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Manhattan Free Press

Vol. 23 Number 32 An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper Thursday, January 8, 2015

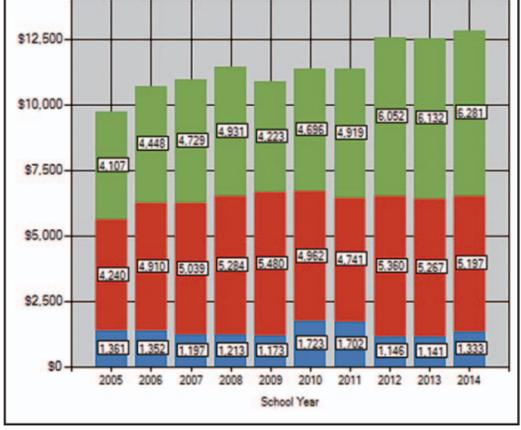
Judges criticize reliance on LOB funds to meet adequacy requirement

(AP) Topeka, Ks

When a panel of judges ruled Kansas' school funding inadequate this past week, their opinion also slammed the Legislature's reliance on a central tenet of conservatism: local control.

Though the three judges said in a Shawnee County District Court ruling on a lawsuit known as the Gannon case that the state needs to boost funding for students, they also didn't hesitate to make known their views on the methods the state uses to fund schools.

In the ruling, which exceeds 100 pages, the judges criticize the state's increasing reliance on local option budgets. As its name suggests, a local option budget allows school boards and voters the option to raise



Manhattan/Ogden School District receives \$6,281 per student LOB from local taxpayers, State pays \$5,197 and Federal \$1,333.

additional funds to supplement a district's general fund. Funds for the LOB are typically raised through property taxes, but also

include state equity money. In practice, all districts have an LOB — though districts have varying success persuading voters to support their desired level of taxation.

Marty Stessman, superintendent of Shawnee Heights Unified School District 450, said his district uses LOB dollars for basic costs.

"I think way back in the beginning when it started, it was for optional purposes — for things above and beyond what the state was going to fund," he said, adding that the state education department had even warned superintendents against using LOB dollars for salaries, in case the funding went away. "Because it truly was optional."

Over the past decade, Stessman says, that changed, and now LOB dollars are cru-

cial to hire teachers and special education staff.

"We lump general fund and LOB together for our basic operational budget," he said. "It's entirely salary. It's all just salaries now."

Though LOBs can be used for optional school enhancements, as base state aid to students has fallen in the past few years, an increasing number of districts, like Shawnee Heights, began to use their LOB to pay for basic operating costs, a practice the court found dangerous.

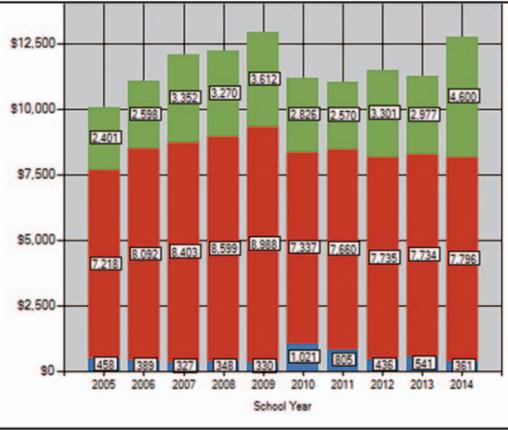
"The diversion of local funds to substitute for statewide resources at some point would seemingly seem to substitute a state conservatorship for local choice and control," the judges wrote in their opinion.

