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A rendering of the proposed National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan.

Biocontainment Lab 'Technically Inadequate'

Special From
National Research Council

WASHINGTON — A new National Research Council report requested by Congress finds the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's updated site-specific risk assessment for the proposed National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, Kan., a "substantial improvement" over the original 2010 version, **but it has a number of deficiencies and inadequately characterizes the risks associated with operating the facility.**

The NBAF would be the world's fourth Biosafety Level 4 laboratory capable of large animal research, replacing the aging Plum Island Animal Disease Center located off Long Island. **It would study dangerous foreign animal diseases — including highly contagious foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), which affects cattle, pigs, deer, and other cloven-hoofed animals — as well as emerging and new infectious diseases that can be transmitted between animals and people.** In 2010 the Research Council reviewed the original site-specific risk assessment by DHS and found that it was inadequate due to flawed methods and assumptions. In response, Congress mandated that DHS revise its assessment to address shortcomings and directed the Research Council to evaluate the updated assessment, which is the focus of this report. Another Research Council committee, whose work is separate from this report, is examining the needs and possible scientific alternatives for a foreign animal and zoonotic disease research laboratory in the U.S.

The committee that reviewed the updated risk assessment found that many of the shortcomings identified in the 2010 report have been addressed and that the new version uses more conventional risk assessment methods and conceptual models, presents clearer descriptions of the approaches, and complies better with standard practices than the previous version. **However, some of the risk analysis methods were misinterpreted and misapplied when executed. The assessment also contains questionable and inappropriate assumptions that led to artificially lower estimates of the probability of an accidental pathogen release from the facility, the committee said.**

Information from the 2010 risk assessment implies that for the two greatest release scenarios there is nearly a **70 percent chance that a release of FMD could result in an infection outside the laboratory over the 50-year lifetime of the facility.** In contrast, the updated assessment concludes that for **142 possible release events, the cumulative probability of a release leading to an**

Editorial

Everyone wants jobs, cities, counties and states all want to bring new jobs into their communities.

Doctors are asked to "first do no harm," and we feel the people of Manhattan, Riley County and the State of Kansas should ask our leaders: "first do no harm".

After this report by the National Research Council came out last week saying the Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) to be built in Manhattan is "technically inadequate" our Governor and two Senators said the facility should go ahead with funding and construction. What?

The most dangerous work in all of America is going to be conducted in this Lab and the report calls it "Technically Inadequate" and they want to continue construction?

Yes, Manhattan wants jobs, Riley County wants jobs, and the State of Kansas wants jobs but first, "Do No Harm".

infection is 0.11 percent, or a 1 in 46,000 chance per year.

The committee noted that some of the risk reduction may be explained by improvements to the latest design plans for the facility, but despite improvements, the updated assessment underestimates the risk of an accidental pathogen release and inadequately characterizes the uncertainties in those risks. Moreover, the committee found that the updated probabilities of releases are based on overly optimistic and unsupported estimates of human-error rates; low estimates of infectious material available for release; and inappropriate treatment of dependencies, uncertainties, and sensitivities in calculating release probabilities. For instance, the 2010 assessment concludes that human error would be the most likely cause of release, and the previous Research Council report agrees. However, the updated assessment concludes that natural hazards, specifically earthquakes and tornadoes, would be 20 times more likely to cause a pathogen release than operational activities at the facility. The committee questioned whether natural hazards posed the greatest risk for accidental release of FMD and believed the updated assessment overestimated the release probabilities due to both kinds of natural disasters versus other pathways.

In addition, the low estimates of risk found throughout the updated assessment are not in agreement with most modern, complex industrial sys-

tems, and in many instances the committee could not verify results because methods and data were unevenly or poorly presented. The updated assessment also contains inconsistent information, which made it difficult to determine the degree to which risks were underestimated.

"A risk assessment of this nature carries significant complexities, yet the practice of completing such assessments is mature enough that the committee's expectations are attainable," said Gregory Baecher, chair of the committee and Glenn L. Martin Institute Professor of Engineering at the University of Maryland, College Park. "Because a pathogen release from the NBAF could have devastating agricultural, economic, and public health consequences, a risk assessment that reaches inappropriate conclusions could have substantial repercussions."

The committee said the updated assessment addresses many of the issues outlined in the congressional mandate. **However, it still does not adequately include overall risks associated with the most dangerous pathogens. Additionally, assumptions about surveillance, detection, response, and mitigation strategies were not adequately comprehensive or science-based.**

The latest design plans for the NBAF appear to be sound, the committee said. It reviewed the design documents to understand the assumptions about the release probabilities for the risk assessment and to verify that design concerns raised in the previous Research Council report were addressed. The committee noted that inadequacies in the updated assessment do not imply inadequacies in the facility's design. It was beyond the committee's task to formally review or pass judgment on the actual engineering or safety of the facility.

The study was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council make up the National Academies. They are independent, nonprofit institutions that provide science, technology, and health policy advice under an 1863 congressional charter. Panel members, who serve pro bono as volunteers, are chosen by the Academies for each study based on their expertise and experience and must satisfy the Academies' conflict-of-interest standards. The resulting consensus reports undergo external peer review before completion. For more information, visit <http://national-academies.org/studycommitteeprocess.pdf>.

City To Start On New Recreation Offices

With the City of Manhattan more than \$250 million in debt, did you think the City Commission would stop the spending? You have another think coming.

Here is a memo telling of the project:

PRESENTERS: Jason Hilgers, Assistant City Manager Curt Loupe, Director of Parks and Recreation

BACKGROUND

The current Park and Recreation office has been located in City Park for over three decades and was originally an un-insulated maintenance shop which was converted to office space in the early 1980's on a temporary basis. City crews converted the shops to office space in-house. As the department has grown, the 9 rooms and small single restroom facility has been challenged to accommodate the 15 full-time employees, several part-time employees, and a constant flow of citizens seeking to participate in programs and services.

