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Kansas STAR Bonds May Burn Out

By Gene Meyer
Kansas Reporter

TOPEKA — A decade-old initiative that helped bring NASCAR to the state could go behind the wall for good June 30.

The initiative, STAR bonds — shorthand for Sales Tax and Revenue — is a Kansas economic program that uses state and local sales tax money to help private developers build things such as posh shopping districts, speedways, riverfront entertainment districts and salt mine museums. Kansas uses STAR bonds money to help pay for streets, parking lots, sidewalks and other infrastructure.

But doing so, however, reduces general fund tax revenue that otherwise would go to help balance the state budget or go to schools, public safety, social services or other government needs as the bonds are paid off.

Backers say the money, in the long run, is more than made up. Critics aren't so sure. Kansas Commerce Secretary Pat George urged House Commerce and Economic Development Committee members Wednesday to recommend renewing the state's STAR bonds program for another five years. The bonds already have brought \$2 billion in investments and more than 30,000 jobs to Kansas, George said.

But committee chairman Anthony Brown, R-Eudora, said he is worried the program is becoming devalued and used to promote lesser projects that do far less to help the Kansas economy.

"I am not a big fan," Brown said. "We've already watered it

down from NASCAR to Heartland Park," he said, referring to a financially distressed Topeka racetrack that received STAR bonds funding in 2006. The track failed to produce enough sales tax revenue to pay off the bonds and, in 2010, Topeka sought help in refinancing the deal to cover interest costs, which were coming out of the city budget instead.

"And now we've lowered the thresholds and are doing shopping centers that compete with existing businesses," Brown said.

That refers to a dispute between two neighboring Johnson County communities over a Walmart. The company wants to move the store from an aging shopping strip in Roeland Park to a proposed new center five minutes away in Mission, which is seeking STAR bonds financing.

Commerce committee members have yet to schedule a vote. They can simply let the matter die, in which case STAR bonds would end, Brown said.

"I don't know what the majority wants to do," he said.

STAR bonds, or any program like it that relies on using future tax revenues to pay upfront economic development costs, create real dilemmas for governments that use them, said Eileen Norcross, a senior researcher and government finance specialist at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University in Arlington, Va.

Some of the projects, including Kansas' investment in Kansas Speedway and retail centers that grew up around it, appear to produce eye-popping successes, Norcross said. But based on a 2006 study by



Manhattan used STAR Bonds to redevelop the downtown area. Over \$40 million was used on the museum.

Mercatus researchers of similar programs in Memphis, Tenn., many also fail to deliver all of the economic development bang promised for the tax bucks, she said.

"It simply isn't clear that they are as effective as many policymakers would like to believe," Norcross said.

"We've found it's more effective when governments simply minimize taxes, minimize regulations and create level playing fields for entrepreneurs to find what works best," she said.

The STAR bonds program allows cities or other local governments in Kansas to use the projected revenue from future sales tax collections to pay real estate developers up front in helping to create shopping, entertainment or tourist attractions.

The program, set to expire July 1, allows cities to issue STAR bonds to help build roads, sidewalks and other infrastructure for development

projects that cost \$50 million or more and pay them off with future sales tax revenue generated by the development, for as long as 20 years.

a bit less than \$369 million of state and local sales taxes collected since the state's current fiscal year began July 1 are being reserved for STAR bonds payments, rather than deposited in the state's general fund, according to the Kansas Department of Revenue.

But backers such as George, whose Commerce Department is responsible for reviewing and approving applications, argue that some of the projects being financed wouldn't happen without that state help.

"When you look at what used to be a pasture out by the Speedway, you can see what a boon this has been for Wyandotte County and for Kansas," George said.

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kan., which is the official name of the county and city

government after a merger decades ago, received about \$208,000 a year in property taxes before the Kansas Speedway and its neighboring Legends and Village West shopping centers were developed.

Now, following the application of \$295 million to help develop those areas, the 1,200-acre site generates more than \$11 million annually in property taxes and is expected to repay its STAR bonds money ahead of schedule, by 2017, said Dan Lara, a Kansas Commerce Department spokesman.

Fifteen miles east of the Speedway in Roeland Park and Mission, opponents in a STAR bonds funding dispute are fighting over a far more modest enterprise.

Cameron Group LLC, a Syracuse, N.Y., developer, approached Mission in 2005 with plans for a mixed-use hotel and retail complex to replace an aging shopping mall that had been closed and razed. Following about three years of planning and developmental work, Mission applied for and won \$63 million in STAR-bond funding to help pay for part of the project, which by then had been expanded to include plans for a 2 million-gallon ocean habitat aquarium.

Then came the Great Recession.

The project languished, and the planned hotel, retailing and tourist spa became a 26-acre field of weeds. More recently, Cameron and Walmart

announced plans to relocate the retail giant in the center, after closing an older, smaller supermarket-sized facility less than two miles away in Roeland Park.

Mission wants to use STAR bonds money to complete the project, said Mike Scanlon, the city manager.

"Construction costs and site plans have changed, so we will need to revise our application, but it's still the same project," Scanlon said.

Precise calculations remain to be worked out, but Scanlon estimated the revised application will be for perhaps two-thirds of the \$63 million in STAR bonds already approved, but which has not been spent.

Roeland Park officials, whose city budget resources may drop as much as \$500,000 annually if Walmart and the sales taxes it generates move, are contesting those plans. Mayor Adrienne Foster and other city officials have formally petitioned George, the Commerce secretary, to deny Mission's STAR bonds application. They contend the plans violate a STAR bonds ban on using state money to relocate an existing business and that the project, if completed, would no longer meet STAR bonds' requirements for creating a major tourist attraction. "We're still waiting to hear what Commerce decides when it reviews the application," Roeland Park City Clerk Deborah Mootz said Wednesday.

Ks Job Growth Face Long Climb

By Gene Meyer
Kansas Reporter

TOPEKA — More people in Kansas are finding work, at least according to the latest numbers.

Eric MacDonald is not surprised. "It makes sense," said MacDonald, an account executive in the Topeka office of Adecco Group, a global human resources giant.

The jobs report means things are improving, but not booming, he said.

Manufacturers are hiring again, though they are filling fewer openings than before. One temporary employment services provider calls Kansas' job market one of the nation's weakest. And some of Kansas' most prized blue-collar jobs — at Boeing Co. in Wichita — are leaving the state.

About 12,200 more Kansans were working in January than a year earlier. Private businesses had 22,200 more people on the payroll, while state and local governments had 10,000 fewer workers. Budget cuts abolished some of the jobs, and more than 1,000 workers took retirement buyouts from the state.

The employment environment is changing, evolving.

The state's unemployment rate fell to a seasonally adjusted 6.1 percent in January, down from 6.4 percent a month earlier and 6.9 percent in January 2011, according to the Kansas Department of Labor.

"But what's really been booming this year is our temp work," MacDonald said. "A lot of other clients are getting more work than their current employees can handle, but they're still uncertain enough about the economy that they don't want to make those new jobs full time."

Some Kansas jobs lost in the Great Recession won't return, MacDonald said. During the recession, employers learned to

operate with fewer workers.

"We don't need people to do the jobs," he said. "We need people to take care of the machines that do the jobs."

