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Excavation of the jet grouting operation testing area in River Pond State Park exposed these concrete columns.

Big Dam Foolishness

The Tuttle Creek Dam Safety Assurance Program, 2005-2012

When Tuttle Creek Dam was designed, there was no recognized need for specific earthquake evaluations of soil structures, and the techniques to perform the evaluations had not yet been developed. Little was known about Kansas earthquakes, but recent advances in earthquake soils engineering and improved knowledge of Midwest earthquakes enabled the Corps to conduct state of the art seismic evaluations, beginning in the late 1980s.

An intensive study published by the Corps of Engineers in 2002 concluded that Tuttle Creek Dam could be significantly damaged to the point of failure after a major earthquake. The probability of an earthquake of the size necessary to damage the dam is very small, but due to

the potential consequences, the Corps decided to modify the subsoil structure of the dam to enable it to withstand the maximum probable earthquake.

Much of the foundation under Tuttle Creek Dam consisted of sandy foundation material that would essentially liquefy during a moderate to large earthquake, resulting in slumping of the embankment and ultimately the loss of the dam's integrity. To address this concern, it was recommended that the upstream foundation be stabilized by jet grouting, and the downstream foundation by deep soil mixing.

Jet grouting employs a technology which displaces subsoils with low strength concrete using a specialized high pressure drill rig. The contractor tested the jet grouting operation in River Pond State Park, which created rows of large

concrete columns. These tests revealed that this technique was incompatible with the particular soil conditions onsite at the dam, so the Corps ended consideration of this method of treatment. Subsequent independent reviews found that the upstream slope would remain stable without treatment.

Downstream work consisted of excavation of 351 trenches, 65 feet deep, four feet wide, and 45 feet long, which were filled with cement/bentonite slurry. This mixture replaced much of the liquefiable soil, serving to strengthen and stabilize the foundation. In addition, the open relief well collector ditch was buried to improve stability on the downstream side of the dam.

Other major parts of the overall project included placing new riprap (large rock protection)

downstream slopes of the dam, strengthening and painting the spillway gates, installing extra seismic monitoring devices as part of a temporary dam failure warning system, and construction of several new campgrounds, to offset the loss of those near the dam which were directly impacted by the work.

The overall project cost was \$175 million, which was \$75 million under the original budget and two years ahead of schedule.

The Future
The lake and the policies that govern it are constantly evolving to meet the needs of the public. Future development and management of the land and water resources of Tuttle Creek Lake is a continuing challenge, one which will be met by the US Army Corps of Engineers.



Four of the 351 trenches constructed to stabilize Tuttle Creek Dam.

Kansas Teen Recovers From Rare Stroke

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — A 16-year-old Douglas County girl is spending this summer working on her skills. But instead of brushing up on courses like other high school students, Molly Ogden is relearning how to walk and talk after suffering a debilitating stroke last fall.

The Lawrence Journal World reports (<http://bit.ly/19E3yN9>) Ogden's mother found her the morning of Nov. 5 in the bathroom unable to speak and the right side of her face drooping.

She was rushed to Lawrence Memorial Hospital and then taken to the Kansas University Hospital where she was placed in a coma and a clot was removed.

Prospects for survival were slim, doctors said.

"She's just an extremely beautiful girl, very talented, athletic, popular, smart. She just had everything going for her," said her father, Brad. "For her to know what she's lost and still be able to maintain

such a good attitude and keep a smile on her face is what sticks out to me more than anything. Most people, this would probably just crush their spirits."

Doctors aren't certain what caused Ogden to suffer the stroke, though her parents blame a blow to the head she took the day before while playing football. While doctors don't disagree, they also point to the open-heart surgery she had as an infant and a condition she suffers from that make her susceptible to blood clots.

Stroke is among the top 10 causes of childhood deaths in the United States. An estimated 3,000 to 6,000 children suffer strokes each year, but it is still rare enough that parents and doctors can overlook or misdiagnose symptoms.

The blood clot she suffered in November cut off the blood supply to her brain. The damage revealed by X-rays shows that as much as 40 percent of her brain is gone and has been replaced by spinal fluid.

Editorial City Giving Business A Try

Editorial

By Jon A. Brake

By now we have heard all or most of the stories and strange questions that the IRS ask the Tea Party Organization.

Like:

1. "Provide a list of all issues that are important to your organization."
2. "Please explain in detail the derivation of your organization's name."
3. "The names of the donors, contributors, and grantors."
4. "Provide copies of the handbills you distributed at your monthly meetings."

We know that the IRS will visit any business or individual to "Help them."

What kind of Government Agency needs to know if your family "encourages backyard wildlife."

Now another Government Agency has come out with an application which asks some very strange questions.

Like:

1. "Does the family recycle?"
2. "Does the family compost?"
3. "Does the family do anything to encourage backyard wildlife?"
4. "Does the family go camping?"
5. "Does the family go on walks/hikes?"
6. "Does the family spend time outside 3+ days a week?"
7. "Does the family have any pets?"

Could it be the IRS? Do you think it would be the Homeland Security Agency? No! It's our own Manhattan, Kansas Sunset Zoo.

According to their Web Site: "The Zoo Sprouts is a new and unique daycare option for children in the Manhattan area that incorporates nature intimately throughout the curriculum as a tool to assist children develop physically, cognitively, and socially. This program operates year-round, Monday through Friday with drop off as early as 7:30am and pick up as late as 5:30pm."

On October 18th of last year the Free Press ran an editorial telling about a new Day Care Program at the Zoo. We were hoping that the City Commission would do something about it.

We were told in October that the Zoo Child Care would not be in completion with local Child Care centers because they were going to charge much higher rates.

In fact the \$765 per child per month is equal to the three Child Care Centers that the Free Press called on Tuesday.

In October We said: "Government should not compete with private business. With the City more than \$270 Million in debt, City Staff should be thinking about ways to cut spending not going into competition with private business

Resurfacing Project Starts

The resurfacing project I of a 22.52-mile stretch of U.S. 24 in Riley and Pottawatomie Counties started Monday. Resurfacing work will take place on the following portions of U.S. 24: from the east U.S. 77 junction east to the K-13 junction (Riley County); from the east Riley County line to Excel Road (Pottawatomie County); and the eastbound lanes only from Excel Road to Wamego (Pottawatomie County). Project work includes a 1.5-inch surface mill and 1.5-inch asphalt overlay on mainline lanes. Work will take place during daylight hours, Monday through Friday, with some occasional Saturday work. The work will be coordinated so that all lanes will be opened to traffic by one-half before sunset.

Beginning on Monday, June 10, eastbound and westbound U.S. 24 will be reduced to one lane for both directions as crews begin work at the north end of the project at the east U.S. 77 junction and move south. Traffic will be reduced to one lane for both directions on the two-lane portions and reduced to one lane each direction on the four-lane portions of U.S. 24, along with intermittent closures of adjacent cross roads during the project work hours.

Traffic will be directed through the project work zone on the two-lane portions via a pilot car and flagger operation and on the four-lane portions

via lane closures. Drivers should expect delays of up to 15 minutes maximum and are encouraged to use alternate routes, if possible. There will be a 12-foot lane width restriction and a reduced speed limit on the portions that are directed via the pilot car and flagger operations. No large structures or superloads will be allowed through the project work zone.

The Kansas Department of Transportation urges all motorists to be alert, obey the warning signs, and "Give 'Em a Brake!" when approaching and driving through the project work zone.

Shilling Construction Co., Inc. & Subsidiaries (Manhattan, KS) is the primary contractor on this resurfacing project with a total contract cost of \$3.053 million. Overall project work is scheduled to be completed in mid-October 2013, weather permitting.

This project is funded by T-WORKS, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature in May 2010. Find out more about this and other T-WORKS projects at: <http://kdotapp.ksdot.org/TWORKS/>.

