



Manhattan Free Press

Vol. 22 Number 38

An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper

Thursday, February 20, 2014

The Negative Effects Of Minimum Wage Laws

By Mark Wilson
CATO Institute

The federal government has imposed a minimum wage since 1938, and nearly all the states impose their own minimum wages. These laws prevent employers from paying wages below a mandated level. While the aim is to help workers, decades of economic research show that minimum wages usually end up harming workers and the broader economy. Minimum wages particularly stifle job opportunities for low-skill workers, youth, and minorities, which are the groups that policymakers are often trying to help with these policies.

There is no "free lunch" when the government mandates a minimum wage. If the government requires that certain workers be paid higher wages, then businesses make adjustments to pay for the added costs, such as reducing hiring, cutting employee work hours, reducing benefits, and charging higher prices. Some policymakers may believe that companies simply absorb the costs of minimum wage increases through reduced profits, but that's rarely the case. Instead, businesses



A new report from the Congressional Budget office shows that raising the minimum wage to \$10.10, as the president has proposed, would cost 500,000 jobs. This comes as no surprise to Cato Institute scholars, who for years have written on the pitfalls of raising the minimum wage, which include more than just job loss.

rationally respond to such mandates by cutting employment and making other decisions to maintain their net earnings. These behavioral responses usually offset the positive labor market results that policymakers are hoping for.

This study reviews the economic models used to understand minimum wage laws and examines the empirical evidence. It describes why most of the academic evidence points to negative effects from minimum wages, and discusses why some studies may produce seemingly positive results.

Some federal and state policymakers are currently consid-

ering increases in minimum wages, but such policy changes would be particularly damaging in today's sluggish economy. Instead, federal and state governments should focus on policies that generate faster economic growth, which would generate rising wages and more opportunities for all workers.

Mark Wilson is a former deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor. He currently heads Applied Economic Strategies, LLC, and has more than 25 years of experience researching labor force economic issues.

ACLU Decries KS Police Database As 'Tool For Mass Surveillance'

By Travis Perry
Kansas Watchdog

OSAWATOMIE, Kan. — If you've ever driven through the Kansas community of Hutchinson in recent years, chances are your whereabouts were logged and locked inside a law enforcement database.

Maybe not your face, but rather your vehicle license plate, the time and your location — a snapshot of your movements — were potentially captured by one of two Automatic License Plate Readers employed by the Hutchinson Police Department.

ALPRs are the product of a collision between crime fighting and high-end technology. Utilized by the HPD since 2009, the patrol vehicle-mounted devices can instantly scan a license plate and compare it against any number of law enforcement databases. In mere seconds, officers can check for stolen vehicles, arrest warrants or other relevant information tied to the plate number.

While law enforcement officers say the devices are a valuable tool for combating crime in the modern age, privacy advocates are warning that police are compiling a database that could be misused and abused to track the movements of law abiding citizens.

Hutchinson Police Chief Dick Heitschmidt told Kansas Watchdog that on an average day, the ALPRs used by his officers will capture between

500 and 2,300 license plates. That figure is slightly higher for the Lenexa Police Department, said Maj. Dawn Layman, which scan as many as 7,000 in a 24-hour period.

In addition to two vehicle-mounted units, Lenexa has also phased-in two fixed-location ALPRs. Both Heitschmidt and Layman cite a laundry list of accomplishments made possible by the devices, ranging from recovered property and successful arrests to locating missing persons.

It sounds great, but here's where it gets scary: all that information, the time and location tracking thousands of vehicles every day, is kept on file for years, whether or not the plate triggered a database alert.

In Hutchinson, Heitschmidt said all ALPRs data is stored at the city's law enforcement center for two years before being purged. The timeline is even longer in Lenexa, where Layman said the LPD maintains active data for between 12 and 18 months, and archived data is kept for five years.

That fact doesn't sit well with Holly Weatherford, advocacy director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas. While she supports police using the technology for legitimate reasons, Weatherford said she is troubled by the fact that citizen movements are kept on file for years without cause.

"Those narrow activities themselves, if done right, are a reasonable use of technology, because they are focused solely on people accused of wrongdoing," Weatherford said. "But there's no reason to store records of plates that are not 'hits' against any database."

Heitschmidt said the HPD is considering decreasing the time a scanned plate is kept on file, but only because they're running out of room to store the torrent of data supplied by ALPRs. Heitschmidt noted there's no real need to keep data for that long, either.

When we asked if Heitschmidt harbored any concerns the information could be used to spy on the movement of citizens, he responded with a succinct "no." He declined to elaborate on the comment.

Layman said the LPD restricts access to its license plate data.

"No employee may use or authorize the use of the equipment or database records in any situation that does not involve a legitimate law enforcement purpose," she said.

While law enforcement agencies are telling the public to give them the benefit of the doubt, Weatherford is maintaining her skepticism.

"The main problem with ALPRs is that they are not being used only to search for suspects, but also to keep records on the whereabouts of everybody. They are increasingly becoming a tool for mass surveillance," Weatherford said. "In our society, it is a core principal that the government does not invade people's privacy and collect information about citizens' innocent activities just in case they do something wrong."

In July 2013, the ACLU released a nationwide study focusing on law enforcement use of ALPRs. Kansas-specific open records requests featured in the report are viewable here.

House Panel Restores \$16M For Kindergarten

By JOHN MILBURN
Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A Kansas House budget committee on Tuesday restored \$16 million for Gov. Sam Brownback's proposal to fund all-day kindergarten, keeping the money in place while a separate committee reviews the merits of the plan.

The recommendation by the House Appropriations Committee reverses a decision made by a working group to strip the funding until a decision is made whether to move forward with Brownback's proposal. The working group will meet Thursday to continue its review of the proposal.