Inayat Noormohamad, the labor department's Labor Market Information Services director, said, "It is a significant adjustment from a year ago."

But having 1.3 million Kansans on the job now is a long way from employing 1.5 million who were working in April 2008, before the Great Recession hit, Noormohamad said.

"We're not even halfway back," he said.

ManpowerGroup United States, the U.S. arm of the world's largest temporary services organization, released a quarterly survey Tuesday that shows 14 percent of the Kansas companies surveyed planned to increase their staff during the next three months, compared with 7 percent that planned to cut staff.

That's bad news, making "the Kansas employment outlook one of the weakest in the nation," said Sharon Walker, a ManpowerGroup regional director in Overland Park.

Nationally, 18 percent of the companies Manpower surveyed plan to add workers, while 6 percent plan to cut payrolls, leaving a net 12 percent with plans to expand.

The kinds of jobs that Kansans hold also contribute to the sluggish hiring pace, said Ernie Goss, a Creighton University business school professor.

Goss publishes the monthly Kansas Business Conditions Index, which is based on the same economic indicators used for national economic forecasts. It, too, shows Kansas' hiring prospects as the lowest among nine Midwestern states surveyed.

Downtown Redevelopment Land Acquisition Purchase Price North And South Development

District	Seller/Tenant/Vendor	Address	Total Purchase Price
North	Fremont Coin O'Matic, Inc.	304 Fremont	144,800.79
North	Douglas R. Zarger/Pamala S. Zarger	310 Osage	165,068.80
North	James Harvey Fritz	312 Osage	145,850.57
North	Manhattan Ice & Cold Storage, Inc.	412 N. 4th	161,974.80
North	Heleen L. King	316 Osage	91,607.08
North	Dorothy K. Young Trust	322 Osage	98,836.38
North	Neil Elwood Schrum/Ruth Anna Schrum Revocable Living Trust	401, 411, 412, 415 N. 3rd, 314, 318, 320 Leavenworth	1,462,803.50
North	Nancy L. Bammes/Kenneth R. Bammes	501 N. 3rd St.	188,904.35
North	Anna Mae Buser/John E. Edwards, Jr.	308 Fremont	127,098.39
North	Platinum Investments, LLC	304 Osage	251,251.71
North	Nelson Rentals, L.P.	327/331 Fremont	968,246.30
North	KFC Corporation/Long John Silvers	721 N. 3rd	655,808.16
North	LDI Food Group, Inc./Wendy's	421 N. 3rd	1,161,614.75
North	Suzanne Allied/Rene L. Smalridge	316 Laramie St.	107,095.92
North	BRP Land Company	325-331 Laramie St.	409,194.66
North	Nancy J. Raleigh and Steven A. Lee	314 Laramie St.	113,529.61
North	Connie J. Buehl	310 Laramie St.	119,026.02
North	John E. Cyrene	330 Fremont St.	118,976.02
North	Gerald L. & Diane M. Haug	331 Moro St.	161,463.41
North	Judson LaDel and Judy G. Brown	601 N 3rd St.	129,776.34
North	R.C. & June Karsmizki	309/315 Moro St.	367,621.52
North	Deborah R. Kirby Living Trust	324 Fremont St.	129,755.34
North	William L. & Barbara J. Kortman	321 Moro St.	123,250.15
North	Lisa M. Lang	330 N 4th St.	271,850.06
North	Leiszler Oil Company, Inc.	720 N. 3rd	225,370.00
North	Lou Ann Dunn	700 N 3rd St.	199,627.17
North	MBI (Leiszler Oil/Oriental Foods)	716 N. 3rd	167,352.70
North	MBI (Leiszler Oil/Oriental Foods)	720 N. 3rd	114,518.70
North	Bufford Edward & Jacqueline M. Motley	330 Laramie St.	174,393.29
North	NA'AMAT USA	720 N. 3rd	110,048.90
North	Pizza Hut Land Company	616 N 3rd St.	1,364,934.53
North	Robert L. & Marilyn A. Dickens	326 Laramie St.	219,838.40
North	Ronald Harrison	619 N 3rd St.	238,351.82
North	Schram Chrysler Dodge, Inc.	300 N 4th	312,690.41
North	Shannon Lee	317 Moro St.	113,652.11
North	Shelia K. Dunn/Jason David Padgett	306 Laramie St.	98,596.58
North	Delmar E. Jr. & Enna Jeanne Shipp	327 Moro St.	110,941.16
North	Larry Eugene & Marilyn Jean Wohler	615 N 3rd St.	280,233.82
North	MBI - Steel & Pipe	11 tracts of land along 3rd St. from Leavenworth to Bluemont	2,628,539.98
North	MBI	5 tracts of land along 3rd St. from Leavenworth to Bluemont	947,905.77
North	Penny Ferlemann	617 N. 4th Street	787,600.00
North	Mariene Ferlemann	621 N. 4th Street	72,600.00
North	Walgreen's Land Exchange	705 3rd Pl.	86,534.71
North	HMS Enterprises/Carpet Plus	300 N 3rd St.	856,344.48
North	MBI/Expert Tire	304 3rd St.	807,073.50
Subtotal North			\$ 17,608,042.60
South	Neil Elwood Schrum/Ruth Anna Schrum Revocable Living Trust	326 Yuma St.	150,000.00
South	Bernard Garrabay	211 Colorado	249,125.75
South	Dean Conkright	301 Colorado	475,000.00
South	Manhattan Ice and Cold Storage	209 & 213 Yuma	4,450,622.01
South	Art Craft Printers	338 Colorado	229,000.00
South	Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters	301 S 4th St.	648,730.00
South	Robert and Telva Swenson	300 Yuma	402,500.00
South	Gary Boomer (Trustee of Navarro Trust)	335 Colorado St.	310,500.00
South	David and Arilla McManis	348 Colorado St.	407,500.00
South	The 1031 Exchange Experts, LLC (Intermediary for Fraternal Investors)	221 Colorado St.	1,071,000.00
South	Charlotte A. Michel	315-319 S 4th St.	272,500.00
South	Laramie Partnership	315 S 3rd St.	300,000.00
South	Michael L. Lafsberg	511 S 4th St.	125,000.00
South	Keystone Development Company	411 S 4th St.	150,000.00
South	Richard M. and Bella Haynie	N. 75' of Lots 297 & 298, Ward 1, S 3rd St.	265,000.00
South	Ronald K. Harrison	301 Yuma St.	585,000.00
South	All Kansas Property	230 Colorado St.	284,500.00
South	Alfred M. and Patricia Umscheid	323 Yuma St.	399,000.00
South	G.M. Stunkel	323, 327 & 331 Colorado St.	985,000.00
South	Lyle D. and Jerilyn R. Shepard	325 Yuma St.	155,000.00
South	Bobbie Jean Neugart	315 Yuma St.	185,000.00
South	Duane A. Jr. and Deborah J. Miller	331 S. 4th St.	102,500.00
South	Manhattan Building Corp.	320 Yuma St.	407,500.00
South	D & R Rentals	214 Colorado St.	499,337.50
South	O'Reilly Auto Parts	304 Ft. Riley Blvd.	1,907,156.00
Subtotal South			\$ 15,016,491.26
Total North and South Land Acquisition Purchase Price			\$ 32,624,533.86

Read all of the Manhattan Free Press 2006-08 Editorials on Downtown Redevelopment at manhattanfreepress.com

Competing Kansas Tax Plans All Flawed

By Gene Meyer
Kansas Reporter

TOPEKA — Predicting the outcome of the debate in the Kansas Legislature over competing tax plans is a bit like filling out an NCAA tournament bracket.