The proposed 2013 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes a \$1.3 million renovation of the Park and Recreation offices. City Administration has engaged Bruce McMillan in a limited capacity to look at developing preliminary design for the renovation of the existing space. City Administration has also recommended improvements to both the City Auditorium (City Hall - 1101 Poyntz) and Community Building (4th Street and Humboldt Street) in the CIP out years due to age, use of the facilities, and meeting community program needs.

Prior to investing money in three different facilities, City Administration is proposing to explore how best to utilize the funds available. One concept includes expanding City Hall to add Park and Recreation offices and services, renovating and adding gym space in the City

Auditorium, and possibly looking at alternative uses for the Community Building.

Preliminary thoughts have centered on adding offices where the existing seating area is located in the City Auditorium, just south of the City Commission foyer. This would allow the offices to be added adjacent to the Customer Service area, where a one-stop shop for City services could be received. It could also allow the expansion of the City Auditorium to the west and south to potentially add gym space for perhaps two if not three total full court gyms. It should be noted that when City Hall was expanded and renovated in the late 1990's, City Auditorium was not included. The auditorium has had very little done to it since construction in the 1950's.

If additional gym and program space is added at City Hall - City Auditorium, it will lend itself to scheduling several activities currently taking place at the Community Building. Alternative uses with the Community Building will require sensitivity to the historic nature of the building. Exploring an alternative use will also highlight the necessity of some investment taking place in the facility by either the public sector, private sector or both in order to maintain the historic fabric of the building.

FINANCING

City Administration anticipates the study will require \$20,000 - \$40,000 to complete. Upon selecting a design firm, City Administration will negotiate a contract for the City Commission to consider. City Administration anticipates funding this effort from the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund. The City currently carries a balance of approximately \$1.8 million after the construction of the new Traffic shop/offices.

McDonald Appointed School Administrator



Tim McDonald (left) has been appointed Flint Hills Administrator replacing Frank Leone.

After six years as administrator and principal, of the Flint Hills Christian School Frank Leone is saying goodbye and Tim McDonald is saying hello.

Of his new appointment, McDonald said, "First and foremost, I believe this is where God has led me. I was looking to move back to the US after working for many years in international schools and Manhattan is such an attractive option. Living here puts us close to family, it is a great community and FHCS has what I believe is a great future."

According to Leone, McDonald will bring an international perspective

to the school due to his recent service in China and Kenya. "I also see Tim raising the profile of the school in the community and connecting the school better to area Christian churches.

When they speak of their philosophy of Christian education, it is easy to see both men bring the same ideas to the position. Leone said, "Christian education focuses on the whole student: body, mind and spirit. Whether taking place in the home, school or church, Christian education is the training of the next generation to thoughtfully serve the community and the broader culture in ways that honor God."

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Pension Deficit Increases Again

By Gene Meyer
Kansas Reporter

FAIRWAY — The Kansas pension fund dug about \$716 million deeper into the red during 2010, bottoming out at \$21.9 billion, a Washington think tank said Monday.

But the state is not alone. Nationally, the gap between what state pension funds have saved to pay future workers' benefits and what they have promised to pay increased by \$12 billion, to a total \$1.38 trillion during 2010, said David Draine, a researcher at the Pew Center on the States.

The latest survey s the third Pew researchers have done since 2009, and the gaps have increased annually.

"While the economy and state revenues are improving, states are still struggling to manage the bill coming due for promised benefits," Draine said Monday in a webinar about the findings.

More states — 34 in 2010 versus 31 in 2009 and 22 in 2008 — fell below the 80 percent-funded threshold, which pension specialists say is healthy for state plans, Pew reported.

Kansas fell two percentage points to 64 percent funded. Pew analyzes formal annual financial reports and actuarial valuations to make the calculations, and 2010 is the most recent year for which those are available.

The numbers will probably get worse for at least two more years, predicts Ron Snell, a pension policy specialist for the National Conference of State Legislatures in Denver.

"That's because of smooth-

ing," Snell said.

Smoothing is an accounting technique used by the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System and other large pensions to average extreme swings in investment returns over five years to help plot long-term changes in their investments.

KPERS — which manages \$14 billion in retirement savings for 279,000 working and retired teachers and government employees — lost billions during the 2008 Wall Street meltdown and, like many plans, is still absorbing the last of the smoothed-in losses, Snell said.

"Those losses probably will start easing up in fiscal 2012 or 2013," Snell said. Kansas' and KPERS' fiscal year begins July 1.

KPERS officially pegs the funding shortfall at \$8.3 billion, which is far smaller than Pew calculated Monday, or the about \$20 billion that economists Joshua Rauh and Robert Novy-Marx of Chicago predicted in 2009.

For planning purposes, KPERS presumes its investments will grow about 8 percent annually over the several decades it will be paying current members. Pew researchers and the Chicago economists ran the calculations with lower returns, to reflect losses in 2008.

Workers and teachers who join KPERS beginning in 2015 will be offered guaranteed-interest retirement savings plans, instead of traditional pensions. That will limit taxpayers' open-ended pledge to those new workers, but a fund-

ing gap will remain for members now, or those hired before Jan. 1, 2015.

KPERS' actuaries are reviewing those year-old \$8.3 billion projections and may have fresh projections in a month or so, said Kirsten Basso, the system's chief communications officer. Basso said she had yet to see the latest Pew report.

Mitch Holmes, R-St. John, chairs the Kansas House Pensions and Benefits Committee. He said he thought Pew's estimate overstates KPERS' actual funding gap, although KPERS' \$8.3 billion calculation seems to understate the divide, he said.

"That 8 percent assumption seems a little high," Holmes said.

Holmes said he thinks KPERS' long-term returns have slipped below 8 percent, but not that far.

"I don't know what the number is exactly, but I've talked with a lot of people who plan retirements for a living, and I think something near 7.5 percent seems about right," he said.

Lowering KPERS' assumed investment returns even by half a percentage point would increase the plan's potential cost to taxpayers, because the system still needs \$8.3 billion or more to reach full funding, according to system actuaries. How much more that might cost wasn't immediately calculable Monday.

Sheila Weinberg, founder and chief executive of the Institute for Truth In Accounting, calculated in a separate report issued

Wednesday that Kansas' estimated pension obligations in 2010 already were larger than any one of the state's other debts.

