



Manhattan Free Press

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Thursday, October 11, 2012

KSU 5-0 To ISU Saturday

KSU Sports Information

Following a 56-16 victory over in-state rival KU, Kansas State begins a two-game Big 12 road swing with a trip to Ames, Iowa, on Saturday. The matchup between the 5-0 Wildcats and the 4-1 Cyclones will kick off at 11:05 a.m., as FX (Justin Kutcher/play-by-play; Eric Crouch/analyst; Darius Walker/sideline) will be on hand to televise the Big 12 battle to a national audience.

A free live audio broadcast is also available on k-statesports.com and on SIRIUS satellite radio channel 112 (XM Channel 195). Wyatt Thompson will call the action on the radio with Stan Weber providing color analysis and Matt Walters giving sideline updates.

Live stats will be also available through Gametracker, while Twitter updates -@kstatesports and @kstate_gameday - will be a part of k-statesports.com's gameday coverage.

A QUICK LOOK AT THE WILDCATS

Last time out, K-State used a powerful rushing attack and an opportunistic defense to roll past the Jayhawks last weekend. Quarterback Collin Klein combined for 245 total yards and four touchdowns, while running back John Hubert ran for 101 yards and four scores on just 10 carries. The K-State defense forced five KU turnovers and now sit atop the Big 12 rankings and third nationally in turnover margin (+10).

The Wildcats, who are 5-0 and ranked as high as No. 5 in this week's national polls, are averaging 264 yards per game on the ground and 177 through the air while also holding steady as the nation's least-penalized unit at 14.2 yards per game.

Klein continues to lead the team to victory as he is 16-4 in his career as the starting quarterback, including a 10-3 mark in Big 12 play. The senior, who has a nation-leading 13



Some people just standout in a crowd.

games with at least one passing touchdown and one rushing touchdown over the last two seasons, has accounted for 60.6-percent of K-State's total offensive yards and half of the Wildcats' offensive touchdowns this year.

Helping Klein lead the charge offensively is Hubert, who has rushed for 100 or more yards four times this season, including the last two. Hubert, who is second in the Big 12 and 16th nationally with 107.75 yards per game, teamed with Klein last week to give K-State its first double-100-yard

rushers in a game since the Texas matchup in 2010.

The Wildcat defense has been salty against the run, yielding just 109 yards per game on the ground, while senior linebacker Arthur Brown continues to put up All-America numbers. Through five games, Brown ranks among the Big 12 leaders with 41 tackles, while the defense has forced 13 turnovers in five games to give the squad a Big 12-best plus-10 turnover margin.

Brownback On Best Governors Growth List

By Chris Edwards
The CATO Institute

Federal lawmakers have created an economic mess with their chronic overspending and inability to deliver stable, pro-growth tax policies. Perhaps the elections will break the Washington gridlock and knock loose some solutions. Until then, state capitols are the only place where there is real fiscal progress.

Two governors—Scott Walker of Wisconsin and Chris Christie of New Jersey—have gained national attention for their changes to government pension and union rules. But other state leaders are making breakthroughs on taxes, and they are the focus of Cato's new "Fiscal Policy Report Card on America's Governors."

Four governors received an "A" grade: Sam Brownback of Kansas, Rick Scott of Florida, Paul LePage of Maine and Tom Corbett of Pennsylvania. Messrs. Scott and Corbett have been the most tightfisted on spending, but all four "A" governors are outstanding tax reformers.

Gov. Sam Brownback cut the top individual tax rate in Kansas to 4.9% from 6.45%, increased the standard deduction and cut taxes on small business income. This tax cut was the biggest tax cut of any state in recent years relative to the size of its economy.

Gov. Rick Scott ended Florida's corporate income tax for thousands of small businesses. He is also moving ahead with cuts to property taxes on business equipment, which are a big hindrance to economic growth.

Gov. Paul LePage cut Maine's top individual tax rate to 7.95% from 8.5% and simplified income tax brackets. He also signed a bill to cut the top rate to 4% over time if there are sufficient budget surpluses. Mr. LePage's ultimate goal is to phase out the individual income tax and cut the corporate tax rate in half, to 4%.

Gov. Tom Corbett slashed Pennsylvania's Capital Stock and Franchise Tax and hopes to fully repeal it by 2014. That sounds like an obscure reform, but this tax imposed an \$800 million annual burden on businesses. Mr. Corbett is right that it "is a job-killer... We don't need it. We don't benefit from it, and we must get rid of it."

That type of can-do attitude toward business tax cuts is exemplified by Michigan's Gov. Rick Snyder, who

received a "B" grade overall. Mr. Snyder scrapped the hated Michigan Business Tax and replaced it with a less costly corporate income tax to save businesses \$1.6 billion a year.

His next goal is to reduce the state's \$1 billion burden of personal-property taxes on businesses. These levies—which are imposed on machinery, equipment and other movable assets—are some of the most anti-growth taxes in America. Everybody benefits when businesses buy machines and expand production, but personal property taxes directly penalize that job-creating activity.

State capitols are the only place where there is real fiscal progress.

State business taxation is an overlooked area in need of reform. The Council on State Taxation found that state and local levies on businesses totaled \$644 billion in 2011, or more than double the annual cost of the federal corporate income tax. True, the federal corporate tax rate is too high relative to other countries' and is hurting American competitiveness. But business property taxes, sales taxes imposed on business purchases, and myriad other anti-investment levies imposed by state and local governments also impede economic growth.

Unfortunately, there are some states going in the wrong direction on fiscal policy. The Cato report card gave "F" grades to Pat Quinn of Illinois, Dan Malloy of Connecticut, Mark Dayton of Minnesota, Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii and Chris Gregoire of Washington. These governors are big spenders and they all pushed major tax hikes, which have undercut the economic recovery.

Some of these governors are schizophrenic on taxes: They jack up overall business tax rates, then give breaks to favored businesses. Gov. Quinn, for example, pushed up corporate rates within a massive, overall \$7 billion tax increase in 2011. He has also handed out special tax breaks to filmmakers and to companies that threaten to leave the state because of high taxes, such as Sears and Motorola.

Happily, other governors—such as Nikki Haley of South Carolina, Terry Branstad of Iowa, Mary Fallin of Oklahoma and John Kasich of Ohio—are pursuing business or personal income tax-rate cuts in order to boost the economy. Now all we need are more federal politicians who could earn passing grades on pro-growth fiscal policy.

