



Manhattan Free Press

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An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper

Thursday, August 30, 2012

Purple Power Play on Poyntz

The Students are back, K-States first football game is Saturday, so it must be time for Purple Power Play on Poyntz.

The big event will kickoff tonight, Thursday, August 30th.

Purple Power Play on Poyntz was created in 1988 by a group of four community volunteers to welcome students back to Downtown Manhattan and generate excitement for a less than successful K-State football team. The first event was a 2-day event held before the first home football game and featured a main stage on a flat bed trailer at 3rd and Poyntz in front of Manhattan Town Center and had less than 200 attendees. In 1999, Purple Power Play on Poyntz was incorporated as a non-for-profit organization.

Today, Purple Power Play on Poyntz still welcomes students, alumni and the entire community to Downtown Manhattan prior to the first home Kansas State Wildcat football game. Purple Power Play on Poyntz has become one of the largest events in Northeast Kansas with over 20,000 people attending the event over the two days. The event has grown to include an inflatable carnival, a pyrotechnics display, and a diverse group of more than 80 vendors that line Poyntz Avenue. Purple Power Play on Poyntz continues to grow each year and will continue to be a Manhattan tradition for years to come.

The Events: Thursday, August 30

Willie the Wildcat available for



Kansas State had a 10-3 record last year and looking to be better this year.

photos, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm in Center Court of Manhattan Town Center.
Capitol Federal Savings Inflatable Carnival, 6:00-8:30 pm at 500 block of Poyntz Avenue. Free Admission.

Plaza Stage:
6:00 -6:20 MHS Pops Choir
6:30-6:50 Bates Dance Studio
7:00 - 7:45 Greg Coffey with The Funk Tribe
8:10 pm K-State Pep Rally featuring Head Football Coach Bill Snyder, Coach Brad Hill from K-State Baseball, the K-State Marching Band, Cheerleaders, Classy Cats and Willie the Wildcat!

Friday, August 31
Willie the Wildcat available for photos, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm in Center

Court of Manhattan Town Center.
Capitol Federal Savings Inflatable Carnival, 6:00-8:30 pm at 500 block of Poyntz Avenue. Free Admission.

Plaza Stage:
6:00 -6:20 K-State Tap Dance Ensemble
6:30 -7:45 Jared Daniels Band
8:10 pm K-State Pep Rally featuring Coach Bruce Weber from K-State Men's Basketball & Coach Deb Patterson from K-State Women's Basketball, K-State Marching Band, Cheerleaders, Classy Cats, Willie the Wildcat!

Sundown: Intrust Bank Pyrotechnics Fireworks Display

Kansas Named To Top 10 Pro-Business State

Pollina Corporate Real Estate Inc. announced that Kansas has been named a top 10 "Pro-Business State" for 2012. The annual ranking is compiled by Pollina, a global real estate brokerage and consulting firm, and the American Economic Development Institute. The ranking is based on 32 factors controlled by state government, including taxes, human resources, education, right-to-work legislation, energy costs, infrastructure spending, workers compensation laws, economic incentive programs and state economic development efforts.

"It is nice to receive this recognition as one of the top states for business," said Kansas Commerce Secretary Pat George. "We have worked diligently over the past 18 months to create an environment that will encourage business expansion and job growth in our state."

The top 10 states for 2012 are: 1. Utah; 2. Virginia; 3. Wyoming; 4. North Dakota; 5. Indiana; 6. Nebraska; 7. South Dakota; 8. Kansas; 9. Missouri; and 10. Oklahoma.

George cited the enactment of major tax reform that eliminated most non-wage income on small businesses and lowered tax rates for individual

Kansans as a major boost to the state's efforts to expand the economy and add jobs.

"Kansas has gone from one of the highest taxed states in the region to one of the lowest," George said. "The elimination of taxes on non-wage income is going to really help the 191,000 small businesses in Kansas grow. That's what we need to get our economy growing."

Brent Pollina, vice president of Pollina Corporate Real Estate and co-author of the ranking, said that Kansas has proved why it has a reputation for understanding the needs of business. In 2004, Kansas was ranked No. 23 in the survey.

"[Kansas'] consistent approach to creating a pro-business environment has paid off because the state has continuously adapted and changed to fit the needs of business, refusing to sit back and rely on past success," Pollina said. Pollina also praised the state's economic development tools as an asset in recruiting companies.

Since January 2011, there have been almost 21,000 jobs created, almost 4,000 jobs retained and \$2.8 billion in capital investment in the state, according to Department data.

State Offers Free Tuition

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback is encouraging high school students to take advantage of free tuition offered through the state's new Career and Technical Education Act, he also unveiled the list of high-need occupations that are eligible for the incentive program passed by the Kansas Legislature earlier this year.

Beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, Kansas high school students can get their tuition paid for if they take qualified technical courses offered at Kansas technical and community colleges. The incentive program also will give school districts \$1,000 for each high school student who graduates from that district with an industry-recognized credential in a high-need occupation.

"This list of occupations that are eligible for the incentive program was produced from a collaborative effort between the Kansas Department of Labor, the State Department of Education and the Board of Regents,"

Brownback said. "These high-need occupations will yield the greatest benefit to the state's investment."

The following occupations are eligible for the tuition assistance and incentive program (the complete list will be posted online by Kansas Board of Regents):

- Diesel engine specialists
- Automotive service technicians and mechanics
- Structural metal fabricators and fitters
- Assemblers and other fabricators
- Construction laborers
- Electricians
- Machinists
- Heating, air conditioning and refrigeration mechanics, and installers
- Cement masons and concrete finishers
- Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters
- Computer support specialists
- Sheet metal workers
- Carpenters

Heitman Consulting Opening In Manhattan

Heitman Consulting is a new business offering services to facility owners, occupants and managers in the Manhattan area. Services are time-rate priced and include pre-bid consults, building equipment analysis, energy and utilities management, HVAC, controls management, staff training and troubleshooting. The company specializes in assisting individuals and entities with meeting their building requirements in the most economical way possible, from site selection to

warranty. These services are provided independently and objectively with the client's best interests in mind, not those of a contractor or equipment supplier. Heitman Consulting's owner, Steve Heitman is a K-State graduate with 30 years of experience in manufacturing, utilities and building systems applications. Heitman is Army Contracting Officer Representative trained and universal refrigerant certified including R 410A. Perspective clients may call at (785) 313-0546.

Oz Returning To Columbian

Clint Stueve, Interim Executive Director for The Historic Columbian Theatre is excited to announce that The Wizard of Oz is coming back to the Columbian stage again this fall. Blowing in with a new look, a new director and a new view of the other side of the rainbow. The Wizard of Oz will click it's heels and warm your heart this fall bringing you a top shelf cast of characters, creative twistlers, as well as voices that will set you back on your broomstick for a night of pure entertainment.