Rep. Jerry Lunn, chairman of the working group, said restoring the funding recommendation doesn't commit legislators to funding the plan, but keeps the issue in play until a recommendation can be made in the coming weeks.

"It's a lot of money that requires serious consideration," said Lunn, an Overland Park Republican.

The full committee endorsed the overall budget for the Department of Education, which would spend more than \$3 billion in the next fiscal year on public schools. Legislators approved most of the spending last session. The committee's action reflects minor changes

in spending, including \$1.1 million to develop new standardized tests.

Brownback made full funding for all-day kindergarten a priority this legislative session, arguing that it is a means for improving student reading scores and helping prepare all students for success in the early grades. Currently the state pays for only half-day kindergarten classes in the 286 school districts, but nearly all districts offer all-day classes by either using existing funds or charging parents a fee to offset the cost.

The governor would fully fund all-day programs over five years, increasing the state sup-

port by \$16 million in each of the next five years. Critics of the plan have questioned whether the state can afford the extra expense and whether the benefits of all-day programs justify the investment.

"Not all all-day kindergartens are equal," said House Appropriations Committee Chairman Marc Rhoades, a Newton Republican. "I've heard both sides."

He said he was interested in hearing more from the working group about whether all-day kindergarten is the best way to help students at risk of academic failure or if there are other ways to target funding.

Spare The Rod

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A Kansas lawmaker is proposing a bill that would allow teachers, caregivers and parents to spank children hard enough to leave marks.

Current Kansas law allows spanking that doesn't leave marks. Rep. Gail Finney, a Democrat from Wichita, says he wants to allow up to 10 strikes of the hand and that

could leave redness and bruising. The bill also would allow parents to give permission to others to spank their children.

It would continue to ban hitting a child with fists, in the head or body, or with a belt or switch.

Finney says she wants to restore parental rights, and improve discipline.

Kan. House Panel Takes Up Climate Change Measure

By JOHN MILBURN

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A Kansas House committee began weighing a resolution on Thursday that urges Congress to resist following President Barack Obama's plan for addressing man-made climate change during a hearing that highlighted the rival views on the role of humans in global warming.

Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee heard nearly two hours of testimony about the measure but took no action. The resolution cites Obama's 2013 plan that calls for a reduction in greenhouse gas emis-

sions and encourages development of renewable forms of energy.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a U.N.-sponsored body, said in September with more certainty than before that humans are warming the planet, mainly through carbon emissions from the burning of oil, coal and gas.

But the two-page Kansas document declares that the federal climate change goals are based on false assumptions about the role of carbon dioxide and human activity. Supporters point to data that suggest warming is occurring naturally and human influence is overstated.

Rep. Dennis Hedke, chairman of the committee and a Wichita Republican, presented a slideshow with graphs indicating changes in temperature, weather and ice coverage going back as far as 10,000 years. He said the research shows that the Earth has gone through periods of cooling and warming long before the world became industrialized, suggesting the planet was experiencing another such natural warming period.

"That's real data," he said, adding that he didn't think controls on carbon dioxide emissions would be effective in achieving the goals Obama and environmentalists seek.

The World Meteorological Organization, the U.N. weather agency, says the warming of the planet since 1950 is "unprecedented" and the Earth will warm by at least 2 more degrees Fahrenheit (1.1 degrees Celsius) this century, unless the world drastically cuts emissions.

Sen. Forrest Knox said Thursday that the global debate was marked by "alarmists" who believe humans are contributing to global warming through the use of fossil fuels and other practices, while "skeptics" question the science behind those claims. He said a serious debate is needed where both sides respect the

other's opinions and find common ground.

"The only thing you know for sure about the weather in Kansas, as you all know, is it's going to change," said Knox, an Altoona Republican. "That's all we really know about climate, too."

Environmentalists argue that the resolution is based on bad science and ignores data that emissions and human activity are altering sea levels and weather patterns.

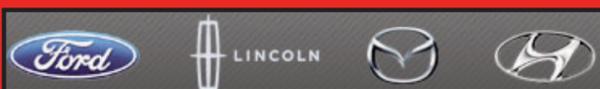
Rabbi Moti Rieber said the scientific community is nearly united in its view that humans are affecting climate change and that such positions have

been adopted by national academies of science worldwide. Rieber is director of Kansas Interfaith Power and Light, an organization of faith communities focused on environmental stewardship.

He said something was happening to the climate, noting that armadillos that previously never were found in Kansas are now found as far north as Topeka, while heartiness zones for gardening have shifted allowing for new plant varieties to thrive.

"Putting your fingers in your ears and humming is not an option," Rieber said. "I'd encourage you to stop doing it."

DICK EDWARDS
Manhattan, Ks



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Courthouse News

Manhattan Free Press

Thursday, February 20, 2014

2A

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 February 10, 2014 with the following members present: Robert Boyd, Chair; Ron Wells, Vice Chair; Dave Lewis, Member; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk.

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

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Julie Winter, Public Works Office Manager; Bob Isaac, Planner; and Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer, attended.

Lewis moved to approve the minutes of February 6, 2014 as amended. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

8:55 Rich Vargo, County Clerk

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Bob Isaac, Planner, attended.

Vargo presented year to date budget and expenditure reports.

9:08 Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative

Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Shannon Wertzberger, Administrative Analyst; Kristina Jackson, Manhattan Mercury; Greg Lund, Parks Manager; and Bob Isaac, Planner, attended.

Volanti showed the Board the new HREPartners application process.

9:30 Press Conference

Greg Lund, Parks Manager; Eileen King, Treasurer; Greg McClure, County Extension Agent; Gregg Eyestone, County Extension Agent; Brenda Nickel, Health Department Director; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Kristina Jackson, Manhattan Mercury; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Rick Petrie, Disc Fanatics of Kansas, attended.

