



Manhattan Free Press

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Thursday, April 17, 2014

SOS Founders Will Speak



Kartick Satyanarayan one of the SOS founders to speak at Sunset Zoo.

On Wednesday, April 23, Sunset Zoo will welcome Geeta Seshamani and Kartick Satyanarayan, co-founders of Wildlife SOS, as they speak on their efforts to conserve India's native sloth bear. Beginning at 7pm, the free lecture is held inside the Zoo's Nature Exploration Center and sponsored by the Friends of Sunset Zoo. Zoo grounds will be closed during the event.

"What Geeta and Kartick have accomplished in India is tremendous," said Scott Shoemaker, Zoo Director. "This lecture is a wonderful opportunity for our community to hear firsthand what it's like to preserve animals in their native habitats."

Less than twenty years ago, hundreds of sloth bears could be found throughout India forced to perform on the streets as 'dancing bears,' a practice that seriously threatened wild populations. In 1995, Wildlife SOS was founded to protect and conserve India's natural heritage. Through their efforts, the practice of dancing bears was brought to an end in India in 2009 and the poaching of sloth bear cubs has dramatically reduced. Geeta and Kartick will share the unconventional methods they used to accom-



A Sloth Bear

plish this.

This lecture is part of Wildlife SOS' national tour to support the work of Zoos around sloth bear conservation. While in Manhattan, the pair will also host an Interactive Distance Learning (IDL) program using the Zoo's facilities. The IDL program is part of a series Kartick hosts through Inspire Classroom and Bear Trust International. Sunset staff will also participate, alongside Zoo professionals from several AZA-accredited Kansas Zoos, in a Sloth Bear Husbandry workshop.

The annual Sunset Zoo Presents lecture series is hosted by Friends of Sunset Zoo

(FOSZ) each spring. All lectures are free and the community is encouraged to attend. For over 65 years, FOSZ support has helped to expand and enhance the Zoo, educate Zoo staff and conserve wildlife. With 1,000+ membership households, FOSZ has contributed over \$600,000 to the Zoo since the early 2000's.

For more information about this lecture or any upcoming special event like the Zoo's Party for the Planet Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 19, visit SunsetZoo.com or call 785.587.APES (2737). To learn more about Wildlife SOS, visit wildlifesos.org.

Kansas Outpacing Surrounding

By Travis Perry Ks Watchdog
OSAWATOMIE, Kan. — Kansas has a better future than any other surrounding state, according to a report released Tuesday by the American Legislative Exchange Council.

The seventh-annual ALEC study, "Rich States, Poor States," pegged Kansas at 15th in its economic outlook rankings. That's far better than Nebraska (35th), Missouri (24th), Colorado (22nd) or Oklahoma (21st).

"The 'Rich States, Poor States' report is all about competitiveness between the 50 states," said Jonathan Williams, who co-authored the study alongside Arthur Laffer and

Stephen Moore. "It shows us who the big winners are there."

Williams told Kansas Watchdog the Sunflower State is among those to see the biggest economic gains since the study began in 2008. In the last seven years, Kansas has climbed 14 spots to achieve its current 15th place ranking.

"The survey is significant in that it really shows the states that value competition, that value economic freedom and low taxes," Williams said. "It also connects the dots for people, this isn't just conservative economic theory. This is real world practice of states getting it right and reaping the economic rewards."

A retrospective look, however, reveals that the past decade or so hasn't exactly been perfect on the plains. An examination of a variety of factors pegged Kansas at 32nd overall for economic performance from 2002 through 2012.

What was the biggest knock against the Sunflower State? In a word: population.

It's no secret Kansas saw a significant population decline in the aforementioned time period under the watchful eyes of Democratic governors Kathleen Sebelius and Mark Parkinson; It was a major factor behind the state's poor economic performance ranking in past years.

IRS Holds Refunds To recover Parents' Social Security

By Kenric Ward
Watchdog.org

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Along with death and taxes, add a third certainty in life: taxes after death.

On this April 15, and every other day, the IRS is seizing millions of dollars of alleged Social Security overpayments from children of dead beneficiaries.

The Treasury Department has been exercising its new authority since 2011, bringing in \$424 million in old debts previously considered out of reach, according to published reports.

If the debtor is deceased, the Federal Trade Commission long has considered the money a write-off. But the Social Security Administration has a different view, chasing down adults whose parents cared for them with unintentionally overpaid benefits.

Larry Benson, who writes the "Fraud of the Day" column for Watchdog.org, calls the IRS action alternately odd and humorous.

"I find it odd that the SSA can take the refund of a child of a past debtor, and hold that offspring responsible. Obviously, in a number of cases, at the time the debt was created, this person was a minor and could not be legally bound by a contract. I really don't see how this is enforceable," Benson said.

"Second, I find humorous

that the IRS says it always tries to contact taxpayers before seizing their money."

Benson noted a case in which postcards were sent to a post office box where one descendant hasn't received mail since 1979.

Mary Grice, a 56-year-old Food and Drug Administration employee, said all \$4,462 of her 2013 tax refund was seized to compensate the government for overpaying her mother Sadie's Social Security benefits in 1977.