Things to count on:
• It's a complex process, which can be as complicated as one makes it.

• Expect surprises, and an upset or two.
• People will be happy, and people will be disappointed.

"I wouldn't be surprised if nothing passes, but if it does, it is likely to be very watered down," said Michael Smith, an Emporia State University political science professor who follows state budget issues.

Some pieces in a variety of proposals floating around the Capitol resonate with more legislators than do other pieces, said Mark Peterson, a Washburn University political scientist.

Some will be happy; others, well, not so much.

"Spending caps are one thing," Peterson said. "I wouldn't be surprised to see a 3 percent limit passed for year-to-year state spending increases, but I don't think the Senate is going to allow the massive restructuring that the House is proposing to go through."

"The truth is, we don't know what kind of a tax plan will come out of the Legislature," Peterson said. "I'm pretty sure (Gov.) Sam Brownback is wondering, too."

Legislators this week will work to determine the fate of at least four sweeping proposals to overhaul Kansas tax laws and

energize the state's economy. Problem is, the proposals to cut tax plans are inherently complex. Debating the plans, and trying to form a compromise, only complicates an already esoteric debate.

The plans are:

• House Substitute for Senate Bill 177, which is the formal legislative title for a plan Kansas House leaders created to eliminate many small business taxes, to reduce — then eliminate — personal income taxes, and limit state spending increases to 2 percent each year. Brownback unveiled a similar plan in January that offered faster tax cuts but would end popular tax credits and reductions. Full debate on those proposals is scheduled Tuesday.

• Senate Bill 339 is Brownback's plan. The Kansas Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee is scheduled to formally begin examining it on Wednesday. Supporters like the 'simpler, fairer, flatter,' approach Brownback promised, but its proposed elimination of home mortgage interest and other tax deductions is perceived as placing the plan in legislative trouble.

• House Bill 2763, called the Kansas Economic Freedom Act of 2014 — which House Taxation Committee members plan to discuss in two days of hearings Wednesday and Thursday — abolishes Kansas income taxes and replaces them with a universal consumption or sales tax on all personal goods and services, including many that are tax exempt now.

• Two new Senate bills have

yet to be formally numbered, but Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee members Monday held hearings on them, anyway. The bills are proposals by Senate leaders encouraging businesses to move into Kansas by abolishing payroll and property taxes paid by manufacturers, and taxing only their sales on products sold in Kansas. The plan would exempt so-called bioscience companies — research firms that find commercial applications for biological science — from income taxes for five years.

Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee members — who will be considering Brownback's tax plan this week — probably will vote on whether to send the new manufacturing and bioscience bills to the Senate for a vote, said state Sen. Les Donovan, R-Wichita, the tax committee's chairman.

"We want to get significant tax work done this week," Donovan said. Expect surprises, some close calls and, probably, an upset or two.

Kansas House members were originally scheduled to debate and vote Monday on whether to send SB177 to the Senate for approval, but House leaders postponed that debate until Tuesday.

"We wanted to make sure everyone had time to ask their questions about the bill before we brought it to the floor," said House Speaker Pro Tem Jene Vickrey, R-Louisburg. "We want to get something this complex right."

Kansas Senate President Steve Morris, R-Hugoton, said

the proposed limits to increased state spending, which are part of both the House's and Brownback's plans, troubled many senators. They says they fear such limits could plunge the state into serial budget crises if costs for education, social services, public safety and other state programs rose faster than 2 percent.

"There isn't much interest in the Senate for limits," Morris said in a meeting with reporters Friday.

Neither the House's nor Brownback's proposal provides meaningful tax relief for many Kansas families, said Dennis Lauver. Lauver, a Salina Chamber of Commerce director, served on special tax study commission, created in January by Morris to explore alternative tax policies for Kansas.

"Both (plans) would provide the average tax filer just a little more income tax relief than my family spent Friday," on a \$215 shopping trip to a local Walmart or Kohl's, Lauver said.

"Tax policy should encourage businesses that make stuff to locate in Kansas," he said.

Earl Long is an Overland Park tax activist for the FairTaxKC organization, a nonpartisan volunteer group that seeks lower taxes at all levels of government. He contends that abolishing state income taxes and replacing them with a sales or consumption tax would do exactly that. He and his group want the Legislature to pass HB 2763, the Kansas Economic Freedom Act, he said.

"It's the people's plan and the one that will grow the economy," Long said.

Congress Must Decide If It Or the President Declares War

By Gene Healy
The Cato Institute

Last week, in a hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., asked Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, "do you think you can act without Congress to initiate a no-fly zone in Syria?"

Panetta — a former congressman — bobbed, weaved, and waffled: "Our goal would be to seek international permission and we would... come to the Congress and inform you and determine how best to approach this..."

That answer would be "breath-taking to the average American," Sessions declared: you're going to seek "international permission" and then maybe you'll tell Congress what you're doing?

Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C., apparently found it "breath-taking" as well. On Wednesday, he launched a preemptive strike of his own, in the form of a resolution "expressing the sense of Congress that the use of offensive military force by a president without prior and clear authorization of an Act of Congress constitutes an

impeachable high crime and misdemeanor under Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution."

Is unauthorized war-making an impeachable offense? Certainly.

Is unauthorized war-making an impeachable offense? Certainly. As Hamilton explains in "The Federalist," the impeachment power serves as "an essential check in the hands of that body upon encroachments of the executive," aimed at "those offenses which proceed from the misconduct of public men, or, in other words, from the abuse or violation of some public trust."

Given the many abuses of public trust committed by presidents over two centuries of constitutional history, isn't it surprising we've only had two and a half presidential impeachments?

(For those keeping score at home, that's Andrew Johnson, Bill Clinton and Richard M. Nixon — who resigned before the articles of impeachment were put before the full House.) Any way you look at it, that's far too few.

In fact, Congress considered impeaching Nixon for waging

war without authority. Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., drafted an article of impeachment based on the secret bombing of Cambodia, charging Nixon with violating his oath of office by ordering "the concealment from the Congress of the facts... concerning the existence, scope and nature of American bombing operations in Cambodia in derogation of the power of the Congress to declare war."

That charge did not make it into the final articles of impeachment, which is too bad. As the House Judiciary Committee's William Hungate, D-Mo., put it at the time: "It's kind of hard to live with yourself when you impeach a guy for tapping telephones and not for making war without authorization."

Alas, Rep. Conyers, who has tried to impeach three Republican presidents for unauthorized war-making, stayed silent in 1999 when Bill Clinton ignored three congressional votes denying him authority to wage war in Kosovo. For Conyers and too many others, illegal wars are OK as long as you like the pres-

ident who is waging the war. You can't fairly accuse Jones of similar constitutional hypocrisy. Jones rose to national attention in 2003, when, in a fit of pique over France's refusal to back the Iraq War, he ordered the House cafeteria to rename french fries "Freedom Fries."