Lund introduced Rick Petrie of Disc Fanatics of Kansas.

Petrie discussed the Fairmont Park disc golf project and expansion.

Petrie reported on February 22, 2014 the "ICE Bowl" will be held. Petrie said from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. will be a meet and greet with the ribbon cutting being held at 11:30 a.m. and tournament beginning at 12:00 (noon).

Boyd presented Dave Schoneweis a Certificate for 17 Years of Appreciation on the Riley County Parks Board. Schoneweis stated the Riley County parks system is one of the best kept secrets in Riley County.

King discussed the new commercial vehicle system.

McClure reported an Estate/Succession Planning Workshop will be held on March 1, 2014 at St. Columbkille Church Hall in Blaine, Kansas.

Eyestone said Landscape Design class will be held on Wednesdays starting February 12, 2014 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Eyestone reported the Garden Show will be February 22, 2014 and February 23, 2014.

Nickel stated the Riley County Board of Health Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. Monday, February 24, 2014 at the Riley County Commission Chambers.

Hobson stated the Annual Township Officers Meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at Pottorf Hall.

Hobson said a University Park informational meeting on the sewer line project will be held Thursday, February 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Randolph Senior Center.

Hobson discussed Riley County's snow removal process.

Hobson stated the total cost of the snow storms in 2014 to date is \$336,000.

Boyd said Riley County Offices will be closed Monday, February 17, 2014 in observance of Presidents' Day.

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

Alvin Perez, Public Works Operations/ Fleet Manager; Brenda Nickel, Health Department Director; Kristina

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

Hobson discussed his recommendation on motor grader purchases. Hobson said using the cost per hour, the outright purchase of a motor grader with a 10-year buy back is the most favorable method when looking at a life cycle of 10 plus years. However, it requires a large initial investment. The next best option appears to be the 10-year lease with buyback. This method requires interest be paid, but the annual payment is within the budgeted amount.

Hobson said staff recommends Riley County purchase the three motor graders from Foley Equipment out right for a total price of \$660,000 if funds are available. If funding is not available, staff recommends leasing the three motor graders from Foley Equipment for a period of 10-years with a guaranteed buy back.

The Board agreed by consensus with the recommendation to purchase Caterpillar motor graders.

The Board asked staff to get the financial numbers if Riley County financed the purchase through temporary financing.

Hobson discussed Public Works projects.

10:25 Brenda Nickel, Health Department Director

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

Nickel presented the key stakeholders invitation to the Riley County Board of Health meeting.

10:30 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services
Administrative Work Session

Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Brenda Nickel, Health Department Director; Kristina Jackson, Manhattan Mercury; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Barry Wilkerson, County Attorney, attended.

Holeman discussed legislation.

Wilkerson discussed SB256 and HB2562.

Boyd left the meeting.

10:52 Cheryl Collins, Museum Director

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

C. Collins presented a Museum staff update.

Lewis moved to adjourn after the County Officials Luncheon. Wells seconded. Carried 2-0.

12:00 Bob Boyd returned to the meeting.

12:00 County Officials Luncheon

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Cutting Kansas Out Of Health Overhaul

By JOHN HANNA
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Conservative Republican state officials who oppose the federal health care overhaul told Kansas legislators Tuesday that they can position the state to opt out of its requirements.

Secretary of State Kris Kobach and two GOP legislators urged the House Federal and State Affairs Committee Tuesday to pass a bill bringing Kansas into a compact among states to assert control over health care policy within their borders. The committee could vote on the measure later this week.

Strong GOP antipathy toward the Democratic president's signature domestic policy has kept the state from expanding its Medicaid program as encouraged by the overhaul and led Kansas to forgo creating its own online health insurance marketplace. The bill is a step toward allowing states to claim a blanket exemption from all federal health care laws, and it's being pursued by opponents of the federal health overhaul across the nation.

The lawmakers pushing the bill were Senate Public Health

and Welfare Committee Chairwoman Mary Pilcher-Cook and Rep. Brett Hildabrand, both of Shawnee. But many other Republican legislators and GOP Gov. Sam Brownback have been highly critical of the federal health law championed by President Barack Obama.

Congress would have to approve the compact and cede power to the states on health care. Compact supporters argue it's a possibility if Republicans win control of both chambers in this year's elections. They're also pushing for a compact because congressional ratification wouldn't require the president's signature.

"You would be able to address the specific medical care needs of Kansans instead of having to labor under the regulations established by a one-size-fits-all bureaucracy in Washington," Kobach, a former law professor, told the committee.

But state AARP spokesman David Wilson predicted that Congress would never approve the compact.

"It is a frivolous measure that does not nothing at best and at worst puts seniors,

Kansans with disabilities and children at risk," Wilson said.

The compact is the project of Competitive Governance Action, a Houston-based group, which says on its website that it favors the devolution of government power. According to the group, eight states, including Missouri and Texas, already have enacted compact laws.

The language of the compact is broad enough that the states could seek to exempt themselves from federal rules regarding Medicaid, which provides health coverage for the needy and disabled, and Medicare, which provides coverage for the elderly. The last possibility prompted strong opposition from AARP's Kansas chapter.



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“Junk” Health Plans and Other Obamacare Insurance Myths

Heritage Foundation

Obamacare affects nearly all areas of health care, but the most disruptive provisions of the law affect insurance sold in the individual market. In 2013, at least 4.7 million policyholders across 31 states and the District of Columbia were notified that their current coverage was being discontinued. The number is likely even higher, since data were not available for 19 states.

Obamacare’s advocates claim that the law and its plethora of new insurance regulations were necessary to better protect consumers in this market. They discount the large disruption of coverage for millions of people by claiming that the plan cancellations were for “substandard” policies and that plans were routinely canceled in this market regardless of Obamacare. Further, they assert that the law will replace these plans with “better” insurance all of which is largely untrue.