This year's show is being directed by Wamego's T-Shane Roberts, who has appeared on the Columbian stage as the colorful, comical, character, The Cowardly Lion. Roberts portrayed the lion from 2001 to 2005. This year he has chosen to make his reentry into the Columbian by wearing more than one hat for this show. Not only is he directing the cast of 38 talented show stoppers, but he will be pulling his own tail and bringing the Cowardly Lion back to his original home. "We are taking the Wizard of Oz...Back to the Beginning!" Says Roberts. "We are going to showcase some super talented actors, a few new ways to see old things, plus put some quality in the

show that I promise you, 30 minutes into the show and you will be booking another seat for another night." Roberts believes that people have seen the story many times, but this time, hold on to your heartstrings because we will be tugging on them.

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz Cast offers, Krysten Day as the homeless, Dorothy Gale, Randy Rhoten as the brainless Scarecrow, Daniel Myers-Bowman as the heartless Tinman, T-Shane Roberts as your courage deficient Cowardly Lion, Christy Collette as the Wicked Witch of the West, Cortney Beims as Glinda the Good Witch, Nicholas Yetter as The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, Steve LaRoeque as Uncle Henry, Kelly Roberts as Aunt Em, Myle & Rupert Collette as dueling Toto's, Seth Holle, Sebastian Balderson, Benjamin Anspaugh, Jostin Woods, Aubrey Hildebrand, Shelby Coleman, Maliki Mosher, Ann Hess, Madysen Farr, Jenny Hupe, Braden Beims, Tyler Woods, Taylor Roberts, Annie White, Corinne Gates, Natalie Shank, Laura Furney, Matiel Lindley, Jordan Carley, Stephanie Bowker, Dori Summers, Carrie Kiker, Amy McMillion, Shelly Coleman, Nathan Shank, as Oz

Citizens, Monkeys, Trees, Munchkins, Winkies and Crows...Oh My!!! The Wizard of Oz is under the exceptional Musical Direction of Steve Brenn and catastrophic choreographer, Randy Rhoten.

This Wizard of Oz will be worth your time, your dollars and your trip over the rainbow and back again. JOIN US, for this years, Wizard of Oz, Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays, September 28th, 29th, & 30th, October 5th, 6th & 7th and October 12th, 13th & 14th, 2012 Friday & Saturday night showings are at 7:30pm, Sunday shows at 2:00pm. Tickets can be ordered on line at www.columbiantheatre.com or by calling the box office at 785-456-2029. The box office is open Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. We also have season tickets available through the month of September. The season ticket is \$80 for 5 shows and is equal to getting one show for free. Take advantage of this great deal while it lasts and see The Wizard of Oz. The Wizard of Oz is back on the Columbian stage, back to the beautiful beginning...because after all, there is no place like home!

Associated Audiologists, Inc. Purchases Practice in Manhattan

Associated Audiologists, Inc. is pleased to announce it has purchased the practice of Dr. M'Elizabeth R. Maatta, known as Audiology Associates of Manhattan. Samuel A. Gillespie, Au.D., CCC-A, FAAA, a licensed audiologist, will care for the practice's patients full time beginning Sept. 5, 2012.

"I am really looking forward to taking care of our Manhattan patients," Dr. Gillespie says. "The advances in hearing aid technology now make it possible for us to help a wide range of individuals. Because I will be dedicated to serving this community, I also will be able to provide our patients with the diligent follow up and hearing rehabilitation necessary for the best hearing results."

The practice's office will remain in the same location in the lower level of Building A at Manhattan Medical Center, Suite 101A, 1133 College Avenue, 785-539-7361.

Dr. Gillespie also will continue to see patients at the audiology clinics at Family Health Center of Morris



Dr. Samuel A. Gillespie

County, 604 N. Washington, Council Grove, Kansas; at Nemaha Valley Community Hospital, 1600 Community Drive, Seneca, Kansas; and at Washington County Hospital, 304 East Third Street, Washington,



Dr. Tim Steele

Kansas. Dr. Gillespie is highly qualified to care for patients of all ages, beginning with children 5 and up. He received his doctorate of audiology from the University of Kansas-Medical Center.

He performed his clinical externship with Associated Audiologists. During his externship, he had the opportunity to specialize in the latest hearing aid technology, hearing rehabilitation and tinnitus.

Dr. Gillespie's educational and professional associations include:

Doctorate of Audiology, University of Kansas-Medical Center

Fellow of the American Academy of Audiology

Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Member, Kansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Member, Kansas City Society of Audiology

University of Kansas-Medical Center, School of Allied Health Scholarship and Avis G. McPike Dean's Scholarship.

Dr. Gillespie grew up in Red Oak, Iowa and received his bachelor's of arts in speech and hearing science from the University of Iowa.

The practice is owned and operated by Tim Steele, Ph.D., CCC-A, FAAA, audiologist. Dr. Steele grew up on a farm north of the Manhattan area. His father, Charles Steele, farmed and was a principal in the Valley Heights School District and his mother, Treva Steele, still lives on the family farm. Dr. Steele and his wife, Julie, reside in Lenexa, Kan., with their four children.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Gillespie, call our Manhattan office, 785-539-7361. For more information about Dr. Gillespie or Associated Audiologists, visit the practice's Web site at www.hearingy-ourbest.com.

Associated Audiologists, Inc., is a leader in audiological care for hearing, tinnitus and balance disorders. The practice has four other offices in the greater Kansas City area including Overland Park, Shawnee Mission, Prairie Village and Leavenworth. They offer digital hearing aids in all levels of technology, styles and costs.



DMV Computer Hit Car Dealers Too

By Gene Meyers
Kansas Reporter

MISSION — Lines for car tags and titles are moving a little faster at the Kansas Division of Motor Vehicles office on Lamar Ave., four months after the state installed a new computer system.

But here and in other DMV offices around the state, the lines are still moving slow enough to worry car dealers.

"We know we are losing

sales," said Don Neely, executive director of the Kansas Auto Dealers Association in Topeka. "Our customers tell us they can't afford to take off five or six hours to wait in line for a car title."

In Mission, the waiting time for tags or title still ran about two hours Friday, compared to minutes during all but the busiest month-end days before the Kansas Department of Revenue switched the comput-

ers statewide in May.

Still, it's better than the eight- or nine-hour waits when the new computers first booted up.

Johnson County Treasurer Tom Franzen's office runs the state's two busiest DMV offices, in Mission and Olathe.

"The bottom line is that in the last couple of months, we have settled into a system that is what it is," Franzen said.