But his doubts about the war grew: "I did not vote my conscience and I sent kids to die, and they didn't have to go," he said later. In 2007, Jones tried to set things right by introducing the constitutional War Powers Resolution, which would limit the president to defensive uses of force.

You may look at Jones as a Don Quixote tilting at windmills with a flaccid lance. I see him as somebody armed with a more powerful weapon, the Constitution, and I think he's making an important point: The impeachment power is there for a reason.

Gene Healy is a vice president at the Cato Institute and the author of *The Cult of the Presidency: America's Dangerous Devotion to Executive Power*.

Obituaries

Donald August Havenstein

Donald August Havenstein, 83, of Manhattan, passed away Monday, March 12th, at Mercy Regional Health Center. He owned Havenstein Antiques and Furniture Refinishing in Manhattan since 1968.

Don was born in Alta Vista, on May 21, 1928, the son of the late Helen (Snodgrass) and August Henry Havenstein. On Aug. 14, 1948 in Yuma, AZ he married Leona Mae Schaper; she passed away on Aug. 26, 2010. He attended school in Manhattan and received his GED while serving in the US Navy, he also served 3 years aboard the USS St. Paul's.

Don was a member of St.

Luke's Lutheran Church in Manhattan, a Life Member of the VFW and a former member of the American Legion in Manhattan.

Survivors include two daughters, Paula Mills wife of Ronald; Donna White, wife of Thomas; and a son, Ed Havenstein, husband of Martha all of Manhattan; six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren; a sister, Janice O'Brian, of Manhattan; one brother, Jerry Havenstein, husband of Joyce, of North Carolina.

Don is preceded in death by his parents, a son, Todd Havenstein in October 1974 and three brothers, Neil

Havenstein, Bob Havenstein and Gene Havenstein.

Friends are invited to call with family present from Sunday 4-5pm at Irvin-Parkview Funeral Home & Cremation.

A memorial service will be held at 10:00am on Monday, March 19th at the St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 330 Sunset Ave. in Manhattan, with Rev. Mike Schmidt officiating. Inurnment will follow the service at the Pleasant Valley Cemetery, southeast of Manhattan.

Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Luke's Lutheran Church. To send an

online condolence visit irvin-parkview.com or on Facebook.

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- acute conditions (pulls, tears, collisions, etc),
- accumulation of small tears (micro-trauma)
- not getting enough oxygen (hypoxia).

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3-time Olympian, 2-time World Champion and 6-time US National Champion Tom Pappas shares his experience: "I'm very fortunate that Dr. Roop has been able to take care of all my Chiropractic needs. He has great touch and an overall perspective on how the body works, which is beneficial for any athlete. His overall knowl-

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ages and activity levels in his Manhattan clinic.

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Lawmakers Urge 6 Month Pause In KS Medicaid Switch

By Gene Meyer
Kansas Reporter

TOPEKA — Kansans who live with or care for some of the state's most fragile residents have strong opinions on how quickly state leaders should move to privatize the administration of costly Medicaid programs.

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback and his administration intend to make the switch Jan. 1 next year, if federal authorities approve. Some five dozen state legislators this week are urging Brownback to postpone the move for at least six months, to July 1, 2013.

Lori Weisendanger recently moved to Topeka from Hays so that her developmentally disabled 7-year-old could receive more promising therapy.

She prefers the status quo. "Turning Medicaid over to out-of-state strangers is absolutely the craziest thing I've ever heard of," Weisendanger said. "I can't imagine any way they can make the right decisions for us."

John Kazmierski, a retired dentist in Pittsburg who is the primary caregiver for his 40-year-old son, is less adamant.

"I would hold off on that until we are at least sure we have all the facts," said Kazmierski, who also chairs Skil Resources Inc., a southeastern Kansas nonprofit advocate and support group for families of developmentally disabled people.

"We don't want important decisions to be lost in a com-

mittee somewhere," he said. "What we have now isn't perfect, but it works."

Medicaid is a jointly funded federal and state program — run by the individual states — that pays for medical help for people and families with limited incomes and limited financial resources. It is often the largest single source of that help for those who qualify. Each state sets guidelines on eligibility and services covered.

Kansas spends some \$2.8 billion a year to provide Medicaid services to 350,000 residents, including pregnant women, children and teenagers, and the old, blind and disabled. Medicaid costs have grown about 7.4 percent annually and are threatening to crowd out spending for education, public safety and other safety net programs, administration officials say.

In January, Brownback announced a plan called KanCare, which would scrap the current state-run Medicaid program and turn over operations to private managed-care companies like those hired by private employers.

A formal bidding process would be used to choose the managed-care companies, which would be bound by contracts with the state to produce at least a 3 percent savings in Medicaid costs while providing the same level of service participants receive now.

Kansas isn't the only state eyeing such a switch.

Health policy researchers at

the Kaiser Family Foundation in Menlo Park, Calif., say in a report that nearly two-thirds of the nation's 54 million Medicaid beneficiaries already are covered by some form of managed-care program, and at least 34 states in 2011 and 2012 were considering expanding their managed-care programs.

Brownback said in January that Kansas would seek federal permission to make the switch Jan. 1, 2013, in order to reduce next fiscal year's projected Medicaid costs by \$12.5 million.

But a bipartisan group of Kansas House and Senate members said Thursday they believed the Jan. 1 target was too ambitious. They, in turn, introduced a resolution in the Senate to delay the change — which also needs federal approval — until July 1, 2013. They said they plan to introduce a similar resolution next week in the House.

"I'm not against the governor's proposal," said state Sen. Dick Kelsey, R-Goddard, who helped draft the proposed postponement.

But Kelsey, who once owned a group home for troubled teens covered by Medicaid, predicts switching to the kind of managed-care plans that private employers offer "would not be as easy as we think."

Kansas simply needs more time to get the change right, he said.

Kelsey and state Reps. Bob Bethel, R-Alden, and Jerry Henry, D-Cummings, who also

helped draft the resolution, say 22 of Kansas' 40 Senate members and between 40 and 50 of the 125 members of the Kansas House support the change.

Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer, who also is a surgeon and the administration's point man on KanCare, said the proposed postponement would be "a costly mistake."

Unlike other states, which either simply cut Medicaid payments or rushed through a switch to managed care in a matter of months, Kansas already has been working out its planned conversion for more than a year, Colyer said.

"Kansas is drawing from the best examples from around the country," he said. "We are putting in place policies to avoid stumbling blocks that have tripped up other states."

Even so, taking extra time won't hurt, said Jodi Mitchell, executive director of Kentucky Voices for Health, a non profit advocates group for Medicaid beneficiaries in that state.

Kentucky made the switch in four months, and some details got missed in the process, Mitchell said. Soon after the change, the state discovered that some doctors who provided Medicaid services didn't get paid on time, and some patients' prescription records weren't transferred as they were supposed to be.

Those problems are being fixed, she said, "but from what I understand of Kansas' plan, it involves a lot more than ours did."