Bewitching In Westloop October 31st

Bewitching In Westloop (trick or treat trail) is returning to the Westloop Shopping Center.

All young people are invited. The treat trail begins in the courtyard next to Little Apple Brew Company. All trick or treaters should check in and get a treat trail map. This map once checked off by treat stop merchants in

Westloop makes trick or treaters eligible for prizes. There are 20 treat stops to visit.

A costume contest will be held at 6pm. Prizes include a boys and girls bicycle, pizza parties from Pizza Hut and Little Caesars, and a Purple Swirl party. Free drink will be provided too while supplies last.

Come out and join in on the fun...BeWitching In Westloop on Wednesday October 31..from 4pm - 7pm.

Sponsored by the Westlop Business Association.

For further information contact Ed Klimek at this address.

Tax Climate Chills, But Tax Cuts Help Business

By Gene Meyer
Kansas Reporter

FAIRWAY — Kansas' tax climate has dropped it a notch in a ranking of the best states in which to do business.

The state ranked 26th this year in the report, released Tuesday.

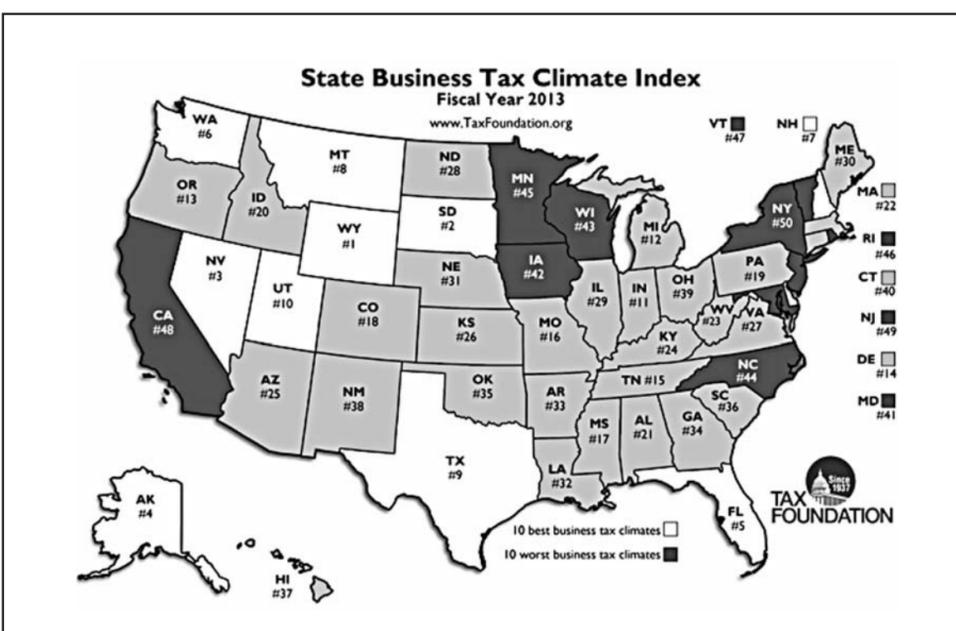
The nonpartisan Tax Foundation in Washington, D.C., compiled the latest ranking, which fails to reflect some substantial personal and business tax cuts. Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback proposed the cuts, which legislators passed this year to increase the formation of businesses and spur investment in the state.

Those cuts don't kick in until Jan. 1, which is the beginning of new tax years for many people and businesses. The Foundation's report compares state tax codes that existed July 1.

"Kansas' changes haven't happened yet," said economist Scott Drenkard, a co-author of the report.

"When they do, Kansas' ranking will improve," Drenkard said. "But by how much, we aren't sure."

Kansas is decreasing its individual income tax rates for 2013, with the top rate dropping to 4.9 percent from 6.45 percent. Also, the state will exempt the owners of 191,000 partnerships, sole proprietorships and other businesses



from income taxes.

Brownback and other tax proponents say the reductions will boost investment and job creation across the

state, while opponents say a projected \$800 million or more reduction in state revenue will require crippling cuts in education, social service and

other spending.

Sara Arif, a staff member in Brownback's communications office, said the administration had no im-

mediate response to the report early Tuesday afternoon.

Wyoming, South Dakota, Nevada, Alaska and Florida topped the list with the first through fifth most business-friendly tax codes, respectively, Drenkard said. New York, New Jersey, California, Vermont and Rhode Island, ranking 50th through 46th were counted the least-business friendly.

Most of the highest ranking states don't collect at least one of the three most common and lucrative taxes that other states levy, Drenkard said. Those are personal income taxes, corporate income taxes and sales taxes.

The lowest-ranking states collect all those taxes, often at higher rates than their competitors, and with generally more complicated rules that benefit favored groups or businesses more than their competitors, he said.

Kansas has consistently ranked somewhere in the middle of the national pack during the nine years the foundation has compiled the rankings, and came in 25th in each of the past two years. Rankings for many middle-range states dropped a place or two because some recent tax reforms in Michigan vaulted that state to 12th friendliest in the nation, six places higher than a year ago.



Romney Wins Denver By TKO

By Kelly Carson
Kansas Watchdog

DENVER — After a mistake-ridden month that had even die-hard Republicans questioning the abilities of their presidential candidate, Mitt Romney turned things around in Wednesday's presidential debate.

As conservative syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer pointed out, Romney seemed knowledgeable, confident and full of nerve. By contrast President Barack Obama seemed cautious, even a bit smug, and he stumbled in the details of health care, taxation and other issues.

Moderator Jim Lehrer

seemed to lose control, but his questions seemed fair and his influence minimal. In the 90-minute debate in Denver, Romney never landed a fatal blow, but the consensus was clear that he was the winner. Even Democratic adviser David Axelrod admitted as much, telling Fox News, "Romney's a good debater but it's not a game changer."

Republicans thought otherwise, as they celebrated the rare presidential debate that produced a clear-cut winner.

Style points matter. But the bigger question, which Watchdog reporters address here, is the degree to which either candidate addressed the issues that affect the states.

We turned to our own panel of experts in a variety of policy areas.

Maranto, co-author of "President Obama and Education Reform: The Personal and the Political," said both parties "are committed to subsidizing colleges for all kinds of things."

But Maranto said Romney could have helped his election prospects by speaking bluntly about the sharply rising costs of post-secondary education.