They went on to say the Legislature had tied its consti-

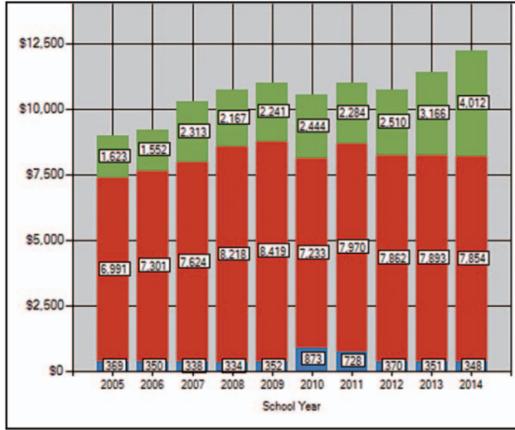
tutional duty to adequately fund schools to the "parochial illusion" that local control and local funding choices could be the "one linchpin" to assure adequate funding.

"However, that delegation of constitutional duty to discretionary choice is both unlawful under (the Kansas Constitution) and substantially threatens the common good of all Kansas children wherever they may reside in Kansas," the opinion reads.

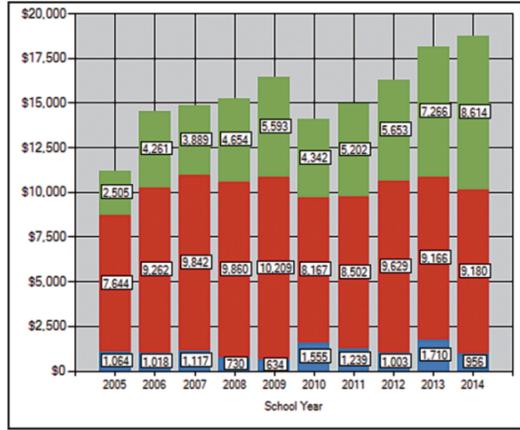
Though the base state aid per pupil — the basic amount the state expects to spend per student per year — had been climbing, beginning in the 2009-10 school year, it fell from \$4,400 to \$4,012. It bottomed out during the 2011-12 school year at \$3,780, before climbing to its current level of \$3,852.



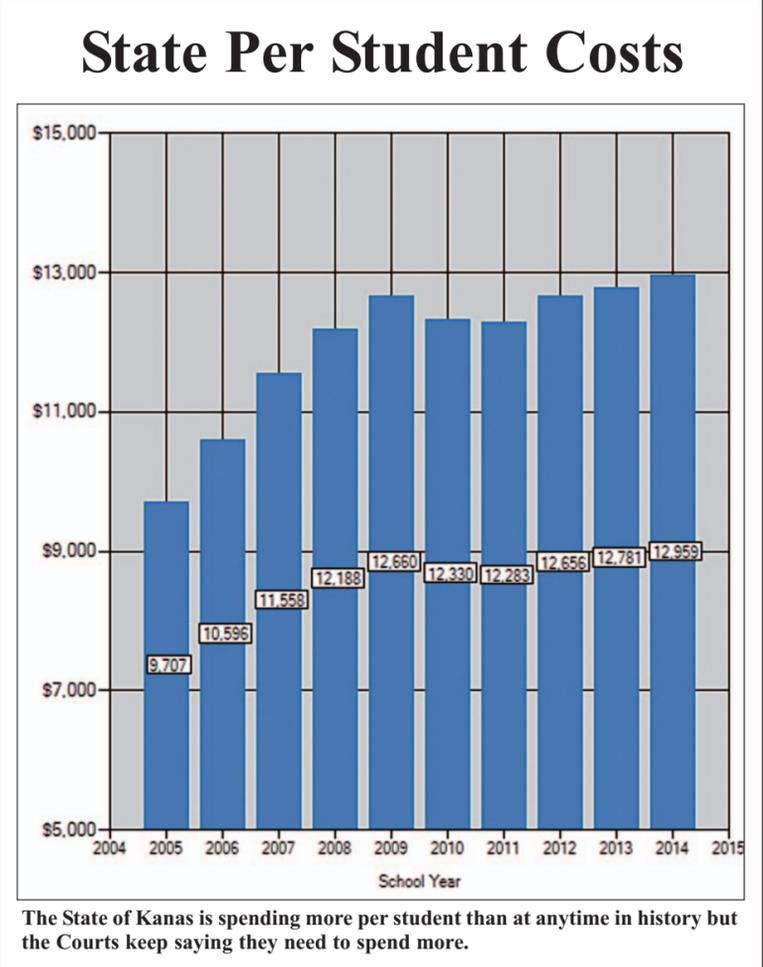
Riley County School District receives \$4,600 per student LOB from local taxpayers, State pays \$7,796 and Federal \$361.



