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American Airlines files for bankruptcy protection

DALLAS—The parent company of American Airlines filed for bankruptcy protection Tuesday, seeking relief from crushing debt caused by high fuel prices and expensive labor contracts that its competitors shed years ago.

The company also replaced its CEO, and the incoming leader said American would probably cut its flight schedule “modestly” while it reorganizes. He did not give specifics. American said its frequent-flyer program would be unaffected.

AMR Corp., which owns American, was one of the last major U.S. airline companies that had avoided bankruptcy. Competitors used bankruptcy to shed costly labor contracts,

unburden themselves of debt, and start making money again. Delta was the last major airline to file for bankruptcy protection, in 2005.

American—the nation’s third-largest airline—was stuck with higher costs and had to match its competitors’ lower fares or lose passengers.

Other airlines also grew by pursuing acquisitions and expanding overseas. American was the biggest airline in the world in 2008, but has been surpassed by United, which combined with Continental, and Delta, which bought Northwest.

In announcing the bankruptcy filing, AMR said that Gerard Arpey, a veteran of the company for almost three

decades and CEO since 2003, had stepped down and was replaced by Thomas W. Horton, the company president.

Horton said the board of directors unanimously decided to file for bankruptcy after meeting Monday in New York and again by conference call on Monday night.

In a filing with federal bankruptcy court in New York, AMR said it had \$29.6 billion in debt and \$24.7 billion in assets.

With reductions to the flight schedule, Horton said there would probably be corresponding job cuts. American has about 78,000 employees and serves 240,000 passengers per day.

For travelers, American said it would continue to operate flights, honor tickets and take reservations.

AMR’s move could also trigger more consolidation in the airline industry—some analysts believe American is likely to merge with US Airways.

The company will delay the spinoff of its regional airline, American Eagle, which was expected early next year.

AMR, however, wants to push ahead with plans to order 460 new jets from Boeing and Airbus, plus more than 50 previous jet orders. New planes would save American money on fuel and maintenance, but the orders will be subject to approval by the bankruptcy court.

AMR stockholders will be wiped out. The stock had already lost 79 percent of its value this year on fears of bankruptcy. The stock fell to 35 cents Tuesday afternoon, down \$1.26 from the day before.

AMR has lost more than \$12 billion since 2001, and analysts expect it will post more losses through 2012. Speculation about an AMR bankruptcy grew in recent weeks as the company was unable to win union approval for contracts that would reduce labor costs. The company said it was spending \$600 million more a year than other airlines because of labor-contract rules.

On Tuesday, Horton said no single factor led to the bank-

ruptcy filing. He said the company needed to cut costs because of the weak global economy and high, volatile fuel prices. The price of jet fuel has risen more than 60 percent in the past five years.

Ray Neidl, an analyst with Maxim Group LLC, an investment banking company, said AMR was wise to file for bankruptcy while it still had about \$4 billion in cash. That way, the company will have a cushion to keep operating without worrying immediately about lining up new financing, he said.

Neidl said the company has strong assets but needs to find labor peace and more revenue. He said American might be pushed into a merger with US Airways.

E-Mail to Manhattan Airport Manager Tells of bankruptcy

The Vice-President of American Eagle Airline sent the Manhattan Airport Manager this E-Mail Tuesday talking about their Bankruptcy and how everything should continue as normal. Here is the E-Mail:

Dear Peter,
American Airlines and American Eagle today took a necessary and responsible step to secure the future success of the company by filing for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in order to achieve a cost and debt structure that is industry competitive. We are confident that this action will better position American to deliver for the customers and communities we serve.

Today, American Airlines and American Eagle are conducting normal business operations, without interruption, throughout the 250 cities and more than 50 countries and territories we serve, and we will continue conducting our business as usual throughout the reorganization process. We intend to maintain a strong domestic and international presence, and we are committed to our hubs in Dallas/Fort

Worth, Chicago, New York, Miami and Los Angeles. We also are carrying out an extensive communication effort today and in the days to come in order to ensure that our customers, suppliers, business partners, communities and other constituents understand today’s news and know they can continue to rely on American as their travel and business partner.

In recent years, under the leadership of AMR’s CEO, Gerard Arpey, we have worked very hard to meet our challenges head on, making significant progress on many fronts. We started to build the foundation for our future growth and profitability even as the airline industry faced unprecedented challenges.

American has strengthened its domestic and global network; fortified its alliances with the best partners around the world; launched a transformational fleet deal that will give American the youngest and most efficient fleet in the industry; and invested in our product, service and technology to build a world class customer experience. We will continue evaluating our opera-

tions and service, assuring that our network is as efficient and productive as possible, and we will keep you fully informed of our progress in this regard.

As we enter this new phase, however, Gerard has made the personal decision to retire after thirty years of giving his all to American. With characteristic selflessness, he decided it was time for a new leader to take the company forward. I am personally proud to have been able to work with Gerard. He has been a leader in our industry and a model of honor and determination, and we will always be grateful for Gerard’s unwavering commitment to what is best for the company.

Assuring AMR of skilled and experienced leadership continuity, the Board of Directors has named AA’s President, Tom Horton, as the company’s new chairman and CEO. Tom is not only a great leader with integrity and a deep knowledge of American and the aviation industry; his accomplishments in industries outside of aviation, including the telecommunication indus-

try, also give him a unique blend of experience and objectivity that will serve the company well. In short, we are in very good hands moving forward.

However, to capitalize on our foundational strengths, we must address our very substantial cost disadvantage compared to our larger competitors, all of which restructured their costs and debt through Chapter 11. We are committed to working as quickly and efficiently as possible to appropriately restructure American Airlines and American Eagle so that we can emerge well-positioned to compete effectively in the marketplace for the long-term.

The Chapter 11 process lets us continue normal business operations while we restructure our debt, costs and other obligations, and gives us much more flexibility to address these matters while preserving the fundamental value of our business and operations.

By providing a path for us to become an efficient, financially stronger and more competitive airline, the Chapter 11 process also will help us to sustain the important contribu-

tions we make to the communities we serve.

Please be assured that now, as always, we are committed to meeting the highest standards of excellence for our industry. During the reorganization process, American Airlines and American Eagle intends to continue to:

Provide safe and reliable service. Our customers remain our top priority and will continue to enjoy the quality service they know and expect from us.

Fly normal schedules. Honor tickets and reservations as usual. Refunds and exchanges will also be made as usual.

Maintain the AAdvantage program. Our AAdvantage program has not been affected, miles and status earned remain secure, and our customers continue to have the opportunity to earn and redeem miles with American Airlines and our partners.

Remain an integral member of the oneworld alliance, of which we are a founding member. We will also continue our codeshare partnerships. Provide Admirals Club access to and similar ameni-

ties to members and eligible customers.

* Continue employee wages, healthcare coverage, vacation, and similar benefits, without interruption.

* Pay suppliers for goods and services received during the reorganization process.

American Airlines and American Eagle have a proud history, and we will have a successful future. On behalf of all of us at American and American Eagle, thank you for your support and encouragement.

We have established a special area on our website, aa.com/restructuring, which will be updated as new information about the reorganization becomes available. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the American Airlines and American Eagle Chapter 11 process that you would like to discuss, please call me at 817/967-5415 or email me at John.Nicks@aa.com.