Myth: The canceled health plans were “substandard” policies.

President Obama has repeatedly referred to the 4.7 million discontinued policies as “substandard.” When the President announced his administrative “fix” that attempted to allow those with canceled plans to keep their existing plans for another year, Senator Tom

Harkin (D-IA) said he was still “concerned about people having policies which don’t do anything. They’re just junk policies.”

Typically, “substandard” refers to plans with limited benefits, which are commonly seen as inadequate because they do not protect against catastrophic costs. These types of plans typically cover routine care, but if there were a major medical event, they might pay only up to a certain amount before leaving the enrollee to pay the rest.

Obamacare gradually phased out these types of plans from 2010 to 2013—completely outlawing them by 2014—by prohibiting both annual and lifetime limits on coverage.

Limited-benefit plans are not nearly as prevalent in the individual market as they are portrayed to be. Of the nearly 16 million enrollees in the individual market in 2012, 725,710 individuals were enrolled in plans classified as limited-benefit plans, and slightly more than a million were in student health plans, which also typically have a limited benefit package. Thus, less than 11 percent of the individual market in 2012 had a plan that could reasonably be considered “substandard.”

Limited-benefit plans are mostly offered by employers in

the group market. Indeed, of the temporary waivers received by over 4 million plan enrollees from the Obama Administration for Obamacare’s annual limit caps before they were completely phased out, only 3.7 percent were for individual market plans; the rest were given to enrollees in group market plans.[6]

Myth: Before Obamacare, there were routine plan cancellations in the individual market.

Many Obamacare defenders blame the discontinued policies on “bad apple insurers,” claiming that it was typical in this market to have plan cancellations and that they are not a result of Obamacare.

For instance, former Obama Administration official Van Jones called the individual marketplace a “wild, wild west” where people were denied coverage for pre-existing conditions and policyholders were continually dropped by insurers offering thin, sketchy coverage.” In addition, President Obama said, “Before the Affordable Care Act, the worst of these plans routinely dropped thousands of Americans every single year.”

But since the enactment of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), insurers have been broadly prohibited

from canceling or refusing to renew coverage. One of the few exceptions to that prohibition is if an insurer discontinues a particular plan or type of coverage. In such cases, the insurer must provide the affected individuals the option to enroll in any other applicable coverage that the insurer offers.

That is largely what happened with the 4.7 million plan cancellations that were reported at the end of 2013. The insurers were discontinuing their pre-Obamacare plans and offering policyholders replacement coverage that complied with Obamacare’s wide variety of new mandates and regulations.

Myth: Pre-existing condition exclusions were rampant before Obamacare.

Individuals being denied health insurance or kicked off their plans because of pre-existing medical conditions is often cited by defenders of Obamacare as justification for the law. The President has said that “up to half of all Americans have a preexisting condition.”

However, while the problem did exist, it was on a much smaller scale than depicted. The issue was in the individual market, where about 10 percent of the privately insured purchase coverage. In the group market, where about 90 percent of privately insured Americans

are covered, the issue was mostly resolved by HIPAA.

Beginning in 2014, Obamacare enforced a blanket prohibition of pre-existing condition exclusions in the individual market. A consequence of this policy is that it incentivizes people to wait until they are sick to purchase coverage. Thus, the law also included an individual mandate to force all Americans to purchase health insurance or pay a tax penalty.

Since the provisions did not take effect right away, the law created the pre-existing conditions insurance plan (PCIP) to operate from 2010 to 2014. It funded new high-risk pools in each state to provide temporary coverage to those with pre-existing conditions.

The PCIP experience revealed that the number of individuals facing pre-existing condition exclusions was not nearly as large as it was portrayed. The Obama Administration initially estimated that 375,000 people would enroll in the PCIP by 2010, but the highest enrollment total ever to occur over the three-year period was in March 2013: almost 115,000, only about 30 percent of original projections.

Reforms to protect this population from unjust exclusions were necessary, but they certainly did not require Obamacare’s individual insurance market takeover.

Myth: Obamacare plans are “better” insurance.

Obamacare does indeed mandate a host of new benefits that every plan must cover and

new rules that each insurer must follow, but the result is not just standardization and over-regulation of health insurance; it also increases costs, which is seen in premiums and cost-sharing levels.

For instance, the average deductible for a bronze plan in the 34 states with a federally facilitated exchange is \$5,095 a year for an individual, and the average catastrophic plan carries an individual deductible of \$6,346. Moreover, 42 states will see significant average premium increases—in many cases, over 100 percent—for individuals purchasing from the exchanges.[17] Therefore, enrollees may not see “better” insurance for their money.

Obamacare Overkill
Obamacare cancels many insurance policies that individuals chose based on their wants, needs, or ability to afford, and it replaces those plans with what the government deems “better” insurance. But this leaves little choice for consumers and increases costs.

Though there were problems in the insurance market before Obamacare was enacted, the scale of those issues does not match the scale of regulatory authority and coercion created by Obamacare. It is Obamacare’s new health insurance regulations that threaten to destabilize the market and make the present situation much worse, particularly in terms of cost. There are more common-sense ways to address the existing problems that do not require massive disruptions of coverage for millions of others.

Bibles To Be Removed From Guest Rooms

By Melissa Erickson, AP Staff Writer

There will no longer be Bibles in the Iowa State University Memorial Union guest rooms after a Wisconsin-based nonprofit found issue with the presence of the religious books, and asked the university to remove them.

The Freedom from Religion Foundation sent a letter to MU Director Richard Reynolds at the end of January alerting Reynolds to “a constitutional concern regarding the placement of religious literature in Iowa State University’s Memorial Union guest rooms.”