Weinberg and the Institute, a nonpartisan advocate of clearer government accounting based in suburban Chicago, calculates Kansas' owes retirees at least \$6 billion in retirement benefits that don't show up on state balance sheets, compared to \$4.3 billion in similarly unrecognized debt for highway construction, state building projects and other costs that have been shifted to future taxpayers.

Weinberg said she used official state financial numbers to make her calculations, without adjusting for market losses or potentially reduced returns, as Pew or other researchers have done.

"The official figures are bad enough to show that costs need to be paid when they occur," Weinberg said.

Kansas isn't the only state in this kind of a jam. Weinberg estimates that more than \$900 billion in future retirement benefits nationally are promised to state and local pension plan members that won't hit state budgets until years from now, when the pensions are due.

"States pay only what is due during the current budget year, which does not take in account true long-term obligations on their balance sheets," Weinberg said. "Hundreds of billions of dollars of retirement liabilities are not reported, which pushes these costs onto future taxpayers."

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Obituaries

Harvey Roy Olin

Harvey Roy Olin, 68, of Ogden, formerly of Springfield, MO, passed away Sunday, June 17th. He was a retired painter and construction worker.

Harvey was born February

14, 1944 in Everett, Washington to the late Raymond and Bernice Olin. He was married to Nancy R. "Oberstedt" Olin. He served in the United States Army as a SGT during the Vietnam War.

Survivors include his wife Nancy Olin of Manhattan, Kansas, and daughter Katherine Nelson and son-in-law, Matthew of Ogden.

At the request of the family no local services were planned,

cremation was chosen. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

To send an online condolence please visit www.irvin-parkview.com or you can find us on Facebook.

Dean Piper

Leland "Dean" Piper, age 84, of St. George, Kansas, died June 16, 2012, at Valley Vista in Wamego, Kansas.

He was born June 4, 1928, in Manhattan, Kansas, the son of James Barton and Hattie E. (Dewey) Piper.

Mr. Piper graduated from St. George High School.

He was a carpenter and had worked for various contractors in this area.

Mr. Piper was a member of the First United Methodist Church. He enjoyed traveling, antiques, square dancing and

coaching baseball when he was younger.

On August 23, 1948, in Manhattan, he was married to Fae Faith Harrell. Mrs. Piper survives of the home. Additional survivors include three children: James D. Piper and his wife Irma of Alma, KS, Sharon F. Caster of Overland Park, KS, and Candace A. Bahner and her husband Kim of Belvue, KS; four siblings: Jack Piper, Kenneth Piper, Thelma Soupen and Martha Hyde all of St. George, KS; four grandchildren: Jana

Thomas, Kari Roberts, Tanya Riley and Tyson Bahner; and four great-grandsons.

Dean was preceded in death by three sisters: Hazel Fair, Dorothy Fair and Mildred Area; and three brothers: James, Donald and Frank Piper.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 A.M. Thursday at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Chapel with Reverend Kay Scarbrough officiating. Interment will follow in the St. George Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 7:00 until 8:30

P.M. Wednesday 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, Kansas 66502.

James Shaw

James Lee Shaw, age 71, of Wichita, died June 15, 2012, at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas.

He was born June 2, 1941, in Wamego, Kansas, the son of Robert and Mabel (Area) Shaw. He graduated from St. George High School and from the Wichita Technical Institute with his degree in Electronics in 1966.

Jim served in the United States Air Force in the Korean and Vietnam Wars era as an Airman First Class. He worked as an engineer at KCMO in Kansas City and for KARD in Wichita, retiring in 2008.

He was active with Cosmopolitan the Kansas City Charity for diabetic children and had his First Class Operators License for broadcasting with radar endorsement.

Survivors include Four children: Debbie Hehemann and her husband Ken, Kelly Rice and her husband Charles all of Wichita; Jeff Thompson and his wife Lynn of Denver, Colorado, and Terry Whitmarsh and her husband Todd of Lee's Summit, MO; his mother, Mabel Shaw of St. George, KS; one brother,

Steven Shaw and his wife Rickie of St. George; wife Jackie Shaw of Overland Park, Ks, seven grandchildren: Chris and Kara Hehemann, Elizabeth Foster, Jessica Warren, Whitney Bartlow, Patrick Rinck and Ty Medlock; and five great-grandchildren: Wyatt and Miley Foster, Adam Warren, Isabelle and Josiah Bartlow.

Jim was preceded in death by his father Robert Shaw; two sisters: Janice Bussart and Karen Shaw; one granddaughter, Amanda Rice; and one great-grandson, Dominck Foster.

Funeral services were held at 1:30pm Wednesday at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Chapel with Ray Emery officiating. Interment with military honors will follow in the St. George Cemetery.

The family received friends from noon until the service time on Wednesday at the 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 Juvenile Diabetes Association. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502.

Zelda Anita Schroll

Zelda Anita Schroll, 88, a lifelong resident of Manhattan, passed away Sunday June 10th at the Via-Christi Village in Manhattan.

Zelda Anderson was born in Manhattan, October 31, 1923, the daughter of the late John and Gertrude Berry Anderson. Zelda graduated from Manhattan High School in 1941 and was married to the late Jim Schroll, he passed away in May of 2011. Zelda was co-owner of Zeandale Salvage with her husband Jim, the mother of three boys. Zelda was a member of the Zeandale Community Church and the ladies guild. She and her husband Jim were also supporters

of Manhattan Christian College, an avid gardener and loved to grow flowers around the house. She was also an avid animal lover, especially dogs that gave her great comfort in the last several years of her life.

Survivors include her three sons, Darrell and his wife Janet, Dana and his wife Jan, and Linn and his wife Sharon all of Manhattan; seven grandchildren, Rusty Schroll and his wife Jenn, Kristy Schroll, Duke Ridder, Cody Ridder and his wife Calie, Justin Schroll, Shane Schroll and Kelsey Schroll all of Manhattan; three nephews Joe Morehead of Kansas City, Larry Morehead

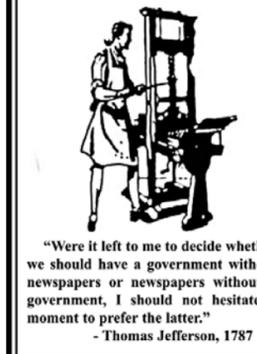
and his wife Sheri of Manhattan, and Jerry Morehead of Manhattan; and many fine friends and people she touched in her life.

