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Distict 3 Riley County Commission.  
A common sense approach to County Government.  
Pd by Ron Wells for County Commission



# Manhattan Free Press

Vol. 21 Number 18

An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper

Thursday, November 1, 2012

## Honoring Area Veterans

Fred Stueve, an honored WWII Veteran who served with General Patton at the time of the discovery of the Nazi concentration camps, will be telling his eyewitness account of liberating Germany at Mt Calvary Lutheran Church on November 11. Mr. Stueve served with the 20th Armored Division Liberators who placed the plaque commemorating their efforts at the Memorial Building at Dechau. He was there to not only witness what happened at Dechau, but has been to Hitler's Eagle Nest, saw his home, automobile and all of his personal effects. Most of his collection, brought home from his time of service, will be on display.



**Fred Stueve**

Veterans on Sunday, November 11, with this special program and a dinner.

Veterans and present military service men and women and their families, and all in the community who wish to honor Veterans and the military will

attend the 10:30 service on November 11. The dinner follows the 10:30 service at 12:00. At 1:00 the program will begin and Fred Stueve will give his historical account.

In addition to the event being held at Mt Calvary, The American Legion Riders will be honoring Veterans with flags flying over I 70 at exit 324 on Veterans Day beginning at 1:00.

Mt Calvary Lutheran Church is located one mile north of the intersection of Highways 99 and 24. This is an opportunity for all ages to learn from someone who was there to liberate Nazi Germany and to honor our Veterans.

## Election Tuesday

**Editorial**  
**By Jon A. Brake**

Going to the polls Tuesday. This will be one of the largest turnouts in American History.

We do not need to tell you who to vote for in the race for President. Most in this area have known for a long time how they were going to vote. We would like to remind people that in 2008 the Free Press said several times "Don't tell us that you will change things, tell us what you are going to change." We think it is time for another change.

In the local elections the Free Press recommends that voters turn down the 1/2 Cent Sales Tax. We worked against it in 1992 and the City and County officials told us that if we did not pass the tax they would raise the property tax. Guess What, they raised the property tax anyway. And the Debt has gotten so bad that the City Credit rating dropped one notch and they think it may drop again. Stop The Spending.

By the way if a City or County Commissioner tells you that they will raise the property tax if they do not get the Sales Tax, tell them that if they do you will work to see they never win another election.

**For Senator 22nd District:**

We recommend Bob Reader, he is conservative and can work with the majority to get things done.

You will not find a better man than Tom Hawk but he is on the wrong side of most issue. In the House he was for every tax and spend bill that came to the floor. Remember Reader when you vote.

**For Representative 66th District:**

This is the time to retire Sydney Carlin. Sydney has been in the house

8-years and is a No Vote for cutting spending. She is a No Vote on cutting the Budget. We need Lee Modesitt in the House 66th District. A vote for a Democrat is to put Manhattan at the back of the line for House leadership.

**For Representative 67th District:**

Tom Phillips need your vote and support. By being appointed Tom will be ahead of the new class of Representatives coming in, leadership for Tom means he can help Manhattan, Kansas State and Riley County.

Aaron Estabrook, we are sure is a good person but again on the wrong side of the floor.

**For Riley County Commission 2nd District:**

The race is between Robert Boyd and Scott Seel. The Free Press recommends Robert Boyd. He will take a conservative voice on the Commission. We need that and we need Robert Boyd on the County Commission.

**For Riley County Commission 3rd District:**

This race is between Ron Wells and Rod Harms. The Free Press recommends Ron Wells. Ron and Robert Boyd can work together to stop the spending in Riley County. If Harms takes the seat, he and 1st District Commissioner Dave Lewis will stay on the same tax and spend road that we have been on for years.

**Magistrate Court Judge**

Should Judge Sheila Hochhauser be retained? The Free Press recommends (NO). The Free Press never had calls about a Judge before Judge Hochhauser took office. We had calls for property owners, landlords and just every day working folks with complaints. We recommend you vote to replace the Judge with a NO vote.

## Tech Award For Discovery Center

For demonstrating an innovative use of technology with the Gateway Kiosk, the Flint Hills Discovery Center has been named a winning institution of the Kansas Museums Association's 2012 Technology Award.

"KMA is very excited about this particular kiosk primarily because it is graphically stunning and very engaging but probably most of all because the kiosk leads people to other sites in the Flint Hills. It's really connecting multiple locations, multiple sites of culture throughout the Flint Hills," said Murl Riedel, awards chair, Kansas Museums Association.

The interactive kiosk is a large touch screen computer that is located within the lobby of the FHDC – a free public space that is open 363 days each year. A large canopy over the kiosk makes it eye-catching and engaging to visitors as a dynamic attract screen randomly shows images drawn from the resources of the kiosk.

With 18 general categories of things to see and do throughout the Flint Hills and 200 different entries, the Flint Hills Gateway Kiosk, developed by Boston Productions, Inc., serves as a gateway to exploring and learning about anything and every-



The kiosk leads people to other sites in the Flint Hills.

thing the Flint Hills has to offer.

Individual entries include a variety of information such as: a description of the attraction, hours of operation, admission if applicable, accessibility information, photographs, website, QR codes, mapping and driving directions.

Intended to be a source for activities and sites in the Flint Hills region, the Gateway Kiosk is unique because it is powered by the community itself. Visitors may create their own cus-

tomized itineraries for up to ten locations and are encouraged to complete a submission form on a new attraction or business not currently included.

The large capacity of the dynamic kiosk allows for constant user updates and changes - subject to review and approval by FHDC staff – creating a unique experience that encourages further first-hand exploration of the Flint Hills by visitors.

## Hotel Moves Closer To Starting

**By Ashely Wells**

On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, the Manhattan City Commission had the second reading of ordinance 6972. The ordinance requested rezoning the proposed Hotel PUD on N. Manhattan and Bluemont from Multiple-Family Residential District, Multi-Family Redevelopment Overlay District, and University Overlay District to Commercial Planned Unit District.

The proposed hotel is to be four stories with a partial fifth floor. The seventy foot building is to include 111

hotel suites and a parking garage for 123 off-street parking to compensate for Manhattan Zoning regulations.

The Manhattan Urban Area Planning Board voted 6-0 in recommendation of approval of the rezoning based on the findings in the Report presented. The City Administration has also expressed its approval of the rezoning.

The applicant, Excel Group LLC, is not requesting for any financial participation from the city.

## Wamego Hospital Named Best Place To Work

According to Modern Healthcare Magazine, Wamego City Hospital is the best place work in healthcare in the U.S. The nationwide 100 Best Places to Work in Healthcare awards program recognizes employers for creating workplaces in healthcare that enable employees to perform at their optimum level to provide patients and customers with the best possible patient care and services. This 18-bed, 82-employee hospital also was the highest-ranked company in the small employer category. The organizations, which made the list had to not only show that they are financially fit organizations, but also that they have positive leadership that empowers their employees to succeed.

**Assessment Factors**

This year's recognition program had 340 applications from healthcare companies across the nation. So what factors were assessed before naming Wamego City Hospital the Best Place to Work in Healthcare for 2012? Not only does the hospital offer fitness opportunities, leadership development classes, employee recognition programs and fun celebrations such as a hospital Olympics, but they also ranked highly within each assessment category. Wamego City Hospital was reviewed based on the following: work environment, overall employee engagement, role satisfaction, rela-



Wamego City Hospital CEO and staff members, attend Modern Healthcare's 2012 Best Places to Work awards ceremony in Nashville. There to receive the award were the following individuals (left to right): Angie Barber, Performance Improvement Manager, Ken McVay, Unit Therapist, Gary Brisbin, Plant Operations Manager, Shannan Flach, CEO, Audrey Boyd-Ewing, Occupational Therapist, Brian Smith, Director of Risk Management, Quality and Safety, Daniel Breeden, Emergency Room Clinical Coordinator, and Jenni Sheffield, Registered Nurse.

tionship with supervisor, corporate culture and communication, leadership and planning, pay and benefits, and training and development. Measureable factors included: annual

salary, annual training hours, internal hires, orientation hours, paid holidays, paid time off and voluntary turnover. Shannan Flach, CEO, Wamego City Hospital states, "We are a tight-knit

family that puts values first. We work hard and have a lot of high expectations, but we also enjoy rewarding that hard work. It was the greatest honor to walk on stage and accept the award

on behalf of the dedicated and compassionate staff that works at Wamego City Hospital."