For more information on this resurfacing project, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340, or Jerry Haug, Wamego Construction Engineer, at (785) 456-2353. (KDOT Project #24-106 KA 2898-01)

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State Workers Overtime Continues To Increase

By FRED MANN
The Wichita Eagle

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A therapist at Larned State Hospital made nearly \$51,000 in overtime last year, and a licensed practical nurse at the hospital made an extra \$40,000, according to state records.

Several highway patrol troopers racked up \$26,000 to \$28,000 in overtime.

Some state workers have been putting in long hours lately. Overtime paid by state agencies rose 25 percent from 2010 to 2012 and is on track to increase further this year, records show.

Overtime pay increased from \$10.2 million in fiscal 2010 to \$12.7 million in fiscal 2012. It was at slightly more than \$13 million through May 25 of this fiscal year, which ends June 30, according to figures released by the Kansas Department of Administration. State agencies have paid a total of \$46.5 million in overtime from 2010 through 2013, The Wichita Eagle reported (<http://bit.ly/14qPGU5>).

The Kansas Department of Transportation, the Kansas Highway Patrol, and the state's mental health hospitals and corrections facilities lead in overtime pay.

Reasons for overtime vary by agency. While staff shortage is a common theme, most agencies cite factors specific to them as reasons their workers are having long days and, often, nights.

KDOT, which tops the list

with \$11 million in overtime since 2010, said the bulk of its overtime pay is due to inspections at construction sites all over the state. The state's new T-Works program, which included more than 30 major highway projects, kicked off in 2010.

State officials said the mental health hospitals in Larned and Osawatomie, as well as correctional facilities, have battled high job-vacancy rates, forcing long overtime hours for employees.

The problems are especially acute at Larned State Hospital, where workers were paid \$5.8 million in overtime during the four-year period. The overtime pay at Larned, with 778 workers, was second to KDOT, which has 2,531 workers.

Three of the top four state employees in overtime pay for the calendar year 2012 — and eight of the top 20 — worked at the hospital, according to an Eagle analysis of state salary records.

Most of the overtime at the hospitals is being forced upon workers, said Mike Marvin, executive director of the Kansas Organization of State Employees, which represents 7,600 state employees, including those at the two mental health hospitals.

"We have a lot of people that are working 16-hour shifts two or three days a week," he said.

Marvin said Larned, which houses adult psychiatric patients who were committed or referred by the courts, as

well as people in the sexual predator program, has trouble hiring and retaining direct-care staff who work closely with patients to take care of their needs and protect them from themselves and others. The numbers of those workers are dropping daily, he said.

"People are still walking out. They're getting tired of all the overtime, the intimidation and just the politics of the place," Marvin said.

One direct-care worker, Scott Towery, a mental health developmental disability technician who has worked at Larned for 12 years, said there are more than 50 vacancies in the tech staff. Techs make about \$26,000, he said. State records show that one tech made \$22,822 in overtime in 2012.

Towery, who heads the KOSE local union, said he has walked into units at the hospital and found workers in tears from stress and exhaustion. He found one worker who didn't know what day of the week it was, he said. Workers lose time with families, can't make doctor's appointments or plan personal activities, and don't know when they'll return home as they head to work.

Hospital employees held a rally in Larned in April to protest their working conditions.

Marvin said the situation is as bad at Osawatomie State Hospital, which had \$1.9 million in overtime pay among its 370 employees since 2010. Overtime at Osawatomie

jumped from \$567,000 in 2012 to \$989,000 this year.

"They're scared to death. There's tons of mandatory overtime going on there," Marvin said. "It's just horrendous the way the state treats these people."

The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services oversees the two hospitals. Angela de Rocha, communications director for the department, said in an e-mail to The Eagle that the overtime totals at Larned and Osawatomie were due to increased staff vacancies.

"This was related to a number of factors including that pay had not been increased for some time (it was increased last fall for nurses), and the increasing challenge of recruitment in a rural environment. We also have had some leadership challenges," she said in the e-mail.

In March, the job vacancy rate at Larned was 19.6 percent, de Rocha said. That included 17.1 percent among direct-care technicians, 23.8 percent among registered nurses, and 29.6 percent among licensed practical nurses and licensed mental health technicians.

The vacancy rate at Osawatomie has risen slightly — from 16 percent to 17 percent — over the past year, she said.

The department has said overtime at Larned has decreased from last year even though the hospital has taken steps that added overtime. It has been providing more one-on-one staffing in the sexual

predator program and in the psychiatric unit for high-risk patients, de Rocha said.

It also opened a new 30-bed unit, requiring more staffing and more overtime.

"We have hired more staff and employ more staff than we did a year ago," de Rocha said in the e-mail. "While we have made improvements, we still have a long way to go."

The department has taken steps to help the situation that include creating a nursing task force, developing staff float pools to fill gaps in staffing, using automated scheduling processes, developing focus groups of nursing staff to provide expert insight on the problem, strengthening recruitment processes and creating a new leadership and supervisory training program, de Rocha

said.

De Rocha said operational assessments of all state hospitals are under way to determine how to make the most efficient use of their resources. She expects the results to be reported later this month or in July.

At KDOT, overtime pay has averaged about \$2.7 million since 2010. Steve Swartz, department spokesman, said KDOT is required to have inspectors at every state road construction site to make sure specifications are being met.

"They work the same hours as construction crews, which often start before daylight and go overnight," he said. "In Wichita, we do a lot of nighttime construction for traffic reasons, so our guys will be out there."

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John Joseph Berger

John Joseph Berger, age 61, of Manhattan died Sunday June 9, 2013 at the Good Shepherd Hospice House in Manhattan.

He was born on November 9, 1951 in Beech Grove, Indiana the son of Mary J. and the late Charles E. Berger. He attended schools in Indianapolis and upon graduation began a career with the U.S. Postal Service, which spanned 38 years. He had a separation in 1974 where he was a mail transport driver for the United States Army.

In 1976 John married Donna L. Miller. They later divorced. On August 4, 1979 he married

Doris D. Geisler, after a happy marriage she preceded him in death on October 7, 2003.

John enjoyed the rural life and spent his last 35 years in the Zeandale Community. He also enjoyed drafting blueprints, building construction, wood working, small engine repair and helping neighbors and friends.

John was a long time member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and was a past president. His other memberships include the American Legion and the VFW.

He was preceded in death by his father Charles, sister Donna

Jean, and his wife Dori.

John is survived by one son, John Jason Berger (Julie) of Manhattan; his mother Mary Jane Berger; three step sons: Jim Geisler (Alice), Jeff Geisler (Tracy) both of Leonardville and Tom Geisler (Pam) of Alma; brother Charles (Chuck) Berger; sisters Jeanette, Diana, Debbie and Darlene all from Indiana; also his eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial Services for Mr. Berger will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday June 16, 2013, at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Chapel.

Private inurnment will be held in the Riley Cemetery in Riley, Kansas.

The family of John will greet friends from 10:00 a.m. until service time Saturday at the funeral home.

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

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

Capitola Woodman

Capitola FiLena Woodman, age 89, died June 6, 2013 in Fayette, where she had lived since 2006. She was born April 24, 1924 to Joel Alfred and Hettie Ruth (Motley) Woodman in the Zeandale Community near Manhattan, Ks. "Cappie" was a Telephone Pioneer, and worked for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company for 38 years, retiring in 1985. Most of those 38 years found her at the iconic switchboard with a dozen other operators pleasantly plugging in to say "operator..." or "number please..." She was a faithful Ma-Bell employee who did whatever was asked of her which included working unusual hours and split shifts, and even occasionally walking a picket line.

She was a member of Faith Family Church in Fayette, and had enjoyed sight-seeing across most of the U.S., including Hawaii, and southern Canada. She also enjoyed planning Manhattan High School Class of '42 reunions, which she did for many years. Most of all she loved and delighted in her family and eating at McDonald's.

