



Manhattan Free Press

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An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper

Thursday, January 30, 2014



This is a photo taken from the City of Manhattan web page.

Allegiant Air Will End Service To Manhattan

City of Manhattan News Service

Allegiant Air LLC announced late Monday that it will end its scheduled service between Manhattan and Phoenix-Mesa, Arizona, as of February 23, 2014. In its announcement, Allegiant confirmed that customers holding reservations after that date will be contacted directly by Allegiant for a full refund.

Airport Director Peter Van Kuren responded to the announcement stating, "We are obviously very disappointed with Allegiant's decision. We believed the twice weekly leisure service offered by Allegiant complemented our five daily flights to Chicago and Dallas-Fort Worth. In the

See Bob Strawn Column On page 4

"What I gathered was that some of those cities (Allegiant Air) left had 90 percent occupancy on their flights. But they still terminated service because they are making more of their money as a travel agency selling packages. And the people flying out of those cities were not buying the services on the other end."

Commissioner Wynn Butler

end, the regional passenger demand to Phoenix-Mesa did not meet expectations and Allegiant made a business decision."

Approximately 3,000 passengers utilized the service to Phoenix-Mesa since it began in November 2013.

This announcement does not impact other operations at the Manhattan Regional Airport. Commercial air service to Dallas-Fort Worth and Chicago's O'Hare airports are not impacted and terminal construction, which began before the start of Allegiant service, will continue without delay.

For additional information, please contact Peter Van Kuren, Airport Director, at (785) 587-4565 or via email at vankuren@cityofmnhk.com. The Manhattan Regional Airport is located at 5500 Skyway Drive, Manhattan, Kansas.

Kansas...

Lawmakers Stand Behind Pension

By Travis Perry Kansas Watchdog

OSAWATOMIE, Kan. — From the outside looking in, state Rep. Steve Johnson said it's easy to see why pension perks for state lawmakers could leave a bad taste.

For most voters, any kind of monetary compensation for elected officials is a hot-button issue, and Kansas Public Employee Retirement System benefits are no exception. Johnson, R-Assaria, says the frustration is in the formula.

"I am not fond of the way legislators' pensions are calculated," Johnson said. "It just doesn't look right or straightforward."

The issue is in some funky math targeted at determining a yearly salary for a state lawmaker who, at least officially, is on the clock for just a few months a year during Kansas' 90-day legislative session.

It works like this: For your average public employee in the Sunflower State, KPERS pension benefits are calculated based on a handful of factors, including annual salary, years of service and a multiplier. It's about the same for state legislators, with one exception — an elected officials' 12-month pay rate is figured through the use of an annualized formula.

In essence, it multiplies a lawmaker's base daily session salary of \$88.66 over the course of an entire year despite the fact that, at least in theory, the legislative session is supposed to wrap up in late spring. Though, as we saw last year, that doesn't always happen. The same kind of calculation is applied to subsistence pay, for which lawmakers receive \$129 each day they're in session.

What does all this mean? To boil it down, when you factor in the \$7,083 lawmakers receive for non-session pay, their total annual salary looks more like \$26,600. But for pension purposes, that figure is inflated to nearly \$86,500, on average. That figure assumes a state lawmaker chooses to throw all their compensation — daily salary, per diem expense and non-session pay — into the KPERS calculation; current offerings allow a legislator to use any combination of the aforementioned pay to arrive at a final, annualized pay rate.

On the surface, Johnson concedes it looks problematic, and if it stopped there, he'd take issue with it. The balance, he says, is that lawmakers must also pay a proportionately inflated contribution to take advantage of the pension perk.

"Is it wrong? To me the real answer

lies with do you believe legislators are overpaid for their work. I am not sure if the pension can get us there. Salary doesn't get us to overpaid, per diem can help," Johnson, who chairs the House Pensions and Benefits Committee, told Kansas Watchdog. "The legislator/employee contribution is absolutely the key. If the benefit was multiplied without paying the corresponding contribution, that would be a huge problem."

Lawmakers who participate in KPERS must pay-in either 4 percent or 6 percent of their annualized salary, depending on whether they joined KPERS before or after July 2009. For comparison, a 6 percent pay-in rate based on an average lawmaker's actual compensation would be about \$1,600 per year, while that same calculation using an annualized salary rate is just more than \$5,000. It's a perk, to be sure, but it isn't cheap.

It should also be noted that any public employee, lawmakers included, must rack up at least five years of service before they're considered vested in the current KPERS system. The average length of service among House members is six years, while Kansas' Senate boasts an average of just more than five years.

Republican state Rep. Jim Howell of Derby, Johnson's vice chair on the pension committee, argues that such compensatory calculations are vital to opening the Legislature to all Kansans, not just those who can afford to spend time in Topeka.

"We have a citizen legislature, great stuff," Howell said. "But in order for the average citizen to serve here, they do need to earn some sort of a living. No one is getting rich here."

Johnson said that while legislators are officially on-the-job from January through May, there's a lot of work that happens after-hours, which the average voter isn't always aware of. When taking into consideration time spent answering emails, attending events and addressing constituent concerns, Johnson asserts it works out to less than minimum wage for most elected officials.

"Many legislators, this is their only job. We do not earn a big salary, but for the purposes of having a reasonable retirement plan would not really work if it was only based on the pay of 90 days," Howell said. "Again, if this happened, I will contend that the lower-income citizens could not be able to serve. The more the salary or benefits are reduced, the less likely the average Kansan will be able to serve here and make a difference."



This is a photo taken from the City of Manhattan web page.

Manhattan Regional Airport Terminal Expansion

City of Manhattan Web Page Construction Bids Opened August 22, 2013

Construction plans call for an expansion of the terminal building from 12,500 square feet to approximately 42,000 square feet, which includes two enclosed passenger boarding bridges. The airport will remain fully operational during construction, with the work taking place in two phases. The Weitz Company LLC of Lenexa, Kansas, is the general

contractor for the project.

The need for terminal expansion became evident following the start of regional jet service to Dallas-Fort Worth. The size of the needed expansion was determined by completing a Federal Aviation Administration-supported Terminal Master Plan in 2011. The number of passengers using the airport has increased annually since regional jet service began at Manhattan Regional Airport in 2009. More than 125,000 passengers passed

through the terminal in 2012.