Rock Creek School District receives \$4,012 per student LOB from local taxpayers, State pays \$7,854 and Federal \$348.



Blue Valley School District receives \$8,614 per student LOB from local taxpayers, State pays \$9,180 and Federal \$956.



Kansas employment to grow slower than U.S. in 2015

Wichita State University economists expect employment in Kansas to grow by 1.8 percent in 2015, adding more than 24,000 jobs.

The annual employment forecast, produced by WSU's Center for Economic Development and Business Research, predicts 1,412,489 people will be employed in nonfarm sectors in 2015, up 24,691 from estimated employment in 2014.

Moody's has predicted roughly 2.3 percent growth in 2015 for the country as a whole. If those predictions come true, the gap would be similar to 2014, when employment increased by 1.5 percent across the country and 1 percent in Kansas in 2014, according to the CEDBR report.

Kansas isn't benefitting from the same growth in manufacturing that some regions are seeing, said Jeremy Hill, director of the CEDBR.

"Kansas is not really near the accelerated growth that the U.S. is having," he said. "I'm not very confident that we're going to see that kind of growth on the state level."

Kansas City will grow the fastest of the state's metropolitan areas, mostly from professional and business services, Hill said. Wichita will follow and the Topeka area will bring up the rear, he said, though he didn't have specific employment numbers available for the metropolitan areas.

"Obviously Topeka is lagging because of state government there," he said.

Some of the less populous areas of Kansas are showing relatively strong growth as manufacturers shift away from higher-cost urban areas when deciding where to expand, Hill said.

Most of the growth in

Kansas will be in services, with about 17,614 people expected to go to work in professional and business services, health care or education, according to the forecast. Another 4,088 will work in production, including mining and manufacturing; 204 in local government; and 2,785 in trade, transportation and utilities.

CEDBR makes its predictions by using a formula to estimate the potential for growth in different geographic areas and industry sectors; consulting with industry leaders; and following developments in major companies in Kansas, Hill said. He said he is more confident in this year's prediction than he was in recent years, because most of the factors that could derail growth involve international, national or state politics.

"Unlike the last few years, where there have been a lot of headwinds that could derail growth, it's more clear," he said.

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Riley County Minutes Cost Taxpayers \$700 Per Month

What the Riley County Clerk and the Riley County Commissioners are doing with the Commission Minutes is Deceiving.
Look at the Minutes taken by Rich Vargo this

year (left) and the Minutes taken by Rich Vargo last year (right). The County is paying \$700 per month to produce nothing but filler (left) and last year it did not cost extra to write a complete history of the meeting.

Board of Riley County Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes December 22, 2014

Commission Chambers 8:30 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

- Public Comments
- Commission Comments

Move that the County Commission recess into executive session pursuant to the non-elected personnel matters exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act in order to discuss a performance matter involving a county employee and to protect the privacy of the employee, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 8:45 a.m.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER:

Robert Boyd, County Commissioner SECONDER:

Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

8:45 AM Move to go out of executive session.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Dave

Lewis, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

Move to direct staff to proceed as directed.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Dave

Lewis, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

Business Meeting

3. Sign Tax Roll Correction for Kaisha L. Schmelzle

Move to approve the Tax Roll Correction for Kaisha L. Schmelzle (204-18-2-60-20-010.00-0) for tax year 2014. This results in a decrease in tax dollars of \$123.98.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Dave

Lewis, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

4. Sign Tax Roll Correction for MJC Properties, LLC

Move to approve the Tax Roll Correction for MJC Properties, LLC (204-18-2-20-12-005.00-0) for tax year 2014. This results in a decrease in tax dollars of \$213.40.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Dave

Lewis, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

5. Sign Riley County Personnel Action Form(s)

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Personnel Action Form for Jan Scheideman, for a status change (restructure of position from facilitator/manager to full supervisory level position), as a Raising Riley Child Care Supervisor, in the Health Department, at a grade R step 1, at \$25.00 per hour.