"Subsidizing people who are not college material leads to a disconnect. The more you divorce the real costs, the more likely people are to get their heads under water," Maranto said.

"Romney could have scored points by saying college isn't necessary for everyone, and that, as Americans, you need to make your own choices," the professor said.

"The (college) cost increases under Obama are unsustainable, and he's pandering on student loans."

Instead, the GOP challenger echoed the president's plea for ongoing federal funding of colleges.

Democrats see college as a virtual necessity, which Obama affirmed in calling for 2 million more student "slots" at community colleges, saying Washington is best equipped to "create ladders of opportunity" and proposing still heavier

"investment" by government.

"This harks back to the 1930s and high school expansion as a way of keeping young people off the job market. That helped depress the unemployment rate," Maranto said.

By contrast, "many at the 2012 GOP convention were businessmen who didn't go to college, or it wasn't the centerpiece of their lives," the professor noted from his Fayetteville

office.

With "only 55 percent of students at public universities earning degrees in six years," Maranto branded today's post-secondary system bloated and inefficient.

"You simply can't have (college) inflation rates going up double the rate of other sectors. Obama's not doing anything about that," he said.

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Heritage: How Obama's Foreign Policy Is Failing

By Amy Payne
The Heritage Foundation

Libya. Egypt. Syria. Iran. Russia. China. America's relations with the world aren't looking too good.

President Obama said that in his Administration, America would reach out to other countries as "an equal partner" rather than as the "exceptional" nation that many before him had embraced; that "any world order that elevates one nation or group of people over another will inevitably fail."

His political approach to foreign policy—making decisions that appeal to a political base rather than making military sense—is putting American lives and American interests in danger. All the while, he is gutting the defense budget, supposedly to free up money for his domestic agenda. This is weakening defense and military readiness, which is a perilous strategy.

The President defined his foreign policy doctrine early, and Heritage experts have carefully analyzed it. There are

many examples of the Obama Doctrine in action, but here are just a few of the ways its four tenets have failed America and its allies.

1. America will ratify more treaties and turn to international organizations more often to deal with global crises and security concerns like nuclear weapons, often before turning to our traditional friends and allies.

The Obama Administration has distanced itself from Israel, even as Palestine seeks recognition as a state at the United Nations absent a peace treaty. President Obama has spoken out against this, but the Administration needs to take a harder line to support America's ally.

2. America will emphasize diplomacy and "soft power" instruments such as summits and foreign aid to promote its aims and downplay military might.

The Obama Administration has held talks with the Taliban—the enemy U.S. and coalition forces originally rout-

ed in Afghanistan following 9/11. Those gains have eroded over the past few years, and the Taliban are simply waiting out the withdrawal of troops now to recapture their power.

3. America will adopt a more humble attitude in state-to-state relations.

The Administration had to abandon its engagement policy with Iran when it met with reality. More recently, the Administration has failed to provide clear leadership on the subject of a deteriorating Syria. As Heritage's James Phillips and Luke Coffey wrote, "Now the Administration is reduced to pleading for Russian cooperation at the United Nations despite Vladimir Putin's cynical efforts to prop up his Syrian ally with arms while denouncing foreign intervention."

4. America will play a more restrained role on the international stage.

The Administration was slow to determine a position on the rebellion in Egypt and has stood on the sidelines while the new Egyptian President

Mohamed Morsi, a longtime member of the anti-Western Muslim Brotherhood, presses an anti-Western agenda. Phillips points out that Morsi "has set Egypt on a troubling new foreign policy course since coming to power in June. His government has distanced itself from Washington while cozying up to China, improving relations with Iran, and violating its peace treaty with Israel."

Has Obama had some successes? As Heritage's Kim Holmes put it, "To the extent that there has been any success in the area of counterterrorism—killing Osama bin Laden, for example—it is mainly because Obama kept in place things that President Bush and his predecessors had implemented, not only in counterterrorism, but in detainee policy (for which he has gotten into trouble with his political base)."

Appeasement has never worked. America must stand up for itself and its allies, regardless of political concerns or international opinion.

\$600M Liability Is A Microcosm

By Johnny Kamps
Missouri Watchdog

ST. LOUIS — Kansas City's pension plans have carried an unfunded liability of more \$600 million, a report says, but it's a familiar scenario playing out across the country.

City leaders and union representatives are trying to determine how to fix the growing problem. Officials want flexibility to cut automatic 3 percent cost-of-living adjustments for retirees, but the unions are balking.

Sheila Weinberg, chief executive officer of the Chicago-based Institute for Truth in Accounting, said the recession is fueling numerous such battles.

"Because of the downturn in the markets, these unfunded liabilities have come to the forefront," she told Missouri Watchdog.

The four Kansas City public-sector pensions, which pay retirement benefits for firefighters, police officers, police civilians and other government employees, cost taxpayers \$50 million per year.

Union representatives have agreed that increasing employee contributions into the plans by 1 percent is a feasible option to help shore up the funds, but that won't be enough.

City Council finance committee chair Jan Marcason told the two sides last week she wants a solid proposal this month.

"We have got to get serious about getting something on the table," she said.

City Manager Troy Schulte said failing to rein in the cost-of-living increases would continually put a heavier burden on taxpayers and mean less money for city services.

Government pensions commonly use high rates of return to determine benefit payouts. The Kansas City plans assume gains of 7.5 to 7.75 percent, according to a report by the Joint Committee on Public Employment Retirement prepared this January for the Missouri General Assembly.

Unfortunately, plans haven't seen returns quite that strong in the past decade. The Missouri State Employment Retirement System made just more than 7 percent on its investments between 2001 and 2011, with short-term gains even less due to market downturns.

"If the markets go down, the benefits do not go down," Weinberg said. "Taxes will have to go up to pay for it."

At least the Kansas City plans pay out benefits on slightly more realistic expectations. Many government pen-

sions assume rates of return of 8 percent or more. The MOSERS board recently voted to reduce the assumed rate from 8.5 percent to 8 percent as it also funneled an additional \$55 million into the plan.

As Kansas City's employees get annual 3 percent COLAs, the inflation rate has dropped to less than 2 percent. If inflation remains below those annual increases "they're not going to be able to catch up," Weinberg said.

"I haven't looked at how many plans have made adjustments, but I think mathematically they're going to have to," she said.

Kansas City leaders are also considering a lower-tiered plan for new employees with reduced benefits.