**What Employees Enjoy Most**

The ranking results, based on survey analysis, highlighted what employees love most about Wamego City Hospital. At Wamego City Hospital, employees have the opportunity to partake in unique celebratory events, receive emergency benefits, and are encouraged to support community initiatives. What employees love most are the annual employee parties (e.g. spring fling, family picnics, and potluck dinners), birthday lunches with the CEO, anniversary gifts and certificates, the employee emergency fund, paid time off to volunteer in the community and free tickets to attend plays at the local theater. "I always tell people that it's a fun place to work," says Angie Barber, performance improvement manager. "We work hard, but we play hard. We have a lot of expectations, we have a lot of personal accountability-but we reward that accountability."

What does this mean for the future of Kansas healthcare?

"Being named to Modern Healthcare's list of the Best Places to Work in Healthcare for 2012 demonstrates that Wamego City Hospital has built a culture where employees are



# Kansas Cold Weather Rules Take Effect

The Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) reminds Kansans that the Cold Weather Rule takes effect November 1 and remains in effect through March 31.

"The Cold Weather Rule helps to ensure that Kansans can be warm in their home this winter. Consumers are encouraged to take steps to prepare for colder temperatures this winter," said KCC Chairman Mark Sievers. "Make sure heating equipment is in good working

order, set your thermostat at a reasonable level, weather strip and caulk windows and doorways - doing these things can cut down on heating costs."

The Cold Weather Rule prohibits utility companies from disconnecting a customer's natural gas or electric service during periods of extreme cold. The Rule requires utility companies to offer a 12-month payment plan to allow consumers to maintain or re-establish utility service.

Disconnection Conditions:

\* Utility companies may not initiate disconnection until temperatures are forecast to be above 35 degrees for the next 48 hours.

\* Utility companies must contact the customer by phone or in-person 24 hours before disconnecting service.

\* Utility companies are prohibited from disconnecting a customer's service when temperatures are forecast to be at or below 35 degrees over the next

24 hours.

The KCC wants Kansans to have the electric and gas service needed to keep their homes warm during the winter months. The KCC also recognizes the customer's responsibility to make arrangements to pay for that service. The Cold Weather Rule was designed in 1983 to ensure that both goals are met. Any residential customer with a past due balance will qualify for payment arrangements under the Rule.

However, it is the customer's responsibility to contact the gas or electric company to make those arrangements.

Payment Plan conditions to maintain or restore service:

\* Customers must contact their utility company and inform that they cannot pay their bill in full.

\* Customers must agree to pay 1/12th of the total amount owed, 1/12th of the current bill, the full amount of any disconnection or reconnection fee,

plus any applicable deposit to the utility.

\* Customers must agree to pay the remaining balance in equal payments over the next 11 months, in addition to their current monthly bill.

The Cold Weather Rule applies only to residential customers of electric and natural gas utility companies under the KCC's jurisdiction. For a complete list of utilities regulated by the KCC visit: [http://kcc.ks.gov/pi/jurisdiction\\_utilities.htm](http://kcc.ks.gov/pi/jurisdiction_utilities.htm).

## Election Observers Leave Before Kansas Polls Open

By Travis Perry  
Kansas Watchdog

OSAWATOMIE — A pair of international election observers made a point of stopping in Kansas to speak with government officials and party leaders about the inner workings of the state's electoral process, but they left the Sunflower State long before the gears start turning Nov. 6.

The observers, with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, were dispatched to Kansas on Oct. 15. They met with election officials at the Kansas Secretary of State's office, as well as with several political party leaders and election officials in Wyandotte, Ford and Jackson counties, among others.

But less than a week before Election Day, they're long gone. Brad Bryant, director of elections and legislative matters for the Kansas Secretary of State, said the observers left Kansas on Oct. 22, bound for Colorado.

"They're not coming back, unless something changes," Bryant said.

Thomas Rymer, OSCE spokesman, said the observers were tasked with looking at a broad range of issues, including electoral frameworks, candidate and voter registration and the balance of reporting in the media, just to name a few topics. Rymer confirmed the pair would not visit any Kansas polling stations on Election Day.

Wyandotte county election commissioner Bruce Newby met with the observers for a planned 30-minute meeting that stretched to two hours. Newby said all it really amounted to was a discussion about general procedures for the election.

"I looked at it as some Europeans that were curious at how we succeed in doing what we do, by holding free and open elections," Newby said. "There wasn't anything that wasn't real obvious in terms of an answer from what Kansas law said."

The OSCE is a regional security organization that includes 56 states from Europe, Central Asia and North America. While it is tied to the

United Nations, it is still an independent organization. The OSCE monitors elections worldwide for fair practices, including the U.S. presidential elections in 2004 and 2008, and the mid-term elections in 2010. It started this year's U.S. mission in early October.

Keeping tabs on the American electoral process, the OSCE has in turn garnered a few harsh critics along the way. The most outspoken opponent has been Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, who said observers are not allowed, by law, to be inside polling locations in that state.

OSCE will release a preliminary report of its findings on Nov. 7, and a final report will be presented eight weeks after the election.

## Lips Sealed As Children's Agency Plans For Worst-Case Scenario

By Travis Perry  
Kansas Watchdog

OSAWATOMIE — State officials are keeping quiet about who is responsible for failing to enforce a fee on small cigarette manufacturers, a decision that may result in steep budget cuts next year for a state agency responsible for supporting early childhood education.

Amanda Adkins, chairwoman for the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust

Fund, announced the bleak news during a board meeting Sept. 26 in Topeka. The KCCTF is largely funded by dollars from a master settlement with major tobacco companies in 1998. But the settlement also stipulated that the 30 states involved in the litigation would enforce a \$6 per carton fee on smaller cigarette manufacturers to keep them from undercutting larger companies. Adkins said the agency usu-

ally expects \$56 million annually. But the Topeka Capital-Journal reported that because the fee has not been sufficiently enforced, the tobacco companies are looking to "claw back" some of their settlement payments, which could result in a 75 percent decrease in funding for the KCCTF.

"If everything goes wrong, it could be that we end up with \$12 million in funding instead

of \$56 million," Adkins said.

Deputy Attorney General Don Brown said he couldn't comment on specifics of the tobacco case because it's in active arbitration. This means, for now, the face and reasoning behind the failure to enforce the \$6 fee is under wraps.

But the news isn't all bad for Adkins. She said Gov. Sam Brownback has pledged additional funding for her agency, in case the tobacco settlement money is severely reduced.

But, advancing the secrecy theme, the governor's office is keeping its lips sealed as to how much additional money would be provided, and from where exactly it would come.

"Details of the Governor's FY 2014 budget will be released in January when it's presented to the Kansas Legislature for consideration," said Press Secretary Sherriene Jones-Sontag.

## Health Care Law Could Be Costly For Individuals

By M.D. Kittle  
Wisconsin Reporter

THE COSTS: States are just now seeing how much the Affordable Health Care Act will cost residents.

Some four months after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the core of the contentious Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and less than two weeks before the nation effectively decides the law's future at the polls, the debate over how much it will cost and just who will pay rages on.

The Obama administration and supporters of what Republicans and opponents of the health care act at large have

derisively dubbed "Obamacare" charge the ACA already has saved Americans billions of dollars and will save tens of billions going forward.

But like just about every other federal spending program, some may save, but somebody's going to have to pay.

"(T)he Affordable Care Act was designed primarily to increase coverage, not to control costs," said Jack McDermott, spokesman for the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation.

While health insurers will be asked to shoulder a big chunk of the cost of health care

reform, a Watchdog.org analysis finds increased insurance premium costs will be borne by many health care consumers. Some rate hikes already have hit, and the impact is expected to be more pronounced in 2014, when the brunt of the act goes into effect, according to insurance regulators in many of the election year battle ground states surveyed by the news organization.

"We're expecting to see some significant increases," said J.P. Wieske, public information officer and legislative liaison for the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance.