Grice's "bill" came to \$2,996, but the IRS withheld her entire refund check. She is suing the government.

"They gave me no notice, they can't prove that I received any overpayment, and they use intimidation tactics, threatening to report this to the credit bureaus," Grice complained.

Congress, which extended the long arm of the IRS in a farm bill, is shocked, shocked.

"While Social Security has a responsibility to the American taxpayer to collect overpayments, what is reported here, if true, raises serious questions as to how the agency is administering the law," said U.S. Rep. Sam Johnson, chairman of House Social Security Subcommittee.

The Texas Republican said he's "committed to getting the facts and will take the needed actions Americans want, need and deserve."

U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, added, "People are right to be puzzled when the statute of limitations has been lifted, the government goes after debts in what seems like a willy-nilly way, and when some of the debts are so small that the government might spend more resources on attempted collection than the amount of the debt itself.

"Government has to be reasonable and use common sense," the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee told Watchdog in a statement.

"Tax refunds are clearly becoming the new promised land for government regulators and bureaucrats desperate for more revenues," said Jake Novak, a commentator for CNBC.

"We already know that confiscating tax refunds are the only real way the IRS will be able to impose Obamacare non-compliance penalties, and now it seems like the Social Security Administration is jumping on that bandwagon," he said.

"Once again, we have a case of the government saying, 'When you screw up, you pay. When we screw up, you also pay,'" Novak said.

Carolyn Colvin, acting commissioner of Social Security, announced Monday her agency would limit IRS seizures to cases within the past 10 years.

Obama Announces Sebelius Resignation, Successor

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama praised outgoing Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius for helping to steer his health care law's comeback after a rocky rollout, even as he nominated a successor aimed at helping the White House move past the political damage.

"Under Kathleen's leadership, her team at HHS turned the corner, got it fixed, got the job done," Obama said Friday in a Rose Garden ceremony. "And the final score speaks for itself."

About 7.5 million people have signed up for health insurance through the new law, exceeding expectations after website woes stymied sign-ups for weeks when enrollment opened last fall.

The president's praise for Sebelius also served as an implicit defense for the sweeping health measure that will be a centerpiece of his legacy. Still, her resignation sent a clear signal that the White House is seeking to turn the page on a difficult stretch for a law that remains unpopular with much of the American public.

Obama nominated his budget chief, Sylvia Mathews Burwell, to replace Sebelius, calling her "a proven manager" who knows how to get results. The nomination of Burwell, who was confirmed by the Senate 96-0 for her current post last year, appeared aimed at avoiding an election-year confirmation fight.

"Last time, she was confirmed unanimously," Obama

said. "I'm assuming not much has changed since that time."

Sebelius, who has served as Obama's health and human services chief for five years, was instrumental in steering the sweeping health law through Congress in 2010. But her tenure was marred by widespread technical problems that crippled the sign-up website for weeks, sparking calls from Republicans for Sebelius' resignation.

While Obama stood by Sebelius publicly throughout the troubled rollout, it became clear that her close relationship with the White House had frayed. West Wing officials said they felt blindsided by the extent of the technical problems and installed a longtime Obama adviser to oversee fixes.

As she announced her resignation Friday, Sebelius called her work on the health law the "cause of my life."

"We are at the front lines of a long-overdue national change," she said.

White House officials said Sebelius approached the president about stepping down a month ago, suggesting that the close of the six-month enrollment window marked a natural point for a transition. Officials said she also told the president he would be better served by a secretary who was less of a political target.

Burwell still faces steep challenges at HHS if she is confirmed, even with the first enrollment window complete. The administration has to improve customer service for millions of Americans trying to

navigate the new system. And there's a concern that premiums may rise for 2015, since many younger, healthier people appear to have sat out open enrollment season.

On the political front, congressional Republicans remain implacably opposed to the Affordable Care Act, even as several GOP governors have accepted the law's expansion of safety-net coverage under Medicaid. GOP opposition means Republicans can be expected to continue to deny additional funds for implementation.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky, welcomed Sebelius' resignation but appeared to indicate openness to a dialogue with Burwell even as he declared that "Obamacare has to go."

"I hope this is the start of a candid conversation about Obamacare's shortcomings and the need to protect Medicare," McConnell said.

A popular former governor of Kansas, Sebelius has been one of Obama's longest-serving Cabinet officials and his only HHS secretary. But she appeared caught off guard by the sign-up problems last fall and stumbled in many of her public appearances during that stretch.

The White House sent management expert and longtime Obama adviser Jeffrey Zients to oversee a rescue operation that turned things around by the end of November. After taking the helm of the project, Zients said management issues were partly to blame.

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 April 7, 2014 with the following members present: Ron Wells, Vice Chair; Dave Lewis, Member; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk. Robert Boyd, Chair, was absent.

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

Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk; Brady Bauman, Manhattan Mercury; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Debbie Register, Register of Deeds; Mike Holtman, Sink, Gordon & Associates; Monty Wedel, Planning/Special Projects Director; and Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer, attended.

Lewis moved to approve Renewal of Online Access Agreements for the following: Heartland Title Services, Inc., Bill Von Elling, and Blanton Realty for the Register of Deeds' Office. Wells seconded. Carried 2-0.

