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Why Kansas Had To Cut Taxes

By Sam Brownback, Governor of Kansas

When Jeff Colyer and I took office in January of 2011, tens of thousands of fewer Kansans were working in private sector jobs than a decade ago. Our state was losing residents to all surrounding states. We had the highest taxes in the region and ranked among the worst in private sector job creation. Something had to be done if Kansas was going to be a place where our children and grandchildren could stay to find a job and raise a family.

When we took office, there was \$876.10 in the state's coffers and a projected deficit for the next fiscal year of \$500 million. Through a combination of fiscal restraint, smart cuts, and focusing our resources on the core functions of government, we took that half billion dollar deficit and turned it into a half billion dollar surplus. This billion dollar swing was achieved in one year.

Now that Kansas's economy is getting back on track and we've taken the necessary steps to get the government's fiscal house in order, it was time to take a stand for the future of our state. In May, the Kansas Legislature passed and I signed the largest tax cut in state history, eliminating state income taxes on small businesses and reducing the tax burden on every hardworking Kansan.

From day one, my administration's top priority has been to grow the Kansas economy and create jobs. We had to reverse the trend of capital loss that we were suffering to every state around us and still the tide of rural population decline. This is what we ran for office prom-



Governor Sam Brownback

ising to and we have taken swift and decisive action.

We did this because it was time to shake up the status quo of taxing, spending, and declining. In our federalist system, state governments are forced to compete against each other for capital, jobs, and residents. Competition offers two options: you can either refuse to adapt to changing conditions and fall behind those who do, or you can lead the way to the future. Kansas had to change the way it competes regionally and nationally for residents and jobs, and so far we have made great progress.

In addition to reducing the tax burden on Kansas families and small businesses, we also improved our economic development toolbox with targeted incentives like letting businesses of any size deduct 100 percent of the expense of new business equipment and machinery. We created Rural Opportunity Zones to help recruit peo-

ple to counties with sharply declining populations. And we established education programs to increase engineering and tech career students to meet our businesses' future workforce needs.

Our new pro-growth tax policy will be like a shot of adrenaline into the heart of the Kansas economy. It will pave the way to the creation of tens of thousands of new jobs, bring tens of thousands of people to Kansas and help make our state the best place in America to start and grow a small business. It will leave more than a billion dollars in the hands of Kansans — they know far better how to spend their money than the state government. An expanding economy and growing population will directly benefit our schools and local governments.

We will continue to work to provide a business environment that will keep our state regionally and globally competitive. We will continue to reform state government so that it is more efficient, effective and responsive to our citizen's needs. We will continue to meet the needs of our state's most vulnerable. We will continue to provide for high quality schools.

But most of all, we will continue to strive to make our state even better. Kansas' lost decade is over. No longer will we be satisfied with our children moving to another state for better opportunities. No longer will we accept having the highest tax burden in the region. Now is the time to grow our economy, not state government, and that's what this our policies will do.

We are just getting started in Kansas, but we are off the sidelines and in the game.

Kansas And Brownback Need Your Help

Editorial
By Jon A. Brake

It is a very simple problem, and you know it. You can not spend more than you make year after year. But, the State of Kansas has been doing it, and it is time to stop.

It is amazing, Governor Sam Brownback told the people of Kansas what needed to be done. And, for once we have a Governor who has done what he said he would do, and now some people don't like it.

Grow-up!

If you made \$90,000 per year for the last ten years you would feel like you were in very good shape. Not if you were like the State of Kansas, it would mean that you would be spending \$130,000 a year for those same 10-years and you would be in deep trouble. Well, Kansas is in deep trouble and the Governor is doing something about it.

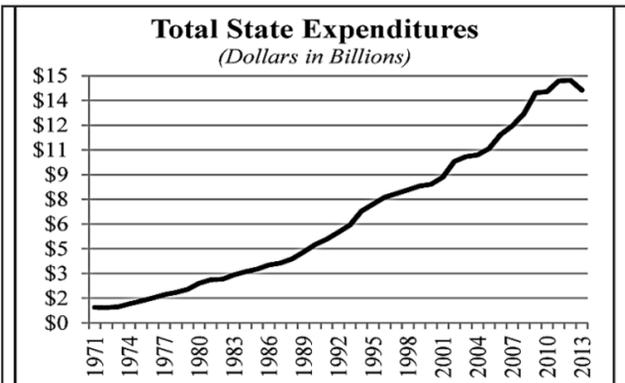
Remember, compromise is not the answer, it is the problem. If a State Representative wants to meet in the middle, and that middle is more than

what the State is taking in, he or she is not a very good Representative. If a State Senator thinks that he or she can get the teachers vote or the unions vote or anyone's vote by compromise and that figure is more than what the State takes in, he or she is not a very good Senator.

Get them out of office and don't replace them with a look-a-like. Change the way you think and change the way you vote.

Look at the Kansas Debt Clock on this page. Kansas is higher in the Debt to Gross Domestic Product Ratio at 18.7%, more than all the states around us but Colorado. The same with the Debt Per Citizen, Kansas owes \$8,829 for every man, woman and child. Yes, Colorado is high at over \$10,000 but Colorado has a lot of problems and so do we.

Tuesday is a time for change. Vote for the candidate that you know will help Governor Brownback cut spending and not meet in the middle or compromise.



| | Governor's Rec. | Approved |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| FY 2012 | | |
| State Gen. Fund | \$6,124,396,100 | \$6,126,300,543 |
| All Funds | \$14,736,944,052 | \$14,758,812,135 |
| FY 2013: | | |
| State Gen. Fund | \$6,144,436,542 | \$6,170,586,949 |
| All Funds | \$14,246,277,018 | \$14,326,990,713 |

According to the Kansas Budget Office: "FY 2012 will be the first year since FY 2008 that the state did not have to make major cutbacks or allotments to agency budgets in reaction to declining revenues. The State General Fund is projected to conclude FY2012 with \$466.3 million, or 7.6 percent of approved expenditures from the fund."

Gov. Hints More State Job Cuts Are Coming

By Gene Meyer
Kansas Reporter

TOPEKA — Kansas can support big tax cuts, which are coming, the governor says.

Kansas may not, however, have the means to support its current state work force.

New projections expect the state's revenue balance to increase about \$4 million, to \$470 million, Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback said in a state house news conference Wednesday.

The governor said building the cash cushion was essential to help avoid financial disruption in 2014, when new tax cuts, intended to boost Kansas' economy, start reducing individual income tax bills as much as 24 percent. Those tax collections are the state's largest source of revenue.

The tax cuts are projected to ultimately reduce the state's \$6 billion general fund revenue streams by more than \$1 billion. Still, Brownback said he would not cut spending for Kansas' costliest core services — such as education, Medicaid and social services and public safety.

"We'll cut government spending in other areas. We're already looking at some possibilities," the governor said.

He declined to identify specific cuts, but said the state could save additional money by consolidating what now are duplicative human resources, technological services and other operations metaphorically housed in the back shops of state agencies. Similar consolidations — and a 2011 early buy-out offer taken by 1,000 employees — already have reduced state payrolls by the equivalent of more than 2,000 workers since Brownback took office.

Mike Marvin, executive director of the Kansas Organization of State Employees, the state's largest government employees' union, said he expects more jobs would be cut.

"I have no idea how many, this is the first we've heard of it," Marvin said. "But when they talk about streamlining, that often means doing more work with fewer employees."

About 252,700 Kansas workers were on state or local government payrolls at the end of June, the Kansas Department of Labor reported. That's down more than 10,000 from a month earlier, primarily because school districts cut staff for the summer, and about 2,500 below June, 2011, the report said.

| STATE DEBT CLOCKS | KANSAS | STATE & LOCAL |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | POPULATION 2,873,945 | UNEMPLOYED 89,811 |
| | GDP \$135,428,858,292 | DEBT \$25,361,994,725 |
| | REVENUE \$21,564,007,721 | DEBT TO GDP RATIO 18.7 % |
| | SPENDING \$25,766,737,892 | DEBT PER CITIZEN \$8,829 |
| | FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS 300,792 | |
| | | |

| STATE DEBT CLOCKS | NEBRASKA | STATE & LOCAL |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | POPULATION 1,838,943 | UNEMPLOYED 38,317 |
| | GDP \$95,721,907,217 | DEBT \$13,658,002,094 |
| | REVENUE \$15,996,466,998 | DEBT TO GDP RATIO 14.20 % |
| | SPENDING \$19,183,345,492 | DEBT PER CITIZEN \$7,434 |
| | FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS 366,128 | |
| | | |

Of all of the States around us, Kansas has the highest Debt Per Citizen at \$8,829, Oklahoma is the lowest at \$4,926. Kansas also has the highest Debt To GDP Ratio of 18.7%, Oklahoma again is the lowest at 11.86. Missouri with the largest Population has a Debt Per Citizen at \$7,437 and Debt GDP Ratio of 17.41%. See why Kansas needs to cut spending and change directions?



Philip G. Kimser

Philip G. Kimser, 92, died Thursday, July 26, 2012 at the Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community.

Dr. Kimser's family provided the following information.