Sincerely,
John D. Nicks
VP Corporate Services & Supply Chain

2011-12 College Football Bowl Schedule

Bowl	Location	Date/Time	Network	Meineke Car Care of Texas	Big 12 No. 6 vs. Big Ten No. 6	Houston
Gildan New Mexico	Albuquerque, N.M. University Stadium	MWC No. 4/5 vs. Pac-12 No. 7/WAC Dec. 17 2 p.m.	ESPN	Reliant Stadium	Dec. 31 Noon	ESPN
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl	Bronco Stadium	MAC No. 3 vs. WAC Dec. 17 5:30 p.m.	Boise, Idaho ESPN	Hyundai Sun Texas Sun Bowl	ACC No. 4 vs. Pac-12 No. 4 Dec. 31 2 p.m.	El Paso, CBS
R+L Carriers New Orleans	Mercedes-Benz Superdome	Sun Belt No. 1 vs. C-USA Dec. 17 9 p.m.	New Orleans ESPN	AutoZone Liberty Memphis, Tenn. Liberty Bowl	C-USA No. 1 vs. Big East/SEC No. 8/9 Dec. 31 3:30 p.m.	ABC
Beef ‘O’ Brady’s St. Petersburg	St. Petersburg, Fla. Tropicana Field	Big East No. 6 vs. C-USA Dec. 20 8 p.m.	ESPN	Kraft Fight Hunger AT&T Park	Pac-12 No. 6 vs. Army Dec. 31 3:30 p.m.	ESPN
S.D. County Credit Union Poinsettia	Qualcomm Stadium	MWC No. 2 vs. WAC Dec. 21 8 p.m.	San Diego ESPN	Chick-fil-A Georgia Dome	ACC No. 2 vs. SEC No. 5 Dec. 31 7:30 p.m.	Atlanta ESPN
MAACO Las Vegas	Sam Boyd Stadium	MWC No. 1 vs. Pac-12 No. 5 Dec. 22 8 p.m.	Las Vegas ESPN	TicketCity Cotton Bowl	Big Ten No. 7 vs. C-USA Jan. 2 Noon	Dallas ESPNU
Sheraton Hawaii	Aloha Stadium	WAC vs. C-USA Dec. 24 8 p.m.	Honolulu ESPN	Outback Raymond James Stadium	Big Ten No. 3 vs. SEC Jan. 2 1 p.m.	Tampa, Fla. ABC
AdvoCare V100 Independence	La. Independence Stadium	MWC No. 3 vs. ACC No. 7 Dec. 26 5 p.m.	Shreveport, ESPN2	Capital One Florida Citrus Bowl	Big Ten No. 2 vs. SEC No. 2 Jan. 2 1 p.m.	Orlando, Fla. ESPN
Little Caesars	Ford Field	MAC No. 2 vs. Big Ten No. 8 Dec. 27 4:30 p.m.	Detroit ESPN	Taxslayer.com Gator Bowl Fla. EverBank Field	Big Ten No. 4/5 vs. SEC No. Jan. 2 1 p.m.	Jacksonville, ESPN2
Belk	N.C. Bank of America Stadium	Big East No. 3 vs. ACC No. 5 Dec. 27 8 p.m.	Charlotte, ESPN	Rose Bowl Game presented by Vizio	Big Ten Champion vs. Pac-12 Champion Pasadena, Calif. Rose Bowl Jan. 2 5 p.m.	ESPN
Military Bowl Presented By Northrop Grumman	RFK Stadium	ACC No. 8 vs. Navy Dec. 28 4:30 p.m.	Washington, D.C. ESPN	Tostitos Fiesta Ariz. U. of Phoenix Stadium	Big 12 Champion vs. BCS Jan. 2 8:30 p.m.	Glendale, ESPN
Bridgepoint Education Holiday	Qualcomm Stadium	Pac-12 No. 3 vs. Big 12 No. 5 Dec. 28 8 p.m.	San Diego ESPN	Allstate Sugar Louisiana Superdome	SEC Champion vs. BCS Jan. 3 8:30 p.m.	New Orleans ESPN
Champs Sports	Florida Citrus Bowl	Big East No. 2 vs. ACC No. 3 Dec. 29 5:30 p.m.	Orlando, Fla. ESPN	Discover Orange Sun Life Stadium	ACC Champion vs. BCS Jan. 4 8:30 p.m.	Miami ESPN
Valero Alamo	Alamodome	Big 12 No. 3 vs. Pac-12 No. 2 Dec. 29 9 p.m.	San Antonio ESPN	AT&T Cotton Cowboys Stadium	Big 12 vs. SEC Jan. 6 8 p.m.	Arlington, Texas FOX
Bell Helicopter Armed Forces	Gerald J. Ford Stadium	BYU vs. C-USA Dec. 30 Noon	Dallas ESPN	BBVA Compass Bowl Birmingham, Ala. Legion Field	SEC No. 8/9 vs. Big East No. 5/C-USA Jan. 7 1 p.m.	ESPN
New Era Pinstripe	Yankee Stadium	Big 12 No. 7 vs. Big East No. 4 Dec. 30 3:20 p.m.	Bronx, N.Y. ESPN	GoDaddy.com Ladd-Peebles Stadium	MAC No. 1 vs. Sun Belt No. 2 Jan. 8 9 p.m.	Mobile, Ala. ESPN
Franklin American Mortgage Music City	Nashville, Tenn. LP Field	ACC No. 6 vs. SEC No. 7 Dec. 30 6:40 p.m.	ESPN	Allstate BCS National Championship Game		
Insight	Sun Devil Stadium	Big 12 No. 4 vs. Big Ten No. 4/5 Dec. 30 10 p.m.	Tempe, Ariz. ESPN	Louisiana Superdome	BCS No. 1 vs. BCS No. 2 Jan. 9 8:30 p.m.	New Orleans ESPN

See the Big 12 Standings on page 5.

Dr. Jason C. Annis

Dr. Jason C. Annis, 81, of Manhattan, KS, passed away peacefully at University of Kansas Medical Center of natural causes on Thursday, November 24th, 2011.

Dr. Annis was born July 11, 1930, in Minneapolis, MN, to Horace and Emma Annis. His father was a Copy Editor for the St. Paul Pioneer Press, and his mother was a homemaker.

Dr. Annis attended Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis and graduated salutatorian of his class.

He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mining Engineering from the University of Minnesota and a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering (Mine Ventilation/Heating) from Michigan Tech. He received his PhD in Mechanical Engineering at Kansas State University and then accepted a teaching position where he taught for over 20 years.

While at Kansas State, he met and married Patty Jean Smith, his wife of 45 years. She preceded him in death in April of 2006.

Dr. Annis was involved in many organizations throughout his life, including being Chairman of the Major Appliance Consumer Action Panel (MCAAP). He testified before a Senate sub-committee in Washington DC, with Ralph Nadar, and conducted many research projects. He was published in numerous journals and wrote many reports. Upon his retirement from teaching, Dr. Annis founded Annis Engineering Consulting of Manhattan. Jason had many interests and

loves. He was an avid choral singer and piano player, and sung for a time with the Dale Warland Singers. He loved classical music and opera.

He was well-read and stayed up on current events. He loved to debate the topics of the day and was a proponent of personal freedom and independence. He took pleasure in reading and writing and had a great respect for the editorial process.

Jason loved to follow sports, especially boxing, football, base-

ball, basketball, golf, and horse racing. He was an avid horse enthusiast and cat lover.

He loved celebrating his Irish heritage and traveled to Ireland, as well as across this country, many times with his wife and family. He loved to laugh and joke. He cared greatly about his friends and acquaintances and loved to talk with them about their lives. He attended First Lutheran Church in Manhattan.

He is survived by his son, Judd Annis (Amy), of De Soto, KS, and

his daughter, Dr. Melissa Parkhurst (Brian), of Lenexa, KS. He is also survived by four grandsons (Aiden, Dylan, Finton, and Tully), his horse Ben, and his cat Tiger.

The family is requesting that donations be made to Mayo Clinic Foundation or the University of Kansas Cancer Center: Experimental Therapeutics Program.

For more information or to send an email condolence visit www.irvinparkview.com.

Melvin Clyde "Mel" Cottom

Melvin Clyde "Mel" Cottom, 87, of Manhattan, KS, passed away on Saturday, November 19, 2011 at Mercy Regional Health Center.

He was born October 11, 1924, the son of Clyde Walter Cottom and Mamie Cunningham Cottom. He grew up in Coffeyville, KS and graduated from Coffeyville High School in 1941. He attended Coffeyville Junior College. His family then moved to Lawrence in 1942 where he enrolled in Electrical Engineering at the University of Kansas. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1945 and Master's degree in 1948. He

was appointed to the KU electrical engineering faculty immediately upon graduation at the age of 20 in 1945 and served until 1950.

Mel was employed as an Electrical Design Engineer by Black and Veatch, Consulting Engineers (1950-1955) with most emphasis on power generation stations.

He accepted an appointment as Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering at Kansas State University in August of 1955. He retired in January 1990 as Assistant Professor Emeritus. Professor Cottom was a Life Senior mem-

ber of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Other professional memberships included Tau Beta Pi (engineering honor society) and Eta Kappa Nu (electrical engineering honor society.) Mel was a charter member of the KSU Chapter of Delta Upsilon Fraternity.

Mr. Cottom was also a member of Lafayette Lodge No. 16 A.F. & A.M. of Manhattan; the Scottish Rite Bodies and the York Rite Bodies both of Lawrence; he belonged to the Thomas Jefferson Chapter (Topeka) of the Sons of the American Revolution; and supported many historical and arts organizations. He was a 67

year member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Music Fraternity.

On August 18, 1963 Mel was married to Mary E. Brumm in the Danforth Chapel on K-State Campus. She survives. Other survivors include and nephew, Steve Pendleton, and his wife, Cathy Ricketts, Escondido, CA; a niece, Helen Rumaout, and her husband, Mike Ambrose Austin, TX; a great grand nephew, Charles Clark; a great niece, Sasha Willingham, and her husband, Jimmie, both of Leander, TX; and several cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Edith Cottom Livingston,

Pendleton Rankin and her youngest son, Martin William Pndleton.

A private graveside service will be at a later time in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery, Zeandale Community, Manhattan.

Memorial contribution may be made to the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art-KSU Foundation or the Washburn University Foundation-Sunflower Music Festival Endowment and may be left in care of the Irvin-Parkview Funeral Home, 1317 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan, KS 66502. An online condolence may be left for the family at www.irvin-parkview.com.

Alice Winifred (Hahn) Adams

Alice Winifred (Hahn) Adams, age 90, died November 17, 2011, at the Westy Community Care Home in Westmoreland, KS.

Alice was born November 10, 1921, in Topeka, Kansas, the daughter of Thomas Henry and Ida

Beatrice (Heinly) Hahn.

She grew up in Topeka, KS, and attended Washburn Secretarial College. Shortly after graduating from college she worked in Washington, DC for the US Government as a secretary. She

met Virgil H. Adams in

Washington, DC, and they were married in a church outside post campus with many friends and 300 USO girls as guest. She enjoyed tap dancing with her husband Virgil. After WWII they moved to

Manhattan, and she went to work at Kansas State University as a secretary and had worked in several departments prior to her retirement. During this time she had her only child Virginia.

After her retirement she

enjoyed the company of her grandsons James Byron Morris, Jr. and Adam Franklin Morris who lived in the family home with her and her daughter and her husband James Byron Morris, Sr. She also enjoyed the many visits from her great-grandchildren, Allison and Britanny Mason and her adopted granddaughter Ann Mason.

She is survived by her daughter, Virginia L. Morris and her husband James Byron Morris, Sr., of Manhattan; two grandsons: James Byron Morris, Jr. and Adam Franklin Morris; one adopted granddaughter, Ann Mason; one granddaughter-in-law, Angela Morris; and two great-granddaughters: Allison Marie Mason and Britanny Lee-Ann Mason.

Mrs. Adams was preceded in death by her husband Virgil H. Adams.

Graveside services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December

3, 2011 at the Walnut Hill Cemetery north of Silver Lake, Kansas, with Rev. Dr. Tony Mattia officiating.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. Friday December 2, 2011 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 Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America or a scholarship fund for the grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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

Paul Wesley Brown

Paul Wesley Brown, 83, long time resident of Manhattan, passed away on Monday, November 21st, at Mercy Regional Health Center. He was born in Great Bend, KS on December 3, 1927, the son of the late Alice Ruth (Tullis) and Thomas Logan Brown.

Paul was raised in Great Bend and graduated from high school in 1945. In 1949 he graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education. On April 17, 1951 at the Danforth Chapel on the Kansas State University campus he married Joanne Frudden. She preceded him in death on July 10, 2005. He was a member of

First United Methodist Church, Manhattan, KS and directed the Chancel Choir at the church for 30 years from 1966 to 1996.