“If a state-run university has a policy of providing a Christian religious text to guests, that policy facilitates illegal endorsement of Christianity over other religions and over non-religion,” the letter from FFRF staff attorney Patrick Elliot said.

“Permitting members of outside religious groups the privilege of placing their religious literature in public university guest rooms also constitutes state endorsement and advancement of religion,” the letter said. “State-run colleges have a constitutional obligation to remain neutral toward religion. When a government entity like ISU distributes such material to visitors, it has unconstitutionally entangled

itself with a religious message, in this case a Christian message.”

Executive Director of University Relations John McCarroll said Friday that the Bibles are being removed from the MU’s 52 guest rooms and will be placed in the browsing library on the lower level of the union.

“We believe that’s an appropriate place because not only will the Bibles be available, we have a variety of textbooks and other materials,” McCarroll said. “Guests who stay in the MU hotel have full access to all of those materials.”

McCarroll said he wasn’t aware of any previous complaints about the presence of the Bibles, and that they had been placed in the guest rooms by the Gideons International organization as many as 20 to 30 years ago.

“At the time, the MU was run by a private, non-profit corporation,” McCarroll said. “When the university took over the MU in the past decade, we inherited all the materials and things that were in the union, including the Bibles that were in the rooms.”

Nothing was changed concerning the Bibles when ISU took over the MU in 2003, McCarroll said.

McCarroll said the decision

to remove the Bibles from the guest rooms was “simply a matter of putting the Bibles in a most appropriate location.”

“We want to show respect for all faiths, all beliefs, and we thought this was the most appropriate way to do that,” McCarroll said. “There’s certainly no disrespect intended for the organization that provided those Bibles years ago.”

Last year, FFRF also persuaded officials at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension to remove Gideon Bibles from their campus guest rooms.

FFRF Co-president Annie Laurie Gaylor said it can be “quite shocking” to a person of non-belief to open a drawer in a publicly funded facility and find a religious text.

“Well of course it’s sending a message that we think you should read this book, that you can’t travel without it, you need to read this or know about it,” Gaylor said.

“People who are zealous enough that they have to consult a Bible while they’re traveling are going to travel with one,” she said. “Imagine how people would feel if they were in the Memorial Union lodging and there was a Koran, only a Koran, I imagine there would be an outcry.”

Gaylor voiced a number of grievances with Gideons International, and also warned that literal interpretation of the Bible “can be very harmful.” While the texts in the cases at the U-W Madison Extension and ISU have both been Gideon Bibles, Gaylor said “we would be concerned about any so-called holy book in a public facility like this.”

“It’s an inappropriate, improper suggestion for the government to make,” she said. “It’s not a state-church issue when it’s in a hotel room that’s privately owned, but when it’s public, connected to a public university, that’s different.”

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Over Easy...

By Bob Strawn,
Mayor emeritus

It is well known that President Obama's aggressive use of his administrative powers is testing the Constitution. But liberal excesses are not limited to Washington. We see similar methods quietly practiced by city government in Manhattan. Except here, the media - if you choose to call The Manhattan Mercury such - has no interest in exposing activities that are in keeping with its progressive bent.



Bob Strawn

Obama has tested executive boundaries by claiming authority to kill Americans with overseas drone strikes; halting deportations of undocumented immigrants; and delaying enactment of ObamaCare law with a pick and choose implementation that sparks outrage from his critics.

We believe local officials may be taking a similar arbitrary approach in governance by creating a slush fund for pet projects. Let's take a moment to explain.

Now, it's no secret that we are not fans of the half cent countywide sales tax initiative that easily passed last election cycle. The tax revenue funds county roads and bridges, so county property taxes and fees can be diverted to other county commissioner "wants."

The city's share was to be used in large part for economic development projects like the airport, NBAF infrastructure, and CivicPlus's downtown

development. Some of the tax was also to be targeted at debt reduction and city infrastructure.

But last week the Manhattan Area Housing Partnership (MAHP) requested the city waive \$24,726 in various city building permits and connection fees for affordable housing being built in town. Interestingly, Commission Karen McCulloh acknowledge that she was on the MAHP board of directors, thus a classic conflict of interests, but chose not to recuse herself even after further admitting that she ran for office on a platform supporting affordable housing. We're not sure what would constitute a need for recusal in Ms. McCulloh's mind.

Nevertheless, the Partnership operates 160 or so affordable rental units around town. They target low to moderate income individuals and families whose initial application income ranges from \$23,000 to \$35,000. Rentals, with federal support, range from 40% and 60% of market value. All of which we do not dispute. In fact, we admire this work.

However, the city's \$24,726 waiver is troubling because the money will be taken not from the city's general fund, mostly property taxes, or fees, but rather from the aforementioned

The Conservative Side...



economic development sales tax fund.

So, we have to ask: Since when did affordable housing become economic development? Commissioner Rich

Jankovich said, "We can throw this in as infrastructure ... we can throw this in as economic development." Right commissioner; just call it whatever works and never mind what the voters actually authorized?