Philip was born on Dec. 17, 1919 in St. Paul, Minn. to Philip and Helen Kimser. His father, Philip, was a Master Chef, trained in Europe, who owned and operated Kimser's Restaurant, located on the West Side of St. Paul. His mother, Helen Mendler Kimser, managed the business-end of the restaurant. Both emigrated from Alsace, which at the time belonged to Germany and now is part of France.

Philip was an extremely astute and hard-working student, skipping several grades, and graduating high school at the early age of 15. He got his Bachelor's Degree of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1939. He went on to complete his M.S. in Mathematics in 1944 and his Ph.D. in Math in 1958.

From 1942-44 he was an instructor at (then) Kansas State College, after which he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and remained in active service until his discharge in 1948. As a Lieutenant and First Officer on the USS Whitney, he participated as a mechanical engineer in the Pacific Islands of Bikini Atoll, performing tests on

America's first Atomic Bomb. Later he was stationed in Washington D.C. at the U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory, testing and calibrating various ordnances being used by the Navy. His office at the Naval Ordnance Lab was located just down the hall from the office assigned to Albert Einstein.

After his discharge from the Navy, he returned to the University of Minnesota, where he was an instructor. In 1948 he returned to K-State as an Associate Professor of Applied Mechanics. In 1958 he became a full Professor and served as head of the Applied Mechanics Department at KSU from 1962-1975. He continued teaching at KSU in various departments in the School of Engineering up to, and after, his retirement in 1990. Dr. Kimser was a registered professional Engineer in Kansas. He was a visiting scientist at the Institute Battelle in Geneva, Switzerland in 1970; a visiting professor in the Department of Mathematics at the Ecole Polytechnique Federale in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1978; and a consultant to the Digital Equipment Company in Geneva in 1985.

Dr. Kimser was a member of the American Society for Engineering Education, the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics, the American Mathematics Association, Het Koninklijk

Instituut van Ingenieurs, Sigma Xi, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Phi Kappa Phi and Pi Mu Epsilon.

Dr. Kimser was a prolific writer of scientific articles and was widely published in technical and scientific journals and magazines throughout his career. He was also an independent consultant to companies like Phillips Petroleum and Boeing Aircraft Co. and participated as an "expert witness" in a Kansas trial.

Philip was an accomplished classical musician, playing piano, flute, and oboe. He played flute for many years with the Kansas State University Orchestra and, while in his 80s, actively participated in a local flute ensemble.

He had a life-long love of languages, first learning German from his parents, then teaching himself French, Russian and Chinese with the help of a few audits in their respective classes at K-State. He traveled extensively often presenting at international conferences at venues which included (then) the USSR and East Germany.

Throughout his professional life, Dr. Kimser has significantly affected the world with a number of his inventions and innovations. For example, in 1957, along with a colleague, he formed a team of individuals tracking the Russian satellite Sputnik, and later, other

Russian and U.S. satellites. Within a year of tracking satellites, and providing other scientists all over the world with their data, their team had gained the interest and sponsorship of the U.S. Air Force. In the early months of the satellite tracking project, Dr. Kimser published his own "Apparent Position Satellite Calculator", a device and method, by which others could accurately track and document satellite information and other data. The team, while routinely tracking these known satellites, actually discovered a number of Russian satellites, launched in secret, and previously unknown to anyone outside the Soviet Union.

Another piece of research, for an athletic gear company in Salina, helped realize major design advancements to the old-style rigid pole used in pole vaulting. After implementing his calculated improvements and design changes to a flexible pole in pole vaulting, the world record in pole vaulting was increased by over one foot within one year.

Dr. Kimser holds patents for "Heated Melt Recycle Responsive to Temperature Differential of Crystal Mass"; "A Method and Apparatus for Reproducing Ideographs" (the first computerized Chinese Typewriter); "A Pavement Slab Load Transfer Device"; and "A Decoupler for Protection of

Buildings in Earthquakes".

Dr. Kimser is preceded in death by his parents, his older brother, Earl Kimser, and his loving wife of 70 years, Jeune Kimser. He is survived by his sister, Helen Anderson, of Forest Lake, Minn., his son Larry Kimser and wife Ada, of Covington, Wash.; his daughter, Sandy Chastan and husband David, of Manhattan; one grandson, Philip J. Kimser and wife Beth, of Everett, Wash. and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be

held at noon on Thursday, August 2 at the Unitarian/Universalist Fellowship on Zeandale Road with the Reverend Thea Nietfeld officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to "KSU Foundation" with "Phil Kimser Memorial" on the memo line. Contributions may be left in care of Irvin-Parkview Funeral Home, 1317 Poyntz Ave. To leave an online condolence please visit: www.irvinparkview.com or find us on Facebook.

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Nicholas Daniel Nechols

Nicholas Daniel Nechols (Nick) passed away on July 27, 2012 at the age of 84. He was born December 23, 1927 in Stratford, Connecticut, he was the second youngest of nine brothers and sisters. His father and mother were Italian immigrants. Nick grew up loving horses and was able to pursue that passion during his military service, working in an army

stable in Korea during the pre-war years. He married June Marie (Peterson) Nechols in 1950 and was married to her for 62 years until his death. She resides in Manhattan KS. He had two sons, James (Jim) of Manhattan KS and Robert (Bob) of Stamford CT. Nick was a carpenter and cabinet maker, and later a mechanic; he owned his businesses. He and

June moved from Connecticut to Florida in 1970 where they worked until their retirement. In 2006 they moved to the Stoneybrook Retirement Community in Manhattan, KS. Nick was an avid golfer and also loved to fish. He was a devoted husband and father and loved his large family and many friends. Nick is survived by his wife, June, his son Jim

and wife Judi, his son Bob and wife Jeehyun, six grandchildren: Brian, Daniel, Christopher; Laura, Spencer, and Mark, one great grandchild, Kaden, and several nieces and nephews and their families. A memorial service will be announced at a later date. Local Arrangements by Irvin-Parkview Home & Cremation.

Theresa L. Leathers

Theresa L. Leathers, age 66, died Wednesday July 25, 2012 at the Good Shepherd Hospice House, Manhattan, Kansas.

She was born on July 18, 1946 in Clay Center, Kansas the daughter of Marvin and Leora (Schleuder) Gepner. Theresa earned her Bachelors degree in Home Economics from Kansas State University. She was a homemaker, middle school teacher and later enjoyed working at Country Gift Shop in Manhattan, Kansas.

Theresa had a ministry of hospitality, encouragement, and welcoming people into her home. She was also well known as an excellent cook and baker with two cookbooks to her credit. Being with her family and friends was always very special to her, especially when she traveled to see them and



Theresa L. Leathers

explored new places. Theresa was very involved with AGLOW, a Christian Women's organization where she served for many years as an officer and a leader in their jail outreach program. She was also an active member of the Manhattan First Assembly of

God. Most of all, Theresa cherished her relationship with Jesus Christ and encouraged others in the faith.

Preceding her in death was her father, a brother: Stanley Gepner and a sister: Debra Kelso.

Survivors include her daughter: Ronda Olson and husband Lt. Col. Marc Thor Olson of Shreveport, LA; 2 sons: Ryan Leathers and wife Johana Leathers Rodriguez of Costa Rica and Rustin Leathers and wife Stacy of Chicago, IL; 2 grandchildren: Kivan and Rachel Leathers of Costa Rica; her mother: Leora Gepner of McPherson, KS; 3 brothers: Steve Gepner of McPherson, KS, Jeff Gepner of Superior, NE and Randy Gepner of McPherson, KS; 4 sisters: Carol Price of Vero Beach, FL, Karen Kagle of McPherson,

KS, Deanna Toland of Clinton, OK and Cynthia Power of Marquette, KS. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

Funeral Services will be at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday July 28, 2012 at the First Assembly of God Church of Manhattan with Pastor Ed Walker and Barbara Laflin co-officiating. Graveside Services will be at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday July 28, 2012 at the Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Concordia, Kansas.

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

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

Georgia Larmore

Georgia K. Larmore, age 69, of Manhattan, died July 25, 2012, at Via Christi Village in Manhattan.

She was born February 22, 1943, in Blue Rapids, Kansas, the daughter of Cylester D. and Lucille V. (Harrington) Saville. She grew up in Wamego and attended local schools.

Georgia worked for her parents in the Wamego Café for several years. She later worked for various restaurants in Manhattan, and for 11 years she worked for Country Kitchen and retired as the manager.

She enjoyed camping, traveling, flowers, crafts when younger and spoiling her dogs. On August 15, 1983, in Manhattan, she was married to Phillip Larmore. Mr. Larmore survives of the home. Additional survivors include her two sisters: Sheryl Saville and Mary Holley both of Wamego; and numerous nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters,



Georgia K. Larmore

Velota Moore and Linda Hecke; and one brother, Loren

Dale Saville in infancy.

Cremation is planned with memorial services to be held at 2:00 P.M. Tuesday, July 31st, at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Chapel with Father Don Zimmerman officiating. Private family inurnment will be in the Kansas Veterans' Cemetery at Fort Riley.