Paul proudly served in the US Army, was a vocal music teacher from 1952 to 1974 in Great Bend, Abilene and Manhattan. He was a Claims Manager at Farm Bureau for 20 years in Manhattan. Paul was a member of the Kansas Music Educators Association.

Surviving family members include: Paula Norvell, wife of Mark, of Tulsa, OK; Vickie Brown, wife of Chris Zachariadis, of Boonsboro, MD; Jodi Caldwell, wife of Fred, of St. George, KS; David Brown, husband of

Susan Mosier, of Manhattan, KS; Matthew Brown, of Beltsville, MD; and Alison Camillo, wife of Dave, of Brownsburg, IN; Paul was also blessed with 12 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Jody, two brothers Dorsey and Clarence Brown, sisters Ruby Dooley and Ruth Bolinder, and grandson Peter Zachariadis.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00pm, Sunday, December 4, 2011 at the First United Methodist Church, 612 Poyntz, Manhattan, KS with Rev. Kay Scarbrough officiating. The family request donations to Manhattan First United Methodist Church- Music Ministry.



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Thomas Raymond (Tom) Grubb

Thomas Raymond (Tom) Grubb, 84, of Manhattan, passed away Friday, November 18th, at Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community. Thomas was born in Marquette, Kansas on December 8, 1926, a son of the late Pearl (Matthew) and Walter Grubb.

Tom was a graduate of Marquette High School, Marquette, and the University of Nebraska - Omaha with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. On July 7, 1946 in Marquette, he married

Betty Frances Teeter, and she survives. Tom was a Personnel Management Specialist at U.S. Air Force in Omaha, retiring on Dec. 1, 1986, he also served as the Assistant Executive Secretary for the Kansas State Fair in 1971 and 1972. He was a member of First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, the "Old Geezers Club" at the 1st United Methodist Church- Manhattan, American Legion Post #17, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Chapter 1786 all of Manhattan and was a veteran of

WWII serving in the US Air Force.

Survivors include his wife Betty of the home; two daughters, Ramona R. Easter, wife of Doug, of Coeur d'Alene, ID; Linda K. Taube, wife of Chris, of Conroe, TX; a son, David Grubb, husband of Lynn, of Milton, WA. 6 grandchildren, Regina (Dean) Atkins, Robin (Tom) Merrifield, Ryan Liesche, Brian Garrett, Steven Garrett, and Christopher (Jackie) Garrett; as well as 13 great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death

by his sister, Lola Cox.

The family request donations to First United Methodist Church- Manhattan; Good Samaritan Fund at Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community 2121 Meadowlark Rd. Manhattan, KS or American Diabetes Association.

For more information or to send an email condolence visit irvin-parkview.com. Irvin-Parkview Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Pyong Ok Yi

Pyong Ok Yi, age 75, passed away peacefully on Friday November 25, 2011 in Manhattan, Kansas surrounded by her family.

She was born on October 13, 1936 in South Korea, the daughter of Chang Sung and Duk Sun (Jung) Kim. Pyong was united in marriage to Sang Yu Yi on April 3, 1959 in South Korea. This union was blessed with 5 children: Sung, Chong, Stacy, Kristi and Chang.

She enjoyed working in her vegetable gardens, crocheting, cooking for her family and

fishing. Pyong loved being with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Pyong was preceded in death by her parents; a granddaughter: Jenny Yi and 3 brothers.

Survivors include her husband: Sang Yi of the home; 3 sons: Sung Yi and wife Eun Ju of Manhattan, KS, Chong Yi and wife Erika of Buena Park, CA and Chang Yi and wife Helen of Irvine, CA; 2 daughters: Stacy Baek and her husband Greg of Irvine, CA and Kristi La and her husband Michael of Fullerton, CA. She is

also survived by 1 brother, 3 sisters, 7 grandchildren and many other family and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Manhattan Korean Church in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

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

Gary Michael Olsen

Gary Michael Olsen, age 66, died November 21, 2011, at Stoneybrook Retirement Community in Manhattan.

He was born May 7, 1945, in Chicago, Illinois, the son of Larry and Elaine (Wondra) Olsen.

Mr. Olsen served for three years in the United States Navy. He was a corporate safety officer and had

also worked for OSHA.

He was a member of the Screen Actors Guild and pursued an acting career and was in the "Raw Deal" movie with Arnold Schwarzenegger. He was also a drum corp fan and was a member of the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corp in Illinois for many years. He was also a huge Chicago Bears

fan.

Survivors include two sons: Eric Warren Olsen of Chicago, IL, and Michael Gary Olsen and his wife Amelia of Fort Riley; six grandchildren: Brittany Mayree Lawson, Shelba Marie Olsen, Stephanie Amber Olsen, Ryan Jefferson Lawson, Roberta Michelle Olsen and Victoria

Madyson Lawson; and one great-grandson, Connor Rylan Denton.

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

The Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502, is handling arrangements.

Robert Emmett McWhorter

Robert Emmett McWhorter, 80, of Manhattan, passed away Saturday, November 19th. Bob was born in Coffeyville, on August 10, 1931, the son of the late Ellen (Gaches) and Emmett Dowell McWhorter.

Bob was raised in Coffeyville where he received his Eagle scout award, graduated from Coffeyville

High School 1949, attended the Coffeyville Community College, graduated from KSU as a Wildlife Biologist in 1958.

Bob was united in marriage to Zora Lou Martin and she survives him. Bob enjoyed quail & grouse hunting with his favorite hunting dogs and horses, as a lover of the Native Tall Grass Prairie.

Bob worked as a wildlife biologist for the Providence of Manitoba, Canada in the 1960's, he then worked for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife in South Dakota from 1963 to 1964. Bob and Zora in 1964 moved to Manhattan where he continued his work with the Kansas Fish and Game as a Wildlife Biologist. Later he

became a Realtor in ranch and farmland sales. He was a long time member of the First Christian Church in Manhattan, and served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict.

Survivors include his wife Zora of 56 years, two daughters, Gwenda M., wife of Scott Rennick, of Gunnison, CO; Michele E. wife of John Torrence, of Lebo; also surviving are 3 grandchildren, Daniel Robert Rennick, Avery Mason Rennick and MaKenzie Michele Rennick; and a sister, Neta Dink Mecum, of Belleville, Ill.

To send an email condolence visit www.irvinparkview.com

Mary Margaret Baker

Mary Margaret Baker, age 83, of Manhattan, died November 26, 2011, at Mercy Regional Health Center in Manhattan.

She was born September 22, 1928, in Baltimore, Maryland, the daughter of Andrew Leo and Margaret (Cummings) Lodge.

She was married to Neil D. Baker on February 14, 1969, in Baltimore. He preceded her in death on November 28, 2007. She

was also preceded in death by one daughter, Mary Alt.

Survivors include five children: Margaret Rodrigo of Manhattan, James Smith of Baltimore, MD, Lillian Smith of Kansas City, MO, Robin Reed of Cleveland, OH, and Clifton Reed of Baltimore; three step-children: Neil Baker of Apache Junction, AZ, Brenda Overton of Phoenix, AZ, and Karen Chaney of Apache Junction,

AZ; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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

The Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502, is handling arrangements.

Mary J. Cummings

Mary J. Cummings, 104, of Blaine, Kansas, died Thursday, November 24, 2011, at the Dooley Center in Atchison, Kansas. She was a life-long resident of the area.

Mary was born September 10, 1907, on the family farm northeast of Blaine, Kansas, the eldest daughter of James T. and Mary O'Brien Harrington. She attended local schools and graduated from Blaine Rural High School in 1926. Mary then attended Norton Teacher Training College and earned her teacher's certificate and taught one year at a country school.

Mary married John E. Cummings on October 2, 1929 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lillis. He preceded her in death on October 16, 1966.

Mary was a homemaker, but also had many activities outside the home. She owned and operated The Emporium store in Blaine from 1939 until 1986. She also was the local Avon representative

and in 2008 received recognition for 50 years of service. For many years, Mary was the Blaine correspondent for the Westmoreland and Frankfort newspapers.

Mary loved painting and enrolled in oil painting classes. She also did China painting. Collecting dolls was one of Mary's passions. She had over 100 dolls displayed in her dining and living room. Mary was an active member of St. Columbkille's Catholic Church and Altar Society. She was also a member of the Shamrock EDU, Rock Creek Historical Society, Kansas Art Society and a life member of the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas. Even with her many activities, she loved to travel.

Mary is survived by her daughter, Connie Williams and her husband, Dale, Arvada, Colorado; her sons, Dr. Richard Cummings and his wife, Laura, Wichita, Maurice Cummings and his wife, Melva, Hutchinson and Bill Cummings and his wife, Carol, Wichita; her

sister, Sister Lillian Harrington OSB, Atchison: 16 grandchildren, 46 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her sons, John James and Louis Thomas Cummings; her siblings, James, William, Loretta and infant Lillian; and 4 great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, December 3, 2011, at St. Columbkille's Catholic Church in Blaine. Father Pat Sullivan will be the Celebrant. Burial will follow at Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery. Mrs. Cummings will lie-in-state on Friday, starting at 1:00 p.m., at Campanella-Evans Mortuary in Wamego, where the family will greet friends from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. A Rosary prayer service will be held at 7:00 p.m. Memorial contributions are suggested to the St. Columbkille's Building Fund, and may be sent in care of the mortuary. Online condolences may be made at www.campanellafuneral.com.



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There's No Place Like Home



By Eunice Boeve
Illustrated by Michelle Meade

Chapter 15

Ancient Bones

Last Chapter: On January 29, 1861, Jack and Mollie find themselves on the boardwalks amid a crowd of cheering, jovial men celebrating Kansas' statehood. Seeing very few women about, Mollie remembers that in this time period the women in Kansas had no vote. Jack gets between two men arguing over the slave issue, and when one man throws a punch at the other, Jack is knocked out cold.

Mollie heard herself scream as Jack fell to the boardwalk. The crowd of men stepped back and one dropped down on a knee to peer at Jack. "The poor little tad's out cold," he said.

"Here," the rough-voiced man said, his anger evidently forgotten, as he pulled a small vial from his pocket. "I've got smelling salts. The wife's subject to fainting spells."