The expanded terminal will better accommodate passengers on American Eagle's daily flights to Chicago O'Hare and Dallas-Fort Worth airports. In addition, the expanded terminal will better accommodate passengers on Allegiant's twice weekly flights to Phoenix-Mesa airport. The \$15.8 million project is being funded through grants from the Federal Aviation Administration and City of Manhattan funding.

More Than 200 Exhibitors Registered For Kansas Sampler Festival!

WAMEGO, JANUARY 23, 2014 - The community of Wamego, population 4,485, located in Pottawatomie County, is going all out to host the 25th annual Kansas Sampler Festival. The festival will be held Saturday, May 3 and Sunday, May 4 in Wamego City Park.

For exhibitors to be assured a spot in the festival and in the official program guide they must register by Friday, January 31. Registration and general festival information can be found at

www.kansassamplerfestival.com.

The primary purpose of the Kansas Sampler Festival is to provide the public a sample of what there is to see, do, hear, taste, buy, and learn in the state.

The reason for rotating the festival is to give exhibitors statewide exposure, offer the public in every part of the state a chance to experience the festival, and a chance for the host city to showcase themselves to a statewide audience.

The festival, a project of the

Kansas Sampler Foundation, was designed to bring communities and attractions from all over the state together to make it easy for the public to discover day trip possibilities. Whether they are looking for hiking trails, historic sites, natural landmarks, unique restaurants, off-the-beaten track eateries, architectural gems, hole-in-the-wall performing centers, artists-at-work, specialty shops, or have-to-be-there Kansas events, this festival is for everyone interested in getting to know the state.

Julie Roller, development associate at Pottawatomie County Economic Development Corporation, and the local host director for the festival said, "The City of Wamego and regional partners are excited to meet and welcome all the exhibitors and visitors to our community. Even though we are the smallest community to have the festival, we are no stranger to hosting large events including our annual 4th of July celebration. We are grateful to have the opportunity to showcase what Kansas has to offer in the beautiful backdrop of our city park and friendly community."

Registration numbers have surpassed the 200 mark and the excitement is building throughout the state. Communities of all sizes will be represented as well as Kansas products, entertainers, historic performers, cultural heritage demonstrations, wineries/microbreweries and food booths.

DICK EDWARDS
Manhattan, Ks



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Riley County Commission Minutes

The Board of County Commissioners Of Riley County, Kansas

The Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners met at the Riley County Plaza East Building January 16, 2014 with the following members present: Robert Boyd, Chair; Ron Wells, Vice Chair; Dave Lewis, Member; and Cindy Kabriel sitting in for Rich Vargo, County Clerk.

8:30 Pledge of Allegiance
Public Comment, Commission Comments, & Business Meeting

Luke Auen; Debbie Regester, Register of Deeds; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Trent Armbrust, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce; and Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer, attended.

Auen invited the commission to tour the new Flint Hills Heart, Vascular and Vein Clinic built by Dr. Dattilo on Vanesta Drive.

King presented the following list of official depositories eligible to receive Riley County funds:

Capitol Federal Savings and Loan, Manhattan

Central National Bank, Manhattan

Commerce Bank, Manhattan

Community 1st Bank, Manhattan

Intrust Bank, Manhattan

Kansas State Bank, Manhattan

Landmark National Bank, Manhattan

Leonardville State Bank, Leonardville

Riley State Bank, Riley

Sunflower Bank, Manhattan

UMB Bank, Manhattan

United Bank & Trust, Manhattan

Kansas Municipal Investment Pool

Lewis moved to approve the following list of official depositories eligible to receive Riley County funds in 2014:

Capitol Federal Savings and Loan, Manhattan

Central National Bank, Manhattan

Commerce Bank, Manhattan

Community 1st Bank, Manhattan

Intrust Bank, Manhattan

Kansas State Bank, Manhattan

Landmark National Bank, Manhattan

Leonardville State Bank, Leonardville

Riley State Bank, Riley

Sunflower Bank, Manhattan

UMB Bank, Manhattan

United Bank & Trust, Manhattan

Kansas Municipal Investment Pool

Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Volanti said the department heads would like to request delaying the department head evaluation followups until after the County Officials Luncheon February 10th so there can be discussion about departmental strategic plans and goals.

The Board of County Commissioners agreed by consensus to delay the department head evaluation followups until after the County Officials Luncheon February 10th.

Wells moved to approve "Resolution No. 011614-04, A Resolution urging the Kansas Legislature and Governor Sam Brownback to retain the mortgage registration fee as provided in K.S.A. 79-3102 and to reject any or all legislative proposals abolishing that fee."

Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to sign the Real Estate Tax Roll Correction for Matthew R. & Brooke L. Wurtz (129-30-0-00-005.01-0) for tax year 2013.

This results in a decrease in tax dollars of \$165.74. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to sign the Real Estate Tax Roll Correction for Matthew R. & Brooke L. Wurtz (129-30-0-00-005.00-0) for tax year 2013.

This results in a decrease in tax dollars of \$83.22. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to approve a Portable Communication Device Allowance Form for Steve Kirk. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to approve Out of State Travel Requests for Jacob Gaylon and Darci Paull to attend an ESRI User Conference in San Diego, California in the amount of \$2,550.00 per request to be funded by the IT/GIS Department. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Wells moved to appoint Linda Morse to the North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board, term expiration December 31, 2015 and "Resolution No. 011614-05, A

Resolution appointing a representative to the North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board." Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to approve the minutes of January 13, 2014 as amended. Wells seconded. 9:04

Brenda Nickel, Health Department Director

Kristina Jackson, Manhattan Mercury; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Debbie Regester, Register of Deeds; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; and Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer, attended.

Nickel said the Riley County Board of Health and the Riley County Health Department (RCHD) are working with the Public Health Advisory Council to strengthen communication with the public about the role of the Board of Health and the local health department to provide population-focused prevention, protection, promotion, and emergency preparedness programs and services.

Nickel said the Riley County Board of Commissioners has suggested that quarterly Board of Health meetings to be held during evening hours to provide the following information:

1. First Quarter:

—Riley County Health Department Annual Report

—2014 Strategic Planning and Activities

2. Second Quarter:

—Budget and Program Review

3. Third Quarter:

—2014 Progress Report

Nickel said a tentative date of Monday, February 24th was provided to the RCHD Director during the Department's Monthly Update on January 9, 2014. The Director has met with Department leadership and the Fiscal Analyst to begin discussion on preparations for the format and presentation to the Board of Health and the public.