## Jeanne Ensley

Jeanne Ensley, age 67, died Sunday October 28, 2012 at Stormont-Vail Hospital in Topeka, Kansas.

She was born on March 20, 1945 in Topeka, Kansas the daughter of Arthur and Phyllis (Sherrer) Morse. She was a CMA in Nursing and later operated the Nana's Childcare.

Jeanne enjoyed being a foster parent for many years. She also had a great joy for pets, adopting several stray dogs over many years. She loved her Indian collectables and creating her own paintings. Above all,

she cherished her time with her children, grandchildren and all her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two grandchildren: Christina in 2000 and Jesse in 2008.

Survivors include her children: Kimberly Ensley and her husband Sam Ensley of Manhattan, Kansas; sons: Kevin Suwalski and his wife Melissa Suwalski of Ottawa, Kansas, David Suwalski and his wife Rose Suwalski of Denver, Colorado and Gary Suwalski of Illinois; 5 grand-

children and 1 great-grandchild. She is also survived by 3 brothers: Kevin Morse and Bob Morse, both of Topeka, Kansas and Steve Morse of Ottawa, Kansas; a sister: Sheryl Myers and her husband Gary Myers of Lakeland, Florida and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Graveside Services will be at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday November 1, 2012 at the Valley View Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Manhattan, Kansas.

Visitation will be from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. on Thursday at the Yorgensen-

Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas with the family forming a procession to the cemetery at 10:00 a.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Charity of the Donor's Choice and left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

Online condolences may be left for the family through the funeral home website at: [www.ymlfuneralhome.com](http://www.ymlfuneralhome.com).

## Kim Andrew Tomasch

Kim Andrew Tomasch, 65, of St. Joseph, Mo., formerly of Manhattan, Ks. passed away suddenly on Wednesday, October 24, 2012, in a Vicksburg, Ms. hospital. Kim's unexpected illness was swift, occurring while exploring historical sites of the Gulf Coast with his brother, Bret.

Kim was born July 14, 1947 in Lake Placid, NY, to Elmer J. and Sadie (Pelkey) Tomasch. He grew up in Manhattan,

attending local schools, graduating from Manhattan High School in 1965, and then attending Kansas State University, receiving both Bachelors and Masters degrees in history and education. He taught high school in north central Kansas before returning to Manhattan, then to Oak Ridge, TN, and finally to St. Joseph, Mo., where his love of animals channeled into employment with the Friskies Co.

Kim was knowledgeable of U.S. and World History and particularly enjoyed exploring the sites and museums on his annual vacations.

Kim was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his brothers, Lyndon (Linda) Tomasch of Olathe, Ks. and Bret Tomasch of St. Joseph, Mo.; his nieces and families Lisa (Larry) Sonsthagen, Matthew, Emily and Zachary, and Lori (Dwayne) Smith,

Marisa and Riley, and cousins and friends.

Kim was a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in St. Joseph. Graveside services and burial will be at 2:00 PM November 1, 2012 in Manhattan, where a procession will form to go to the Sunrise Cemetery.

On-line condolences can be sent to [irvinparkview.com](http://irvinparkview.com) Irvin-Parkview Funeral Home

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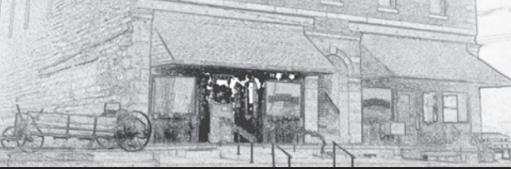
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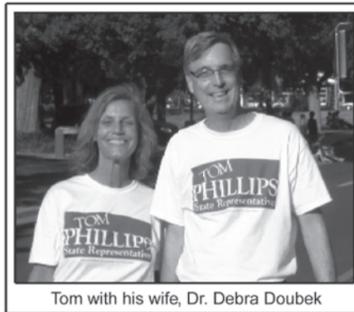
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# Property Tax Reform Sought

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback joined state lawmakers Friday at a news conference in Wichita to announce legislation that will address concerns of rising property taxes. The Property Tax Transparency Act will require property tax mill levies to be automatically lowered as property valuations go up. Local units of government who have taxing authority and want to increase their property tax revenues would be required to vote to increase the mill levy.

"Kansas families and businesses are taxed every time they turn around: income tax, sales tax, use tax, gas tax, and property tax - the list goes on and on. That's why we worked together this year to provide historic pro-growth tax relief and make our state's income tax flatter and fairer after the lost decade of jobs in Kansas," Gov. Brownback said. "The next important step we must take to make our state more competitive and to improve the financial well-being of all Kansans is to make tax increases more transparent,

especially when it comes to property tax."

Brownback stressed that the state would not be increasing the fixed property taxes it collects for school districts (20 mills) and for public property (1.5 mills). St. Sen. Susan Wagle (Wichita), Kansas House Majority Leader Arlen Siegfried (Olathe) and St. Reps. Steve Brunk, Joe Scapa and Les Osterman, all of Wichita, joined the Governor at the news conference.

A long-time advocate and sponsor of property tax reform legislation, Rep. Brunk said the bill will change the presumption of who benefits from rising property values because if values increase, mill levies will decrease to result in zero increase in property tax revenues.

"Now, instead of taxing bodies benefiting, we will protect and benefit the taxpayers," Rep Brunk said. "Just because the value of your home or business has gone up, doesn't mean that local governments' spending should go up. Voters should know when local

elected officials increase local government spending. This transparency legislation will keep property taxes steady for Kansas families and businesses."

Sen. Wagle said this is the perfect time for the state to require transparency in property taxes.

"From 1997 to 2010, property tax revenues collected in the state went from \$1.97 billion to \$3.8 billion.

That's nearly a 94% increase," Sen. Wagle said. "This transparency bill will give Kansas property owners confidence that their property taxes aren't going to increase the way they have in the past while still giving local units of government flexibility to increase property taxes if they need more tax money. They just have to vote for it publically."

The lawmakers said property tax revenue increases because of new construction or gains in personal property are not included in the comparison to the prior year's revenues from property tax, and budgets funded by property taxes could increase by the amount

derived from the new construction gains.

"The Property Tax Transparency Act represents the next logical step in our systematic reduction of the overall tax burden on Kansans. It benefits our residents and business owners by creating stability, and establishing proper accountability for board members of local taxing jurisdictions," House Majority Leader Siegfried.

The Property Tax Transparency Act comes after the Kansas Legislature and Governor Brownback lowered individual state income tax rates by 14% - 24% and eliminated the state tax income tax on non-wage business income for most small business owners. Beginning in January, hard-working Kansans will see an increase in their take home pay. Those who use the standard deduction when filing their state tax returns also will see their deductions increase from \$4,500 to \$9,000 for head of household filers and from \$6,000 to \$9,000 for married filers.

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# CO: Early Voting Shows GOP In Lead

By Gayle S. Putrich | Colorado Watchdog

DENVER — Election Day is still more than a week away according to the calendar, but nearly 10 percent of Colorado voters have already cast their ballots, and the Republicans are leading.

Republican voters have cast the most ballots in Colorado so far.

Colorado Secretary of State Scott Gessler's office reports 325,810 residents have already cast ballots. With about 3.6 million people registered in Colorado, that means more than 8.9 percent of the state's electorate has voted with 13 days to go before polls even open. The state's mail-in ballots went out Oct. 15, and in-person early voting began Monday.

Republicans are outstripping Democrats in early voting with 126,539 ballots cast compared to 120,965 from Democrats, according to Gessler's office.

Michael Berry, a political science professor at the University of Colorado-Denver, said he expects up to 30 percent of Colorado's voting population to cast

ballots before Nov. 6.

"Colorado is really about third in the nation for early voting, either voting through the mail or in person," he said. "We're getting to the point where that's kind of become the norm in terms of how people vote."

Berry said seeing more votes from Republicans than Democrats so far in Colorado is not a surprise.

"Republicans are more enthusiastic about this year's election according to polls, and so I would expect that their turnout will be higher in both early and Election Day voting," Berry said.

Could this mean Romney wins Colorado?