The kneeling man waved the vial under Jack's nose and he came to, groggy-eyed and stumbling as the man raised him to his feet.

"Reckon he's okay, now, miss." The man said, turning to Mollie.

"Thank you," Mollie said. Turning to Jack, she whispered through gritted teeth, "Your glasses! In your coat pocket."

Jack squeezed his eyes tight against the throbbing pain in his head. He weaved a little on his feet, opened his eyes and blinked owlishly at Mollie.

Mollie pulled Jack's glasses out of his coat pocket and holding hers just inches from her eyes, she shoved his glasses on him and pushed hers on at the same time.

In an instant, they were standing on a sidewalk in modern day Topeka with the time machine on their right. "How's your head?" Mollie asked.

Jack spread his arms wide; his hands turned upward, a look of amazement on his face. "I'm fine. It's like it didn't happen."

"I guess it didn't," Mollie said. "Not to you. Not to who you are now. I don't know how it works, but we don't seem to be real. Not back in time, or with our glasses on. It seems like we've been gone for days, maybe even weeks and yet we haven't. We've worn all kinds of clothes. We've been Native Americans and African

Americans. We haven't brushed our teeth, or combed our hair, or taken a bath, or gone to the bathroom. We eat only if someone feeds us and sleep only if we're to stay overnight, or," she grinned, "we're listening to Susan B. Anthony."

"So," Jack said, ignoring that last remark, "If I was in battle and got shot, the second I put my glasses on, I'd be okay."

"Except if you're shot dead, you can't put your glasses on."

Jack frowned. "That's something we'd better talk to Dad and Mom about."

"If we ever see them again," Mollie said, squinting her eyes to shut off the welling of tears.

"We'll see them," Jack said. "Don't worry, we'll get home."

While they waited to travel on, the twins



looked up information on Kansas' statehood.

They found a listing of the six territorial governors and a picture of the first state governor, Charles Robinson and of his wife, Sara, whose book, "Kansas: It's Interior and Exterior," according to one of the men on the street, had helped the anti-slavery movement.

They also learned that the term Bleeding Kansas was a name given to a time when the Kansas-Missouri border and as far west as Lawrence was a battleground for pro-slavery

and anti-slavery forces.

"I guess people get used to their ideas and how they live and it's hard to change," Mollie said. "I guess that's why we have soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Jack frowned. "Dad says in some of those countries it's greed and corruption and the people having no say that causes the problems."

"I'm glad we live in America," Mollie said, as the whirring sound of the time machine began and the twins soon found themselves staring into a swirl of white space.

"I know we're not home," Mollie said, as they stood on prairie grassland, a wind rippling the grass and tugging at her hair.

"That looks like a tent over there," Jack said. "Like a Civil War tent ... or ..."

"An African Safari one," Mollie interrupted. "We aren't in Africa, are we?" She cast a quick glance over her shoulder, half-expecting to see a jungle behind her and a crouched lion ready to spring.

"No," Jack said. "The time machine is set only for Kansas."

Maybe it was Jack's experience back in Topeka that made her jumpy, but Mollie couldn't help but be a little nervous about who or what might be in that tent. Her hand dipped into the pocket of her long, old-fashioned yellow print dress and her fingers curled about her glasses.

Jack grinned at her and patted a pocket in his overalls as he hitched a strap up higher on his shoulders. "We must be in the 1800s again," he said. "At least we're dressed like it."

Although Mollie was beginning to fear they would never get home again, she knew to say so would only upset Jack. There was nothing he could do about it, anyway, so she might as well set her mind on this new adventure, and hope it would be their last.

As the two walked toward the tent, they saw several men working in an open pit dug into the ground. Nearby several horses and mules grazed. A wagon set next to the tent, the tongue dropped to the ground.

"Hello there." The bearded man who greeted them sat in the open pit where he'd been carefully digging around a very large bone. Two other men were also digging at something in the dirt.

"Are you paleontologists?" Jack asked, remembering a book he'd read back in the second grade. Giving it to his friend, Johnny, to read, they'd both decided on careers in paleontology when they grew up.

The idea of digging up old bones had sounded fun and exciting.

The bearded man laughed. "I'm what you might call a bone hunter. I dig up old bones for a living."

"Prehistoric bones, like mammoths or saber-toothed tigers?" Jack asked.

The man looked down at the large bone he was so carefully unearthing. "Maybe. This place has a rich deposit of prehistoric animals. Several types of rhinos and some ancient snakes and tortoises have been found. I'd like to find the three-toed horse or a mastodon."

"How did they get here? All in one spot," Mollie asked.

"The theory is that this was the delta or mouth of some great river and these animals were washed down and deposited here. And we're here to get them out again." He peered up at the sun and then at the twins. "You're welcome to sit and watch, but this kind of work takes hours of careful digging."

"Thanks," Jack said. "But we need to get home."

As the twins walked away, Jack said, "I would like to see what they dig up."

"I'll wait and see it in a museum," Mollie said as she pulled her glasses from her pocket.

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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A Christmas survival guide showing at the Columbian

WAMEGO, KS – The Columbian Theatre Foundation, along with Manhattan Broadcasting and The Smoke Signal will present A Christmas Survival Guide, opening on December 2nd and running through December 18th at the Columbian Theatre.

A Christmas Survival Guide is a song review centered around a book by the swanky Dr. Ted, PhD. His how-to book for battling Holiday stress is the comedic backdrop

for all your favorite Christmas tunes PLUS a few new songs that promise to invoke the true Christmas spirit. From a single woman busting into Santa's Holiday Hut at the mall, to a family sleigh ride gone horribly awry, to a fiery Mrs. Claus demanding a little attention from you-know-who! This year make the Columbian Theatre part of your Holiday traditions!!

Conceived and Written by James Hindman & Ray

Roderick with Music Arrangements by John Glaudini this production is sure to have something old and new for everyone! The cast includes Sue Partridge, Brady Everett, Katie Pawlosky, Jeff Patrick, Amy Dolph, Christy Collette, Bryce Patrick, Chloe Albin, Sydney Finney, – all Columbian Theatre veterans. Newcomers to the Columbian stage include Andy Lind and Cary Klataske!

A Christmas Survival Guide

opens December 2 and runs through December 18th. Show times are 7:30pm on Friday and Saturday and 2:00pm on Sunday. Tickets for the show are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. There are discounts for Columbian Theatre members as well as students and military with ID. Group rates are available for groups of 15 or more. To purchase tickets call the Columbian Theatre box office at 785.456.2029 or

800.899.1893 or purchase tickets online and view upcoming events at www.columbiantheatre.com.



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Self encouraged by No. 15 Jayhawks' start

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) – Bill Self has a hard time believing anybody has played a tougher schedule through five games than his No. 15 Jayhawks.

It won't get much easier anytime soon, either.

Kansas (3-2) finally returns home this week to play Florida Atlantic, just its second game at Allen Fieldhouse. The youthful Jayhawks opened the season against Towson before embarking on a road trip that took them to Madison Square Garden for a date with Kentucky and then to the Maui Invitational, where they knocked off UCLA and Georgetown before falling to

Duke in the finale.

"How many teams are there in Division I basketball?" Self asked.

"There's probably 325 teams that the best they could be right now is 3-2, and maybe 330 or 335. There's not a lot of people that are going to beat Kentucky, and there's certainly not a lot of people that are going to beat Duke."

"Where we're at from a record standpoint is not the worst thing that could happen," Self said. "There's not a lot of teams out there this time of the season that can beat those teams."

The Jayhawks don't get much of a breather Wednesday night against FAU, a program that gave Washington all it could

handle on the road. A pair of games against South Florida and Long Beach State leads right into a high-profile showdown with second-ranked Ohio State on Dec. 10.

"The schedule has given us the enthusiasm and energy to get better," Self said. "But it'll be fun for our guys to be back home. There are not many teams out there that are high majors that are playing their second home games on Nov. 30."

The Jayhawks relied heavily on their starting five in the 68-61 loss to the Blue Devils, the kind of back-and-forth game that would be expected from two of the game's bluebloods.

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Letters to Tom: Send Lawyers for Your Money

Monday, November 28, 2011: This week's work session of the Manhattan City Commission is scheduled to take up the issue of Legal Services for 2012. The Assistant City Manager recommends that the city commission allow flexibility in the budget for the employment of three in-house attorneys. It was further noted that an evaluation would be performed before the anticipated retirement of the City Attorney to determine the need for additional legal services. What this means in plain English is that the City Manager, on the recommendation of the current city attorney, wants to increase the city's legal department from two to three attorneys. If the commission accepts this recommendation it will cost taxpayers \$70,000 (or more) a year, every year, for the duration.

City Attorney Bill Frost would like to retire before June 2012. It is anticipated that the current Assistant City Attorney will become the City Attorney. It makes sense to bring a third attorney on board before Mr. Frost retires in order to ensure a smooth transition. So far so good, however according to the Agenda Memo, the strategy that had previously been discussed and tacitly approved by the Commission was to bring an additional attorney on board by the end of 2011 and to hire yet another additional attorney upon Mr. Frost's retirement.

Do we really need a third attorney? Per Manhattan's Code of Ordinances: "The



Mike Kryschal city attorney or his assistant shall appear and prosecute or defend all cases wherein the city is a party in all courts, he shall advise the governing body, the city manager, and officers of the city upon all legal questions affecting the duties of their offices or the interest of the city as may be submitted to him, and perform other professional services incident to his office." According to the Assistant City Manager, legal services have grown as the community has grown. He references requirements to draft and review contracts, consultation on employee related issues (disciplinary action, policies, terminations, etc.), claims against the city for liability (potholes, sewer backups, water line breaks), and complicated claims such as the Lowery case. He details the kind of advice the Attorney provides on subjects like elections, State and Federal regulations, and interpretations surrounding a variety of codes for the City of Manhattan. Finally, the City Attorney's Office oversees and administers the personnel responsible for the prosecution of cases

through Municipal Court. It's an impressive list but they do not provide data, other than what appears to be an anecdotal survey, that shows that the workload has increased to a degree that would justify increasing the size of the staff.

