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Manhattan Free Press

Vol. 20 Number 32

An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper

Thursday, January 19, 2012

Student Art To Be On Display

The Manhattan-Ogden Public Schools Foundation is eagerly looking forward to the fourth annual Early Expressions celebration of art in Manhattan. In collaboration with the district's art teachers, the Beach Museum of Art, Strecker-Nelson Art Gallery, and the Manhattan Morning Optimist Club, the Foundation sponsored a district-wide art contest for elementary and secondary school students. Over 1500 students in USD 383 submitted original artwork which was juried, and the winning 100 pieces of artwork will be showcased in the UMB Theatre at the Beach Museum February 9-13, 2012.

On Sunday, February 12, from 6:30 to 8:30pm, the students' art will be the centerpiece for an evening gala, auctioning the winning entries from four categories in a live auction. The rest of the entries will be auctioned in a silent auction as well, with proceeds to benefit the Manhattan-Ogden Public Schools Foundation. Tickets for the gala are \$35, and include hors d'oeuvres and beer, wine and soft drinks.

A community celebration on Saturday, February 11, from 2:00-4:00pm, will allow the winning students and their families to witness the honor of having the students' artwork featured at the Beach Museum of Art. This celebration is free for the public, family and friends of the selected student artists.

The Early Expressions guest artist this year is Lisa Lala, an acclaimed artist who grew up in Manhattan. Ms. Lala attended Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School, where she was inspired by many teachers including Mary Ellen Titus, and graduated from Manhattan High School in 1991. She received a B.F.A. from the University of Kansas. She has been

exhibiting her art since 2003 and in 2007 she had a solo exhibition at the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, St. Joseph, MO and has had more than 10 sold-out exhibits. Locally, she is represented by Strecker-Nelson Gallery.

Funds raised through the Early Expressions event are used to enhance the art experiences for students in the district, including new art equipment, art programming, and funding trips to art galleries in Kansas City for secondary school students.

The Manhattan-Ogden Public Schools Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that receives and administers gifts from citizens, businesses and organizations who wish to financially support activities that aid and enhance the school district. By working in cooperation with the school district, the Foundation seeks to enrich the public school experience for children within our school district, enhancing the work done by the teachers and staff.

To attend the gala, send \$35 per person to the Manhattan-Ogden Public Schools Foundation, P.O. Box 191, Manhattan, KS 66505-0191.

Early Expression Art Selections by School are:

MANHATTAN HIGH SCHOOL

Madian Cant
Amber Carmickle
Aaron Cole
Irina Dickinson
Kerry-Ann Fry
Kyle Gordon
Maria Hernandez
Aubrey Jung
Taylor Kimmi
Kathy Knox
Adam Lease
Alexis MacDonald
Divleen Malhi
Tori Matta
George Melhem
Ann Marie Mignano
David Padgett
Ethan Pauls

Alexandria Poulson
Taylor Rasmussen
Lucas Richards
Jessica Ruiz
Sloan Satterlee
Emma Schinstock
Stephanie Shanower
Jessica Smith
Anthony Stepp
Sophie Wang

EISENHOWER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sarah Crowley
Kirkland Lambert
Sarah Lilley
Lea Montanez
Lydia Parish
Brandon Religa

ANTHONY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Daaiyah Ford
Lilly Sessions
Halle Wefald
OGDEN
Shiva Dow
Tyler General

MARLATT
Emma Lansdowne
Max Kiracofe
Aidin Manning
Eleanor Matthews
Abhinav Pagadala
Lucas Staton
Jena Williams

BLUEMONT

Allen Bernard
Nicholas Bross
Rylee Kensa
Kaitlyn Ring

AMANDA ARNOLD

Juliahna Dixon
Dominic Hober
Jamie Kim
Stephanie Kim
Brianna Sylvester

LEE

Grace Anderson-Doll
Jean Boac
Veronica Knight
Molly Novack
Erin Rivera

Julia Szoszkiewicz

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Riley Franzen
Ally Lanceta
Andrea Lu
Xiaomi Zhao

NORTHVIEW

Elise Davis
Emily Feng

Shelby Goscha
Abby Gunderson
Jennifer Heckman
Leilani Kerwin
Ceina Kramm
Alexa Kroll
Tristyn Kurtenbach
Clara Lee

Mersadiez Marstall-Maxwell

Madison McCullough
Addison Moeller
Denise Ramos
Oliver Reed
Samantha Rice
Asem Saleh

Stephanie Smith
Amelia Steel

BERGMAN

Chauntel Burpee
Jazmin Campbell
Amacaly Casimiro
Drew DeJesus
Marwan El-Sotouhy
Amy Espinoza
Sam Hankins
Michael Kovar
Rachael Kovar
Tyler Machor
Maddy McGee
Joanna Park
Katie Pratt
Lauren Race
Marco Ramirez
Bryant Garberding
Casey Gritton
Hannah Pruss
Brett Seaton

WOODROW WILSON

Gavin Shoup



Chrome helmets were on display at the Cotton Bowl last week. See other features on page 8. (Photo by Jon A. Brake)

States Created Their Public Pension Problems, and States Should Solve Them

By David John

The Heritage Foundation

Although underfunded state and local government public pension plans pose a very real threat to our national economy, "a federal bailout of the states should be avoided at all costs," says a new report by the Senate Finance Committee Republican staff. This is an appropriate policy response. The citizens of states that have handled their public pension plans responsibly or made the appropriate changes to reform them should not be asked to bail out states that have acted irresponsibly.

The report reminds policymakers that "unfunded pension liabilities of state and local governments also affect the Federal government's credit rating" and warns that a significant state or local insolvency could place additional burdens on the federal government. What is worrying is that the report appears to make a case for some form of federal intervention rather than leaving the problem for the states to solve. The report notes that "a new design for public plans is needed" and ends by saying that a "legislative solution for consideration by Congress will be introduced in the Senate in the near future."

Public Pension Plans Face Trillions of Dollars in Underfunding

Today, 31 states are sponsoring public pension plans with

funding ratios that are under 80 percent of what is needed to pay full benefits. Funding ratios measure a pension plan's current assets, projected contributions, and investment earnings in relation to its predicted benefit obligations. A ratio that is under 80 percent indicates that the plan is in severe trouble and will have great difficulty meeting its obligations. This is not a small problem. A significant 2010 academic study estimates that 116 major state-sponsored pension plans have assets of about \$1.8 trillion—to pay pension promises of between \$3.6 trillion and \$5.2 trillion. This leaves a gap of between \$1.8 trillion and \$3.4 trillion. A follow-up study found that major pension plans for municipal workers in 50 major cities add an estimated \$574 billion to the problem.

Fixing the problem will not be easy. Over the past two years, 41 states made changes to one or more of their state employees' pension plans, with some of them visiting the issue more than once.

The most obvious options are increasing government and/or employee contributions or restructuring the pension plan by changing benefit formulas, retirement ages, or inflation indexing.

However, even seemingly dramatic changes leave high levels of underfunding. For instance, Rhode Island cut its underfunding by \$3 billion

after increasing the retirement age to 67, suspending cost-of-living allowances (COLAs), and moving state employees to a hybrid form of pension plan. However, even these radical changes still left the state with a \$4 billion shortfall that it will have to resolve through other means.

Defined-benefit Pensions Are Opaque

Most state and local governments have established traditional "defined-benefit" pension plans for their workers. These plans offer a guaranteed benefit that is usually based on a percentage of some measure of the employee's income times the number of years that he or she is employed by that government. For example, a plan might pay a monthly benefit equal to 2 percent of the average of the employee's last three years' wages for each year of tenure. In the case of an employee whose average last three years' income equals \$60,000 and who worked for the government entity for 20 years, that formula would equal an annual pension of \$24,000 plus any cost-of-living changes.

There is nothing inherently wrong with a defined-benefit plan if it is responsibly structured and administered. Unfortunately, these plans are complex, and it is very difficult for employees, legislators, or taxpayers to determine if they are fully funded and well man-

aged. Features such as offering benefits at an early age or generous benefit formulas can add to the ultimate cost.

Even if a defined-benefit pension plan's funding ratio is available for review, its calculation depends on accurate predictions of what investments will earn in the future, regular and adequate contributions from the employer and/or the employee, and how long current and future retirees will live and collect benefits. An inaccurate projection for any one of these elements can make the funding ratio meaningless, and unfortunately, it usually takes an impartial expert to detect a problem. Thus, a pension plan could look well funded but in reality face severe financial problems. For example, if a funding ratio is based on projections that the plan will earn 8 percent on its investments, but it is actually likely to earn 6 percent, the plan will end up being underfunded regardless of its ratio.

Who Bears the Risk if a Defined-benefit Pension Plan Runs into Problems?

All pension and retirement savings plans are risky; the only question is who bears the risk. In a retirement savings plan, the individual bears all risk, while in a private-sector defined-benefit pension, most of the risk goes to the employer. If the employer fails, leaving an underfunded pension plan, the risk is divided

between the federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), which insures pension benefits up to a set dollar amount, and the employee for any pension payments above those paid by PBGC.