The city has about 78 percent of the money it needs to cover long-term retirement benefits.

Public Candidates Forum

Candidates running for Riley County Commission and Kansas House and Kansas Senate will respond to questions on local issues during public forums sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Manhattan/Riley County. On Sun., Oct. 14 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. candidates for Riley County Commission will participate in a forum at the fire station headquarters at Denison and Kimball Aves. Candidates for District 2 will appear during

the first half of the forum and the second half will be devoted to candidates for District 3. On Sun., Oct. 21 candidates for Kansas Senate District 22 and Kansas House Districts 51, 66, and 67 will participate in a forum from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the same location.

The format for the forums will include media representatives from Newstalk 1350 KMAN and The Manhattan Mercury each asking two questions of the candidates to start

the forum. This will be followed by questions submitted from the audience and asked by a moderator. Following audience questions, candidates will make closing statements. The forums will be broadcast live on 1350 KMAN radio and rebroadcast again before Election Day.

The League of Women Voters of Manhattan/ Riley

County, the local chapters of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Manhattan Area Retired Educators Association (MAREA) co-sponsor the forums. The forums are open to the public.

Candidate Forum

The Seniors' Center, 301 N. 4th St. is hosting a Candidate Forum for the Riley County Commission race on Friday, October 12; 1:00 - 2:15 p.m. The forum will be in the Mary Border Room. The candidates participating are

District 2 Candidates: Robert Boyd (R) & Scott Seel (D) and Riley County Commission District 3 Candidates: Rod Harms (D) & Ron Wells (R). The public is invited to attend ask their questions. For more information call 537-4040.

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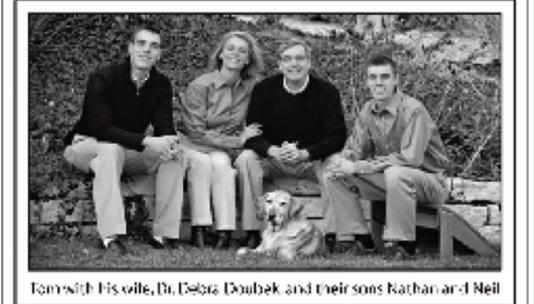
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New Kansas State Basketball Training Facility Unveiled

By Mark Janssen
KSU Sports Information
MANHATTAN, Kan. - The spiffy Kansas State Basketball Training Facility received a standing ovation last Friday from administrators, current players and legends of the past.

"It makes me want to come back and play again," said Glenn Marshall (1978-1980). "I'm speechless."

"Absolute class," summarized Dean Danner (1976-1980).

Jalana Childs from last year's K-State women's team laughed, "I'm jealous, but at least they have my picture in the dressing room. They haven't forgotten about me completely. It's something so many players have worked for, and now people are giving back to us."

In ceremonies before a standing room only gathering for the grand opening of the \$18 million men's and women's facility, athletics director John Currie called it a "monumental day" for K-State basketball.

He would add, "If you're afraid to be great, you will always be average. Kansas State is not afraid to be great."

Then using Bill Snyder's "16 Goals For Success," Currie pointed to the new facility in terms of Goal No. 3, which is Unity, and Goal No. 12, which is No Self-Limitations.

Headlining contributors to the projects were Rand and Patti Berney, and Jim and Laura Johnson.

On the importance of the facility, Berney said, "We've had talented coaches and talented athletes, but we didn't have the same kind of facilities as our rivals. I look at this as being a case where we are no longer on a level playing field because we're now the envy of the conference. I like that situation."

Johnson said of lending a financial hand to the project, "It's about relationships and supporting something we care tremendously about. Kansas State has a great tradition, and we have to keep investing in that tradition to build new



Kansas State new training facility ribbon cutting. (Photo by Ben Brake)

ones." And that focus on continued Wildcat successes, former K-State All-American (1977-1981) and NBA All-Star Rolando Blackman said, is vital to the success of any basketball program.

"It's always vital to allow your athletes the opportunity to enhance their performance," said Blackman, who has had his uniform number retired by both Kansas State and the Dallas Mavericks. "You want your players to be in the best environment to enhance their craft. You have to have the facilities that will allow your athletes the best opportunity to be better."

Ground was broken on the 50,000 square foot facility on

Feb. 26, 2011. It includes two full size basketball courts, locker rooms, player lounges, plus offices for the coaches that will overlook their respective practice floors.

Also for the student-athletes will be theater-type seating for film sessions, a 2,500 square foot weight room, plus a sports medicine facility that will include a hydrotherapy facility that includes an underwater treadmill that will be available for all Wildcat student-athletes.

Each of the two basketball courts, designed to match Bramlage Coliseum, will have six baskets to utilize, plus the partition between the courts can open for the availability of a dozen baskets that could be used at one time making for what men's coach Bruce Weber

calls "... a wonderful teaching environment. It definitely has that 'wow' factor."

He adds with a laugh, "Each player will have a punch card and have access to the facility 24-7, so there will be no excuses for not working out."

Hearing those words was preseason All-Big 12 talent Rodney McGruder: "We have no excuses. We can get into the gym anytime that we want. It is up to us on how successful we want to be."

Women's coach Deb Patterson added, "This will impact our recruiting in such positive ways that it is hard to imagine. It will impact the day-to-day experience of our student-athletes in their attempt to achieve excellence."

Task Force Leaves Drivers In The Dust

By Travis Perry
Kansas Watchdog

OLATHE — From law enforcement to auto dealers, Gov. Sam Brownback's new Department of Motor Vehicles Modernization Task Force has representatives from every relevant field, except one — the folks who pay the bills.

Jeff Kocen, an Overland Park resident who has set up a website dedicated to reforming Revenue Department and computer systems management, said the lack of a consumer voice is a significant oversight in the formation of the new 17-member volunteer board, which Brownback announced during a news conference Friday afternoon at the Olathe Ford Lincoln auto dealership.

"I'm glad to see that they're taking the experience over this last spring and summer very seriously, but I see this as a glaring hole," Kocen said.

Members include Preston Ford of the Educational Credit Union; state treasurer Ron Estes; and Miami County Administrator Shane Krull, among others. The task force is led by Lee Harris, president and CEO of Cohen-Esrey Real Estate Services of Overland Park.