The family will receive friends from 7:00 until 8:30 P.M. Monday at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral

Home.

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

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

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Jon A. and Linda L. Brake, Publishers

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Street Address:
103 North 3rd Street
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1191, Manhattan, Ks 66505
E-Mail:
jonbrake@kansas.net or freepress@kansas.net

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"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."
- Thomas Jefferson, 1787

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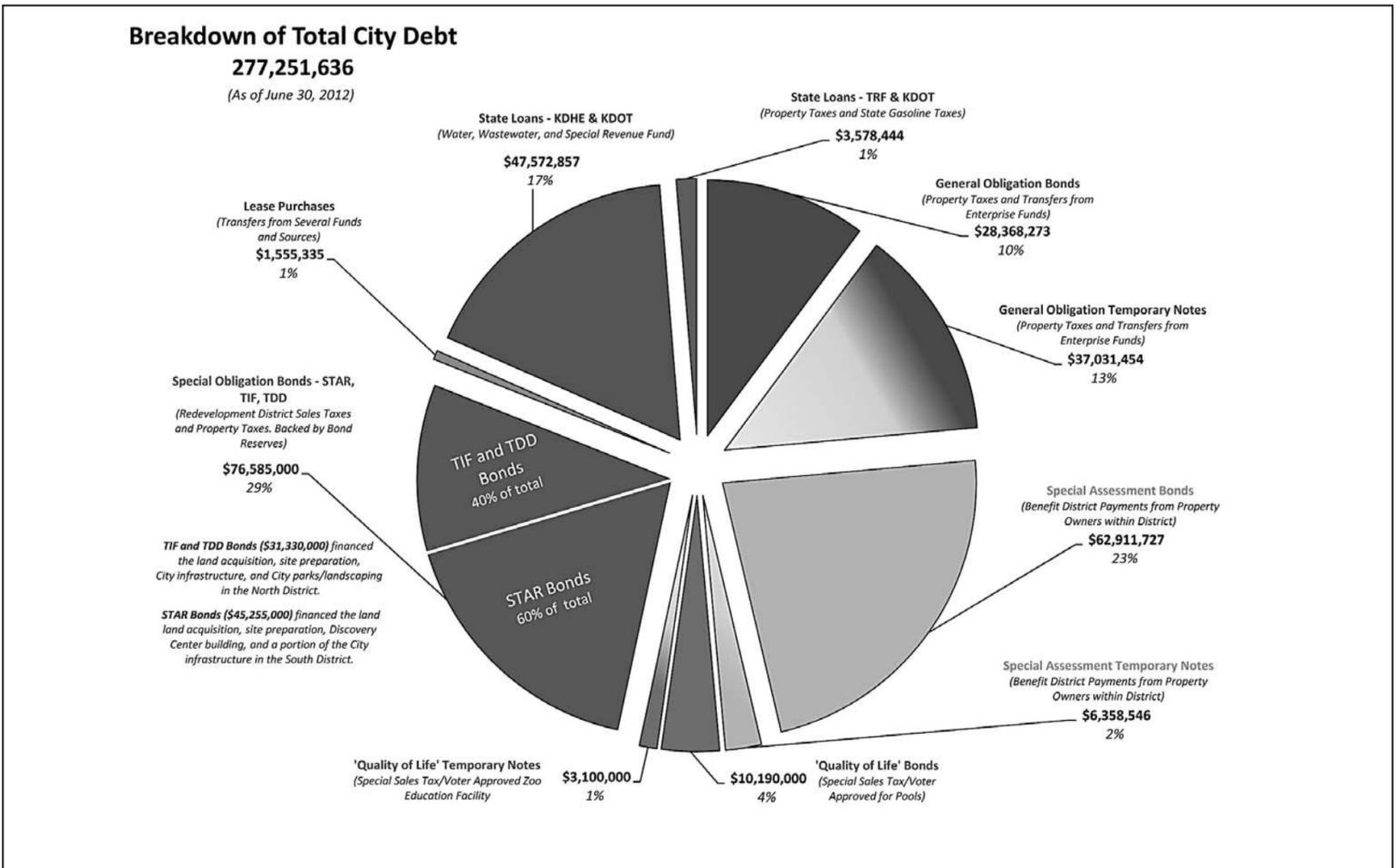
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Sincerely,
Dave Fiser
David J. Fiser
1732 Westbank Way
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Total City Of Manhattan Debt As Of June 30, Up To \$277 Million



Business Owners Battle Obamacare For Religious Freedom

By Amy Payne
Heritage Foundation
 The Newland family, which owns Hercules Industries, won a preliminary injunction against Obamacare's HHS mandate. (Left to right: James, Paul, William, and Andrew Newland; courtesy of ADFmedia.org.)

Two days from now, employers across America will become vulnerable to crushing government penalties for exercising their religious freedom. This isn't exactly what lawmakers advertised when they pushed Obamacare, but it is part of the Obama Administration's agenda—forcing nearly all employers to pay for abortion-inducing drugs, contraception, and sterilization services.

Beginning August 1, employers must amend their health insurance offerings to include these drugs and services. And if they don't? How about a fine of \$100 per employee per day for non-compliance. This outrageous policy makes it impossible for employers to afford the fine—meaning they must change their insurance policies or stop offering health coverage to their workers.

But for many employers, offering the types of services required under the HHS mandate violates their consciences. It conflicts with their deeply held religious beliefs. And the government is telling them that doesn't matter—what's more, it's telling them that their beliefs are inconsequential, and they must pay.

Just last Friday, a judge in Colorado gave one business's owners the first glimmer of hope that their religious freedom may survive this attack. Heritage's John Malcolm and Dominique Ludvigson explained:

U.S. District Court Judge John Kane, a Carter appointee, granted a preliminary injunction on behalf of Hercules Industries, halting the govern-

ment's ability to enforce its anti-conscience mandate against the company while the lawsuit challenging the mandate continues in court...The case is in its early stages and will proceed to a trial on the merits.

Hercules is a family-owned, for-profit company with a self-insured health plan for its 265 employees. Its owners see the Obama Administration's message as "either comply and desert our faith, or resist and be punished," said William Newland, one of the owners.

"We have a President, I think, that doesn't know much about building up a business, but he certainly has good ideas on how to tear one down," Newland said.

Judge Kane concluded that the harm to the government from not enforcing the mandate "pales in comparison to the possible infringement upon Plaintiffs' constitutional and statutory rights" to operate their business consistent with their convictions. Judge Kane concluded that the government's interests in enforcing the mandate were undercut by the numerous exceptions to the mandate that the Administration has already created for other entities. "These interests are countered, and indeed, outweighed, by the public interest in the free exercise of religion," he stated.

According to the Obama Administration, however, the free exercise of religion is something done only one day a

week in a house of worship. It argued that the "Plaintiffs' free exercise claim fails at the outset because for-profit, secular employers generally do not engage in any exercise of religion protected by the First Amendment."

Operating on this belief, Obamacare brings nothing but punishment for business owners who believe otherwise. Heritage's Jennifer Marshall and Dominique Ludvigson break down the monetary cost:

With 265 employees, Hercules' fine would have amounted to \$800,000 per month—almost \$10 million per year. If Hercules were to take the more likely action of dropping health care coverage to avoid facilitating the mandate, thereby forcing its employees into government-run exchanges, it would face a fine on faith of approximately \$2,000 per employee per year, for a total of \$530,000 per year.

Those would be the monetary costs, but the cost to freedom would be much greater. Marshall and Ludvigson note:

While the court order is limited to Hercules and does not relieve other family businesses or the many religious non-profits with moral objections from having to comply with the mandate's burden, Judge Kane's analysis offers hope that their pleas for the restoration of their religious liberty will get a fair hearing.

How did it come to this? During the legislative battle over Obamacare, then-Speaker

of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) famously said that Congress would need to pass the law to see what was in it. She was right about one thing: Obamacare as it passed was not fully formed. The law gave unprecedented new powers to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to fill in countless details, directing the ways Obamacare would affect all Americans. With this law, Congress handed over immeasurable authority to HHS. And Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has been hard at work trying to convince Americans that this is all in their best interest.

There is no reason to believe it will end here, which is why it is vital to halt this attack on religious freedom as quickly as possible. As Ludvigson explains, this first HHS mandate "raises significant questions about what more Obamacare will require on other matters of deeply personal religious and moral significance, such as prenatal care, end-of-life issues, and parental authority for minors' health decisions."

More than 50 plaintiffs—for-profit and non-profit alike—have gone to court against the HHS mandate. In winning an injunction that prevents the mandate's enforcement on its business while the case goes to trial, Hercules has demonstrated the strength of the religious liberty challenge to Obamacare.

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"Suitable" Funding of K-12 Should Not be Based on Montoy

Kansas Policy Institute

The attorneys representing Kansas school districts suing taxpayers for additional funding in *Gannon v. State of Kansas* are trying to prove that the State is not making suitable provision for K-12 funding. Their definition of "suitable" is based on a formula that the legislature implemented after the Kansas Supreme Court ordered nearly a billion dollar increase in the 2005 Montoy decision. But the Montoy decision was based on a seriously flawed study.