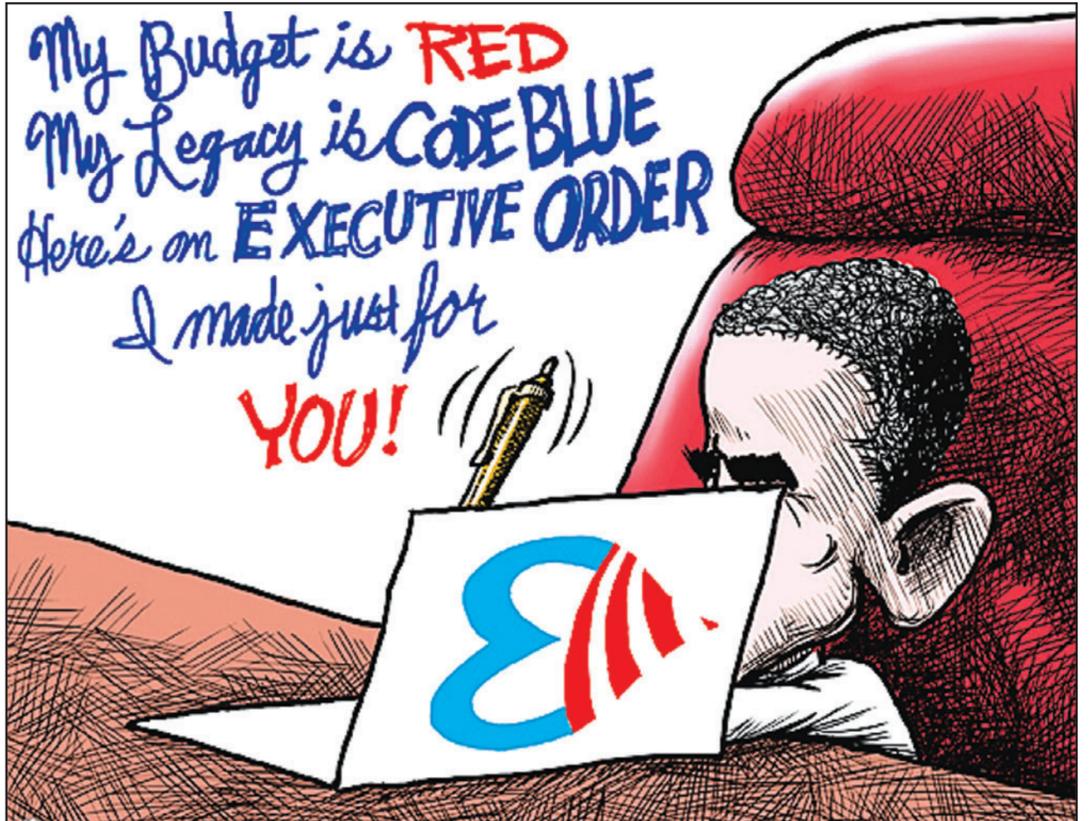
Unfortunately, this commission has now turned the city's economic development reserve into a slush fund. Only Mayor John Matta voted "No."

Rather than justifying affordable housing as a good use of

property taxes and utility fees, as it very well may be, the others called it something it's clearly not, never minding or even discussing for a moment what the plebiscite authorized. How sad.

— King Crossword —
Answers
Solution time: 27 mins.

B	O	A	B	E	E	P	R	O	A	D
E	R	R	E	N	V	Y	E	R	G	O
R	E	G	I	S	T	E	R	E	B	O
G	O	O	B	E	R	A	W	L		
			S	T	Y	M	I	S	T	E
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King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Slithery squeezer
 - 4 Gridlock sound
 - 8 Fork option
 - 12 Screw up
 - 13 Jealousy
 - 14 Therefore
 - 15 Sign up
 - 17 Black, in verse
 - 18 Peanut
 - 19 Puncturing tool
 - 21 Pigpen
 - 22 Fellow's address
 - 26 Calendar information
 - 29 Card player's call
 - 30 Hasten
 - 31 Unsigned (Abbr.)
 - 32 Blue
 - 33 Detective novelist
 - 34 "Monty Python" opener
 - 35 Navigation gizmo
 - 36 Waste
- DOWN**
- 1 "Wozzeck" composer
 - 2 Sandwich treat
 - 3 Jason's ship
 - 4 Surrounds
 - 5 Contestant
 - 6 Prior night
 - 7 Increase progressively
 - 8 Rods' partners
 - 9 Scepter topper
 - 10 Past
 - 11 Mafia title
 - 16 "Ghosts" playwright
 - 20 Victory
 - 23 Melt
 - 24 Green land
 - 25 Caboose's place
 - 26 Raised platform
 - 27 Con
 - 28 Pitch
 - 29 Petrol
 - 32 Makes neat
 - 33 Big rigs
 - 35 Prized possession
 - 36 Oktoberfest supply
 - 38 Beat
 - 39 Ford predecessor
 - 42 Attempt
 - 43 Queen of Olympus
 - 44 Host
 - 45 Beta
 - 46 A billion years
 - 47 Decay
 - 49 Oklahoma city



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Ingredients

- Burger Mixture**
- 1 lb lean (at least 80%) ground beef
 - 1 large onion, chopped (1 cup)
 - 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
 - 1 teaspoon garlic salt
 - 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese (4 oz)

Baking Mixture

- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup Original Bisquick® mix
- 2 eggs

Garnishes, if desired

- 12 mini kosher dill pickles
- 1 medium tomato, chopped
- Ketchup and mustard

Directions

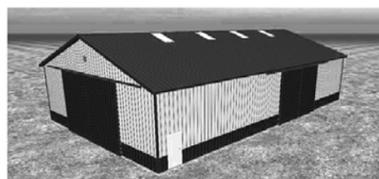
- 1 Heat oven to 375°F. Spray 12 regular-size muffin cups with cooking spray.
- 2 In 10-inch skillet, cook beef and onion over medium-high heat 5 to 7 minutes, stirring frequently, until thoroughly cooked; drain. Cool 5 minutes; stir in Worcestershire sauce, garlic salt and cheese.
- 3 In medium bowl, stir baking mixture ingredients with whisk or fork until blended. Spoon 1 scant tablespoon baking mixture into each muffin cup. Top with about 1/4 cup burger mixture. Spoon 1 tablespoon baking mixture onto burger mixture in each

muffin cup.

4 Bake about 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, and muffin tops are golden brown. Cool 5 minutes. With thin knife, loosen sides of muffins from pan; remove from pan and place top side up on cooling rack. Cool 10 minutes longer, and serve with garnishes.