A state or local government pension plan is different, because the ultimate risk is borne by the taxpayer. The PBGC does not insure state and local government employees' pension plans, so if one of these is poorly managed or the legislature fails to make timely and adequate contributions, that jurisdiction's taxpayers will be expected to pay higher taxes or face reduced services to make up the difference. This is a good reason for taxpayers to be very wary if their state or local government offers its workers a defined-benefit pension plan. At the very least, they should insist on accurate information that reflects the real risks that such a plan faces.

What Role Should Congress Take?

Congress should have little or no role in state and local government employee pension plans. It should not step in and attempt to impose a solution, a model for reform, or a bailout of severely troubled states. Just as states and local governments created the public pension problems they now face, it should also be their responsibility to deal with these situations. Even with the best inten-

tions, it would be fairly easy for a reform plan to end up including a full or partial bailout as an incentive for states to act.

Besides, data from the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) show that federal action does not appear to be necessary. While the Senate Finance Committee Minority's report points out that a default or insolvency by a major state would have a negative effect on the national economy, NCSL data show that more and more states are taking actions that will reduce their underfunding. The states should be left to continue their efforts, prompted by pressure from taxpayers and the bond markets.

Congress should ensure that state and local government bond issues sold in national markets include a full and accurate disclosure of the risks, especially if any underfunded public pension programs might damage the issuing jurisdiction's ability to repay its debts as scheduled. Otherwise, Congress should remain watchful but refrain from action.

David C. John is Senior Research Fellow in Retirement Security and Financial Institutions in the Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation.

Marie A. Roberts

Marie A. Roberts, age 73, of Manhattan, Kansas, died Friday morning, January 13, 2012, at the Mercy Regional Health Center.

She was born on July 27, 1938, in Fairmont, Illinois, the daughter of John A. and Elizabeth (Toth) Czmarko.

Marie was raised in Fairmont where she attended Catholic schools, graduating from St. Theresa's Academy in 1956.

On November 27, 1958, in

Fairmont, Illinois she was united in marriage to Charles "Bud" Roberts. They made their home in Manhattan.

Marie was a member of the Vineyard Community Church in Manhattan, active in the community and enjoyed spending time with her family and friends.

She is survived by her husband, Charles "Bud" Roberts. Also surviving are three children: Mark Roberts and his wife Laurie of Wamego,

Kansas; Cynthia Newell of Manhattan, Kansas; and Pamela and her husband Matthew Brodie of Naples, Florida. Ten grandchildren and ten great grandchildren also survive.

Marie was preceded in death by her parents and by her only brother, John Czmarko, II.

Memorial services were held Monday, January 16, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Chapel with her son, Pastor

Mark Roberts officiating. The family received friends during a visitation from 10:00 a.m. until service time and following the service. Cremation is planned with private inurnment to be held at a later date in the Ashland Cemetery.

On-line condolences may be left for the family through the funeral home website located at www.ymlfuneralhome.com.

Memorials have been established for the Dispensary of Hope. Contributions may be

left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

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Tyrel Lee "Tye" Dieball

Tyrel Lee "Tye" Dieball, age 29, of Manhattan, died January 11, 2012, at his residence.

He was born June 21, 1982, in Arkansas City, Kansas, the son of Marc Paul and Mary Katherine (Haden) Dieball, and had been a lifetime area resident.

Tye attended Wamego and Blue Valley High Schools. He was a member of Labor Union # 1290 and was a laborer in construction and licensed for

asbestos abatement. He worked for R.M. Baril General Contractors and Associated Insulation.

He loved to hunt, fish, camp, bowl, build and participate in demolition derby's, and spend time with his friends.

Tye is survived by his parents of Leonardville; one brother, Billy Dieball and his companion Courtney Cale of Junction City; grandparents: Ray and Betty Dieball of

Manhattan, and Bill and Ruth Haden of Wamego; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Memorial services were held at 10:00 A.M. Wednesday, January 18th, at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Chapel with Shane Valentine officiating.

The family received friends from 7:00 until 8:00 P.M. Tuesday at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral

Home.

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

Memorial contributions may be made to the Terry C. Johnson Center for Basic Cancer Research. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502.

Patricia Joyce Wheeler Geyer



Patricia Joyce Wheeler Geyer, age 73, died Monday January 9, 2012 at the Good Shepherd Hospice House, Manhattan, Kansas.

She was born on March 12, 1938 in Chicago, Illinois. Patti graduated from Amundsen High School in 1955 and the

Grant School of Nursing, Chicago, ILL as a registered nurse in 1959.

She met her future husband of 51 years, Wayne Geyer, at a dance and they were married on August 20, 1960 in Forest Park, ILL. This union was blessed with three children: Laura, Keith and Kevin.

Patti loved the LORD and telling people about HIM. She loved the congregation of the First Assembly of God and the many Bible study lessons for the past 18 years. She was a member of the First Lutheran Church from 1966 until 1993.

She was preceded in death by her mother: Genevieve Wheeler, her beloved daughter: Laura A. Geyer on September 9, 1967 and a sister: Nancy

Berndt.

Survivors include her husband: Wayne of the home; 2 sons: Keith A. Geyer and his wife Julie and their children Nicholas and Gwen of Aurora, CO and Kevin W. Geyer of Wichita, Kansas; a sister: Margot Eckman of Livermore, CA. She is also survived by her sister-in-law: Beville Geyer Vertuno and her husband Edward of Tallahassee, FL and their two sons; a brother-in-law: Ted Berndt and sons and many nieces, nephews and many friends.

Funeral Services were at 1:30 p.m. on Friday January 13, 2012 at the First Assembly of God, Manhattan, KS with Pastor Ed Walker officiating. The family invites friends to a

luncheon at noon on Friday at the Church prior to the services. Private interment will be in the Kansas Veterans Cemetery, Fort Riley, Kansas.

The family received friends from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. on Thursday January 12, 2012 at the First Assembly of God Church, 231 Candlewood Drive, Manhattan, Kansas.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society or to the First Assembly of God 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.

Larry C. Lewellen

Larry C. Lewellen, age 71, of Manhattan, died Monday, January 9, 2012 at the Stoneybrook Retirement Community in Manhattan.

He was born on July 11, 1940 in Wichita, Kansas the son of Russell and Faye (Cooper) Lewellen. Larry joined the United States Army after high school. He served in the Vietnam Conflict. He retired from the Army after serving 26 years.

On October 1, 1963 in Park City, Kansas he was united to marriage to Linda Kirchner in the Park City Christian Church. She survives of the home.

After retirement from the Army, Larry drove trucks for many different local companies. He enjoyed his job driving the large trucks. He also helped his brother, Rex, in the carnival business that Rex

owns. Larry enjoyed working on cars, being outdoors, drinking coffee, and having BBQ's with friends and family.

Larry was a member of the VFW, the American Legion, and the Eagles Lodge. He was also a member of the 40 & 8 club. He loved people and his family. Larry always went to the club or lodge to be around others and visit. He was also a member of the Ogden Bible Church.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Don Lewellen.

Survivors include his children: Glenn Lewellen, of Eskridge, Kansas and Julie Lewellen-Porter and her husband David of Ogden, Kansas. He is also survived by his brother: Rex Lewellen and his wife Delores and their two children David Lewellen and

Susan Lewellen and her husband Robert Little, all of Andover, Kansas; his nephew Russ Lewellen and his wife Sharon and their children: Heather, Megan, and Blake of Minnetonka, Minnesota. Additional survivors include his aunt Virginia Hamilton of Topeka, Kansas, a sister-in-law, Evelyn Riffle, of Moore, Oklahoma; two grandchildren: David Wayne Porter II and his wife Anita, of Ogden, Kansas, and Joshua Lee Porter, of St. Louis, Missouri, a great-grandchild, David Wayne Porter III, and also his many friends.

Funeral services for Mr. Lewellen were held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Chapel, with the Rev. Patricia Cassinelli officiating. Interment with full military honors will follow in

the Kansas Veterans Cemetery at Fort Riley.

The family greeted friends during a visitation on Tuesday at the funeral home from 9:30 a.m. until service time.

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

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions are suggested to the Alzheimer's Association. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

Richard Luther Allen, Jr.



Richard Luther Allen, Jr., 72, of Manhattan, died Sunday, January 8th, at Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center in Topeka. He was retired from the City of Manhattan after 13 years, and Kansas State University after 18 years as a truck driver.

Richard Allen was born in Washington D.C., on June 18, 1939, the son of the late Tessie

Lee (Scott) and Richard L. Allen, Sr. and has been a resident since 1969. Richard was married on September 7, 1971 in Manhattan to Rosie L. (Lindsey) Allen and she preceded him in death. He was a member of the American Legion, 40 & 8, VFW Post #1786, and the Eagles Lodge all of Manhattan. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam and Korean Wars, and received his GED through the U.S. Army in Washington D.C.

Richard is survived by a stepson, Sidney Brown, of Manhattan; a stepdaughter, Kim Dekalb, of Junction City; and a son, Kevin W. Deon; three sisters, Freddiree Scott, of Washington D.C.;

Mecketa Crawford, of Washington D.C.; Francine Crawford, of Washington D.C.; two brothers, Floyd Crawford and Charles Crawford both of Washington D.C., he is also survived by 28 step-grandchildren, and 12 step-great grandchildren. Richard was preceded in death by his wife, parents and one brother, Eugene Allen.

A graveside service was conducted at the Sunrise Cemetery on Friday, January 13th, at 2:00 p.m. Friends were invited to call at the Irvin-Parkview Funeral Home & Cremation on Thursday from 9:00 am to 8:00 p.m.