"Basing suitability on the Montoy decision or any variation thereof throws efficient use of taxpayer money out the window. The 2001 Augenblick & Myers (A&M) study was supposed to take efficiency into account but they admitted that they deviated from their own methodology and by doing so, gave the court inflated numbers," said Kansas Policy Institute president Dave Trabert.

KPI published a legal analysis of Montoy in 2009 that was written by Caleb Stegall, now Gov. Brownback's general counsel. Stegall wrote a critique of the previous efforts to determine suitability with a nod

to cost-effectiveness that still holds today, "So while the Legislative Post Audit (LPA) study - and the A&M study for that matter - attempted to provide informed estimates of the price of certain policy decisions, in the end, LPA rightly recognized that only the Legislature is capable of making such decisions. As such, the best that any cost study can do is inform the Legislature as to the range of possible costs associated with different policy decision, and not dictate the exact price tag associated with a funding system that passes constitutional muster. This fact simply brings critical clarity to the contradictions at the heart of the school finance debacle in Kansas."

Trabert continued, "The subsequent Legislative Post Audit study was designed to essentially replicate the A&M study. LPA very deliberately reported that they were not asked to determine what it would cost if schools were organized and operated in a cost-effective manner."

LPA made this very clear on page two of their report. "In other words, it's important to remember that these cost studies are intended to help the

Legislature decide appropriate funding levels for K-12 public education. They aren't intended to dictate any specific funding level, and shouldn't be viewed that way.

Finally, within these cost studies we weren't directed to, nor did we try to, examine the most cost-effective way for Kansas school districts to be organized and operated. Those can be major studies in their own right. However, such issues potentially could be addressed in the on-going school audits we'll be doing after these cost studies are completed. Topics for those audits will be approved by the 2010 Commission, which was created by the 2005 Legislature."

The 2010 Commission waited three years to have LPA begin to look at efficient operations of schools. They released a study in July 2009 that cited eighty recommendations for schools to save money without impacting outcomes. The next step was to have been audits of individual districts but superintendents objected and convinced the Commission to stop the mandatory efficiency audits.

Trabert continued, "All

along the way, the Legislature has attempted to receive information on the efficient use of taxpayer money in public education but their efforts have been thwarted. They passed legislation that encouraged districts to direct 65% of funding into Instructional costs in another attempt to ensure that taxpayer money was put to the best use but districts ignored them. Instruction spending accounted for 53.6% of total spending in 2005; total spending was \$1.3 billion higher in 2011 but Instruction spending was only 54.3% of the total. Upon discovering that districts had used another \$400 million in state and local tax dollars to increase cash reserves since 2005, legislation was passed to make a lot of that money easily accessible but very little of the money has been used."

Trabert concluded by saying, "Legislators have shown multiple good-faith efforts to make provision for suitable finance of public education and we believe they have fulfilled their constitutional obligation to do so. 'Suitability' may not be a clearly-defined term but it certainly hasn't been established by any study to date."

Break Up the Banks? Be Careful of What You Ask For

By Mark A. Calabria CATO Institute

One of the architects of today's big banks, Sandy Weill, who helped build Citibank into the behemoth it is today, has come out and called for breaking up the largest banks "so that the taxpayer will never be at risk, the depositors won't be at risk."

If only it were so simple. Weill should remember the savings & loan crisis of the late 1980s and early 1990s. That crisis mostly involved small institutions, yet it cost taxpayers a lot and did significant harm to depositors. Perhaps Weill believes the 400+ small banks that have failed in the current crisis had little effect on the economy.

While I admittedly haven't run the numbers, it's hard for me to believe that 400+ bank failures did not have some negative macroeconomic effects, in addition to being very expensive for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

In fact, I would argue that the single largest problem facing the banking industry before this crisis was a lack of geographic diversification. Our long history of extensive branch banking restrictions kept banks small and extremely vulnerable to local and regional downturns.

Fortunately, we deregulated that area in 1994. The result has been a more stable financial system. Would Wells Fargo even be standing today if it had been limited to the California

housing market (where Wells Fargo got its start)?

Weill needs to tell us, if we were to break up the banks, where exactly will that risk go? It isn't going to just disappear. As I've argued elsewhere, one result of our small, fragmented 1920s banking system was the creation of Fannie Mae, the Federal Housing Administration, and the Federal Home Loan Banks.

Need I remind Weill that the current bailout of Fannie and Freddie is at least \$180 billion and counting, far exceeding the costs of all other rescues in the recent financial crisis combined? If we'd had bigger banks in the 1930s, we could have avoided the creation of such disasters as Fannie and

Freddie and the FDIC (witness the stability of Canada's diversified banking system, both in the 1930s and recently).

The most effective solution to risk-taking by big banks, as I've argued elsewhere, is to stop trying to micromanage what risk banks are taking and start pulling back their safety net. It is largely the moral hazard created by various government guarantees protecting "Too-Big-To-Fail" banks that caused the most recent crisis.

It's time to start reducing, if not eliminating, those guarantees. Ultimately, Too-Big-To-Fail is a political problem, not an economic one. The solution is to be found in limiting government, not the banks.

Corporate Welfare In The Federal Budget

By Tad DeHaven Cato Institute

Rising federal spending and huge deficits are pushing the nation toward a financial and economic crisis. Policymakers should find and eliminate wasteful, damaging, and unneeded programs in the federal budget. One good way to save money would be to cut subsidies to businesses. Corporate welfare in the federal budget costs taxpayers almost \$100 billion a year.

Policymakers claim that business subsidies are needed

to fix alleged market failures or to help American companies better compete in the global economy. However, corporate welfare often subsidizes failing and mismanaged businesses and induces firms to spend more time on lobbying rather than on making better products. Instead of correcting market failures, federal subsidies misallocate resources and introduce government failures into the marketplace.

While corporate welfare may be popular with policymakers who want to aid home-state

businesses, it undermines the broader economy and transfers wealth from average taxpaying households to favored firms. Corporate welfare also creates strong ties between politicians and business leaders, and these ties are often the source of corruption scandals in Washington. Americans are sick and tired of "crony capitalism," and the way to solve the problem is to eliminate business subsidy programs.

Corporate welfare doesn't aid economic growth and it is an affront to America's consti-

tutional principles of limited government and equality under the law. Policymakers should therefore scour the budget for business subsidies to eliminate. Budget experts and policymakers may differ on exactly which programs represent unjustified corporate welfare, but this study provides a menu of about \$100 billion in programs to terminate.

Tad DeHaven is a budget analyst on federal and state budget issues for the Cato Institute

Real Estate Developers May Get Drought Aid Too

By Gene Meyer Kansas Reporter

OVERLAND PARK — Real estate developers in the sprawling, increasingly upscale suburbs south and west of Kansas City are, to paraphrase the old proverb, making hay while the sun shines.

Really, they're making hay — cut, dried grass.

In Kansas, hay pays. Under Kansas tax laws, harvesting a crop — any crop — from empty lots where subdivisions or shopping strips might crop up will save owners thousands in potential property taxes, state audits say.

A 2-acre plot along a busy stretch of Metcalf Avenue in Overland Park was appraised at \$440,000. That appraisal was dropped to \$120 for tax purposes after someone cut and baled the grass, auditors found in a 2005 report.

Things haven't changed much since, says Roger Hamm, Kansas Department of Revenue's property valuation division chief. For two decades, he worked as a dairy farmer.

"Land in Doniphan County, which usually is among the highest in the state, that sells for thousands of dollars an acre, is valued at \$75 an acre under our agricultural use rules," Hamm said.

The reduction in tax revenues compared to what higher valuations would produce "is significant," Hamm said.

"In Kansas, agriculture is golden," says Johnson County Appraiser Paul Welcome, who for years has unsuccessfully argued against applying Kansas agricultural usage law to urban land development.

But the law is the law and in Kansas, "as long as they (property owners) harvest a crop, it's legal," said Janis Lee, a Kensington ranch owner chief hearing officer of the Kansas Court of Tax Appeals.

But wait, there's more. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on Wednesday declared a drought disaster in upscale-suburb-dominated Johnson County. The fiercest drought in decades has consumed the near entirety of Kansas, including its biggest

urban centers in Kansas City and Wichita.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture wants to extend help to all producers affected by the dry weather — including the real estate developers who cut and bale tall grass — to qualify for tax reductions as agricultural producers, and maybe donate their crop to a horse shelter or other charity.

That's just wrong, says State Sen. Rob Olson, R-Olathe.

Typically, Olson says, he's not of fan of higher business taxes. But under Kansas agricultural usage laws, "it's the regular taxpayers who are getting ripped off because they are subsidizing these guys."

Allowing developers to ask for federal help after the failure of a crop planted to avoid higher taxes is over the top, Olson said.

"Once again, these guys are taking advantage of the system."

Developers may have thousands of undeveloped patches of ground in Johnson County, and the owners could qualify

for disaster help. Some are small, maybe an acre or two. Others are larger, such as the 20 acres or more needed for a Walmart Superstore or a modest strip mall.