A memorial services will be held at the Zeandale Community Church was held Wednesday, June 20th at 11:00am. Grave side services to follow at the Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Zeandale Community Church.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Irvin-Parkview Funeral Home & Cremation, Manhattan, Kansas. To leave an online condolence please visit us at irvinparkview.com or

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Stroda, Richardson Honored By KSRA

Wade Stroda, Manhattan, and Larry Richardson, Derby, were named the 2012 Kansas State Rifle Association Youth Shooter of the Year and Senior Shooter of the Year at the association's annual meeting held June 2, in Wichita.

Wade Stroda, 16, began his shooting career with the Manhattan Jaycee BB Gun Program. He has progressed from shooting BB gun to air rifle, small bore rifle, air pistol, small bore pistol and muzzle loading rifle in the past eleven years.

During Wade's career in BB gun, he attended the Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match several times earning several national awards. BB gun gave Wade a strong foundation to build on as he transitioned to other shooting games.

Wade has shot sporter air rifle for six years. During that time, he has participated in 4-H and NRA matches. He participated in the 2011 National 4-H Invitational Match where his team placed 1st overall. Wade placed 5th individually at the National 4-H Invitational in air rifle. Stroda has been recognized as a President's 100 for Excellence in Airgun Competition through NRA matches.

In the past year, Wade has



Wade Stroda, (left) Manhattan, and Larry Richardson, Derby, pose for a photo after receiving recognition as the 2012 Kansas State Rifle Association Youth Shooter of the Year and Senior Shooter of the Year June 2, 2012 in Wichita at the Kansas State Rifle Association Annual Meeting.

transitioned to precision air rifle. He earned an invitation to the Junior Olympics in 2012 in air rifle standing. However, due to an injury, he was unable to attend in either air rifle or 3-position small bore rifle for which he also earned an invitation. Wade has been shooting small bore rifle for several years with the Manhattan Rifle Club. He earned the high average for a junior shooter in 2011 and 2012 in the North Central Kansas Gallery League. Wade

also earned the high average in the standing position of all League shooters for 2011 and 2012. Stroda has been part of the Kansas 4-H Small Bore Rifle champion team for the last three years. He will represent Kansas as a member of the 2012 Kansas Small Bore Rifle Team at the upcoming National 4-H Invitational Match.

In addition to his personal shooting, Wade has volunteered to assist with events such as the Kansas Department

of Wildlife and Parks Kids Camp for rifle and muzzle loading. He has assisted with Women on Target and Kids Day at the Range at Fancy Creek Range.

Wade shoots muzzle loading rifle, air pistol, small bore pistol and hunts for fun. He is an avid fisherman. He is an active member of Riley County 4-H. He also plays football, baseball and wrestles at Manhattan High School. He helps on his family's farm where he practices shooting when time allows.

Larry Richardson has served as a mentor for youth shooters for the many years. He coached the Derby BB Gun team for 27 years, resulting in several "Top Ten" Team finishes at the National Championships and one Individual National Champion in 2002. In 2000, the team won 1st place in the NRA National BB Gun Postal match. During this time, he also coached two shooters who received NCAA shooting scholarships.

Richardson began shooting small bore rifle competitively 15 years ago. He bought a small bore target rifle and with some "mentoring" started shooting in matches alongside his good friend and fellow coach, Dean Schroer. Since turning 60, he has earned State Champion Senior in both indoor and outdoor 3-position and conventional prone small bore rifle each year for the past five years.

In addition to his own shooting, Richardson organizes and conducts the annual Indoor Kansas Junior Olympic small bore rifle qualifying match, the NRA Indoor Small bore Open and Junior Sectional Matches and the Indoor Kansas State Prone Championship also known as the Margaret Murdock Championship Match (the only one of its kind in the US). He is also the Chairman of the NRA small bore rifle program at the Air Capital Gun Club where he conducts four matches each year.

Richardson also organizes and conducts three sporting clays tournaments annually for the Kansas Oil Industry and participates in several others. He also combines his affection for running and shooting by putting on the KSRA co-sponsored Summer Biathlon each summer in Wichita to introduce the non-shooting public to the joy of shooting sports. Richardson still acts as the chief fundraiser and gunsmith for the Derby BB Gun team. He also serves at the editor of the KSRA publication Chips-N-Ricochets.

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Mall Developer Ends Bid For Taxpayer Telp

By Gene Meyer
Kansas Reporter

MISSION — Developers who originally sought \$63 million in taxpayer money to help build a giant aquarium and hotel complex in this tiny northeast Kansas City suburb have scrapped those plans.

Kansas Commerce Department spokesman Dan Lara confirmed Wednesday that the Cameron Group, of Syracuse, N.Y., did not resubmit its application for state-subsidized STAR bond financing, which was planned to help build the tourist attraction on the now-vacant 26-acre site of a failed shopping mall.

The STAR bonds — Sales Tax Anticipation Revenue — lend future sales tax revenue to real estate developers to help pay for roads, parking lots or other infrastructure that's needed — theoretically — for their enterprise to flourish.

Cameron is abandoning its 4-year-old quest to incorporate a 2.5 million-gallon aquarium and a 150-room hotel into a mixed-use retail center on eastern border. However, it still intends to build a 150,000-square-foot Walmart there, without state help, The Kansas City Star reported Wednesday.

Cameron could not be reached Wednesday for comment.

Local Kansas governments, under the supervision of the state Commerce Department, have authorized the sale of more than \$850 million in STAR bond sales since 2001 but not all of those bonds have been issued.

Some projects, such as the aquarium here and a planned natural history museum in a proposed Overland Park shop-

ping center, haven't received the private support Kansas requires before issuing the bonds.

Cameron, for example, has been trying since 2008 to sign tenants to fill 75 percent of the planned space. It failed, and the bonds were never issued, said Lara.

The bonds were instrumental in bringing the Kansas Speedway and clusters of shopping centers to Kansas City, Kan., just northwest of here, during the past decade.

Even so, Kansas legislators in the latest session debated whether to end STAR bonds after this year, because new economic growth sparked by the bonds appeared to be dwindling. Instead, lawmakers extended the program through 2017, citing competition with Missouri for bringing new businesses to the Kansas City area.

County Minutes

Manning discussed similar concerns.

Setter said she has had to absorb a lot of the reception duties. Setter stated the additional reception duties have adversely impacted her accounting responsibilities. Setter stated she is currently behind in some duties.

Meredith stated everyone coming together has gotten along real well and assists each other. Meredith said it has impacted him in having someone available for secretarial duties.

Winter said the Administrative Clerk I position would allow the separation of reception responsibilities from accounting responsibilities.

Hobson added the position would take back duties from Graham and Manning.

McCulloh asked about moving the benefit districts payments to the Clerk's Office.

Hobson said he does not feel it makes sense to move a portion of the Public Works accounts receivable elsewhere.

McCulloh asked if Victoria McGrath could conduct a position audit.

Volanti stated she could.

Hobson asked why a position audit would only be done on the Public Work's office.

McCulloh stated costs are increasing and we need to see where we can become more efficient.

McCulloh suggested putting it off until next month to see how we are in the budget process.

Hobson stated if that is the case all other open positions should be frozen.

Lewis stated when he visited Public Works he was amazed at the amount of work in the Public Works office. Lewis stated he is open to the request.

Hobson said this is not a new position, it is a vacant position in the current budget.

Hobson said he is just asking

for the Public Works department to be treated the same as other county departments.

The Board agreed, by consensus, to readdress the Administrative Clerk I position in one month after the budget process has become clear.

1:15 Department Heads 2013 Budget Request

Rod Meredith — Parks Department 2013 Budget Request

Rod Meredith — Public Works 2013 Budget Request

Gary Rosewicz — Solid Waste 2013 Budget Requests

Gary Rosewicz — County Building 2013 Budget Requests

Julie Winter — Benefit

Districts 2013 Budget Requests
Susie Kufahl — Health Department 2013 Budget Request

Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Clancy Holeman, Counselor /Director of Administrative Services; Lori Muir, Real Estate Specialist; Shannon Wertzberger, Administrative Analyst; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk; and Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer, attended.

Meredith presented the 2013 Parks Department budget request.

Meredith presented the 2013 Public Works budget request.

from page 5

Rosewicz presented the 2013 Solid Waste budget request.

Rosewicz presented the 2013 County Building budget request.

Winter presented the 2013 Benefit Districts budget requests.

Kufahl presented the 2013 Health Department budget request.

2:36 Johnson moved to adjourn. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

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Riley County Commission Minutes

The Board of County Commissioners

The Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners met at the Riley County Plaza East Building June 11, 2012 with the following members present: Alvan Johnson, Chair; Dave Lewis, Vice Chair; Karen McCulloh, Member; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk.

8:30 Public Comment & Business Meeting

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; and Steve Higgins, Zoning Enforcement Officer, attended.

King presented the Treasurer's 2013 budget request.

King stated she is considering an additional entry level position to be paid from the motor vehicle budget. King estimated the cost would be \$39,000 including benefits.

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Personnel Action Form for Thomas Sidlinger, a Records Assistant II, in the County Clerk's Office, for Separation from County Service, effective June 22, 2012.

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for a Records Assistant II, in the County Clerk's Office, at a grade H.

McCulloh moved to approve the minutes of June 7, 2012 as amended. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Johnson asked Higgins about Darrell Morris' (3315 Valleydale) complaint about a concrete flowerpot being placed in a drainage ditch right-of-way.

Higgins said he has visited with Mr. Morris.

Higgins stated he does not have any authority over the matter. Higgins stated he referred Mr. Morris to the Manhattan Township Board.

9:00 Rich Vargo, County Clerk

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; and Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters, attended.

Vargo presented year to date budget and expenditures reports.

9:15 Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor

Public Hearing for Lakewood, Driftwood, and High Meadows Special Assessments

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Rod Harms; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Lori Muir, Real Estate Specialist; Dan Page, KMAN; Burk Krohe, Manhattan Mercury; Joe Hodson, 5608 High Meadow Circle; Marzenna Jankowiak, 5604 High Meadow Circle; Wm L Congleton, 5017 Lakewood Drive; Dick and Arlene Elkins, 2900 Lakewood Drive; Julie and Fred Merklin, 3203 Driftwood Drive; Deborah

Deborah Lakewood Drive; James Bean, 4906 Lakewood Drive; Edna Dragsdorf, 5616 High Meadow Circle; and Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters, attended.

Johnson opened the public hearing. Cox discussed repaving special assessments for Lakewood, Driftwood, and High Meadows Subdivisions.

Cox said pursuant to K.S.A. 12-6a10 the Board is authorized to determine the special assessments on each parcel benefited by the repaving project in each subdivision.

Cox said the Lakewood Subdivision Homeowners Association proposed a per lot assessment in their repaving petition. The per lot amount is \$4,107.23. Owners with multiple lots will multiply this amount by the number of lots they own to get the total special assessment amount.

Cox said the homeowners of Driftwood subdivision proposed a per owner assessment in their repaving petition. The per owner amount is \$4,237.23.

Cox said the homeowners of High Meadows/ South Meadows subdivisions proposed a per owner assessment in their repaving petition. The per owner amount is \$5,622.12.

Cox said the Board needs to set a thirty (30) day pay-in period for each subdivision, which ends July 19, 2012.

Cox stated the assessment sheets show a cost per owner for Driftwood and High Meadows as stated on the petition.

No public comment on the Driftwood and High Meadows subdivisions assessments.

Cox stated originally the Lakewood Subdivision Homeowners Association agreed to assess charges per lot. That was a majority decision, but not unanimous.

Cox stated since the petition was filed there have been some replats in the Lakewood subdivision, which impact assessment rates for all residents.