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Answers On Page 4

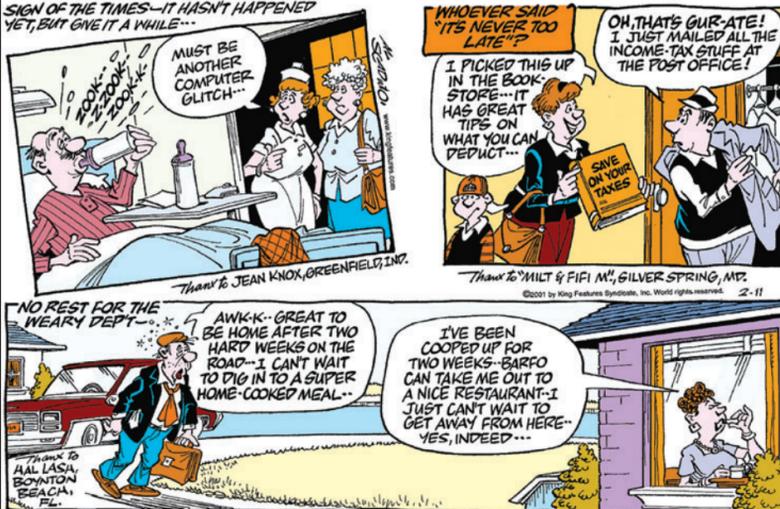
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Differences: 1. Picture is smaller. 2. Scarf end is missing. 3. Rug is different. 4. Mail slot is missing. 5. Apron is missing. 6. Light is missing.

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Baylor Rallies To Beat Kansas State 87-73 In 2 OTs

By SCHUYLER DIXON
AP Sports Writer

WACO, Texas — Kenny Chery had a triple-double, Brady Heslip hit a tying 3-pointer at the buzzer in regulation and Baylor rallied to beat Kansas State 87-73 in two overtimes Saturday night, snapping a four-game home losing streak.

The Bears (16-9, 4-8 Big 12) trailed by 10 with 9 minutes left before rallying to end their longest home skid in nine years.

Baylor's Taurean Prince banked in a tiebreaking 3-pointer in the second overtime, and had a three-point play on a dunk to put Baylor up by 11 with a minute remaining.

Nino Williams had a career-high 20 points for the Wildcats (17-8, 7-5), who lost their fifth straight on the road.

Chery had the sixth triple-double in school history with 20 points and career highs of 12 assists and 10 rebounds.

Marcus Foster, the hot Kansas State freshman playing 200 miles from his Texas home, had 18 points and 10 assists but missed a free throw late in regulation before Heslip's tying shot.

Heslip's swish from well beyond the arc came after a wild sequence of three missed shots before Isaiah Austin came up with a loose ball and passed to Heslip, who let the ball go with the clock inside 2 seconds.

Heslip was 0 of 6 and the Bears were two of 20 from 3-

point range before his tying shot.

Cory Jefferson had 21 points and 11 rebounds for Baylor before fouling out on a play that led to the tying free throw from Foster in the first overtime.

The Bears held for the last shot after Foster's free throw made it 68-all, but Chery missed a jumper.

Prince put Baylor ahead for good early in the second overtime when his 3-pointer from the right wing with the shot clock about to expire banked in. After Williams lost the ball near midcourt, Heslip drove for a layup and a five-point lead.

Will Spradling later hit a 3-pointer to get Kansas State within four, but the Bears ran off eight straight points to put the game away. Prince had five of those points, and Chery the other three.

The Wildcats were coming off consecutive wins over ranked opponents, including an upset of No. 7 Kansas, and led by 10 in both halves before Baylor rallied.

Isaiah Austin had 18 points and a career-high nine blocks, including two to start the second half that sparked an 8-0 run to get Baylor within a point after the Bears scored a season-low 21 in the first half and trailed by nine.

The Bears were down 10 again before Chery finished a 10-0 run with consecutive layups for a 51-all tie.



Marcus Foster (2) had 18 points and 10 assists. (File photos by Ben Brake)

TCU Unable To Hang With No. 7 Kansas In 95-65 Loss

By GEOFFREY CALVERT
Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Kyan Anderson kept TCU in the game in the first half. Unfortunately for the Horned Frogs, he was unable to maintain his scoring binge against No. 7 Kansas.

Anderson had 21 of his 25 points before the break, but the Jayhawks pulled away for a 95-65 victory Saturday.

"I was in a rhythm early and they did a good job of stopping me in the second half, getting it out of my hands and not giving me too many options," Anderson said. "It was obvious what they were trying to do. I felt like they did a pretty good job at it."

Perry Ellis had a career-high 32 points for Kansas (19-6, 10-2 Big 12). Andrew Wiggins added 17 points and Wayne Selden Jr. finished with 15.

"We don't have a matchup for (Ellis) because he's a pro," TCU coach Trent Johnson said. "You've got to pick your poison with this team."

Playing without injured center Joel Embiid and suspended forward Brannen Greene, Kansas got off to a slow start but still managed to take a 47-40 lead into the break. The Jayhawks then used a 13-1 charge out of the locker room to put away the Horned Frogs (9-15, 0-12) for the sixth time in seven meetings.

TCU still has not won since knocking off Texas Southern on Dec. 29.

"We competed probably as well as we had for a while," Johnson said. "They just wore us down."

Anderson did all he could, and Amric Fields added 12 points for the Horned Frogs. But a team that's been deplet-

ed by injuries simply wasn't able to hang with the depth of the Jayhawks.

That depth came in handy, too, with a couple regulars sitting out.