The Board of County Commissioners agreed to Monday, February 24, 2014 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers for Board of Health Meeting.

Nickel said the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD), in partnership with the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC), is hosting the County Government Day 2014, February 5, 2014 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka from 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Nickel said the KALHD has sent to local Health Department Directors, 2014 Policy Statement that was approved during the annual KAC meeting in October 2013 in Wichita. There are six specific population and public health issues that the KALHD will focus efforts to inform and educate policymakers.

Nickel said the KALHD has also provided information from the Kansas Center for Economic Growth that addresses the impacts to local government due to changes in tax policy that do have implication for local Boards of Health.

Nickel said the Riley County Board of Health and the Riley County Health Department (RCHD) are working with the Public Health Advisory Council to strengthen communication with the public about the role of the Board of Health and the local health department to provide population-focused prevention, protection, promotion, and emergency preparedness programs and services. This County Government Day 2014 meeting is an opportunity to engage with the KAC, KALHD, other county and state policy makers to share information and ideas about meeting the needs of our residents.

9:19 Debbie Regester, Register of Deeds

Kristina Jackson, Manhattan Mercury; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; and Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer, attended.

Regester presented the Register of Deeds' revenue and staff report.

9:42 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

Administrative Work Session

9:42 Lewis 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 Commission Chambers at 9:52 a.m. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:52 Lewis moved to go out of executive session. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

Holeman presented a draft Flint Hills Regional Transit Administration Interlocal Agreement.

10:00 Jennifer Wilson, County Extension Director and Gregg Eyestone, County Extension Agent

Kristina Jackson, Manhattan Mercury; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

Wilson presented a staff update.

Wilson said January is Radon Awareness Month.

Wilson discussed the K-State Research and Extension Making a Difference for Kansas January 2014 Report.

Eyestone provided an overview of the 2013 Extension Master Gardener accomplishments and activities.

Eyestone presented a Master Gardeners 2013 Certificate to Robert Boyd.

10:16 Brad Schoen, Riley County Police Department Director

Kristina Jackson, Manhattan Mercury; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Pat Collins, Emergency Management Director; and Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer, attended.

Schoen said Pat Collins sent a communication system RFP to the Riley County Police Department for review.

Schoen said they will start planning meetings for Fake Patty's Day.

10:25 Pat Collins, Emergency Management Director

Kristina Jackson, Manhattan Mercury; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; and Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer, attended.

P. Collins discussed an ICS 402 class. P. Collins said the class is a briefing for elected and appointed officials on disaster response.

P. Collins said in the 1990's Riley County purchased some sirens from Federal Surplus Property in Topeka that had been removed from Washington, D.C. These have worked well and as funding came available they have tried to replace them. University Park (UP), Leonardville, and Keats still have these. In the past several years the UP siren

has caused them the most repairs and is the top choice to be replaced. To replace these, P. Collins has continued to put at least one siren replacement in the annual CIP request at an estimated \$19,000 installed. In 2013, the UP siren was moved to the funded column by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). As Riley County and the City of Manhattan have only ever purchased Federal sirens, he requested a quote from Blue Valley Safety, Inc. for an identical siren as their latest purchases.

P. Collins said the quote from Blue Valley came back with the cost of installation and removal of the present siren at \$20,170.78. Before he could

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The Next Riley County General Election Will Be November 4, 2014

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Riley County Commissioner Bob Boyd
785-537-6357

Riley County Commissioner Ron Wells
785-565-6213

Readers...
The Riley County Commissioners are marching to takeover the financing of all major projects in Manhattan and Riley County. The City of Manhattan is \$278 million in Debt. The State of Kansas has a law that limits the amount of Debt a City or County can have. Manhattan is within \$50 million of reaching the limit. \$50 million sounds like a lot of money but the City and the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce have been working for the past year with a "Private" Group to takeover the City Parks and spend \$52 million. In doing so they would destroy about everything build in the last 20 years. That one project would put Manhattan above the State Debt Limit so they need help.

Any project financed by the Public Building Commission would not count against the Total City Debt. It gives them a way to go around the State Law. There will be no stopping the Cities ability to take City Debt to new heights.

There is an old joke.. "How can you tell if a politician is lying? Their lips are moving." Well the Riley County Commission's lips have been moving but we do not want to call them liars, they have just been telling Citizens one thing and doing another.

For months the Free Press has been asking Citizens to call the Commissioners about the Public Building Commission but the Commissioner have been responding by saying that any Public Building Commission will only be used for Riley County Projects. But look at the December 19th issue of the Manhattan Free Press at manhattanfreepress.com.

We print the new Bylaws and look at what the Commission is going to pass: "ARTICLE VII
Projects Excluded - The PBC shall not have authority to approve financing for any public building project of a unified school district, university or college."
They are not "Excluding" the City of Manhattan or the State of Kansas.

Jon A. Brake
Publisher Manhattan Free Press and the Blue Rapids Free Press

Chicken conservation plan likened to mafia extortion

By Travis Perry
Kansas Watchdog

OSAWATOMIE, Kan. — A decision pending with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could have huge ramifications for rural Kansans living in the western third of the state.

In limbo is the question of whether the lesser prairie-chicken should be listed as a "threatened" species under provisions of the 1973 Endangered Species Act. The species inhabits land spanning Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico.

But while the bird has boasted strong numbers during the past few decades, according to figures provided by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, a recent population dip could spur government intervention from on high.

Opponents of such a move argue the impact would be astronomical. Jobs would be lost, development would be stymied and the economic cost could be in the billions, they say.

Kansas, in cooperation with the four other states affected by the issue — a coalition known as the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies — has attempted to stave-off such a decision with the development of a Range-wide Conservation Plan for the lesser prairie-chicken.

While lauding the plan, USFWS previously stated it won't necessarily stop a reclassification of the chicken.

This is where state lawmakers come into play, with regard to SB 276. The legislation, discussed by the state Senate Natural Resources Committee on Thursday, would nullify any federal move to regulate and protect both the lesser and greater prairie-chicken species.

It wouldn't be the first time Kansas has challenged the feds. Last year, state lawmakers passed legislation exempting all guns manufactured and owned in Kansas from federal regulation, a move that U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said in May was unconstitutional.