Jean Hall, executive director of the Institute for Health and Disability Policy Studies at the University of Kansas, said she sees no compelling reason for Kansas to stick to its planned Jan. 1 target for making the change.

KS Job Growth Faces Long Climb

By Gene Meyer
Kansas Reporter

TOPEKA — More people in Kansas are finding work, at least according to the latest numbers.

Eric MacDonald is not surprised.

"It makes sense," said MacDonald, an account executive in the Topeka office of Adecco Group, a global human resources giant.

The jobs report means things are improving, but not booming, he said.

Manufacturers are hiring again, though they are filling fewer openings than before. One temporary employment services provider calls Kansas' job market one of the nation's weakest. And some of Kansas' most prized blue-collar jobs — at Boeing Co. in Wichita — are leaving the state.

About 12,200 more Kansans were working in January than a year earlier. Private businesses had 22,200 more people on the payroll, while state and local governments had 10,000 fewer workers. Budget cuts abolished some of the jobs, and more than 1,000 workers took retirement buyouts from the state.

The employment environment is changing, evolving.

The state's unemployment

rate fell to a seasonally adjusted 6.1 percent in January, down from 6.4 percent a month earlier and 6.9 percent in January 2011, according to the Kansas Department of Labor.

"But what's really been booming this year is our temp work," MacDonald said. "A lot of other clients are getting more work than their current employees can handle, but they're still uncertain enough about the economy that they don't want to make those new jobs full time."

Some Kansas jobs lost in the Great Recession won't return, MacDonald said. During the recession, employers learned to operate with fewer workers.

"We don't need people to do the jobs," he said. "We need people to take care of the machines that do the jobs."

Inayat Noormohamad, the labor department's Labor Market Information Services director, said, "It is a significant adjustment from a year ago."

But having 1.3 million Kansans on the job now is a long way from employing 1.5 million who were working in April 2008, before the Great Recession hit, Noormohamad said.

"We're not even halfway back," he said.

ManpowerGroup United States, the U.S. arm of the world's largest temporary services organization, released a quarterly survey Tuesday that shows 14 percent of the Kansas companies surveyed planned to increase their staff during the next three months, compared with 7 percent that planned to cut staff.

That's bad news, making "the Kansas employment outlook one of the weakest in the nation," said Sharon Walker, a ManpowerGroup regional director in Overland Park.

Nationally, 18 percent of the companies Manpower surveyed plan to add workers, while 6 percent plan to cut payrolls, leaving a net 12 percent with plans to expand.

The kinds of jobs that Kansans hold also contribute to the sluggish hiring pace, said Ernie Goss, a Creighton University business school professor.

Goss publishes the monthly Kansas Business Conditions Index, which is based on the same economic indicators used for national economic forecasts. It, too, shows Kansas' hiring prospects as the lowest among nine Midwestern states surveyed.

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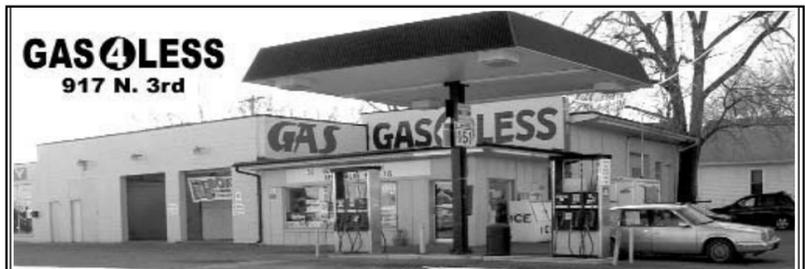
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America's Most Biblically-Hostile U. S. President

David Barton - 02/29/2012

When one observes President Obama's unwillingness to accommodate America's four-century long religious conscience protection through his attempts to require Catholics to go against their own doctrines and beliefs, one is tempted to say that he is anti-Catholic. But that characterization would not be correct.

Listed below in chronological order are (1) numerous records of his attacks on Biblical persons or organizations; (2) examples of the hostility toward Biblical faith that have become evident in the past three years in the Obama-led military; (3) a listing of his open attacks on Biblical values; and finally (4) a listing of numerous incidents of his preferential deference for Islam's activities and positions, including letting his Islamic advisors guide and influence his hostility toward people of Biblical faith.

1. Acts of hostility toward people of Biblical faith:

- April 2008 - Obama speaks disrespectfully of Christians, saying they "cling to guns or religion" and have an "antipathy to people who aren't like them."

- February 2009 - Obama announces plans to revoke conscience protection for health workers who refuse to participate in medical activities that go against their beliefs, and fully implements the plan in February 2011.

- April 2009 - When speaking at Georgetown University, Obama orders that a monogram symbolizing Jesus' name be covered when he is making his speech.

- May 2009 - Obama declines to host services for the National Prayer Day (a day established by federal law) at the White House.

- April 2009 - In a deliberate act of disrespect, Obama nominated three pro-abortion ambassadors to the Vatican; of course, the pro-life Vatican rejected all three.

- October 19, 2010 - Obama begins deliberately omitting the phrase about "the Creator" when quoting the Declaration of Independence - an omission he has made on no less than seven occasions.

- November 2010 - Obama misquotes the National Motto, saying it is "E pluribus unum" rather than "In God We Trust" as established by federal law.

- January 2011 - After a federal law was passed to transfer a WWI Memorial in the Mojave Desert to private ownership, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that the cross in the memorial could continue to stand, but the Obama administration refused to allow the land to be transferred as required by law, and refused to allow the cross to be re-erected as ordered by the Court.

- February 2011 - Although he filled posts in the State Department, for more than two years Obama did not fill the post of religious freedom ambassador, an official that works against religious persecution across the world; he

filled it only after heavy pressure from the public and from Congress.

- April 2011 - For the first time in American history, Obama urges passage of a non-discrimination law that does not contain hiring protections for religious groups, forcing religious organizations to hire according to federal mandates without regard to the dictates of their own faith, thus eliminating conscience protection in hiring.

- August 2011 - The Obama administration releases its new health care rules that override religious conscience protections for medical workers in the areas of abortion and contraception.

- November 2011 - Obama opposes inclusion of President Franklin Roosevelt's famous D-Day Prayer in the WWII Memorial.

- November 2011 - Unlike previous presidents, Obama studiously avoids any religious references in his Thanksgiving speech.

- December 2011 - The Obama administration denigrates other countries' religious beliefs as an obstacle to radical homosexual rights.

- January 2012 - The Obama administration argues that the First Amendment provides no protection for churches and synagogues in hiring their pastors and rabbis.

- February 2012 - The Obama administration forgives student loans in exchange for public service, but announces it will no longer forgive student loans if the public service is related to religion.

2. Acts of hostility from the Obama-led military toward people of Biblical faith:

- June 2011 - The Department of Veterans Affairs forbids references to God and Jesus during burial ceremonies at Houston National Cemetery.

- August 2011 - The Air Force stops teaching the Just War theory to officers in California because the course is taught by chaplains and is based on a philosophy introduced by St. Augustine in the third century AD - a theory long taught by civilized nations across the world (except America).

- September 2011 - Air Force Chief of Staff prohibits commanders from notifying airmen of programs and services available to them from chaplains.