Berry and University of Colorado-Denver professor political science professor Kenneth Bickers have developed an election prediction model based on the Electoral College and state-by-state economic data.

They predict a win for Mitt Romney in Colorado and nationwide. Their model predicts Romney will receive 53.3 percent of the Colorado vote and 330 electoral votes to President Obama's 46.7 percent, or

208 electoral votes.

Even with early voting under way, the latest polls show Colorado still very much in play, continuing the candidate's tug o' war that has lasted all fall.

A Rasmussen poll released Monday had Romney pulling ahead in Colorado 50 percent to 46 percent for Obama, marking the first time Romney has hit the 50 percent mark in the Centennial State. The pollster's previous count had the candidates in a dead heat, with Obama edging ahead slightly, 49 percent to 48 percent. In mid-September, Rasmussen had Romney with 47 percent and Obama with 45 percent.

But a poll released Thursday by Project New America showed Obama in the lead over Romney, 46 percent to 43 percent, buoyed largely by Latino and women voters. The sample of 500 likely Colorado voters mirrors overall party registration in the state, PNA said, as "33 percent of the sample are registered Republicans, 34 percent are registered Democrats, and 33 percent are unaffiliated with either

party."

Both presidential candidates have been in battleground Colorado this week, making last-ditch appeals to voters.

Romney ended a whirlwind Tuesday that began in Florida and included a stop in Las Vegas before ending in Colorado at Red Rocks Amphitheater west of Denver. An estimated 10,000 supporters packed the outdoor concert venue for a rally that also featured running mate Rep. Paul Ryan, musician Kid Rock and an endorsement from the Colorado Rockies' Todd Helton.

Obama countered with his own rally Wednesday, gathering an estimated 16,000 supporters in Denver City Park. "I love Red Rocks more than just about anybody, but it could never hold all of you guys," he told the crowd, according to the Durango Herald. The president also hinted he may be back in Colorado before Election Day, saying "this may not be the last time you will see me," before Nov. 6.

# CO: How Many Illegal Voter Out There

By Tori Richards | Colorado Watchdog

DENVER — Six weeks ago, the secretary of state sent a mass mailing to suspected illegal voters hoping to snare a large group engaging in voter fraud.

When news that his 3,903 mailers generated a response from just 141 people who shouldn't be on the rolls, Republican Scott Gessler was roundly criticized for wasting resources and engaging in a witch-hunt of minorities.

Not to be deterred, Gessler continued, announcing Tuesday that another 300 non-citizens were identified by the Department of Homeland Security. That's 11 percent of his original list, which was compiled with the help of DMV records. Anyone who wants to obtain a driver's license and ID card in Colorado must provide proof of lawful residence or obtain a

waiver.

"It's unacceptable to have ineligible voters casting ballots in our elections," Gessler said in a statement. "We want to ensure the most accurate, reliable elections possible."

Ensuring the integrity of voter rolls is critical, but the secretary might more reasonably have worked to clean up voter lists in the 10 Colorado counties where more than 100 percent of the eligible population is registered to vote.

A Watchdog.org investigation found that Colorado is among a dozen problem states with bloated voter rolls, states where substantial numbers of registered voters are dead or have moved away, for example. Here in Colorado, about one-third of the 3.4 million registered voters haven't voted in recent elections: 31,655 voters last cast a

ballot in 2000 or earlier

Scott Gessler

265,680 have not voted since 2006

592,292 people have registered but never voted

Those numbers dwarf the anemic list prepared by the secretary of state, who did not respond to requests for comment.

And those numbers suggest that Colorado — a swing state — is wide open to the possibility of electoral fraud. Currently only 11 states have photo ID laws at polling places and Colorado is not included in that group. While some states require absolutely no identification, Colorado has taken the step to make voters show something with a name and address on it — a phone bill, utility bill or paycheck stub. Anyone who wants to vote in place of someone who

has been languishing on the rolls could easily obtain those documents from that person and cast a ballot after having also voted themselves.

For those who are more industrious, the Secretary of State can sell them a database of the people who have not voted in recent elections. It may take some know-how to wade through it all, but anyone who does this can replicate a utility bill or pay stub in their quest to elect their favorite candidate.

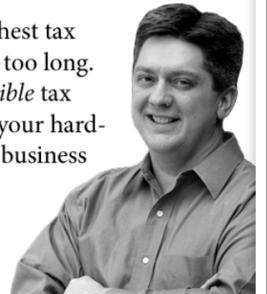
Gessler has tried somewhat to mollify this situation by challenging Denver County Clerk Debra Johnson in court when she disclosed that ballots would be mailed to inactive voters, the Denver Post reported. Johnson, a Democrat, won the battle and was soon joined by seven other county clerks who indicated they would do the same.

## Bob Reader for Kansas Senate

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# Over Easy... by Bob Strawn

You know folks, I just hate the Electoral College system called for in our Constitution to elect the president of these great and United States. I always thought one man, one vote was a good principle in a representative democracy. So, why in the world do we do it this way? Granting privilege to land over people?

It's very possible that Tuesday night president Obama will be reelected by a minority of the voters. Why? Because he'll carry enough big states, like New York, California and Ohio, to win the Electoral College but still lose the popular vote. If that happens, we have no one to blame but ourselves.

You see the distribution of Electoral votes in the College tends to over-represent people in rural states, like Kansas. This is because the number of electors for states are determined by the number of members in the House of Representatives,



Bob Strawn

which reflects the state's population size, plus the number of members in the Senate which is always two regardless of the state's population.

"The result is that in 1988, for example, the combined voting age population (3,119,000) of the seven least populous jurisdictions of Alaska, Delaware, the District of Columbia, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and

Wyoming carried the same voting strength in the Electoral College (21) as the 9,614,000 persons of voting age in Florida. Each Floridian's potential vote, then, carried about one third the weight of a potential vote in the other states listed." This according to a report published in a recent Missouri election commission study.

Well, how does that work against our interests here in Kansas? Because there are unintended consequences.

This coming week, Mitt Romney - a sure winner here - could carry Republican states by large margins and come close in 'swing' states, like Ohio and Wisconsin, but lose there and, as result, their Electoral votes as well.

He could win the popular vote by dominating the 'red states' like Kansas and coming close in the 'blue' like Minnesota, but overall - even though he wins the popular

vote - he doesn't garner enough Electoral votes to win the race.

Obama gets his second term based on the College but not the popular vote.

And that, my friends, would be an awful outcome for conservatives.

Tom Jensen, of Public Policy Polling, reported in the Washington Post: "Over the last couple weeks we've done polls finding Obama doing more than 10 points worse than 2008 in states like Connecticut, Massachusetts, Illinois, and Washington and those big shifts make a Romney popular vote win more likely but of course have no impact on the electoral college." Yikes.

Now, there are arguments for the Electoral College. It enhances minority interests, maintains a federalist system, encourages a two-party system - remember Ross Perot won 19% of vote in 1992. And Teddy Roosevelt placed second as the Bull Moose Party candidate in 1912. And, believe it or not, it's a check against the 'uneducated' masses. Folks like me, I guess. I need someone to

interpret my vote in that there College cause I'm just a dumb hick from the Kaw River sticks. Folks, the thought of placing the minority candidate in office just flies in the face of everything I know about the word 'democracy.' Even though it did happen when George W. Bush became president after garnering 550,000 less votes than inventor-of-the-internet-Gore.

Public opinion polls have long shown Americans favor abolishing the College by

majorities of 58 percent in 1967; 81 percent in 1968; and 75 percent in 1981. I'd guess the number would be very high today, as well.

So, if Barack Obama wins a second term without the popular vote, well, look in the mirror. It's our fault. And maybe we'll wake up and finally do something to fix the Constitution. Maybe, just maybe, rural states like Kansas will come around to understanding that one man, one vote may not be all that bad after all.



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# Green Energy May See Change In Wind

By Travis Perry  
Kansas Watchdog

OSAWATOMIE — The fate of a green energy tax credit could put the brakes on an accelerating expansion of renewable energy across the U.S. as developers try to avoid plunging off the fiscal cliff.

In question is the future of the Renewable Energy Production tax credit, which provides more than 2 cents per kilowatt-hour to producers who generate electricity from wind, biomass or other renewable sources.