To send an email condolence or for more information visit www.irvinparkview.com

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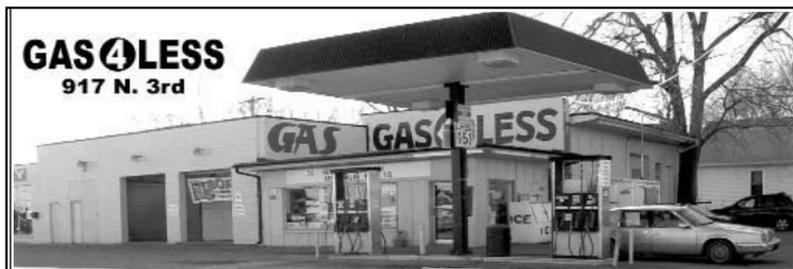
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Business Execs Laud New Kansas Tax Plan, But Ag Leaders Seek More Details

By Gene Meyer
Kansas Reporter

TOPEKA — Business owner Ken Daniel, of Topeka, was beaming Thursday as he listened to members of Gov. Sam Brownback's cabinet explain to lawmakers details of the administration's latest tax and budget plans.

"I'm really happy with the tax plan," said Daniel, chairman of Midway Wholesale, a building materials distributor, and part owner of various other local small businesses.

"Most of my businesses are subchapter S corporations or partnerships," Daniel said.

In subchapter S corporations or partnerships, business profits are taxed as part of the owners' personal income. Subchapter S corporations, which are much smaller than large publicly held regular corporations, are named after the section of IRS tax codes that defines them.

Both business classifications, along with sole proprietorships and mom and pop stores, would receive a significant tax break under Brownback's proposal.

The highest rate charged on their personal incomes would be cut 24 percent — to 4.9 percent from Kansas' 6.45 percent top personal income tax rate. And much of the non-wage business income these owners report on federal tax returns would not be taxed at all on their state returns.

"We're smiling, too," said Dan Murray, head of Kansas'

chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business, the nation's largest advocate for small business.

"Small businesses account for 97 percent of the state's employers, and nearly 75 percent choose a pass-through business structure," such as a partnership or subchapter S corporation, Murray said.

"The bottom line is that eliminating the income tax would help small business owners and encourage spending, which would only help our economy," Murray said. "We think this is terrific."

But representatives of a significant bloc of Kansas business owners — farmers and ranchers — offered a more subdued evaluation.

"Like a lot of folks, we're still looking for more details," said Brad Harrelson, assistant government relations director for Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm organization.

"I'm particularly intrigued by what looks like the tax rate on non-wage income going to zero," Harrelson said. "I don't think that is insignificant to the folks we represent."

Farmers and ranchers will be watching to see what happens to property taxes — the biggest potential tax exposure for many — under the plan.

"We agree that Kansas needs a more favorable and simpler tax system, but we want to be sure that it won't come at the expense of property owners,"

Harrelson said.

Donn Teske, president of the Kansas Farmers Union, the state's second largest farm group, said in addition to property tax exposures, many farmers and ranchers want to see what eliminating tax credits and deductions to simplify the state's tax code will mean for tax breaks on production equipment and other expenses.

"Many of the things we used aren't taxed now, and when they start messing with that, we get nervous," Teske said.

But Wichita certified public accountant Gary Allerheiligen, who watches tax issues on behalf the Kansas Society of Certified Public Accountants, a professional organization, said similar qualms by small business owners are misplaced.

"This is a bold plan that goes beyond anything I've seen in any other state," Allerheiligen said. "If you have rental income, it won't be taxed. If you have an interest in an oil or gas well, it won't be taxed."

Administration officials predict the plan will produce a jolt of economic activity, bring more businesses to the state and generate enough sales and consumption tax income to offset reduced income taxes. So, Allerheiligen said, losing a tangle of specific small business tax credits would be manageable.

"You don't need the credit if you don't owe the taxes," he said.

Wade Stroda Wins Gold at Kansas Junior Olympic Qualifier



Larry Richardson, Wichita BB Gun Coach, congratulates Wade Stroda, Manhattan, on winning the gold medal in the Kansas Junior Olympic Qualifier in Indoor 50 foot Small Bore Rifle Match January 14, 2012 at St. Johns Military School, Salina. Stroda scored 534 points in the three position match on the USA 50 target. The match was shot at 50 foot indoor with 20 shots in prone, 20 shots in standing and 20 shots in kneeling. Wade is now eligible to participate in the USA Shooting Junior Olympics in Small Bore Rifle. (Photo courtesy of Sally Stroda)

“The Benders” Come To Waterville Opera House

The Waterville Opera House and the Weaver Hotel will team up on Saturday, February 11, 2012 to provide an evening of dining enjoyment and entertainment in Waterville, Kansas. There will be a Valentine's Dinner, followed with a performance by the "The Benders" a 50s& 60s Rock Band from Wichita, Kansas.

Drummer and vocalist Byron Brewer first fronted "The Benders" on Oct. 28, 1985. Coincidentally, that was also the time of his most recent haircut. As the leader of "The Benders"

Byron often claims that his hair is more popular than he is.

Joining Byron in the four-man group that produces melodious 50s and 60s show tunes are saxophonist / vocalist Kevin May, guitarist / vocalist Johnny Cruz fresh from a 4 year vacation, and Bassist Larry "Campy" Campanello.

May, who has been playing both guitar and saxophone for over 40 years, grew up in Wichita and attended Wichita State University, where he studied music. May went on to teach at Wichita State before

joining "The Benders" in 1990.

In 1998, May left "The Benders" for a gig with the internationally acclaimed group "Roomful of blues." As a member of that group, May was able to perform with artists such as Ray Charles, Ike Turner, and The Blues Brothers Band. A desire to raise his family in the Wichita brought Kevin back to the Midwest in 1999, and he re-joined "The Benders" in 2003.

Guitarist Cruz is a Law enforcement officer when not rocking and after a 4 year

retirement brings back to the stage his polished vocal and guitar skills.

Rounding out The Benders is Bassist Larry "Campy" Campanello. Recently re-joining the band after a two year "vacation" Campy brings his unique bass, vocal and fashion flare to the band in addition to the often imitated but never duplicated "Campy Shuffle"

One of the most common questions besides "Is that your real hair?" is how the group gets its name, "The Benders". This is a question, the group

says, that has a combination of answers, one gruesome and one logical.

The unique answer to that question is that one day when looking for a group name, the men stumbled across a newspaper clipping that told of a family in Southeastern Kansas with the last name of Benders. As the story goes, the Benders family set up a restaurant and were suspected of murdering some of their diners.

Making a long story short, the men combined the fact that many of the great bands from

the 1950s used the naming format of "The _____," and the story they found about the Benders in the mid-nineteenth century, to come up with the benders.

For more information about how "The Benders" came to be check, out their web site www.thebenders.net were you will find a complete line of Benders merchandise including CD's, clothing, and more.

Call the Weaver Hotel at 785-363-2515 for more information.

28 COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS SHARE \$46,200 IN GRANTS

Twenty-eight primary care and community health centers providing care for underserved Kansans shared \$46,200 in year-end grants from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation, according to Marlou Wegener, chief operating officer of the Foundation. Each clinic received a grant of \$1,650.

of the important work these clinics do in the communities they serve, the Foundation is providing each with \$1,650 in the hope that the funds will help them continue to provide crucial health care services to the Kansans who rely on them."

The 28 clinics that received grants are:

- Agape Health Clinic, Pratt
- Atchison Community Health Clinic, Atchison
- Center for Health &

Wellness, Wichita

•Cheyenne County Clinic, St. Francis

•Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, Pittsburg

•Community Health Ministry Clinic, Wamego

•Douglas County Dental Clinic, Lawrence

•E.C. Tyree Health & Dental Clinic, Wichita

•First Care Clinic, Hays

•Flint Hills Community Clinic, Manhattan

•Flint Hills Community Health Center, Emporia

•GraceMed Health Clinic, Wichita

•Greeley County Health Services, Sharon Springs

•Guadalupe Clinic, Wichita

•Health Care Access, Lawrence

•Health Ministries Clinic, Newton

•Heart of Kansas Family Health Care, Great Bend

•Heartland Community Health Center, Lawrence

•Hunter Health Clinic, Wichita

•Konza Prairie Community Health Center, Junction City

•Marian Clinic, Topeka

•Mercy Health Systems: Arma, Cherryvale and Mercy Medical Clinic of Linn County, Cherryvale

•PrairieStar Health Center, Hutchinson

•Rawlins County Dental Clinic, Rawlins

•Riley County Community Health Center, Manhattan

•St. Vincent Clinic, Leavenworth

•Salina Family Healthcare Center, Salina

•United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries, Garden City

Heritage, FRC Set Bus Tour to ‘Save Dream’

WASHINGTON, JAN. 16, 2012 --The Heritage Foundation and Family Research Council, two leading public policy organizations, are hitting the road together on a bus tour designed to tell Americans about practical, conservative solutions to the most critical issues confronting the nation.

Heritage will emphasize restoring fiscal responsibility through its "Saving the American Dream" plan and FRC will stress critical values issues during their joint voter education and registration campaign, expected to continue until the Nov. 6 presidential election.