"From our member stand-

point, this listing is devastating," said Steve Swaffar, public policy director for Kansas Farm Bureau.

From restricting growth of wind turbine development to jeopardizing mineral rights, Swaffar said many rural Kansans have significant reservations about USFWS plans, as well as the state RWCP, for the lesser prairie-chicken.

"If we can pass this bill, many of you would go home heroes, because our members are extremely concerned what the loss of that income might be," he said.

Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach told state senators the bill almost certainly would be challenged in court to the tune of \$100,000 to \$400,000. But Kobach argued it would be a small price to pay to protect rural Kansans from the heavy hand of federal regulation.

"If we don't fight this fight, and the prairie chicken is listed, the cost to Kansas counties, landowners and local governments will be in the billions,"

Kobach said. "I believe this is a fight that's worth fighting."

Kansas Electric Cooperatives Inc. CEO Bruce Graham said the state's RWCP could cause electric-related costs to skyrocket.

"Our cooperatives calculate that mitigation costs range from \$11,000 to nearly \$22,000, paid up front, in order to construct just one mile of distribution line," Graham stated Thursday. "Projections for transmission line mitigation assessments could add an astounding \$870,000 to the cost of a mile of line — nearly doubling the cost of transmission construction."

Those costs undoubtedly would be passed along to rural consumers.

But so far, some of the strongest rebukes have come from members of the Kansas Natural Resource Coalition, a group of 32 western Kansas counties opposed to reclassification of the lesser prairie-chicken. KNRC member and Sherman County Commission President Ken

Klemm called the RWCP and its "voluntary" participation nothing short of extortion.

In a December opinion piece published in the Hays Daily News, Klemm wrote:

"It works like this: If you want 'protection' from the risk that you might kill or harm the bird, or its habitat, you have to sign up for the plan. No matter that there might not be any birds in your area, the threat holds true in perpetuity since the federal government one day might decide it wants birds there. Of course, this is strictly 'voluntary,' so you can choose not to buy the 'protection.'

"If this sounds like a script out of a Chicago gangster movie where the bad guys sell 'fire protection' to honest, hard-working shopkeepers, that's because that's just what it's like; a protection racket, sponsored by the federal government."

The initial RWCP buy-in isn't cheap. The initial "mitigation fee" to private landowners is \$2.25 per gross acre for the first three years of the plan. During the first decade, WAFWA estimates it will pull in as much as \$247.3 million from all industries participating in the RWCP. Mitigation costs must be paid, in full, before any potential land development

could move forward with federal blessing.

"These costs represent a direct siphon of local operating capital," said Jim Carlson, KNRC executive director.

Perhaps most disturbingly, Carlson points to a provision within the RWCP that states "the most current payment rates will be posted on the WAFWA website." Carlson said he interprets this to mean that fee rates are subject to change.

USFWS says the historical range of the lesser prairie-chicken has shrunk by 84 percent because of development and agricultural activities. Last year, the bird's population dropped dramatically from slightly more than 34,000 to less than 18,000. KDWP officials asserted the decline was because of drought conditions, and that normal rainfall will boost the lesser prairie-chicken's numbers back to normal levels.

Leslie Gray, USFWS public affairs specialist, argued while extreme weather events like drought have contributed to the population decrease, so have habitat fragmentation and land development.

County Minutes

from page 2

get with the BOCC to see about increasing the allotment from CIP, the project was put on hold. P. Collins was asked to return after the first of the year to bring this project back up for discussion.

P. Collins said the fiscal impact is \$20,170.78 from the CIP. P. Collins said he believes the current pole will work, but if not he will replace the pole out of Emergency Management funds.

Lewis moved to authorize a \$20,170.78 purchase from Blue Valley Safety to replace the University Park Siren and approve Purchase Authorization for federal 2001 DC siren provided by Blue Valley Safety, Inc. in the amount of \$20,170.78 for the Riley County Emergency Management Department to be funded by the CIP fund. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

10:45 Monty Wedel, Planning/Special Projects Director
Bob Isaac, Planner; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County

Engineer; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Kristina Jackson, Manhattan Mercury; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Bart Thomas; Layton Thomas; Vernon Jarboe, Sloan Law Firm; and Richard Britt, attended.

Wedel presented a request to rezone a tract of land from "AG" (Agricultural District) to "D-1" (Industrial Park) for Thomas Outdoor Advertising, Inc.

Wedel said on January 6, 2014, the Manhattan Urban Area Planning Board continued the public hearing for the request to rezone a tract of land from "AG" (Agricultural District) to "D-1" (Industrial Park). By a 4-1 vote, the Planning Board forwarded a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to deny the request for reasons listed in the staff report. Staff also recommends that the Board of County Commissioners deny the request to rezone the subject

property based on reasons listed in the staff report.

Wedel said staff would recommend a Commercial Planned Unit Development (C-PUD) designation that would allow the applicant to accomplish his objectives while also providing some control of future uses along K-18.

Wedel said there is a lack of visual quality controls with industrial zoning.

Wedel discussed the applicants concerns with the C-PUD option.

Jarboe said from a practical standpoint industrial zoning makes more sense instead of a simple C-PUD so the business can continue to do what you want to in the future. Jarboe said the rezone classification should fit the business.

Thomas said his business is probably more concerned with visual than any other business, since he makes signs.

Britt said he is an adjacent landowner and agrees with the rezone to D-1 industrial.

Wells said he agrees with

rezoning to industrial.

Lewis said the request is not inappropriate, but Riley County has regulations in place for a reason.

Lewis said local government can make it difficult for businesses to grow.

Boyd said it should be consistent with the other C-PUD properties and the recommendation of the Planning Board. Boyd said if the commission approves the request he is locked in. Boyd said after the regulations are changed he can bring the request back for consideration.

Lewis moved to approve "Resolution No. 011614-06, Resolution amending the zoning map of Riley County concerning the use of certain real estate located in Manhattan Township." Wells seconded. Carried 2-1. Boyd opposed.

12:32 Lewis moved to adjourn. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.