"This is going to work to

improve customer service and satisfaction, period. You shouldn't have to plan your day around going to the DMV," Brownback said before a small gathering of reporters. "We want to look at best practices around the country for improving service, improving speed and efficiency in DMV offices."

While the governor spoke in broad terms and lofty goals for the task force, few specifics were offered.

"There is no predetermined outcome other than developing thoughtful recommendations that will make it easier and faster for citizens and businesses in Kansas to get their vehicle titles, license plates and drivers licenses," Brownback said.

Processing times at DMV locations ground to a screeching halt in April, when the agency implemented a new computer system to process tags and titles. At the height of the problem, wait times at Johnson county locations were as long as eight or nine hours. That has since decreased, and as of Friday the wait time to renew vehicle tags at the Shawnee Mission DMV was just less than two hours.

Nick Jordan, Kansas secretary of Revenue, said once cus-

tomers make it to the head of the line, the statewide average for processing renewals is now only one to four minutes, while the more complicated process of managing titles takes 10 to 15 minutes.

"That's getting closer and closer to the time frame that the old system used to do transactions," Jordan said.

He added that the new system has now processed more than 2 million transactions, more than the old system had in a similar time.

But while ordinary folks would probably prefer the state put all its resources toward

decreasing issues associated with the new computer system, the board is being directed to take a wider view on the matter. Brownback wants the task force to do more than simply make sure the existing system functions as it should; he wants them to help make it a model for the entire nation.

"We're really trying to find the best practices to make this the best DMV service in the country," said Jordan.

Brownback is optimistic that greater efficiencies can be implemented without increased funding.





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Over Easy... by Bob Strawn

I chuckled to myself watching the presidential debate. There was the president, all studious and proper, graying at the temples now, arguing that government plays such a critical role in driving economic growth. While Mitt Romney, wearing surely his best CEO red tie, claims that government pretty much needs to get out of the way and let the free enterprise system work. And I wondered what all the country club Republicans were thinking back here in Manhattan?



Bob Strawn

I'll bet they were turning to their husbands and wives, significant others, and perhaps some just to themselves saying, "Damn right, Mitt! Enough big government." Of course tomorrow they'll all go for a drink of the local Chamber's countywide sales tax cool aid, which is precisely the same kind of 'trickle-down government' that Mitt argued against all night in last week's debate.

It is interesting for me to watch this dichotomy of thought that brings Republicans to such mutually

exclusive conclusions.

One place in their brain surely rants at Obama for his 'we need to invest (code word for tax and spend) in America to promote economic growth,' the best example being his mega-fail stimulus program that did nothing to bring down unemployment.

In another place, they smile at Mitt's 'get out of the way' approach to government, that

would lower tax rates and reduce shelters, leaving more money for private investment rather than ever bigger government. "Yes, that's what we need to get America cranking again, by golly."

But then, when they bring it back here to Manhattan, that same brain somehow finds nothing alarming, wrong or even unethical about sales tax dollars being sent to private companies in the name of economic development. Yes, it's that same tax and spend mentality. And yes, it's so very Obamaesque.

Even conservative city commissioners support the idea of taxing us, then 'investing' the proceeds in companies they alone, with direction from the

Chamber, find worthy. Yet these same conservatives are amongst the most ardent supporters of Tea Party principles that proclaim, "Our freedom is not for sale, and we reserve the right to defend it from theft." Theft - a good word to use in this context, methinks.

So, how does this happen,

my friends? How can conservatives demean the president for 'trickle down government,' yet at the same moment support the Chamber position locally? How can they beat their chest in disgust over the president's Solyndra green energy mess, but turn around and rationalize giving a half million dollar local incentive to a 'green' fertilizer manufacturer called Prathista? I can't explain it.

In life, some things can't be explained. Behavior is sometimes just plain weird, particularly in politics.

Let's hope so.

So, remember and consider thoughtfully Mitt's 'trickle down government' line when you vote for him and against this silly and remarkably Obamaesque countywide sales tax proposal. If our local politicians can't make the right choice, let's make it right for them.

"You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."

11. Children's Logic: "Give me a sentence about a public servant," said a teacher. The small boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder pregnant." The teacher took the lad aside to correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant means?" she asked. "Sure," said the young boy confidently. "It means carrying a child."

12. A grandfather was delivering his grandchildren to their home one day when a fire truck

zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep crowds back," said one child. "No," said another. "He's just for good luck." A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."

13. My Grandparents are funny, when they bend over, you hear gas leaks and they blame their dog.



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From The Internet...

Grandparents

1. She was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup, under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter, as she'd done many times before. After she applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I will probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye....

2. My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 62. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

3. After putting her grand-

children to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

4. A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in

the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

5. My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

6. A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

7. I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and

ask what color it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these colors yourself!"

8. When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."

9. When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised "Mine says I'm 4 to 6."

10. A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said. "How do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl.

The Conservative View...



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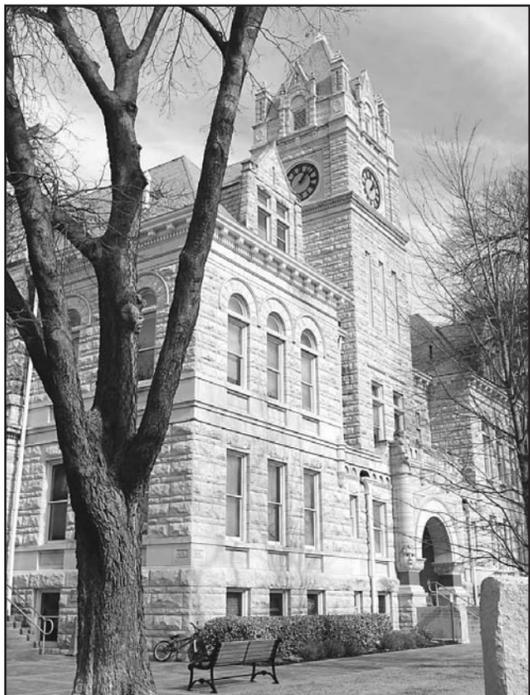
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Riley County Commission Minutes

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 October 1, 2012 with the following members present: Alvan Johnson, Chair; Dave Lewis, Vice Chair; Karen McCulloh, Member; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk.