The credit is designed to help cover the cost of plugging into the nation's coal and natural gas-powered electric grid, and it will expire at the end of this year without another extension from Congress.

Melanie Forbrick, spokeswoman for Siemens Wind Energy, said so far this year the industry has seen an 11 gigawatt expansion nationwide, almost double from the 5-6 gigawatts in previous years. The sudden increase, Forbrick said, is tied to concerns about whether the tax credit would be extended.

If Kansas Republican Rep. Tim Huelskamp has anything to say about it, that won't happen.

"Frankly I think it's time for wind to compete, and in some places they do," Huelskamp said. "I'm not opposed to wind or solar, I'm just opposed to taxpayers paying for things that may not make common sense."

After two decades, Huelskamp says, it's time to bring an end to the green tax credit, which, he thinks, has done plenty to prop up the renewable energy industry



nationwide. It's time for the green energy industry to stand on its own, he noted.

"The subsidy for wind is 88 times more (per megawatt hour) than any subsidy for traditional fossil fuels," Huelskamp said. "If you can't compete without a handout from Washington, you've got to wonder why you're in that business."

But Kansas wind energy manufacturers and developers say pulling the rug out from under the industry could chill future expansion.

Frank Costanza, executive vice president of Lenexa-based Tradewind Energy LLC, said indecision surrounding a possible extension to the tax credit has already affected his business.

"Washington has been on hold for the last year on every industrial front. It really has had a significant impact on our decisions," said Costanza, who added that his business has

enacted a hiring freeze until the situation surrounding the tax credit becomes clear.

In September, Siemens announced it would be laying off nearly 150 workers at its new Hutchinson manufacturing plant, and more than 640 others in Iowa and Florida. Forbrick said while tumbling natural gas prices played a role in the decision — aimed at helping the company stay competitive — the future of the tax credit certainly played a part.

Both Forbrick and Costanza hope a one-year extension will be passed in Congress after the election, which, they say, would give the industry time wean itself from the subsidy.

"When you build an industry around a concept ... we all become accustomed to using that, and it becomes more or less ingrained," Costanza said. "Now that we're looking at the end of this, nobody has had time to prepare."

Huelskamp said that's any-

thing but the case.

"The law has been in effect for five years, and they've had five years to figure it out," Huelskamp said, referring to the tax credit's most recent extension.

Huelskamp stands at odds with Kansas Republican Gov. Sam Brownback, who voiced support for the tax credit at an American Wind Energy Association convention June in Atlanta.

"Kansas understands the positive impact that wind energy can make," Brownback told the convention.

"More than 1,200 new, high-paying manufacturing jobs have been announced in Kansas in the last two years directly related to renewable energy," he said. "Kansas also has more wind-energy construction projects under way than any other state ... and nearly \$3 billion of new investment from 2011 to the end of 2012."

Forbrick said Siemens has no plans for future layoffs if the tax credit is not renewed.

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## Riley County Commission Minutes

October 22, 2012

The Board of Marshall County Commissioners met in regular adjourned session with Thomas K. Holle Chairman; Charles R. Loiseau and Robert S. Connell members and Sonya L. Stohs, County Clerk present.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

The Board opened the meeting with the flag salute.

The minutes and agenda were approved as presented upon a motion by Robert S. Connell seconded by Thomas K. Holle. Unanimous.

Agency on Aging Heather Ruhkamp met with the Board to discuss the leasing of a new copier. No decision was made.

Emergency Management Director William

Schwindamann Jr. met with the Board. Charles R. Loiseau moved, seconded by Robert S. Connell to approve the Chairman signing two memorandums of understanding transferring property ownership to Marshall County for 2009 Homeland Security grant ID software. Unanimous.

Charles R. Loiseau moved, seconded by Robert S. Connell to approve the Home City Sewer bills and pay them from the appropriate funds available. Unanimous.

Robert S. Connell moved, seconded by Charles R. Loiseau to approve the following purchase orders.

Unanimous.

Brown County Treasurer, Hiawatha, KS for Marshall County share of 4-County budget \$723.08-General (District Court) fund-P.O. # 4280 Election Systems and Software, Chicago, IL for General Election ballots \$2,029.30-Election fund-P.O. # 4262

Vicki Sue Gross, Marysville arrived at 9:20 a.m. to observe the meeting.

Public Works Administrator Mike Craig and Public Works Coordinating Supervisor Larry Polson met with the Board.

Thomas K. Holle moved, seconded by Charles R. Loiseau to approve the following purchase order. Unanimous.

F & H Iron Works, Marysville, KS for material and labor to build recycle crate \$766.69-Recycling fund-P.O. # 107161

Oketo City Councilmember's Darrell Cook and Ron Schroller met with the Board about sharing the cost of having 100 feet of Mill Street which is half Marshall County half City of Oketo repaired. The Board asked Public Works Administrator Mike Craig to go view the road and report back to them next week.

Robert S. Connell moved, seconded by Charles R. Loiseau to go into executive session for five minutes at 10:17 a.m. to discuss matters of non-elected personnel with Public Works Administrator Mike Craig and Public Works Coordinating Supervisor Larry Polson present. Unanimous.

Charles R. Loiseau moved, seconded by Robert S. Connell to approve a manual payroll and related vouchers, as presented, and issued manual warrants from the respective funds. Unanimous.

Thomas K. Holle moved, seconded by Robert S. Connell

to approve the Neighborhood Revitalization application for Shannon Swearingen, Blue Rapids, KS with the preconstruction pictures that were provided by the applicant. Unanimous.

Public Works Administrator Mike Craig met with the Board to discuss postponing of buying a new motor grader.

Robert S. Connell moved, seconded by Charles R. Loiseau to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m. Unanimous. The next scheduled meeting will be Monday, October 29, 2012 starting at 9:00 a.m.

### The Board of County Commissioners

The Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners met at the Riley County Plaza East Building October 25, 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

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk; Joan Strickler, League of Women Voters; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Ron Wells; Bob Boyd; and Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer, attended.

Lewis moved to approve the Purchase Authorization for a 2013 ¾ ton 4x4 extended cab pickup truck in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the Parks Department. Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

Lewis moved to approve the Riley County Capital Improvement Program, Certification of Project Authority for the purchase of a 4WD SUV replacement in the amount of \$40,000.00 for EMS. Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

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

Darci Paull, a new hire, as a GIS Technician, in the GIS Department, at a grade K step 2, at \$17.61 per hour.

Ashley McEachern, a new hire, as an On-Call Juvenile Intake, in the Community Corrections Department (addition to On-Call rotation).

Amanda Sweet, a new hire, as an On-Call Juvenile Intake, in the Community Corrections Department (addition to On-Call rotation).

Lewis moved to approve the minutes of October 22, 2012 as amended. Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

9:00 Barry Wilkerson, County Attorney

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Joan Strickler, League of Women Voters;

Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Ron Wells; Bob Boyd; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

Wilkerson presented a County Attorney's Office staff report.

9:15 Budget and Planning Committee - Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Joan Strickler, League of Women Voters; Ron Wells; Bob Boyd; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

Shepek presented a CIP, county building, economic development, and ½ cent sales tax update.

9:28 Robert Nall, Information Technology/GIS Director

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Joan Strickler, League of Women Voters; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Ron Wells; Bob Boyd; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

Nall presented the Riley County IT/GIS Department staff report.

Nall said the judges have requested that IT offer a new wireless network to accommodate the various attorneys because they are going to discontinue the use and support of a law library. The judges also have stated they will pay the monthly cost for the internet services required. At this time, the cost of the connecting would be \$80.00 a month. The judges also want to use iPads with cellular data for the purpose of expediting warrant requests. They also stated they would pay the monthly fee for this service as well; it would be at a rate of \$39.99 per month with no penalty of canceling the contract early.

The Board agreed by consensus to allow IT proceed with the wireless network for the Courts.

Nall expressed concern with exceeding the IT budget due to implementations at the Health Department.

Shepek stated the Board was aware some departments may exceed their budgets with the implementation of the Health Department.

Nall stated he would like to make the official department name IT/GIS Department.

The Board agreed the IT department be designated as the IT/GIS Department.

