 8:35 a.m.

8:30 Public Comment & Business Meeting
Jolene Keck, Elections Supervisor; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy County Clerk; and Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters, attended.

Keck said Kansas redistricting of State legislative offices by the Secretary of State office will have no bearing on Riley County Commission District boundaries.

Lewis moved to approve the payroll vouchers in the amount of \$223,159.38 and the following warrant vouchers for July 29, 2011:

- 2011 Budget**
County General \$630,267.04
Teen Court Collected Fund 227.31
Riley Co Juvenile Service 14,497.78
Motor Vehicle Operations 2,638.73
21st Jud Dist Teen Court 819.15
Riley Co Adult Services 13,763.43
Capital Improvements Fund 25,640.91
Emergency 911 6,143.40
Solid Waste 195,074.80
County Building 5,975.19
Road & Bridge Cap Project 13,949.95
RCPD Levy/Op 30,092.82
Landfill Closure 2,939.49
Riley Co Fire Dist #1 7,029.60
University Park W&S 2,384.66
Hunters Island Water Dist 2,439.66
Carson Sewer Benefit Dist 38.30
Deep Creek Sewer 638.15
Mochlman Bottoms 1,230.64
Valleywood Operations 212.89
Terra Heights Sewer 971.22
Konza Water Operations 4,564.95
TOTAL.....\$961,540.07
McCulloh seconded. Carried 2-0.

8:35 Alvan Johnson attended.

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Personnel Action Form for Nate Hollenbeck, a new hire, as a Public Works Operator II, in the Road and Bridge Department, at a grade I step 1, at \$15.20 per hour.

Lewis moved to approve a Grant of Permanent Easement with Tony A. and Sharon L. Sump to lay out, relocate, widen, or alter the public road known as Jerusalem Road, solely for the purpose of constructing a road and/or Bridge Project, described as follows: A tract of land located in the Southeast Quarter of Section 7, Township 6 South, Range 6 East of the 6th Principal Meridian, Riley County, Kansas more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 7; thence on an assumed bearing of North 89 degrees 42 minutes 48 seconds West along the South line of said Southeast Quarter a distance of 1,543.72 feet; thence North 00 degrees 17 minutes 12 seconds East a distance of 378.58 feet to a point on the existing South Right of Way line and the point of beginning; thence North 63 degrees 26 minutes 13 seconds West a distance of 200.81 feet; thence North 42 degrees 18 minutes 34 seconds West a distance of 212.39 feet; thence North 48 degrees 01 minutes 12 seconds West a distance of 50.25 feet; thence North 38 degrees 01 minutes 13 seconds West a distance of 200.56 feet; thence North 25 degrees 01 minutes 03 seconds West a distance of 52.37 feet to a point on the existing South Right of Way line of Jerusalem Road; thence North 47 degrees 41 minutes 26 seconds East a distance of 19.43 feet to a point on the Project Centerline; thence South 42 degrees 18 minutes 34 seconds East along the Project Centerline a distance of 50.00 feet; thence North 47 degrees 41 minutes 26 seconds East a distance of 20.11 feet to a point of the existing North Right of Way line of Jerusalem Road; thence South 47 degrees 58 minutes 46 seconds East a distance of 150.74 feet; thence South 42 degrees 18 minutes 34 seconds East a distance of 200.00 feet; thence South 37 degrees 13 minutes 30 seconds East a distance of 112.83 feet; thence South 53 degrees 12 minutes 50 seconds East a distance of 129.05 feet to a point on the existing North Right of Way line of Jerusalem Road; thence South 28 degrees 31 minutes 06 seconds West a distance of 20.20 feet to a point on the Project Centerline; thence South 61 degrees 29 minutes 01 seconds East along the project Centerline a distance of 50.00 feet; thence South 28 degrees 30 minutes 53 seconds West a distance of 20.51 feet to the point of beginning. Said tract contains (18,914 Sq. Ft.) 0.43 acre of land, more or less, excluding the existing road right of way. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to approve a Temporary Construction Easement with Tony A. and Sharon L. Sump to Tony A. and Sharon L. Sump to lay out, relocate, widen, or alter a certain public road known as Jerusalem Road solely for the purpose of constructing a road and/or Bridge Project, described as follows: A tract of land located in the Southeast Quarter of Section 7, Township 6 South, Range 6 East of the 6th Principal Meridian, Riley County, Kansas more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 7; thence on an assumed bearing of North 89 degrees 42 minutes 48 seconds West along the South line of said Southeast Quarter a distance of 1,672.25 feet; thence North 00 degrees 17 minutes 12 seconds East a distance of 514.86 feet to a point of the existing North Right of Way line and the point of beginning; thence North 37 degrees 13 minutes 30 seconds West a distance of 112.83 feet; thence North 42 degrees 18 minutes 34 seconds West a distance of 150.00 feet; thence North 47 degrees 41 minutes 26 seconds East a distance of 25.00 feet; thence South 77 degrees 18 minutes 05 seconds East a dis-