8:30 Public Comment & Business Meeting

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Ron Wells; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Bob Boyd; Rod Harms; Leon Hobson, Director Public Works/County Engineer; Mel Van Der Stelt; Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk; Greg Lund, Parks Supervisor; Alyssa Sobba, Kristen Eck, Hillary Keller, Maddie Intfen, Carolyn Hawkins, Katelyn Schleicher – KSU Students; and Paul Foltz, attended.

McCulloh said the Regional Planning Organization met in Dwight. McCulloh said a representative from KDOT talked about Highway 177 improvements south of I-70. McCulloh said KDOT stated the Highway 177 improvements would not have proceeded if it wasn't for the advocacy and support of the Regional Planning Organization.

McCulloh moved to approve "Resolution No. 100112-45, A Resolution exempting Riley County, Kansas, from the provisions of K.S.A. 75-1120a(a)." Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

McCulloh said Thursday the mental health forum was held by Manhattan City. McCulloh said there will be a further public forum on October 8th about the mental health needs at the

Manhattan Public Library at 6:30 p.m.

McCulloh moved to approve an Addendum to Contract for the sale of Real Estate with Atlantic Coast Houses, LLC. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

McCulloh moved to approve a Riley County Capital Improvement Program, Certification of Project Authority for the purchase of Fairmont Park property in the amount of \$23,721.00. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to activate the following imperative non-funded CIP projects in 2012:

Department:	Project: Cost Estimate:
Public Works	LEC Elevator replacement \$ 38,000
Public Works	2 - ¾ Ton 4X4 Pickup trucks \$ 50,000
Public Works	1 ½ Ton Pickup \$ 30,000
Public Works	Bucket Lift truck \$100,000
Parks	Mower \$ 65,000
Parks	¾ Ton Pickup truck \$ 25,000
EMS	4WD SUV Replacement \$ 40,000
Noxious Weed	¾ Ton 4X4 Pickup truck \$ 30,000
Noxious Weed	Roadside Mower Tractor \$ 80,000
HHW	¾ Ton 4X4 Pickup truck \$ 30,000
Total Cost Estimate	\$488,000

McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Personnel Action Form for Kinsey Carder, a new hire, as a Child Care Scholarship Intern, in the Health Department, at a grade H step

2, at \$15.21 per hour.

Vargo reported the department heads have reviewed the Riley County Resolution on fees and no changes were recommended.

McCulloh moved to approve the minutes of September 27, 2012 as amended. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:00 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services Administrative Work Session

Ron Wells; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Bob Boyd; Rod Harms; Leon Hobson, Director Public Works/County Engineer; Mel Van Der Stelt; Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk; Greg Lund, Parks Supervisor; Alyssa Sobba, Kristen Eck, Hillary Keller, Maddie Intfen, Carolyn Hawkins, Katelyn Schleicher – KSU Students; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Paul Foltz, attended.

Holeman discussed HB2427 restricting access of public information for law enforcement offices.

Holeman said he believes the KAC legislative board is on board with Riley County's position on HB2427 and once it is repealed.

Holeman said at the staff level we have completed the procedural matters on complying with HB2427.

Holeman stated this Thursday the noon Rotary Club Board will consider allowing the Riley County ½ cent sales tax presentation for a program at a future noon rotary club meeting.

9:30 Press Conference

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Ron Wells; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Bob Boyd; Rod Harms; Leon Hobson, Director Public Works/County Engineer; Mel Van Der Stelt; Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk; Greg Lund, Parks Supervisor; Alyssa Sobba, Kristen Eck, Hillary Keller, Maddie Intfen, Carolyn Hawkins, Katelyn Schleicher – KSU Students; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Susie Kufahl, Health Department Director; Cheryl Collins, Museum Director; and Paul Foltz, attended.

Kufahl said Okt-flu-ber Festival will be held Thursday, October 11, 2012 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Family & Child Resource Center, 2101 Claffin Road.

C. Collins said the new temporary exhibit "Forces: The Shaping of Manhattan, Fort Riley, and Kansas State University" opened at the Flint Hills Discovery Center on September 7, 2012 and will run through January 13, 2013.

C. Collins said this exhibit explores some of the ideas, events, and issues that influ-

enced these three places: a town, a military post and a college, from each of their beginning about one hundred and fifty years ago to the beginning of World War I.

C. Collins said a number of educational events are planned in conjunction with this exhibit:

Friday October 12 a walking tour of historic Fort Riley will start at the U.S. Cavalry Museum at 1:00 p.m. The tour will explore the development of the Fort and its critical role in our history.

Sunday October 14 Cheryl Collins, Director of the Riley County Historical Museum, will lead a tour through Sunset Cemetery to introduce some of the influential Manhattanites of the past featured in the Forces exhibit. The tour will start at the cemetery front gate at 1:30 p.m.

Sunday October 14 Marla Day, Senior Curator of the Historic Costume and Textile Museum, College of Human Ecology, Kansas State University, will discuss "Clues in Calico" sharing some of the stories she has learned about the garments in the "Forces" exhibit. The program begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Flint Hills Discovery Center, which are free and open to the public.

Volanti reported the annual Riley County Employee Training Day will be held Monday, October 8, 2012 Columbus Day at the Farm Bureau Building.

Volanti said Riley County offices will be closed on October 8, 2012 Columbus Day for the training day.

Vargo reported September 21, 2012 is the deadline to mail federal service ballots. Vargo said registration books close October 16, 2012.

Vargo said advance voting by mail begins October 17th. Vargo said advance voting in person begins October 23rd at the Riley County Courthouse Office Building 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. weekdays; 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 (noon) Saturdays; closes at 12:00 (noon) Monday, November 5th; and at the KSU Student Union 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. weekdays, and closes at 12:00 (noon), November 5th.

Vargo said the General Election will be held Tuesday, November 6, 2012.

Vargo said sample ballots can also be found on the Riley County website.

McCulloh reported a meeting on mental health facility needs will be held October 8, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Manhattan Public Library. The public is invited.

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for an As Needed Clerical Assistant, in the Appraiser's Office, at a grade D.

9:53 Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer and Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of

Administrative Services; Ron Wells; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Bob Boyd; Rod Harms; Mel Van Der Stelt; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Julie Winter, Public Works Office Manager; Greg Lund, Parks Supervisor; and Dennis Peterson, Noxious Weed Director, attended.

Hobson asked what Riley County's top three road improvement projects are for the KDOT meeting on Wednesday.

The Board discussed the Junieta/Marlatt bridge project.