Cappie was a seamstress extraordinaire, who over the years made dozens of custom-fitted dresses for her mother and niece, and many matching toddler outfits for her grand-nephew and nieces, the latter of which were covered in lace and many strategically placed ruf-

fles. Each garment was nearly perfect with finished French seams and hand-sewn notions—a true work of art. She always credited her time spent in 4-H Club for her sewing abilities.

Although she was "Cap" or "Cappie" to her friends and "Toey" to her family, she was very proud of her name, "Capitola," which was given her by her father. A great fan of authoress E.D.E.N.

Southworth, he had enjoyed many of her novels, namely, Capitola's Peril, and The Hidden Hand, written around the turn of the century. Unusual a name as it is, Cappie was a member of the "Capitola Club," an elite group of nearly a hundred women across the U.S. named "Capitola" who found, befriended, and corresponded with each other long before the use of the internet.

Cappie was preceded in death by her parents, and three siblings: Joe Frank Woodman, Wanda Hettie Weeks, and LaVon Marie Peterson, and a brother-in-law, Franklin Lee Peterson.

Survivors include one niece, Rosemarie (Mark) Adams, one great-nephew, Emmett (Angie) Rogers, great-niece Cana (Kyle) Conrow, all of Fayette, and great-niece Bethany Symons of Bryan, Tx. Also special to her were great-great nephew Kaden Hoover, and great-great-nieces Emma

Hoover, Kylea Hoover, and Lyla Symons, and her many friends she grew to love in Fayette.

A graveside service will be held at 3:00 P.M. Monday, July 1st, at the Sunset Cemetery in Manhattan, Kansas, with Pastor Mark Thompson officiating. Family and friends are invited to meet at 2:30 P.M. Monday at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home to form a procession to the cemetery.

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

Memorial contributions may be made to Faith Family Church Youth Camp Fund, P.O. Box 512, Fayette, Mo., 65248, or to the Ronald-McDonald House Charities. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan, KS 66502.

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Clyde and Rusa Happy to be with the Public Again

Orangutans Back On Exhibit At Rolling Hills Zoo

SALINA, KAN. — June 10, 2013 — After a few weeks off exhibit while repairs were being made to their dayroom, Rolling Hills Zoo's Sumatran orangutan couple, Clyde and Rusa, are back on exhibit.

Because the dayroom provides the only access to the public outdoor exhibit, both orangutans had to be kept in their indoor and outdoor private areas.

"We were able to get the repairs finished within a short period of time", said Rolling Hills Assistant Director Kathy Tolbert, "This pair is so popular with the public, we are extremely pleased with how quickly our maintenance team

was able to get the repairs done so Clyde and Rusa could be back out in their yard to greet their visitors". Rolling Hills Zoo is dedicated to the preservation of wildlife through participation

in conservation programs and by providing fun and interactive educational experiences. Rolling Hills Zoo features a world-class zoo, a state-of-the-art wildlife museum, a full service conference center, and

unique educational and volunteer opportunities and programs. For more information about memberships, events, and programs at Rolling Hills, contact Vickee Spicer at 785-827-9488 extension 131 or e-mail vickee@rollinghillszoo.org.

Regent Questions Spending On KU Stem Cell Center

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Instead of committing \$2 million to a project the University of Kansas didn't request, state lawmakers should have used

the money on something else more important to the school, a member of the state's Board of Regents said.

In its recently completed session, the Legislature approved an appropriations bill that cuts higher education funding by \$66 million over two years, The Lawrence Journal-World

(<http://bit.ly/14G7Z18>) reported. Legislators also approved spending \$2 million over the same span to create the Midwest Stem Cell Therapy

Center at Kansas University Medical Center. "Stem cell research is good, but I don't know if that's what we need to do right now," said Ed McKechnie, a regent from Arcadia. "Might be a good idea to use that to offset other things."

The Board of Regents has criticized the spending cuts but conceded there was little they could do beyond ask Gov. Sam Brownback to make funding for higher education a priority next year.

Spending 1/2 Million On Sloppy Handwriting

By Travis Perry
Kansas Watchdog

OSAWATOMIE — The Wichita Police Department has a solution in search of a problem.

Today marks the official trial roll-out of the department's new eCitation electronic ticketing system, which makes issuing a citation as easy as clicking "print."

Capt. Darrell Atteberry told the Wichita Eagle that program is being instituted because of the number of illegible tickets issued by officers.

"What we found in the research was that many tickets are set for court because of

illegibility," Atteberry told the Eagle. "Either the vehicle description is wrong or somebody can't read their own name."

The Eagle reports: The Sedgwick County Municipal Court estimates that less than 2 percent of the approximately 75,000 tickets issued annually require further review because of illegibility, said Donte Martin, municipal court administrator.

That means up to 1,500 per year. For a typical offense, such as speeding 5 mph over the limit, that amounts to \$135,000 per year, Martin said.

The WPD is essentially

spending \$500,000 one time — plus a \$51,300 annual fee if they keep the program — to counteract the sloppy penmanship of its officers.

While convenience is nice, common sense is better. Spending half a million on a citation-printing system instead of simply encouraging officers to write more neatly is akin to flying halfway across the country for a hamburger because you don't like sitting in the squeaky chair at the diner down the street.

Atteberry says the program will also increase the speed with which officers can process and distribute citations. He says

this is not to maximize revenue, but rather to improve officer safety, stating that it will reduce time officers spend standing on busy streets.

I don't know about you, but every ticket I've ever received has been written while the officer was still in their vehicle, not standing outside my driver's side door. And if an officer isn't safe inside their own vehicle, then sloppy handwriting may be the least of their concerns.

Atteberry did not return calls for comment from Kansas Watchdog.

occurring at the university, and with the formation of the center "it now will be world-renown."

The new center will work on adult stem cell, cord blood and related stem cell research to provide therapies to patients and serve as a clearinghouse for physicians on cutting-edge treatments. It bans the use of embryonic stem cells or cells taken from aborted fetal tissue, research that is taboo to abortion opponents because it involves the destruction of the embryo.

Brownback is an ardent opponent of abortion and gave the bill his full backing. At first the Legislature didn't provide funding for the center, but the governor proposed a budget amendment using money from the Kansas Bioscience Authority to get it going.

Lawmakers changed that proposal to funding the center through general tax revenue.

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Over Easy...

By Bob Strawn
Former Manhattan Mayor

"The steering committee's decision to table the (Fieldhouse Project feasibility study) was taken to the chamber's executive committee which took action ... The chamber's board concurred and exercised its authority to allocate \$25,000 for the Fieldhouse Project feasibility study." Those are the words of Convention and Visitors Bureau director, Karen Hibbard, in a June 10th letter of explanation to city commissioners for the Chamber of Commerce's choice to fund a Fieldhouse study with your tax dollars in spite of its own steering committee previously tabling the matter.



Bob Strawn

And so it goes with this project to build a playhouse for the wealthy because, well, just because they believe we deserve it. Seriously, in a Fieldhouse testimonial the Manhattan Mercury's Ned Seaton's writes - "Having traveled with my family around the state and region for athletic competitions, I can say that Manhattan deserves a facility like this." Ms. Hibbard says, "Think about the time you have followed youth sports ... Manhattan would like to keep that money in the area."

So is it any surprise that when we have the general manager of our local daily and the director of the convention bureau openly supporting a project, that the Chamber board overrides its own steering committee and funds the feasibility study? An expense covered by our tax dollars for the purpose of selling us on what a great idea we have before us.

Seriously, this is a bit like a drunk with a credit card giving the Chamber hotel guest tax proceeds and the authority to spend them - over \$1,000,000 annually - in the guise of tourism. You have noticed the long lines of people waiting to enter the Flint Hills Discovery

Center, right? That was another Chamber/tax funded tourism study, along with the proposed I-70 visitors' center, and an earlier doozy - a horse park. Well, horses need a place to play too, don't you think?