6. Approve payroll/accounts payables (when completed)

Move to approve the payroll vouchers in the amount of \$279,838.11 and the following warrant vouchers for December 24, 2014:

2014 Budget

County General	\$259,581.46	Health Department	106,932.56
Riley Co Juvenile Service	6,942.47	Motor Vehicle Operations	5,857.71
21st Jud Dist Teen Court	1,289.74	Riley Co Adult Services	7,940.26
Capital Improvements Fund	578.75	Solid Waste	147,624.82
County Building	7,299.96	Road & Bridge Cap Project	2,919.85
RCPD Levy/Op	1,382.51	Riley Co Fire Dist #17,551.37	Riley Co Fire Dist CapOut
11,019.50	University Park W&S	1,781.37	Exp Lakesd Sew/UP Water
1.00	Hunters Island Water Dist	829.15	Carson Sewer Benefit Dist
32.65	Deep Creek Sewer	581.22	Moehlman Bottoms
514.75	Valleywood Operations	12.86	Terra Heights Sewer
704.51	Konza Water Operations	2,703.93	Lakeside Heights Sewer
15.54	TOTAL	\$574,097.94	

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Dave

Lewis, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

Review Minutes

7. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Dec 18, 2014 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

RESULT: ACCEPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Dave Lewis, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner

AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

Review Tentative Agenda

8. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM Barry Wilkerson, Attorney

10. 2014 Accomplishments and 2015 Goals

Wilkerson discussed cases held in 2014.

9:15 AM Karen Hibbard, Manhattan Convention & Visitors Bureau

11. Manhattan Convention & Visitors Bureau report

Hibbard presented the convention and visitors bureau report.

9:30 AM Press Conference

12. Little Apple New Year's Eve - Aggieville Business Association (5-10 minutes)

Harms discussed the Little Apple New Year's Eve Ball Drop.

13. Riley County Holiday Hours - Robert Boyd (2 minutes)

Boyd reported the Riley County Offices will be closed Thursday and

Friday, December 25th and 26th in observation of Christmas.

10:00 AM Break

Move that the County Commission recess into executive session pursuant to the non-elected personnel matters exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act in order to discuss a performance matter involving a county employee and to protect the privacy of the employee, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 10:10 a.m.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Dave

Lewis, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

10:10 AM Move to go out of executive session.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Dave

Lewis, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

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 December 26, 2013 with the following members present: Dave Lewis, Chair; Robert Boyd, Vice Chair; Ron Wells, Member; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk.

8:30 Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment, Commission Comments, & Business Meeting Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk; and Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer, attended.

Boyd moved to approve the FY14 additional allocation for Community Corrections (adult services). Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Boyd moved to approve a Government Obligation Contract with Kansas State Bank of Manhattan for leased equipment (one skid steer loader with two buckets). Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Boyd moved to approve the payroll vouchers in the amount of \$272,967.06 and the following warrant vouchers for December 27, 2013:

2013 Budget	
County General	\$300,279.08
Health Department	55,299.56
County Auction 165.48	
Juvenile Intake Case Mgr	150.00
Riley Co Juvenile Service	6,396.86
Motor Vehicle Operations	6,779.44
21st Jud Dist Teen Court	1,227.25
Riley Co Adult Services	11,044.87
Capital Improvements Fund	1,864.00
Emergency 911	7,465.39
Solid Waste	154,233.22
County Building	13,604.84
Special Parks & Recreation	585.96
Road & Bridge Cap Project	4,441.54
RCPD Levy/Op	872,792.50
Landfill Closure 46.00	
Riley Co Fire Dist #1	7,237.12
Riley Co Fire Dist CapOut	6,065.91
University Park W&S	844.77
Univ Park Capital Project	522.90
Hunters Island Water Dist	158.62
Carson Sewer Benefit Dist	55.51
Deep Creek Sewer	121.79
Moehlman Bottoms	113.71
Valleywood Operations	58.68
Terra Heights Sewer	224.79
Konza Water Operations	585.93
Lakeside Heights Sewer	48.67
TOTAL	\$1,452,411.39

Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Boyd moved to approve the following warrant vouchers for December 31, 2013:

2013 Budget	
County General	\$202,646.50
Health Department	53,772.61
Teen Court Collected Fund	157.95
Juvenile Intake Case Mgr	110.75
Riley Co Juvenile Service	626.45
21st Jud Dist Teen Court	70.25
Riley Co Adult Services	1,473.41
Emergency 911	4,375.84
Solid Waste	1,552.59
County Building	11,514.13
RCPD Levy/Op	64,396.36
Riley Co Fire Dist #1	9,172.73
Riley Co Fire Dist CapOut	47,969.31
Hunters Island Water Dist	1,002.48
Deep Creek Sewer	77.04
Moehlman Bottoms	429.63
Konza Water Operations	2,175.39
TOTAL	\$401,523.42

Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Boyd moved to approve the minutes of December 23, 2013.

Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:00 Barry Wilkerson, County Attorney

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Kristina Jackson, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

Wilkerson presented the County Attorney's Office 2013 accomplishments.

9:15 Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer

Public hearing for the 2013 budget amendment

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative

Services; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Kristina Jackson, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

Lewis opened the Public Hearing. Shepek presented the 2013 Riley County budget amendment as follows:

9:35 Robert Nall, Information Technology/GIS Director

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

Nall presented an IT/GIS staff update.

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

Administrative Work Session

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

9:50 Boyd moved that the County Commission recess into executive session pursuant to the preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, in order to discuss an initial offer of purchase by Riley County, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 10:00 a.m. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

10:00 Boyd moved to go out of executive session. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

Holeman discussed the Federal legislation regarding Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).

The Board agreed by consensus to add their names and titles to the Federal legislation regarding the PILT legislation.

10:20 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Kristina Jackson, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

Holeman discussed the KDHE permit application for the Solid Waste Transfer Station for Midwest Medical Waste, Inc.

Holeman said he and Monty Wedel recommend that the Board approve the application as consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Boyd moved to approve the permit application to KDHE as presented for the Solid Waste Transfer Station with Midwest Medical Waste, Inc. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

10:35 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Richard Seaton; Robert Nall, IT/GIS Director; and Kristina Jackson, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

Holeman presented a resolution adopting a confidential security plan.

Boyd moved to approve "Resolution No. 122613-86, Resolution adopting a confidential building security plan." Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

11:10 Boyd moved to adjourn. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

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Thomas Jefferson, 1787

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Investing in the ObamaFund:

Editorial
Wall Street Journal

Hey, kids. Uncle Sam has a new investment offer for you. Even if you have several decades of productive work ahead and thus a long investing time horizon, the White House wants you to consider a retirement plan that will invest in nothing but U.S. government debt.

Any financial professional who advised a young investor to avoid stocks and corporate bonds and everything else except Treasury bonds would be sued for malpractice. But asset allocation is merely one of the problems with the new "myRA" fund rolling out from the Treasury this month.

A form of Roth Individual Retirement Account that allows people to save after-tax dollars and watch them grow tax-free until retirement, the new myRA offers a single investment option. It's a private version of the G Fund that is available to federal workers and has lately been delivering annual returns of about 2 percent on its portfolio of Treasury securities.