"We're working now to get

as many people who can renew online or by mail to do that, because we no longer have the capacity to serve everyone if they come in to the office (in person)," he said.

Nobody can predict when the new computers will serve customers as efficiently as the old system. Revenue Department officials and 3M Co., the new system's creator, are still working out some final problems.

Obituary's

Marilyn Coxwell

Marilyn Coxwell, of Manhattan, Kansas, passed away suddenly on Thursday, August 23, 2012, at the Kansas Heart Hospital in Wichita, Kansas.

Marilyn was born on July 20, 1934 in Ashland, Kansas, the daughter of Earl and Alice (Hopingardner) Boren. She spent most of her childhood in Laverne, Oklahoma, where she graduated from Laverne High School.

On August 15, 1954 she was united in marriage to Budd Proctor. To this union four children were born: Debra, Gene, Kevan, and Lynda.

Marilyn married Stan Coxwell in Booker, Texas on July 18, 1981.

She was retired from Northern Natural Gas Company in Beaver, Oklahoma and Kansas State Student Union in Manhattan, Kansas.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

She is survived by her children: Debra (Jim) Brazzelle, of Wichita, Kansas, Gene (John) Scott, of Omaha, Nebraska, Kevan (Cindy) Proctor, of Manhattan, Kansas, and Lynda (Gary) Bekoalok, of Shaktoolik, Alaska. Additional

survivors include her sister, Deloras Baker, of Wichita, Kansas; daughter-in-law, Belinda Proctor, of Manhattan, Kansas and also her many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other family members and friends.

Funeral services for Mrs. Coxwell were held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 28, 2012 at the Living Word Church, 2711 Amherst Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas, with the Pastor Gary Ward officiating. Graveside services were held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 29, 2012 at the Highland Cemetery in Ashland, Kansas.

The family greeted friends during a visitation from 7:00 until 8:00 p.m. Monday, August 27, 2012 at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home in Manhattan.

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

Memorial contributions are suggested the Laverne High School in Laverne, Oklahoma. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

Barbara Thompson

Naomi Barbara Thompson, 73, passed away Friday, August 24, 2012 at Mercy Regional Health Center in Manhattan, KS. She was born January 30, 1939 in Salt Lake City to John LeRoy and Naomi Elsie Woldberg Coates. Barbara grew up in Salt Lake City and attended Brigham Young University (BYU) on a full-ride music scholarship. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music Education.

While attending BYU, she met Joseph Garth Thompson, from Warsaw, Indiana. They fell madly in love. On June 6, 1960, following three years of dating and courting, they were sealed together in marriage in the Salt Lake Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Barbara and Garth lived in Lawndale, California and Lafayette Indiana during graduate school,

and in Austin Texas prior to moving to Manhattan in 1971 for Garth to teach at Kansas State University. From 2007-10, they moved to Afghanistan to work and teach at the University of Kabul. This was a unique and special experience for them.

Barbara had a great love of music and shared that passion with her family. She also taught music at Big Lakes Development Center, and provided voluntary and professional piano accompaniment for other musicians. She was also an accomplished artist, quilter, seamstress, knitter and chef extraordinaire.

Barbara was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She served others through many voluntary church responsibilities including Primary teacher, Relief Society

President, and various youth program leadership callings. One of her greatest joys came from teaching early morning religion classes for high school students for 16 years and college students for 2 more years. Barbara had a deep and abiding love for the Savior, Jesus Christ, and loved to teach about Him from the scriptures.

Barbara is survived by her husband, Garth Thompson; sons (spouses) - Nathan (Sherri) Thompson, Anthony (Heidi) Thompson, Aaron (Courtney) Thompson, Jeremy (Nissa) Thompson; daughters (spouse) - Heidi (Stephen) Klinefelter, Julie Thompson, Jessica (Scott) Bailey; 21 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Surviving siblings include Myrna Baumann, Nancy Kilpatrick and Jeff Coates. She was preceded in death by her parents, LeRoy

and Naomi Coates, and sister, Jeannene Jones.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, August 30 at 11 a.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2812 Marlatt Ave, Manhattan, KS. Family and friends may call at viewings on Wednesday, August 29 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, and on Thursday, August 30 (preceding the funeral) from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made online (www.pef.lds.org/pef), through the funeral home or at the funeral, to the Perpetual Education Fund. This is a charity that Barbara supported.

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

County Minutes

of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) North 89°48'52" East a distance of 15.26 feet to a point on the said existing West right of way line of Walnut Creek Road; thence continuing North 89°48'52" East a distance of 20.00 feet to the Point of Beginning. Said tract contains 0.09 acres, more or less, inclusive of 0.056 acres of existing road right of way. Lewis seconded. Carried 2-0.

Lewis moved to approve the minutes of August 13, 2012 as amended. McCulloh seconded. Carried 2-0.

9:15 Debbie Register, Register of Deeds

Ron Wells; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy County Clerk; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Rod Harms; Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; Paul Foltz; Bob Boyd; Mel Van Der Stelt; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Jennifer Wilson, County Extension Director; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; and Joan Strickler, League of Women Voters, attended.

Register presented the Register of Deeds' year to date revenue report.

Register reported through August 13, 2012 the Register of Deeds' Office has collected \$832,166.00.

9:30 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

9:30 McCulloh moved that the County Commission recess into executive session pursuant to the preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, in order to discuss an initial offer of purchase by the county, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 9:50 a.m. Lewis seconded.

Carried 2-0.

9:50 McCulloh moved to go out of executive session. Lewis seconded. Carried 2-0.

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

10:00 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

Administrative Work Session
Bob Boyd; Ron Wells; Rod Harms; Joan Strickler, League of Women Voters; Mel Van Der Stelt; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

Holeman discussed the City/County/County Meeting agenda items on the Riley County ½ cent sales tax question.

Holeman reported KAC's legislative platform deadline for county requests is August 31, 2012. Holeman said he has requested legislative matters from Riley County department heads.

Holeman said he is drawing up the paperwork to proceed with condemnation of the abandoned real property in Fairmont Park.

10:15 John Doehling, Riley County Police Department Assistant Director

Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Bob Boyd; Ron Wells; Rod Harms; Joan Strickler, League of Women Voters; Mel Van Der Stelt; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

Doehling discussed the mock CALEA onsite visit regarding reaccreditation. Doehling stated the mock CALEA onsite visit is to prepare the Riley County Police Department for the CALEA inspection in December.

10:30 Eileen King, Treasurer
Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Bob Boyd; Ron Wells; Rod Harms; Joan

Strickler, League of Women Voters; Mel Van Der Stelt; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

King presented monthly revenue reports.