All this leads us to ask - why do we give the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce a cool mil year after year for such horseplay? (Yes, that one was intended.) The Chamber has pretty much a free hand in spending the tax revenues however they choose and has shown us quite convincingly that they can come up with some pretty loony ideas. This one only adds to a growing list. And when it ignores its own steering committee to fund these projects, simply because they are favored by local blue-bloods, it's time to seriously question the city's relationship with the Chamber.

Einstein said it best - Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. We concur. In our view, it's past time to place the convention bureau under city government control. Taxes should never be used to provide play stations for the privileged or their horses. ***

(To reach Bob by email - bobstrawn1@gmail.com)

The Conservative Side...



Caesarbelius



In Kansas, Drought, Freeze Paralyze 2013 Wheat Crop

By AMY BICKEL
The Hutchinson News

ULYSSES, Kan. (AP) - Even a snake needs water.

Anthony Stevenson stopped his truck to point out the trail a bull snake left as it crossed a dusty dirt road sandwiched between two thirsty fields of wheat. But, he said, there is no water. It rarely rains - it hasn't in months.

With the ponds empty, streams dry and the pastures baked, the only water for a bull snake is underneath an irrigation center pivot, which appears to be running nonstop this time of year.

Moreover, the only clouds the 49-year-old Grant County farmer has seen are made of dust, which roll across the surrounding fields and pile up like snow on the edges of his wheat field.

"The only problem is, it doesn't melt," he said.

It's just one of the deep wounds on this swath of Kansas prairie where drought has raged for the past three years. Stevenson parked his pickup and stepped out into a nearby field of boot-tall, thin wheat. In Grant County, the June harvest is a month away and in a normal year, wheat

would be about waist high, thick and green.

Yet this isn't a normal year, he said softly. Months of dry spells, followed by at least four nights of lengthy freezes, and his entire June paycheck is nearly spent.

As much of the eastern part of Kansas is finally getting relief from the multiyear drought, this corner of southwest Kansas can't buy a rain, it seems. Ulysses, the county seat of Grant County, has only received 2 inches of moisture in the past five months - not enough to save the wheat crop and hardly a drop in the bucket of its normal 18 inches for the year.

Stevenson tries to stay upbeat, but admits this situation is becoming wearisome. There just won't be much of a wheat harvest for the third straight year. And this wheat harvest will be far worse than the other two with almost all his dryland and irrigated wheat fields destroyed by drought and freeze.

"My dad would always say it will rain when you really, really need it," he said. "But I really, really needed a rain for a long, long time."

Droughts have come and

gone in Kansas - especially in this seemingly arid southwest corner of the state.

In the 1930s, drought and winds created rolling walls of dust that spread across the Great Plains, causing nearly a quarter of southwest Kansas' population to leave, according to the book "Rooted in Dust: Surviving Drought and Depression in Southwest Kansas."

Now, the same area that was the epicenter of the Dirty Thirties is the heart of this 21-century drought, said Mark Svoboda, a climatologist with the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska.

This western swath of Kansas, in fact, is a far different picture than that of the eastern half of Kansas where, after two years of drought, a dramatic weather turnaround has brought snow and rain and bolstered prospects for a bumper wheat harvest.

In southwest Kansas, where on a normal year only 18 inches of rain falls compared to the more than 30 inches in the east, such a turnaround is tougher. This area, Svoboda said, has dug itself so far into drought that it will have a hard time climbing out.

All of western Kansas remains in an extreme to exceptional drought - the highest rankings issued by the U.S. Drought Monitor. The worst areas stretch across the Oklahoma Panhandle into Texas, as well as parts of Colorado and Nebraska.

The effects of the extended dry spell have left definite scars on the southwest Kansas prairie. The wheat crop is vanishing with each day of no rain. Pasture grasses continue to decline because of the lack of moisture. With little grass or

feed, ranchers are culling deeper into their herds.

"There were a few places that had rain this spring but for the large part, the little lakes and ponds are dry," he said. "The pastures are brown - the pastures look like August."

This year's wheat harvest could be one of the worst harvests for the region in at least 25 years, Holman said.

Stevenson estimates his dryland crop at less than 10 bushels an acre. However, this year he has had a double disaster, he said. Typically, he can count on his irrigated wheat crop to do well, and in the last two years, irrigated ground has bested 60 bushels an acre.

This year he said he would be surprised if it made more than 18 bushels an acre after the multiple days of below freezing temperatures in April. One night lingered in the teens with a wind chill of zero.

"This year's weather has totally wiped out most of my wheat," he said. "But there's nothing I could do about it. Nothing."

Far beyond the dusty wheat fields and parched pastures, the

drought impact is felt in small towns like Ulysses.

Ulysses, population 6,300, was born twice, first in 1885 and a second time in 1909 when, to escape the banker, the entire town loaded up and moved a few miles to the west.

A century later and new Ulysses has weathered through the Great Depression, as well as drought years in the 1950s. Like each drought period, the effects ripple across the business community, said Larry Altis, who manages the local Ace Hardware.

"When you are in a farming community and the crops don't produce, you tighten your belt," he said. "Last year we thought we had a good corn crop but there were no kernels in the heads. Now we have the death of our wheat crop, and the water table is getting tighter."

Two years of little rainfall already has cost the state's farmers nearly \$5 billion in crop losses - the loss of production and the price farmers would have received.

Meanwhile, claims for this year's failed crops are begin-

ning to accumulate in the Risk Management Agency's Topeka office.

Kansas farmers have claimed \$33.5 million in indemnities so far this year for crop losses on 9.4 million acres, according to the agency. Wheat makes up the largest share of those claims, at more than \$31 million.

The drought has lingered too long. The rig Stevenson's grandfather built to drill irrigation wells on the farm in the 1940s and 1950s still sits on his farmstead. The past two years, his irrigation system hasn't been able to keep up with his corn crop's demand for water.

He recalled a hailstorm in 1994 that wiped out his entire wheat crop. That was the only year he never pulled out a combine. This year, however, could nearly measure up.

And, he noted, the year is far from over. His irrigated corn that is emerging needs rain from the sky to make a decent crop. Last year's crop didn't make more than 100 bushels an acre. Typically, it should surpass 200-plus.

Bank Note...

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) - A would-be robber wrote a note demanding money at a Wichita restaurant. But he wrote the note on his own check reorder form.

Wichita police say the man entered the Spangles restaurant in east Wichita early Saturday. Police Sgt. Scott Brunow told WIBW (<http://bit.ly/ZDbudC>) that the man handed the note demanding money to a cashier. However, he left on foot a short

time later after not getting anything.

When police looked at the note, they discovered it had been written on a check reorder form and had the man's name and address on it.

Officers went by the address and saw the 38-year-old man standing outside. Police say he was taken into custody and booked into the Sedgwick County Jail.

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



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 June 3, 2013 with the following members present: Dave Lewis, Chair; Robert Boyd, Vice Chair; Ron Wells, Member; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk.

8:30 Pledge of Allegiance
Public Comment, Commission Comments, & Business Meeting
Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

Wells said he met with Mr. Brake on Friday and discussed public building commissions. Wells said they discussed the Riley County Police Department firing range as well.

Boyd discussed the Raising Riley forum on Friday.

Boyd moved to approve a Government Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement with Catepillar Financial Services Corporation and Sales Agreements with Foley Equipment Company for four motor graders. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Boyd moved to approve the minutes of May 30, 2013 as amended. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:00 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services Administrative Work Session
Johnette Shepek, Budget and

Finance Officer; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

9:00 Boyd moved that the County Commission recess into executive session on potential litigation for the purpose of consultation with an attorney for the County Commission which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, the open meeting to resume in the County Commissioner Chambers at 9:15 a.m. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:12 Boyd moved to go out of executive session. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

9:30 Press Conference

Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; Captain Kurt Moldrup, Riley County Police Department; Gina Scroggs, Downtown Manhattan Executive Director; Gregg Eyestone, County Extension Agent; Brian Johnson, Manhattan City; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

Moldrup discussed recent arrests of two burglars, responsible for over thirty burglaries. Moldrup said the arrests were directly attributed to the "Laser Point" program.