9:50 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

Administrative Work Session

Joan Strickler, League of Women Voters; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Ron Wells; Bob Boyd; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

Holeman discussed the KAC draft legislative policy docu-

ment.

10:10 Jennifer Wilson, County Extension Director

Joan Strickler, League of Women Voters; Bob Boyd; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

Wilson said Kansas statute requires that each county Extension Council hold an annual election to select new members for each of the four program development committees (Agriculture, 4-H, Family & Consumer Sciences, Community Development). Three people will be elected to each PDC and will serve a two-year term. The program development committees work with the local Extension agents to develop the Extension programs that are delivered in our county.

Candidates are:

Agriculture FCS  
4-H Comm. Dev  
Tim Kilgore  
Jim Rousch  
Mark Scott Julie Anderson

Alicia Klucas  
Alicia Pacenka Delcincia Collins

Lisa Stork  
Kelly Wendland Trent

Armbrust  
Diana Hargrave  
Julie Spiegel

Candidate information has been mailed to all those on the Extension Council mailing list and will be available at the Extension Office.

Extension Council Elections will be conducted October 29-November 2, 2012, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily, at the Riley County Extension Office, and November 4 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in conjunction with the 4-H Achievement Celebration.

The Extension Council Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 28, 6:30 p.m., at Pottorf Hall. The Extension Council will elect board members and officers, recognize outgoing board members, and the Extension Council Appreciation Award winners that evening.

Wilson said they are in the process of recruiting volunteers for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. They are looking for dedicated individuals who are interested in making a difference in the community by participating in the program as greeters, tax preparers, or site coordinators. VITA site will operate from late January to mid-April. Training is provided. If you would like to volunteer or need more information, visit [www.riley.ksu.edu](http://www.riley.ksu.edu), or contact Jennifer Wilson at [jrwilson@ksu.edu](mailto:jrwilson@ksu.edu) or 785-537-6350. Volunteers who would like to help are asked to register by December 1. There will be a volunteer orientation in December.

Wilson stated Extension has been assisting residents with Medicare open enrollment.

10:13 Lewis moved to adjourn. Johnson seconded. Carried 2-0.

## Straight At State Match

Riley/Pottawatomie 4-H Straight Shooters Participate in Fall State Match Competitions

The RL/PT 4-H Straight Shooters participated in the 4-H Shooting Sports State Match for Archery, Muzzleloading, Small Bore Pistol and Small Bore Rifle held October 6, 2012 at Capitol City Gun Club in Topeka. The RL/PT 4-H Straight Shooters were represented by 14 of the over 230 participants competing in Archery, Muzzleloading, and Small Bore Rifle.

Archery participants included Dylan Anderson, Leonardville, Austin Becker, Manhattan, Nelsa Beckman and Tyler Beckman, Manhattan, Brady Blanka, Wamego, Daniel Dietrich, Wamego, Will Dulohery, St. George, Colby Figge, Wamego, Sam Hermes, Belvue, Garrison Olds, Manhattan and Katherine Sundgren, Leonardville.

In Junior Recurve Archery, Anderson placed 17th in FITA, 15th in 3-D, and 17th aggregate. T. Beckman placed 13th in FITA and 15th aggregate. Dulohery placed 12th in 3-D and 20th aggregate. In Junior Olympic Archery, T. Beckman placed 7th in FITA, 10th in 3-D, and 11th aggregate. Dulohery placed 2nd in FITA,

9th in 3-D, and 3rd aggregate. In Junior Compound Archery, Figge placed 8th in FITA, 5th in 3-D, and 5th aggregate.

In Senior Recurve Archery, Becker placed 6th in FITA, 6th in 3-D and 5th aggregate. D. Dietrich placed 5th in 3-D and 20th aggregate. Olds placed 15th in 3-D. The Recurve Archery team of Anderson, Becker, D. Dietrich and Olds placed 5th. The Compound Archery team of Blanka, Figge, N. Beckman, and Sundgren placed 12th.

Muzzleloading participants were Daniel and Jacob Dietrich, Wamego. J. Dietrich placed 8th in paper, 6th in silhouette, and 6th aggregate. D. Dietrich placed 12th in paper, 3rd in silhouette, and 7th aggregate. The Muzzleloading Team composed of the Dietrich brothers placed 2nd.

Members competing in Small Bore Rifle were Austin Becker, Matthew Plummer, Wamego, and Wade Stroda, Manhattan. Stroda placed 3rd in prone, 1st in standing, 1st in kneeling, 1st in silhouette, and 1st aggregate, receiving the Small Bore Rifle Top Shot award. Becker tied for 17th in prone, placed 6th in standing, 7th in kneeling, tied for 10th in silhouette, and placed 10th aggregate. Plummer tied for

17th in prone, placed 14th in standing, tied for 10th in silhouette, and placed 15th aggregate. The Small Bore Rifle team of Becker and Plummer placed 3rd.

The RL/PT 4-H Straight Shooters had 5 youth participate in the 4-H Shooting Sports State Match in the discipline of Hunting Skills. Over 125 4-Hers participated in this match held for Shotgun and Hunting Skills on October 13, 2012 at Ark Valley Gun Club in Wichita.

Hunting Skills participants included Austin Becker, Daniel and Jacob Dietrich, Sam Hermes, and Cade Schanks, Randolph. In the Junior Division, Hermes placed 2nd in Hunting Knowledge, 2nd in Wildlife ID, 4th in Compass/Orienteering, and 2nd aggregate. Schanks placed 6th in Hunting Knowledge, 5th in Wildlife ID, 5th in Compass/Orienteering, and 6th aggregate. In the Senior Division, D. Dietrich placed 1st in Hunting Knowledge, 2nd in Compass/Orienteering, 4th in Wildlife ID, and 1st aggregate, receiving the Hunting Skills Top Shot award. Becker placed 2nd in Wildlife ID, 3rd in Hunting Knowledge, 3rd in Compass/Orienteering, and 3rd aggregate. J. Dietrich placed 1st in Wildlife ID, 2nd in Hunting Knowledge, 4th in Compass/Orienteering, and 4th aggregate. The Hunting Skills team of Becker and J. Dietrich placed 2nd.

These State Matches concluded the 2011-2012 4-H year for the RL/PT 4-H Straight Shooters. The spring match season will begin in January 2013.

The RL/PT 4-H Straight Shooters are sponsored by Riley and Pottawatomie County Extension Councils, Riley County Fish and Game, Kansas State University Military Science Department, Kaw Valley Archery, Kaw Valley Muzzleloaders Association, Daisy Outdoor Products, Fancy Creek Range, Kansas State Rifle Association, Kansas Muzzleloaders Association, National Wildlife Turkey Federation, Flint Hills Pheasants Forever, Justin Corbet Foundation, Friends of NRA, and all Shooting Sports parents, families and instructors.

## Railroad Closing In Manhattan Next Week

The Union Pacific Railroad will be closing multiple locations for repairs during the next two weeks. Motorist should use alternate routes, to avoid closures, while the Union Pacific Railroad performs this preventative maintenance work. The chart below indicates the date and location of each closure.

Street Name	Jurisdiction	Date(s)
Moehlman Street	Riley County	11-1-2012
Pecan Circle	City of Manhattan	11-2-2012
PVT	City of Manhattan	11-3-2012

Delaware Avenue  
City of Manhattan  
11-4-2012

16th Street  
City of Manhattan  
11-5-2012

15th Street  
City of Manhattan  
11-6-2012

Manhattan Avenue  
City of Manhattan  
11-7-2012 and 11-8-2012  
The only except to the closure list is Pecan Circle. Union Pacific Railroad will maintain a temporary surface to allow business on the east side of Rosencutter Street to have access to their property while maintenance is performed. Please obey all traffic control signs and do not drive around barricades while construction crews are working on the cross-

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# Colorado Investigation: Dozens Of Police And Fire Pension “Double-Dippers”

By Todd Shepherd  
Colorado Watchdog

Dozens of retired police and firefighters are pulling down five-figure pensions each year while simultaneously going back to work full-time for the state of Colorado and earning a full-time salary, a process commonly known as “double-dipping.”