Personally I would like to know how many hours were spent advising on the ill-conceived rental inspection program and other controversial legislation that was thankfully reversed by the commission elected this past Spring. One way to reduce the workload is to spare our attorneys from having to justify and defend misguided agendas. Manhattan's growth in population is used to justify increasing the legal staff. The population of Manhattan has grown by less than 4,000 since 2006 while the revenues brought in by the Municipal Court have remained constant. I am sure that the Legal Department works hard, but remain unconvinced of the need to increase it by a third.

Can we really afford a third attorney? According to the Assistant City Manager we can. He cites the fact that revenue brought in by the Municipal Court already pays for the cost of the City Attorney and the Assistant City Attorney. Really? I was unaware of the fact that the Legal Department Budget is separate from the city's operating budget. If this is the case, what has been done with the surpluses that have been realized by Legal Services since 2006? According to the Legal Department Summary provid-

ed by the city, between 2006 and 2010 the Legal Department ran a surplus of \$4,232,942. That is a healthy chunk of change! I did not know we had a Legal Department Lockbox; I wish we had one for Social Security. I suspect that the idea that the profits gained by fines and court fees is used to fund the Legal Department is probably just rhetoric. If it isn't, we should try to put the rest of city government on a similar incentive program! Unfortunately in reality our city is already encumbered with a big and growing bigger debt.

Growing the size of our city staff does not seem to be the right thing to do.

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.

Decorate safely for the holidays

Safe Kids Kansas offers holiday safety reminders

Topeka -- Holiday decorations, especially candles and electrical lighting, can be a fire hazard. Safe Kids Kansas reminds parents and caregivers to take precautions when decorating for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza and other winter festivities.

"Never, never leave burning candles unattended," says Cherie Sage, State Director of Safe Kids Kansas. "Don't put candles on a tree or a natural wreath, or near curtains or drapes. Keep matches and lighters locked out of reach."

From 2004-2008, the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) estimates that decorations were the item first ignited in an estimated average of 1,170 reported home structure fires per year. Half of these fires occurred because the decoration was too close to a heat source. Forty-five percent of these incidents were started by candles. The top five days for home candle fires were Christmas, Christmas Eve, New Year's Day, Halloween and December 23. Battery-operated flameless

candles are an alternative that do not have a fire risk.

"Decorative lighting should be labeled with the seal of an independent testing lab," says Sage. "If it's not labeled for outdoor use, don't use it outdoors."

If you decorate a tree, Safe Kids Kansas recommends these precautions:

- Never leave a lit Christmas tree or other decorative lighting display unattended. Inspect lights for exposed or frayed wires, loose connections and broken sockets. Do not overload extension cords or outlets and do not run an electrical cord under a rug.
- Natural Christmas trees always involve some risk of fire. To minimize the risk, get a fresh tree and keep it watered at all times or consider an artificial tree. Do not put the tree within three feet of a fireplace, space heater, radiator or heat vent. LED lights burn cooler than incandescent lights and pose a lower risk of fire.
- Decorate with children in mind. Do not put ornaments that have small parts or metal hooks, or look like food or candy, on the lower branches where small chil-

dren can reach them. Trim protruding branches at or below a child's eye level, and keep lights out of reach.

- Do not burn Christmas tree branches, treated wood or wrapping paper in a home fireplace.

Safe Kids Kansas also offers these tips to prevent accidental poisoning:

- Keep alcohol (including baking extracts) out of reach and do not leave alcoholic drinks unattended. Don't forget to store all medications, including those for children, out of reach.
- Color additives used in fireplace fires are a toxic product and should be stored out of reach. Artificial snow sprays are also harmful if inhaled.
- Holly berries, mistletoe berries, poinsettias, amaryllis, boxwood, Christmas rose, Crown of Thorns, English ivy and Jerusalem cherry are all potentially harmful if eaten. If a child eats any part of a non-food plant, call the Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222.

For more information, visit www.safekids.org.

Kansas jobs are growing slowly

By Gene Meyer
Kansas Reporter



TOPEKA — Kansas' unemployment rate remained a seasonally adjusted 6.7 percent during October, even though schools and businesses hired 9,000 more workers during the month, according to a new state report.

Kansas' business owners and other non-government employers added 2,300 more workers to their payrolls in October, the Kansas Department of Labor said in its latest monthly jobs report.

In addition, seasonal rehiring of teachers and other school workers added 6,700 new jobs during the month, the department reported.

The latest unemployment rate is unchanged from the rate reported for September. In comparison, 6.9 percent of Kansas' workforce was unemployed in October 2010, the department said.

The latest gains mark the eighth month of modest improvement since February, when Kansas' hiring topped year-earlier levels for the first time since the beginning of the Great Recession in 2008.

"We are moving toward closing the gap, which occurred at the beginning of this recession," said state Labor Secretary Karin

Brownlee, but job growth remains "incremental."

More than 93,000 Kansans remain out of work, the report showed.

Schools, community colleges and other government employers added 6,700 jobs during October due mostly to seasonal hiring that comes with the beginning of the new school year, the department reported.

Kansas unemployment rates remain highest in the southeast part of the state, holding at 9.7 percent in Wilson County, around Fredonia.

Rates are lowest in the less populated southwest part of the state and the Kansas City area, where service jobs outnumber manufacturing positions. Gray County in southwest Kansas around Sublette has the state's lowest unemployment rate at 2.7 percent. About 5.9 percent of Johnson County's workers in the Kansas City suburbs remain unemployed.

Norman Simon, an office manager at One Source Staffing and Labor in Olathe in Johnson County, said the demand for landscapers, warehouse workers and other general labor that his company fills remains strong.

"Things were slow in 2009, but have been picking up since then," Simon said. "In the last few months, we've even had more work than workers."

The types of jobs in demand also vary widely, the state report showed. October demand increased the most

from year-earlier levels for business and professional services, such as accounting, which grew by 5,300 jobs, or 3.7 percent, and manufacturing, up 4,500 jobs, or 2.8 percent.

Kansas information jobs, which include newspaper publishing, were the big losers, falling by 3,100 jobs, or 10.3 percent, from year-earlier levels. It wasn't clear how much those numbers reflect the closing of a large Kansas City suburban newspaper, the Johnson County Sun, which ceased publication in August.

These latest monthly changes still leave Kansas as the only state where private-sector employment remains below year-earlier levels, said Todd Davidson, a fiscal analyst with the Kansas Policy Institute in Wichita. The Institute is nonprofit think tank that advocates for reduced government and free market solutions. It also is the founder of Kansas Reporter.

"But the numbers are catching up," Davidson said. "Private employment in Kansas is about 1.067 million now, versus 1.061 million in 2010."

Slow rates of job recovery in Kansas also raise the question of which jobs will never come back, said Jeremy Hill, executive director of Wichita State University's Center for Economic Development and Business Research.

Hill is one of several Kansas economists who are predicting that Kansas' labor markets will

increase by about 15,000 jobs annually in the foreseeable future, which means full recovery is years away for the 69,200 more jobs than now that Kansans held before the recession hit.

"What we don't yet know is how many of those jobs will never come back because the economy has changed," Hill said.

"We don't know how many of those jobs there are and we won't know which occupations those will be until time passes and we see which occupations replace them," he said.

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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



Free Press Big 12 Sports

K-State holds weekly football press conference

Head Coach Bill Snyder On the four-day break...

"I know it was a needed rest, there is no doubt about that, but what the impact will be remains to be seen. I was not disappointed with their initial workout after the break."

On which bowl game provides the best memories...

"I think the players have probably enjoyed each and every one of them. There might be some losses that have kind of a hangover effect on them. I do not know that there is one in particular. It would depend upon the player. Some young guys played extremely well in some bowl games and that game or those games would remain their favorite. Some did not play so well, so that game goes to the bottom of the list. For me, not really – bowl games are hard. I cannot tell you that there is one. The ones that we have won – put them in a category. I could not select one bowl over the other."

On if the players understand the conference title and bowl game possibilities...

"If the question is 'do our players understand that, and is it significant to them,' then I believe that is the case. I

would be hard pressed to think that it was not. You do not know each young person – they are each a little different. They understand the implications of this ballgame. They understand all the things that you just mentioned. I think they deem those things important to them collectively. I believe they are working towards the most favorable end that is available to them."

On Iowa State...

"They play extremely hard. They play very sound football. They had some turnovers in that (Oklahoma) ballgame, but normally they are a pretty secure football team. They do not give up defensively an awful lot. They do not put themselves in jeopardy on offense. They are very sound, secure in the kicking game. I think fundamentally, they are a good football team. They finish ballgames. At no particular point of time in the course of a ballgame, regardless of what has taken place, do they not play as hard as they can."

On if defeating Texas teams this season helps recruiting...

"It can have an impact. Once again, we are talking about decisions made by young people who are 17, 18

years old. They are all different. Just like everybody in this room, they are all different. They make decisions for different reasons. Some might find that appealing. Others, it does not mean a thing. It depends on who it is. I go at it that way. I would rather not have been 0-4 down there."

On the team winning a handful of games by seven points or less...

"It represents the fact that they have a belief, that they have confidence in each other, that they are competitive, that they have a mental toughness about them that allows them not to give in at trying times – a perseverance type thing."

On if Collin Klein will practice this week and what impact not practicing has had on him...

"Yes, he will. I think it had a little bit of an impact, not as much as people would like to think, but I think it certainly does. Anyone would be hard pressed to go a substantial amount of time without practicing, particularly at that position. He handles it much better than you could anticipate."

On how he is working to improve the offense after the Texas game...

"We just go back to work. They understand. That is the thing you appreciate about them. There are no excuses. You understand what the issues were and how they were created, and they have gone to work to try and rectify that. That is the way it is supposed to be. It tells you that they have that mental toughness and the perseverance to overcome adversity when it takes place and they are attempting to do it."

Defensive End Jordan Voelker

On his last home game...

"Hopefully I can just leave a good impression on the fans. They have treated me so well and have been here to support us this whole year, so I just want to give them a good showing for them by playing the best I can."

On the senior class improving in wins every year...

"With me coming in halfway through their tenure here, it was nice that they accepted me. We really have been able to keep putting the parts together that is needed to win and get better each year."