Moldrup encouraged everyone to lockup houses and vehicles during the warm weather seasons. Moldrup asked the public to watch out for pedestrians that are walking, running, and biking.

Scroggs discussed the timeline of the Downtown Streetscape project.

Eyestone said Sunday, June 9, 2013 is the 25th Annual Garden Tour of five private residences.

Shepek discussed the 2014 Riley County budget process.

Lewis encouraged the public to participate in the Riley County budget process.

Vargo said the USD 378 Special Election Day is June 11, 2013.

Vargo reported advanced voting in person began today for the USD 378 Special

Election.

10:00 Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/ County Engineer

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

Hobson discussed Public Works projects.

10:15 Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer

Bid opening for asphalt seal oil

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

The Board of County Commissioners opened the following bids for asphalt seal oil:

Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions
10520 Wolcott Drive
Kansas City, KS 66109
\$80/hour after 2 hours
\$80/hour after 2 hours
\$60/load \$60/load \$275/

Vance Brothers, Inc.
5201 Brighton
Kansas City, MO 64130
\$70/hour after 1.5 hours
\$70/hour after 1.5 hours
\$65/load \$65/load \$650/

Coastal Energy Corp.
1 Coastal Drive
Willow Springs, MO 65793-3554
\$70/hour after 2 hours
\$70/hour after 2 hours
\$70/load \$60/load \$875/

Phillips 66
929 Walnut Street, Suite 5108
Kansas City, MO 64106
No bids No

(Editor's Note: Copy on bids were mixed up some parts have been removed)

Boyd moved to refer the bids to staff for evaluation and recommendation. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

10:25 Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/ County Engineer

Bid opening for crushed

limestone chips

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

The Board of County Commissioners opened the following bids for crushed limestone chips:

Company Per ton
Bayer Construction Co., Inc.
P.O. Box 889
Manhattan, KS 66505-0889
\$18.50
Hamm Companies
609 Perry Place
Perry, KS 66073-0017
\$21.59

Boyd moved to refer the bids to staff for evaluation and recommendation. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

10:35 John Armbrust and Trent Armbrust, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

J. Armbrust discussed the Governor's Military Council.

J. Armbrust asked for an annual commitment of funding for the Governor Military Council. J. Armbrust said they will have \$170,000 shortfall in funding.

10:50 Frank Beer, Chamber of Commerce Public Affairs Committee member

Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Eileen King, Treasurer; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Trent Armbrust, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

Beer asked for input from the Board for 2014 legislative priorities.

Lewis said the machinery and equipment tax exemption and concealed carry bills have been a concern.

Boyd asked Beer to consider adding the machinery and equipment tax exemption.

Lewis said this Board is against the machinery and equipment exemption.

Wells discussed the LP&P building codes policy.

Holeman stated the privacy of public records legislation has been changed this legislative session.

11:08 Linda Redding, Nursing Supervisor

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

Redding said the Riley County Health Department has an opportunity to partner with Kansas Action for Children (KAC) in their KIDS COUNT Project. The project draws attention to the well-being of Kansas children and strengthens action on their behalf by collecting data on three important indicators of well-being: 1) health; 2) education; and 3) economic success.

Redding said the basic partnership agreement consists of KAC providing county specific data on 20 indicators of child well-being and 500 county-specific fact sheets in exchange for the health department's assistance in promoting KIDS COUNT data through local news releases and distribution of fact sheets to other local agencies.

Redding said to participate, the Board of County Commissioners must sign an agreement with KAC on behalf of the health department.

Boyd moved to sign KAC's agreement to allow the Riley County Health Department to participate in the 2013 Kansas KIDS COUNT Project. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

1:15 Department Heads 2014 Budget Request

1:15 Shelly Williams, Community Corrections Director

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

Williams presented the 2014 Community Corrections budget requests.

1:30 Debbie Register, Register of Deeds

Amy Manges, Deeds Supervisor/Deputy Register of Deeds; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

Register presented the 2014 Register of Deeds and Technology Fund budget requests.

1:45 Clancy Holeman, Counselor /Director of Administrative Services

Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Angel Dillon, Legal Assistant; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

Holeman presented the 2014 Administrative Services budget request.

1:58 Monty Wedel, Planning/Special Projects Director

Dennis Peterson, Noxious Weed Director; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

Wedel presented the 2014 Planning and Development budget request.

2:03 Dennis Peterson, Noxious Weed Director

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

Peterson presented the 2014 Noxious Weed/HHW budget request.

2:15 Barry Wilkerson, Attorney

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

Wilkerson presented the 2014 County Attorney budget request.

2:38 Boyd moved to adjourn. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Regents Bemoan Spending Cuts

By JOHN MILBURN Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Kansas higher education officials said Thursday that the Legislature's proposed funding cuts to public colleges and universities will hamper their ability to meet the business community's needs for highly-skilled workers and will hurt the state's economy as a result.

"It is not a pro-growth budget," said Regent Vice Chair Fred Logan of Leawood. Legislators finished their work early Sunday on the \$14.5 billion state budget for each of fiscal years 2014 and 2015, imposing a 1.5 percent cut to higher education in each year. The plan also calls for a salary and wage cap, which education officials said compounds the cuts and will have an impact on programs and students.

Logan and others, including regent Robba Moran, wife of

U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, urged Republican Gov. Sam Brownback to veto the salary cap and lessen the financial impact of the spending cuts. The combined reduction of state general fund resources for higher education is estimated to total nearly \$33 million over the two years.

"He needs to send a message to the Legislature that that kind of bad public policy isn't going to be tolerated," Logan said.

In recent years, Kansas has sought to increase the number of engineers and doctors it graduates in order to improve the state's business climate and overall quality of life. The state has also focused on increasing the number of people earning vocational and technical certificates to meet the demands of industries, including wind energy and manufacturing. The regents said those initiatives were at risk before they had a

chance to fully develop.

"If you want outstanding universities, you have to pay for them," Moran said.

Brownback was seeking to keep higher education spending stable in 2014 and 2015. He went on a statewide tour to build support for the spending, saying the state system was building momentum in generating economic growth through renewed emphasis on engineering, medicine and changes in technical education.

The cuts were passed by legislators in light of massive cuts to income taxes approved in 2012 that will reduce state revenues in the coming years. To shore up spending and prevent deeper cuts legislators approved a tax bill Saturday that sets the state sales tax rate at 6.15 percent instead of allowing it to drop from the current 6.3 percent to 5.7 percent July 1, as it had been

scheduled to do. The change will add an estimated \$777 million to the state's coffers over the next five years.

The board told university officials last month that they shouldn't expect approval of tuition increases that would completely make up for cuts by the Legislature. University leaders made their initial pitches to the regents for raising tuition and fees. Regents will approve the requests later this summer.

Pittsburg State University President Steve Scott said officials at the southeast Kansas campus were initially proposing a 5.8 percent tuition increase but revised that number after the budget debate closed to seek a 7.4 percent bump. Scott said some of the reduced state resources were being replenished by \$500,000 in cuts he imposed midway through the current year.

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Straight Shooter To National Shooting Matches

Fourteen members of the Riley/Pottawatomie 4-H Straight Shooters club will be participating in two National Shooting Sports Matches this summer. Five members will participate in three disciplines at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Match held in Grand Island, Nebraska, June 23-27, and nine members will participate in the Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match held in Rogers, Arkansas, June 26-29.

In order to participate in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Match, participants must be one of the top 4 shooters at the state match in their discipline. Morgan Swisher, Emmett, and Ethan Sylvester, Wamego, placed 1st and 3rd, respectively, in Air Pistol. Richard Becker, Manhattan, Air Pistol coach for the Straight Shooters club, will be the coach for Team Kansas in this discipline. Austin Becker, Manhattan, and Jacob Dietrich, Wamego, placed 2nd and 3rd, respectively, in Hunting Skills. Wayne Hubbard, St. George, Hunting Skills coach for the Straight Shooters club, will be the coach for Team Kansas in this discipline. Daniel Dietrich, Wamego, placed 4th in Muzzleloading. Each of these shooters will join other shoot-

ers from around the state to form our Team Kansas group of 35 shooters in the 9 disciplines of Air Pistol, Air Rifle, Recurve Archery, Compound Archery, Hunting Skills, Muzzleloading, Shotgun, Small Bore Pistol, and Small Bore Rifle.