With a banner proclaiming "Your Money, Your Values, Your Vote," the custom-jacketed Values Bus will roll into Charleston, S.C., for its first event at 9:30 a.m. Thursday,

Jan. 19, outside TD Arena at the College of Charleston.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is scheduled to welcome the Values Bus to her state and make remarks. Other speakers will include Heritage President Ed Feulner and FRC President Tony Perkins.

"We'll be saving the American Dream one bus stop at a time," Feulner said. "Right now, our nation is on the wrong path. If nothing is done, our children and grandchildren will experience not liberty and prosperity, but more crushing debt, higher taxes and job-killing regulations."

This first stop on the "Your Money, Your Values, Your Vote 2012" tour coincides with a meeting of the Southern Republican Leadership Conference and the presidential candidates debate that night sponsored by the SRLC and

CNN at North Charleston Coliseum in advance of the South Carolina primary the following Saturday.

Early stops elsewhere by the Values Bus include Jan. 20 in West Palm Beach and Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Jan. 23 and Feb. 9 in Washington, D.C.; Jan. 26 in St. Louis, Mo.; and Feb. 16 in Nashville, Tenn.

The 15-foot-tall, 45-foot-long Values Bus, an MCI J4500 coach that was a CBS Sports bus in a previous fitting, is owned and operated by Champion Coach of Greenville, S.C. The bus sports high-speed wireless Internet, flat-screen TVs and a satellite feed to maximize interactivity at stops along the way.

Perkins said today: "This tour will speak to the views held by millions of American voters who want to see the next president address the values

issues which include restoring fiscal sanity, protecting marriage, safeguarding religious liberty and protecting the rights of the unborn."

Feulner said Heritage hopes to acquaint millions of Americans with "Saving the American Dream," the prominent think tank's detailed plan to fix the debt, cut spending and restore prosperity.

He added: "Heritage and FRC make perfect partners in bringing time-honored common sense on indivisible economic and social issues to busy, everyday Americans who want to leave a stronger nation, not a weaker one, to their children and grandchildren."

At minimum, the Values Bus stops will help local residents get more informed and register to vote. Some stops will feature prominent local public officials and business and religious

leaders. Others will be full-blown events headlined by state and national figures such as Haley.

In coming months, the nationwide itinerary is expect-

ed to include Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

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Letters to Tom: *March Madness*

This is not about basketball; I wish it was. Fake Patty's Day is less than two months away. Fake Patty's Day, a day of partying in and around Aggieville, has been "celebrated" since 2006. According to the Kansas State Collegian, the holiday was developed by the manager of an Aggieville bar and grill and an employee who happened to be the underwriting director at KSDB FM 91.9. According to the Collegian, Fake Patty's Day was invented to give students a chance to experience the atmosphere that a Manhattan St. Patrick's Day has to offer before students leave town for spring break, when the holiday usually occurs. What began as a relatively harmless way to provide students with a chance to blow off steam and socialize has become an out of control celebration of binge drinking and bad behavior.



Mike Kryschal

live in a college town, get over it". Others look at it as a positive development, evidence that Manhattan is becoming more sophisticated -- "Congrats Midwest. You've caught up to what the west coast has been doing for years. I went to K-State, grew up in a small town in Kansas, but moved as soon as I had the chance." Nonsense! Breaking the law is never a positive development. Those who choose to celebrate Fake Patty's Day are welcome to do so, as long as their celebrations do not descend into criminal behavior and/or infringe on the rights of others. It also costs you and me, the taxpayer, a lot of money -- last year's bill was over \$50,000 - money that could be better spent. Government exists to safeguard those they govern. It's time to get this under control before someone gets hurt.

Just how to get Fake Patty's Day under control is the challenge confronting our city government. Suggested solutions range from strict enforcement of overcrowding in Aggieville establishments, cordoning off Aggieville and charging admission, to converting it to an organized festival. Any of these might work but it is imperative that our commis-

sion, working with the stakeholders - Aggieville, Kansas State University, residents, and affected government agencies - arrive at a plan that can be executed this year. The City Commission Agenda Memo on Preparation for 2012 Fake Patty's Day mentioned that last year Fort Riley had assigned leader non-commissioned officers (sergeants!) to circulate in Aggieville to assist with issues involving Fort Riley soldiers. This is outstanding and is something that Kansas State University should consider doing this year. Last year the K-State administration and the Student Government Association sent targeted messages to students before the event to encourage appropriate behavior. SafeRide hours were also extended. HandsOn Kansas State and the Manhattan Good Neighbors program organized a student volunteer clean-up event on Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon. These are helpful, but nothing can replace the effect of having educators (yes, even tenured professors) and members of the K-State Student Government on hand to help calm the situation. It's part of leadership. The Aggieville business community could also help by voluntarily limiting the hours that they sell alcoholic beverages. Opening the bar at nine o'clock in the morning guarantees binge drinking and bad behavior. It might cost them some short term income, but it could help them avoid something worse.

One obstacle to resolution is that no one outside of city government and the Riley County Police Department is willing to

step forward and take responsibility for doing something about Fake Patty's Day. In the 2009 Collegian Article, the manager of an Aggieville establishment and a person associated with the university's radio station took credit for coming up with the idea of Fake Patty's Day. In 2010, an ad for the event was posted on the Aggieville Business Association's web page announcing that Fake Patty's Day would be hosted by The Wildcat KSDB, 91.9. Today, no one owns the event. Funny how that works. I have to give our city government, both the city staff and our commission, credit -- they are trying to get this under control. Unfortunately their authority is limited and time is not on their side. Fake Patty's Day 2010 was bad, 2011 was worse, 2012 might be tragic.

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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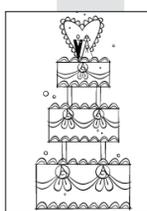
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Flint Hills Christian School Wins Scholar Bowl at Council Grove

Saturday morning, January 5, began with 20 high school scholar bowl teams looking to claim victory at Council Grove, but ended with Flint Hills Christian School, Manhattan, on top.

language phrases into English. Coach Mervin Bitikofer says, "Many of the questions required them to draw on knowledge recently covered in their classes."

The only loss in the competition was to Remington by one question. However, several rounds were won by only one question; and in one case a tie-breaker question was needed to determine a winner. When Remington lost in two other rounds, it was clear FHCS would win the tournament. Manhattan High School came in second, Remington took third, and Riley County was

fourth. Coach Bitikofer says, "They worked together well as a team, capitalizing on each others' strengths. But few things make me prouder as a coach than to observe the many times they are able to celebrate the talents of each other and even of other teams that competed well and even beat us. That is what really makes them winners - with or without medals or top placings. To God be the glory!"

The varsity team competed in only 4 meets this year, but coach Bitikofer says even though they are not part of an

official league, they are invited to more meets every year because of the reputation they have for being good competitors. However, because of time and money they cannot compete in every one.

In their first meet earlier this season, Junior Varsity Scholar Bowl, which involves the same underclassmen, took first place at the tournament at Cair Paravel Latin School in Topeka.

Flint Hills also has a Junior High Scholar Bowl Team under the direction of Richard Brusk. They will compete until March.

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Pawnee Awarded Grant by Tower Mental Health Foundation

Pawnee Mental Health Services was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$21,903 by the Tower Mental Health Foundation, Topeka for

the purchase of a security system for its Junction City Office.

"While our office security system has served its function

well, it has become antiquated and obsolete over the years," said Robbin Cole, Pawnee Executive Director. "This generous gift from the Tower

Mental Health Foundation provides us with the opportunity to upgrade our system so that services are delivered in a secure environment."

Pawnee Mental Health Services is a licensed community mental health center and licensed substance abuse treat-

ment center serving more than 7,700 people annually.

Sovereign Debt Crisis Threatens Europe's Economic Freedom

WASHINGTON, JAN. 12, 2012—Traditionally strong showings in property rights, freedom from corruption and business and trade freedom helped Europe post another year of strong scores in the 2012 Index of Economic Freedom, published annually by The Wall Street Journal and The Heritage Foundation.

But Europe is slipping in many ways, the Index's editors cautioned, and trouble lies ahead if European governments don't address their spending crises. Already, Europe ranks last among six regions in the world in fiscal freedom and government spending.

"The region has been undergoing tumultuous and uncertain times epitomized by the ongoing sovereign debt crisis," Index editors wrote. "Europe's overall economic freedom rating is seriously undermined by weak scores in the management of government spending."

Launched in 1995, the Index evaluates countries in four broad areas of economic freedom: rule of law; regulatory efficiency; limited government; and open markets. Based on its aggregate score, each of 179 countries was classified as "free" (i.e. combined scores of 80 or higher); "mostly free" (70-79.9); "moderately free" (60-69.9); "mostly unfree" (50-59.9); or "repressed" (under 50).

Of the region's 43 countries, 80 percent of the economies rank as "moderately free" or "mostly free." Nine economies rank among the world's 20 freest.

Switzerland's economy is rated as free and it ranks fifth in the world. Ireland is ninth. Great Britain climbed back into the Top 15 after implementing austerity measures and tax cuts, and Iceland returned to the "mostly free" category with a

gain of 2.7 points — the third-largest score increase in the world.

But Greece — where a sovereign debt crisis rages — dropped 4.9 points, the largest score decline in the world, to fall into the "mostly unfree" category. And Ireland, Denmark, Luxembourg, Estonia, Finland, Cyprus, Norway and Slovakia all fell by 1.5 points or more.