Embiid, who has emerged as one of the nation's top NBA prospects, has been dealing with ankle and back injuries that have limited his floor time the last several weeks. He didn't practice in the run-up to TCU and wound up watching from the bench, though he routinely leaped out of his seat to celebrate the myriad of alley-oop dunks that highlighted the Jayhawks' second half.

Meanwhile, Greene sat next to Embiid on the bench for what a school spokesman described as a "pattern of irresponsible behavior."

"We can have slippage from a responsibility standpoint and that's what happened to him," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "I would rather try to have their heads right early in their career than I would be lax and trying to get them back later."

Reserve forward Jamari Traylor got back on the court and finished with a career-high 10 points and eight rebounds. The sophomore was held out of Monday night's overtime loss to Kansas State for what Self also had described as irresponsible behavior. The two of them spoke Thursday and Self decided to let Traylor play.

Self turned to Traylor when Tarik Black, who started in Embiid's place, picked up two fouls in the opening 2 minutes. It was part of a miserable early stretch for Kansas that included a 1-for-7 performance from the foul line and very little defense.

Of course, the Horned Frogs

had a hand in that performance.

Anderson was 7 of 8 from the field and 5 for 5 from the foul line in the first half, and TCU — which came in shooting a Big 12-worst 40.9 percent — was hitting at a 56.5-percent clip.

Then the second half started, and the Jayhawks began playing above the rim.

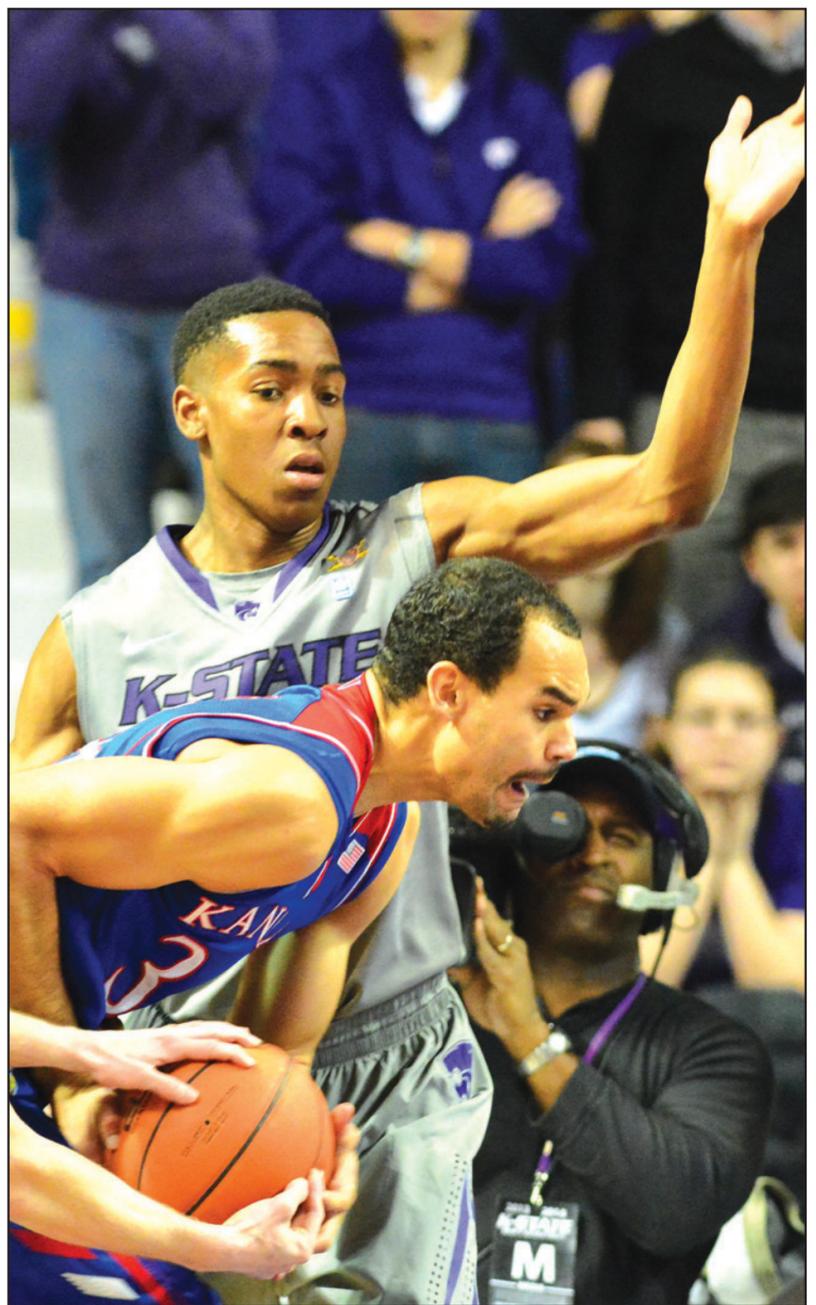
Black, Wiggins and Selden each were on the finishing end of alley-oop passes during what turned into a 23-5 run, giving Kansas a 70-45 lead midway through the second half. The Jayhawks also turned up the defensive pressure, denying Anderson the ball.

"Offensively, we missed a couple of shots and it trickled down to the defensive end," he said. "They just came out, a lot of intensity on D, which led to easy baskets on offense."

Johnson burned through a series of timeouts, but none seemed to quiet a star-studded crowd that included several NBA stars and Barbara Eden of "I Dream of Jeannie" fame.

The Jayhawks started to empty the bench with about five minutes left, shortly after Ellis knocked down a 3-pointer from the corner and the crowd started chanting his name.

"He was great," Self said. "He made shots, stretched it, then made mid-range shots, took the ball strong to the hole. I think one of his two misses he got back. He was without question our best player today. Other guys played well offensively, but certainly nobody played like Perry."



Perry Ellis had a career-high 32 points. (File Photo by Ben Brake)

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