On looking back on the season so far...

"It has definitely been an awesome ride. Hopefully we are not finished yet. It has just been a good experience to have the relationships that we have with the guys and being so close with all of them. I think this season, just with us always having to be in a fight has made us even more together and let us bond together so much better."

On the need to not let up this week...

"Our whole goal this season was to take one team at a time and not over look anybody, and I think that we have done that fairly well. Iowa State beat Oklahoma State, they played Oklahoma tough. So they are a good team, they have proven that, and we have seen it on film. There really is not anything to overlook because they are a good team."

Offensive Lineman B.J. Finney

On the focus going into the game to win for the seniors...

"Our focus has been there so far this week. We have only had one practice. I felt like it was a fairly good practice."

Everybody seems rested up and ready to get after the Iowa State game this Saturday."

On one word defining the senior class...

"I would say family. They are all one tight group. They are all after a good season this year, and they all have kept us together by reminding us that no matter what the challenge is, we have to stick together and we will get through it. They are just a great bunch of guys."

On the possibility of a 10-win season and a share of the Big 12 Championship...

"Those things we cannot really focus on. We want a 10-win season, so that is what our goal is to get that 10th win. As far as the share of the title, we cannot really focus on that. We just have to go out and play our ballgame."

On responding after a bye week...

"The team has actually responded quite well. I think that we had a pretty good practice yesterday. A lot of the guys are rested and have more energy about them, so hopefully it turns into a good week of practice."

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	W 17-14	9-2
Dec. 3 vs. Iowa State * Bill Snyder Family Stadium 11:30 AM		

Big 12 Football Standings

	Big12	Overall
Oklahoma State	7-1	10-1
Kansas State	6-2	9-2
Oklahoma	6-2	9-2
Baylor	5-3	8-3
Missouri	5-4	7-5
Texas	4-4	7-4
Texas A&M	4-5	6-6
Iowa State	3-5	6-6
Texas Tech	2-7	5-7
Kansas	0-9	2-10

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Free Press Big 12 Sports

Manhattan Free Press

Thursday, December 1, 2011 - Page 6a

K-State surges in second half, win 92-50

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Freshman Thomas Gipson and Senior Jamar Samuels led a second half charge as K-State beat Maryland-Eastern Shore 92-50 on Tuesday night. Gipson led the way for the Wildcats as he scored 13 points and brought down nine rebounds and dished out four assists. Samuels in his first action this season added 12 points.

After a close first half where the Wildcats shot 37.9 percent and clung to a 36-29 lead at the break, K-State's offense caught a spark and its shooting caught fire in the second. K-State shot an incredible 65.6 percent from the field and going 21-of-32 from the field.

K-State used a 24-6 opening

second half run to put the game away early and outscored their opponents 56-21 in the half.

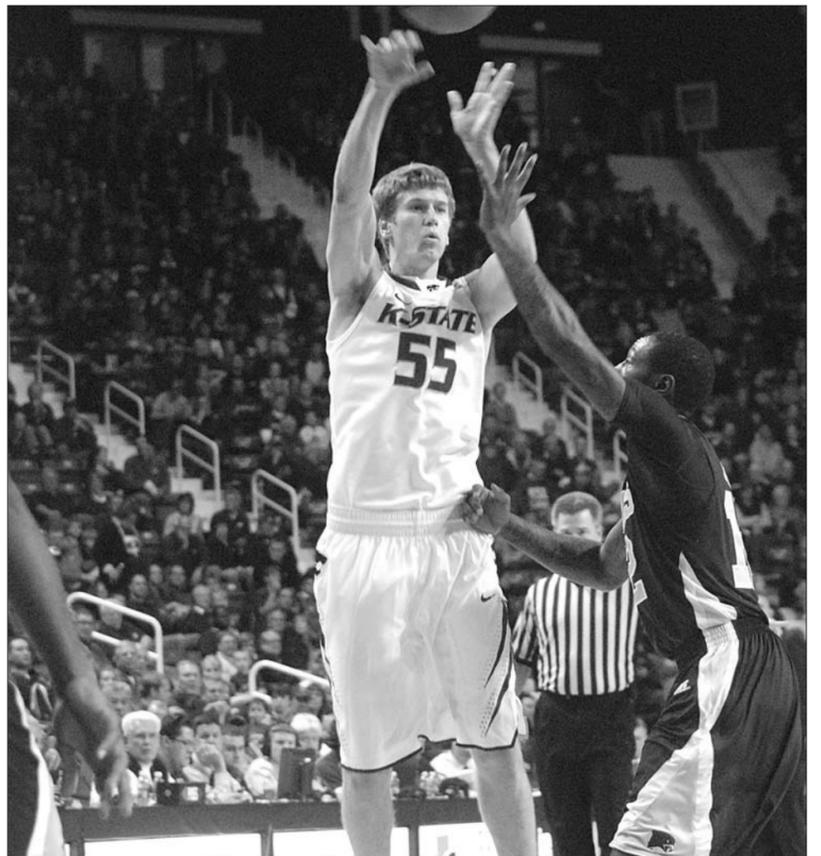
Junior guard Rodney McGruder scored eight of his 11 points in the second period as he went 3-of-4 from the field with two 3-pointers.

A total of four Wildcats scored in double figures as Martavious Irving (11) joined McGruder, Gipson and Samuels. Junior guard Jeremy Jones came off the bench to score a career-high eight points which included back-to-back layups to give the Wildcats a 73-42 lead at the 8:20 mark. A total of 13 Wildcats scored points.

The Wildcats defense caused 18 turnovers which led to 26 points and had 22 fast break points on the night.

K-State finished the game shooting 52.5 percent from the floor including a season best 78.3 percent from the free-throw line. After shooting 41.7 percent from the floor in the first half, K-State held UMES to 24.1 percent in the second. Guard Percy Woods led UMES in scoring with 13.

K-State will be off for Thanksgiving break but will return to action on December 1 as the Wildcats take on George Washington in Bramlage Coliseum. The game can be seen live on Fox Sports Kansas City at 7 p.m.



Will Spradling (55) gets a pass off to an inside player. (Photos by Ben Brake)



Freshman Thomas Gipson (42) scored 13 points and 9 rebounds.



Angel Rodriguez (13) a Jr. guard for K-State goes for the ball down court.

Sports update: Cats ranked 11th in BCS

Hello Wildcat Fans,

I hope everybody had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday. Your 9-2 (6-2 Big 12) Cats are ranked 11th in the BCS, 16th in the AP, and 15th in the USA Today Coaches Poll. The Wildcats haven't played a game in two weeks, but only had a four day break from practice over the Thanksgiving holiday. Hopefully the break has provided much needed rest and recuperations for some of the players to heal their wounds and be refreshed for this Saturdays game against unranked 6-5 (3-5 Big 12) Iowa State Cyclones.



Ben Brake

Iowa State Preview: The Cyclones may have five losses but don't let that fool you. They are a tough bunch of kids that

won't quit until the time runs out. They aren't always consistent with their play on the field; however, they have really bonded through the football season and have grown to become a very tight nit team. You can expect that the Cyclones will give the Cats a run for their money and make it a very competitive game.

K-State will need to be ready to open up the passing game against the ISU defense. Iowa State will defend the run and try to make the Wildcats pass the ball. You can also expect that the Cyclones will have a

defender assigned to every move K-State QB Collin Klein makes on the field. Iowa State has had difficulties defending the pass in previous games this season, but has defended quite well against teams that depend more on the run. This will be a tough challenge for the Wildcats to move the ball if they concentrate too heavy on the run and avoid the pass.

The Wildcat defense will have to be on their toes against the Cyclones. They are evenly balanced on offense; with a little more favor towards the run. This will play to K-State's

advantage along with the fact that the Cyclones QB is a freshman with little experience. He does overcome his lack of experience with some extremely good talent. If K-State's defense puts some pressure on the quarterback and does not let him set up in the pocket, they will have some success against the Cyclones.

This game has the makings of most of the other games this season. Get ready to be on the edge of your seats for another nail biter. Weather may also play into the mix on Saturday with a high around 40 degrees,

rain in the morning and turning to snow later that evening. Hopefully the weather will come a little later in the day, but you might want to go prepared.

Thank you to all the K-State Seniors playing their final game at Bill Snyder Family Stadium and just a bowl game will be left after this game. The Cotton Bowl or Alamo Bowl is looking very promising for K-State right now. But they won't find out until all games have been played.

Prediction: KSU 34 ISU 24
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Rested Wildcats return to action Saturday

By Mark Janssen
K-State Sports Extra

Bill Snyder hopes the trend will continue Saturday when the refreshed Wildcats wrap up regular-season play with Iowa State at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

During the Snyder years, K-State has had 17 previous bye weeks with the Wildcats going 12-5 coming off a week of rest. One of those came earlier this season when after surviving a 10-7 scare to Eastern Kentucky, the 'Cats thrashed Kent State, 37-0.

Since then K-State has played on nine successive Saturdays prior to having last week off.

"I know it was needed rest, but what kind of impact it will have remains to be seen," said the Wildcat coach in reference to Saturday's 11:30 a.m. kickoff on Fox Sports Net.

For certain there is plenty on K-State's plate to serve as motivation.