For now, the continent seems on solid ground in many areas of economic freedom. Europe exceeds the world average in seven of 10 categories. It is 15 points ahead in property rights and freedom from corruption and 10 points ahead in business and trade freedom.

Overall, only five countries in the world were classified as "free." A total of 23 were rated "mostly free," 62 "moderately free" and 89 "mostly unfree" or "repressed."

The world average score for economic freedom dipped to 59.5, a drop of two-tenths of a point, and the second-lowest score of the past 10 years. Scores improved for 75 of the 179 countries rated and declined for 90. Scores for 14 others stayed the same.

Index results continued to demonstrate that when countries adopt policies leading to high scores, they also enjoy prosperity and economic security. In the United Nations' assessment of what it calls poverty intensity, "mostly free" and "moderately free" countries perform three times better than "mostly unfree" and "repressed" countries.

The freest countries in each region have per-capita incomes far higher than the least free. The top one-fifth of countries in the Index grew at an average rate of 3.7 percent. The bottom fifth grew 2.1 percent.

The 2012 Index was edited by Ambassador Terry Miller, director of Heritage's Center for International Trade and Economics; Kim Holmes, Ph.D., Heritage's vice president for foreign policy studies and director of the Davis Institute for International Studies; and Edwin J. Feulner, Ph.D., Heritage's president. Copies of the Index (484 pages, \$24.95) may be ordered online at www.heritage.org/index or by calling 1-800-975-8625. The full text, including charts and graphs, is available online.

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The Heritage Foundation is the nation's most broadly supported public policy research institute, with more than 710,000 individual, foundation and corporate donors. Founded in 1973, Heritage develops public policy solutions that advance free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional values and a strong national defense.

Regs, Spending Sink U.S. to 10th Place on Index of Economic Freedom

WASHINGTON, JAN. 12, 2012—Sharp increases in government spending and more costly regulations contributed to another decline in the United States' ranking in the annual Index of Economic Freedom published by The Wall Street Journal and The Heritage Foundation.

A growing sense that policy-makers put special interests above the public interest also was a factor as the U.S. score for economic freedom dropped by 1.5 points in the 2012 Index, to 76.3 on a 0-100 scale. When compared to its competitors, the U.S. ranking fell from ninth to 10th among 179 countries.

It was the fourth straight year of decline on the Index for the United States. As recently as 2008, the U.S. ranked seventh worldwide, earned a score of 81 and was considered a "free" economy. Today, the U.S. is only a "mostly free" economy, placing it in the Index's second-highest category.

The United States continues to score far above the world average of 59.5 and the regional average of 73.8. It also remains in second place among the three countries in the North America region — ahead of Mexico but behind Canada.

For the 18th straight year, the

Index ranked Hong Kong as the world's freest economy. Its score of 89.9, a slight improvement over 2011, was enough to outdistance runner-up Singapore by more than two points. Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Canada, Chile, Mauritius and Ireland also were ranked above the United States.

Launched in 1995, the Index evaluates countries in four broad areas of economic freedom: rule of law; regulatory efficiency; limited government; and open markets. Based on its aggregate score, each of 179 countries was classified as "free" (i.e. combined scores of 80 or higher); "mostly free" (70-79.9); "moderately free" (60-69.9); "mostly unfree" (50-59.9); or "repressed" (under 50).

The U.S. drop of 1.5 points fueled a regional decrease for North America of 1.3 points, the largest decline among six regions in the world. North America also was the only region in which every country registered a decline in economic freedom. Canada slipped from "free" into the "mostly free" category, and Mexico lost ground in six of 10 measures.

The Index's editors attributed about half the U.S. decline to increases in government spending and another third to

the explosive growth of intrusive regulations, particularly in health care and finance.

The United States now ranks 127th in the world in government spending. Spending by government consumes 42.2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), and total public debt now is larger than the entire economy. The U.S. tax structure — which leans heavily on taxes on capital and investment that restrict growth — also contributed to the falling scores.

The regulatory burden continues to grow and hinder the economic recovery, the editors noted. More than 70 major rules imposed since 2009 cost Americans nearly \$40 billion last year. These factors led to a loss of five full points — the largest U.S. decline in any category. As a result, the U.S. placed 133rd in the world in fiscal freedom.

Perhaps most worrisome, however, is the four tenths of a point drop in the category of freedom from corruption. Index editors said this stems from both the growing perception of corruption in government bailouts of troubled industries, including automakers and investment houses, and regulatory exemptions granted to politically well-connected

companies and special-interest groups. More than 1,100 companies won exemptions from provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, President Obama's signature health care legislation.

"Corruption is a growing concern as the cronyism and economic rent-seeking associated with the growth of government have undermined institutional integrity," the editors wrote.

The United States continues to enjoy the best score in the world on labor freedom — 95.8. Its trade scores were unchanged. Improvement in trade is difficult because of "Buy America" restrictions and other legislative measures, the editors said.

The U.S. scores reflect broad global trends. Worldwide, overall scores for economic freedom slipped from 59.7 to 59.5. Freedom dipped globally in the categories of property rights (-0.2 points), freedom from corruption (-0.1) and trade (-0.3), and climbed in the categories of investment (+0.5), business freedom (+0.4), financial freedom (+0.1) and fiscal freedom (+0.6). The big swings came in monetary freedom (+1) and government spending (-4.1).

Index editors said the poli-

cies needed to improve U.S. scores — lowering taxes, broadening the tax base, curbing rent-seeking — also were critical for bringing down high unemployment rates and reducing public debt to manageable levels.

"Restoring the U.S. economy to the status of a 'free' economy will require significant policy changes to reduce the size of government, overhaul the tax system and transform costly entitlement programs," the editors wrote.

The 2012 Index was edited by Ambassador Terry Miller, director of Heritage's Center for International Trade and Economics; Kim Holmes, Ph.D., Heritage's vice president for foreign policy studies and director of the Davis Institute for International Studies; and Edwin J. Feulner, Ph.D., Heritage's president. Copies of the Index (484 pages, \$24.95) may be ordered online at www.heritage.org/index or by calling 1-800-975-8625. The full text, including charts and graphs, is available online.

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Winter Gardening Fever

Gregg Eyestone
Riley County Extension Agent

These winter temperature swings are creating some fine opportunities to work in the garden. I now have winter garden fever. If this keeps up, it looks like I might be in for a milder case of spring fever.

Pruning is the typical dormant season chore. One can start pruning fruit and ornamental plants. Extension has

many resources to provide best pruning practices. Those are available as publications and videos obtainable at www.ksre.ksu.edu.

I didn't get the memo on this year's winter weather. It is supposed to be cold and snowy. My workshop on pruning fruit trees isn't until March 3 at 1 pm at the UFM building located at 1221 Thurston Street in Manhattan. The ornamental pruning workshop is schedule

for March 10 at the KSU Gardens. It is anyone's guess what the weather will be like on those days.

Removal of unwanted woody plants is the pruning that I'm engaged in at this time. Safety is the most important knowledge to have when removing large plants. I prefer to stick with small plants that a handsaw will cut down. That size of plant will typically sprout if not treated with tri-

coplyr or glyphosate. Read and follow herbicide label directions.

Felling a good size tree takes knowledge and practice. I suggest using a certified arborist to have it done. The medium size tree I needed taken down wasn't near anything it could damage. My teenage son was willing to chop it down. Sometimes you have to take advantage of a situation. I would have used the chainsaw.

The tree came down safely after many swings with an axe. We were hoping to fall it to the north but we could tell that it was more likely going south. Either way was okay. It was just further to carry limbs.

Falling a tree is risky business. There is a publication to learn how it is suppose to be done. Get help if you need it. You won't want to be sidelined once spring fever hits.

If you would like additional

information on a horticulture topic, please contact Gregg Eyestone at the Riley County office of K-State Research and Extension. Gregg may be contacted by calling 537-6350 or stopping by 110 Courthouse Plaza in Manhattan or e-mail: geyeston@ksu.edu and at www.riley.ksu.edu

Obama Proposes New Department of Corporate Welfare

By Tad DeHaven
Cato Institute

Contrary to what various news outlets are reporting, President Obama is NOT proposing to cut government. The administration is proposing to take four independent federal agencies that specialize in corporate welfare — along with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative — and combine them with corporate welfare programs at the Department of

Commerce to form what would I would argue should be called the Department of Corporate Welfare.

According to reports, this rearranging of the deck chairs would save \$300 million a year. That's peanuts. Worse, those alleged savings will be of no consequence to taxpayers as there is nothing to suggest that the president intends to cut overall spending for the agencies comprising the new

bureaucracy. That portends bigger government, not smaller. The president is trying to sell the American taxpayer a false bill of goods.

The president's proposal is also an attempt to counter the perception — an accurate one — that the administration's policies are detrimental to commerce. But corporate welfare is detrimental to commerce because the market distortions it creates hinder economic out-

put. Making it easier for select businesses to help themselves to taxpayer-financed subsidies would only perpetrate the same sort of crony capitalist schemes that gave us Solyndra and the Chevy Volt.