The Straight Shooters BB Gun team consists of Christopher Becker, Manhattan, Mya Brown, Manhattan, Lucas Crabtree, Manhattan, Elle Retzlaff, Westmoreland, and Cade and Logan Schanks, Randolph, and are coached by Richard Becker, Manhattan, and Robert Retzlaff, Westmoreland. Brendan Becker, Manhattan, Shaun Brown, Manhattan, and Abby Retzlaff, Westmoreland, will be participating in the inaugural Champion's Match competition. All nine shooters will join 9 other BB Gun teams from Kansas at the Daisy National Match. The team qualified to attend the national match by placing second at the American Legion State BB Gun Match in Alma, Kansas.

The 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, Daisy Outdoor



Riley/Pottawatomie 4-H Straight Shooter members and coaches participating at the National 4-H Match are Wayne Hubbard, Hunting Skills Kansas Team Coach, Daniel Dietrich, Muzzleloading, Jacob Dietrich, Hunting Skills, Austin Becker, Hunting Skills, Morgan Swisher, Air Pistol, Ethan Sylvester, Air Pistol, and Richard Becker, Air Pistol Kansas Team Coach.

Products, Kansas State Rifle Association, Kaw Valley Muzzleloaders Association, Kansas Muzzleloaders Association, National Wildlife Turkey Federation, Flint Hills Pheasants Forever, Justin

Corbet Foundation, Friends of NRA, Fancy Creek Shooting Range, Oregon Trail Trading Post, Manhattan Wrecker, Robel family, local businesses, and all Shooting Sports parents, families and instructors.



Riley/Pottawatomie 4-H Straight Shooter members and coaches participating at the Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match. Back row: Robert Retzlaff and Richard Becker, coaches; Middle row: Cade Schanks, Christopher Becker, Abby Retzlaff, Shaun Brown, Brendan Becker; Front row: Lucas Crabtree, Mya Brown, Elle Retzlaff; Not pictured: Logan Schanks

Free Event Teaches Water Safety

On Tuesday, June 18th at 10:00 AM the World's Largest Swimming Lesson (WLSL) will begin at the K-State Natatorium, with check-in at 9:00 AM. UFM Community Learning Center is the local host of this world wide event that teaches the importance of swimming safety through swimming lessons. The event will attempt to beat the

Guinness World Record for the largest simultaneous swimming lesson conducted across the world, which was set by the WLSL with a total of 24,873 participants in 2012.

Tragically, drowning remains the leading cause of accidental death for children ages 1-5, and the second leading cause of accidental death for children under 14. Research

shows participation in formal swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning by 88% among children aged 1 to 4, yet many kids do not receive formal swimming or water safety training.

UFM Community Learning Center offers American Red Cross swimming lessons to the Manhattan area year-round. UFM is proud to serve as the

local host of the World's Largest Swimming Lesson event on Tuesday, June 18 and spread the message that swimming lessons save lives. The event is free and open to the public. All ages are encouraged to participate. Pre-registration is appreciated. Register at www.tryufm.org or call UFM at 785.539.8763.

That's The Brakes

Isn't a shame that if you believe in the 230 some year old U.S. Constitution some people want to call you "Far Right", "Right Winger" or an "Extrem-ist".

Jon Brake
Manhattan Free Press
and The Blue Rapids Free Press

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Senate Moving Forward With Reform Bill

By Alex Nowrasteh
CATA Institute

Yesterday, senators voted to proceed with debating the immigration reform bill on the floor of the Senate. The Gang of Eight's bill was amended numerous times in the Judiciary Committee but now it will face input and criticism from the rest of the Senate. There are four big areas of the legislation to watch for amendments and criticisms:

Welfare

Numerous amendments will

be introduced to further block non-citizen access to the welfare state. Cato colleagues and I have done a lot of work on this issue, including a forthcoming policy analysis, that has provided some of the intellectual ammunition demonstrating the viability of building a wall around the welfare state while increasing lawful immigration.

Border Security

Senators like John Cornyn (R-TX) are deeply worried that the current bill does not provide enough border security. The current bill adds billions of

dollars to an enforcement system that has grown along with the rest of the government over the last few decades. The best way to limit unlawful immigration is to increase legal immigration opportunities, such as temporary guest worker visas and other broader measures. Senator Cornyn's border security amendment will be crucial for the bill's political success but will not much affect the policy outcome of the legislation—except to make it more expensive.

E-Verify

With scandals about government invasions of privacy, one would think a national electronic employment eligibility system like E-Verify would raise opposition. Designed to weed unlawful immigrants out of the work force, the system is fraught with problems and raises numerous privacy concerns that my colleague Jim Harper has explored here. Given how internal enforcement has almost zero deterrent effect on unlawful immigration, it's a mystery why so many so-called limited government conserva-

tives support it in the first place.

Legal Immigration

The guest worker provisions of the bill are too regulated, too restricted, and too limited for workers of every skill category. Applied retroactively, the proposed guest worker visa system would not be big enough to channel most unlawful workers who came in previous years into the legal market. Regardless, the immigration reform bill is a step in the right direction for guest workers—

albeit a small one.

There are other important policy and political issues going forward, from controversy over the net fiscal cost of immigration reform to the tremendous economic benefits of increasing the number of productive people, but these are the big ones to follow for libertarians and fellow travelers.

Organization Testifies On Abuses

By Andrew T. Walker
Heritage Foundation

Adding to the list of complaints involving the IRS, this week, John Eastman, chairman of the board for the National Organization for Marriage (NOM), testified before the House Committee on Ways and Means regarding last year's illegal disclosure of the organization's donors.

The testimony comes at a time when the IRS is facing

accusations of unfairly targeting and intimidating conservative groups.

In March 2012, NOM's 2008 federal tax return (form 990-Schedule B)—which listed the names and addresses of NOM donors—was uploaded to the websites of the Human Rights Campaign and the Huffington Post. Computer analysts determined that the document's leak came from within the IRS.

According to Eastman, "the

willful unauthorized public disclosure of NOM's 2008 Schedule B by the IRS or its employees is a violation of federal law. Indeed, it is a serious felony punishable by a \$5,000 fine and up to five years in federal prison, penalties that apply both to IRS and other government employees and third parties."

Moreover, Eastman testified that leaking the names of donors has a "chilling" effect

that deters donors from future giving for fear of reprisal, intimidation, and harassment. Numerous cases of hostility toward those who support traditional marriage have been documented.

Seeking answers, NOM made written requests for investigation to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) and the Department of Justice, of which no final action or resolu-

tion has occurred.

NOM has yet to receive responses to its Freedom of Information Act requests to both the IRS and TIGTA.

Eastman concluded his statement:

Stonewalled in its attempts to discover on its own the source of the felonious conduct against it, NOM has also received no satisfaction from the law enforcement authorities of the United States, whose duty it is to prosecute felonious disclosure of confidential tax returns.

At the hearing, other conservative groups testified about unusual difficulties they encountered in obtaining tax-exempt status. Kevin Kookogey of Linchpins of Liberty faced abnormally long delays and "intrusive" questions in its application for tax-exempt status, including requests for names of the organization's members—including minors. Sue Martinek of the Coalition for Life of Iowa said the IRS heavily scrutinized her group, including asking prying questions regarding the subject matter of the pro-life group's prayers.

Christmas Tree Tax Is Back

By Daren Bakst
Heritage Foundation

It's never too early for Washington, D.C., politicians to dampen the holiday spirit. The House Agriculture Committee approved an amendment to its farm bill that would lift the stay blocking implementation of President Obama's Christmas tree tax. We should be thankful the Agriculture Committee doesn't have jurisdiction over toys.