- September 2011 - The Army issues guidelines for Walter Reed Medical Center stipulating that "No religious items (i.e. Bibles, reading materials and/or facts) are allowed to be given away or used during a visit."

- November 2011 - The Air Force Academy rescinds support for Operation Christmas Child, a program to send holiday gifts to impoverished children across the world, because the program is run by a Christian charity.

- November 2011 - The Air Force Academy pays \$80,000 to add a Stonehenge-like worship center for pagans, druids, witches and Wiccans.

- February 2012 - The U. S. Military Academy at West Point disinvites three star Army general and decorated war hero Lieutenant General William G. ("Jerry") Boykin (retired) from speaking at an event because he is an outspoken Christian.

- February 2012 - The Air Force removes "God" from the patch of Rapid Capabilities Office (the word on the patch was in Latin: Dei).

- February 2012 - The Army orders Catholic chaplains not to read a letter to parishioners that their archbishop asked them to read.

3. Acts of hostility toward Biblical values:

- January 2009 - Obama lifts restrictions on U.S. government funding for groups that provide abortion services or counseling abroad, forcing taxpayers to fund pro-abortion groups that either promote or perform abortions in other nations.

- January 2009 - President Obama's nominee for deputy secretary of state asserts that American taxpayers are required to pay for abortions and that limits on abortion funding are unconstitutional.

- March 2009 - The Obama administration shut out pro-life groups from attending a White House-sponsored health care summit.

- March 2009 - Obama orders taxpayer funding of embryonic stem cell research.

- March 2009 - Obama gave \$50 million for the UNFPA, the UN population agency that promotes abortion and works closely with Chinese population control officials who use forced abortions and involuntary sterilizations.

- May 2009 - The White House budget eliminates all funding for abstinence-only education and replaces it with "comprehensive" sexual education, repeatedly proven to increase teen pregnancies and abortions. He continues the deletion in subsequent budgets.

- May 2009 - Obama officials assemble a terrorism dictionary calling pro-life advocates violent and charging that they use racism in their "criminal" activities.

- July 2009 - The Obama administration illegally extends federal benefits to same-sex partners of Foreign Service and Executive Branch employees, in direction violation of the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

- September 16, 2009 - The Obama administration appoints as EEOC Commissioner Chai Feldblum, who asserts that society should "not tolerate" any "private beliefs," including religious beliefs, if they may negatively affect homosexual "equality."

- July 2010 - The Obama administration uses federal funds in violation of federal law to get Kenya to change its constitution to include abortion.

- August 2010 - The Obama administration Cuts funding for 176 abstinence education programs.

- September 2010 - The Obama administration tells

researchers to ignore a judge's decision striking down federal funding for embryonic stem cell research.

- February 2011 - Obama directs the Justice Department to stop defending the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

- March 2011 - The Obama administration refuses to investigate videos showing Planned Parenthood helping alleged sex traffickers get abortions for victimized underage girls.

- July 2011 - Obama allows homosexuals to serve openly in the military, reversing a policy originally instituted by George Washington in March 1778.

- September 2011 - The Pentagon directs that military chaplains may perform same-sex marriages at military facilities in violation of the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

- October 2011 - The Obama administration eliminates federal grants to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for their extensive programs that aid victims of human trafficking because the Catholic Church is anti-abortion.

4. Acts of preferentialism for Islam:

- May 2009 - While Obama does not host any National Day of Prayer event at the White House, he does host White House Iftar dinners in honor of Ramadan.

- April 2010 - Christian leader Franklin Graham is disinvited from the Pentagon's National Day of Prayer Event because of complaints from the Muslim community.

- April 2010 - The Obama administration requires rewriting of government documents and a change in administration vocabulary to remove terms that are deemed offensive to Muslims, including jihad, jihadists, terrorists, radical Islamic, etc.

- August 2010 - Obama speaks with great praise of Islam and condescendingly of Christianity.

- August 2010 - Obama went to great lengths to speak out on multiple occasions on behalf of building an Islamic mosque at Ground Zero, while at the same time he was silent about a Christian church being denied permission to rebuild at that location.

- 2010 - While every White House traditionally issues hundreds of official proclamations and statements on numerous occasions, this White House avoids traditional Biblical holidays, as evidenced by its 2010 statements on Ramadan, Eid-ul-Fitr, Hajj, and Eid-ul-Adha.

- October 2011 - Obama's Muslim advisers block Middle Eastern Christians' access to the White House.

- February 2012 - The Obama administration makes effluent apologies for Korans being burned by the U. S. military, but when Bibles were burned by the military, numerous reasons were offered why it was the right thing to do.

Many of these actions are literally unprecedented - this is the first time they have hap-

pened in four centuries of American history. The hostility of President Obama toward Biblical faith and values is without equal from any previous American president.

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Flint Hills Christian School Takes 1st And 2nd In State

Friday and Saturday, February 24 & 25 Flint Hills Christian School (FHCS) hosted the Kansas Christian Athletic Association (KCAA) 1A Boys' and Girls' State Basketball tournament.

Competing were FHCS, Heartland, Chanute, and Tyro. Friday's match-ups on the girls' side were Tyro vs. FHCS, with FHCS winning 42-37, and Heartland vs. Chanute, with Heartland coming out on top

54-10. The Friday match-ups for the boys were Chanute vs. Heartland with Chanute emerging victorious 56-27, and FHCS vs. Tyro met in the other game, with FHCS winning 61-41.

On Saturday, in the girls' championship game Heartland faced FHCS with Heartland coming out on top by a score of 60-19. The third place game was won by Tyro with a score of 39 to 19 over Chanute. On

the boys' side Tyro defeated Heartland 55-28 for third place and FHCS won the championship game against Chanute with a score of 52-34. On the 1A Regular Season and All Tournament Team for

the FHCS girls was Courtney Cranford, Sarah Dodge, and Sarah Featherstone. For the FHCS boys', Joe Catterson, Tyler Eaves and Bo Love made the 1A Regular Season Team with Jonah Ferguson getting honorable mention. The All Tournament team included Catterson, Eaves, Love, and Caleb Davidson with Ferguson once again getting honorable mention for FHCS. Catterson was named the MVP of the tournament.