Of course, no transparent attempt to appear "business friendly" would be complete without a bone toss to the Small Business Administration. The "bone" this time is the president's intention to elevate the

head of the SBA to the Cabinet. As I discuss in a Cato essay on the SBA, rather than helping small businesses compete against big businesses, the SBA's loan guarantees mainly help a tiny share of small businesses compete against other small businesses. In reality, the biggest beneficiary of the SBA is the banks, which reap the profits from the loans guaranteed by the agency.

Finally, Republican policy-

makers talk a good game about cutting government, but they often hide behind calls for making the federal government "more efficient." Now that the president has seized a political opportunity to sing from the GOP's hymnal, it'll be interesting — if not entertaining — to see how Republican policymakers respond. To avoid embarrassment, I recommend offering specific spending cuts.

KS Elections Chief Seeks To Speed Up Citizenship Proof Requirement

By Gene Meyer
Kansas Reporter

TOPEKA — The tale of Dorothy Cooper reads like a horror story to opponents of Kansas' tougher new voter-registration requirements.

As reported last October in Tennessee and on the Internet, Cooper, a 96-year-old retired domestic worker who has voted in nearly every election during the past seven decades, was denied a Tennessee voter identification card because she didn't have the proper paperwork.

Cooper had a birth certificate, understandably in her maiden name. But she didn't have a marriage certificate establishing her current identity. The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security turned down her application for a free photo ID that Tennessee, like Kansas, offers voters in lieu of drivers licenses.

"Except that story is not exactly accurate," said Jennifer Donnals, communications director for Tennessee Homeland Security.

"There was some confusion and we could have done more

on the spot to clear it up, like calling the county clerk where she was married and verified the marriage certificate," Donnals said. "But Ms. Cooper now has her ID and can vote in the next presidential election if she chooses."

This election cycle, voters here will be required to bring photo identification to the polls, and a proposal by Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach that — beginning next June — requires new voters to provide proof of their U.S. citizenship when they register. The Secretary of State is Kansas' highest ranking elections officer.

Tighter voter ID requirements "are definitely a good idea," said Dave Cheek, an Overland Park resident who's been following the debate in the news.

"If people who aren't citizens vote, that's bad," Cheek said. "And without voter ID, nothing prevents them from going over into the next county and voting more than once."

Critics of the requirements worry that snafus similar to what happened in Tennessee

will occur here.

Kansas legislators voted for both in 2011, but the law — known as House Bill 2067 — postponed the effective date of the proof of citizenship requirement until Jan. 1, 2013.

Kobach, a Republican who campaigned for his office in 2010 on a platform of fighting voter fraud, is a former University of Missouri-Kansas City law professor known nationally for his work in helping Arizona, Alabama and other state local governments craft legislation designed to help curb illegal immigration.

The secretary's recommendation to speed up the proof of citizenship requirement by about six months, which will be offered to state legislators soon, has nothing to do with immigration policy, said Kay Curtis, communications director for the Secretary of State's Office.

"It's about preventing voter fraud," Curtis said.

Kansas legislators passed the additional safeguards in 2011, and election officials know the changes are coming, so it just makes sense to make them now, she said.

The new ID requirements, in the view of one resident, are no more burdensome than those needed to write checks in retail stores.

"You ought to have to show who you are," said Bob Harsh, a Prairie Village business owner. "It's reasonable to want to have an idea of who you are dealing with."

Speeding the requirements will make running elections simpler, said Brian Newby, head of the Johnson County Election Office, one of state's largest.

"We're all for it," Newby said.

The change would be easier and less confusing than spreading the rules over two years, he said, because both the ID and proof of citizenship requirements would become effective before the 2012 presidential election.

"Voters know the changes are coming, but there will be some confusion about what's happening now and what's happening next year," he said. "It would be far easier to get it all over at once."

State Rep. Ann Mah, D-

Topeka, the highest ranking Democrat on the Kansas House Election Committee and one of the most vocal critics of the proof of citizenship requirement, said moving the requirement six months earlier is unnecessary.

"Despite 41 suspected incidents of voter fraud that the secretary provided when we asked, we can't find records of any prosecution or a single instance of an illegal (alien) trying to vote," Mah said.

New Kansas voters should have little trouble coming up with documents that meet the proof requirements, said Curtis, the secretary of state's communications chief. U.S. passports will suffice, she said. Some 435,000 passports have been issued to Kansas applicants since 2007, according to the U.S. State Department.

Drivers licenses from states that certify the U.S. citizenship of motorists also will work. Kansas is not yet one of the states, but officials are working to integrate the needed technology, as required by a state law passed in 2007, said Jeannine Koranda, the Kansas

Department of Revenue's press secretary.

"We're confident we could meet the June deadline," that Kobach proposed, Koranda said.

In addition, about a dozen different forms of ID, including birth certificates, adoption papers, military and government IDs, would be accepted as sufficient proof. All are listed on a Kansas government website, said state Rep. John Rubin, R-Overland Park, who in 2011 led the floor debate that secured the requirement's passage.

"The law goes out of its way to make sure the process for qualifying to vote is extremely broad," he said.

But what about voters such as Cooper in Tennessee, who become caught in paperwork tangles?

"Passports, birth certificates and many other similar documents should work in most cases," said Gail Goeke, an immigration attorney with the McCrummen Immigration Law Group LLC in Kansas City.

Two Cheers for Ethanol Subsidies Expiring but Costly Mandate Remains

By Nicolas Loris

Two federal policies expired at the close of the year: the federal tax credit for blending ethanol into gasoline and a 54 cent-per-gallon tariff on imported ethanol. A diverse group of fiscal watchdogs, environmentalists, and free-trade proponents all hailed this as a major victory. While the tax credit and tariff expirations are a good start, the real burden on consumers is that producers will continue to blend ethanol into gasoline—because they are federally required to do so.

Ethanol Mandate Still in Effect

Although designed as a temporary tax credit to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, the tax credit for blending ethanol into gasoline has merely wasted taxpayer dollars for decades (an estimated \$45 billion in total and \$6 billion in 2011 alone) while hardly making a dent in meeting America's energy needs. The protectionist tariff, meanwhile, has prevented developing countries from exporting cheaper, more efficiently produced ethanol to the United States.

In 2011, Congress did not extend these and other "tempo-

rary" tax policies. However, the ethanol mandate is still in place. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 contained the first-ever requirement that renewable fuels be mixed into the gasoline supply. The 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act increased the mandate substantially to 36 billion gallons by 2022. Allowing the tax credit and tariff to expire is good for taxpayers and consumers, but to truly drive innovation in the transportation fuel sector, Congress should repeal the renewable-fuel standard and all other subsidies for transportation fuels.

Mandate Artificially and Incorrectly Creates a Market

The fact that the renewable-fuel standard remains intact is largely why the biofuels industry has not been extremely vocal in pushing for the tax credit and tariff extension.[1] Matthew A. Hartwig, a spokesman for the ethanol trade group Renewable Fuels Association, told The New York Times, "We may be the only industry in U.S. history that voluntarily let a subsidy expire. The marketplace has evolved. The tax incentive is less necessary now than it was just two years ago. Ethanol is

10 percent of the nation's gasoline supply." [2] The mandate continues to provide a guaranteed market for their product.

That is, if the producers can actually make the ethanol—which has not been the case with cellulosic ethanol made primarily from non-food sources such as wood chips, switchgrass, or corn stover. The 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) mandated that 250 million gallons come from cellulosic ethanol in 2011.[3] increasing to 500 million gallons for this year. Thus far, zero gallons have been produced, because no companies have been able to produce commercially viable cellulosic ethanol. As a result, refiners had to pay more than \$6 million in waiver credits or surcharges to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) minimum volume requirements.[4] Undoubtedly, refiners then pass these costs on to the consumers.

The EPA ratcheted down its goal for cellulosic biofuel production in 2012 to 8.65 million gallons—less than 2 percent of the original goal. The fact that cellulosic ethanol production is nowhere near providing indus-

trial-scale quantities of fuel demonstrates the government's inability to determine what is commercially viable and beneficial for consumers.

Ethanol's Unintended Environmental Consequences

Politicians cause numerous unintended consequences when they interfere with the free market. In this case, ethanol production actually produced more carbon dioxide, despite its supporters' praising ethanol as a way to reduce such emissions.

Many environmental organizations have raised concerns about the increased inputs of energy, pesticides, and fertilizer needed to grow more corn for ethanol production. A recent report from Rice University notes that after accounting for land use conversion, the use of fertilizers, insecticides, and pesticides, as well as the fossil fuels used for production and distribution, biofuel production becomes quite carbon-intensive.[5] To grow corn, farmers must plow more land, and more land plowed means not only less area for trees but also the release of carbon dioxide stored in trees, plants, and soil.[6]

Removing Subsidies Will Drive Competition

Subsidies take away the incentive to innovate and lower costs. They promote business models geared more toward gaining favor with politicians than delivering a product that is competitive and valued in the market. The result is that subsidized industries quickly become dependent on government. At that point, long-term competitiveness becomes secondary to near-term survival, which is generally conditioned on more handouts. It sets a precedent for other industries to clamor for handouts as well, further distorting the market.

If biofuels or other transportation fuels are to succeed as a competitive fuel source, legislation should not be necessary to mandate their production or consumption. Rather than catering to special interest groups' demands for handouts and protection, removing subsidies would save taxpayers billions and encourage competition to provide low-cost fuel, ultimately benefiting consumers.