Lewis moved to sign Engagement Letters and Confirmation Letters for Sink, Gordon & Associates. Wells seconded. Carried 2-0.

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

Robert Nall, an IT/GIS Director, in the Information Technology Department, for Separation from County Service, effective April 18, 2014.

William Wagner, a Records Assistant II, in the County Clerk's Office, for Separation from County Service, effective April 18, 2014.

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

Records Assistant II, in the County Clerk's Office, at a grade H.

Nursing Supervisor, in the Health Department, at a grade V.

Lewis moved to approve the minutes of April 3, 2014 as amended. Wells seconded. Carried 2-0.

9:00 Ward Morgan
Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; Brady Bauman, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

Morgan discussed down-town projects he is working on. 9:30 Press Conference

Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; Brady Bauman, Manhattan Mercury; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Cheryl Collins, Museum Director; Pat Collins, Emergency Management Director; Captain Kurt Moldrup, Riley County Police Department; Vern Henrick, Greater Manhattan Community Foundation; Mel Van Der Stelt; Dave Ball, Technician Assistant/Training Coordinator; Elaine Dhuyvetter; and Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer, attended.

Moldrup presented the Riley County Police Department monthly report.

Dhuyvetter reported the Community Foundation Awards banquet will be held Sunday, April 13, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn.

C. Collins said the Riley County Historical Society will hold its quarterly dinner meeting Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at Pottorf Hall, in CiCo Park. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. The speaker will be Mary Knapp, Kansas State Service

Climatologist. She will discuss "Kansas Weather." The program will begin around 7:15 p.m.

P. Collins discussed the Riley County Fire District volunteer firefighters and controlled burning.

P. Collins discussed tornado preparedness.

Ball reported April 7-11, 2014 is National Work Zone Awareness Week.

10:00 Karen Hibbard, Manhattan Convention & Visitors Bureau Director

Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; Brady Bauman, Manhattan Mercury; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Mel Van Der Stelt; and Greg Lund, Park Manager, attended.

Hibbard discussed the Manhattan Convention & Visitors Bureau activity.

10:26 Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer and Greg Lund, Park Manager

Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; Brady Bauman, Manhattan Mercury; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Mel Van Der Stelt, attended.

Lund discussed the history of the County Community Parks.

Hobson discussed Public Works projects.

10:35 Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor

Brady Bauman, Manhattan Mercury; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

The Board watched the KAC legislative update video.

10:42 Lewis moved to adjourn. Wells seconded. Carried 2-0.

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 April 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; Brady Bauman, Manhattan Mercury; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; Mary Irsik; Mary Todd; and Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer, attended.

Volanti said Nall has requested to use a week of annual leave for his last week of service.

The Board agreed by consensus to the request for Robert Nall to use a week of annual leave for his last week of service.

Lewis moved to sign the Real Estate Tax Roll Correction for Target Corporation (216-24-0-20-02-001.00-0) for tax year 2013. This results in a decrease in tax dollars of \$24,886.56. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to approve a Plaza Reservation Request for the K-State Women's Center to raise awareness of sexual assault from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. from Wednesday, April 30, 2014. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

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

Kyle Musil, a rehire, as a Seasonal Laborer, in the Public Works Department, at a grade A step 1, at \$10.76 per hour.

Kymberly Murray, a new hire, as an Administrative Clerk I, in the Public Works Department, at a grade H step 1, at \$15.13 per hour.

Lewis moved to sign a Riley County Shared Leave Request Form. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to approve the minutes of April 7, 2014 as amended. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:00 Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor
Administrative Work Session

Brady Bauman, Manhattan Mercury; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; and Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer, attended.

Cox stated he will be discussing bankruptcy issues at the County Treasurer's Association meeting this year.

9:25 Monty Wedel, Planning/Special Projects Director

Brady Bauman, Manhattan Mercury; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; Steve DeHart, Sanitarian; Lori Muir, Real Estate Specialist; Brian Johnson, City Engineer; Bill Raymond, City Attorney; Randy DeWitt, Assistant Director of Public Works - Water and Wastewater; and Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer, attended.

Wedel presented the work session on a possible Fairmont Heights Sewer Benefit District.

The Board agreed by consensus that staff should proceed with the Fairmont area sewer informational process for residents as briefed.

9:43 Lyle Butler, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce

Brady Bauman, Manhattan Mercury; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Trent Armbrust, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce; Greg McHenry, Appraiser; and Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer, attended.

Butler and Armbrust discussed local business activity.

9:45 Brenda Nickel, Health Department Director and Lee Wolf, Executive Director, Konza Prairie Community Clinic

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Linda Redding, Nursing Supervisor; Shelley Hays, Administrative Analyst; and Merna Darby, attended.

Lewis moved to recess as the Board of Riley County Commissioners and convene as the Riley County Board of Health. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Nickel presented the Riley County Health Department monthly report.

The Board suggested the next public Riley County Board of Health meeting be held Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers.

Nickel discussed the Konza Prairie Community Health Center & Riley County Health Department Partnership for Primary Care Services in Riley County.

Wolf discussed the Konza Prairie Community Health Center.