tance of 122.07 feet; thence South 42 degrees 18 minutes 34 seconds East a distance of 50.00 feet; thence South 10 degrees 23 minutes 37 seconds East 132.41 feet; thence South 47 degrees 41 minutes 26 seconds West 35.00 feet to the point of beginning. Said tract contains 18,055 square feet, (0.41 acres) of land more or less. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to approve a Request to Write Off Account Receivables for Steve Church, 7210 Redbud Drive, University Park Benefit District in the amount of \$179.20 for the Public Works Department. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to approve the minutes of July 25, 2011 as amended. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:00 Barry Wilkerson, County Attorney

Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy County Clerk; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; and Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services, attended.

Wilkerson presented an Attorney's Office update.

9:15 Budget and Planning Committee - Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer

Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; and Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters, attended.

Shepek presented a CIP, county building, economic development, and ½ cent sales tax update.

9:32 Robert Nall, Information Technology Director

Jeff Buckhart, KMAN; Chris Welchans, GIS Director; Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy County Clerk; and Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters, attended.

Nall presented an Information Technology update.

Nall said it is time for the GIS department to upgrade their ESRI software.

The Board of County Commissioners agreed by consensus for staff to bring in a consultant to proceed with the GIS software upgrade.

9:51 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

•Administrative Work Session
Jeff Buckhart, KMAN; Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; and Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters, attended.

9:51 Lewis moved that the County Commission recess into executive session pursuant to the preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, in order to discuss an initial offer of purchase by Riley County, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 10:06 a.m. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

10:07 Lewis moved to go out of executive session. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

10:07 Lewis moved that the County Commission recess into executive session pursuant to the preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, in order to discuss an initial offer of purchase by Riley County, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 10:13 a.m. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

10:13 Lewis moved to go out of executive session. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

Holeman reviewed the KAC Legislative Request Form.

The Board of County Commissioners by consensus agreed to authorize counsel to submit the legislative requests presented to KAC.

10:21 Bob Isaac, Planner
Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; Nancy Lisa Swihart; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; and Judson & Nancy Swihart, attended.

10:23 McCulloh opened the Public Hearing for a request for plat/rezone for Judson J. Swihart.

Isaac presented a request to rezone a tract of land from "G-1" (General Agricultural) to "A-5" (Single Family Residential) and plat the subject tract into a single lot.

J. Swihart said he has talked with the other ten neighboring property owners and they sup-

port the request.

10:25 McCulloh closed the Public Hearing.
Johnson moved to approve "Resolution No. 072811-25, Resolution amending the zoning map of Riley County concerning the use of certain real estate located in Wildcat Township." Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Johnson moved to approve "Resolution No. 072811-26, A Resolution approving the Western View Subdivision plat and accepting the street rights of way, easements, and licenses as shown to be dedicated on said plat." Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

10:30 Jennifer Wilson, County Extension Director and Steve French, Kaw Valley Rodeo Association

Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; and Jeff Buckhart, KMAN, attended.

Wilson presented a 2011 Riley County Fair data.

French reported the Kaw Valley Rodeo Association had no problems with beer sales. French said the Rodeo Association will not know until their August meeting how the sales went for the vendor.