10:02 Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Ron Wells; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Bob Boyd; Rod Harms; Mel Van Der Stelt; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Julie Winter, Public Works Office Manager; Greg Lund, Parks Supervisor; Monty Wedel, Planning/Special Projects Director; and Dennis Peterson, Noxious Weed Director, attended.

Hobson said on August 30th staff met with the Riley County Commission to discuss the replacement of the Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director vacant position. The Riley County Commission requested the Human Resources Manager contact other counties to obtain information on how each county handles the administration and maintenance of their parks.

Hobson said they further directed the Public Works Department to determine the best method to integrate the Parks Department into the Public Works Department if this direction was selected.

Volanti presented a list of the other counties' parks systems.

Hobson said the Public Works and Parks staff met a couple of times to discuss this topic and developed three options to incorporate the Parks Department. These are as follows:

Option # 1: Leave the current position as is except remove the Parks Director title. This option would require a search for an employee who would serve as the Assistant Public Works Director, oversee the Operations Division and oversee the Parks Division. This position would answer directly to the Public Works Director. Some of the Parks Director duties would be adsorbed by current personnel.

Option# 2: Remove the Parks Director title and the Assistant Public Works Director duties then search for an employee who would oversee the Operations Division and oversee the Parks Division. This position would answer directly to the Public Works Director. Some of the Parks Director duties and the

Assistant Public Works Director duties would be adsorbed by current personnel.

Option # 3: Remove the Parks Director title and the Assistant Public Works Director duties then search for an employee to oversee the Operations Division and an employee to oversee the Parks Division. Both of these positions would report directly to the Public Works Director. Some of the Parks Director duties and the Assistant Public Works Director duties would be adsorbed by current personnel.

Hobson said staff would recommend Option # 3 including hiring another parks position.

Vargo suggested the Board allow staff to bring back a financial comparison of the three options.

Lewis stated option 3 goes against what he would like to see do in reducing employee cost.

McCulloh discussed concerns with hiring two more positions.

Johnson agreed we should look at the financial comparisons of the three options.

Lund stated if we do hire another Parks position we would reduce our temporary help.

Hobson said he would eliminate one temporary position in the Parks Department and one temporary position in the Public Works Department.

The Board agreed they would like to see the financial comparisons of the three options.

Lewis said he is leaning towards integrating the Parks Department into Public Works.

10:20 Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk

Greg McHenry, Appraiser; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Ron Wells; Bob Boyd; Mel Van Der Stelt; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Monty Wedel, Planning/Special Projects Director; Kathy Carpenter, Legal Assistant, County Attorney's Office; Eileen King, Treasurer; Robert Nall, IT/GIS Director; Susie Kufahl, Health Department Director; Debbie Register, Register of Deeds; and Dennis Peterson, Noxious Weed Director, attended.

McCulloh said in the definition for qualification for various leave benefits we list everything from spouse to step grandparent, should we consider adding partner?

Volanti stated for insurance they can be included if declared by common law.

McCulloh stated we should look at the definition.

The Board reviewed the Personnel Policies and Guidelines Manual.

The Board agreed with the proposed changes to the Personnel Policies and Guidelines Manual.

10:55 Lewis moved to adjourn. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

KC Pension Plan \$600 Million In Debt

By Johnny Kampis Missouri Watchdog

ST. LOUIS — Kansas City's pension plans have carried an unfunded liability of more \$600 million, a report says, but it's a familiar scenario playing out across the country.

City leaders and union representatives are trying to determine how to fix the growing problem. Officials want flexibility to cut automatic 3 percent cost-of-living adjustments for retirees, but the unions are balking.

Sheila Weinberg, chief executive officer of the Chicago-based Institute for Truth in Accounting, said the recession is fueling numerous such battles.

"Because of the downturn in the markets, these unfunded liabilities have come to the forefront," she told Missouri Watchdog.

The four Kansas City public-sector pensions, which pay retirement benefits for firefighters, police officers, police civilians and other government employees, cost taxpayers \$50 million per year.

Union representatives have agreed that increasing employ-

ee contributions into the plans by 1 percent is a feasible option to help shore up the funds, but that won't be enough.

City Council finance committee chair Jan Marcason told the two sides last week she wants a solid proposal this month.

"We have got to get serious about getting something on the table," she said.

City Manager Troy Schulte said failing to rein in the cost-of-living increases would continually put a heavier burden on taxpayers and mean less money for city services.

Government pensions commonly use high rates of return to determine benefit payouts. The Kansas City plans assume gains of 7.5 to 7.75 percent, according to a report by the Joint Committee on Public Employment Retirement prepared this January for the Missouri General Assembly.

Unfortunately, plans haven't seen returns quite that strong in the past decade. The Missouri State Employment Retirement System made just more than 7 percent on its investments between 2001 and 2011, with short-term gains even less due

to market downturns.

"If the markets go down, the benefits do not go down," Weinberg said. "Taxes will have to go up to pay for it."

At least the Kansas City plans pay out benefits on slightly more realistic expectations. Many government pensions assume rates of return of 8 percent or more. The MOSERS board recently voted to reduce the assumed rate from 8.5 percent to 8 percent as it also funneled an additional \$55 million into the plan.

As Kansas City's employees get annual 3 percent COLAs, the inflation rate has dropped to less than 2 percent. If inflation remains below those annual increases "they're not going to be able to catch up," Weinberg said.

"I haven't looked at how many plans have made adjustments, but I think mathematically they're going to have to," she said.

Kansas City leaders are also considering a lower-tiered plan for new employees with reduced benefits.

The city has about 78 percent of the money it needs to cover long-term retirement benefits.