Lewis moved that the Board of Health authorize the Chairman to sign the Temporary and Limited Real Property License agreement as presented and direct the Health Department to work in partnership with the Konza Prairie

See County page 3

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



Riley County Commissioner Dave Lewis



Riley County Commissioner Bob Boyd



Riley County Commissioner Ron Wells

If the Riley County Commission passes the Building Commission and takes the Vote away from the Citizens of Riley County they need to know that they will be replaced at the next election.

It just happens that Commissioner Dave Lewis will be up for re-election on November 4, 2014. Commissioners Bob Boyd and Ron Wells will be up in November of 2016.

Tell all three Commissioners that you will NOT vote for them again if they approve a Riley County Building Commission.

Ad paid for by the Manhatan Free Press

King Crossword — Answers
Solution time: 21 mins.

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LAND AUCTION
680 ACRES ± POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY
TUESDAY, APRIL 29 — 6:00 PM
American Legion Hall - 3182nd Street - OLSBURG, KS

Tract 1: 600 acres of native grass pasture with 248 acres in Section 7, Township 7 South, Range 8 East and 309 acres Section 18, Township 7 South, Range 8 East. Property sets north of Swede Road and west of Gillies Road.
570 Acres of Native grass pasture with 35 acres CRP acres) Mineral rights included.
Tract 2: 74 acres impure pasture grass in Section 22, Township 7 South, Range 8 East. Property sets northwest of the K130K18 junction and south of Swede Road. Mineral rights included.
2013 Taxes: Tract 1 - \$1307.30 Tract 2 - \$111.82

LAND LOCATION:
From Turtle Creek Blvd/K13 intersection, 16 miles NNE, Tract 2 is an east side just north of K18 junction. Tract 1 is 2 miles west of K13/K18 junction from north 1 mile on Gillies Road...property located on west side of road.
From 99 HWY K18 intersection, 8 miles Southwest, Tract 2 is an east side just north of K18 junction. Tract 1 is 2 miles west of K13/K18 junction from north 1 mile on Gillies Road.

Listing Agent's Notes: Tract 1: The Flint Hills Region is world renowned for its quality grasses and excellent carrying capacity. This Flint Hills pasture is one of the best available for a world class cattle operation. Property has excellent perimeter fencing with cross-tencing impasse, a large centrally located canal, and two ponds supplying ample water. Buyer will take possession at closing and will be able to pasture cattle this season. Tract 2: Tract has 60+ acres of Wyomonic silt clay loam offering 1-3% slopes with balance Pasture: silt loam with 4-8% slope offering an excellent opportunity for crop production. Located along State Highway 13 just minutes from Manhattan provides a great opportunity for multiple home sites. Two ponds, good grass, crop potential...opportunity is knocking.
Give me a call to set up a viewing of the property.
Jeff Dankenbring - 785-682-0308

TERMS & POSSESSION: 10% down day of the sale, balance due at closing on or before May 30, 2014. Seller to pay 2013 taxes. Buyer to pay 2014 taxes. Title insurance, escrow and closing costs to be split equally between buyer and seller. Buyer will take possession on closing. Buyer to resolve the seller's interests & income for 2014. These properties to be sold as is. All inquiries should be made prior to the day of the sale. This is a cash sale and will not be subject to financing. Have your financing arrangements made prior to sale day. Broker's List and Home is acting as a transaction broker and does not represent either party. All information has come from reliable sources; potential buyers are encouraged to verify all information independently. All zoning requirements made the day of sale will take precedence over any other information.

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Seizure Is A Ticking Time Bomb

By Kenric Ward
Watchdog.org

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Washington Post declared victory Tuesday for exposing the seizure of income-tax refunds to claw back alleged Social Security overpayments.

But the legal issue of garnishing money from the children of deceased parents remains legally contentious, and a senior senator is demanding answers from the agencies involved.

As reported by Watchdog.org and the Post, backtracking Social Security officials announced they will now only pursue overpayment cases less than 10 years old. That timeframe was already set in Internal Revenue Service statutes, so the administration merely acknowledged the law.

Sen. Charles Grassley said the affair is far from over.

"Is it fair and reasonable to pursue debts from the surviving children for payments to the parents?" the Iowa Republican asked. "The statute of limitations language didn't give permission to collect debts where the debtor is deceased."



ILLEGAL? Questions abound over the Social Security Administration's use of the IRS to withhold tax refunds from children of deceased recipients.

Grassley, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, sent letters to Acting Social Security Commissioner Carolyn Colvin and Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew requesting answers to more than 30 questions.

Grassley said the Social Security Administration and the IRS, in their zeal to collect cash, acted in ways "possibly beyond what Congress intended."

"It appears that SSA is not performing due diligence in notifying individuals or allowing them to inspect records of

the debt they supposedly owe, which are violations of the law," Grassley told Colvin.

Other critics of the heavy-handed tax collectors say Social Security benefits could be the first fruits of an inter-generational money grab.

"This opens the possibility for the federal government to attempt to collect federal student loan debts from the children of deceased parents," said Pamela Mullin, an activist with Student Loan Justice.

Watchdog reported in February that more than \$1 trillion in federally backed student

loans are outstanding. With compounding interest, there is little to no likelihood of repayment in the recipients' lifetimes.