French said total attendance was 5,027 which is up slightly over the 5 year average of 5,015.

French thanked everyone that attended the rodeo and braved the heat.

10:51 Johnson moved to adjourn. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

**The Board of County Commissioners
Of Riley County, Kansas
August 1, 2011**

The Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners met at the Riley County Plaza East Building August 1, 2011 with the following members present: Karen McCulloh, Chair; Alvan Johnson, Vice Chair; Dave Lewis, Member; and Cindy Kabriel sitting in for Rich Vargo, County Clerk.

8:30 Public Comment & Business Meeting

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy County Clerk; Debbie Regester, Register of Deeds; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; and Paul Foltz, attended.

Foltz asked how are we coming on the boundary line between Pottawatomie County and Riley County?

Holeman said he should have the information to the Board in a week to 10 days.

Johnson moved to approve an Out of State Travel Request for Debbie Regester in Register of Deeds' to attend a Property Records Industry Association Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Johnson moved to approve "Resolution No. 080111-27, A Resolution modifying the rates for water usage in the Mochlman Bottoms Water Benefit District in Riley County, Kansas, and repealing resolutions in conflict therewith". Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Johnson moved to approve "Resolution No. 080111-28, A Resolution modifying the rates for water usage in the Hunter's Island Water Benefit District in Riley County, Kansas, and repealing resolutions in conflict therewith". Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley

County Personnel Action Form for Barry Disney, a new hire, as an Assistant County Attorney, in the County Attorney's Office, at \$3,384.62 per 80 hour pay period for the remainder of 2011.

Johnson moved to approve the minutes of July 28, 2011 as amended. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:00 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

•Administrative Work Session
Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; and Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer, attended.

Holeman said the grain storage facility on Riley County property in Leonardville has been moved.

Holeman said he will attend the City Commission meeting Tuesday night. Holeman said there will be discussion on the Riley County fleet vehicle parking lot and a resolution transferring Health Department funds.

**See Riley County Page 5A
9:30 Press Conference**

GINNY BARNARD, Andrea Feldkamp, Greg McClure - County Extension Agents; Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; Dan Page, KMAN; and Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer, attended.

Barnard discussed fascinating pickle facts and the "So Easy to Preserve" class. Barnard said a class on pickled products will be held on August 10th from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the HyVee Club Room. Barnard said registration can be done at www.riley.ksu.edu, the Riley County Extension Office, or call 785-537-6350.

Feldkamp presented the following Riley County Fair summary:

•Entries for open class Photography and Arts were strong. The open Arts division experienced a 34 entry increase.

•4-H exhibit areas experiencing an increase were Clothing and Foods. Poultry experienced a marked increase by 20 entries. 4-H Arts and Fiber Arts were also up marginally in entries.

•Horticulture entries - Open Class was up a bit and 4-H division was down. The weather patterns likely affected vegetable and flower selection. It is likely that if fair had been a week later, that those entry categories would have been further reduced, due to the extreme heat conditions.

•Sheep and Swine exhibits were up marginally and Beef exhibit numbers were higher in the market categories. Bucket calf entries were down slightly.

•We are still waiting to receive final totals from Ottaway Amusement and the food vendor stand selling out of Pottorf Hall. Ottaway offered wristbands each night of the fair.

•The Extension Office is currently accepting entries for 4-H State Fair divisions. Pre-entry paperwork is due August 5. All entries must be pre-entered in the 4-H divisions, in order to exhibit.

•Members have the opportunity to exhibit at State Fair in the 4-H divisions if they have achieved their 9th birthday as of January 1, 2011, and have achieved a purple ribbon placing on their exhibit during the Riley County Fair.

•Exhibit categories eligible for State Fair completion include: Dog, Horse, Fiber Arts, Visual Arts, Wood Science, Electricity,

See RileyCounty page 5

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U.S. Credit Rating Downgrade from page one

President Obama and the Congress have the time and opportunity to change the course of fiscal policy. The United States can recover its AAA credit rating and begin to heal the damage, but it must not delay. The debt ceiling deal included the provision for the creation of a joint select committee of Congress to cut at least \$1.2 trillion over the next 10 years. Clearly, that figure is much too low. The committee was to report by November 23. Clearly, that is too late. In the eyes of many, the committee was designed to fail. That must not happen.