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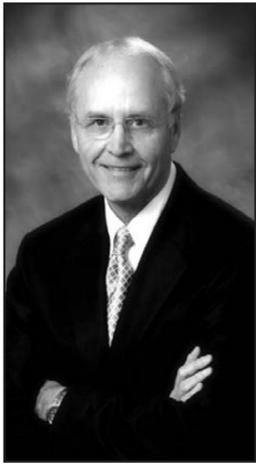
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Over Easy...

By Bob Strawn,
Mayor emeritus

"Commissioner Karen McCulloh made some positive comments about (Allegiant Air) being so affordable. 'I talked to someone - they were flying to Tucson for a meeting, and they found it was inexpensive enough that a woman could take her husband along.'" McCulloh was quoted in *The Collegian*, September 18, 2013.



Bob Strawn

This is the kind of whacky logic some city commissioners use for giving away tax dollars in the guise of economic development.

Monday, Allegiant Air announced they're pulling the plug on Manhattan. Yep, just a couple months after startup, the airline said MHK was not viable, and that they would discontinue service on February 23rd.

As part of a \$200,000 plus ecodexo incentive package for Allegiant, the city had waived all airport fees and intended to reimburse the airline up \$100,000 annually for other expenses. Thankfully, Allegiant decided early on to cut bait. And thus Manhattan taxpayers won't take a major hit for this woeful decision.

It's instructive to note that while McCulloh was justifying her position by knowing a woman who took her husband, Commissioner Wynn Butler

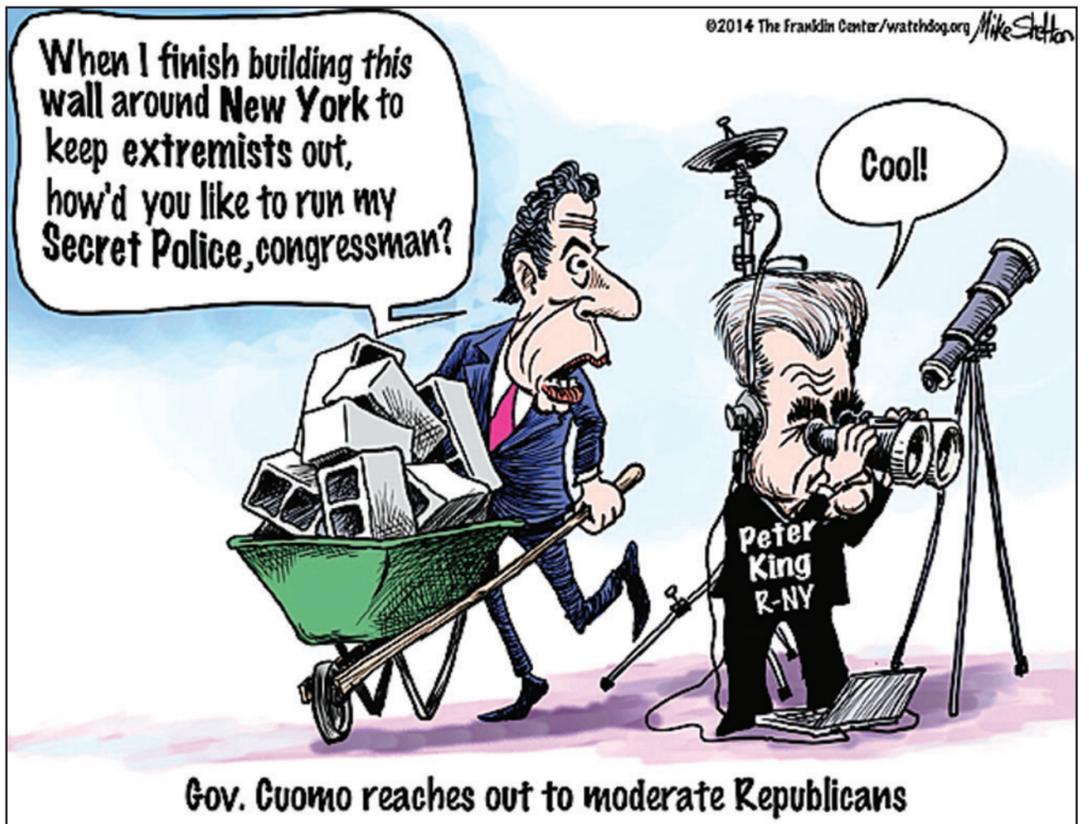
was far more circumspect.

"What I gathered was that some of those cities (Allegiant Air) left had 90 percent occupancy on their flights. But they still terminated service because they are making more of their money as a travel agency selling packages. And the people flying out of those cities were not buying the services on the other end." Butler is known to do his homework. And in this case, he clearly understood that it wasn't "butts in the seats" that mattered as much to Allegiant as selling rental cars, hotel rooms and other items to passengers.

The airline provided two weekly flights between Manhattan and Mesa, Arizona. Mesa is a Phoenix suburb.

The primary issue with Mesa's airport is that it's not a hub for connecting flights like those found at the main port in the Valley of the Sun, Phoenix Sky Harbor. So, for example, if you wanted to follow K-State baseball team to California next month by flying on the cheap to Mesa, you'd have to take a 33 mile cab ride to Sky Harbor for a connecting flight to Los Angeles, or rent a car in Mesa and drive 1600 miles by the time you got back for your

The Conservative Side...



Gov. Cuomo reaches out to moderate Republicans

return flight home.

So, how many of you have a need to be in Phoenix? Not many. And therein was always the rub with Allegiant.

We are strong supporters of Manhattan Regional Airport. It is the single most important route into our town. The American relationship there is a striking example of how government can effectively pro-

mote economic development. But the Allegiant effort was poorly conceived and thus quickly failed on its merits.