Cox stated the assessments are as follows:

Per lot with replats - \$4,107.23

Per lot without replats - \$3,706.53

Per owner - \$4,748.99

Cox said the statute allows a number of methods for the Board to establish assessment rates.

Caldwell, Lakewood #4, stated they anticipate building on both lots so it would be a one plot site.

R. Elkins, 2900 Lakewood, proposed an assessment based on value. Elkins stated he owns three lots and will have to pay more based on the per lot and chose not to replat.

Johnson closed the public hearing.

Lewis moved to approve the road subdivision special assessments calculated for Lakewood subdivision per lot with replats, and Driftwood and High Meadows subdivisions by owner with the pay-in period ending July 19, 2012. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to approve "Resolution No. 061112-23, A Resolution levying and assessing special assessments on certain lots, pieces, and parcels of land liable for such special assessments to pay the costs of street improvements, as authorized by Resolution No. 082511-32 of the county; and providing for the collection of such special assessments" - Lakewood and Gillam Street Benefit District. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

ended. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to approve "Resolution No. 061112-24, A Resolution levying and assessing special assessments on certain lots, pieces, and parcels of land liable for such special assessments to pay the costs of street improvements, as authorized by Resolution No. 082511-33 of the county; and providing for the collection of such special assessments" - Driftwood Estates Street Benefit District. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to approve "Resolution No. 061112-25, A Resolution levying and assessing special assessments on certain lots, pieces, and parcels of land liable for such special assessments to pay the costs of street improvements, as authorized by Resolution No. 082511-34 of the county; and providing for the collection of such special assessments" - High Meadows and South Meadows Subdivision Street Benefit. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:30 Press Conference

Anne Smith, aTa Bus Director; Greg McHenry, Appraiser; Dennis Peterson, Noxious Weed Director; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Rod Harms; Dan Page, KMAN; Burk Krohe, KMAN; and Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer, attended.

Smith presented a drawing of the new aTa Bus Transit Facility. Smith invited the commission and public to the groundbreaking that is at 10:00 a.m. Friday, June 15, 2012.

McHenry reported the Riley County Appraiser's staff will be conducting annual property reviews.

McHenry stated for the public to be sure it is Riley County staff, the staff drives Riley County vehicles clearly marked as Riley County vehicles.

McHenry said staff also wears a Riley County ID badge and a shirt with a Riley County logo.

Peterson reported the Riley Commission approved Howie's as the e-waste recycling collector in Riley County. Peterson stated the Riley County HHW facility will no longer collect e-waste. Peterson stated there are many advantages to the community in Howie's collecting e-waste.

Rosewicz reported the McDowell Creek Bridge Rehabilitation Project will begin on Monday, June 18, 2012. This project is located on McDowell Creek Road approximately 3 miles North of I-70. Traffic will be restricted to one lane through the project and will be controlled by traffic signals located at each end of the project. Drivers should expect delays up to 10 minutes.

Rosewicz said it is anticipated the work to be completed by mid-August.

Rosewicz apologized for any inconvenience caused by this project.

Shepek stated Riley County departments and outside agencies are currently making requests to the Board of County Commissioners for their 2013 budgets.

McCulloh thanked the Master Gardeners, Extension, and other volunteers who worked on the Garden Show.

10:14 Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/ County Engineer

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Rod Harms; Dan Page, KMAN; and Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters, attended.

Hobson presented a Public Works projects update.

10:40 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

Administrative Work Session

Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters, attended.

Holeman said regarding the joint mental health facility meeting Geary County and Pottawatomie County, would prefer to meet either July 23rd or July 30th.

The Board preferred July 23, 2012.

Holeman said he has met with Public Works on the Julie Lane issue. Holeman said he has been in contact with Mel Van Der Stelt's attorney.

11:00 Department Head

2013 Budget Request

Cheryl Collins - Museum

2013 Budget Request

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Dalanna Nichols, Court Administrator; Judge Meryl Wilson; Rod Harms; Burk Krohe, Manhattan Mercury; and Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters, attended.

C. Collins presented the 2013 Museum budget request.

11:15 Department Heads

2013 Budget Request

Barry Wilkerson, Attorney - County Attorney 2013 Budget Request

Dalanna Nichols, Court Administrator - District Court 2013 Budget Request

Judge Wilson - Future operational concerns

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Dalanna Nichols, Court Administrator; Judge Meryl Wilson; Rod Harms; Burk Krohe, Manhattan Mercury; and Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters, attended.

Nichols presented the 2013 District Court budget request.

Judge Wilson said at 1:00 p.m. today they will have a law library meeting. Wilson said most counties no longer have hard bound volumes available.

Wilson said in Douglas County

they have four computer terminals available. Wilson stated there is no room in the Courthouse to place the four terminals.

Wilson said they have done a trial run with a polycom system for hearings and it has worked well.

Wilson stated the Courts are moving to a paperless system.

Wilson suggested looking at the security at the Courthouse. Wilson said 24/7 security is needed.

Wilson said there will be 14 jurors for an upcoming case, which may last up to four weeks and asked that they be given parking spots.

Holeman suggested placing the case number on the jurors' parking permits.

Wilson agreed case numbers on the tags will work.

Wilkerson presented the 2013 County Attorney budget request.

Holeman said the County Attorney's office has requested nine additional parking spaces for witnesses beginning June 18, 2012. The trial could last 4 to 6 weeks.

Wilkerson said four parking spots in the morning and four in the afternoon would work.

1:15 Grant Bannister, Indigent Attorney

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Rod Harms; and Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters, attended.

Bannister presented the 2013 appropriation request for the Indigent Defense Counsel.

1:30 Gina Scroggs and Cindy La Barge, Downtown Manhattan, Inc.

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Rod Harms; and Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters, attended.

Scroggs presented the 2013 appropriation request for Downtown Manhattan, Inc.

1:44 Lyle Butler, John Page, and Alison Pulcher - Manhattan Chamber of Commerce

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Rod Harms; Dan Yunk; Frank Beer; Lucy Williams; Jackie Vanier; and Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters, attended.