The cellulosic ethanol debacle is exhibit A in the case against government directing taxpayer money toward or cre-

ating mandates for any transportation fuel, whether it is wood chips, corn, natural gas, propane, electricity, or oil. There is an exceptionally large demand, not just in the United States but all over the world, for transportation fuels. The technologies that can produce them in a cost-effective and efficient manner will not only be very lucrative but they will also benefit consumers and the economy. Price signals and an economic system that promotes risk-taking and entrepreneurial activity will do much more for consumers than the government picking winners and losers.

Time to Repeal the Mandate

Allowing the ethanol production tax credit and 54 cent-per-gallon tariff to expire are long overdue steps to removing market distortions from the energy sector. This will save taxpayers money and allow for more competition, but there is more to be done. Congress should repeal the ethanol mandate and eliminate targeted tax credits for all transportation fuels and technologies. This will continue to drive America's energy policy in the right direction.

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Free Press Big 12 Sports

White Leads Wildcats Over Tigers

KSU Sports Information

MANHATTAN, Kan. — A career-night by Mariah White sparked Kansas State to its first 3-0 league start since the 2007-08 season, as K-State defeated Missouri 72-46 on Wednesday in Bramlage Coliseum.

White led the Wildcats with a career-high 23 points surpassing her previous career best of 17 against St. John's last season. The guard shot a sizzling 5-of-7 from beyond the arc. White had made just four 3-pointers her entire career entering Wednesday's contest with the Tigers. She also helped create points for her teammates with eight assists.

K-State (12-3, 3-0 Big 12) also saw JuliAnne Chisholm increase her role on the team against Missouri (10-4, 0-3) as she posted a career-high 10 points and made the Tigers pay for leaving her room on the perimeter as she shot 2-of-2 from long range. Brittany Chambers also reached double digits with 14 points on the night hitting four 3-pointers.

Missouri (10-4, 0-3) struggled on offense shooting just 36.2 percent (17-of-47) as a team. Three Tigers did reach double digits led by forward Christine Flores with 13. BreAnna Brock and Sydney

Crafton each added 11 points for Missouri, but the Tigers turned the ball over too much against the Wildcats.

The Wildcats were able to score in transition as they converted 18 Missouri turnovers into 24 K-State points including eight fast break points. Missouri on the other hand only tallied two points off of seven K-State turnovers. The Wildcats never trailed in the game, and the score was tied only once.

Kansas State jumped out to an early 17-6 lead, as White and Chambers recorded consecutive three-pointers to cap a 15-4 run. Missouri cut the deficit to four, 22-18, with an 8-2 run capped by a Flores layup with 8:03 to play forcing a K-State timeout. Out of the timeout, White hit her third 3-point field goal of the half to boost the K-State advantage back to seven, 25-18.

The Wildcats were able to close out the first half on a 15-6 run, as Chambers tallied eight points to close out the stanza. Chambers registered 14 points, while White added 13. K-State was 15-of-34 from the field in the first half, including 7-of-15 from beyond the arc. The Wildcats forced the Tigers into 10 turnovers which included

three steals. K-State continued its run into the second half, as the Wildcats jumped to a 52-30

advantage with a 15-6 run with 13:05 to play. White sparked the charge with her fourth 3-pointer and a layup.



Jalana Childs (33) drives past the Missouri defense. (Photo by Tonya Ricklefs)

Sooners Slip by No. 23/22 Wildcats

KSU Sports Information

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Led by 31 points from Aaryn Ellenberg, Oklahoma halted No. 23/22 Kansas State's eight-game home court winning streak on Tuesday night, 63-57, in Bramlage Coliseum.

The Wildcats suffered their first league defeat this season and are 4-1 in Big 12 play and 13-4 overall. Oklahoma improves to 11-5 overall and 3-2 in the Big 12.

K-State was led by seniors Tasha Dickey and Jalana Childs with 18 and 16 points, respectively. With her 16 points on Tuesday, Childs surpassed the 1,000-point mark for her career (1,008) and is the 38th player in school history to reach the mark and the second this season (Brittany Chambers).

In addition to her 31 points, Ellenberg also registered a

Bramlage Coliseum record by an opponent with nine steals. Joining Ellenberg in double figures was Morgan Hook with 11.

After K-State jumped out to a quick 8-3 lead, Oklahoma regrouped to go on an 11-0 run to capture a 14-8 advantage with 12:53 to play. The Sooners' run was highlighted by Ellenberg with five straight points, while Hook and Whitney Hand each added a three-point field goal.

Oklahoma continued its hot shooting in the half, as Ellenberg connected on her third 3-pointer of the half to give the Sooners a 23-12 lead.

K-State cut into the Sooners' lead with a 9-3 run jump started by K-State's first three-point field goal of the night by Chambers with 6:52 to play. Dickey proceeded to score four

straight points to force Oklahoma's second timeout of the half as K-State trailed, 28-23.

Oklahoma recorded five of the final seven points of the first half to hold a 33-25 halftime lead. Oklahoma was boosted by its three-point shooting in the opening frame, notching a 7-of-9 performance. K-State was cold from the field, shooting 12-of-34 including 1-of-16 from beyond the arc.

Kansas State cut into Oklahoma's halftime lead with an 11-3 run to open the second stanza and tied the game at 36 with 15:45 remaining. Mariah White sparked the rally with a three-point field goal and a steal and fast break layup. White finished the night with five points, nine assists, three rebounds and three steals.

Oklahoma was able to fend off K-State's efforts, as Ellenberg carded 10 of the Sooners' next 14 points to push Oklahoma in front, 51-42, with nine minutes remaining.

The Wildcats could not cut into the lead enough as the Sooners were able to shut down K-State's offense over the final two minutes. K-State pulled to within two points on a layup by Dickey with 2:49 to play, but the Wildcats would score only one point the rest of the way.

Kansas State will now play three out of its next four games on the road, as the Wildcats travel to Waco, Texas, to face No. 1 ranked Baylor on Saturday. Game time at the Ferrell Center is set for 7 p.m. The contest will be available on the K-State Sports Network at kstatesports.com.

18/18 K-State Falls at Oklahoma, 82-73

KSU Sports Information

NORMAN, Okla. -- Oklahoma jumped out to a quick 7-0 lead and never looked back, as the Sooners never trailed in earning an 82-73 victory over Kansas State at the Lloyd Noble Center on Saturday afternoon.

The Wildcats saw their modest two-game winning streak in Norman end to fall to 12-4 overall and 1-3 in Big 12 play, while the Sooners earned their first conference win and improved to 11-5 overall. All-time great and former head coach Lon Kruger improved to 3-2 against his alma mater with wins in three of the last four meetings with K-State.

Oklahoma shot an opponent-

high 54.9 percent from the field, including 70 percent in the second half, and connected on 84.6 percent (22-of-26) from the free throw line to salt away the victory. Four players scored in double figures for the Sooners with Andrew Fitzgerald posting 21 points on 9-of-10 field goals, while Romero Osby and Steven Pledger added 18 points each. Junior college transfer Sam Grooms led the way with nine assists.

K-State struggled offensively throughout the game, connecting on just 39.1 percent from the field, including 33.3 percent from 3-point range. The Wildcats held the Big 12's best rebounding team to just 24

rebounds and a 44-24 edge on the glass. However, the team allowed the Sooners to score 30 points off of 19 turnovers, marking the second straight game that K-State has allowed an opponent to score 30 points off miscues.

Junior Rodney McGruder earned his fourth career double-double with a team-high 19 points and a game-high 10 rebounds in 39 minutes of action. He has led the team in scoring in six consecutive games and now has scored in double figures a team-best 12 times. Reserves Nino Williams and Jeremy Jones collected 12 points each, while Will Spradling added 11 points (all in the second half). Williams

scored in double figures for the first time in his career, while he posted a career-best nine rebounds in 15 minutes of action.

The Sooners jumped out to a 7-0 lead, forcing head coach Frank Martin to call his first timeout. After the Wildcats closed to within 7-6, the squad used another 7-0 run to push the edge to 18-8 with 12:33 to play. K-State would rally to within 20-18 with an 8-2 run of its own before Oklahoma again pushed forward with eight straight points. The Sooners led by as many as 12 in the first half before Jones cut the deficit to 38-29 on a long 3-pointer with 40 seconds left.