We hope the city continues to pursue western markets -

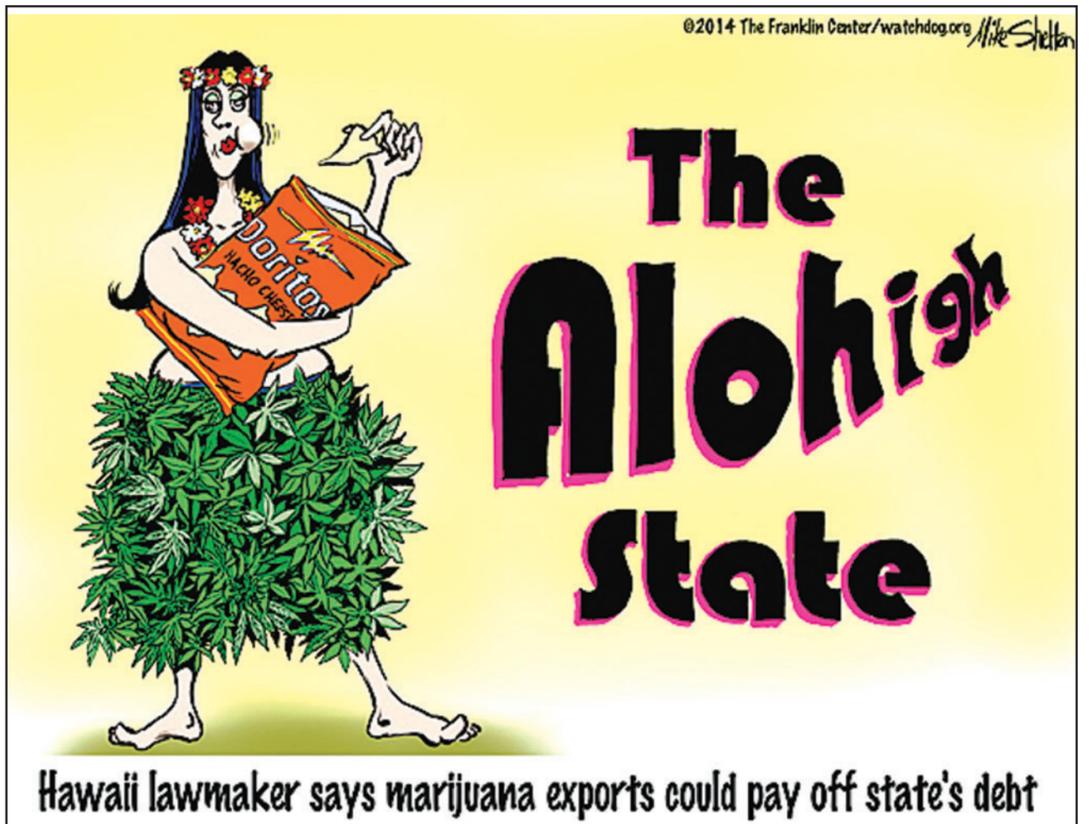
United to Denver for example - which will better serve the community's needs. While at the same time avoid foolish choices based on flawed logic like knowing a woman who took her husband along.

— King Crossword —
Answers
Solution time: 21 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
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| T | S | I | S | B | R | A | F | A | I | L |
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| A | U | C | T | I | O | N | S | A | R | E |
| M | P | H | D | A | D | S | C | A | M | P |
| | | | J | E | T | J | U | T | | |
| P | A | P | U | A | B | A | R | I | S | T |
| O | W | E | N | V | I | M | O | P | U | S |
| P | L | A | C | K | E | T | G | N | A | T |
| | | | T | E | X | P | A | S | | |
| P | L | A | I | N | L | E | I | S | E | E |
| E | U | R | O | S | E | C | T | I | O | N |
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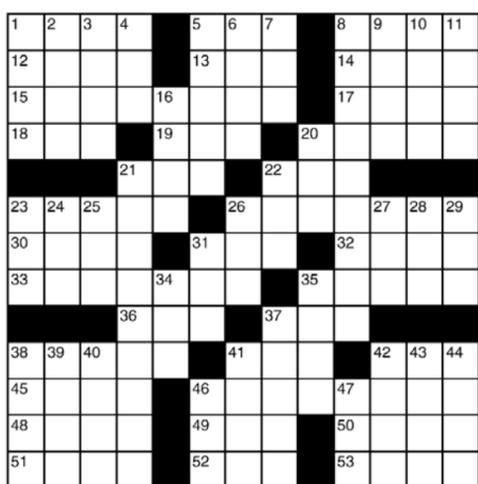
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King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Egyptian fertility goddess
 - 5 Lingerie item
 - 8 Go bankrupt
 - 12 Less than bi-
 - 13 Started
 - 14 Discourteous
 - 15 Many eBay sales
 - 17 Geometry calculation
 - 18 Speedometer stat
 - 19 Father
 - 20 Rascally sort
 - 21 Lustrous black
 - 22 Stick out
 - 23 - New Guinea
 - 26 Starbucks employee
 - 30 Luke Wilson's brother
 - 31 Energy
 - 32 Piece of work
 - 33 Skirt slit
- DOWN**
- 1 Mosque VIP
 - 2 First course, maybe
 - 3 Part of the foot?
 - 4 Drunkard
 - 5 Become swollen
 - 6 Tear
 - 7 Commercials
 - 8 One-half and three-fourths
 - 9 Emanation
 - 10 The same
 - 11 Jump
 - 16 Thought
 - 20 South (Sp.)
 - 21 Meeting places
 - 22 Toast topper
 - 23 Burst
 - 24 Piercing tool
 - 25 Shell game item
 - 26 Piece
 - 27 Hot tub
 - 28 Ancient boy king
 - 29 Donkey
 - 31 Irritate
 - 34 Understanding
 - 35 Pace
 - 37 Pie nut
 - 38 Juror, in theory
 - 39 Enticement
 - 40 Saharan
 - 41 Toy block name
 - 42 Hawked
 - 43 Oklahoma city
 - 44 Catch sight of
 - 46 Carpentry tool
 - 47 Hockey enue



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Apple Crisp Snickerdoodle Skillet Cookie

Blogger Heather Baird of SprinkleBakes brings fall flavor to the table with a mash-up of two classic desserts.