Butler introduced the Chamber staff and Board members.

Page presented a PowerPoint presentation on the

See County Minutes page 5



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County Minutes

from page 6

Area Chamber of Commerce. Butler presented the Chamber of Commerce 2013 appropriation request. Yunk thanked Riley County for the past partnership. Yunk stated the local businesses have stepped up and fund 70% of the Chambers. Yunk emphasized the Chamber's work to increase jobs for the community. 2:13 Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer, Rod Harms, and Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters, attended. Shepek presented a commission, coroner, insurance, CIP, economic development, 1/2 cent sales tax, bond & interest, and general services 2013 budget requests. 3:07 Lewis moved to adjourn. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

The Board of County Commissioners Of Riley County, Kansas

The Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners met at the Riley County Plaza East Building June 14, 2012 with the following members present: Alvan Johnson, Chair; Dave Lewis, Vice Chair; Karen McCulloh, Member; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk. 8:30 Public Comment & Business Meeting. Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Amy King, Deeds Supervisor/Deputy Register of Deeds; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk; and Mel Van Der Stelt, attended.

The Board of County Commissioners signed Riley County Personnel Action Forms for the following:

Curtis Flaming, a new hire, as a Seasonal Laborer, in the Public Works Department, at a grade A step 1, at \$10.44 per hour.

Jayce Knight, a Lead Medical Clerk, in the Health Department, for Separation from County Service, effective June 15, 2012.

McCulloh moved to approve a Portable Communication Device Allowance Form for Jeremy Noll. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to approve Resolution No. 061412-26, a Resolution voiding outstanding checks issued by Riley County prior to April 30, 2010. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

McCulloh moved to approve the payroll vouchers in the

amount of \$270,929.45 and the following warrant vouchers for June 15, 2012:

2012 Budget	County General	\$938,235.65
Health Department		62,661.80
Riley Co Juvenile Service		6,005.12
Motor Vehicle Operations		5,339.95
21st Jud Dist Teen Court		1,098.06
Riley Co Adult Services		6,295.81
Capital Improvements Fund		57,750.52
Economic Development		150,000.00
Emergency 911		354.65
Solid Waste		4,471.32
County Building		6,762.14
RCPD Levy/Op		35,732.61
Resourceful KS Energy Grt		54,466.62
Landfill Closure		7,813.97
Riley Co Fire Dist #1		3,854.84
University Park W&S		3,100.40
Deep Creek Sewer		75.00
Valleywood Operations		64.08
Terra Heights Sewer		555.00
Konza Water Operations		438.09
Konza Water Cap Reserve		462.58
Univ Park W&S Cap Reserve		2,738.01
TOTAL		\$1,350,276.22

Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to approve a Renewal of Online Access Agreement with Alpha Title, LLC for the Register of Deeds' Office. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to approve a Renewal of Online Access Agreement with Charlson and Wilson Bonded Abstracters for the Register of Deeds' Office. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

McCulloh moved to approve the minutes of June 11, 2012 as amended. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:00 Department Heads 2013 Budget Request
Dennis Peterson - Noxious Weed/HHW 2013 Budget Request

Rich Vargo - Clerk and Elections 2013 Budget Request
Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; and Jeff Holmes, attended.

Peterson presented the 2013 Noxious Weed and HHW budget requests.

Vargo presented the 2013 Clerk and Elections budget requests.

9:45 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services Work Session

Jeff Holmes; Jeff Burkhardt, KMAN; and Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer, attended.

9:45 Lewis moved that the County Commission recess into executive session on potential litigation for the purpose of consultation with an attorney for the County Commission which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 9:55 a.m. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:52 McCulloh moved to go out of executive session. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0. No binding action was taken during the executive session.

10:15 Anne Smith, aTa Bus Director

Jeff Holmes; Jeff Burkhardt, KMAN; Burk Krohe, Manhattan Mercury; and Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer, attended.

Smith presented the 2013 aTa Bus appropriation request. 10:30 Emily Wagner, Manhattan Emergency Shelter Director

Jeff Holmes; Jeff Burkhardt, KMAN; Burk Krohe, Manhattan Mercury; and Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer, attended.

Wagner presented the 2013 Manhattan Emergency Shelter appropriation request.

10:47 Department Head 2013 Budget Request
Pat Collins - Emergency Management, Emergency 911, Fire District, and Fire District #1 Capital Outlay 2013 Budget Requests

Jeff Holmes; Jeff Burkhardt, KMAN; Burk Krohe, Manhattan Mercury; and Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer, attended.

McCulloh asked P. Collins to review fees to cover cost for items such as fireworks stands.

P. Collins presented the 2013 Emergency Management, Emergency 911, Fire District, and Fire District #1 Capital Outlay budget requests.

11:15 Robert Lienemann, Riley County Conservation District

Nathan Larson, Steve Hargrave, David Cederberg - Riley County Conservation District; Kevin Religa, USDA-NRCS; Jeff Holmes; Jeff Burkhardt, KMAN; Burk Krohe, Manhattan Mercury; and Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer, attended.

Lienemann presented the 2013 Conservation District appropriation request.

11:30 Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer

Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County

Engineer; Jeff Holmes; Julie Winter, Public Works Office Manager; Rhonda Lund, Administrative Assistant II; Bertra Manning, Public Works Senior Analyst; Nicole Setter, Administrative Clerk I; Betty Gassman, Administrative Clerk I; Mary Graham, Adm-inistrative Assistant II; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk; and Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer, attended.

Hobson said in December of 2011, the Engineering and Construction Division of the Public Works Department relocated to the 6215 Tuttle Creek Blvd location. Prior to the move, they requested permission to fill the Account Clerk position, which was vacated when Angela Moulds left employment with Riley County. Hobson said they had purposefully decided to not fill the position until the move was completed so they would know exactly the type of skill set to look for in a prospective employee. Hobson said they were afforded this opportunity only because they utilized the Park Department intern to perform the majority of these duties prior to the merger.

Hobson said during the discussion to fill the position with the County Commission, it was indicated the Board had received comments this position was not needed. Task lists for each position along with a list of tasks not currently being done were provided. In the end, the County Commission requested they operate without the position for 4 to 6 months and then report back on how the office functioned.