President Obama must now do things he has been loath to do heretofore. First, he must lead. No more grand speeches, nor more politicking, no more

finger-pointing while criticizing those who oppose him. Above all, leading now means corraling his forces to reach across the aisle to Republicans and work together.

Second, he should give up the ideological fight for higher taxes on anyone. For one thing, even suggesting higher taxes when unemployment is so high and economic growth is so low suggests a man more committed to politics than jobs. As The Heritage Foundation suggested at the start of his term, President Obama should suspend his desire for higher taxes at least until the economy has moved far toward full employment. The wisdom (or lack thereof) of higher taxes can be debated when Americans are back to work.

Finally, the President should forego his inclination to use entitlement reforms for political purposes. Scaring seniors about Social Security checks and related "Mediscare" tactics, which are basic elements of the Democratic party playbook, must stop. The problem is too much entitlement spending now and even more so in the near future. Republicans know it. Democrats know it. Liberals know it. The nation now knows it.

A number of sound incremental reforms can garner strong bipartisan support and can substantially improve these program's sustainability and the nation's finances. The President must lead his party to join hands with Republicans in

the joint select committee to embrace these reforms and be ready to enact them, saving far more than \$1.2 trillion and far sooner than November 23.

It Can Be Done

The objective for the nation, the President, and the joint select committee is clear: drive down spending—including and especially on entitlement programs—toward a balanced budget while protecting America and without raising taxes. Properly done, this would lead to economic growth, more jobs, less government, and a restoration of the nation's credit rating. It can be done. The Heritage Foundation has described in detail how to do it in "Saving the American Dream: The Heritage Plan to Fix the Debt, Cut Spending, and Restore Prosperity."

Riley County from page four

Entomology, Geology, Space Tech, Forestry, Horticulture, Wildlife, Small Engines, Photography, Home Environment, Food Preservation, Foods & Nutrition, and Clothing.

•Livestock categories (Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goats, Rabbits, and Poultry) with blue ribbon placings are eligible to exhibit at the Kansas State Fair.

•The 2011 Kansas State Fair will take place in Hutchinson, September 9-18.

•The 2012 Riley County Fair is slated to occur July 26-30.

Shepek said the 2012 budget process is finishing up. Shepek

said the Notice of Budget Hearing was published in yesterday's Manhattan Mercury. Shepek said the budget hearing will be held 10:45 a.m. on Monday, August 15th.

McClure presented an update on crops.

McClure said a Riley County Livestock Association Summer Tour will be held at 5:00 p.m. on August 28th at Fink Beef Genetics, Randolph.

McClure said there is no cost to attend, but reservations do need to be made.

10:00 Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer

Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; Dan Page, KMAN; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; and Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer, attended.

Hobson presented a Public Works projects update.

Hobson said the McDowell Creek bridge, an old truss bridge, was originally in the 5-year plan through KDOT. Hobson said the program has changed and the bridge didn't make the cut before the program changes.

Hobson said he would like to

use the unobligated funds in the ½ cent sales tax fund and submit an application to the new program to receive funds from KDOT.

Hobson said staff would like to submit a RFQ and retain a consultant to go to the field check level at this time.

The Board of County Commissioners agreed by consensus for staff to proceed.

10:19 Lewis moved to adjourn. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

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Pelger Named Preseason All-Big 12

KSU Sports Information

MANHATTAN, Kan. – The Big 12 Conference announced its preseason all-conference awards on Tuesday afternoon in preparation for the 2011 season, and Kansas State's Kaitlynn Pelger was honored by the league's coaches. Pelger was selected to the Preseason All-Big 12 Team after her strong freshman campaign from a year ago.

Pelger was one of only four sophomores to make the list of 17 players. Other underclassmen on the Preseason All-Big 12 Team were Missouri setter Molly Kreklow, Oklahoma middle blocker Sallie McLaurin and Texas A&M setter Allie Sawatzky.