Prep Time 30 min
Total Time 1 hr 10 min
Servings 10

Ingredients

- Snickerdoodle Cookie Base**
- 1 pouch (1 lb 1.5 oz) Betty Crocker® sugar cookie mix
 - 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
 - 3 eggs
 - 1/2 cup butter, softened
- Oat Topping**
- 1/2 cup quick-cooking oats
 - 1/2 cup loosely packed light brown sugar
 - 1/4 cup granulated sugar
 - 1/4 cup Gold Medal® all-purpose flour
 - 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
 - 1/2 cup butter, softened
 - 1 tablespoon water
- Apple Topping**
- 1 can (21 oz) apple pie filling
- Garnish**

container (8 oz) frozen whipped topping, thawed
Additional ground cinnamon, if desired

Directions

- 1 Heat oven to 375°F. Lightly grease 9-inch cast-iron skillet with shortening or spray with cooking spray.
- 2 In large bowl, beat cookie mix, 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon, the vanilla and eggs with electric mixer until just combined. Add 1/2 cup butter; beat until smooth. Spread mixture in skillet.
- 3 Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from oven; place skillet on cooling rack.
- 4 Increase oven temperature to 425°F. Grease cookie sheet with shortening or line with cooking parchment paper.
- 5 To make Oat Topping, in small bowl, stir together oats, brown sugar, granulated sugar, flour and 1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon. With fork, mash 1/2 cup butter into dry mixture until crumbly. Sprinkle water over mixture; stir briefly. Spread mixture on cookie sheet.
- 6 Bake at 425°F 5 to 8 minutes or until mixture is golden brown around edges and bubbly in center. Remove from oven; break up topping with fork. Topping will be soft at first, but will harden as it cools. Cool topping completely on cookie sheet.
- 7 Top Snickerdoodle Cookie Base with apple pie filling. Heap oat topping over pie filling. Spoon whipped topping onto top center of dessert; sprinkle with additional cinnamon. Store in refrigerator.

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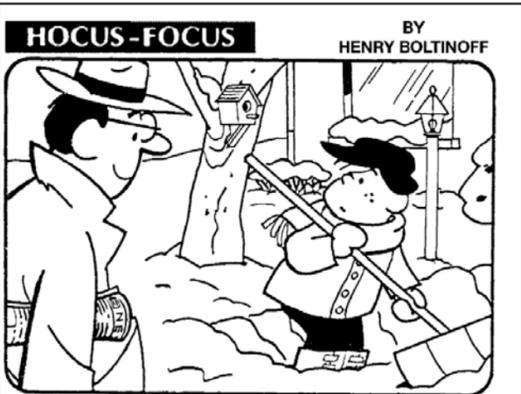
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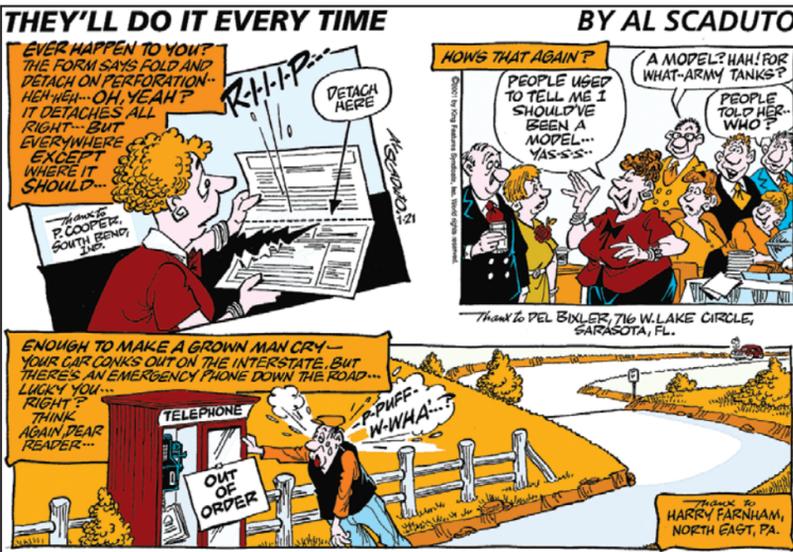
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Differences: 1. Hat is different. 2. Newspaper is missing. 3. Birdhouse is missing. 4. Handle is shorter. 5. Buttons are missing. 6. Lamp post is missing.



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Spradling Sparks K-State Past Texas Tech, 66-58

KSU Sports Information
MANHATTAN, Kan. — Senior Will Spradling scored a season-high 17 points to pace three Wildcats in double figures, as Kansas State earned a 66-58 win over Texas Tech at Bramlage Coliseum on Tuesday.

The win was the 11th consecutive at home for K-State (15-6, 5-3 Big 12), which moved to 28-2 in home games under head coach Bruce Weber, including 12-1 in Big 12 play. The win snapped a two-game losing streak after dropping back-to-back contests on the road at Texas and No. 16 Iowa State.

"Every time you win, even if it wasn't pretty, you still have to be happy," said Weber. "We came out in the first half and played energized basketball. It was good to be back home. We went on a stretch where we held them scoreless for eight minutes. We had great energy from the bench, and then Will (Spradling) got going as well. We had our chances in the first half to stretch it out. We have to make good decisions towards the end of the half. We keep giving up baskets in key momentum situations."

Spradling, who scored in double figures for the second consecutive game, went 4-of-9 from the field, including a pair of 3-pointers, to go with a 7-of-8 effort from the free throw line. Joining Spradling in double figures was junior Nino Williams (13) and freshman Wesley Iwundu (11).

The bench was key for K-State, as reserves accounted for 25 points, including the big effort from Williams. It marked

the ninth time this season that the bench has posted 20 or more points.

The defense was also stellar for K-State, as the team held Texas Tech (10-11, 2-6 Big 12) to 58 points on a season-low 33.9 percent (19-of-56) shooting from the field. The 58 points were the second-fewest scored by the Red Raiders, as the Wildcats have now held 11 opponents to 60 points or less.

After falling behind 9-7 in the first four minutes, a jumper by Williams tied the game and sparked a 16-2 run. During the run, K-State's defense proved to be impenetrable, holding the Red Raiders to no field goals for nearly eight minutes. In that span, Williams scored five of his nine first-half points.

K-State would lead by as many as 14 points, and went into halftime holding a 32-20 advantage. The Wildcats had 10 assists on 48.1 percent shooting (13-of-27) from the field in the first half. Spradling and Williams paced the Wildcats with nine points each.

The Wildcats looked to extend their lead in the second half, after an alley-oop dunk from Iwundu gave K-State a 34-20 lead with 18:42 to play. However, Texas Tech found its stroke, going on a 22-12 run, to make the score, 46-42, with just 10 minutes to play.

Another dunk from Iwundu gave the Wildcats a boost, but a Red Raider tip-in and a 3-pointer from Dusty Hannahs made it a 48-47 contest with 7:16 to play.

However, a pair of free throws by Iwundu ignited a 6-0 run by K-State to push the advantage to seven points with

4:37 to play, as Texas Tech got no closer than four points the rest of the way.