The Christmas Tree Tax

Some in the Christmas tree industry sought to develop a promotional program to assist its industry. After three failed attempts to set up a voluntary system, they turned to the federal government to do what it couldn't: Force Christmas tree producers and importers to pay for a Christmas tree promotion program.

On November 8, 2011, the Obama Administration issued a

final rule that approved a new program to help promote Christmas trees. The government would set up a Christmas Tree Promotion Board, with one of its goals being "to enhance the image of Christmas trees and the Christmas tree industry in the United States." It isn't clear why Christmas trees need help with their pristine and festive image—unless they are hiding something.

The new program would include a 15 cent "assessment" on fresh cut Christmas trees, which could eventually rise to 20 cents per tree. After significant backlash, in large part due to the efforts of The Heritage Foundation, the Obama Administration backed away from imposing this tax. On November 17, 2011, the Administration issued a stay of this tax.

This Is a Tax

There are many Christmas tree producers and importers that don't want this new tax. Based on the comments received by the Department of Agriculture regarding the program, about 26 percent of the commenters opposed it. If producers and importers oppose the tax, they will still have no choice but to pay it.

Once an "assessment" is no longer voluntary and is enforced by the government, it's a tax. The Christmas tree industry failed with its voluntary system and now has to use force to achieve its objectives.

The entire purpose of this program is for the Christmas tree industry to get the "troublemakers" into line. Unlike in a voluntary and private arrangement, the Christmas tree industry now has the government doing its dirty work by getting the government to enforce the tax and punish

those who fail to comply.

This is also a tax on consumers. The new costs will be passed down to those who buy Christmas trees. The National Christmas Tree Association has claimed the extra costs wouldn't be passed on to consumers. Maybe they were just in the Christmas spirit when they said this or had too much eggnog, but businesses don't usually eat costs for no reason, especially businesses like Christmas tree producers who think they need government help to improve their bottom line.

A 15-cent tax may not seem like much. However, taxes are a death by a thousand cuts. One of those cuts shouldn't come from the Christmas tree. One way to actually hurt the image of the Christmas tree is to make it a symbol of taxation during the holiday season.

Regents Bemoan Spending Cuts

By JOHN MILBURN
Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Kansas higher education officials said Thursday that the Legislature's proposed funding cuts to public colleges and universities will hamper their ability to meet the business community's needs for highly-skilled workers and will hurt the state's economy as a result.

"It is not a pro-growth budget," said Regent Vice Chair Fred Logan of Leawood.

Legislators finished their work early Sunday on the \$14.5 billion state budget for each of fiscal years 2014 and 2015, imposing a 1.5 percent cut to higher education in each year. The plan also calls for a salary and wage cap, which education officials said compounds the cuts and will have an impact on programs and students.

Logan and others, including regent Robba Moran, wife of

U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, urged Republican Gov. Sam Brownback to veto the salary cap and lessen the financial impact of the spending cuts. The combined reduction of state general fund resources for higher education is estimated to total nearly \$33 million over the two years.

"He needs to send a message to the Legislature that that kind of bad public policy isn't going to be tolerated," Logan said.

In recent years, Kansas has sought to increase the number of engineers and doctors it graduates in order to improve the state's business climate and overall quality of life. The state has also focused on increasing the number of people earning vocational and technical certificates to meet the demands of industries, including wind energy and manufacturing. The regents said those initiatives were at risk before they had a

chance to fully develop.

"If you want outstanding universities, you have to pay for them," Moran said.

Brownback was seeking to keep higher education spending stable in 2014 and 2015. He went on a statewide tour to build support for the spending, saying the state system was building momentum in generating economic growth through renewed emphasis on engineering, medicine and changes in technical education.

The cuts were passed by legislators in light of massive cuts to income taxes approved in 2012 that will reduce state revenues in the coming years. To shore up spending and prevent deeper cuts legislators approved a tax bill Saturday that sets the state sales tax rate at 6.15 percent instead of allowing it to drop from the current 6.3 percent to 5.7 percent July 1, as it had been

scheduled to do. The change will add an estimated \$777 million to the state's coffers over the next five years.

The board told university officials last month that they shouldn't expect approval of tuition increases that would completely make up for cuts by the Legislature. University leaders made their initial pitches to the regents for raising tuition and fees. Regents will approve the requests later this summer.

Pittsburg State University President Steve Scott said officials at the southeast Kansas campus were initially proposing a 5.8 percent tuition increase but revised that number after the budget debate closed to seek a 7.4 percent bump. Scott said some of the reduced state resources were being replenished by \$500,000 in cuts he imposed midway through the current year.

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KSU Rally Falls Short In Super Regional Finale

KSU Sports Information
CORVALLIS, Ore. — As it did all season long, Kansas State battled until the very last out as the 13th-ranked Wildcats scored two runs in the eighth inning and put the tying run on base in the bottom of the ninth, but No. 3 Oregon State held on for a 4-3 victory and earned a trip to the College World Series Monday evening in the final game of the Corvallis Super Regional.

K-State finished its season at 45-19 to set the school record for wins, while the 2013 campaign marked the first conference championship in 80 years and the program's first ever trip to the Super Regional round. The Beavers, who improved to 50-11, will take on Mississippi State in the first game of the College World Series on Saturday.

With little offense to speak of through the first seven innings, the Wildcats put two runners on base with two out in the eighth, trailing 4-1. Blair DeBord pulled a 0-2 pitch that landed just inside the left-field line to score a pair of runs and get the Wildcats to within one.

The double knocked Oregon State starting pitcher Ben Wetzler (9-1) out of the game and the Beavers called upon Matt Boyd — who opened the series on the mound — for his first relief outing of the year. The left-hander battled RJ Santigate, who looped a single into left field that fell in front of a diving Michael Conforto. K-State sent DeBord home, but the Oregon State sophomore was able to pick up the ball and throw a strike to the plate, ending the inning and preserving the one-run lead.

Matt Wivinis tossed a scoreless ninth, tying to set up the Wildcat offense for same ninth-inning heroics they displayed in the first game of the series. Ross Kivett beat out an infield

single with one out to put the tying run on base, but Boyd forced two fly outs to end the contest.