10:45 Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director and Greg Lund, Park Supervisor

Greg McHenry, Appraiser; Ron Wells; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Rod Harms; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; Paul Foltz; Bob Boyd; Mel Van Der Stelt; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; and Joan Strickler, League of Women Voters, attended.

Meredith presented a notebook of road & bridge and parks department projects and reviewed the projects.

Van Der Stelt asked Meredith about the status of Julie Lane.

Holeman said Van Der Stelt is now represented by an attorney on the matter and discussion on Julie Lane will need to be conducted through the attorney. Van Der Stelt's attorney has agreed with this approach.

Meredith continued discussion on the projects.

McCulloh and Lewis said the Board of County Commissioners wishes Meredith the best and are very appreciative of all he has done. McCulloh moved to adjourn after the City/County/County Meeting at 4:00 p.m. Lewis seconded. Carried 2-0.

4:00 Joint City/County/County Meeting (at County Offices)

Representing the City of Manhattan Wynn Butler, Jim Sherow, Loren Pepperd, John Matta - City Commissioners;

Ron Fehr, City Manager; Robert Ott, City Engineer; and Gary Fees, City Clerk. Representing Riley County were Dave Lewis and Karen McCulloh - County Commissioners; Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; and Monty Wedel, Planning/Special Projects Director.

Representing Pottawatomie County were Gary Yenzler and Pat Weixelman - County Commissioners; and Robert Reece, County Administrator. Lyle Butler, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce; Norma Dunning, Manhattan Broadcasting KMAN; Geri Simon, Manhattan Living Wage Coalition Coordinator; Ron Wells; Mark Bachamp, Olsson Associates; Nathan Bergman, Bartlett & West; Mel Van Der Stelt; Chuck Bartlett, Bartlett & West; Buck Driggs, SMH Consultants Project Manager; and Bob Boyd, attended.

Lewis reported the Attorney General's opinion is requiring the county to place the original 2002 ballot question back on the ballot in November 2012.

Holeman presented the proposed ballot question, which has a sunset date of December 31, 2022. Pepperd commented with economic development initiatives statement on the question, the City would support it.

Lewis provided a brief overview of Riley County's educational program.

Driggs provided a presentation on Marlatt/Junietta Extension, Phase I conceptual route study.

5:00 Adjourned.

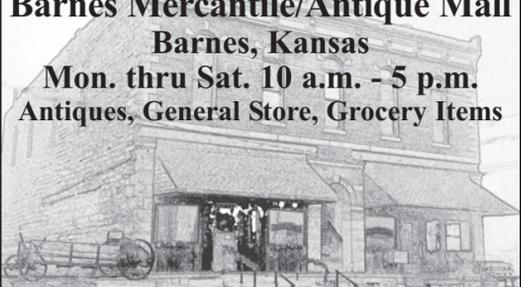




Gary Drake
Financial Advisor
330 Poyntz Ave
Manhattan, KS 66502
Direct 785-537-2300

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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 August 13, 2012 with the following members present: Alvan Johnson, Chair; Dave Lewis, Vice Chair; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk. Karen McCulloh, Member, was absent.

8:30 Public Comment & Business Meeting

Ron Wells; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy County Clerk; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Rod Harms; Debbie Register, Register of Deeds; Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director; and Joan Strickler, League of Women Voters, attended.

Johnson moved to appoint, Dave Lewis, Vice Chair, as the voting delegate for the Kansas Association of Counties 37th Annual Conference; Rich Vargo, County Clerk, as 1st Alternate, and Greg McHenry, Appraiser, as 2nd Alternate. Lewis seconded. Carried 2-0.

Lewis moved to approve a payroll voucher in the amount of \$612.64 for August 10, 2012. Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

Lewis moved to approve a Renewal of Online Access Agreement with the Manhattan Mercury for the Register of Deeds' Office. Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

The Board of County Commissioners signed Riley

County Personnel Action Forms for the following:

Gregory Canales, a Seasonal Laborer, in the Parks Department, for Separation from County Service, effective August 9, 2012.

Damon Newell, a Seasonal Laborer, in the Parks Department, for Separation from County Service, effective August 9, 2012.

Lewis moved to approve a "Notice of Intent to Sell Excess Personal Property by the Board of County Commissioners of Riley County, Kansas" and a Contract Agreement with Mugler Auction Service, LLC. Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

Judge Meryl Wilson said effective today all Osawatomie hearings will be held via video conference, which will reduce travel 50 times each year.

Wilson requested a wireless network in the Courthouse.

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

9:00 Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Joan Strickler, League of Women Voters; Paul Foltz; Rod Harms; Ron Wells; Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director; and Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

Johnson opened the Public Hearing for the Riley County 2013 Budget.

Shepek presented the 2013 Riley County budget.

No public comment.

Johnson closed the Public Hearing.

Lewis moved to sign the 2013 Riley County Budget as

published in the amount of \$39,690,224. Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

Lewis moved to approve the 2013 Riley County Agency appropriations as listed below:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Downtown Manhattan, Inc. | \$10,666 |
| Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce | \$50,000 |
| Manhattan Emergency Shelter | \$11,000 |
| Riley County Genealogical Society | \$ 3,100 |
| City of Manhattan Animal Shelter | \$55,000 |
| Riley County Extension | \$495,095 |
| Riley County Council on Aging | \$242,880 |
| Pawnee Mental Health | \$237,000 |
| Big Lakes Development Center | \$195,052 |
| Riley County Conservation District | \$ 52,990 |
| ATA Bus | \$110,490 |

Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

9:15 Greg Vahrenberg, Piper Jaffray & Company – via conference call

Bid Opening for 2012 G.O. Bond Issuance

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Dan Page, KMAN; Mel Van Der Stelt; Joan Strickler, League of Women Voters; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; Rhonda Lund, Administrative Assistant II; Bertra Manning, Public Works Senior Analyst; Betty Gassman, Administrative Clerk I; Nicole Setter, Administrative Clerk I; Sherilyn McReil, Administrative Analyst; Rod Harms; Ron Wells; and Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

Vahrenberg stated during this time we are seeing record low interest rates.

Vahrenberg stated he has received three bids on the issue of \$205,000.

Vahrenberg said another positive factor is Riley County's good fiscal management in obtaining a Moody's rating of AA.

Vahrenberg reported the following bids are:

1.69% Central States Capital Markets

1.779% UMB Bank, N.A.

1.98% Commerce Bank, N.A.

Vahrenberg said he recommends the Board accept 1.69% from Central State Capital Markets. Vahrenberg said the amount of the issue may be reduced from \$205,000 to \$200,000.