The vast majority of public employees like teachers and state employees receive their retirement through the state’s public pension, the Public Employment Retirement Association (PERA), but most of the state’s fire and police workers participate in a separate pension plan and plan administrator.

An analysis by Colorado Watchdog cross-referenced a 2011 database of Fire and Police Pension Association of Colorado\* (FPPA) recipients against another database listing all workers and salaries for the State of Colorado for the same year. The results lent new meaning to an old expression: “not bad for government work.”

Consider Ronald Sloan, currently the director of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. In 2011, Sloan earned a salary of \$135,000. However, because Sloan was also a vested retiree of a pension managed by the Fire and Police Pension Association of Colorado, he was simultaneously pulling down \$67,000 in retirement income. The two income streams together made Sloan’s annual income just over \$200,000 per year. By comparison, Gov. John Hickenlooper’s annual salary is about \$90,000 per year.

Critics say double-dipping adds extra stress to public pension plans at a time when many around the country already are under pressure. It also could lead to politicizing career decisions such as who is able to keep certain jobs despite being “retired.” Double-dipping has also become a hot issue in other states, such as New Jersey, where recent investigations by New Jersey Watchdog have shown that 17 of the state’s 21 sheriffs are also collecting a pension benefit as well.

According to the FPPA, the unfunded liabilities for the Denver Police State Assisted Plan (managed by the FPPA) were almost \$207-million at the beginning of this year.

While legislatures around the country have attempted to restrict or even penalize various double-dip scenarios, the case of Sloan and other Colorado FPPA double-dippers is completely legal.

Of the 36 double-dippers identified by Colorado Watchdog, 13 are retired from the Denver Police Department.

Some say this particular double-dip scenario doesn’t cost the taxpayers because it is “revenue neutral.” Translation: someone like Sloan would pull down his retirement even if he was not employed full-time,

Person	State Salary	Annual Pension	Combined income
1	\$54,864	\$42,870.10	\$97,734.10
2	\$86,400	\$28,214.64	\$114,614.64
3	\$39,888	\$44,421.60	\$84,309.60
4	\$61,344	\$39,084.46	\$100,428.46
5	\$46,680	\$49,440.13	\$96,120.13
6	\$136,668	\$83,249.64	\$219,917.64
7	\$74,316	\$32,241.96	\$106,557.96
8	\$46,548	\$33,390.36	\$79,938.36
9	\$103,056	\$85,515.24	\$188,571.24
10	\$34,536	\$38,319.24	\$72,855.24
11	\$39,276	\$40,671.48	\$79,947.48
12	\$37,068	\$50,237.76	\$87,305.76
13	\$38,748	\$44,545.44	\$83,293.44
14	\$62,628	\$42,336.84	\$104,964.84
15	\$78,540	\$46,781.35	\$125,321.35
16	\$59,736	\$36,025.32	\$95,761.32
17	\$39,588	\$42,374.40	\$81,962.40
18	\$110,508	\$86,805.96	\$197,313.96
19	\$54,132	\$57,112.76	\$111,244.76
20	\$39,276	\$36,626.96	\$75,902.96
21	\$80,400	\$76,559.28	\$156,959.28
22	\$41,232	\$38,098.93	\$79,330.93
23	\$128,592	\$49,968.96	\$178,560.96
24	\$68,160	\$61,481.40	\$129,641.40
25	\$95,244	\$49,233.12	\$144,477.12
26	\$135,000	\$66,983.88	\$201,983.88
27	\$36,708	\$52,278.84	\$88,986.84
28	\$78,540	\$87,496.92	\$166,036.92
29	\$61,428	\$58,043.68	\$119,471.68
30	\$71,748	\$42,870.10	\$114,618.10
31	\$99,600	\$96,360.96	\$195,960.96
32	\$47,532	\$49,034.01	\$96,566.01
33	\$68,436	\$52,068.92	\$120,504.92
34	\$64,884	\$36,621.60	\$101,505.60
35	\$44,107	\$60,028.26	\$104,135.26
36	\$61,896	\$39,288.00	\$101,184.00

Above is a list of the 36 double-dippers identified by Watchdog, showing their annual income from the state, alongside their annual pension income.

(Free Press Editor’s Note: The State of Kansas has a similar retirement plan. Police, Fireman, Teachers can retire from one job and work for the state in another position. In some cases they take the same job that they had before. Teachers must retire from one school district and then go to work for another district as a teacher.)

and the state would still be paying a salary for a director of the Colorado Bureau of Investigations.

However double-dipping is not revenue neutral to the individual. It helps them collect tens of thousands more, perhaps even hundreds of thousands more in income over a lifetime.

The double-dippers identified by Colorado Watchdog are simultaneously accruing PERA pension benefits as well. This means someone who already has a full pension as promised by a government in Colorado will also soon be enjoying pension checks from PERA, adding more stress to an already overburdened system.

Colorado Watchdog submitted a series of questions to Sloan, including whether he considers it ethical to draw a taxpayer-supported pension while earning a taxpayer-sup-

ported salary; and whether retirement benefits should be reserved only for the truly retired.

Sloan did not respond to any of our questions. Officials with FPPA also declined to comment.

If the Colorado Fire and Police Pension Association were a part of the state’s largest public pension, PERA, the worker would have to severely restrict his annual hours of work performed, or their pension payouts would be penalized.

Katie Kaufmanis, spokeswoman for PERA explained, “The reason for [these restrictions on double-dipping] is that if members know they can retire and return to work for a PERA employer, that situation encourages members to retire earlier than they otherwise might have – potentially requiring PERA to pay benefits longer and increasing

PERA’s liabilities.”

Performing a similar double-dipping analysis on PERA would be impossible at this point because PERA does not make its beneficiary list public. In September of 2011, State Treasurer Walker Stapleton, also an ex-officio member of the PERA board, sued PERA for access to a list of recipients, and their corresponding monthly or annual benefits from PERA.

Above is a list of the 36 double-dippers identified by Watchdog, showing their annual income from the state, alongside their annual pension income. Because this story is more about the “system” of double-dipping rather than the individuals who are doing it, we are declining to publish names at this point. Mr. Sloan was used simply as a factual illustration.

# Flint Harvest Launches Capital Fund

Flint Harvest LLC has announced the formation of a new seed capital fund to invest in local entrepreneurial businesses.

“I have worked with start-up companies in Manhattan for more than a decade. It is clear that we need a more robust pool of private capital to help them grow,” says Bob Reader, President of Flint Harvest.

According to Reader, there are “good people with good ideas, but little organized private capital to make informed investment decisions.” Most investments are done on a “who you know” or “friends

and family” basis.

The hurdles to private capital investment are not just on the side of the startups. Most investors are focused on growing their own businesses and do not have the time to seek out and identify the best investment opportunities in the region.

This seed fund is a first step to establishing managed private capital in the region. This particular fund will focus on providing funds to K-State students and alumni with sound business ideas.

“Investments in the startups will be flexible and could be

structured as equity, debt or royalty-bearing contracts,” said Reader.

Phil Howe, founder of Kansas State Bank, is a part of this fund and excited about its potential. “Every year, K-State brings some of the most talented students from around the State and even around the world to our town. Many of them have demonstrated a strong business aptitude. This fund is just one way to help keep those bright students here, contributing to our region and enabling them to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams.”

“This for-profit fund is not

only looking for a strong positive return, but is also trying to help make a positive difference in the community by helping develop local small businesses that can create jobs within the region,” said Reader.

Flint Harvest LLC was founded in 2010 by Bob Reader to provide management services to grow companies. Services include assisting entrepreneurs and established businesses with issues related to private capital, sales & marketing and business development.