"There's no legal precedent for minor children inheriting the debts of their parents," Mullin said.

Upholding the IRS-Social Security garnishments program could set a costly new precedent.

Grassley gave Colvin and Lew until April 29 to respond to his legal and procedural questions.

County Minutes from page 2

Community Health. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Lewis moved to recess as the Riley County Board of Health and reconvene as the Board of Riley County Commissioners. Boyd seconded. Carried 3-0.

11:02 Boyd moved that the County Commission recess into executive session on potential litigation for the purpose of consultation with an attorney for the County Commission which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 11:12 a.m. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

11:12 Lewis moved to go out of executive session. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

Volanti asked what the Board would like to do to advertise for the IT/GIS Director.

Nall recommended the Board appoint Dawn Shoffner as the Riley County IT/GIS Director.

Boyd asked Nall to submit an organizational chart recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

The Board agreed by consensus to advertise for the open IT/GIS Director position.

The Board agreed by consensus to appoint Dawn Shoffner as the Interim IT/GIS

Director with no additional compensation.

Lewis moved to remove the 11:00 executive session with Robert Nall in attendance from today's agenda. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

11:23 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 11:30 a.m. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

11:30 Lewis moved to go out of executive session. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

Recessed.

1:30 Budget and Planning Committee – Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer

Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Brady Bauman, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

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

1:50 Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager /Deputy Clerk

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Brady Bauman, Manhattan Mercury; Debbie Regester, Register of Deeds; Dawn Shoffner, Assistant Director of Technology; Sherilyn McReel, Administrative Analyst; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended.

Volanti presented the ADP Time and Labor, Payroll and Human Resource System.

Lewis moved to approve the implementation of ADP Workforce Now Enhanced Time and Attendance, Enhanced Payroll, and

Workforce Now HR system to replace TimeCentre Time Keeping and KOMTEK Payroll systems in the amount of \$53,053 for implementation and annual fee (IT Dept. commitment \$30,000 to be transferred to CIP fund and CIP Fund \$23,053 authorization from CIP new project request). Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

2:10 Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer
Monty Wedel, Planning/Special Projects Director; Shelly Williams, Community Corrections Director; Lynne Berry, Administrative Assistant; Greg McHenry, Appraiser; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Brady Bauman, Manhattan Mercury; Debbie Regester, Register of Deeds; and Laura Monsanto, KMAN, attended
Shepek discussed the 2015 budget baseline.

The Board agreed by consensus for the 2015 Budget Baseline, the budget requests need to reflect statutory requirements and 2015 business needs as well as the costs to implement your department's strategic plan. The costs associated with the strategic plan needs to be presented separately from the 3 C's.

2:16 Lewis left the meeting.

2:22 Wells moved to adjourn. Boyd seconded. Carried 2-0.

UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

Brought to you in part by Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism

Kansas Storytelling Festival
April 25-26, Downs
Puppets & stories for kids, homespun tales, historic portrayals, poetry, music & more!
Featuring Kevin Kling of NPR's "All Things Considered". kansasstorytelling.com

Brews, Blues & Bar-B-Q/Lansing Daze

May 2-3, Lansing
Annual Bar-B-Q Cook-off. Live entertainment, activities for children, crafts, car show & great food.
(913) 727-5488, www.lansing.ks.us

101st McPherson County All Schools Day

May 4-10, McPherson
Honoring students with a week full of activities! Carnival, May Fete, parade, crazy kid competitions, concert, movie in the park & more! allschoolsday.com

Merriam Turkey Creek Festival

May 17, Antioch Park, Merriam
Free festival including live music, concessions, kids' zone, arts & crafts fair, petting zoo and more!
exploremerriam.com

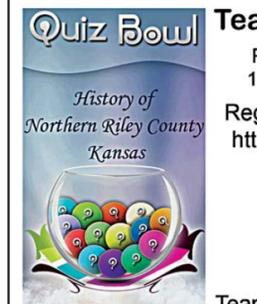
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Editorial...

Fighting for Kansas Veterans

By Congressman Tim Huelskamp
Hello. I'm Congressman Tim Huelskamp, and I appreciate the opportunity to deliver this message to your American Legion convention.

Over a quarter of a million veterans call Kansas home – including more than 50,000 in the First District alone. In my own family, eight uncles have served with you to defend our nation and our way of life. Thank you.

As your representative, I am committed to ensuring the benefits and services promised by the Government are accessible and of high quality. Cutting through red tape and bureaucratic incompetence is the number one issue about which Kansans contact my office and seek help. In three years, we have assisted over 500 veterans.

I proudly serve as one of the most active members of Veterans' Affairs Committee. And let me report – the VA does not have a good track record on delivering timely, quality care and benefits. And you deserve better than that. Instead of a mediocre system where too many bureaucrats seem more concerned about keeping their bonuses and life-long federal careers, you deserve a system that works for you.

I serve on the Health and Oversight and Investigations subcommittee and we have been tracking some very serious problems. Here are a few:

Last year, a whistleblower revealed that foreign agents (including Russia and China) had hacked into the medical and financial records of 20 million Veterans and their families.

Our investigations into these shocking breaches confirmed that security failures continue to exist within the VA system.