Last season, Pelger pounded out 328 kills to lead the Wildcats on the year. She also hit at a .254 percentage to go along with her 1.19 digs per set average. The Olathe South product also was one of the team's top blockers averaging

0.88 per set and contributing on 100 blocks on the year. Pelger became the 21st player in school history and first-ever freshman to tally a triple-triple season with 328 kills, 134 digs and 100 blocks.

Texas claimed two of the three individual preseason awards with middle blocker Rachael Adams selected as the Big 12 Preseason Player of the Year. Fellow middle blocker Khat Bell was voted the Big 12 Preseason Freshman of the Year by the coaches. Iowa State's Hannah Willms was chosen as the Big 12 Newcomer of the Year after redshirting last year.

The coaches voted unanimously on five players to make the preseason team. Iowa State's Jamie Straube, OU's Brianna Barker, UT's Adams, A&M's Kelsey Black and Texas Tech's Amanda Dowdy all were selected by every eligible coach. Coaches are not allowed to vote for their own

players. The conference office will announce the 2011 Preseason Big 12 Coaches Poll on Wednesday.

Pelger and the Wildcats began their own preparation for the season on Tuesday with their first practices of training camp. K-State opens its season on Aug. 26 at the Georgia Tech Courtyard Classic. For season ticket information on K-State's 13 home matches this season go to kstatesports.com or call 1-800-221-CATS (2287).

PRESEASON ALL-BIG 12 AWARDS

Player of the Year: Rachael Adams, Texas, MB, Sr., 6-2, Cincinnati, Ohio

Newcomer of the Year: Hannah Willms, Iowa State, OH, RS Fr., 6-0, Waterloo, Iowa

Freshman of the Year: Khat Bell, Texas, MB.OH, Fr., 6-1, Mesquite, Texas

PRESEASON ALL-BIG 12 TEAM

Name, School, Pos., Cl., Ht., Hometown/Previous School
 Torri Campbell, Baylor, MB Jr., 6-2, Amarillo, Texas/Amarillo

Alison Landwehr, Iowa State, S, Jr., 6-0, St. Louis, Mo./Parkway West

Jamie Straube, Iowa State^, 6-2, St. Andrews, Texas/Lexington

MB, Jr., 6-2, Tecumseh, Neb./Johnson County Central Selkirk

Kaitlynn Pelger, Kansas State, MB, So., 6-0, Overland Park, Kan./Olathe South

Brittney Brimmage, Missouri, MB/OH, Sr., 6-3, East St. Louis, Ill./East St. Louis

Molly Kreklow, Missouri, S, So., 6-0, Delano, Minn./Delano

Brianna Barker, Oklahoma^, S, Sr., 5-9, Amarillo, Texas/Amarillo

Suzi Boulavsky, Oklahoma, RS/OH, Sr., 6-1, Houston, Texas/Clear Brook

Sallie McLaurin, Oklahoma, MB, So., 6-2, Midwest City, Okla./Carl Albert

Rachael Adams, Texas^, MB, Sr., 6-2, Cincinnati, Ohio/Mount Notre Dame

Amber Roberson, Texas, OH, Sr., 6-2, San Antonio, Texas/Wagner

Kelsey Black, Texas A&M^, OH, Sr., 5-11, Amarillo, Texas/Amarillo

Allie Sawatzky, Texas A&M,

S, So., 6-2, St. Andrews, Manitoba, Canada/Lord Selkirk

Amanda Dowdy, Texas Tech^, OH, Sr., 6-3, Lexington,

^ - Unanimous Selection; Ties occurred in voting to result in a 17-member preseason team.



Kaitlynn Pelger goes up for the ball against UT. (Photo courtesy of KSU Sports Information)

Kansas Offers Buyouts to 4,000 State Workers

By Gene Meyer
 Kansas Reporter

TOPEKA — Kansas is offering up to five years of subsidized health insurance or a cash buyout to 4,000 of its nearly 23,000 state employees to take an early retirement and relieve pressure on the state budget.

How many of those 4,000 workers, all of whom are eligible for full or early retirement, might take the offer of up to five years of their current health coverage or a one-time lump sum \$6,500 cash payment, isn't clear, said state Secretary of Administration Dennis Taylor.

Last year, the City of Topeka, where Taylor worked, offered a similar deal to between 125 and 130 employees and only 45 accepted, he said. But there is no way to forecast whether a similar portion of state employees — about 1,400 — would do the same.

"This is a voluntary program," Taylor said. "The administration will not make any recommendation that an employee choose to offer to retire."

Recent history suggests that relatively few state workers will take the offer, which will remain open until Sept. 2.

Based on quarterly statistics compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau, about 11 percent or fewer of Kansas' government workers leave their jobs each year, compared with 18 percent or more in the private sector, said Inayat Noormohamad, Kansas' Labor Market Information Service research director.

"But those (numbers) don't tell us why those separations occurred," Noormohamad said.

Some workers leave government service for private-sector jobs. Others retire. Still others presumably quit, are fired or laid off, or die. But federal Labor Department and Census Bureau numbers that researchers watch don't say how many, Noormohamad said.

"All they show is that government employment is much more stable than private-sector employment," he said.

Year-over-year numbers, collected for annual workforce reports the state Department of Administration publishes,

show that retirees account for about one-fourth of the 11 percent of Kansas state workers who leave their jobs each year, said Jan Cavalieri, who pulls those numbers together for the state.

In 2010, the last full year for which numbers are available, 27 percent of the employees who left what is known as classified service — which are career civil service jobs — left because they retired, compared with 15 percent who retired from unclassified appointments.

Those numbers, for the classified employees, are just less than half the number who leave voluntarily for other jobs or other reasons and 1.5 times larger than those who die, are fired or laid off.

Those numbers also reflect "an older, more stable workforce than in the private sector," Cavalieri said.

More Kansas state workers are between the ages of 50 and 59 than any other age group and more than 37 percent of the state's current workforce will be eligible for retirement by 2015, Cavalieri's 2010 report indicates.

Under Tuesday's offer from the state for 4,000 of those workers who, according to Kansas Public Employee Retirement System records, are eligible for full or early retirement, the state will continue to pay its share of their health-care costs for up to five years for an individual worker or up to 42 months for coverage for a worker and a dependent. Retirees who don't want or need that coverage can take a \$6,500 cash payment.

Kansas is not extending the offer to workers covered by Kansas Public Employees Retirement System's Kansas Police and Firefighters plan or to corrections officers, because the state wants to maintain staffing of those public service positions, Taylor said.

The state also may reject other requests for the voluntary retirement benefit if the applicant holds a different job that is similarly essential, he said. Workers who want to apply for the benefit must do so by Sept. 2 and be prepared to leave the state payroll by Sept. 19, Taylor said.



Local Attorney Joe Knopp served in the Kansas House of Representatives from 1980 to 1988. He has helped many get elected to local and state office.

Joe Knopp's Election Thoughts

At the outset, I must complement any public servant who serves the public and stands for election. I can't be critical of the post commission, because John Mata and Wynon Butler could not have been elected without the actions of Bruce Seidel, Jim Showers and Jayme Morris Handeman over the past year. If we are not happy with the post commission, we can only blame ourselves because we elected them or did not vote and allowed someone else to elect them.

Actions taken at the last two city commission meetings are symbolic of the past 10 years of the current staff and commission's agenda. Last Tuesday night the commission agreed to refinish a baseball field in City Park. A private citizen agreed to pay half the cost, but the city did not have the money to pay for renovations without bonding the project for 10 years and pledging to repay the bonds with money from a fund that the state of Kansas controls. Manhattan now has bonded everything from the downtown and Discovery Center to pools and now and even the repair of a ballpark. Our bonded indebtedness of the city has gone from \$50 million in 2009 to \$230 million in 2011. Give away, however, tax, and spend some it up.

The second symbolic action took place at a special meeting called during Spring Break on March 22. At that meeting the Manhattan City Commission had an item called, "Amend Minimum Assessment Agreement for Lot 10." The city commission gave Dal another \$50,000 gift. (That \$50,000 was the only one to vote.) To understand the absurdity of this action, we need some background. In 2006, the city made a prudent deal. The development contract between the city of Manhattan and Dal provided that the city would consider private property (retailers, apartment complex) on the north end property for \$17 million and sell it to Dal for \$4 million so Dal could build

Four Student Renters Sentenced To 15-Days

By Jan A. Brake

The City of Manhattan Childs Department, using the new Rental Inspection Program filed complaints in Manhattan Municipal Court against five student renters last month.

Twelve, four of the five paid to the three charges each and were sentenced to 15 days in jail. They were also put on probation for 9 months and ordered to pay fines of \$50 court costs and restitution.

The final person has had a case not to go to trial on May 17th.

There were three complaints filed in Court.

Count 1: "That on or about March 22, 2011, the above named defendant within the corporate limits of the above named City and State, did then and there in violation of the ordinances of said City willfully, unlawfully, and intentionally 'fail to keep doors and hardware in good condition.'"

Count 2: "That on or about March 22, 2011, the above named defendant within the corporate limits of the above named City and State, did then and there in violation of the ordinances of said City willfully, unlawfully, and intentionally 'fail to keep a clean, sanitary and safe condition for that part of the dwelling unit or premises which they occupy or control.'"

Count 3: "That on or about March 22, 2011, the above named defendant within the corporate limits of the above named City and State, did then and there in violation of the ordinances of said City willfully, unlawfully, and intentionally 'fail to keep doors and hardware in good condition.'"

In a letter dated March 23, 2011 to the District Attorney and Agent of 1818 Fairchild Ave., Inspector Justin Bellett listed 35 code violations. Most of the violations were against the five tenants.

The inspector also found some of the violations that five apartment people were living at the residence. They have 10 days to have no more than four living in the house.

Some of the fifty-five

Bioscience Hires Forensic Auditor

By Gene Meyer

KANSAS CITY — The BIOSCIENCE Authority, under fire from Kansas Senate committee members questioning its spending habits and state "backcheck" investigations, said Monday it has hired a Wichita forensic auditing firm "in response to a concrete audit public confidence."

Bioscience Authority chairman and former Kansas Gov. John Carls, said in a letter to the Senate committee, which has been probing the authority, and "according to Carls' office, has been hired by Bioscience Authority to conduct an audit of the authority's financial records."

Editorial

By Jan A. Brake

Tuesday, a Manhattan Municipal Court sentenced four young renters to 15-days in jail for violating the new Rental Inspection Program. Another will stand on the charge.

The fact that this ordinance was passed to the City of what some called "Stans Landman" is not to put students into jail with harsh criminals.

Again we will say you can not give City officials this kind of power. Fifteen days in jail is excessive.

Count 2 in part reads: "willfully, unlawfully, and intentionally 'fail to keep a clean, sanitary and safe condition for that part of the dwelling unit.'"

If a renter wants to live like a slob that is her own business and the Landlord. It should not be the part of a rental inspection program.

Count 3 in part reads: "willfully, unlawfully, and intentionally 'fail to keep doors and hardware in good condition.'"

How can any Judge send someone to jail for 15 days on these two Counts? The Ordinance is un-needed and so is any Judge that would consider these Counts.

Yes, Count 1 deals with damage to property. That is a problem for the Landlord. But the State of Kansas gives the Landlord the right to go into State Court for restitution. Again the City Ordinance is not necessary.

Count 1 in part reads: "willfully, unlawfully, and intentionally 'fail to keep doors and hardware in good condition.'"

Count 2 in part reads: "willfully, unlawfully, and intentionally 'fail to keep a clean, sanitary and safe condition for that part of the dwelling unit.'"

Count 3 in part reads: "willfully, unlawfully, and intentionally 'fail to keep doors and hardware in good condition.'"

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Priceless Take One

Manhattan Free Press

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Four Student Renters Sentenced To 15-Days

Editorial

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Some of the fifty-five

This issue of the Manhattan Free Press was read by 5,282 people during April. This is the most for any Manhattan Free Press on line in the First 6-months of 2011.

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