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# Free Press Big 12 Sports

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## 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
10/13/12	at Iowa State * Ames, Iowa	27-21 6-0
10/20/12	at West Virginia *	52-14 7-0
10/27/12	vs. Texas Tech *	55-24 8-0
11/03/12	vs. Oklahoma State * Bill Snyder Family Stadium	
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	5-0	8-0
Oklahoma	3-1	5-2
Oklahoma State	3-1	5-2
Texas	2-2	6-2
Texas Tech	3-2	6-2
West Virginia	2-2	5-2
Iowa State	2-3	5-3
TCU	2-3	5-3
Baylor	0-4	3-4
Kansas	0-5	1-7

## Big 12 Conference Schedule

Date	Home Team	Score	Away Team
* Sat, Nov 03	Kansas State		Oklahoma State
	Manhattan, Kan.	TBA	
* Sat, Nov 03	Iowa State		Oklahoma
	Ames, Iowa	TBA	
* Sat, Nov 03	Baylor		Kansas
	Waco, Texas	TBA	
* Sat, Nov 03	Texas Tech		Texas
	Lubbock, Texas	TBA	
* Sat, Nov 03	West Virginia		TCU
	Morgantown, W. Va.	TBA	
* Sat, Nov 10	TCU		Kansas State
	Fort Worth, Texas	TBA	
* Sat, Nov 10	Oklahoma State		West Virginia
	Stillwater, Okla.	TBA	
* Sat, Nov 10	Oklahoma		Baylor
	Norman, Okla.	TBA	
* Sat, Nov 10	Texas		Iowa State
	Austin, Texas	TBA	
* Sat, Nov 10	Texas Tech		Kansas
	Lubbock, Texas	TBA	
* Sat, Nov 17	Baylor		Kansas State
	Waco, Texas	TBA	
* Sat, Nov 17	Kansas		Iowa State
	Lawrence, Kan.	TBA	
* Sat, Nov 17	West Virginia		Oklahoma
	Morgantown, W. Va.	TBA	

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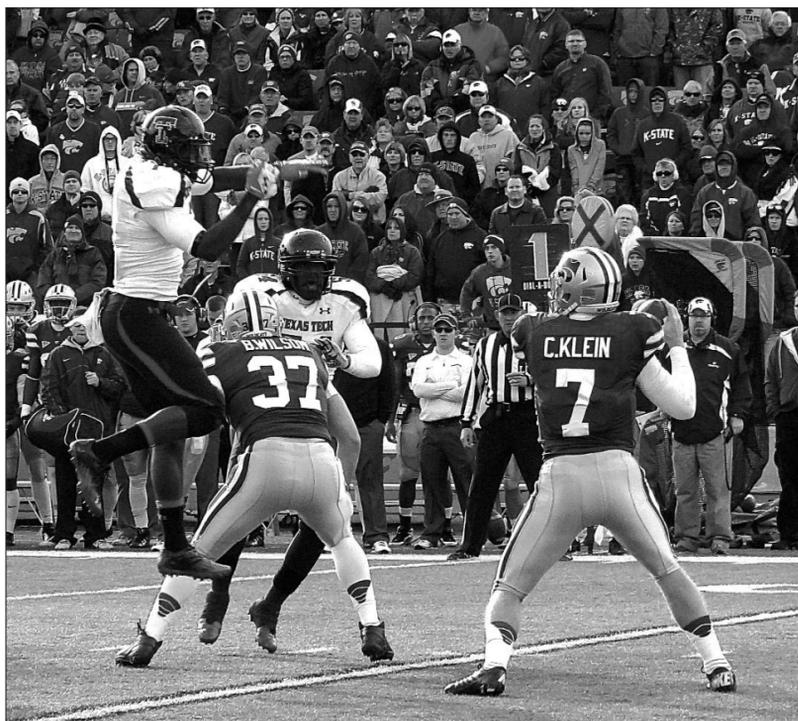
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Kansas State's Tyler Lockett (16) goes up high to bring down a Collin Klein pass for another K-State first down. (Photo by Ben Brake)



Collin Klein (7) finds a hole in the line for yardage. (Photo by Ben Brake)



Collin Klein (7) beat the defense on this play for a first down. (Photo by Jon A. Barke)



Jarard Milo (23) goes for the interception but it fell to the ground. (Photo by Ben Brake)



The Flags were out after every K-State score. (Photo by Jon A. Brake)

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Kansas State's Running back Angelo Pease scores a touchdown. Xavier Gates (73) provides the final block. (Photo by Ben Brake)



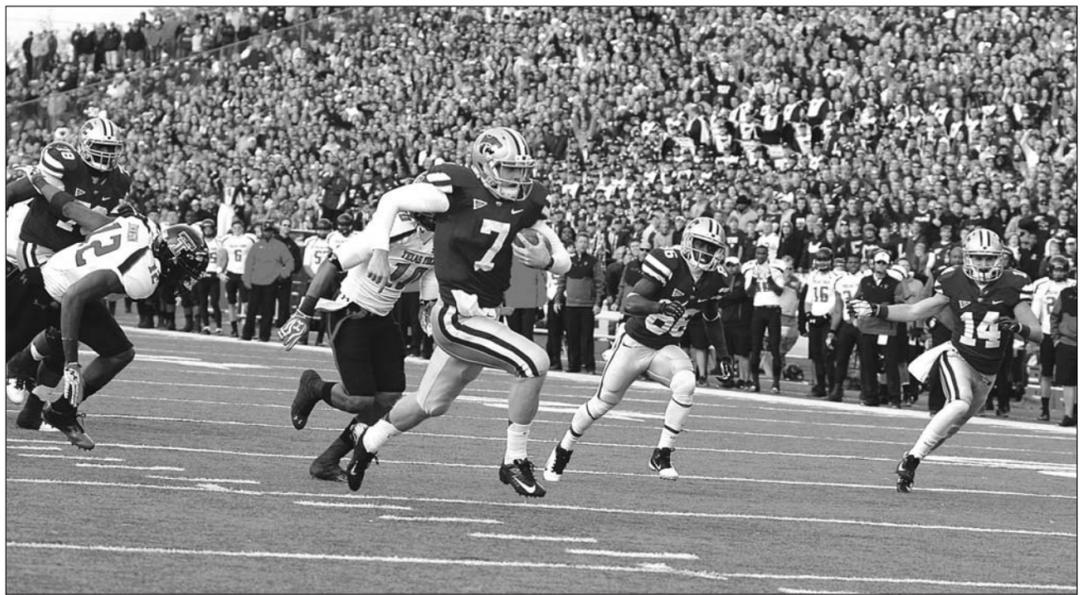
John Hubert (33) is coming through. (Photo by Tonya Ricklefs)



Defensive Back Randall Evans (15) picks up a Tech fumble and runs for a TD. (Photo by Tonya Ricklefs)



Anthony Cantele (10) tacks on another extra point after a TD (Photo by Jon A. Brake)



It's another touchdown by K-State Quarterback Collin Klein (7). (Photo by Ben Brake)

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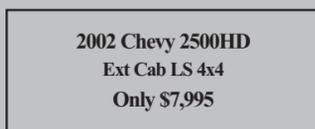


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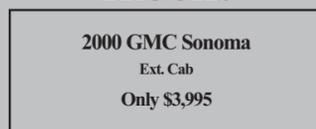


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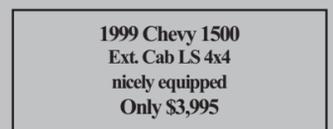
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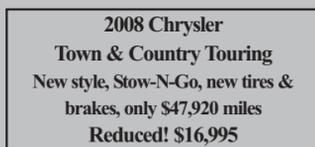


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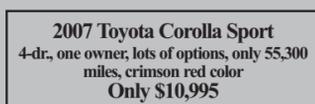


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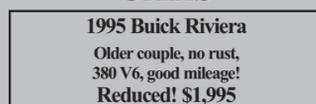


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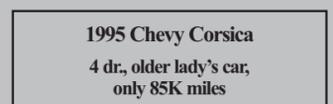
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# Kansas State 55 - Texas Tech 24



Kansas State's Meshak Williams (42) (left side of photo) gets the block on a Texas Tech field goal. The (Photo by Jon A. Brake)



Ryan Miller (44) gets the QB. (Photo by Tonya Ricklefs)



Good defense by K-State's Allen Chapman (3) and Arthur Brown (4). (Photo by Ben Brake)



Chris Harper (3) picks up 1st down. (Photo by Ben Brake)



KSU's John Hubert (33) goes for a TD. (Photo by Jon Brake)



K-State Quarterback Collin Klein (7) picks up yardage. (Photo by Tonya Ricklefs)

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