Under USDA guidelines, "they all may be eligible for some assistance," said Myron Stroup, USDA's Farm Service Agency chief for Johnson and Miami counties.

But how much help for which developers might qualify is impossible to forecast, Stroup said. Some have individual harvesting contracts with commercial farmers that specify who gets disaster help, if offered. Some of the relief for which they might be eligible — such as a loan to buy livestock feed — wouldn't seem that useful for suburban developers, he said.

Olson in Olathe said he won't take chances.

"We can write legislation with language that's clear enough to say who is a real farmer," he said. "I'm going to contact the governor's office tomorrow."

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Free Press Big 12 Sports

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Snyder: Summers Go Faster And Faster

By Mark Janssen
KSU Sports Information

MANHATTAN, Kan. - Bill Snyder is wondering like the rest of us: Where did the summer go?

"It's almost gone, yet we have so much more to accomplish," said the Kansas State head football coach, who today will meet with the media in Dallas, Texas, at the 2012 Big 12 Football Media Day. "Every summer seems to go a little faster."

Snyder says he 'thinks' the summer workouts have been a success, but with NCAA rules preventing viewing the sessions or filming the workouts, he's going only on hear-say.

"It's been up to our strength and conditioning coaches, our training staff and our team leaders," said Snyder of the summer sessions.

That rule for football is totally different than the new NCAA rule put in place for men's basketball this summer.

BIG 12 MEDIA DAY: Joining their coach in Dallas today will be quarterback Collin Klein, linebackers Arthur Brown and Tre Walker, along with safety Ty Zimmerman.

Yes, Klein, who married Shalin Spani just two days ago, will be in attendance.

"I'm going to Dallas, and then our last workout day is the 24th (Tuesday)," said Klein. "Then we'll be off on our honeymoon."



Anthony Cantele makes his 4th extra point of the game against Kansas.

Fans can watch Coach Snyder's press conference at Big 12 Media Day beginning at 11:30 a.m., on www.big12sports.com. Fans can also follow the day's activities at www.k-statesports.com and the official athletics Twitter account, @kstatesports.

SPEAKING OF WEDDINGS: Snyder says he intended to take a summer vacation, but adds, "It just didn't happen."

But, there were a couple big-

time events that the Wildcat coach did take advantage of, starting with the wedding of his daughter, Whitney, on July 7, at Manhattan's First Presbyterian Church.

"It was a wonderful day," said Snyder. "It's been a long time since Meredith got married, so it's hard to compare the emotions of the two, but it was a very special day."

Like any father, Snyder added, "When you have a

daughter, you don't want any mistakes in who they choose, and she didn't make a mistake. He's a nice young man. He's very genuine."

Michah Hydeman, a Manhattan fire fighter, was Whitney's husband of choice.

SNYDER CHUMS WITH TOBY: The social event of Snyder's summer time was attending the Saturday night portion of the 2012 Country Stampede, which featured Toby Keith.

"Sean (Snyder) organized it and made it really easy getting in and getting out, so it was a lot of fun," said Snyder, who was accompanied by Sean, plus friend Jim Colbert, and their wives, Sharon, Wanda and Marsha.

On hand to serve as Snyder's semi-host was Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops, who made the introduction of Keith, who is a

Sooner graduate and is one of OU's biggest fans.

"We spent some time with him, and I thought his performance was excellent," said Snyder. "He puts on a very professional show. You can tell that a lot of people invested time in putting together what they do. It's not just standing on a stage and singing. There's a lot of showmanship."

CATS RANKED SIXTH: The fun times are over for the summer as the Wildcat football team will report on August 1, when preparation begins for the September 1 opener against Missouri State at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

In the preseason media poll announced last week, K-State was placed No. 6 behind Oklahoma, West Virginia, Texas, Oklahoma State and TCU, and ahead of Baylor, Iowa State, Texas Tech and Kansas.

K-State did receive one of the 41 first-place votes with the others going to the Sooners (32), Mountaineers (7) and Horned Frogs (1).

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: Start times have been announced for the first three games of the 2012 season. K-State opens the year at 6 p.m., on September 1, against Missouri State That will be followed by an 11 a.m., start against Miami on September 8, and then another 6 p.m., kickoff against North Texas on September 15.

All three games will be played at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

Ticket Sales Up, Time To Act

By Mark Janssen
KSU Sports Information

MANHATTAN, Kan. - The word from Kansas State's athletic ticket office is to be proactive.

"Our hope is to sell out of each of our seven home games," said K-State Assistant Athletics Director for Ticketing and Fan Strategies Scott Garrett. "I can tell you that from last year, we are well ahead on all of our sales from one year ago on this date."

That starts with general season tickets, which are up by roughly 3,500 tickets from one year ago at the end of July. The year-end total last year was 34,796, which was the highest figure since the 2007 season. Roughly, those numbers included just under 28,000 general season tickets and 7,000 student season tickets for the 34,796 total.

In addition, Garrett said, "Our single-game sales are up versus this date last year about 50 percent. What that means to our fans is that our ticket inventory is substantially less this year from this time last year. If fans want to be sure of individual game tickets, they need to act as soon as possible."

The feature non-conference game will be on Sept. 8, when the Wildcats host the Miami Hurricanes in an 11 a.m., kickoff at Bill Snyder Family Stadium. It was a year ago that K-State edged Miami, 28-24, at Sun Life Stadium.

Outside of Big 12 games, playing Miami will mark the fourth BCS-type opponent to enter Bill Snyder Family Stadium since 2002. The 'Cats entertained UCLA in 2010, faced off against No. 8-ranked Louisville in 2006 and played No. 11-ranked USC in 2002.

Other 2012 non-conference home dates include Sept. 1 against Missouri State and Sept. 15 against North Texas. Both games will have 6 p.m., starts.

For both Missouri State and North Texas, K-State is offering the Wildcat 4 Pack for \$75. Those orders must be received by Aug. 1. For both games there is also a Military discount

of \$15 and a special \$15 per ticket cost for groups purchasing at least 20 seats.

For the North Texas game, there is also a \$10 discount with the purchase of a ticket for the Miami game.

Rounding out K-State's home season will be Big 12 contests against KU on Oct. 6, Texas Tech on Oct. 27, Oklahoma State on Nov. 3, and Texas on Dec. 1.

"We have tickets available for all of our games, but for Kansas we have a very limited number of tickets," said Garrett. "But again, for all Big 12 games the quantity of tickets we have available is not a lot. In the past, games would typically sell out the week of the game. This year I'll be surprised if games aren't sold out well ahead of the week of the game."

Ticket prices and promotions:

- KU -- \$85 premium bench; \$75 bench

- Texas Tech -- \$65 premium bench; \$55 bench; \$99 Wildcat 4 Pack if ordered by Oct. 1; \$20 military discount; \$20 for groups of at least 20; \$20 Alumni Association members discount if ordered by Aug. 31; \$70 Texas combo which includes Tech game and Texas game

- Oklahoma State -- \$65 premium bench; \$55 bench; \$99 Wildcat 4 Pack if ordered by Oct. 1; \$20 military discount; \$20 for groups of at least 20; \$70 Texas combo which includes OSU and Texas game

- Texas -- \$65 premium bench; \$55 bench; \$99 Wildcat 4 Pack if ordered by Oct. 1; \$20 military discount; \$20 for groups of at least 20; \$70 Texas combo if ticket is paired with either Texas Tech or O-State game.

Garrett said that the majority of the single-game sales would be in the south end zone and the view level of the east side.

Special days during the year include the 4th Annual K-State Family Reunion and post-game fireworks for the Missouri State game; Harley Day for the Miami game; Band Day and

University Family Day for the North Texas game; Homecoming for the Texas Tech game; Fort Riley Day and Cats 4 Cans for the Oklahoma State game; and, Senior Day and Fan Appreciation Day for the Texas game.

Tickets are also available for K-State road games to Oklahoma on Sept. 22 (\$82), Iowa State on Oct. 13 (\$65), West Virginia on Oct. 20 (\$60), TCU on Nov. 10 (\$60) and Baylor on Nov. 17 (\$50).

For Big 12 games, visiting teams can request 3,800 tickets. Teams then have the opportunity to return tickets they don't

believe they will sell a month before the game. Garrett said the number of tickets returned generally varies depending on how well that team is playing at the time.

Garrett said that K-State season tickets are scheduled to be mailed to fans by the first week of August.

FALL FOOTBALL KICK-OFF: K-State fans should mark their calendars for Aug. 18 as that will be Fall Football Kickoff Day (formerly Fan Appreciation Day) at Bill Snyder Family Stadium. The starting time and additional details will be announced later.

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ECONOMIC & JOB GROWTH. In the Senate, Reitz has helped secure some of the region's most effective economic initiatives, including regional air service in Manhattan; transportation projects for improved access; and the investment by NBAF. This year, Reitz co-sponsored the "Kansas Works" plan, which gives Kansas a competitive edge over other states in attracting jobs.

EDUCATION. Reitz has worked tirelessly in the Senate to champion responsible funding for education. Last year he worked to help K-State expand its engineering program and restore \$43.7 million in K-12 school funding. Reitz believes the path to economic success starts in the classroom.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY. Every year he has been in the Senate he has voted for a balanced budget while protecting essential services. Reitz helped eliminate the inheritance tax on Kansas families, the corporate franchise tax on Kansas businesses, and income taxes on Social Security benefits for seniors.