9:30 Press Conference

Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy County Clerk; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Jolene Keck, Elections Supervisor; Christian Ford, Cassie Volanti – Temporary Election Workers; Dan Page, KMAN; Mel Van Der Stelt; Joan Strickler,

League of Women Voters; Monty Wedel, Planning/Special Projects Director; Julie Winter, Public Works Office Manager; Dennis Peterson, Noxious Weed Director; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; Rhonda Lund, Administrative Assistant II; Bertra Manning, Public Works Senior Analyst; Betty Gassman, Administrative Clerk I; Nicole Setter, Administrative Clerk I; Sherilyn McReil, Administrative Analyst; Rod Harms; Ron Wells; and Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

Johnson presented Meredith with a plaque in recognition of his service to Riley County from 1980-2012.

Rosewicz thanked Meredith for his service.

Meredith discussed his service at Riley County and thanked the Public Works' staff for their support.

Lewis stated Meredith has left his mark on Riley County in the completion of the shops and the quality of county parks.

Eyestone said a "Back to Gardening" program will be Thursday, August 30th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with various sessions, fruit in Kansas, overseeding, and fertilizing.

Eyestone reported the Master Gardener training begins in September. Eyestone said the class needs 10-15 volunteers to sign up.

10:00 Riley County Primary Election Canvass

Jolene Keck, Elections Supervisor; Rosemarie Roberts, Elections Senior Analyst; Susan Boller, Account Clerk/Licenses; Susie Brown, Administrative Assistant I; Christian Ford, Eric Coleman, Cassie Volanti – Temporary Election Workers; Dan Page, KMAN; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; and Doug King, attended.

Lewis moved to appoint Cindy Volanti to the Board of County Canvassers. Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

Vargo stated the Clerk's Office has provided the poll books certification page and a poll book summary sheet for the Board of County Canvassers to review. Vargo stated Keck will review the poll book results of each polling location with the Board.

Vargo stated Riley County only had two provisional ballots due to the new voter ID law. Vargo stated both have since brought in the appropriate ID and the ballots will be counted.

Keck reviewed the 2012 National Primary Election Canvass report.

Vargo processed the 66 valid provisional ballots.

Lewis moved to certify the official canvass results of the Tuesday, August 7, 2012 National Primary election

results. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to accept the bid for the \$205,000 G.O. Bond Issue for the benefit paving district from Central States Capital at 1.69%. Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

Lewis moved to approve "Resolution No. 081312-36, A Resolution of Riley County, Kansas, authorizing the issuance of the County's General Obligation Bonds, Series 2012, in the principal amount of \$205,000 specifying the terms and details of the bonds and providing for the levy and collection of special assessments or taxes to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds when due" and supporting bond documents. Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

11:20 Lewis moved to adjourn. Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

The Board of County Commissioners

The Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners met at the Riley County Plaza East Building August 16, 2012 with the following members present:

Dave Lewis, Vice Chair; Karen McCulloh, Member, and Rich Vargo, County Clerk. Alvan Johnson, Chair, was absent.

8:30 Public Comment & Business Meeting

Ron Wells; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy County Clerk; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Rod Harms; Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; Paul Foltz; Bob Boyd; Mel Van Der Stelt; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Jennifer Wilson, County Extension Director; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; and Joan Strickler, League of Women Voters, attended.

Rosewicz said tomorrow from 2:00-4:00 p.m. is Meredith's retirement reception and asked if the Board would like to make some comments.

The Board agreed to make comments at the reception.

McCulloh moved to approve Change Order Number 1 for McDowell Creek Road with PCI in the amount of a negative \$31,595.88 for a total adjusted contract price of \$151,186.22. Lewis seconded. Carried 2-0.

McCulloh moved to sign the 2013 District Court Budget. Lewis seconded. Carried 2-0.

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

Jordan Perez, a Seasonal Laborer, in the Public Works Department, for Separation from County Service, effective August 9, 2012.

Scott McHenry, a Seasonal Laborer, in the Parks Department, for Separation from County Service, effective August 10, 2012.

Kelly Schleiger, a new hire, as a Dietitian, in the Health Department, at a grade O step 1, at \$20.68 per hour.

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for a Health Start Home Visitor, in the Health Department, at a pay grade G.

McCulloh moved to sign the Riley County Extension Council 2013 Budget. Lewis seconded. Carried 2-0.

McCulloh moved to sign the Riley County Conservation District 2013 Operations Fund Budget. Lewis seconded. Carried 2-0.

McCulloh moved to approve a Grant of Permanent Easement with Greg and Leigh Bailey 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 Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section 30, Township 8 South, Range 6 East of the 6th P.M., Riley County, Kansas, described as follows: Beginning at the Northeast Corner of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of said Section 30; thence along the East line of said Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) South 00°11'08" East (assumed bearing) a distance of 123.28 feet; thence South 89°48'52" West a distance of 20.00 feet to the existing West right of way line of Walnut Creek Road; thence North 17°17'19" West a distance of 52.38 feet; thence North 00°04'39" West a distance of 73.21 feet to a point on the North line of said Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4); thence along said North line of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) See County Minutes page 2

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Over Easy... by Bob Strawn

Here's my advice on the upcoming county wide sales tax referendum: Vote No! Don't give another dime to the Chamber's economic development play until the city debt and property taxes are under control.

The City Commission last Tuesday, unfortunately, approved a policy that would give the Chamber's economic development efforts another \$20 million over the next 10 years, if the county sales tax question is approved by voters. \$10 million would supposedly go towards the city's burgeoning debt which is approaching a mind-numbing \$300 million, the growth lately due in large part to downtown redevelopment costs. But yes, the Chamber wants another twenty million for ecodemo - a questionable effort by any measure -



Bob Strawn

to bring jobs to Manhattan. During my term as mayor, I asked city staff to tell me exactly what economic development had done for our town. What were the specifics on job cre-

ation and other metrics. The answer? Since the mid-90's, when ecodemo efforts first started here, around \$40,000,000.00 had been spent on the effort. Yes, that's a lot of zeros. And for those zeros, something short of 1300 jobs had been created, half of which paid under \$12 per hour. Less than \$12 per hour! And that was before one of the larger ecodemo employers closed-up and left town. Their building remains empty. Not good!

Now, you won't be hearing about the failures or the sub \$12 an hour jobs when the Chamber starts an all out campaign to convince you to approve their "new" sales tax. In fact, they'll tell you it's not a new tax at all. It's old. An extension. Yes, it certainly is getting very old and past its time. But the fact remains, my

friends, the existing tax ends this year. You're being asked to approve a "new" tax on yourself and everyone else in the county mostly for someone else's benefit.