Hobson said today is to inform the County Commission on how the office has functioned and the issues they have encountered as a result of this position being vacant.

Hobson discussed the need for the Administrative Clerk I position.

Winter, Office Manager, said with the vacant position it has been difficult to schedule staff at the front counter. Winter stated in reviewing job descriptions tasks the current positions do not have more time available.

Winter stated she has had to take on more tasks.

Lund stated many of the positions have many varying tasks unfamiliar to other staff positions.

Graham discussed the inconvenience and disruption caused in assisting at the front counter.

Graham stated since Angela Moulds left she has gotten behind on responsibilities such as inventory and fuel reports.

Gassman stated it is frustrating and stressful because when you cover the front desk you cannot take your regular work to get it done.

See County Minutes page 3

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Flint Hills Christian School

Flint Hills Christian School Achieves Accredited Status

Flint Hills Christian School (FHCS) is fully accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). The accreditation is effective July 1 through June 30, 2017. Accreditation follows a rigorous preparatory and evaluative process by the school, which lasted about three years. Led by Tim McDonald, Flint Hills Christian School enrolls between 140 and 170 students, grades K-4 through 12.

Flint Hills Christian School is an independent, non-profit, community supported school designed to meet the needs of the Christian community by providing a quality education from a Biblical perspective. Our vision is to partner with Christian families to educate and inspire their children in the desire to love, serve and honor God as mature Christian lead-

ers who will reach the world for Christ. Our mission, as an extension of the Christian home, is to educate in Truth, train in righteousness and fully develop each child in body, mind, and spirit. In addition to the promotion of academic excellence, our program includes daily classroom devotions, prayer, and Bible study, as well as weekly chapel services to encourage Christian maturity.

FHCS began as Living Word Christian School in 1983 as a part of Living Word Church. In 1994, the school had grown considerably and became independent from Living Word Church. The name was changed to Flint Hills Christian School and moved to its current location on Green Valley road in 1996.

Headquartered in Colorado

Springs, Colorado, ACSI provides programs and services to strengthen and equip its 5,300 member schools in more than 100 nations.

ACSI's internationally recognized accreditation program is designed to assist schools/programs in obtaining widely recognized accredited status. ACSI accredited educational institutions receive the following benefits:

- Accredited membership status in ACSI and a listing as such in the directory
- Approval by the U.S. Department of Education for the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), I-20 and I-17 forms
- Various U.S. state and several national recognitions for credits/athletics
- Endorsement to administer College Board/ACT exams on the school site
- Eligibility for joint accreditation status with the following regional accrediting organizations:
 - AdvancEd (North Central Association, Southern Association, Northwest Association)
 - New England Association of Schools and Colleges
 - Middle States Association (Elementary and/or Secondary)
 - Western Association of Schools and Colleges
 - Recognition of early edu-

cation accreditation status in several states, allowing the program to receive higher reimbursement rates for subsidized children

ACSI accreditation is a highly effective way for a Christian school/program to evaluate itself in light of its unique educational mission. An authentic Christian school/program may be thought of as involving the four interwoven educational strands of (1) academic ideas and thinking; (2) skills for life and living; (3) biblical worldview grounding; and (4) personal character, values, and spiritual formation.

ACSI accreditation provides a national benchmark for Christian schools, measuring standards, performance, integrity, and quality. Schools engage in a voluntary process of self-evaluation against nationally accepted best practices and standards. This evaluative process scrutinizes the following areas: Christian philosophy and foundations, board governance, administration, personnel, instructional program, physical environment, health and safety, guidance services, family, community, and student support. The accreditation process assists schools in achieving a standard of excellence and encourages a continuous process of assessment and ongoing institutional development.

Letter...

While it is uncertain if the proposed NBAF will receive full funding for its construction, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has applied for an air quality construction permit. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is asking for public comments regarding this permit.

The public notice concerning the permit was published in the Manhattan Mercury on May 24, 2012 in the legal section of the classifieds.

The public comment period as well as the time to request a public hearing ends at noon on June 26 2012. All written comments should be mailed to Lynelle M. Ladd, Bureau of Air, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 310, Topeka, KS. 66612-1366.

All requests for a public hearing should be sent in writing to the address listed above or to the attention of Ms. Sharon Burrell at the same address or by FAX to (785)291-3953 by noon on June 26, 2012.

According to the public notice, emissions of oxides of nitrogen, carbon dioxide equivalent, particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, sulfur dioxide and hazardous air pollutants were evaluated. It also said the DHS proposes there will be two controlled air double chamber medical waste incinerators and seven boilers and seven emergency generator engines.

Much more information may be found by doing an internet search on NBAF incinerator. For instance, the incinerator can handle up to 400 pounds per hour of waste and animal carcasses. The ash will be disposed to the municipal landfill. Sterilized liquids will be discharged to the City of Manhattan sanitary sewer.

The seven boilers will use

natural gas as the primary fuel. Five underground storage tanks with a capacity of 40,000 gallons each are proposed for the secondary fuel.

In addition to the pollutants evaluated, potential emissions of lead, cadmium, mercury, and dioxin furans were also evaluated. It also said that because the potential to emit pollutants exceeds the permitting threshold that DHS will also be required to apply for a Title V operating permit.

Despite the assurance by those in favor of the proposed NBAF that nothing could possibly go wrong, the recent chemical spill by a College of Veterinary faculty member at K-State and the airflow breach at the level three biosafety lab at the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, makes one think twice about the safety of the proposed NBAF.

However, there is one thing everyone should agree on, and that is that it is of vital importance that all questions we may have concerning the air quality related to the proposed NBAF be answered.

I would guess that years ago the people of Emporia, KS. wished they had asked more questions before the Iowa Beef Processing Inc. built in their town and the stench from the incineration process began.

It will be a while before we find out if the proposed NBAF will be a plum or a poison apple for the little apple. In the meantime, please send in your written comments concerning the air quality, and/or your requests for a public hearing to answer further questions to the address listed above. Comments and requests must be received by noon June 26, 2012.

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