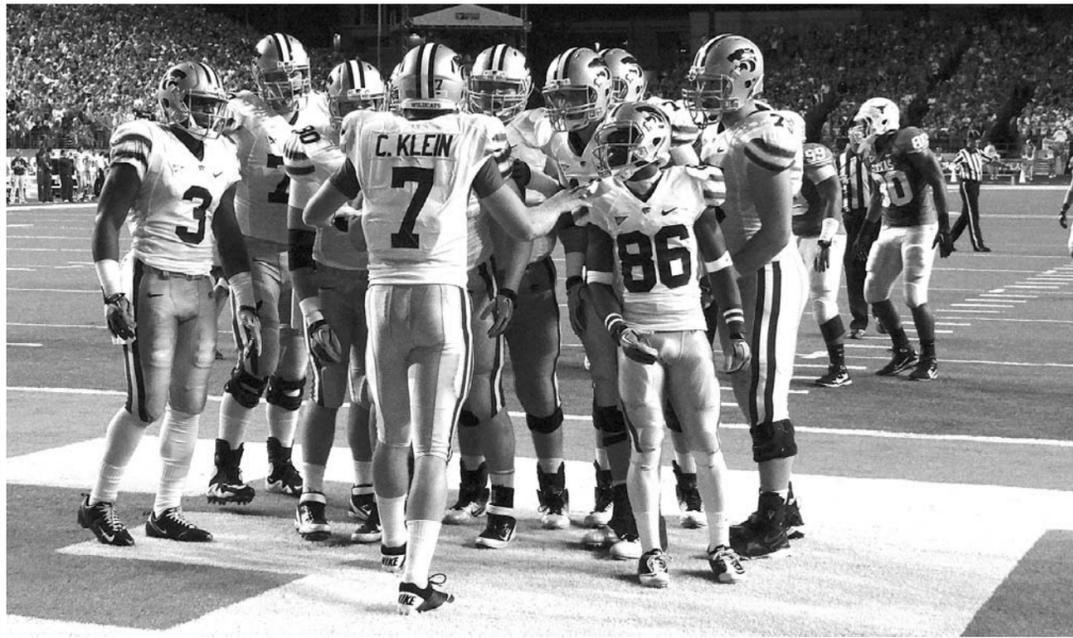
With a K-State win and an Oklahoma upset of Oklahoma State, K-State would gain a three-way share of the Big 12 championship.

With a K-State win would come a likely invitation to a major bowl game with the Sugar and Cotton postseason experiences being in that conversation.

With a K-State win would come the eighth season of at least 10 wins under Snyder.

"I would think that it's significant to them. I would be hard pressed to think that it wasn't," said the Wildcat coach. "They understand the implications of this ballgame and I think they deem those things important and are working toward the most favorable end that's available to them."

But when it comes to bowl talk, Snyder is leaving that to the K-State fans.



Collin Klein (7) huddles the offense in the end zone during the Texas game.

(Photo by Jon A. Brake)

"I'm not, no," answered Snyder when asked if he was personally tracking the bowl possibilities. "If you talk to the players, I'm sure they're reading what's being put out there, but I'm not."

While the break was timely, another part of Snyder likely wanted to keep playing during a season when seven of the Purple wins have come by seven points or less.

To that fact, Snyder said of the ultra-close wins, "I think it represents the fact that they have a belief and confidence in each other. That they are competitive, that they have a mental toughness that allows them not to give in in trying times. It's a perseverance-type thing."

Never before in K-State history has a Wildcat team played in as many seven-point games, or less (eight), and never

before has a Wildcat team won as many seven-point games, or less, (seven), in a single season.

Snyder continued of the 22-man senior class, and overall roster, "There's a trust in each other. Teammates are lined up next to one another knowing the guy to the right and to the left will not give up. That helps allow them to keep fighting."

If nothing else, the week off was needed for Collin Klein, who has not been able to practice prior to the previous two games, but played on Saturday.

"It had to have an impact," Snyder said on whether Klein's down time affected K-State's play. But he added, "He handled it better than anticipated."

The Wildcats are coming off an offensive performance that saw them gain just eight first

downs and 121 total yards against Texas when K-State found a way to a 17-13 victory.

Asked about what he told his offense since then, Snyder quipped, "I told them I was going to take them all off scholarship."

He then added, "There are no excuses for them. They understand their issues and they've gone to work to rectify those. It tells you of their mental toughness and perseverance."

WINNING THE CLOSE ONES IN 2011

Game 1 - K-State 10, Eastern Kentucky 7 - K-State scores 10 points in the fourth quarter, and not the winning points until the 1:39 mark on a 33-yard TD strike to Chris Harper. Defensive stars: Team defense that allowed just 129

yards.

Game 3 - K-State 28, Miami 24 - A video replay nullifies a go-ahead touchdown by the Hurricanes in the final minute of play. K-State fumbled four times, but did not lose any of them. Defensive stars: Team defense that made a four-play goal-line stand in the final minute of the game with Tre Walker making the final stop.

Game 4 - K-State 36, Baylor 35 - K-State scores the final 10 points in the last 5:43, which included Cantele's game-winning 31-yard field goal. BU had 73 more yards of offense. Defensive stars: Arthur Brown's interception set up the game-winning field goal.

Game 5 - K-State 24, Missouri 17 - In this one K-State led 24-3, but then had to hold off a Tiger rally that had Mizzou scoring the final 14

points in the game. The Tigers had 40 more yards of offense. Defensive stars: Ty Zimmerman picked up an interception.

Game 6 - K-State 41, Texas Tech 34 - The Red Raiders had 580 yards of offense to the Wildcats' 339, but K-State won the turnover department 4-0. It marked the fourth game where K-State came from behind to win. Special teams star: Tyler Lockett, 100-yard kickoff return.

Game 9 - Oklahoma State 52, K-State 45 - The Wildcats played the No. 3 team in the nation down to the final play of the game. K-State came from 14 points down in the first half and 10 down in the second half to take the game the entire 60 minutes to decide. Defensive star: Allen Chapman had an interception return for a touchdown; Special Teams star: Lockett had 193 yards of kickoff returns.

Game 10 - K-State 53, Texas A&M 50 4 OTs - K-State never led in regulation play and came from behind a total of five times to secure its first ever overtime victory. Cantele hit on a 41-yard field goal with 2:12 left in regulation to send the game into OT when a total of 41 points per scored. A&M had 71 more yards than K-State, but won the turnover count, 3-1. Special teams star: Cantele had 11 kicking points.

Game 11 - K-State 17, Texas 13 - K-State is out-gained 310-121, but the defense made plays when it had to even while allowing the Longhorns to score the final 10 points in the game. It was another game that went down to the absolute last play of the game. Defensive stars: Tyson Hartman and Emmanuel Lamur with interceptions.

Kansas fires Turner Gill after two season, 2-10 record

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)

Turner Gill arrived at Kansas after taking a perennially downtrodden program at Buffalo to unimaginable heights. He's leaving after a two-year stretch in which the Jayhawks slipped back to their familiar place in the Big 12 cellar.

Gill was fired Sunday after a meeting with Athletic Director Sheahon Zenger, one day after the Jayhawks lost 24-10 to rival Missouri and finished the season 2-10.

"After a thorough evaluation of our football program, I have concluded that new leadership is necessary to place us on the path toward competing for championships in the Big 12 Conference," Zenger said in a statement. "I come to this conclusion reluctantly, because I have the utmost respect for Turner

Gill as a quality individual who wants only the best for the young men he coaches."

Gill was hired by Zenger's predecessor, Lew Perkins, and given a five-year, \$10 million contract that was befitting of a high-profile coach. But he never lived up to the expectations that came with it, losing the first game he coached at Kansas to lower-division North Dakota State.

The high-water mark came in Gill's second game, when the Jayhawks stunned then-No. 15 Georgia Tech last season. But that was the only victory over a ranked team, and Kansas would lose 17 of the next 21 with Gill on the sideline, the lone conference win coming against a Colorado program that fired its coach immediately after the defeat.

Fielding one of the

youngest teams in the Big 12, Gill got the Jayhawks off to a promising start with wins over McNeese State and Northern Illinois, which has gone on to finish 9-3 and will play Ohio for the Mid-American Conference championship on Friday.

But things unraveled quickly in a 66-24 defeat at Georgia Tech, the start of 10 consecutive losses that included some of the most embarrassing in the history of a program accustomed to losing.

The Jayhawks were routed 70-28 by Oklahoma State, which pulled most of its starters at halftime, and 43-0 at Texas, when they managed 46 yards of total offense. They blew a 24-3 fourth-quarter lead against Baylor, allowed Texas A&M to score 61 points in just three quarters, and blew a 10-0 first-half lead against Missouri in

what could be the final game of their 120-year-old rivalry.

Gill, a former star quarterback at Nebraska, said afterward that he expected to be back for a third season, which is how long it took him to turn the program at Buffalo into a winner.

"I do think we made good progress," he said. "I guess it may be we have more to go than we anticipated, including myself coming in. I just think we can still get some things done here and move this program the right direction and do the things we need to do, win games and win bowl games."

It'll be up to someone else to accomplish those goals.

Zenger said that Kansas will honor Gill's contract, which still owes him about \$6 million. The search for a replacement will begin

immediately, while running backs coach Reggie Mitchell _ who also served as Gill's recruiting coordinator _ will take over on an interim basis.

"I have no specific timetable," Zenger said. "Naturally I would like to have a new coach on board as soon as possible."

There is expected to be a broad pool of candidates. Former Texas Tech coach Mike Leach and former South Florida coach Jim Leavitt both have ties to the Big 12, and Southern Miss coach Larry Fedora and Houston coach Kevin Sumlin have taken mid-major programs to national prestige.

Whoever is chosen will take over a program that went 12-1 and won the Orange Bowl in 2007, and finished the season ranked No. 7 in the AP poll. But he'll also take over a program

that, like those at North Carolina and Duke, resides firmly in the shadow of the school's basketball program.

Kansas returns most of its playmakers next season, which should help to jumpstart the rebuilding.

Sophomore quarterback Jordan Webb had a few bright moments in his first season as the starter, sophomore running back James Sims and freshman Tony Pierson carried much of the load on offense, and junior Toben Opurum emerged as one of the defense's brightest stars in just his second season since switching from fullback to defensive end.

"We've shown glimpses this season of how much we've improved," Webb said. "We're bringing a lot of people back, so we feel like we've got a chance to be a really good team."

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Sports Second Front

Kansas State could tie for 1st in Big 12

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
AP Sports Writer

The way Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops sees it, there will be only one Big 12 champion no matter how many teams might end up with same record.

"We all played each other, it isn't like we're in different divisions," Stoops said Monday. "You can determine who the champion is if there are two people or three people tied for it. Who beat who."