Now, I'm not denying that this "Chamber Tax" is well intentioned. Smart people around here truly believe they can pick between winners and losers - better than you can investing your own money. They are so convinced of their wisdom that they are willing to have the city take your money irrespective of your financial wellbeing, the status of the economy, past results, or any other rational reason against doing so, because, frankly, they believe they are more gifted than you.

Well, it's time to stop the madness. Vote "no" to the Chamber Tax. Then if we want to tax ourselves at another time, perhaps we can spend it on sane applications like reducing the debt, lowering taxes, better

schools, paying cops and firemen, and the like, instead of continuing this lunacy of believing that the Chamber and city government are the best

allocators of our investments.

It seems that taxes once approved never go away. It's time to start a new trend in Manhattan.



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Both Wrong On Medicare

By Michael D. Tanner
Cato Institute

Let's try to put the ongoing debate over the future of Medicare into a little bit of context. Last year, Americans paid \$274 billion in Medicare taxes and premiums. At the same time, the program paid out \$564 billion in benefits. That amounts to a shortfall of roughly \$290 billion. Looking into the future, even the most optimistic estimate by the program's trustees puts Medicare's future unfunded liabilities at more than \$38.6 trillion. More realistic projections suggest the shortfall could easily top \$90 trillion.

Faced with this ocean of red ink, the Obama and Romney campaigns are busy claiming that the other guy wants to cut Medicare. They, on the other hand, would never think for a moment about cutting anyone's Medicare benefits. Hello. Can anyone out there do math?

Start with Mitt Romney, who claims that President Obama "stole" \$716 billion from Medicare. Yes, Romney is correct that the new health care law would reduce Medicare spending by \$716 billion the next 10 years. Primarily, the president would cut payments for Medicare Advantage insurance plans, a private insurance option currently used by roughly one in five seniors, and by reducing payments to providers—that is, doctors and hospitals. The health care law also includes several pilot projects, such as Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and medical homes, designed to reduce the long term growth in health care costs.

It is important to point out that the president's "cuts" are cuts only in the Washington sense of a reduction in the rate of increase. Republicans have

long protested when their similar proposed slowdowns in growth were demagogued as cuts by Democrats. That would seem to make Romney and Ryan's complaint a little hypocritical.

And, given that Medicare is adding some \$300 billion to the deficit every year, one might expect supposed fiscal conservatives like Romney and Ryan to be more sympathetic to reducing Medicare's growth. It is also true, as Obama has pointed out, that Romney's running mate, Paul Ryan, actually incorporated that \$716 billion in savings into the budget that just passed the House of Representatives. Romney and Ryan now say they would repeal all of those changes.

Obama's implication that current seniors would lose their Medicare benefits under Romney's plan is particularly dishonest.

That's not to say that President Obama has been honest about these cuts either. First, the president claims that he is not actually cutting benefits for beneficiaries. That is technically true in that most of the cuts are reductions in payments to providers. But it is ridiculous to assume that cutting payments to doctors and hospital will have no impact on seniors. In fact, Medicare's own actuaries estimate that the cuts could force as many as 15 percent of hospitals to close. Similarly, at a time when physicians are already complaining that Medicare reimburses at a rate less than actual costs, additional reimbursement cuts will force many doctors out of practice or at least cause many to stop accepting Medicare patients. Seniors may still have their full Medicare benefits. They just won't be able to find a doctor who will take them.

The president also claims that his cuts have "extended the life of the Medicare trust fund by eight years." Again, technically true. But extending the life of the Trust Fund is not the same thing as extending the life of Medicare.

Any savings that the president does achieve would indeed be routed through the Medicare Trust Fund, where they would be used to purchase special-issue Treasury bonds. As an accounting measure, having more bonds means the Trust Fund will last longer. In the meantime, however, the government is counting on the revenue from the original purchase of the bonds to pay for the cost of the new health care legislation. Thus, it is using any savings from Medicare to pay for Obamacare, while pretending it is available to pay for future Medicare benefits. As Medicare's chief actuary points out, "In practice, the improved [Medicare] financing cannot be simultaneously used to finance other Federal outlays (such as the coverage expansions) and to extend the trust fund, despite the appearance of this result from the respective accounting conventions."

There is also reason to question whether the president's cuts will actually occur and whether they will save anywhere near as much money as claimed. The Congressional Budget Office recently pointed out that virtually none of the president's proposed Medicare reforms have saved money in practice. And, when it comes to reducing provider payments, Congress hasn't exactly been a profile in courage: Witness the annual spectacle of the "doc fix," postponing already scheduled cuts.

Meanwhile, Obama has also been attacking Romney for wanting to "end Medicare as we know it." That's about as meaningful as saying that the Carpathia ended the Titanic's voyage "as we knew it." The president's implication that current seniors would lose their Medicare benefits is particularly dishonest. Typical has been the claim by Obama campaign advisor David Axelrod that Romney would throw his 85-year-old, cancer-stricken father off Medicare.

But Romney and Ryan have been explicit that they wouldn't make changes to Medicare for anyone age 55 or older today. No one currently on Medicare would be thrown off the program, forced to pay more, or have his or her benefits cut.

Even those under age 55 would still have the option to stay in conventional Medicare if they wish. However, for those who want a different option, insurance companies would bid for the right to participate under Medicare. Plans would have to include certain

minimum benefits and accept all applicants, regardless of age or current health. In the future, seniors could choose to receive a government payment equal to the second-lowest bid in his or her geographic area. If seniors choose a lower-cost plan, they could keep the difference. But if they choose to enroll in a more expensive plan, they'll have to pay the difference between what the government provides and the actual premium. This is what President Obama refers to as "turning Medicare into a voucher program."

After 2022, the Ryan budget would limit the growth of both the traditional Medicare model and the new premium support option to roughly the rate of overall economic growth, plus one percent. This happens to be pretty much the same rate of growth as projected in the future by the Obama administration.

Romney and Ryan assume that the combination of competition and consumer cost-sharing will help hold down the cost of the program. If they are wrong, it is likely that the government payment would not keep up with the rising cost of insurance premiums. This means that the insurance plans fully subsidized by the government would offer fewer benefits than Medicare currently provides. Seniors who wanted a plan that provided all the benefits offered by Medicare today would then have to contribute some of their own money over and above the government subsidy. This is the source of the president's claim that the Romney-Ryan plan would cost seniors an additional \$6,600. (The \$6,600 figure is a bit dubious, actually derived from an earlier version of the Ryan budget that included a tighter cap on future spending.)

But since we cannot pay the current level of benefits in the future, seniors will either have to pay more or get less no matter who wins this election. Romney and Ryan are simply being a little more explicit—and honest—about it. Or at least they were until they started to deny it.