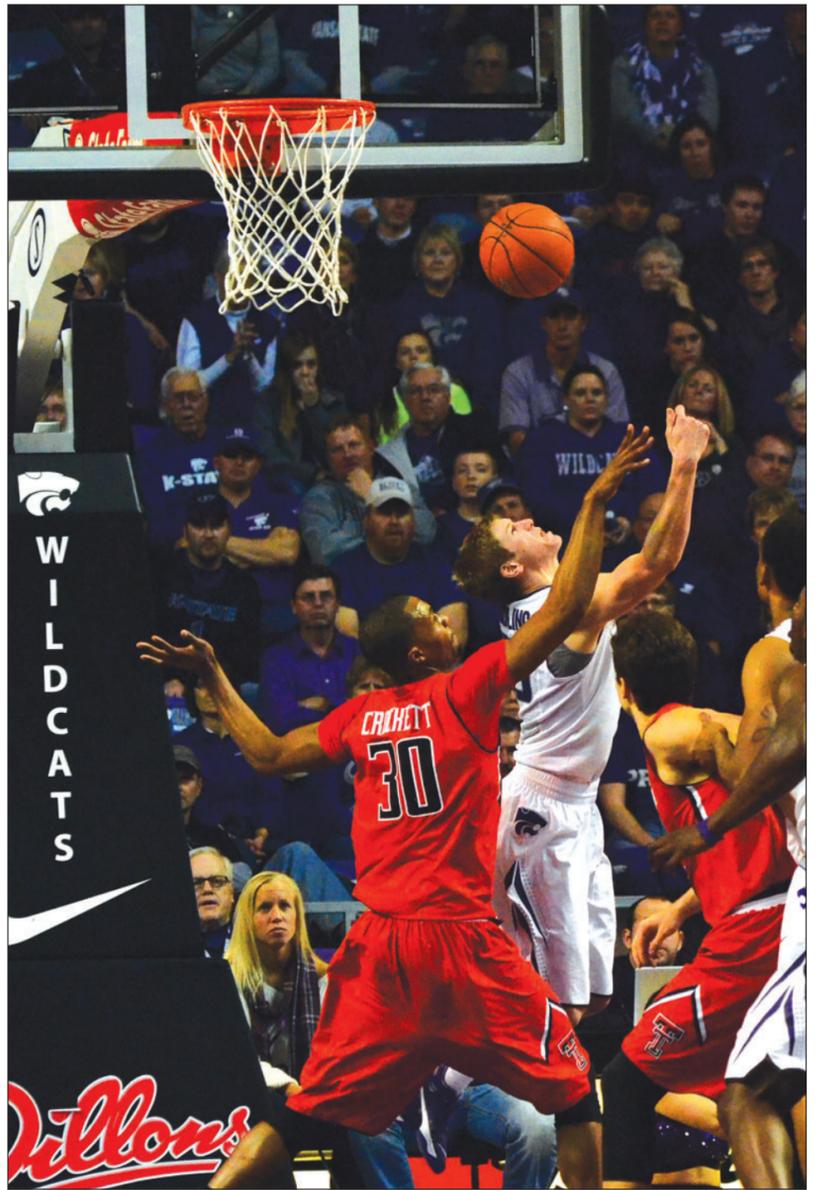
The Wildcats made 12 straight free throws in the last 6:12 of the game, including six in a row by Spradling and two each by Iwundu, Williams and senior Shane Southwell. "We missed four layups to start the second half, and then they pushed it at us and got some baskets," said Weber. "They started to feel good and the game changes. In gut-check time, Will made an unbelievable layup. Marcus (Foster) did not make many shots, but he made a great pass to Wesley (Iwundu) for a dunk. We also got enough stops when we needed to. They do not quit. Tubby Smith has done a great job. They are a tough team. They play together and they play hard."

Jaye Crockett led Texas Tech with 15 points, while Hannahs came off the bench to score 14.

K-State connected on 44 percent (22-of-50) from the field, including just 20 percent (3-of-15) from 3-point range, and knocked down 70.4 percent (19-of-27) from the free throw line, including 75 percent (15-of-20) in the second half.

Despite losing the rebounding battle, 34-32, the Wildcats were able to outscore the Red Raiders, 28-24, in the paint. K-State has now outscored 12 opponents in the paint this season.

Kansas State hits the road this weekend, as the Wildcats travel to Morgantown, W.Va., to face West Virginia (12-9, 4-4 Big 12) on Saturday at 12:30 p.m. CT on the Big 12 Network.



Will Spradling hits a shot on a reverse layup against TT Tuesday night. (Free Press Photos by Tonya Ricklefs)



Wesley Iwundu (25) gets two points for K-State with a dunk.



D. J. Johnson (50) lays one in for the Wildcats.

Kansas State Wildcats Return Home And Find A Victory Over Texas

By Tonya Ricklefs
Manhattan Free Press
Kansas State men's basketball returned home to Bramlage Coliseum needing to rebound from two road losses. Both losses in Texas and Iowa were close heart breakers. Kansas State has an opportunity to put another W in the win column with a home game against

Texas Tech. Kansas State has a 10-1 record at home this year.

The Cats start out the game with noticeable improvements in their shooting from the field. They were shooting at over 48%. This was better than even their shooting at Iowa State, which was around 42%. K-State has also struggled with their free throw shooting this

year, but has shown improvement in this area shooting at 75% in the second half of both their last two games.

During the first half of the game, Kansas State pulled ahead at half time by 12 points. They capitalized on their successful shooting as well as six turnovers committed by Texas Tech in the first half. The Cats

executed a successful offensive game in the first half, one that was nearly flawless and showed good decision making. When the Wildcats returned in the second half, Texas Tech fought to get back in the game. The Raiders caused K-State's offense some trouble and while the 3-point shooting remained the same, shooting from the field dropped nearly 10%.

The young team continues to show that they can rally at home. When Texas Tech began to catch up, K-State did try to rush their game that had given them success in the first half. The Cats began to make some bad passes and other turnovers. Once again, when they set their pace and work the offense, not forcing the play, the Cats usually can keep the other team

guessing because they have so many players that can be a threat. Once again, K-State had nine players who scored with Will Spradling leading with 17 points. Spradling had an excellent game. The game was not pretty, but they were able to rally and pull off the win as a team.

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