The 1st Place Flint Hills Christian School Boys Basketball Team.
Back Row (Left to Right): Barry Patterson (head coach), Ryan McDonald, Caleb Davidson, Darien Thomas, Atreyu Neyhart, Jacob Shultz, Joe Lowry, Micah Linville, Cole Wilson, Dan Renaldo, Casey Cassel (assistant coach)
Front Row (Left to Right): Bo Love, Tyler Eaves, Joe Catterson, Dennis Luberus (manager), Jonah Ferguson, Mike Wolfe (assistant coach)

The 2nd Place Flint Hills Christian School Girls Basketball Team.
Left to Right: Mallory Ferguson, Sarah Featherstone, Amber Seymour, Courtney Cranford, Sarah Dodge, Beka Hunt, Christie Warren

The MAC Presents: The Paul Mesner Puppets

The Manhattan Arts Center's MACademy youth theatre program presents the Paul Mesner Puppets in Anansi the Spider on Saturday, March 17 at 4pm. Anansi the Spider is a lively telling of four classic folk tales, as adapted by Paul Mesner, from Africa and the Caribbean. All these humorous stories feature a trickster spider who sometimes gets tricked himself. In "How

the Stories Came to the World", "Tiger Becomes a Riding Horse", "The Magic of Five" and "Dinner for Two", Anansi the Spider offers universal lessons of wit and cleverness. Paul Mesner, puppeteer, author and performer, studied at the prestigious International Institute of Puppetry in Charleville-Mezier, France. In 1987 he moved to Kansas City

where he founded the Paul Mesner Puppets. Mesner strives for entertaining his audiences while also sneaking in a few life-lessons and depth. Mesner has received awards for educational and artistic achievement. His awards include two UNIMA-USA (Union Internationale de la Marionette) Citations for Excellence in Puppetry (an

award created by Jim Henson) for Sleeping Beauty and Wiley & the Hairy Man and the Distinguished Service to Education Award from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, and are available online at manhattanarts.org, at the Manhattan Arts Center box office 1520 Poyntz or by calling

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Engine Gas I4 2.0L/122
Trans 4-Speed Automatic w/OD
Drivetrain FWD
MPG* 25 CITY 34 HWY
Actual rating will vary with options, driving conditions, habits and vehicle condition.

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2012 SPRING CLEAN-UP PROGRAM SCHEDULE

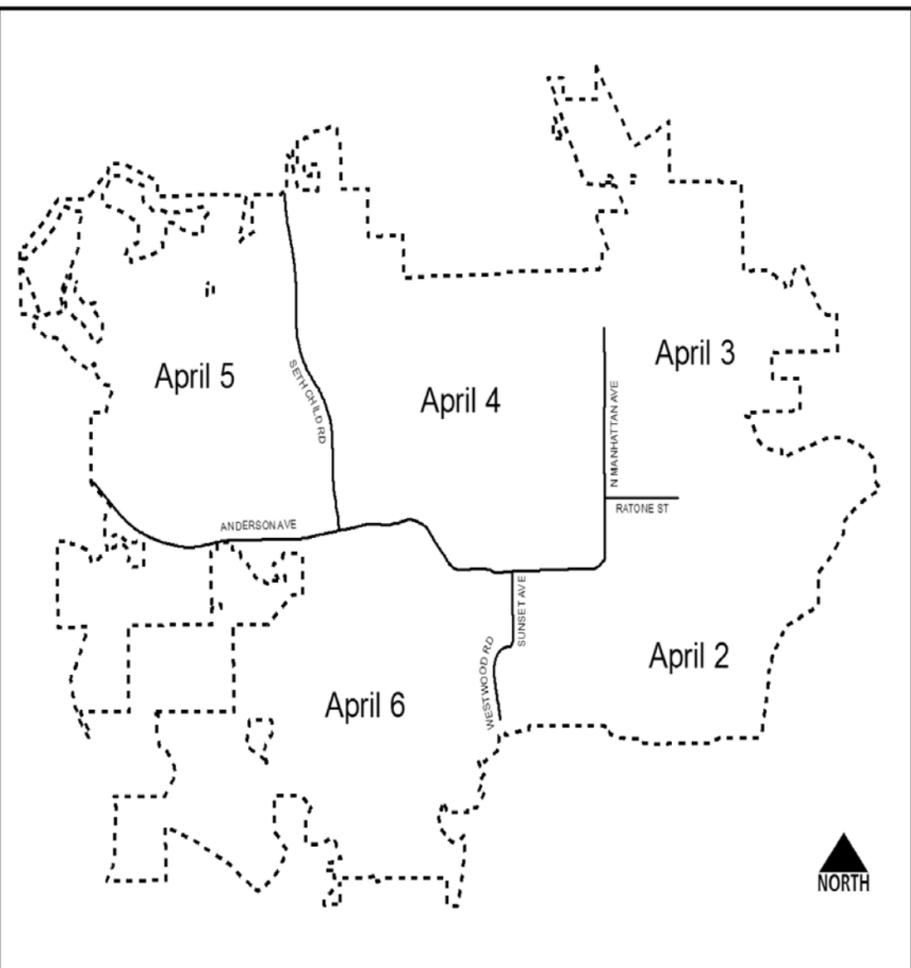
City of Manhattan crews will pick up yard waste, limbs, and branches **only**. Please check the schedule map for the date of your scheduled pick-up. Some important things to remember:

PAPER BAGS ONLY
All yard waste (grass clippings and leaves) must be in yard waste paper bags. Yard waste in plastic bags will not be collected. Paper bags may be purchased at local retail stores.

SEPARATE YARD WASTE
Yard waste must be in a separate pile from limbs and branches and placed on the curb. Any piles of mixed yard waste, limbs/branches, or other debris will not be picked up. Yard waste, tree limbs, and branches must be **stacked apart** from trash and debris.

LIMBS, BRANCHES, AND LUMBER
Do not place limbs and branches in boxes or other types of containers. Scrap lumber must be placed in a pile for pickup by refuse contractors. Do not mix scrap lumber with tree limbs.

ONE TIME ONLY
The area will be checked by supervisors and City crews will go through each area one time only.



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Tuttle Creek and Kimball
Varney's Bookstore
Riley County Treasurer's Office

Ogden
Riley Street

Junction City
18th and Jefferson
522 East Chestnut

Manhattan—Aggieville | ATM on site
1101 Bluemont Avenue
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Free Press Big 12 Sports

MANHATTAN FREE PRESS - Thursday, March 15, 2012

6A

Cats Fall to No. 1 Baylor in Big 12 Semis, 65-86

KSU Sports Information

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- Brittany Chambers could finally admit it about 30 minutes after the game.

It's kind of fun playing against Brittney Griner.

"She's an unbelievable player," said Kansas State's point guard. "It's fun to be on the court with her, I guess, now saying it. Not when it's happening."

Not when No. 1 Baylor's star player is putting together the best game of her career.

Griner set a Big 12 tournament record with a career-high 45 points, and had 10 rebounds and seven blocked shots in the Lady Bears' 86-65 rout of the Wildcats in the semifinals Friday.

Griner finished 19 of 28 from the field to better her career scoring mark of 41 points, set in the Lady Bears' regular-season finale against Iowa State, and got a standing ovation from fans of both teams when she checked out of the game with just over 2 1/2 minutes remaining.

"I've watched Baylor play a lot this year, and I know in the recent contests I've watched, I've seen coach Kim Mulkey over on the sideline admonish-

ing her team with this message: '42,' Kansas State coach Deb Patterson said, referring to Griner's jersey number.

"She understands that's the best player in the country, and they get her the ball."

Over and over again.

Griner scored the opening eight points for Baylor, and at one point midway through the first half was on pace to finish with 72, which would have shattered the women's Division I record of 60 set by Long Beach State's Cindy Brown in February 1987.

"We took what they gave us. They were in one-on-one coverage on Griner early in the game," Mulkey said. "That's what they chose to do, and we threw it in there."

Destiny Williams also contributed 12 points and 14 rebounds for Baylor (34-0), which will play Oklahoma or defending national champion Texas A&M on Saturday as it attempts to become the first program, men's or women's, to finish a season 40-0.