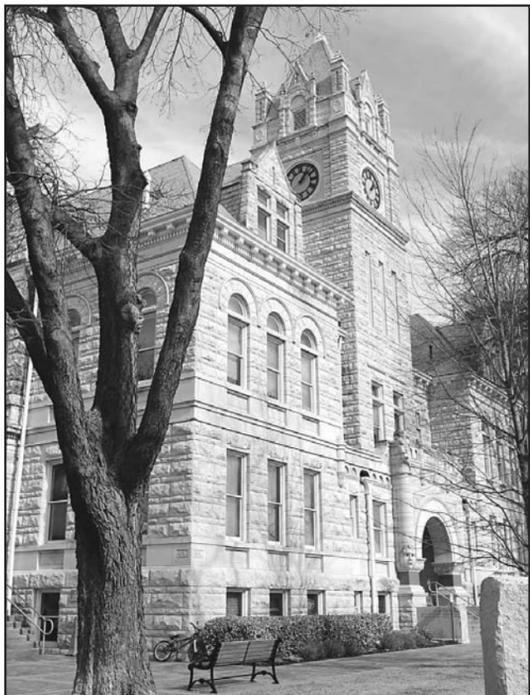
MILITARY SUPPORT. With thousands of soldiers and their families living in the 22nd district, Reitz knows the state must ensure these families have the resources they need while their loved ones are away.



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Riley County Commission Minutes

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 July 12, 2012 with the following members present: Alvan Johnson, Chair; Karen McCulloh, Member; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk. Dave Lewis, Vice Chair, was absent.

8:30 Public Comment & Business Meeting
Ron Wells; Bob Boyd; Clancy Holeman, Counselor /Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Larry Larson; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk; Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters; Jeff Burkhart, KMAN; Debbie Regester, Register of Deeds; and Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director, attended.

McCulloh moved to approve a Renewal of On-line Access Agreement with Commerce Bank for the Register of Deeds' Office. Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

McCulloh moved to approve an On-line Access Agreement with John Bergman for the Register of Deeds' Office. Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

McCulloh moved to approve the payroll vouchers in the amount of \$272,278.53 and the following warrant vouchers for July 13, 2012:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 2012 Budget | |
| County General | \$426,308.47 |
| Health Depart | 66,786.25 |
| Riley Co Juvenile Service | 5,914.60 |
| Motor Vehicle Operations | 5,627.40 |
| 21st Jud Dist Teen Court | |

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| | 1,136.74 |
| Riley Co Adult Services | 6,820.13 |
| Capital Improvements Fund | 32,151.08 |
| Solid Waste | 5,666.44 |
| County Building | 20,907.94 |
| RCPD Levy/Op | 18,667.35 |
| Resourceful KS Energy Grt | 77,815.52 |
| Landfill Closure | 1,797.99 |
| Riley Co Fire Dist #1 | 1,565.38 |
| University Park W&S | 5,055.74 |
| Hunters Island Water Dist | 26.62 |
| Deep Creek Sewer | 26.62 |
| Moehlman Bottoms | 26.63 |
| Valleywood Operations | 492.35 |
| Terra Heights Sewer | 1,169.13 |
| Terra Heights Sinking | 4,002.99 |
| Konza Water Operations | 26.63 |
| Konza Water Cap Reserve | 1,715.40 |
| Valleywood Cap Reserve | 9,750.00 |
| Univ Park W&S Cap Reserve | 2,100.00 |
| TOTAL | \$695,557.40 |

Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Personnel Action Form for Justin Brenner, a new hire, as a Public Works Operator II, in the Road & Bridge Department, at a grade I step 1, at \$15.43 per hour.

McCulloh moved to approve the minutes of July 9, 2012 as amended. Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

Meredith presented educational material for the Riley County ¼ cent sales tax question.

9:10 Clancy Holeman,

Counselor/ Director of Administrative Services Work Session
Ron Wells; Bob Boyd; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Larry Larson; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/ County Engineer; Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters; Jeff Burkhart, KMAN; Burke Krohe, Manhattan Mercury; Lyle Butler, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce; and Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director, attended.

Holeman stated during the Riley County ¼ cent sales tax educational programs the Board and staff can only present the information, but not act as advocates.

Holeman discussed the MPO meeting held Tuesday. Holeman said maps 2 and 4 were the preferred maps of the group.

Holeman said the Board needs to decide what map Riley County supports and how to divide the local match funds, and bring that position to the next City/County/County meeting.

9:17 Lyle Butler, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce

Ron Wells; Bob Boyd; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Larry Larson; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters; Jeff Burkhart, KMAN; Burke Krohe, Manhattan Mercury; Lyle Butler, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce; and Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director, attended.

Butler discussed the potential move of the Department of Agriculture. Butler stated they will receive a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Manhattan area to attract part or all of the Department of Agriculture to Manhattan.

Holeman discussed the proposed new ¼ cent sales tax question format.

Holeman discussed a proposed interlocal agreement with the small cities.

Holeman said legislative post audit will review the machinery and equipment exemption and K-12 efficiencies.

9:34 McCulloh moved to adjourn. Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

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 July 16, 2012 with the following members present: Alvan Johnson, Chair; Karen McCulloh, Member; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk. Dave Lewis, Vice Chair, was absent.

8:30 Public Comment & Business Meeting

Ron Wells; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/ Director of Administrative Services;

Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager /Deputy Clerk; Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; Susie Kufahl, Riley County Health Department; Mel Van Der Stelt; and Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

Shepek reported Riley County's revenue share on the p-card through May 2012 is \$12,917.12.

McCulloh moved to approve "Resolution No. 071612-27, A Resolution expressing the property taxation policy of the Board of Riley County Commissioners with respect to financing the 2013 annual budget for Riley County, the Riley County Rural Fire District, University Park Water & Sewer District, Carson Sewer District, Valleywood Stormwater District and Cemeteries included in the Riley County 2013 Budget." Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

Johnson moved to sign the Agreement with John Thurston for the Indigent Defense Panel in the amount of \$4,514.00 per month for the designated Administrative Attorney and \$4,198.00 per month for other attorneys for 2012. McCulloh seconded. Carried 2-0.

McCulloh moved to approve a Contract Agreement with Ebert Construction Co., Inc. for Mineral Springs Road bridge replacement in the \$427,691.56. Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

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

Stefanie Griffin, a new hire, as an APRN, in the Health Department, at a grade EE, at \$3,184.00 per month.

Paradise Thompson, a new hire, as a Lead WIC Clerk, in the Health Department, at a grade H step 1, at \$14.70 per hour.

Johnson moved to approve the minutes of July 12, 2012 as amended. McCulloh seconded. Carried 2-0.

9:15 Audrey Schremmer-Philip, Executive Director of Three Rivers Center for Independent Living

Ron Wells; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/ Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; Larry Larson; Dan Page, KMAN; and Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

Schremmer-Philip presented a new request to Riley County for a \$20,000 appropriation for the Three Rivers Center. Schremmer-Philip stated the new request is needed due to cuts in state funding.

McCulloh said the Board will take the request into consideration.

9:30 Press Conference

Kristi Ingalls, American Red Cross; Jennifer Wilson, County Extension Director; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Dan Page, KMAN; Maura Wery, Manhattan

Mercury; and Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters, attended.

Ingalls said the American Red Cross is on national appeal. Ingalls said in June they had 50,000 less donors than anticipated. Ingalls stated they are low on all types but especially in O- and O+ and A- and A+. Ingalls said there is the KSU blood drive July 17 and July 18 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Battle of the Badges blood drive July 24 and July 25.

Wilson reported the Riley County Fair will be July 26 - July 30. Wilson discussed the various Fair events.

Rosewicz presented a road report.

Rosewicz said an asphalt seal is scheduled to be applied Monday, July 16, 2012, to Riley County 903N Denison Ave. Rosewicz said adverse weather conditions may cause unexpected delays or rescheduling.

Rosewicz said traffic will be allowed through this project, but drivers should expect delays of up to 15 minutes. Rosewicz said be advised that fresh asphalt oil will be applied and to take alternate routes when possible.

Vargo reported the following for the Primary 2012 Election Timeline:

Tuesday, July 17th, close of registration books at 5:00 p.m.

Training Day is at the College Avenue Church Wednesday, July 18th, advance voting by mail begins

Tuesday, July 24th, advance voting in person starts 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. each day; Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 (noon); and 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 (noon) on Monday, August 6th Monday, August 6th, advance voting closes at noon

Tuesday, August 7th, Election Day.

Vargo reminded everyone to bring a photo ID to the polling places.

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

Holeman discussed the sharing of ¼ cent sales tax revenue with Leonardville, Randolph, Riley, and Ogden. Holeman said the statutory language strictly requires the funds be allocated to Riley County road and bridge projects. Holeman said it is possible the Attorney General may not approve an interlocal agreement with the small cities distributing them a portion of the sales tax.