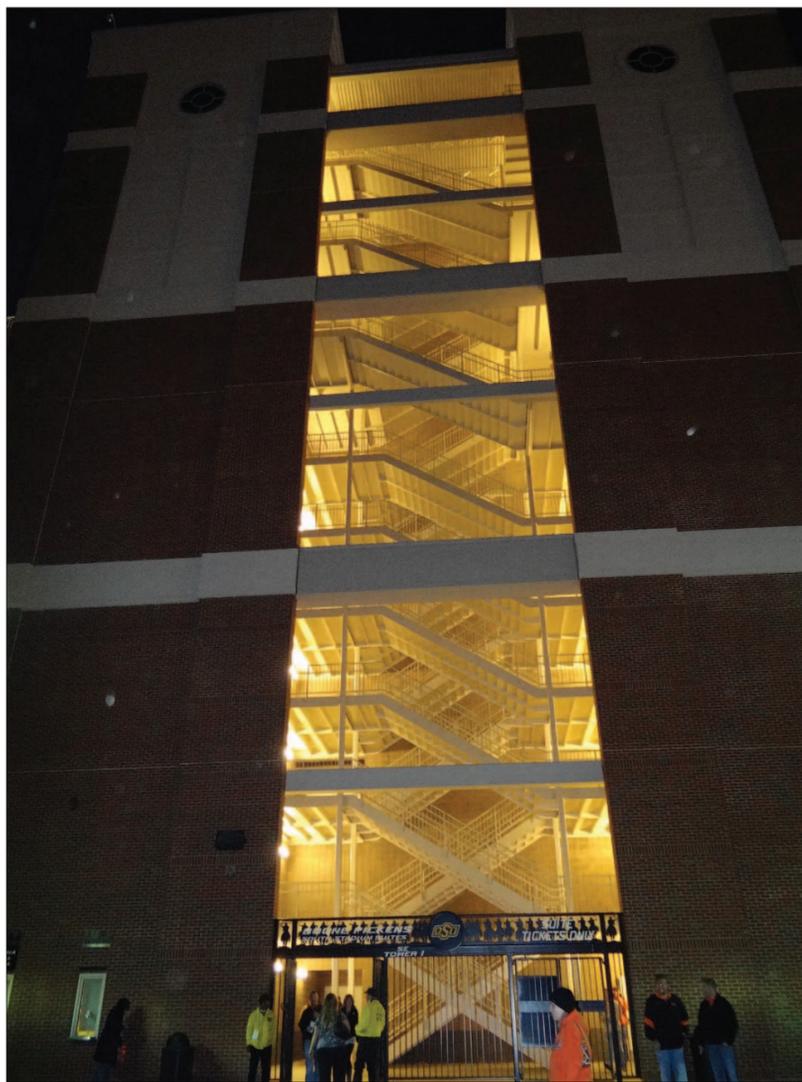
There is no longer a Big 12 championship game since there are only 10 teams with no divisions and a round-robin schedule. But the annual Bedlam game will be a pseudo title game, with the winner of Saturday night's showdown between third-ranked Oklahoma State (10-1, 7-1 Big 12) and No. 13 Oklahoma (9-2, 6-2) getting the league's automatic BCS berth.

"I just hope I can get home to watch it," Texas coach Mack Brown said.

Oklahoma State, which had its national championship hopes hurt by a loss at Iowa State in its last game, can win its first conference title outright. They have to beat the Sooners for the first time since 2002, when Les Miles was coaching the Cowboys before going to LSU.

"With the BCS, starting in the middle of October becomes somewhat like March Madness, they're all really big games," Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said. "But we get to this point, it's cut and dry for our team to have a chance to do something that's never been done."

If Oklahoma wins, and No. 16 Kansas State (9-2, 6-2) also wins its regular season finale, there would be a three-way tie atop the Big 12 standings. According to league policy, the Sooners would get the



Even the stairway at Boone Pickens Stadium at the University of Oklahoma State is unusual. (Photo by Jon A. Brake)

BCS berth based on head-to-head matchups though all three teams would be declared co-champions.

"Well, I don't really understand that," Stoops said, reiter-

ating how the round-robin schedule was touted during the league's media days before the season. "The entire theme of the two days is, we've got one true champi-

on since everybody's playing each other. ... So in our eyes, there will be one, and so that's just how I see it."

Without a championship game that would usually be

played the first weekend of December, the Big 12 extended the regular season with three games for the extra week.

Baylor (8-3, 5-3), already with eight wins for the first time in 20 years after a clean sweep in November, finishes its regular season at home against Texas (7-4, 4-4). It is a last chance for Bears quarterback Robert Griffin III to influence Heisman Trophy voters a week after he was limited to playing one half because of concussion-like symptoms.

Kansas State is home against Iowa State (6-5, 3-5), which is trying to improve its bowl stock after splitting the last two weeks against Oklahoma State and Oklahoma. The Wildcats are 11th in the BCS standings and could still get an at-large berth in one of those big games. But they can't get the Big 12's automatic BCS berth since their losses were to Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.

K-State coach Bill Snyder has never wavered in his preference for divisions and a Big 12 championship game, something that can't happen again unless the league expands back to at least 12 teams.

But if the Wildcats are fortunate enough to end up in a three-way tie at the top of the league standings, Snyder said, "it would be a very positive thing for the players in our program. I think they would appreciate that. I would."

Oklahoma State is third in the BCS rankings, but even a loss by No. 1 LSU in the SEC championship game against Georgia might not be enough to get the Cowboys back in position to play for the national championship. There would still have to be some drastic shifting in the polling and computers that determine the

BCS standings.

Gundy is keeping his focus on Oklahoma this Saturday, a game that will played after the SEC championship game. He's not ready to start politicking to try to influence voters.

"We're in a situation that we have a chance to win a football game and win a conference championship for the first time in the history of the school," Gundy said. "I feel like that's more important than politicking for a spot in second place, or whatever it would be, in the BCS."

"With where we're at with our team, developing and building our program and continuing to take this thing to another level, it's more important that we prepare to win the game than necessarily make comments regarding where we are in the BCS."

No. 2 Alabama's only loss was at home against LSU. The Crimson Tide are waiting to see if they will get a national title rematch against the Tigers when all the bowl matchups are announced Sunday.

The Big 12, which has only seven guaranteed bowl spots unless the league gets two teams in the BCS, has eight bowl-eligible teams. That includes Missouri (7-5, 5-4) and Texas A&M (6-6, 4-5), the two teams headed to the Southeastern Conference next season.

Texas Tech (5-7, 2-7) and Kansas (2-10, 0-9) have played their final games, both finishing with long losing streaks.

The Red Raiders lost their last five games after an upset victory at Oklahoma, finishing with their first losing record since 1992. Kansas had a 10-game losing streak and on Sunday fired coach Turner Gill after only two seasons.

Malone, Chapmen continue winning ways

By **Mark Janssen**
K-State Sports Extra

They're not joined at the hip as some have suggested, but instead play on opposite sides of the field daring quarterbacks to chuck the football their way.

In 2009 and 2010, Nigel Malone and Allen Chapman played as City College of San Francisco's bookend cornerbacks. It was the 5-foot-11, 180-pound Chapman on one side, and the 5-10, 176-pound Malone on the other leading CCSF to a two-year record of 22-2.

Today, they're still together, and still winning, as teammates for the Kansas State Wildcats (9-2) as starting cornerbacks.

"I wouldn't call it a package deal, but we did want to play together again," said Chapman of how the duo arrived at K-State together. "I committed here first, but he actually signed first. I considered other colleges, but this was my first choice."

While Malone arrived on campus last winter and was able to take part in spring ball, Chapman didn't join the team until the start of August two-a-days when he arrived saying, "I'm not going to lie to you. I want to be All-Conference and Big 12 Newcomer of the Year like Daniel Thomas was."

That honor this year will likely go to Malone, who leads the Big 12 with his seven pass interceptions to go along with a total of 53 tackles, including seven for negative yards and nine passes broken up.



Nigel Malone (24)

Malone's seven interceptions also are tied for second nationally and are three more than any other defender in the Big 12.

Those numbers positioned Malone to be a semifinalist for the Jim Thorpe Award making him the first Wildcat to be up for the honor since Terence Newman won the honor in 2002.

"It is definitely a great honor.

Coming into the season that was pretty much the last thing that I was thinking about, but it feels good to just be thought of in that upper echelon group of corners," said Malone, who is the first Wildcat to have at least two interceptions in more than one game since DeMarcus Faggins in 2001. "I am always going to give testament to the coaches. We have a group of great guys that lead us out there



Allen Chapman (3)

every Saturday. They just put us in great position to make plays. Half of it is just luck and half of it is just being in the right place. So I give that to the coaches."

Chapman's resume includes 41 tackles with four passes broken up, one interception and one forced fumble.

"We're far more similar than different," Chapman said of their styles. "I'm probably bet-

ter playing the deep ball and he's better coming up on somebody."

But together, he added, "We came here to make an impact and win, and we have," said Chapman, a native of San Francisco. "I'm glad he's doing what he's doing and I'm proud of what I'm doing."

Malone, a product of Manteca, Calif., echoed his teammate's words by saying,

"We're doing what we came here to do."

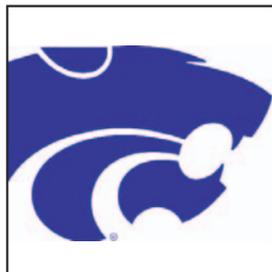
Of staying together at K-State, Chapman said, "We didn't grow up in the sandbox together, but we hit it off out of high school, and here we are today."

While Chapman says it took him until the Oklahoma State game to feel comfortable in the Wildcat system, coach Bill Snyder says that Malone took full advantage of the spring season and the summer workouts, which led him into a productive total first season.

"He has been very, very consistent during the course of the year," said the Wildcat coach. "That's not saying that he is not without his mistakes, but you just know what you're going to get with Nigel. He's very consistent with his play. Both of them take a lot of pride in their performance."

While high-profile players on one of the best teams in one of the best conferences, neither player drew a high degree of recruiting attention out of City College of San Francisco. Malone chose K-State over Kentucky and New Mexico, while Chapman had offers from Fresno State, Louisiana Tech and New Mexico.

While others may be surprised at the adjustment made by Malone and Chapman, Chapman is not: "We were in a big-time passing conference. When you play junior college ball in California, you're up against some of the best players in the nation."



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