Politicians pandering to seniors is nothing new. But this year's Medicare dishonesty is especially dangerous. With both campaigns peddling the idea that any cuts to Medicare, now or in the future, are automatically a bad thing, we run the risk of poisoning the well for any future reform of the system. And if that is the outcome of this election, America is in deep trouble, no matter who wins in November.

Michael Tanner is a senior fellow at the Cato Institute and author of *Bad Medicine: A Guide to the Real Costs and Consequences of the New Health Care Law*.

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Volunteers Sent To Help

Three additional Kansas Capital Area Chapter volunteers have been deployed to Orlando, FL, Hattiesburg, MS, and Baton Rouge, LA.

Jody Portuese, Crystal Belt, and Virgil Smail, are all Red Cross volunteers in the Manhattan area who will join hundreds of other trained Red Cross workers from across the nation to prepare and provide shelter, food, emotional support and other assistance.

People with friends or family in the path of the storm should encourage them to download a newly-developed Red Cross Hurricane app which puts real-time information on hurricane safety at someone's fingertips. The Hurricane App can be found in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store for Android by searching for the American Red Cross.

The Red Cross also has two tools to help people stay in touch in times of emergency. In the Red Cross Hurricane App, the one-touch "I'm Safe" button lets someone use social media outlets to let family and friends know they're okay. The Red Cross Safe and Well website at www.redcross.org/safeandwell is a secure and easy-to-use place where concerned family and friends can search the list of those who have registered themselves as "safe and well."

People can help those affected by disasters like tropical storms, hurricanes, floods and wildfires, as well as countless crises at home and around the country, by making a donation at www.redcross.org, calling 1-800-RED-CROSS, or texting the word "REDCROSS" to 90999 to make a \$10 contribution.

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Free Press Big 12 Sports

5A

2012-2013 SCHEDULE

| Date | Opponent / Event | Location | Time / Result |
|----------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 09/01/12 | vs. Missouri State | Bill Snyder Family Stadium | 6:00 PM |
| 09/08/12 | vs. Miami | Bill Snyder Family Stadium | 11:00 AM |
| 09/15/12 | vs. North Texas | Bill Snyder Family Stadium | 6:00 PM |
| 09/22/12 | at Oklahoma * | Norman, Okla. | TBA |
| 10/06/12 | vs. Kansas * | Bill Snyder Family Stadium | TBA |
| 10/13/12 | at Iowa State * | Ames, Iowa | TBA |
| 10/20/12 | at West Virginia * | Morgantown, W.V. | TBA |
| 10/27/12 | vs. Texas Tech * | Bill Snyder Family Stadium | TBA |
| 11/03/12 | vs. Oklahoma State * | Bill Snyder Family Stadium | TBA |
| 11/10/12 | at TCU * | Fort Worth, Texas | TBA |
| 11/17/12 | at Baylor * | Waco, Texas | TBA |
| 12/01/12 | vs. Texas * | Bill Snyder Family Stadium | TBA |

Big 13 Standings

| Team | Big 12 Record | Over All Record |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Baylor | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| Iowa State | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| Kansas | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| Kansas State | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| Oklahoma | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| Oklahoma State | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| TCU | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| Texas | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| Texas Tech | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| West Virginia | 0-0 | 0-0 |

Big 12 Conference Schedule

| Date | Home Team | Score | Away Team |
|-------------|----------------|-------|--------------------|
| Sat, Sep 01 | Texas Tech | | Northwestern State |
| Sat, Sep 01 | Texas | | Wyoming |
| Sat, Sep 01 | West Virginia | | Marshall |
| Sat, Sep 01 | Iowa State | | Tulsa |
| Sat, Sep 01 | Kansas | | South Dakota State |
| Sat, Sep 01 | Kansas State | | Missouri State |
| Sat, Sep 01 | Oklahoma State | | Savannah State |
| Sat, Sep 01 | UTEP | | Oklahoma |
| Sun, Sep 02 | Baylor | | Southern Methodist |

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Free Press Big 12 Sports

Thursday, August 30, 2012

Wildcats Open 2012 Season Saturday

Following a 10-3 season that saw Kansas State emerge from being predicted to place eighth in the Big 12 to finishing No. 8 nationally, the Wildcats open the 2012 campaign on Saturday with a matchup with Missouri State. Kickoff for the fourth-annual K-State Family Reunion is slated for 6:10 p.m., at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

The game can be seen online through Kansas State's exclusive, high-definition digital network, K-StateHD.TV, with audio from the K-State Sports Network. A free live audio broadcast is also available on www.k-statesports.com and on SIRIUS satellite radio channel 106. Wyatt Thompson will call the action with Stan Weber providing color analysis and Matt Walters giving sideline updates. Additionally, a live pregame show - K-State Gameday - will begin at 5:15 p.m., on K-StateHD.TV. The show is hosted by Brian Smoller and former Wildcat great and 2012 College Football Hall of Fame inductee Mark Simoneau.

Live stats will be also available through Gametracker, while Twitter updates - @kstatesports and @kstate_gameday - and a live in-game blog will all be a part of k-statesports.com's game-day coverage.

K-State officials announced two weeks prior to the game that it was sold out, marking the fourth-straight season that a capacity crowd will be on hand for the season opener.

A QUICK LOOK AT THE WILDCATS

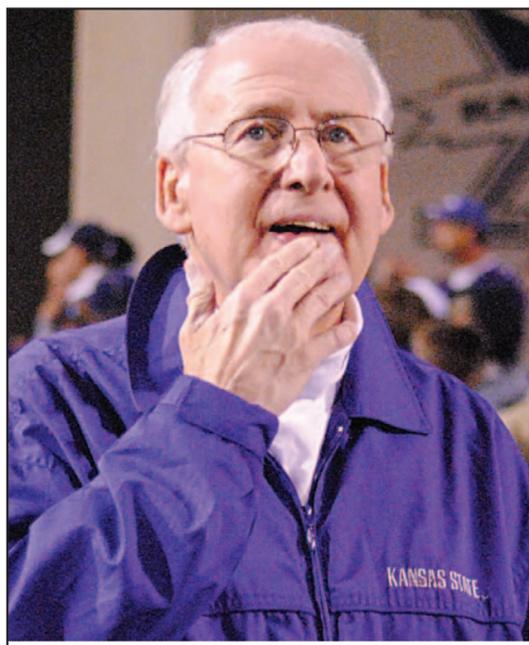
Entering Bill Snyder's 21st season roaming the sidelines, K-State returns 42 letterwinners and 17 starters, the most since 2006. Of those 17 starters, eight are on offense, six on defense and three are specialists. Pillars to the 2011 season return in QB Collin Klein and LB Arthur Brown, each of whom earned All-America accolades last year and are on numerous award watch lists in 2012. Returning starters joining Klein of the offensive side are Rimington Trophy candidate B.J. Finney, Doak Walker Award candidate John Hubert, as well as receivers Chris Harper and Tyler Lockett, offensive lineman Nick Puetz, tight end Travis Tannahill and fullback Braden Wilson.