Vargo reported the Clerk's office will need the ¼ cent sales tax question language by August 31, 2012.

Holeman discussed the indigent defense panel agreement.

Holeman discussed the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

The Board agreed all parities should share in the funding match for the MPO.

10:45 Bob Isaac, Planner

Michael Jones; Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; Mel Van Der Stelt; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/ Director of Administrative Services; Cory Meyer, Network Administrator; and Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor, attended.

Johnson opened the public hearing for a plat and rezone for Michael A. Jones.

Isaac said this request was heard by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on June 28, 2012. The petitioner proposed modifications to the original rezoning request and were presented at that meeting. The BOCC unanimously decided to send the request back to the Riley County Planning Board to reconsider the proposed modifications and allow for a subsequent recommendation.

Isaac said the Riley County Planning Board held a public meeting on July 9, 2012, and after hearing and reviewing the proposed modification to the original request, forwarded a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve the request to rezone a tract of land from "AG" (Agricultural District) to "SF-5" (Single Family Residential). Staff recommended approval of the request and plat a tract of land into two (2) residential lots.

Jones stated they are just trying to get the Trust completed.

Johnson moved the public hearing.
McCulloh moved to approve "Resolution No. 071612-28, Resolution amending the zoning map of Riley County concerning the use of certain real estate located in Zeandale Township." Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

McCulloh moved to approve "Resolution No. 071612-29, A Resolution approving the Pleasant Valley Addition Plat and accepting the street rights of way, easements, and licenses as shown to be dedicated on said plat." Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

10:53 Johnson moved to adjourn. McCulloh seconded. Carried 2-0.

12:00 Law Enforcement Agency Meeting

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 July 23, 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

Ron Wells; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/ Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/ Deputy County Clerk; Susie Kufahl, Riley County Health Department Director; Debbie Regester, Register of Deeds; Bryan Richardson, Manhattan

See County Minutes page 7

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County Minutes

from page 6

Mercury; Larry Larson; Bob Boyd; Rod Harms; and Dave Fiser, attended.

The Board said after the press conference the Board will discuss Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks department head resignation.

Lewis moved that the Board authorize the Budget & Finance Officer to proceed with finalizing the budget with the recommended changes in the State of Kansas budget format. Upon an acceptable review of the budget by the County's auditors, the Riley County budget and notice of hearing will be published in the Manhattan Mercury on or before Sunday, August 5, 2012. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

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

Jamie Martin, a new hire, as a WIC Clerk, in the Health Department, at a grade G step 1, at \$14.00 per hour.

Heather Ritchey, a Child Care Surveyor, in the Health Department, for Separation from County Service, effective

July 20, 2012.

Laura Mason, a Healthy Start Home Visitor, in the Health Department, for Separation from County Service, effective July 27, 2012.

McCulloh said Wanda McVey called about concerns about dust on a gravel road on Hunters Island.

Rosewicz stated he will contact Ms. McVey.

McCulloh moved to approve a Grant of Permanent Easement for Darrel Altwegg, Trustee of the David Altwegg Trust to lay out, relocate, widen, or alter the public road known as Walnut Creek Road solely for the purpose of constructing a road and/or Bridge Project, described as follows: A tract of land in the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Section 29, Township 8 South, Range 6 East of the 6th P.M., Riley County, Kansas, (only partly printed) Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

McCulloh moved to approve a Grant of Permanent Easement for Richard L. Jahnke to lay out, relocate, widen, or alter the public road known as Walnut

Creek Road solely for the purpose of constructing a road and/or Bridge Project, described as follows: A tract of land in the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Section 29, Township 8 South, Range 6 East of the 6th P.M., Riley County, Kansas, (only partly printed) Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

McCulloh moved to approve a Temporary Construction Easement for Richard L. Jahnke to lay out, relocate, widen, or alter a certain public road known as Walnut Creek Road solely for the purpose of constructing a road and/or Bridge Project, described as follows: A tract of land in the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Section 29, Township 8 South, Range 6 East of the 6th P.M., Riley County, Kansas, (only partly printed) Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

McCulloh moved to approve a Grant of Permanent Easement for John Ray and Louise M. Jahnke to lay out, relocate, widen, or alter the public road known as Walnut Creek Road

solely for the purpose of constructing a road and/or Bridge Project, described as follows: A tract of land in the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section 30, Township 8 South, Range 6 East of the 6th P.M., Riley County, Kansas, (only partly printed) Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

McCulloh moved to approve a Temporary Construction Easement for John Ray and Louise M. Jahnke to lay out, relocate, widen, or alter a certain public road known as Walnut Creek Road solely for the purpose of constructing a road and/or Bridge Project, described as follows: A tract of land in the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section 30, Township 8 South, Range 6 East of the 6th P.M., Riley County, Kansas, (only partly printed) Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to approve the minutes of July 19, 2012 as amended. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:00 Susie Kufahl, Riley County Health Department Director

Ron Wells; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/ Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy County Clerk; Susie Kufahl, Riley County Health Department Director; Debbie Register, Register of Deeds; Bryan Richardson, Manhattan Mercury; Larry Larson; Bob Boyd; Rod Harms; Dan Page, KMAN; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Dave Fiser, attended.

Kufahl discussed the Riley County Health Department's preparation to begin a multi-faceted, multi-year, quality improvement journey to work towards national accreditation, which will be required for future Federal and State grants.

9:16 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services Work Session

9:16 Lewis moved that the County Commission recess into executive session on pending litigation pursuant to that exception of the Kansas Open Meetings Act allowing consultation with an attorney for the Board which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 9:26 a.m. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:19 Johnson moved to go out of executive session. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

Lewis moved that the County Commission authorize the Chairman to sign the answer in the pending litigation discussed during today's executive session, when that answer is presented to the Chairman by the County Counselor. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:30 Press Conference
Captain Tim Hegarty, Riley County Police Department; Jennifer Wilson, County Extension Director; Dawn Shoffner, Assistant Information Technology Director; Cheryl Collins, Museum Director; Pat Collins, Emergency Management Director; Scott Cooper, Assistant Riley County Fire Chief; Dave Fiser; Bob Boyd; Rod Harms; Larry Larson; and Dan Page, KMAN, attended.

Hegarty stated they have trained five new bike patrol officers.

Hegarty discussed the bur-

glary issues in south central Manhattan. Hegarty said the burglar has been hitting residences, which are occupied. Hegarty encouraged residents to lock their homes and vehicles.

Wilson reported at 11:00 a.m. today the Riley County Extension staff will close the office doors in preparation for the 2012 Riley County Fair and open up at the Fairgrounds. Wilson discussed the Riley County Fair activities.

Shoffner announced CivicPlus' digital citizen engagement survey will be available July 23 - August 24 to gather information on what citizens want from local government websites at <http://www.rileycountyks.gov/>.

C. Collins said the Riley County Historical Museum is pleased that Allana Saenger has joined their staff as the Curator of Design. C. Collins said Saenger has a M.A. in Museum Studies from the University of Kansas and a B.A. in History from Kansas State University, where she served as an intern with the Chapman Center for Rural Studies.

C. Collins said Saenger has had a number of exhibit development and construction experiences: at the Wakarusa River Valley Heritage Museum, with Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area, and with the Watkins Museum.

Saenger stated she is excited to be here and work on the Riley County exhibits.

P. Collins introduced Scott Cooper as the new Riley County Fire District #1 Assistant Riley County Fire Chief.

Cooper stated he has over 25 years of service in fire and paramedic service.

Vargo reported advance voting in person begins tomorrow. Vargo stated advance voting hours are 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. weekdays 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 (noon) Saturdays and closes Monday, August 6th at 12:00 (noon).

Lewis announced with regret and gratitude Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director's retirement will be August 17, 2012. Lewis said the Board wishes Meredith well in his future.

McCulloh said now would be the time to evaluate the need of the position and structure of the Public Works Department.

Rosewicz stated Meredith met with the Public Works staff Thursday about his retirement.

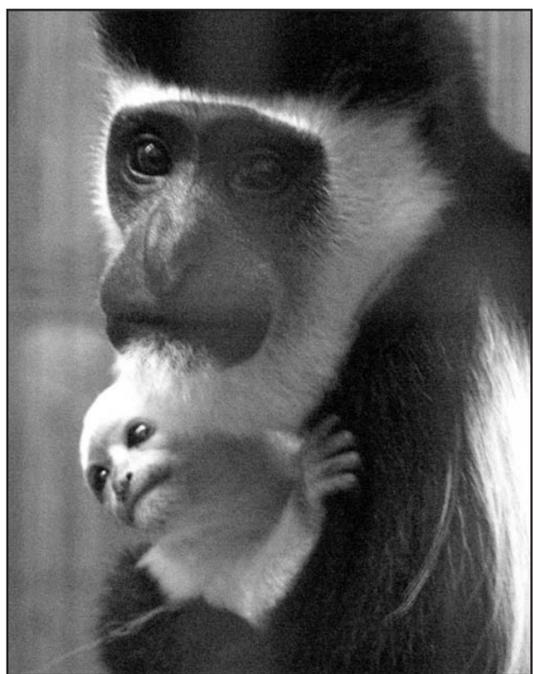
10:19 McCulloh moved to adjourn. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Colobus Baby Monkey At Zoo

Sunset Zoo recently welcomed a new primate to the animal collection - a baby Colobus Monkey. Blinkin, the animal's mother, and the new infant are doing well. The new addition is roughly a week old and is now on exhibit to the public in the Primate Building located along the Zoo's African Forest Trail.