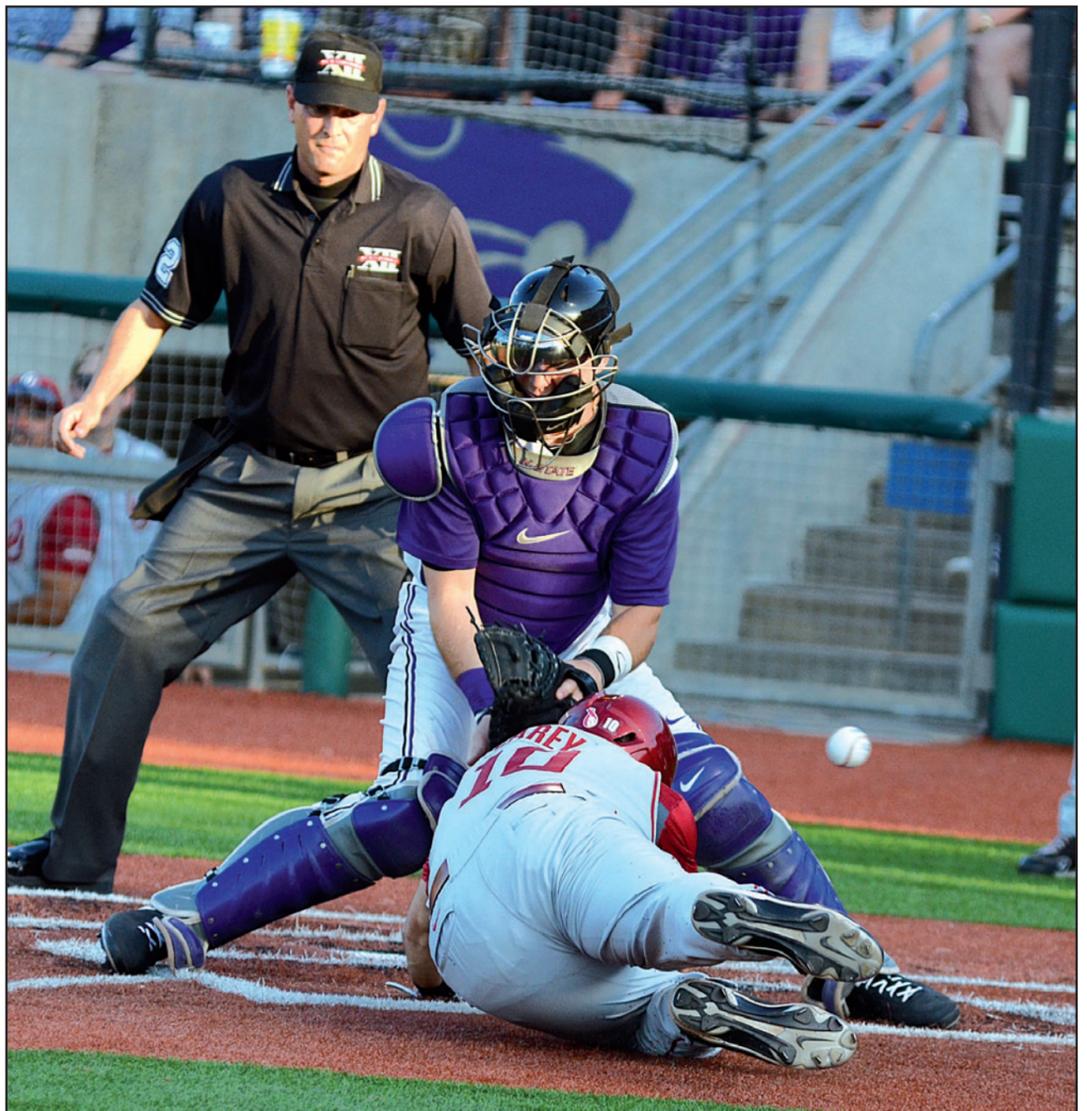
“This is one of the only times that I have been speechless all year,” head coach Brad Hill said. “I have to give a lot of credit to Oregon State — they have great starting pitching and really held us down. We could never really gain any momentum until late in the game. We made a couple mistakes that exposed us early, and that is baseball. We fought back and did what we have done all year long. We didn't quit and we fought back and had an opportunity, but just came up a run short tonight unfortunately.”

Wetzler threw a career-high 131 pitches in his 7.2 innings and was able to effectively work around nine hits and five walks. The Wildcats out-hit the Beavers, 11-6, but K-State hit into two double plays, stranded nine runners and surrendered a pair of unearned runs.

Danny Hayes got the Beavers on the board with a two-run homer in the second inning before unearned runs in consecutive frames. Ryan Barnes reached on a two-out error in the fourth and came around to score on a Kavin Keyes double off the right-field wall. However, the Wildcats were able to limit the damage as they threw out Keyes at third base to end the frame.

With a runner on third and two out in the fifth, Andy Peterson hit a weak ground ball to Austin Fisher, who couldn't find the handle, as Oregon State built a lead to 4-0.

The Wildcats scored their first run in the sixth inning when Kivett laced a leadoff single into center field and scored on a Jared King single into right-center field. Kansas State looked for the big inning as Tanner Witt followed Kivett with a single of his own, but a



Catcher Blair DeBord from Manhattan, blocks the plate in a game against Oklahoma three weeks ago in a game that gave the Wildcats the Big 12 regular season championship. (File photo by Ben Brake)

double play prior to King's hit helped Oregon State's cause.

Catcher Jake Rodriguez paced the Beavers offensively by going 2-for-3. Santigate led K-State with a 3-for-4 effort, while DeBord and Kivett registered two hits apiece. Kivett

finished the year with a team-leading 94 hits to tie for third place in school history, just three shy of the school record.

Kansas State right-hander Jake Matthys (9-2) suffered the loss in his first-career start by allowing four runs — only two

of which were earned — on three hits with a walk and a career-high tying five strikeouts. The 2013 Big 12 Freshman of the Year tied his career-long outing by lasting 4.1 innings, while his 75 pitches were a career high.

The bullpen team of Wivinis, Gerardo Esquivel and Nate Williams kept K-State in the game as they combined for 4.2 scoreless innings, giving up only three hits with three walks and four strikeouts.



Second baseman Ross Kivett (7) K-State's All-America is safe going into third base in a game against Texas Tech. (File photo by Ben Brake)

Kansas State The Number Two Batting Team In College Baseball

Overall Statistics																								
• Record: 45-19 • Home: 27-7 • Away: 13-10 • Neutral: 5-2 • Big 12: 16-8 •																								
Player	avg	gp	ab	r	h	2b	3b	hr	rbi	tb	slg%	bb	hbp	so	gdp	ob%	sf	sh	sb	att	po	a	e	fld%
Fisher, Austin	.361	60-59	208	43	75	20	3	2	38	107	.514	21	12	36	2	.443	3	5	3-10		90	167	13	.952
Kivett, Ross	.360	64-64	261	57	94	15	4	3	39	126	.483	29	10	27	4	.440	2	4	26-36		120	208	5	.985
Conlon, Shane	.341	63-63	249	56	85	13	3	7	28	125	.502	25	16	30	10	.430	3	9	17-21		617	29	4	.994
Witt, Tanner	.337	63-63	261	49	88	8	3	1	35	105	.402	28	3	33	4	.398	7	3	7-14		103	7	1	.991
King, Jared	.335	59-59	218	52	73	16	2	7	53	114	.523	34	11	22	6	.439	6	1	14-19		142	2	3	.980
DeBord, Blair	.327	60-60	199	33	65	11	1	0	37	78	.392	26	9	26	5	.418	5	3	6-8		346	68	3	.993
Santigate, RJ	.324	60-60	222	32	72	4	2	0	29	80	.360	29	3	33	4	.409	0	5	11-16		56	108	15	.916
Davis, Jon	.302	63-63	212	49	64	14	4	5	42	101	.476	30	21	50	7	.428	6	1	10-17		102	10	1	.991
Meyer, Mitch	.281	53-29	128	16	36	5	5	4	34	63	.492	3	7	49	0	.322	5	4	2-5		30	1	1	.969
Dalrymple, Clayton	.343	34-9	35	6	12	2	0	0	6	14	.400	0	0	5	0	.343	0	0	2-3		18	0	0	1.000
Goodwin, Joe	.267	18-10	45	7	12	3	1	0	5	17	.378	2	1	11	1	.313	0	0	0-1		19	5	0	1.000
Lovato, Damien	.262	17-13	42	3	11	2	0	0	7	13	.310	4	0	12	1	.319	1	0	0-1		6	0	0	1.000
Miles, Lance	.241	31-14	58	5	14	0	0	0	9	14	.241	5	2	12	2	.323	0	2	1-1		8	26	10	.773
Speer, Kyle	.143	23-9	35	4	5	2	0	0	4	7	.200	6	1	7	0	.273	2	4	0-0		6	0	0	1.000
Bee, Alex	.105	12-1	19	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	.105	1	0	7	0	.150	0	0	0-0		11	3	0	1.000
Wodtke, Jake	.000	10-0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	1	0	3	0	.125	0	0	0-0		4	4	0	1.000
Doller, Jake	.000	5-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0		4	8	1	.923
Totals	.322	64-64	2199	412	708	115	28	29	367	966	.439	244	96	363	46	.406	40	41	99-152		1707	732	64	.974
Opponents	.262	64-64	2168	287	569	107	25	30	260	816	.376	187	44	381	41	.330	23	34	69-96		1657	718	91	.963

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