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Free Press Big 12 Sports

6A

2012-2013 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent / Event Location	Result/Record
09/01/12	vs. Missouri State	51-9 1-0
09/08/12	vs. Miami	51-13 2-0
09/15/12	vs. North Texas	35-21 3-0
9/22/12	at Oklahoma * Norman, Okla.	24-19 4-0
10/06/12	vs. Kansas *	56-16 5-0
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 12 Standings

Team	Big 12 Record	Over All Record
Kansas State	2-0	5-0
West Virginia	2-0	5-0
Iowa State	1-1	4-1
TCU	1-1	4-1
Texas	1-1	4-1
Texas Tech	1-1	4-1
Oklahoma	1-1	3-1
Baylor	0-1	3-1
Oklahoma State	0-1	2-2
Kansas	0-2	1-4

Big 12 Conference Schedule

Date	Home Team	Score	Away Team	Media
* Sat, Oct 13	Iowa State		Kansas State	Kansas
* Sat, Oct 13	Texas Tech		West Virginia	
* Sat, Oct 13	Baylor		TCU	Waco, Texas
* Sat, Oct 13	Texas		Oklahoma	Dallas, Texas
* Sat, Oct 13	Kansas		Oklahoma State	Lawrence, Kan.
* Sat, Oct 20	TCU		Texas Tech	Fort Worth, Texas
* Sat, Oct 20	West Virginia		Kansas State	Morgantown, W. Va.
* Sat, Oct 20	Oklahoma		Kansas	Norman, Okla.
* Sat, Oct 20	Oklahoma State		Iowa State	Stillwater, Okla.
* Sat, Oct 20	Texas		Baylor	Austin, Texas
* Sat, Oct 27	Kansas		Texas	Lawrence, Kan.
Sat, Oct 27	Oklahoma		Notre Dame	Norman, Okla.
* Sat, Oct 27	Kansas State		Texas Tech	Manhattan, Kan.

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KSU's John Hubert (33) goes down on the one-yard-line and Quarterback Collin Klein scored on the next play. (Photo by Ben Brake)



Collin Klein (7) hands off to John Hubert (33) (Photo by Jon A. Brake)



K-State Daniel Sams (4) gets hit after a good gain. (Photo by Ben Brake)



KSU's Arthur Brown (4) makes a play on James Sims. (Photo by Ben Brake)



You can see the emotion spilling out of Coach Bill Snyder during the game. (Photo by Ben Brake)

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Kansas State backup Quarterback Daniel Sams (4) picked up some playing time and 70-yards on 10 carries in the 4th quarter Saturday. (Photo by Ben Brake)



James Sims (20) on the ground, scores for KU. (Photo by Ben Brake)



John Hubert (33) scores as he is hit at the goal line. (Photo by Tonya Ricklefs)



James Sims (20) picked up 120-yards for KU Saturday. (Photo by Jon A. Brake)



Anthony Cantele (10) hit 8 extra points Saturday (Photos by Jon A. Brake)

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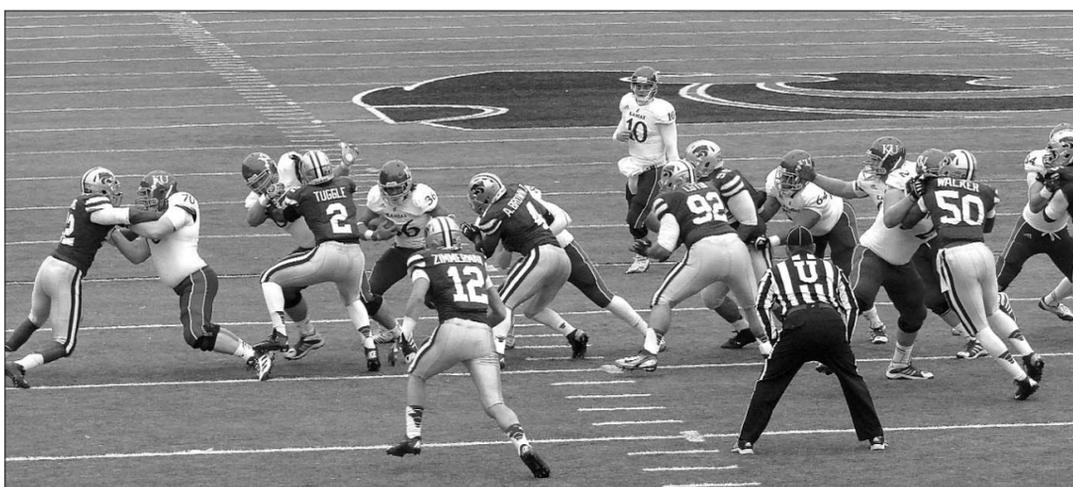
Kansas State's John Hubert (33) is brought down in the end zone by KU's Tunde Bakare for a safety and 2-points for KU) (Photo by Jon A. Brake)



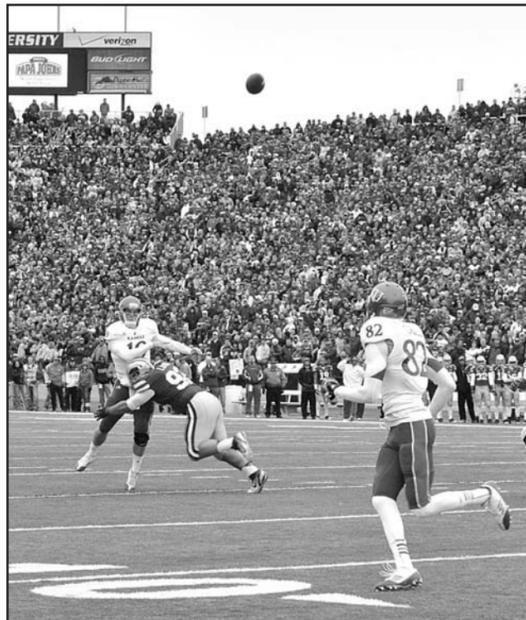
Tight End Travis Tannahill (80) take a pass from Collin Klein (7) for a touchdown. (Photo by Ben Brake)



Fullback Braden Wilson (35) looks for someone to block as Collin Klein (7) starts around end. (Photo by Ben Brake)



Kansas Taylor Cox (36) finds a small hole as Ty Zimmerman (12) and Arthur Brown (4) move in for the tackle.



KU's Dayne Crist (10) gets the pass off. (Photo by Ricklefs)

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Kansas State 56 - Kansas 16



KSU's Quarterback Collin Klein (7) takes the ball over right Tackle Tavon Rooks (73) for a first half touchdown against the Kansas Jayhawks. (Photo by Ben Brake)



Tyler Lockett (16) gives thanks. (Photo by Ben Brake)



John Hubert (33) ran for 101-yards and 4 touchdowns.



KU's Andrew Turzille (82) doesn't want to come down. (Photo by Tonya Ricklefs)



Kansas Punter Ron Doherty (13) picked up a first down after faking a punt. (Photo by Jon A. Brake)



Collin Klein (7) was 7 for 14 in the passing department. He threw for 2 touchdowns. (Photo by Jon Brake)

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