Since 2010, the network has been breached at least nine times. To combat this threat, I co-sponsored the Veterans Information Security Improvement Act which will require the VA to crack down and secure your personal data, so you can rest assured your family's personal information does not fall into the wrong hands.

Another VA shortcoming is a severe lack of accountability. From undeserving 5-figure bonuses, preventable veteran deaths at VA facilities, and the

large backlog - it seems no one has been fired for not doing their job.

Under current VA leadership, an employee who has presided over negligence or mismanagement at the VA is more likely to receive a sizable bonus than to be disciplined. For these reasons, I am working on the VA Management Accountability Act which would give Secretary Shinseki and future VA secretaries complete authority – and the responsibility – to fire or demote senior bureaucrats based on performance.

On another critic topic – one of access – I have had multiple opportunities to question publicly VA bureaucrat after bureaucrat and ask why veterans cannot receive health care services closer to home.

Whether it is the veteran I met in Syracuse who made three round trips to Wichita in 10 days, or the veteran in Liberal who has been promised a doctor for 2 years, or a veteran in Topeka who is refused emergency care, veterans and their families deserves quality care close to home. The answer is pretty simple – let these veterans choose where they want their care, whether it is a VA hospital, a CBOC, or their local doctor's office or community hospital.

Instead of fighting to preserve the status quo, it is time to ensure that veterans receive quality health care closer to home.

Serving and representing those who have so selflessly devoted themselves to our country is an honor and responsibility I will never take for granted. I want to commend the American Legion for your outstanding leadership and advocacy on behalf of veterans, as well as your involvement in your local community. You truly are making a difference "For God and Country".

To all the veterans here today, thank you for your service and dedication. The selfless example you have set is an inspiration and testament to the values our country was founded upon.

If I can ever be of assistance to you, your family or your American Legion Post, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

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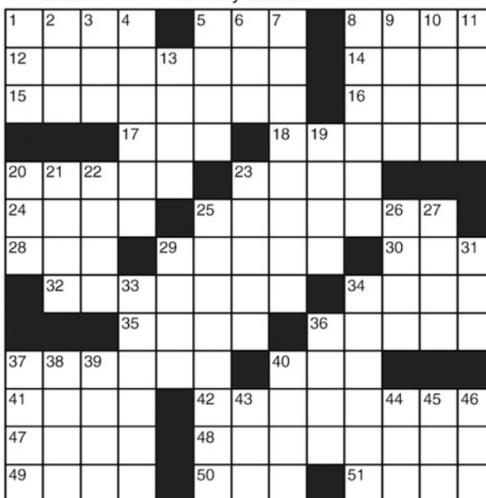
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Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
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- 1 teaspoon curry powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 can (10 3/4 oz) condensed cream of chicken soup
- 2 3/4 cups chopped cooked turkey breast
- 1 2/3 cups Green Giant™ Steamers™ frozen mixed vegetables (from 12-oz bag), thawed
- 1 Pillsbury® refrigerated pie crust, softened as directed on box
- 3 tablespoons coarsely chopped slivered almonds

Directions

1 Heat oven to 400°F. Spray 9 1/2-inch glass deep-dish pie plate with cooking spray. In 2-quart saucepan, melt butter over medium high heat. Stir in flour with whisk; cook 1 minute. Stir in half-and-half, broth, curry powder and salt. Heat to boiling; boil 1 minute. Add soup, turkey and vegetables. Spoon mixture into pie plate.

2 Unroll pie crust on work surface; sprinkle almonds over crust to within 2 inches of edge. Press into dough. Place pie crust, almond side up, over filling. Fold excess crust under and press to form thick crust edge; flute. Cut slits in several places in crust.

3 Bake 30 to 35 minutes or until crust is golden and filling is bubbly.

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No Place Like Home For Mittie

By Kelly McHugh
K-State Athletics

Transition, regardless of how it happens in life, can often be tough, and it's not often that everything falls into place perfectly.

However for K-State women's basketball coach Jeff Mittie, the transition from life in Fort Worth, Texas, as head women's basketball coach at TCU to life in Manhattan, Kan., has been, well, a breeze.

A native of Blue Springs, Mo., coming back to the Midwest after 15 years with the Horned Frogs feels more like coming home than anything else.

"It's exciting to be here. One of the things Shanna and I had an interest in with this position was getting back to this area of the country," said Mittie, "and at a fine institution like Kansas State University, we just feel like there are so many great things we can do here. This fits our family very, very well."

While a majority of Mittie's family lives close by in the Kansas City area, his wife, Shanna, grew up in Manhattan's neighboring town, Junction City and graduated from Chapman High School. Not yet in Manhattan, Shanna and the Mittie children - daughters Logan and Madison and son Jordan - are staying in Fort Worth to finish up this school year, but are looking forward to moving to Manhattan this summer. While Logan, a senior at TCU, will finish her education

there and Jordan will head to the United States Naval Academy to play football this summer, Shanna said Madison will attend Manhattan High School in the fall.

"My family is all still in the Junction City, Chapman area, and Jeff's family is from the Kansas City area, so it was really exciting to even think about getting back there and being able to be around our parents. My dad's been really sick, so I've been going back and forth between Ft. Worth and Kansas quite a bit. It's all about timing, and the timing was really great."

While it's quite clear the Mitties are excited to be living closer to home, after 15 years away, their families are also excited to have them back in the Midwest.

"I'm not going to have to change colors, I can stay with purple," laughed Jeff's father, Larry Mittie, "but beyond that, I'm very excited. I think it's a great opportunity and they have a great facility out here. I'm looking forward to being a part of it, watching these games and being a part of this family."

It was rare for Jeff's parents to miss a game at TCU, so Larry said you can bet that he will be at every K-State women's basketball game this season.

On his initial response to finding out his brother would be the head coach at K-State, Jeff's brother Mike Mittie said,



K-State women's basketball coach Jeff Mittie poses with his family in Bramalge Coliseum. Left to right: Logan Mittie, Jordan Mittie, Shanna Mittie, Jeff Mittie and Madison Mittie. (Photo by Scott D. Weaver/K-State Athletics)

"Thank God it wasn't KU, that was my reaction, my initial thought."

Everyone laughed and Mike continued, "but it's great to have him only a couple hours away. He's been down in Texas for 15 years, and it's tough to drive nine hours for a game. So it's very exciting to have them close by

The purple - the K-State purple, that is - already runs deep in the Mittie family. Shanna's entire family - her parents, brother, aunts, uncles, cousins,

nieces and nephews - still all live in the area and Jeff's sister, Nicole Seib, is married to former K-State tight end Brad Seib (1989-93). Brad was one of football coach Bill Snyder's first recruits from the state of Kansas, and his son, Luke, can be found on the field on game days running out and grabbing the tees.

"He's a big time K-State fan," laughed Shanna about her nephew, Luke, who is ecstatic to have his uncle coaching at his favorite school.

With family an already important value to the Mitties, there's no doubt they are a perfect fit for the K-State way, and Shanna found out just how close knit the K-State family was before ever stepping foot in Manhattan.

"I am so excited about being a part of the K-State family," began Shanna, "and you can definitely tell it's a family. I mean, before we even came up there for our welcome brunch, I had texts from Megan Weber, Sharon Snyder and John

Currie's wife. Even Noel Schulz had texted me, and they were on vacation. It was like an overwhelming, big hug. It was just great.

"It probably sounds a little cliché being from where we are in Kansas, but I can tell you I've been all around the world and every time I tell people where I'm from they're like, 'Oh like Dorothy and Toto?' but in all honesty, there's no place like home; just like the movie says."

Part 1: Switzer The Greats Of All Kansas State Greats

By Mark Janssen
KSU Sports Information

Picking "the greatest" of anything is always a topic for conversation, if not debate.

In Kansas State Wildcat history, is it Olympic decathlete Steve Fritz or Austra Skujyte, a multiple-time Olympic medalist in the heptathlon? Or is it basketballer Bob Boozer or Kendra Wecker? Or is it a Darren Sproles or a Michael Bishop from football?

For certain, a good case could be made for all.

But this writing is to acknowledge Veryl "Joe" Switzer as the most splendid athlete in Kansas State history.

A former K-State assistant coach Don Stehley once said of Switzer, "He was quick as hell, tough as hell and his defensive hits were absolutely devastating."

From 1950 to 1953, Switzer became the second African-American scholarship athlete in K-State history when he ruled the grass of the Wildcats' Memorial Stadium, plus the cinders of the track facility within the stadium.

For the record, to this day he holds the distinction of being the highest draft selection - fourth overall in 1954 - in football, plus was a Big Seven champion in track and field.

On being suggested as the "Greatest Wildcat Ever," the now 81-year-old Switzer humbly replied, "That's quite a compliment, but I played only because I loved it."

THE EARLY YEARS: Switzer grew up in the 125-person community of Nicodemus in northwestern Kansas. With his parents and five older brothers and sisters, he was



Veryl "Joe" Switzer

raised in a 10-room limestone house, which today stands as a Nicodemus historical landmark.

"I knew our outhouse was about 150 feet from the house, but I never looked at us being poor because we had food on the table every night," recalled Switzer. "I didn't know we

were poor until I saw in the paper that we were in an economically disadvantage category as a family."

For Switzer, his life seemed to be the norm, and one that he cherished.

He patrolled cattle by foot, feathered chickens by hand, cleaned the Baptist Church for

35 cents, and stuffed as many kids as he could into his Model A Ford so they could bounce and jiggle their way to nearby Bogue High School, which had an enrollment of 24 - 12 white and 12 black.

"The area was billed as the 'Promised Land,'" reflected Switzer. "Families from five colonies in Kentucky were encouraged to come out for the so-called '40 acres and a mule' concept. If you lived on the property so long, then the land became yours."

THE ALL-STAR ATHLETE: To say that Bogue had a tremendous six-man football team in the late-1940s would be an understatement.

On the roster of nine players, Switzer said, "Four of us could run under 10.2 (for the 100-yard dash), so we were pretty good. This is true: we

honestly tried to get our coach to schedule a game with Kansas State. (Laughing) We had a little cockiness to us."

Switzer and his gang may have had a point. In Switzer's four high school years K-State was 3-36. In his last two-plus high school seasons, Bogue went undefeated and out-scored its opponents 950-52.

Bring on the 'Cats! Weight programs didn't exist in the 1940s, yet Switzer says he had his own strength and conditioning formula. Giving a reflective chuckle, he said, "I lifted bales of hay and bags of cement... and I got paid \$1.50 to \$2.00 per hour to do it."

In high school track, he posted a 10.0-second 100-yard-dash, broad jumped 22 feet, 7 inches and pole vaulted 11 feet, 6 inches. Later at K-State, those numbers improved to 9.8, 24-7 and vaulting 13-9 with an alumnum pole.

Oh yes, Switzer also showed his versatility when "... I also played the tuba in the marching band at halftime with my football uniform on."

While a focused kid, Switzer's one outing on the wild side came prior to coming to K-State in the late-summer of 1950 when he and a buddy hopped in his Model A and tore off at 45 miles per hour across the Nebraska state line to get a six-pack of beer.

While a non-drinker himself, Switzer said, "I did it to say that I'd been out-of-state prior to coming to Kansas State. (Pausing) I knew there was a California because I had relatives there, but to me the outside world was Hill City."

A TRAILBLAZER: While Harold Robinson holds the distinction of being the first African-American to receive an athletic scholarship from K-State, Switzer was the second when he arrived in 1950.

He admits, "Life wasn't all roses. I had to use the back doors to hotels, eat away from my teammates and if I did eat in a restaurant, I had to use a paper cup instead of glass."

Pausing, he added, "But do you know what? It only made me work harder and be even more determined to excel and demonstrate my worthiness."

Mittie Names Ostermann As Associate Head Coach

K-State women's basketball coach Jeff Mittie named the first member of his coaching staff on Friday, as former TCU associate head coach Brian Ostermann was named to the same position with the Wildcats.

"I am pleased to announce

the addition of Brian Ostermann as associate head coach," stated Mittie. "Brian was instrumental in designing and implementing our game plans in the Big 12. He brings vast experience as a head coach and as a Division I assistant as well as terrific Midwest roots

and connections."

Ostermann served as an associate head coach at TCU for six seasons and compiled a record of 107-81, which included four post-season appearances - two NCAA Tournaments and two WNITs. In addition to his coaching duties under Mittie at

TCU, Ostermann was also responsible for scheduling, academic mentoring, recruiting evaluation and game plan preparation and development.

A native of Good Thunder, Minn., Ostermann has logged 23 years of experience as a coach at the collegiate level, including nine seasons as a head coach. He ran the Missouri State-West Plains men's program for four seasons from 2004-05 through 2007-08, where he posted a record of 178-107.

Ostermann's final season in West Plains saw his Grizzly squad tie the program's best-ever record at 27-5 in addition to reaching the championship round of the National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA) Region 16 Championship Tournament. It marked the second time in three seasons the program reached the regional final for the Grizzlies, who finished the season ranked No. 18 in the NJCAA poll after peaking at No. 10 at one point in the season.

Prior to his appointment at West Plains, Ostermann spent five seasons as the head men's coach at Colby (Kan.) Community College, where he helped turn the Trojan program

Gilliam Named As Women's Assistant

MANHATTAN, Kan. - Kansas State women's basketball coach Jeff Mittie named Ebony Gilliam to his inaugural coaching staff on Tuesday. Gilliam was a member of Mittie's staff at TCU and joins associate head coach Brian Ostermann on the K-State staff.

"I am excited to add Ebony to our staff here at Kansas State," said Mittie about his latest addition to the coaching staff. "She is an outstanding basketball coach and has developed tremendous recruiting ties throughout Texas and the Midwest. Her experience as a player both at the collegiate and professional levels will benefit our players and staff."

Gilliam was promoted to assistant coach prior to the start of the 2012-13 season at TCU and served two seasons as an assistant coach on Mittie's staff in Fort Worth. Prior to her pro-

motion, Gilliam served as the Horned Frogs' director of operations for two seasons before she returned to her alma mater, Gilliam spent four years as a high school teacher and head girls basketball coach in the Fort Worth area, including two seasons at area power Dunbar High School. She led the Wildcats to a 57-14 overall record in her tenure with a pair of District 7-4A championships and state playoff appearances. Gilliam was named district coach of the year, while leading the squad to a perfect 18-0 record in 7-4A play. Prior to her stint at Dunbar, she spent the previous two seasons as head coach at Trimble Tech High School.

A product of Southwest High School in Fort Worth, Gilliam, formerly Ebony Shaw, experienced one of the most successful playing careers in TCU his-

tory from 2000-04. At the conclusion of her playing career, she ranked tied for second in school history with 130 career games played and was eighth in starts with 87. She scored 1,156 points and finished her career ranked sixth on TCU's all-time scoring list. Overall, she ranked among the top-10 players in 13 major career statistical categories.

During her playing career at TCU, Gilliam helped the Horned Frogs to the first four NCAA Tournament appearances in school history. The Frogs advanced to the second round in each trip to the tournament. In addition to the post-season appearances, Gilliam also helped TCU claim its first four conference titles in 2001 (WAC regular season and tournament), 2002 (Conference USA regular season) and 2003 (Conference USA tournament).

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