Chambers had 18 points to lead Kansas State (19-13), which has lost 14 straight to the Lady Bears. JuliAnne Chisholm and Jalana Childs wound up with 11 points each.

"We lined up against a dominant team, and I thought we had segments where we played well," Patterson said. "It was a tremendous game for Brittney."

Kansas State was still within 21-18 on a basket by Branshea Brown with 10:36 left in the first half, but Griner -- who else? -- scored the game's next three baskets.

It was the start of a 16-2 run for Baylor that included eight points from Griner, Terran Condrey's only two field goals of the half, and jumpers by Sims and Kimetria Hayden.

By the time Sims converted a three-point play off a feed from Griner, and Williams scored on a fast break, the Lady Bears had surged to a comfortable 42-22 halftime advantage.

"It's our defense and, you know, we just play hard," Griner said. "That's how it turns out."

The Wildcats are left to await their fate from the NCAA tournament selection committee, which will announce the bracket Monday night. Kansas State hardly fared well in three blowout losses to Baylor, but did knock off then-No. 9 Texas A&M and then-No. 10 Texas Tech.

The Wildcats also beat Iowa

State in the quarterfinals of the Big 12 tournament, a team that boasts a similar at-large resume and also awaits the selection

process.

"I'm hopeful our RPI and playing the strength of schedule we did, which was astro-

nomical, that we'll get a good seed," Patterson said. "We're very deserving of it."



Birttany Chambers (2) drive the ball hard past the Baylor defense on her way to the net. She led the Wildcats with 18 points.

Wildcats Fall to Baylor in Big 12 Quarterfinals, 74-82

KSU Sports Information

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- Perry Jones III scored a career-high 31 points, hitting 11 of 14 shots, and powered Baylor (No. 11 ESPN/USA Today, No. 12 AP) past Kansas State 82-74 Thursday in the Big 12 tournament.

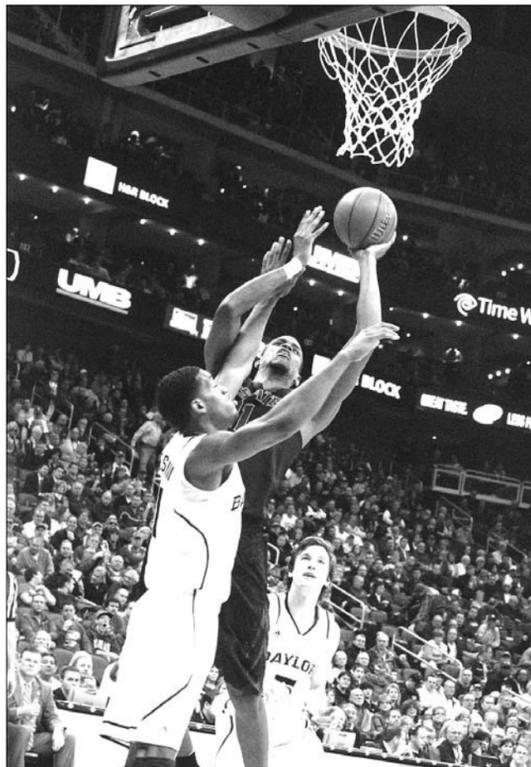
Jordan Henriquez scored a career-high 22 points and added 14 rebounds for the Wildcats, who will now wait to learn their NCAA Tournament destination and opponent on Sunday.

With the game back and forth for the majority of the first half, Baylor opened up a nine-point lead at the half with a surge over the final five minutes of the opening half.

K-State opened the second half with four straight points to cut the margin to five but could not get any closer for the remainder of the game.

Rodney McGruder added 14 points for K-State, while Angel Rodriguez (12) and Jamar Samuels (10) also reached double figures in scoring.

Brady Heslip had 15 points and Pierre Jackson added 13 points and eight assists for Baylor, which shot a sizzling 57 percent while debuting bright, fluorescent yellow uniforms.



Jordan Henriquez (21) goes up for the net. Jordan scored a career high 22 points.



Jalana Childs goes up for the net and scored 11 points for K-State. Photos by Ben Brake.

Childs Carries Wildcats to Win Over Iowa State, 67-63

KSU Sports Information

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- With a career-high and K-State Big 12 tournament record effort, Jalana Childs propelled Kansas State into the semifinals of the 2012 Phillips 66 Big 12 Championships with a 67-63 win over Iowa State at Municipal Auditorium. Kansas State improved to 19-12 with the win and have advanced to the semifinals for the seventh time in history of the Big 12 Championships.

Childs registered a career-high 31 points on 13-of-23 shooting and a 5-of-6 performance from the foul line. The 2012 All-Big 12 first team recipient surpassed the K-State school record for points in a Big 12 tournament game, as surpassed the record set by Andria Jones on March 6, 1997 against Kansas with 28 points. This was the 41st 30-point game in school history and the fifth in the month of March.

Childs also pulled in 10 boards and carded three steals. It was the fourth double-double of Childs' career.

Joining Childs in double figures were Tasha Dickey and Brittney Chambers. Dickey tallied 13 points, four rebounds and two blocks. Chambers notched 12 points, eight rebounds and a team-high six

assists.

The Cyclones were led by senior Lauren Mansfield and freshman Nikki Moody. The pair each scored 21 points and grabbed four rebounds.

Iowa State (18-12) zipped out to a 12-2 lead to start the game, as Lauren Mansfield register five points during the run including a three-point field goal to force a K-State timeout with 16:36 to play. The Wildcats battled back with a 13-2 run to capture a 15-14 lead with 10:36 to play. After Iowa State's initial burst, K-State held the Cyclones without a field goal for the next five minutes during the rally.

Mansfield carded her second 3-pointer of the half following a scramble for a loose ball to give the Cyclones a 26-22 lead with 4:59 to play. The Wildcats recovered with a pair of free throws from Branshea Brown and a layup from Chantay Caron to tie the game at 26.

K-State sailed into halftime on an 11-3 run to hold a 33-29 lead, as Childs and Chambers each carded a basket in the paint while Tasha Dickey tallied her second 3-point field goal of the half with 50 seconds left.

Childs paced K-State in the early stages of the second half, scoring six of the Wildcats' first eight points on an assortment of

post moves to keep K-State in front, 41-37, with 15:08 to play.

After Mansfield connected on a mid-range jumper to tie the game at 46 with 11:33 to play, Childs answered for the Wildcats with a pair of jumper to give K-State a 50-46 lead with 8:38 remaining.

Moody tied the game for the seventh and final time at 59 with a fast break layup after a scramble for a rebound. K-State went back to Childs, who responded with four of the next five K-State points including a long jumper from the top of the key as the shot clock expired to give K-State a 64-61 lead with 21 seconds to play. Chambers and Childs sealed the K-State win with four free throws in the final 14 seconds.

K-State shot 44.6 percent from the field for the game and held an 11-4 edge in points off turnovers. The Wildcats were 13-of-15 from the charity stripe, which is the second-high free throw percentage of the season at 86.7.

Kansas State will face the winner of No. 1 Baylor/Texas Tech on Friday at 12 p.m. The game will be broadcast to a national audience on FSN and available on the K-State Sports Network and for free on kstate-sports.com.

2012 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship

