



Manhattan Free Press

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An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper

Thursday, November 17, 2011

City of Manhattan Debt Clock

261,832,508

Editorial By Jon A. Brake

Can you hear that?
That is the City of Manhattan's Debt Clock ticking, ticking and ticking. In this case the ticking is the amount of City Debt going up.
At right is a list of municipal bankruptcies starting in 1989. Is the City of Manhattan going bankrupt and joining the list? No, maybe, yes, they could. We say "No" because we are not there yet. We say maybe because if the debt continues to go up it could lead to bankruptcy. And, we say "Yes" because the City voters have been voting in Liberal and Progressive to run the City. And then add in the Progressive City Staff and you understand why we are \$261 million in debt and going higher by the tick.
The voters did add two Conservatives this year to the Commission to go along with one already on but the three dropped the ball when it came to the City Budget.
They approved going from \$105 million to a \$113 million Budget. It could be that the new members did not have time (started in April) to know and understand the process of the Budget.
But, there is another reason too. New Commissioners come onto the Commission not knowing what the issues are and the procedures of the Commission. Here is the difference of

the Budget process between now and twenty years ago.
In the beginning: The City Staff would bring a new Budget to the Commission listing all of the expenditures. The Commission would take hours and hours going over every item wanting to make sure the item was needed and we were getting the best bids we could.
About ten years ago that all changed. The Commissioners started to take the recommendations of the Staff and they would talk in general terms about the department but they gave up on item by item review of the Budget.
This is one reason the Budget went from \$89 million in 2008 to \$113 million for 2012. And do you want to talk about the Debt? The Debt in 2007 was \$89 million; today the Debt Clock is running past \$261 million.
New members of a Commission rely on the City Staff for information and they soon begin to believe the information is correct, many times it is not or it is slanted the way the Staff wants the project to go.
Until the next election the Free Press will give voters an update on how City, County Commissioners and School Board members are doing. We will tell you each month if the members should receive your vote. You might say the Clock is ticking for each board and Commission member.

Partial list of municipal bankruptcies

Hamilton Creek Metropolitan District, a quasi-municipal corporation in Summit County, Colorado, 1989[15]
Orange County, California, 1994, \$1.7 billion (largest municipal bankruptcy until November 2011, and \$3 billion when adjusted for inflation, on interest rate-related losses.
Prichard, Alabama, 1999, due to inability to pay pensions.
Desert Hot Springs, California, 2001, due to losing a housing discrimination lawsuit.
Millport, Alabama, 2005, due to loss of sales tax revenues after factory closing.
Los Osos, California, 2006, debt related to a wastewater facility.
Moffett, Oklahoma, 2007, due to loss of ability to issue traffic tickets. Department of Public Safety declared the town of 178 an illegal speed trap, stripping its authority to issue speeding tickets.
Gould, Arkansas, 2008, due to spending money withheld to pay employee income taxes.
Vallejo, California, 2008, due to inability to pay pension obligations.
Westfall Township, Pike County, Pennsylvania, 2009, due to losing a lawsuit
Washington Park, Illinois, 2009, due to high license fees for topless bars being ruled unconstitutional, population of 5,300 people filed for Chapter

9 protection, debt of more than \$1 million.
Prichard, Alabama, 2009, due to inability to pay pensions and especially state mandated pension increases, population 27,963 - Then Prichard did something that pension experts say they have never seen before: It stopped sending monthly pension checks to its 150 retired workers.
Boise County, Idaho, March 2011, due to judgment against the county for violating the Fair Housing Act. \$7.3 million
Central Falls, Rhode Island, August 2011, due to inability to pay obligations, especially pensions, population of 19,376, has \$80 million in unfunded pension and benefits obligations and \$5 million deficits.
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, October 2011, approximately \$400 million in debt, due in part to a failed trash incinerator, population of 49,528.
Jefferson County, Alabama, November 2011, over \$4 billion in debt (largest Chapter 9 bankruptcy to date), from sewer revenue bonds tainted by an interest rate swap bribery scandal with JPMorgan and county commissioner Larry Langford, and bond insurance credit rating collapse in the late-2000s subprime mortgage crisis, followed by the occupation tax being declared unlawful in Alabama.

Biggest Civic Bankruptcy Sows Uncertainty in Ala.

By JIM VAN ANGLE and PHILLIP RAWLS Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — The biggest civic bankruptcy in American history could leave residents of Alabama's most populous county paying astronomical rates for public services performed by a skeleton crew of county workers. Or it could simply mean tightening the belt another few notches, depending how much of Jefferson County's \$4.15 billion debt will have to be paid.
It's even possible that, just as companies have benefited from bankruptcy, that the county surrounding Birmingham will emerge

stronger for it.
For now, much is uncertain for following the county's Chapter 9 filing on Wednesday. The full impact on its 658,000 resident's won't be clear until after a judge approves the move at a hearing next month and local officials negotiate a plan with creditors for adjusting its debts. The outlook among some officials was grim a day after the filing, while others defended the move.
The receiver appointed to run the sewer system's finances said he expects residents to see significantly higher sewer rates, while the lone county commissioner to vote against the bankruptcy pre-

dicted that damage to the county's image could drive away businesses and residents, lowering its tax base. An investment researcher who studies government finances said that Jefferson County could have a harder time borrowing money to build infrastructure, and the pain could spread to other cities.
County manager Tony Petelos stands outside a... View Full Caption
Municipal bankruptcy filings elsewhere have also led to higher taxes, pension reductions for public workers and spending cuts on schools, roads and other infrastructure.
"We are in uncharted territory. Nobody has ever done

anything like this on this level," said Jefferson County Commissioner George Bowman, who opposed his four fellow commissioners in the vote.
Commission President David Carrington said Thursday that unrelated fiscal problems already were necessitating cuts in services and hundreds of jobs, and the bankruptcy filing would actually keep those from being as deep. He wouldn't provide specifics.
Because of the past layoffs and office closings, residents already face hours-long lines for services such as renewing their car tags. Bowman said the county has already cut 500

jobs through layoffs and attrition in the last six months was likely to get rid of 1,000 regardless of the bankruptcy.
Some were already beginning to worry about how the bankruptcy could affect their wallets. Lifelong Birmingham resident Charlie Bell said his monthly sewer bill recently went up to \$27, and he's fearful for what's next.
"I've never quite seen it this bad, as long as I've been alive," the 56-year-old said of the county's fiscal woes.
The predicament is the culmination of years of problems. The county's debt ballooned after a federally mandated sewer project was beset with corruption, court rulings that

didn't go its way and rising interest rates when global markets struggled.
The county had been working since 2008 to avoid the cost and embarrassment of the bankruptcy filing. There appeared to be a breakthrough two months ago when the county and its creditors gave preliminary approval to a settlement.
But as the details were worked out, the sides couldn't come together on how to pay about \$140 million of the total, said Commissioner Jimmie Stephens.

Holcombe, Little Apple Toyota, wins national recognition

The nomination of Tom Holcombe, president of Little Apple Toyota-Honda in Manhattan, Kansas, for the 2012 TIME Dealer of the Year award was announced Monday by TIME.



Tom Holcombe

Holcombe is one of a select group of dealers from across the country who will be honored at the 95th annual National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Convention & Exposition in Las Vegas on February 4, 2012. The announcement of this year's nominees was made by Kim Kelleher, worldwide publisher of TIME, and Tim Russi, executive vice president, North American Operations, for Ally Financial.
"Auto dealers have a tremendous impact on the vitality and strength of communities across the U.S.," said Russi. "Ally is proud to support these extraordinary dealers who are truly making their com-

munities better places to live and work." As part of its support for the program, Ally will make charitable contributions to local community causes on behalf of all 50 nominated dealers across the United States. In addition, the 2012 national TIME Dealer of the Year winner will receive a \$10,000 contribution for a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of his or her choice. To celebrate the valuable contributions of dealers across the U.S., Ally has also launched a digital hub (allybizhero.com) featuring engaging content celebrating auto dealers and

their philanthropic achievements.
The TIME Dealer of the Year award is one of the automobile industry's most prestigious and highly coveted honors. Recipients are among the nation's most successful auto dealers who must also demonstrate a long-standing commitment to community service. Holcombe, 64, was chosen to represent the Kansas Automobile Dealers Association in the national competition — one of only 50 auto dealers, from 17,000 nationwide, nominated for the 43rd annual award. The award is sponsored by TIME Magazine in association with Ally, and in cooperation with NADA. A panel of faculty members from the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan selects one finalist from each of the four NADA regions and one national Dealer of the Year.
"Every successful dealer and person has reached a pinnacle because of the people around him," says nominee Holcombe. "The most impor-

tant award is one that when shared encourages everyone involved to be thankful and strive to do a better job tomorrow."
A former police officer and lawyer who graduated from the University of Arkansas Law School in 1982, Holcombe had an internship with Attorney General Bill Clinton in Little Rock and was campaign manager for Arkansas Attorney General Steve Clark and U.S. Senator David Pryor, as well as served on the election campaign for U.S. Senator Mark Pryor.
While practicing law in his native Texarkana, Texas, he had a client who inquired if he would be interested in learning the automobile business and partnering with him in a dealership. "Over the next year, I worked in every department of the dealership to learn the operations," Holcombe says. When he was offered the opportunity to manage his own store in Manhattan, Kansas, in 1996, he thought it would be a great place to raise a family, so he jumped at the opportunity.

Despite having to revamp the store and image from top to bottom after purchasing the business — and reconstruct its service department after a 2008 tornado — Holcombe and his team have built the dealership into the 2010 Readers' Choice for Number One Automobile Dealer in Manhattan by the Manhattan Mercury. According to Holcombe, "The success of Little Apple Toyota-Honda is the result of its wonderful associates. We have been fortunate to have many long-term associates who have been with the dealership since its inception in 1996." He now has expanded his operations to include a Nissan dealership in Topeka, Kansas, and a Ford dealership in Texarkana, Texas.
His proudest civic achievement is the annual Little Apple Teacher Appreciation Day, where a deserving teacher in the Riley County School District receives a new car. "We believe that education is the key to the future of our community and country," says Holcombe. "Having

grown up with a mother who was a teacher and having seen the difference she made in the lives of people she taught, we think it is important for us to give back in some way to educators." He is also serves in leadership positions for Mercy Regional Hospital and supports many local organizations, including the Boys & Girls Club of Manhattan, the Rotary Foundation, Manhattan Arts Center and the Kansas State University Foundation.
"I have been blessed to have a wonderful family, friends and many business accomplishments," Holcombe adds. "Each recognition I receive has been because of the support and encouragement I have received from them."
Nominated for the TIME Dealer of the Year Award by Don McNeely, president of the Kansas Automobile Dealers Association, Holcombe and his wife, Barbara, have two daughters and a grandson.

Wildcats clamp down in season-opener, 54 - 20

KSU Sports Information
MANHATTAN, Kan. — Making her career-debut at K-State a memorable one, senior Tasha Dickey led the Wildcats to a season-opening 54-20 win on Saturday night in Bramlage Coliseum over Dartmouth.

Dickey registered a career-high 20 points and six steals and added five rebounds and two blocks to her diverse final stat line. Her 20 points were the most scored by a Wildcat making their career debut in purple since Laurie Koehn poured in 27 against Georgia Tech on Nov. 16, 2001. Dickey's six steals were the most by a Wildcat since Shalee Lehning tallied six against Chattanooga in the first round of the 2008 NCAA Tournament.

Also adding to the cause on Saturday night were freshman Ashia Woods and sophomore Chantay Caron. Woods carded nine points, seven rebounds, three steals and a blocked shot in 18 minutes off the bench. Woods' seven boards were the most by a Wildcat making her

career debut since Ashley Sweat pulled in eight against Green Bay on Nov. 10, 2006.

Caron registered seven points, four rebounds, two assists and two steals in 19 minutes of action off the bench. In total, K-State's bench outscored the Dartmouth bench 26-2 on Saturday evening.

As a team, K-State (1-0) recorded a sound defensive effort by allowing just 20 Dartmouth points, which were scored on just a 13.2 field goal percentage (7-of-53). The 20 points were the fewest allowed by the Wildcats since surrendering 18 to Mississippi Valley State on Dec. 1, 2006.

In addition to the 20 points allowed, the Wildcats forced 28 Big Green turnovers with the aid of 17 steals. K-State also controlled the glass, 58-31. The 17 thefts were the most since K-State notched 23 against Western Illinois on Nov. 21, 2003.

Kansas State jumped out to



Ashia Woods (23) scored 9 points against Dartmouth. (Photo by Tonya Ricklefs)

a 12-3 lead on the strength of its defense, by holding the Big Green to one field goal on its first 17 attempts in the first 10 minutes of the game. During the run, K-State was paced by the interior play of Jalana Childs with four points and the defense and rebounding of Dickey.

Dickey ended an 8-minute K-State drought with her first career 3-point field goal at the six minute mark to give K-State a 16-6 lead. She then exploded to the basket for a layup to boost the K-State lead to 21-6. A fast break lay-in by Caron gave the Wildcats a 23-6 edge and forced Dartmouth to call their second timeout of the half.

Dickey paced the Wildcats at half with 13 points, while Caron and Childs each added four, as K-State held a 33-10

lead. Childs led the Wildcats, who notched a 33-15 advantage on the glass in the first stanza, with six rebounds. The Wildcats held the Big Green to 12.1 percent (4-of-33) from the field in the opening half.

K-State pieced together an 11-4 run in the first eight minutes of the second half to extend the lead. Chisholm and Caron each hit a three during the run. The K-State defense opened the second half just as solid as the first, holding the Big Green to one field goal on their first 13 attempts in the opening 11 minutes.

Kansas State will continue its three-game home stand on Wednesday night, as the Wildcats will host BYU for a 7 p.m., tip. Fans can purchase tickets by calling 800-221-CATS or by visiting www.kstatesports.com/tickets.

Obituary: Robert Steiner

Robert J. "Bob" Steiner, age 84, of Manhattan, Kansas, died Sunday afternoon, November 13, 2011, at his home following an extended illness.

He was born on January 22, 1927, in Lebanon, Kansas, the son of John Albert and Clara E. (Munsell) Steiner. Bob was raised in Lebanon where he attended local schools graduating from Lebanon High School in 1945.

Following his high school graduation Bob joined the

United States Army, serving his country in post war Europe. He was honorably discharged in November of 1946.

On October 19, 1945, during military leave, he was united in marriage to the former Kathleen R. Rice in Lebanon, Kansas. They made their home in Lebanon where Bob farmed. They later moved to Marysville, Kansas where he worked at the Parry Plumbing Company. It was through this

work that he developed his hands on experience of welding, pipefitting and various plumbing skills.

In 1963 the family moved to Manhattan. Always an avid reader, Bob applied this passion to self educate himself in order to obtain his Master Plumbers license. In 1966, Bob founded Bob's Plumbing and Heating which is still owned and operated by his family.

Memorials have been estab-

lished for the Blue Valley Memorial United Methodist Church, Habitat for Humanity and for Homecare and Hospice, Inc. 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 through the funeral home website located at www.ymlfuneralhome.com.

Obituary: Robert Rousey

Robert "Bob" Lee Rousey, age 80, of Manhattan, died Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at his residence.

Bob was born on June 25, 1931 in Anderson, Indiana the son of Lewis and Beulah (Lawrence) Rousey. He graduated from Anderson High School in 1949. Bob attended Kansas State University where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Physical Education. While at Kansas State, he played on the basketball and baseball teams. He was a proud member

of the 1950-1951 K-State Men's Basketball Final Four Team. Bob also was in the ROTC program and joined the United States Air Force, where he served in Washington D.C. for two years. The next four years were spent coaching basketball and baseball at Montana State University in Bozeman. In 1960 he took over the operations of the Manhattan Milling Co, Inc. until his retirement in 1995.

On May 22, 1953 he was united in mar-

riage in Manhattan to Mary Lou Harwood. She survives of the home.

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

Memorial contributions are suggested to PAWS to Love. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

Obituary: Agnes Lowe

Agnes Christine Lowe, age 97, of Manhattan, died November 8, 2011, at Meadowlark Hills Honstead House.

She was born August 4, 1914, in Hanover, Kansas, the daughter of Chris and Anna (Meerian) Koppes. She gradu-

ated from Hanover High School in 1932.

She was a member of Seven Dolores Catholic Church and the Altar Society and the St. Mary Hospital Auxiliary.

On May 2, 1942, in Manhattan, she was married to William P. Lowe. Mr. Lowe

preceded her in death on August 25, 1981.

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

Memorial contributions may be made to Seven Dolores Catholic Church.

Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502.

Obituary: Dwight Gwaltney, III

Dwight "Rick" L. Gwaltney, III, was called to serve with God on November 9, 2011.

Rick is reunited in everlasting life with his mother, June Dae Gwaltney. Rick, a proud father of four and grandfather of seven, is survived by his wife and soul-mate Patricia C. Gwaltney of Manhattan, Kansas and his father, Dwight L. Gwaltney of Hutchinson, Kansas.

Rick was born in Cheyenne, WY on May 30, 1949. He was raised on a farm in northern Colorado near Grover, and graduated from Cheyenne East High School as the High School Athlete of the Year and

participant in football, basketball, and track. Upon his graduation, he attended Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, NE and University of Nebraska at Omaha where he majored in business and played basketball.

Rick, a patriotic American, served five years in the Kansas National Guard in the Hutchinson and Dodge City Units. He was married to Patricia Maxine Caughron on June 30, 1973. Rick was the owner of Diamond Roofing of Dodge City and Manhattan, Kansas. He was a generous contributor to Kansas State

University, Dodge City Community College, Dodge City High School, Dodge City Roundup, and many other local charitable organizations. Rick was passionate about furthering the development of children in Dodge City and Manhattan in academic and athletic pursuits.

Memorials may be offered to the First United Methodist Church Building Project, Manhattan, KS and the First United Methodist Church, Dodge City, KS.

For more information or to leave online you can visit irvinparkview.com. An Irvin-Parkview Funeral Service.

Obituary: Van Brighton

Van Brighton, 63, embarked on his sacred journey on November 9, 2011. He was born on June 11, 1948, in Junction City, the only son of Bernice Lafferty Brighton and Dale Eugene Brighton. He is survived by his wife, Jan; mother, Bernice; daughter, Kristin, and husband, Ben Ward; son, Michael, and wife, Heather; stepson, Bren McMillen; and four grandchildren: Ryan and Kate Ward, and Mary and Andrew Brighton. He is reuniting with his father and all grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Van spent his childhood in Irving and Frankfort, before spending his teen years in Kansas City, Kansas. He was a standout athlete in track and basketball at Washington High School, selected as athlete of the year for the class of 1966. He attended Kansas State University, where he pledged the Beta Theta

Phi house, studied physical education, and served as a basketball manager under Cotton Fitzsimmons. He graduated in 1970, and continued to closely follow K-State sports the rest of his life.

Upon college graduation, he married Sandy Millsap and taught at Lucky High School before becoming the club pro and later club manager for Stagg Hill Golf Course. He spent many years in the golf business, at Stagg Hill and later at the Manhattan Country Club. Golf — and more importantly, teaching golf — was a lifelong passion to which he returned many times in his professional life.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Van Brighton Memorial Fund in care of Capitol Federal Savings, 1401 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS, 66502.

Obituary: Helen Axelton

Helen Mae Axelton, age 95, of Manhattan, died Saturday, November 12, 2011 at the Via Christi Village in Manhattan.

She was born on May 2, 1916 in Kelly, Kansas the daughter of Glenn and Dessie (Hamlin) Britt. She graduated from Stockdale High School in 1934.

On October 28, 1937 in Manhattan she was united in

marriage with Karl Axelton. He preceded her in death on September 17, 1993. She was also preceded in death by her two brothers and four sisters.

Memorial services for Mrs. Axelton will be held at a later date. Private interment will take place at the Grandview Cemetery.

Online condolences may be left for the family through the

funeral home website at www.ymlfuneralhome.com

Memorial contributions are suggested to Homecare and Hospice of Manhattan. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

Boy Scout Troop 74 Fall Pancaked Feed
First Presbyterian Church located at 8th and Leavenworth
Sat., Nov. 19, 7 AM - 7 PM
Tickets are \$4 each, and Children age 6 and under are \$2 each, and may be purchased at the door.
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There's No Place Like Home



By Eunice Boeve
Illustrated by Michelle Meade

Chapter 13

Grasshoppers!

Last Chapter: The time machine brings the twins to Manhattan where Susan B. Anthony is giving a speech on women's suffrage. Seated among men and women and a few boys, Jack and Mollie are surprised to learn that Kansas women could not vote. Later, wearing their special glasses, they look on the time machine's computer and find that it wasn't until 1912 that Kansas women could vote.

Jack and Mollie wondered what to do. They were standing by a wheat field, no buildings in sight, and a storm was coming. At least it looked like a storm.

Mollie was getting annoyed at the dozen or so grasshoppers that hopped about in the weeds and grasses. Some had hopped on their clothes and even in their hair.

They'd both looked for their glasses, but their pockets were empty.

"We're going to get soaked, if it rains," Mollie said frantically brushing off the grasshoppers. She knew she sounded cross, but she didn't care. This was enough to make anybody cross.

Jack started running, knocking grasshoppers off his clothes as he ran.

"Where are you going?" Mollie demanded, running after him.

"I'm looking for a farmhouse, a barn, something," Jack yelled.

Mollie made an ugly face at his back and said, "I don't like stepping on grasshoppers."

"Just be glad you've got shoes."

By the time the twins reached the edge of the wheat field, the cloud had moved across the sun, grown bigger, and was now an odd shiny color.

"Look!" Jack pointed. "A house. A sod house."

Just as he spoke, a sound like a big rainstorm filled the air. But there was no rain.

"Grasshoppers!" Mollie yelled. "Oh, my gosh, it's raining grasshoppers!"

Millions of grasshoppers were everywhere. Grasshoppers were under

their feet and in their faces. Grasshoppers were in their hair and on their clothes. Grasshoppers landed in the wheat field, on blades of grass, on weeds, and still the sky rained grasshoppers, hitting the ground with the sound of hail.

Jack and Mollie were soon covered with grasshoppers. They slapped them off their clothes and brushed them from their faces. Mollie shuddered at the feel of the tiny claws clinging to her skin. Tears rolled down her cheeks.

Jack grabbed her arm. "We've got to get to that house!"

Again they ran, harder, faster, their shoes crunching grasshoppers. The insects were now so thick they covered the whole ground and were piling up in bunches.

At the house, Jack banged a fist on the wooden door.

A woman opened the door a tiny crack, and seeing them, opened it just wide enough for them to slip inside before slamming it shut on the mass of hopping, wiggling insects.

In dismay, their skin crawling with repulsion, the twins realized they were covered with the hoppers.



"Genny, Luther," the woman commanded. "Get blankets!"

The boy and the girl, both probably a few years older than the twins, grabbed up blankets, and the woman threw one over Mollie's head, the blanket covering her completely, the insects clinging to her. The boy did the same to Jack. Then mother and son ran their hands up and down the blankets, crushing the insects.

The twins gasped for air as the boy and his mother pulled off the suffocating blankets

and shook the dead insects out on the dirt floor. The woman, who gave her name as Emma Hansen, swept up the mess of insects and dumped them in the stove.

Two smaller children in the house chased after the grasshoppers that had escaped and were hopping around the room. The children stomped on them or captured them in their hands, squeezed the life out of them and dropped them in a pail.

"My husband is in town," Emma Hansen told the twins. He should be home soon." She paused, listening. "That's him now!"

The door opened and Mr. Hansen squeezed inside and quickly shut the door. "Get blankets, sheets, our winter coats, anything," he said. "Maybe we can save the garden."

Jack and Mollie helped spread the blankets and coats and old gunnysacks all over the garden. All around them and over them, the grasshoppers leaped and crawled and ate.

The grasshoppers covered a peach tree that grew beside the house. Mr. Hansen took a rake and raked them off, but more took their place. He and the boy, Luther, grabbed shovels and dug a trench. They gathered dry grass and twigs and filled the trench, and Mr. Hansen set it on fire. They raked the grasshoppers into the fire. But there were too many of them and they smothered the fire.

By the time the sun had set a few hours later, the peach tree was bare of leaves and fruit, only the pits remained, and the insects had also devoured the wheat and all the leaves of a big shade tree. They also ate the garden. Crawling under the blankets, the gunnysacks, and the winter coats, they ate every vegetable to the ground.

Only the Hansen's chickens liked the grasshoppers. They gobbled them down until their craws were stuffed full.

Jack and Mollie kept feeling in their pockets for their glasses. They didn't want to stay in this awful place any longer and they didn't want to be a burden to this family. And when the glasses magically appeared in their pockets, Mollie almost cried.

As the twins listened to the family talk about what to do, they knew they must leave as soon as possible.

"It is too late in the season to plant again," Mr. Hansen said.

"Maybe we should go back to Illinois," his wife said.

"I don't know," Mr. Hansen's voice was

suddenly ragged with unshed tears.

Jack and Mollie felt like crying, too. These were nice people. Once they had crops for food and to sell. Now they had nothing.

Mrs. Hansen lit a kerosene lamp as the little sod house filled with darkness. "I'll fix us a bite to eat and then maybe we'd best just go to bed," she said. "Maybe they'll be gone tomorrow."

At those words, Jack and Mollie stepped back into the darkest shadows of the room and put on their glasses.

The next instant they stood outside on the green lawn of a two-story white house. The sod house was gone. The grasshoppers were gone. The trees were green with leaves. Flowers grew alongside the house and there was a garden, a green, growing garden.

"Thank goodness," Mollie said.

"I wonder if any of the Hansens still live here," Jack said. "I wish we could ask,"

They'd not known until their Hays trip, after seeing the Blue Light Lady, that with their glasses on they could be neither seen nor heard.

"I wonder where we are?" Jack said. "Maybe it just rained grasshoppers here and nowhere else."

"Maybe they were all over Kansas," Mollie said, "even in Hays."

To Be Continued.

This is an original serial story that is written and illustrated by two Kansas women. To learn more about them, go to their websites: www.euniceboeve.net and www.michellemeade.weebly.com

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Classifieds

Auctions
AUCTION 2-Day Nov. 19- 20 Manhattan, KS New Construction Materials, Police

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Tea party numbers grow as presidential election nears

Barack Obama has clearly earned his day of reckoning with the American people. That should happen at the polls on Election Day 2012. Yet one important question appears, will the American people actually show up to send this President packing? The growing dissent over the President's initiatives and programs are now reflected in most American opinion polls. For example, the September 2011 CBS/New York opinion poll showed Obama's public approval rating at 43%, the lowest of his Presidency. However, opinion poll percentages by themselves won't fill voting booths nationwide, so the fundamental question remains. Has such unpopular disapproval of Obama's grand sweeping vision of America's future created the voting numbers needed for his removal?

Rambunctious and ready conservatives, like me, who are anxious to see this President become a one-termer, need to swallow hard and taste the bitter pill of reality. The voting numbers needed to do this task are not yet attained, so we cannot be sure yet that Obama will absolutely positively be defeated in 2012.

Realistically, what assets are



Paul A. Ibbetson in the President's corner? There are several that are important, despite his being the worst President in modern times. The Obama campaign coffers will likely fill to the tune of \$1 billion. The liberal media will continue to support Obama to the point of senseless overt water carrying of his destructive programs. The President also has the bully pulpit of the White House, which he has used with reckless abandon with little likelihood there will be any decrease in his pronouncements as election time nears. Hollywood will continue to be Hollywood, and too many actors will continue to kneel at

the ideological feet of the progressive liberalism Obama espouses. When we get right down to it, the only unflinching factor that will derail another four years of destructive liberalism being implemented across this country is the power of the conservative majority in America. Enter the Tea Party.

Despite being demonized by the Democrat Party and minimized by liberal media, the Tea Party movement has not declined since its inception. It has instead increased in numbers. Over the last year, I have visited more than 50 cities in the state of Kansas. As unemployment numbers have increased, so has interest in the Tea Party. With each edict issued from Obama's White House perch, a new group of Tea Partiers has formed in heartland communities. The recent liberal Occupy groups of course tried to emulate the grass roots appearance and focus of the Tea Party with a contrasting anti-American, anti-capitalistic flare, but this group has done nothing but make Tea Partiers even more appealing to mainstream America. Despite being framed as radical events run by angry racists, the Tea Party's orderly patriotic weekend gatherings are now seen as

benign in comparison to the rapes and thefts happening within the stench-filled tent cities of the Occupy movement. The line between conservatives and liberals is becoming clearer and clearer to more and more people.

What is also becoming clearer is that the once feared Tea Party is now seen by the voting public for who they truly are -- the American middle class. In visiting a large part of the state of Kansas one town at a time, I've seen that the Tea Party numbers are growing for two important reasons. The first is that once a person attends a Tea Party rally, that person is hooked. People understand their conservative values of adhering to the Constitution, controlling spending and having a working, but limited, government. All these relate to love of country and values that are easy to support.

Second, the majority of voters now see that the nation is in a true fix, and they are looking for a positive, non-violent alternative to Obama's goal of a fundamental transformation of America. Once people move past the lies of the liberal media, more and more citizens are finding that their local Tea Party is a very nice fit with what they believe.

So, for all the rambunctious and ready conservatives, those who are anxious to see this President be a one termer, the blueprint to victory in 2012 lies in coordinating the ever expanding Tea Party numbers and maximize the number of voters who do go to the polls and vote next November. Doing that will make Obama's defeat and removal from office a certainty.

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 his Ph.D. in Sociology at Kansas State University. Paul is the author of

several books including the 2011 release "The Good Fight: Why Conservatives Must Take Back America." 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 KRMR The Patriot 105.7 FM, www.ibbetsonusa.com. For interviews or questions, please contact him at ibbetson105.7@gmail.com

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Letters to Tom: sos

Two weeks ago I wrote about the flak some members of the Manhattan City Commission received for questioning whether the City Commission accepts the recommendations made by the Social Service Advisory Board without comment or modification. Most of the people who spoke out at the meeting wore a badge with the letters SOS, which stands for Save Our Social Services (odd - shouldn't the badge read SOSS?) Unknown to me, these citizens were not just wearing the tee shirt, they are actually a real organization, with a page on the world's largest social media website. On November 9, 2011, SOSS - I mean SOS - announced that they are launching a petition drive to force the Manhattan City Commission to enact an ordinance that would require the city to spend at least two percent of the general fund on social service programs each year. If the "scrooges" on the City Commission stubbornly refuse to go along with the dictate of SOSS (oops, I mean SOS), they would (if they get the signatures of 1495 registered Manhattan voters) put the issue up to a referendum voted on by the citizens of Manhattan. Oddly enough, SOSS (there I go again) won't be able to count on the current members of the Social Services Advisory Board (is that SAB or SSAB?) to sign their petition. Last Sunday the



Mike Kryschal chair and vice chair of the SSAB announced that they weren't consulted before the SOS (got it!) decided to really put social services spending on true auto pilot. They went on to say that they had entered into constructive conversations with the scrooges, I mean commissioners and would have preferred to keep down this "positive" path. What gives?

I think this entire manufactured controversy has served, and will continue to serve, a very useful purpose. I say manufactured because the simple truth is that no organization currently funded by the taxes collected by the city of Manhattan is going to lose one penny of support in 2011 or budget year 2012 -- not one. Demonizing, or should I say "scrooging" some of the commissioners for questioning how the money is spent (I thought that was their duty),

tells us a lot about how some folks play the political game. The good that has come out of this is that it has shifted the light on the issue of advisory boards and how much authority they should be able to exercise over spending. It also raises the question of why some social services organizations are selected for support while others are not. Why are the Boy Scouts excluded while the Boy's and Girl's Clubs receive funding from tax payers. Who decides?

The idea that the City of Manhattan should pass an ordinance that sets in stone how much is spent on social services and that an unelected advisory board should have a blank check on how that money is spent is simply breathtaking. Why both- er with elections? Let's just have the Manhattan City Commission pass an ordinance that provides a one time percentage to each board (bicycle, arts, etc.) and let them determine how the funds will be spent. Last time I mentioned that some of the boards had gotten too big for their britches; actually it looks like some folks are getting fitted for a ceremonial robes and a crown. The manner in which the proponents of the SOS petition have pursued this reminds me of the recent outcry by some billionaires to raise the taxes on the rich. What they don't mention is that they preach this while using every accounting

"loophole" available to shield their own wealth from confiscation. It's too easy to be generous when that generosity uses the money of other people. In a way I would like to see this issue put before the voters. In my experience, Americans are a compassionate and generous people. I challenge anyone to provide evidence to the contrary. The idea that we have to have what would effectively be a compassion tax levied against us is insulting and counter productive. Especially when that compassion tax only benefits those organizations determined to be worthy by an unelected board.

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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Gipson, Kansas State hold off Loyola 74-61

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) Will Spradling got the message, and the rest of the Kansas State players followed suit Monday night.

Spradling scored all 15 of his points in the second half, and Thomas Gipson had 19 points and seven rebounds as the Wildcats overcame a slow start to defeat Loyola of Chicago 74-61.

Spradling got an earful from coach Frank Martin at halftime and knew he needed to step up.

"He wrote my stats up on the board, like, 'You haven't done anything. You've got zeros all the way across the board,'" Spradling said. "He was like, 'You're supposed to be one of our scorers, one of our leaders. He was like, 'I don't care -- go ahead, go shoot. Don't hesitate.'"

Rodney McGruder added 14 points, and Jordan Henriquez had 10 points and nine rebounds for the Wildcats (2-0), who were without two of their more established players -- Jamar Samuels (suspension) and Martavious Irving (ankle injury).

"It wasn't pretty, wasn't great, but once again we were in a tough moment and were disciplined enough to make plays," Martin said.

Ben Averkamp had 19 points and seven

rebounds for Loyola, which has started a season 0-2 for the first time since 2000. Denzel Brito added 12 points and Jonathon Gac had 10.

The Ramblers stayed within single digits until the final minutes with the help of solid free-throw shooting (23 of 29). Kansas State was just 19 of 32 at the line.

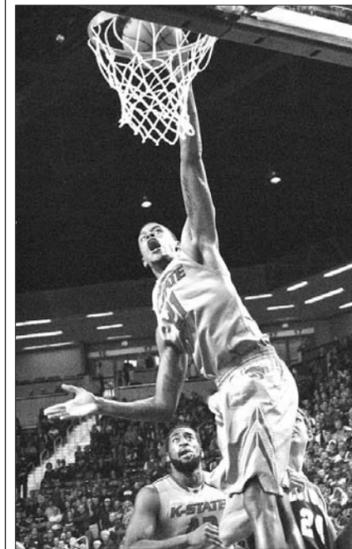
Both teams struggled offensively at the outset. Nearly 10 minutes into the game, the score was just 4-4. At that point, the two teams had combined to shoot 3 for 17 from the field and commit 16 turnovers.

Gipson then began asserting himself in the paint, scoring seven first-half points to help Kansas State take a 28-23 lead at the break.

First-year Loyola coach Porter Moser said the Ramblers didn't have an answer for Gipson's physical play.

"He has that big torso and he knows how to use it," Moser said. "He has soft hands and a soft touch. I think he is going to be a very good player for them, and he knows how to get angles."

Loyola stayed close throughout most of a back-and-forth second half. The Ramblers were within two points after Averkamp hit one of two free throws to make it 54-52 with 6:41 remaining.



Jordan Henriquez (21) goes up for the dunk. (Photo by Tonya Ricklefs)

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Pawnee Mental Health Services Open House

The public is invited to join in celebrating the 55th anniversary of Pawnee Mental Health Services.

An Open House will be from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 20th at the Pawnee office at 2001 Clafin Road in Manhattan. The agency's executive director, Robbin Cole, will make brief remarks at 3:00 p.m. Pawnee Mental Health

Services first opened its doors on November 19, 1959. At that time it was located in the Memorial Hospital Building in Manhattan and served only Riley County residents. Geary, Clay, Marshall and Pottawatomie counties joined with Riley in the next few years. In 1965 the Cloud County Commissioners agreed to fund the Sunflower Mental Health

Center, which later added Jewell, Republic, Mitchell and Washington Counties.

In 1977 the two centers incorporated as one and took the name Pawnee Mental Health Services.

In its first year, the Riley County Center opened 94 case files. In the last fiscal year, Pawnee saw more than 7,700 people.

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Students perform with Gold Orchestra

Area students will perform with the Gold Orchestra during concerts on Nov. 19 in Junction City and Nov. 21 in Manhattan.

Among works to be performed are: Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 by J.S. Bach, Song to the Moon by Antonin Dvorak, Jazz Pizzicato by Leroy Anderson and Hungarian Dance No. 6 by Johannes Brahms.

David Littrell, University Distinguished Professor of Music at Kansas State University, is the conductor, and Blair Williams, K-State graduate student in music, is the assistant conductor.

The youth orchestra is made up of 73 young area musicians in grades five-10.

The Junction City concert will be at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, at Junction City Middle School, 700 Wildcat Lane. The Manhattan concert will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 21, at All Faiths Chapel Auditorium on the Kansas State University campus.

Admission to both concerts is free, but donations are welcome.

On Tuesday, Nov. 22, the orchestra will also perform at several area schools. These school concerts serve to encourage other young musicians to continue with their studies.

The Gold Orchestra began under Littrell's leadership in 1989. It is based in Manhattan, Kan., although many musicians come from surrounding towns.

The principal purpose of the Gold Orchestra is to give young musicians an opportunity to gain a love for great music by playing with other like-minded youngsters. But the process also develops discipline that is carried over into adult life.

The group has performed in Carnegie Hall in New York, England, Estes Park, Colo., the Grand Canyon, the prestigious Midwest Clinic in Chicago and other locations. The orchestra will perform at various venues in Arkansas and Tennessee May 29-June 3, 2012.

Additional details can be found at www.goldorchestra.com.

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- Thomas Jefferson, 1787



Free Press Big 12 Sports

QB Collin Klein spilling blood for No. 16 K-State

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

Perhaps the training room in Kansas State's football complex should be named after Collin Klein.

He spends as much time there as he does on the practice field.

His elbows bloodied, his body swollen and bruised, the junior quarterback is determined to lead the 16th-ranked Wildcats to a high-profile bowl game.

That was on full display again Saturday night, when Klein threw for a career-high 281 yards and accounted for six touchdowns, the last in the fourth overtime to give Kansas State a dramatic 53-50 victory over Texas A&M.

"He gets beat up every game — every game you see him out there, he's beat up and bleeding," Kansas State lineman Nick Puetz said. "He has amazing heart."

Klein certainly isn't your prototypical quarterback.

He'd rather run than throw, take the hit than dodge a defender. His throwing motion is a little funky, his passes look more like tail-dragging punts than crisp, tight spirals.

Yet somehow it seems to work: Kansas State (8-2, 5-2 Big 12) is off to its best start since 2003.

"We're still growing," Klein said Saturday night. "It's the same message after this big win as it was after any other one. It's about getting better, never getting too high or too low."

Keeping an even keel has been tough this season.

Klein, in his first year as the starter, needed to throw a long touchdown pass in the closing minutes of the season opener to escape with a 10-7 victory over Eastern Kentucky. He rallied Kansas State at Miami and Texas Tech, and was instrumental in a come-from-behind win over Baylor.

He was at his best Saturday night against Texas A&M.

Trailing by 10 with just over 6 minutes left, Klein dropped back and lofted a perfect throw to wide receiver Chris Harper, who caught it in stride between the hash marks and ran untouched down the middle of the field for a 53-yard touchdown. After the defense forced three-and-out, Klein got Kansas State in position to kick a field goal that sent the game to overtime.

Klein nearly scored in the

first extra session, fumbling just shy of the goal line, but wide receiver Tramaine Thompson was there to recover it for a touchdown. After the teams swapped field goals in the second overtime, Klein scrambled 25 yards on the first play of the third one to again put the pressure on the Aggies.

Then in the fourth overtime, Klein pounded ahead for 3 yards on third-and-3 to pick up a key first down. After pass interference call gave the Wildcats the ball at the 2, there was no doubt what would happen: Klein jammed it up the middle twice, the second time giving the Wildcats the win.

"There's no word to explain Collin," Thompson said. "He's the toughest player on our team."

He also may be the most talented, even if he doesn't get much credit.

He's thrown for 1,504 yards and 10 touchdowns with only five interceptions, while also running for 1,009 yards and an unfathomable 24 touchdowns, shattering the single-season school record held by Mack Herron since 1969 with at least three games still to play.

To put those numbers in perspective, compare Klein to

former Nebraska quarterback Eric Crouch, who likewise ran an option-style offense. When he won the Heisman Trophy in 2001, Crouch ran for 1,115 yards and 18 touchdowns while throwing for just 1,510 yards and seven TDs, with 10 interceptions.

"He is all that everyone says he is," coach Bill Snyder said. "He's a pretty special young guy."

Snyder has a rule against

players discussing injuries, so Klein is reticent to discuss all his bumps and bruises. He wouldn't bite when asked exactly how much time he spends in the training room in a given week, but did acknowledge he's in there quite a bit.

"We've got a great training staff," he said, laughing. "We're great friends."

It doesn't matter to him how much time he has to be in

there. Klein said there's nothing that will keep him off the field the final couple games of the season, at Texas on Saturday and the Wildcats' home finale against Iowa State on Dec. 3.

"Every time I fall down there's a teammate running to pick me up and that keeps my spirits up," he said, "and that allows me to go another round."

Klein, Cantele Big 12 Players of the Week

Following Kansas State's thrilling four-overtime victory over Texas A&M on Saturday, quarterback Collin Klein and place kicker Anthony Cantele were named the Big 12 Players of the Week, the conference office announced Monday.

Klein earned Offensive Player of the Week honors for the first time in his career, while Cantele was named the Special Teams Player of the Week for the third time in his career and the second time this season. Additionally, Klein was named to the Paul Hornung Award Weekly Honor Roll, which recognizes versatility in single-game performances, and a Manning Award Star of the Week.

The Big 12 honors by Klein

and Cantele pushed K-State's season total to eight, which is second in school history after the 1999 team picked up nine weekly honors.

Against the Aggies, Klein accounted for six total scores — the most in the Big 12 this season — including a school-record-tying five on the ground. He also finished with a career-high 281 yards passing and another score. He eclipsed 100 yards rushing for the fifth time this season after running for 103 yards, which also put him over the 1,000-yard mark for the year.

Klein finished the contest with 384 yards of total offense. He now has a nation-leading 24 rushing scores in 2011, which is a K-State record and

is three shy of Ricky Williams' (Texas) Big 12 record and Ricky Dobbs' (Navy) NCAA record by a quarterback.

Klein was named to the Hornung Award Weekly Honor Roll for the first time this season, while he was named a Manning Award Star of the Week for the second time.

Cantele connected on two key fields, one at the end of regulation and another in double-overtime, to extend the game. His 44-yarder sent the game into overtime, while he then connected on a 38-yarder to tie the game and send it into a third overtime. The junior is 13-of-18 this season, including 3-of-5 from over 40 yards.

Kansas State Wildcats

2011-2012 Football SCHEDULE

		Record
Sept. 3 vs. Eastern Kentucky	W 10-7	1-0
Sept. 17 vs. Kent State	W 37-0	2-0
Sept. 24 at Miami Miami,	W 28-24	3-0
Oct. 1 vs. Baylor * Bill Snyder Family Stadium TBA	W 36-35	4-0
Oct. 8 vs. Missouri * Bill Snyder Family Stadium TBA	W 24-17	5-0
Oct. 15 at Texas Tech * Lubbock, Texas TBA	W 41-34	6-0
Oct. 22 at Kansas * Lawrence, Kan. TBA	W 59-21	7-0
Oct. 29 vs. Oklahoma * Bill Snyder Family Stadium TBA	L 17-58	7-1
Nov. 5 at Oklahoma State * Stillwater, Okla. TBA	L 45-52	7-2
Nov. 12 vs. Texas A&M * Bill Snyder Family Stadium 2:30	W 53-50	8-2
Nov. 19 at Texas * Austin, Texas 7:00		
Dec. 3 vs. Iowa State * Bill Snyder Family Stadium 11:30 AM		

Big 12 Football Standings

	Big12	Overall
Oklahoma State	7-0	10-0
Oklahoma	5-1	8-1
Kansas State	5-2	8-2
Baylor	3-3	6-3
Texas	3-3	6-3
Missouri	3-4	5-5
Texas A&M	3-4	5-5
Iowa State	2-4	5-4
Texas Tech	2-5	5-5
Kansas	0-7	2-8

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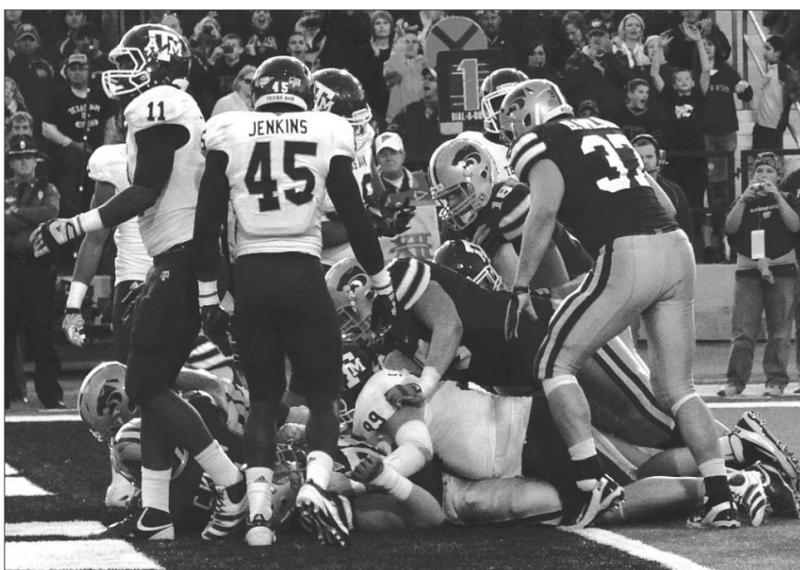
Thursday, November 17, 2011 - Page 6a

K-State wins in 4-overtimes, moves to 8-2

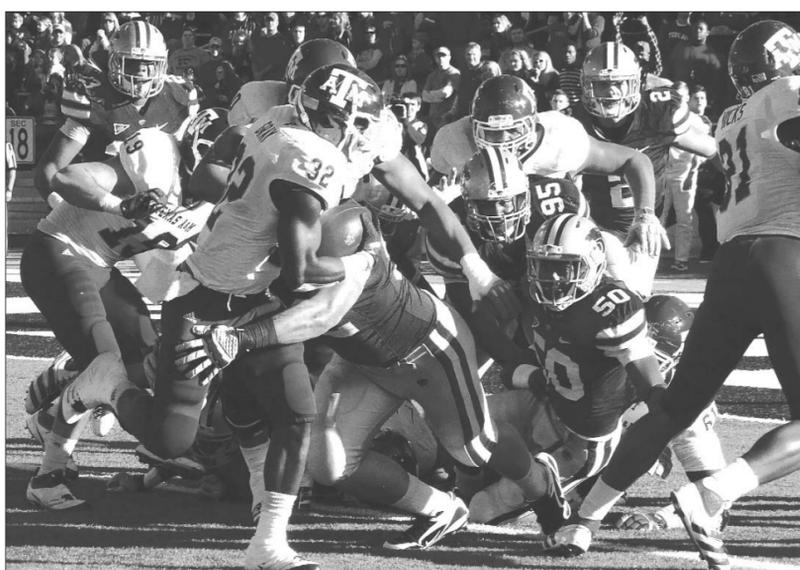


Kansas State running back John Hubert (33) stretches out for more yards on this play.

Photos by Jon Brake



You can look for Kansas State's Quarterback Collin Klein (7) at the bottom of this photo where he scored another touchdown Saturday night.



K-State's Vai Lutui (92) defensive tackle makes a good hit.

Sports update: What a game! What a game!

By Ben Brake

Hello Wildcat Fans,
Holy Smokes! Can we get any more excitement in a game than what the Wildcats did this weekend against Texas A&M with a 53 to 50 victory in four overtimes?

This was another K-State heart pounding victory that kept everybody on the edge of their seats for most of the game. Just when you think you can take a deep breath, the Wildcats travel to #23 (BCS only) Texas this coming Saturday. K-State (8-2, 5-2 Big 12) is now ranked 13th in the



Ben Brake

BCS, 16th in the AP, and 17th in the USA Today Coaches poll.

Offense: Klein and the Wildcats produced 411 total yards of offense with 281 yards passing and 130 yards rushing. Klein was 17 of 27 passing for 281 yards with 1 touchdown and 1 interception. Klein was the rushing leader with 35 carries for 103 yards with 5 touchdowns. On the downside the offense had one interception and two fumbles lost. K-State also had a huge setback with WR/KR Tyler Lockett possibly being out for the season with a lacerated kidney he suffered during the Oklahoma State game in

Stillwater, Oklahoma. However; there may be a slight chance for Lockett to return for the bowl game where his presence will surely be needed.

Defense: DB Nigel Malone intercepted his seventh pass for the season which he is tied for second nationally for interceptions for the season. The Wildcat defense gave up 482 yards to the Aggies offense with 210 yards passing and 272 rushing.

The defense once again was not able to get to the quarterback to get a sack in the game.

K-State did put some pressure on A&M at times that was successful on hurrying the Aggies QB, it just wasn't very often.

Special Teams: K Anthony Cantele did a great job making all extra point attempts and making two field goals with a 44 yarder to tie the game at 31 to send the game into overtime.

Texas Preview: Don't expect this game to be much different than the usual nail-biter that we have seen in almost every game played this season. You can anticipate this game will go down to the

wire. Texas is ranked 92nd in passing and K-State is ranked 109th nationally.

The Longhorns rank 15th in rushing where the Wildcats rank 22nd on the ground. This should be another evenly matched game; however, the Longhorn defense is known to put more pressure on QB's than K-State. Sure would be nice to see the Cats put a little pressure on the quarterback and maybe even accomplish a sack for the first time in three or four games.

Prediction: KSU 41 Texas 34 - bbrake@msn.com

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Free Press Big 12 Sports

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K-State in the NFL - Week 10

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Each week throughout the 2011 season, k-statesports.com will highlight former Kansas State football players currently in the NFL.

Brandon Banks, WR/Kick Returner — Washington Redskins

Banks, the kick-return specialist for the Washington Redskins, took back a pair of kickoffs for a 19-yard average and returned a punt for 22 yards in Washington's 20-9 loss on Sunday at Miami. In eight games this season, Banks has returned 28 kickoffs for a 23.4-yard average and a long of 47, while he has taken back 22 punts for a 9.0-yard average and a long of 35. Banks' kick-off-return average is eighth in the league among players with 20 or more returns. The Redskins are tied for third in the NFC East at 3-6.

Rock Cartwright, RB — Oakland Raiders

Cartwright, a 10th-year veteran who is one of the top special teams players for Oakland, helped the Raiders come away with a 24-17 victory at division rival San Diego last Thursday. In nine games this season, Cartwright has nine special teams tackles, while he took a fake punt 35 yards for a first down in week five at Houston. Oakland leads the AFC West with a 5-4 record, a game ahead of the other three division foes.

Jeromey Clary, OL — San Diego Chargers

Clary, who has started all nine games at right tackle this season, earned his 57th career start last Thursday for San Diego, which dropped a 24-17 decision against Oakland. The Chargers are tied for second in the AFC West with a 4-5 record, one game behind the Raiders.

Thomas Clayton, RB — Cleveland Browns

Clayton, who was signed by Cleveland on November 1, played in the Browns' 13-12 loss at home to St. Louis on Sunday. The backup running back recorded two carries and caught one pass for eight yards. The Browns are now 3-6 this season.

Zac Diles, LB — Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Diles, a backup linebacker for Tampa Bay, did not play in the Buccaneers' 37-9 loss at home to Houston on Sunday. Diles has one tackle for Tampa Bay this season, which is third in the NFC South at 4-5.

Yamon Figurs, WR — Tennessee Titans

An off-season acquisition by the Tennessee Titans, Figurs is on injured reserve and will miss the entire 2011 season. Tennessee won at Carolina on Sunday, 30-3, to move to 5-4. The Titans are second in the AFC South.

Josh Freeman, QB — Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Freeman, the starting quarterback for Tampa Bay over the last two-plus seasons, was 15-of-33 for 170 yards with a touchdown and three intercep-

tions on Sunday in the Buccaneers' 30-9 loss at home to Houston. Freeman also rushed three times for 25 yards. Freeman is 208-of-340 (61.2-percent) for 2,174 yards and nine touchdowns this season. He has also rushed 34 times for 142 yards and two scores. Freeman is seventh in the NFL in completions. The Buccaneers are third place in the NFC South with a 4-5 mark.

Rob Jackson, LB — Washington Redskins

A backup linebacker and special teams player for the Redskins, Jackson played in Washington's 20-9 loss at Miami on Sunday. This season, Jackson has collected five tackles in nine games for the Redskins, who are tied for third in the NFC East at 3-6.

Ben Leber, LB — St. Louis Rams

A starter in the first four games of the 2011 season, Leber came off the bench for a third-straight game to help St. Louis win a 13-12 contest at Cleveland on Sunday. Also a special teams player, Leber made three total tackles and recovered a fumble on a Cleveland punt return. Leber now has 15 tackles this season for the Rams, who are 2-7.

Video Highlight: Fumble recovery

Ryan Lilja, OL — Kansas City Chiefs

A starter at left guard for the first nine games of the season, Lilja and the Kansas City Chiefs suffered 17-10 home loss to Denver on Sunday. The Chiefs are now 4-5 this season to sit in a three-way tie for second in the AFC West, a game behind first-place Oakland.

Jeron Mastrud, TE — Miami Dolphins

Mastrud helped the Miami Dolphins come away with their second-straight win as he played on special teams and two-tight end sets in a 20-9 victory against Washington on Sunday. Mastrud has one catch for seven yards this season for the Dolphins, who are now 2-7.

Jon McGraw, S — Kansas City Chiefs

A six-game starter this season, McGraw recorded three tackles in Kansas City's 17-10 home loss on Sunday to Denver. In eight games this year, the safety has 36 tackles, four passes defended, two interceptions and one forced fumble. Kansas City is now tied for second in the AFC West with a 4-5 mark, one game behind first-place Oakland.

Jordy Nelson, WR — Green Bay Packers

Nelson started in a three-wide receiver set Monday night against Minnesota and helped Green Bay remain undefeated as the Packers defeated the Vikings, 45-7. Nelson hauled in a team-high five receptions for 63 yards and two touchdowns. It was Nelson's first career multi-touchdown game, while he now has seven this season after just six in his first three years combined. In his fourth season as a professional,

Nelson has 34 receptions for a career-high 633 yards and seven scores. He leads the NFL in average per catch among players with 20 or more receptions (18.6) and is tied for third in touchdowns, while his 93-yard touchdown reception against St. Louis in week six remains the third-longest in the league this year. Green Bay is now 9-0 on the season and leads the NFC North by three games over Detroit and Chicago.

Terence Newman, CB — Dallas Cowboys

A starting cornerback for Dallas, Newman had arguably his best game of the season on Sunday in the Cowboys' 44-7 win against Buffalo. The former first-round draft pick intercepted a pair of passes, includ-

ing one he returned 43 yards for a touchdown. It was Newman's third career pick-six and his fourth multi-interception game, while he now has 32 career interceptions to tie for seventh in Cowboy history. In seven games this year, Newman has 25 tackles, six passes defended and four interceptions. His is tied for fourth in the league in interceptions. The Cowboys are 5-4 this season to sit in second place in the NFC East.

Video Highlights: Interception | Interception return TD

Darren Sproles, RB/Returner — New Orleans Saints

An all-purpose player for the New Orleans Saints, Sproles started at running back on Sunday in a 26-23 overtime victory at Atlanta. Sproles had

two carries, carded four receptions, returned a pair of punts for a nine-yard average and took back three kickoffs for a 28-yard average. The former San Diego draft pick has accounted for 1,604 all-purpose yards this season, including 448 receiving yards on 60 receptions (7.5 yards per catch). He also has six total touchdowns, coming on three pass receptions, two rushes and a punt return. Sproles is third in the league in receptions, while his 26.5-yard kickoff-return average is third in the league among players with 20 or more returns. The Saints continue to lead the NFC South with a 7-3 mark, a game and a half ahead of Atlanta.

Daniel Thomas, RB — Miami Dolphins

Thomas picked up his first career start in a two-running back set on Sunday in Miami's 20-9 victory at home against Washington. The rookie rushed 17 times for 42 yards, helping the Dolphins gain 103 yards on the ground. Thomas has carded 356 rushing yards on 99 carries in six games, while he has seven catches for 49 yards and one touchdown. Miami is now 2-7 this year.

Reggie Walker, LB — Arizona Cardinals

A backup linebacker and special teams player for Arizona, Walker played in the Cardinals' 21-17 win on Sunday at Philadelphia. In nine games this season, Walker has 11 tackles for the 3-6 Cardinals, who are tied for second in the NFC West.

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Sports Second Front

K-State rallies past Texas A&M in 4 overtimes

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — Collin Klein scored on a quarterback sneak in the fourth overtime Saturday night, his sixth touchdown of the game, giving No. 17 Kansas State a dramatic 53-50 victory over Texas A&M.

Klein threw for a career-high 281 yards and added 103 yards on the ground for the Wildcats (8-2, 5-2 Big 12), who rallied from a 10-point deficit in the final 6 minutes of regulation to hand the Aggies (5-5, 3-4) their third consecutive loss.

The Aggies had the ball first in the fourth overtime and moved down to the Kansas State 3 before their drive stalled. Facing fourth-and-1, Texas A&M coach Mike Sherman played it safe and choose to kick a field goal, and that gave Kansas State the opening it needed.

Klein pounded forward for three yards on third-and-3 at the 18 for a first down, and a pass interference call on the Aggies' Toney Hurd Jr. in the end zone gave Kansas State the ball at the 2.

Klein went straight up the middle twice, getting across the goal line on his second try as the crowd erupted. The Wildcats poured off the sideline to celebrate the victory, piling up at the goal line before heading over to the student section on the east side of the stadium.

Cyrus Gray ran for 218



Kansas State's Collin Klein (7) takes the ball off right tackle in Saturday's Big 12 game.

yards and two touchdowns, and Ryan Tannehill threw for 210 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Aggies, who lost in overtime to Missouri two weeks ago and fell to Oklahoma last week. They'll need to beat Kansas or Texas in their remaining two games to become bowl eligible.

It looked like they'd take care of that in regulation Saturday night.

The game was tied at 21 early in the fourth quarter when Kansas State's John Hubert fumbled at his own 29. The Aggies' Terrence Frederick recovered the ball, and Gray scored the go-ahead

touchdown when he went virtually untouched right up the middle from 7 yards out.

Gray sprang free for a 63-yard run moments later, setting up a 17-yard field goal by Texas A&M's Randy Bullock that made it 31-21 with 6:38 remaining.

Accustomed to late-game

pressure, Kansas State never buckled.

Klein hit Chris Harper in stride for a 53-yard touchdown pass that pulled the Wildcats within a field goal with 5:49 left. The defense forced Texas A&M into three-and-out, and Kansas State took over at its own 32 with 4:40 left. Two 15-

yard penalties on the defense helped the Wildcats move down field, and Anthony Cantele's 44-yard field goal into the wind tied the game.

That's how it remained at the end of regulation.

The Wildcats had the ball first in overtime and took just three plays to score. Klein slithered up the middle from 9 yards out and fumbled just shy of the goal line, but wide receiver Tramaine Thompson was there to recover it for a touchdown.

The Aggies answered when Tannehill hit Jeff Fuller on a 9-yard slant route for a score.

The teams traded field goals in the second overtime, and Klein wasted no time in the third extra session. Dropping back to pass, he noticed the left side of the field clear out and took off in a dead sprint for the pylon, going untouched 25 yards for the touchdown.

The Wildcats failed to convert the 2-point try, and Texas A&M nearly made them pay.

Faced with fourth-and-goal at the 8-yard line, Tannehill deftly sidestepped a defender in the backfield and found Uzoma Nwachukwu in the corner of the end zone for the tying score. But his throw to Fuller on the Aggies' 2-point try bounced incomplete, sending the game to a fourth overtime.

That's all that Kansas State would need.



KSU's Ray Kibble (95) blocks a Ryan Tannehill pass.



Kansas State's Andre McDonald (18) takes a pass and picks up a first down.

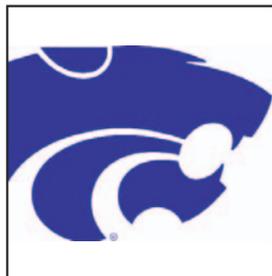


Nigel Malone (24) picked off two A&M passes on Saturday.



John Hubert (33) is ready to take the ball from Collin Klein (7).

Photos by Ben Brake



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