Kansas State Wildcats 2011-2012 Men's Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Score	Record
12/22/11	vs. Southern Illinois	W, 83-58	8-1
12/23/11	UTEP	W, 78-70	9-1
12/25/11	Long Beach State	W, 77-60	10-1
12/31/11	vs. Howard	W, 82-46	11-1
01/04/12	at Kansas	L, 49-67	11-2
01/07/12	vs. Missouri	W, 75-59	12-2
01/10/12	vs. Baylor	L, 75-73	12-3
01/14/12	at Oklahoma	L, 82-73	12-4
01/18/12	vs. Texas	8:00 PM CT	
01/21/12	at Oklahoma State	12:30 PM CT	
01/25/12	at Texas Tech	8:00 PM CT	
01/28/12	vs. Oklahoma	6:00 PM CT	
01/31/12	at Iowa State	8:00 PM CT	
02/04/12	vs. Texas A&M	3:00 PM CT	
02/07/12	vs. Texas Tech	7:00 PM CT	
02/11/12	at Texas	1:00 PM CT	
02/13/12	vs. Kansas	8:00 PM CT	
02/18/12	at Baylor	12:30 PM CT	
02/21/12	at Missouri	6:00 PM CT	
02/25/12	vs. Iowa State	12:30 PM CT	
02/28/12	at Texas A&M	6:00 PM CT	
03/03/12	vs. Oklahoma State	12:30 PM CT	
03/07/12	TBD	TBA	

2011-2012 Women's Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Score	Record
12/18/11	vs. North Dakota State	W, 70-47	7-2
12/19/11	vs. Northwestern	W, 64-45	8-2
12/20/11	vs. UNLV	L, 38-44	8-3
12/29/11	at Marist	W, 57-56	9-3
01/04/12	vs. Texas A&M	W, 71-69 (OT)	10-3
01/07/12	at Kansas	W, 63-57	11-3
01/11/12	vs. Missouri	W, 72-46	12-3
01/14/12	at Texas Tech	W, 62-61	13-3
01/17/12	vs. Oklahoma	L, 65-57	13-4
01/21/12	at Baylor	7:00 p.m. CT	
01/25/12	vs. Iowa State	7:00 p.m. CT	
01/28/12	at Oklahoma State	11:30 a.m. CT	
02/01/12	at Texas	7:00 p.m. CT	
02/04/12	vs. Baylor	7:00 p.m. CT	
02/08/12	at Texas A&M	7:00 p.m. CT	
02/12/12	vs. Kansas	12:00 p.m. CT	
02/15/12	at Oklahoma	7:00 p.m. CT	
02/18/12	vs. Texas	6:00 p.m. CT	
02/22/12	vs. Oklahoma State	7:00 p.m. CT	
02/25/12	at Missouri	12:00 p.m. CT	
02/29/12	at Iowa State	7:00 p.m. CT	
03/03/12	vs. Texas Tech	6:00 p.m. CT	
03/07/12	TBD	TBA	

Big 12 Men's Basketball Standings

Team	W	L	Big12 Overall
Kansas	5-0	15-3	
Baylor	4-1	17-1	
Missouri	4-1	17-1	
Iowa State	2-2	12-5	
Texas	2-2	12-5	
Oklahoma State	2-2	9-8	
Oklahoma	2-3	12-5	
Kansas State	1-3	12-4	
Texas A&M	1-4	10-7	
Texas Tech	0-5	7-10	

Big 12 Women's Basketball Standings

Team	W	L	Big12 Overall
Baylor	4-0	17-0	
Kansas State	4-1	13-4	
Kansas	3-1	14-2	
Oklahoma	3-2	11-5	
Texas Tech	2-2	14-2	
Oklahoma State	2-2	10-3	
Texas A&M	2-2	11-4	
Texas	1-3	11-5	
Missouri	0-4	10-5	
Iowa State	0-4	9-6	

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- The stadium is 3 million square feet containing 104 cubic feet of volume.

- Stadium length – 900 feet from one end zone retractable wall to the opposite end zone retractable wall• The Dallas Cowboys Stadium has the world's largest 1080p HDTV video board. The \$40 million video board configuration has 30 million light bulbs and 25,000 square feet of video displays. Weighing 600 tons, the screens will be suspended 90 feet directly over the center of the playing surface and stretch from nearly one 20-yard line to the other.

- Cowboys Stadium is the largest, most technologically advanced entertainment venue in the world. Designed by HKS and built by Manhattan Construction, the \$1.1 billion stadium features two monumental arches, the world's largest HDTV video board, an expansive retractable roof and the largest retractable end zone doors in the world.

- Features of the stadium include seating for 80,000 and expandable to 100,000, 300 luxury suites,



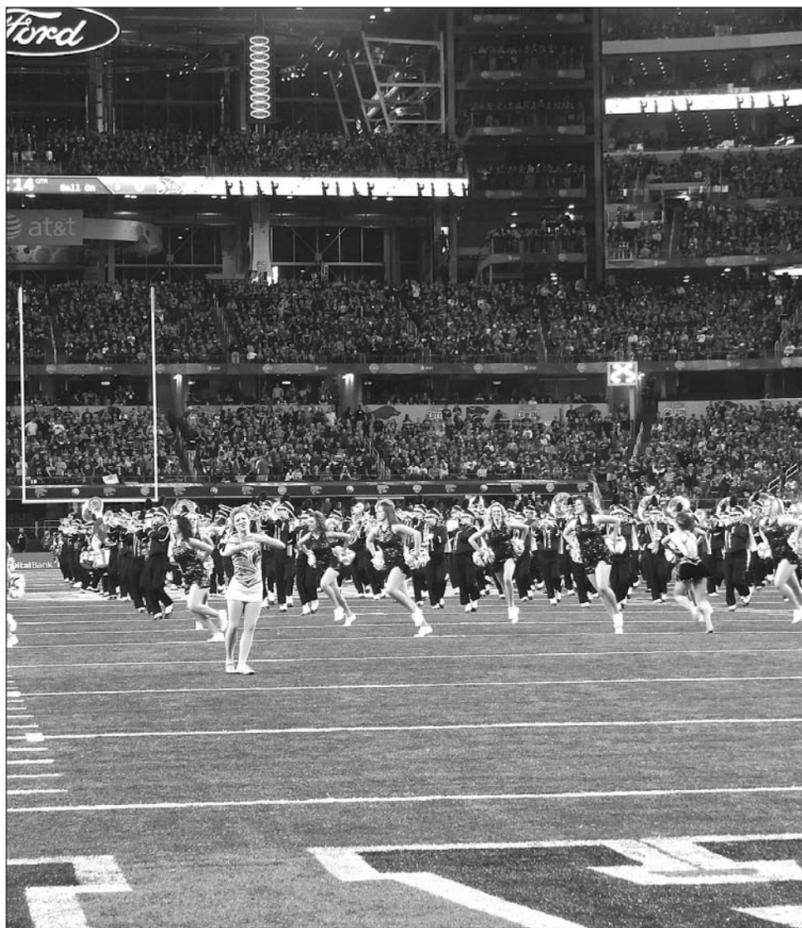
This shot was taken from the press box about 3 hours before the 7:30 kickoff.



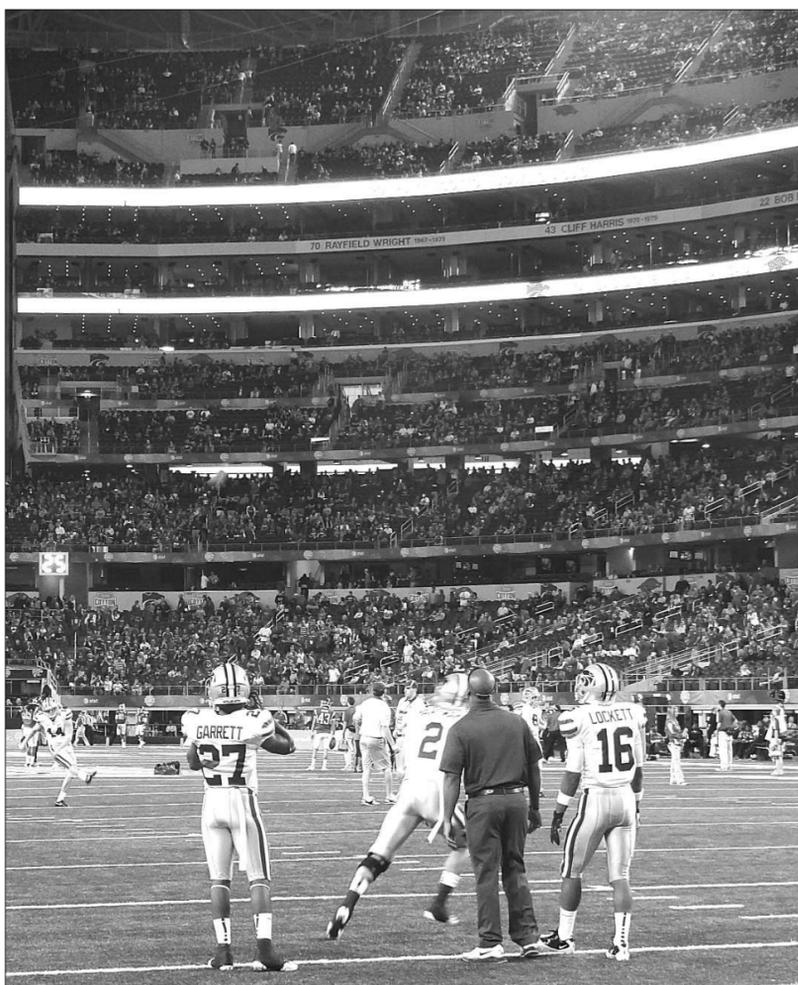
This display of cars were on both sides of the retractable doors. The doors looked like huge windows.



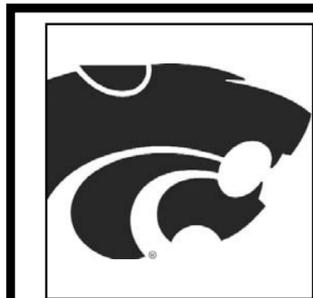
Kansas State fans were at the doors more than two hours before the game.



Kansas State Band plays before the start.



This shot shows Kansas State players and the size of the building.



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