Defensively, another awards candidate in Nigel Malone returns at cornerback, along with regular starters in linemen Adam Davis and Vai Lutui, linebacker Tre Walker and safety Ty Zimmerman.

K-State, which boasts one of the nation's best specialty units, returns kicker Anthony Cantele, punter Ryan Doerr and long snapper Marcus Heit. Additionally, Lockett was one of the nation's best return men a year ago as a true freshman.

SEASON NO. 117

Kansas State will open its 117th season of college football this weekend against Missouri State and its 17th as a member of the Big 12 Conference. The Wildcats enter the 2012 season with an all-time record of 475-613-41 (.438), with over a third of those wins coming under the watchful eye of head coach Bill Snyder. The Cats have sported a 175-93-1 (.652) mark since 1990 and have appeared in 15 bowl games.



Coach Bill Snyder

SNYDER SUCCESSFUL IN OPENERS

Head coach Bill Snyder has almost always gotten the most out of his teams from the season-opening kickoff as Snyder-led teams are riding a 19-game winning streak in season openers, and the Wildcats will put that streak on the line on Saturday.

The Wildcats have not dropped a season opener under Snyder since his inaugural campaign at K-State in 1989, when the Cats lost to Arizona State, 31-0, at Sun Devil Stadium.

Saturday's game marks the 16th season debut under Snyder at the stadium that now bears his name.

NON-CONFERENCE NOTABLES

K-State has been one of the most dominant teams nationally in terms of non-conference success, especially under head coach Bill Snyder. Since 1990, K-State has won 62 of their 69 (.899) regular season nonconference games under Snyder, while the Wildcats have had perfect regular season non-conference ledgers 13 times in the last 19 years overall. K-State was perfect in the non-conference last season, defeating Eastern Kentucky and Kent State in Manhattan before wrapping up non-conference play with

a 28-24 win at Miami. The Cats have been perfect in regular-season non-conference play in each of the last two seasons, the first time they have accomplished the feat since 2001 and 2002. The 2002 season was the final year of a 10-year stretch in which K-State went undefeated in non-conference play during the regular season.

A LOOK AT THE OPPONENT: MISSOURI STATE

Coming off a 2-9 season, including a 2-6 mark in the Missouri Valley Conference, Missouri State returns many veterans looking to right the ship as the Bears opened fall camp with 22 players who combined to start 151 games last year. Missouri State brings back 32 letterwinners and 14 primary starters - including nine on the defensive side. The Bears' fall camp featured a quarterback competition between returnee Kierra Harris and newcomer Ashton Glaser, a transfer from the University of Missouri. Four linemen and the team's starting tight end returns, but MSU must replace its running back as only 12 percent of its rushing yards from last season are back. Defensively, nine starters from 2011 are back, including 2011 conference all-newcomer team selection Andrew Beisel at

inside linebacker and a pair of seniors at outside linebacker.

Although Missouri State had quality return games last season, the Bears are replacing their long snapper and punter, while kicker Austin Witmer is back for his junior season.

THE 150 CLUB

Head coach Bill Snyder picked up the 150th victory of his career in last year's season opener, joining Frank Beamer (Virginia Tech), Steve Spurrier (South Carolina), Mack Brown (Texas) and Gary Pinkel (Missouri) as active coaches with 150 wins at BCS schools.

After guiding K-State from 1989 to 2005, and again over the last three seasons, Snyder is also one of the longest-tenured active coaches in the FBS. The Wildcat head coach ranks fourth among active coaches behind Nevada's Chris Ault (28th), Beamer (26th) and Troy's Larry Blakeney (22nd). Even more impressive is that Snyder is the lone BCS coach who has served at the same school for at least 20 years and has never held the same position at another school.

Additionally, Snyder has tallied the fourth-most victories among active coaches since 1990 with 158 despite a three-year hiatus from 2006-2008.

LOOKING FOR MORE

Kansas State has had success coming off bowl seasons, most notably under head coach Bill Snyder. The Wildcats had played in 14 bowl games in program history prior to last year, and Kansas State has followed a bowl season with another postseason berth on 11 occasions, each coming under Snyder. The only three times K-State had a losing season following a bowl trip occurred in 1983 (3-8) after the 1982 Independence Bowl, in 2004 after the Fiesta Bowl (4-7) and in 2007 (5-7) after the 2006 Texas Bowl. K-State will be looking to make its third-straight bowl appearance since the end of an 11-year bowl stretch in 2003.

SNYDER IN SEPTEMBERS

Fast home starts have propelled the Wildcats to winning seasons under Bill Snyder. From 1992-2011 under Snyder, K-State is a

combined 51-5 (.911) in games played during the month of September. Of the five losses, three came on the road, as the Cats are 41-2 in September home games during that stretch. Last season, the Wildcats were 3-0 in September, including two wins at home and a 28-24 road victory at Miami.

HOME SWEET HOME

Few teams in college football have taken care of their home field as well as the Wildcats since the start of the 1990 season. Over the past 20 years, K-State is an amazing 117-27-1 (.810) when playing at Bill Snyder Family Stadium, including a 58-24-1 (.705) mark in league games (combined Big 8/12), while the Wildcats are 59-3 (.952) in non-league home games since 1990.

RECORD NUMBERS FOR FAMILY REUNIONS

A new tradition was started when head coach Bill Snyder returned for his second tenure roaming the sidelines for the Wildcats as the K-State Family Reunion game was born for the season opener in

2009.

The contest against UMass was a huge success as it was the largest crowd in school history for a home opener with 50,750 fans piling into Bill Snyder Family Stadium. That number still ranks in the top 20 in stadium history. Fans also came out in droves the last two seasons as K-State broke the season-opening record again at 51,059 when K-State defeated UCLA, 31-22, in 2010, while another sell-out crowd of 50,292 was at last year's season-opening win against Eastern Kentucky.

SELLOUT x 2

Along with the home opener against Missouri State, K-State announced the September 15 contest against North Texas is also sold out. The two sellouts - which marks the first time since the stadium expansion in 1999 that two sellouts were announced prior to the season - are the ninth and 10th at Bill Snyder Family Stadium since the beginning of Bill Snyder's second tenure in 2009.

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Angelo Pease (29) is pushed out of bounds against Eastern Kentucky last year.

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