Unlike adult Colobus who are known for their highly contrastive coloring - glossy black fur with white hair around their face and a bushy white tail - the infants are born with completely white hair. Over time the animal's hair will darken, achieving full adult coloration by three to four months. Sunset Zoo's new addition is currently on exhibit with its mother and father, Mabon. Guests should look for the primate family primarily in the indoor public viewing area of the exhibit.

Zoo guests should be patient when looking for the infant - the baby will cling to its mother for roughly the first year and Blinkin is a bit protective of the new baby, often shielding the animal from public view. The



Blinkin, and the new infant are doing well.

infant will become more independent after about two months, beginning to eat vegetation, and then will be fully

weaned after the first year. Blinkin, a first-time mother, is doing an exceptional job caring for the new baby and is receiving great support from the more-experienced father, Mabon.

Colobus Monkeys are native to Africa and typically live to 30 years of age. Eating a diet primarily of leaves and fruits in the wild, the animals also enjoy sweet potatoes, peanuts and leaf eater biscuits at Sunset Zoo. Additionally, these animals are diurnal - typically spending more than half their day resting. However, when active, Colobus monkeys are great jumpers covering distances up to 50 feet when leaping in the trees!

The opportunity to name the new Colobus infant will be auctioned off at the third annual Brew at the Zoo event on Friday, August 17th. The brew tasting event runs from 6:30-9:30pm at the Zoo's new Nature Exploration Center and around the primate exhibit loop. For more information or to purchase tickets to the event, visit SunsetZoo.com.

Classifieds...

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City Looks At Sales Tax

Tuesday night the Manhattan City Commission discussed the 1/4 cent sales tax again. Here is what the Commissioners were told in a mem:

CITY COMMISSION AGENDA MEMO
July 17, 2012
FROM: Lauren Palmer, Assistant City Manager
MEETING: July 24, 2012
SUBJECT: Discussion Regarding Ballot Language and Policy Resolution to Establish Uses of the Proposed Quarter-Cent City Sales Tax
PRESENTER: Lauren Palmer, Assistant City Manager
BACKGROUND

In 2002, the voters of Riley County approved the so-called "Roads and Jobs" half-cent sales tax measure. State law mandated that Riley County share the proceeds of the tax with all municipalities within the County. The ballot reflected Riley County's voluntary pledge to use its portion of the proceeds to "pay the costs of developing, improving, and maintaining the system of roads, bridges, and culverts located in the County." The ballot also reflected the City of Manhattan's voluntary pledge to commit its portion of the proceeds for "economic development initiatives that occur within Riley County." The sales tax generates approximately \$4 million annually. Of that amount, the City receives approximately \$2.2 million annually. The City's funds have been used for such projects and

companies as the Florence Corporation, Manhattan/K-State Innovation Center, Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community, the National Bio and Agro Defense Facility (NBAF), GTM Sportswear, Regional Jet Service via American Eagle Airlines, among others. The sales tax is set to expire in December 2012.

On July 9, 2012, the Board of County Commissioners of Riley County approved a motion to proceed with a dedicated County quarter-cent sales tax for roads and bridges on the November 6, 2012, General Election Ballot. Based on the County's action, at the work session on July 10, 2012, the City Commission expressed general consensus to proceed with a City quarter-cent sales tax question to replace the City's portion of proceeds from the half-cent County sales tax that will expire at the end of December. In order to add a city quarter-cent sales tax question to the November ballot, the City Commission must hold adopt the ballot language by resolution at a legislative meeting in August. In addition, City Administration recommends adopting a policy resolution to provide additional detail to the public about the use of funds.

DISCUSSION

City Administration needs direction from the City Commission about the desired use(s) of proceeds from the proposed quarter-cent city sales tax for the November general election. Based on previous discussions, it appears that the Commission desires to devote

the proceeds to two uses: economic development initiatives and property tax relief/debt reduction. A resolution has been drafted (attached) that establishes the following ballot language to designate the sales tax proceeds for these two uses: proceeds will be used for "...property tax relief for City taxpayers by means and methods including payment of outstanding debt of the City or payment of the cost of public infrastructure; and/or, used for payment for economic development initiatives which create jobs and/or benefit the City of Manhattan." The City Commission should confirm if this ballot language captures the intended uses of the sales tax proceeds or provide further direction to City Administration to rewrite the resolution.

The ballot language is intentionally general. Thus, City Administration recommends adopting a policy resolution to provide additional detail to the public about how proceeds will be used. City Administration has drafted a policy resolution (attached) based on previous preliminary discussion among the Commission. The policy resolution states that 65% of the proceeds (approximately \$1.6 million annually) will be disbursed to the City's Economic Development Fund and used for economic development initiatives in accordance with the goals, strategies, and other provisions established in the "Economic Development Funds Process and Procedures" document that was adopted on by the

Commission on December 17, 2002, and revised on April 6, 2010 (see attached).

The resolution designates the remaining 35% of the proceeds (approximately \$1 million annually) to directly offset the property tax levy on an annual basis. Funds may be used to pay existing debt service payments (through transfers to the Bond and Interest Fund), or funds may be used to pay temporary notes or cash for projects in order to prevent the issuance of additional debt. Specific allocations of funds will be determined by the Commission annually during the budget process based on what is deemed to be in the best interest of the city. City Administration needs direction from the Commission to make any desired adjustments to the draft policy resolution.

ALTERNATIVE

It appears the Commission has the following alternative concerning the issue at hand.

The Commission may:

1. Provide direction to City Administration about the desired use(s) of proceeds from the proposed quarter-cent city sales tax in order to finalize the related resolution and policy resolution for further discussion and approval in August.
- RECOMMENDATION**
 Provide direction to City Administration about the desired use(s) of proceeds from the proposed quarter-cent city sales tax in order to finalize the related resolution and policy resolution for further discussion and approval in August.



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Celebrating Milton Friedman

By Andrew J. Coulson
 CATO Institute

For us, who lived in the communist world, Milton Friedman was the greatest champion of freedom, of limited and unobtrusive government and of free markets. Because of him I became a true believer in the unrestricted market economy.

Those are the words of Czech President Vaclav Klaus. Both Friedman's writings and his landmark 1980 documentary series "Free to Choose" were smuggled into totalitarian communist states, inspiring a generation of future scholars, activists, and politicians.

July 31st, 2012 is the 100th anniversary of Friedman's birth. To commemorate that occasion, the Cato Institute has put together a video interview with Bob Chitester, producer of "Free to Choose," recounting how it came to be, its impact, and what it was like working with Milton Friedman.

Aside from those who lived under communism, there is another group for whom Friedman was and is a colossal figure: advocates of educational freedom. At a time when state-run schooling had been the norm for nearly a century, and had long ceased to be questioned by America's elites, Friedman offered a modest observation: there was no good reason for the government of a free society to actually run schools and many good reasons for it not to do so.

He made this case in his essay "On the Role of Government in Education," first published in 1955. The idea had been floated by others, including Adam Smith and Thomas Paine, but Friedman eloquently and powerfully introduced it to the American policy debate. In so doing, he, more than any other individual, can be credited with giving rise to the modern school choice

movement.

Not only did Friedman spark the creation of this movement, he helped to fan the flame of educational freedom, writing popular commentaries and book chapters, speaking with and encouraging activists, founding a leading school choice institution, and dedicating the entire sixth episode of "Free to Choose" to this subject.

I had the good fortune to speak and correspond with Milton occasionally, starting in the late 1990s, and what struck me most about him was his personal integrity. He once told me that he never said anything negative about a person in private that he would not be willing to say openly in that person's presence. So far as I know, he never violated that principle. And while he staunchly defended his conclusions as long as he remained convinced of their correctness, he would amend them if the weight of evidence shifted.

Indeed the rigorous empiricism that Friedman applied in his scholarly work is generally regarded as one of his most influential contributions to the field of economics—for a long time controversial but eventually the norm, at least in principle. His view, published in the 1953 collection *Essays in Positive Economics*, was that the ultimate test of the validity of a theory is... the ability to deduce facts that have not yet been observed, that are capable of being contradicted by observation, and that subsequent observation does not contradict. [p. 300]

Equally wise, though not yet as widely accepted, is the long time horizon against which Friedman measured policy outcomes. Economist and philosopher of science James R. Wible notes that Friedman's greatest contribution "may be his con-

stant reminder not to forget the long run consequences of short run policies."

In the 1982 edition of his book *Capitalism and Freedom*, Friedman observed that scholars cannot single-handedly bring about change. Their real role, he wrote, is to "keep the lights on"—to remind us which

policies work and which do not, and to show us how to advance our understanding even further. His own unflinching empiricism and concern for the long term remain valuable beacons today, both for advocates of educational freedom and the broader policy community.

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