Intended for those who haven't started saving for retirement, don't have a retirement plan at work, and make less than \$129,000 per year (\$191,000 for married couples filing jointly), the myRA requires no minimum investment to open an account and promises no fees for investors.

Readers will recall President Obama's announcement of this program in January's State of the Union address. Obama said that he would direct the Treasury to create this new retirement plan, which was puzzling because such plans are normally created by law, not presidential order.

Congressional staff was as puzzled as anyone and wondered how the White House would justify the creation of this new savings vehicle. Or

perhaps Team Obama would seek new authority from Congress? Well, Treasury is now offering these accounts and has hired Texas-based Comerica to manage them with a partner, Fidelity National Information Services. But the executive branch received no new authority from Congress this year to launch the program.

Treasury is funding the program out of the budget for its Bureau of the Fiscal Service. The assertion here is that existing law allows this part of the Treasury to hire financial agents as part of its mission to efficiently finance the federal government.

But that's a reach, because far from delivering efficiencies for the taxpayer, this program is designed to subsidize the investors. Not that a low-yielding Treasury securities fund is the right move for these first-time investors. But this is a deal they cannot find in the marketplace because it would be unprofitable for any company to offer it, given that the investor pays no fees and can contribute as little as he wishes in regular payroll deductions. Taxpayers are covering the costs, though their elected representatives in Congress never voted to create the program. So far Treasury also hasn't told us the fees it is paying Comerica.

The subsidies in myRAs are likely to be small at first, but the history of government programs is that they expand over time. And if such a subsidy scheme can be enacted administratively, does anyone think this will be the last time such power is exercised?

New investors should be encouraged to consider ways to build wealth beyond simply lending money to the feds. And if politicians want taxpayers to support another retirement program, they should do so through law, not White House whim.



ny was acquired by Kroger. He had various executive positions within Kroger until he was named president and chief operating officer in 1995. In 2003, he became chief executive officer. A year later he was elected chairman of the board.

Dillon retired as CEO in December 2013 but remained as chairman for another year, retiring for good at the end of this year. It was an impressive run.

"He's gone a lot further and

a lot longer," said Paul Dillon of Hutchinson, his father. "But he always loved the grocery business. He was always tagging along with us at Christmas making gift baskets in the warehouse."

To say he worked his way up the ladder is an understatement. When he was 15, he worked in the warehouse and the store. The next year he was bagging groceries. Then came the big move to checker.

"Everybody aspired to be a

checker," he said while in Hutchinson last week.

It was quite the ride that David Dillon took through the grocery business. He ended up at the top as chairman and CEO of the largest chain in the nation. But he never forgot his roots. That's why, as he was retiring, he came home to Hutchinson, which he calls "a special place." He visited all the stores to say goodbye, but he saved the one at 1319 N. Main for last. That's where he

started bagging groceries as a boy. And he bagged groceries there Tuesday.

"It's a symbolic gesture," he said. "But the point I wanted to make to our organization is that it's really a noble profession to be a grocer. I thought of myself my entire life as a grocer, where the idea is just to be of service to people."

Noble profession and noble man, indeed.

The end of an era:

Be Hutchinson News

The way David Dillon closed out his remarkable career with Kroger and Dillons Stores was a class act. Returning to the store where he worked his first job with the

company was his finale. There will be no more grocers named Dillon for the first time since J.S. Dillon, David Dillon's grandfather, founded the company in 1913.

The company's phenomenal growth during the past century is well documented. The name Dillon is synonymous with Hutchinson, as well it should be. Dillons grew from its roots here until it was bought by Kroger in 1983. Since then, Kroger merged with Fred Meyer Inc. in 1999 to become the nation's largest supermarket company.

And who was a part of all of that? David Dillon. With Dillons Stores, he had been vice president for merchandising and warehousing from 1977 to 1983 when the compa-



King Crossword

Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

E	S	A	U	E	L	M	J	I	B	E	
G	E	L	T	P	O	E	A	G	E	S	
A	M	B	I	T	I	O	N	S	N	A	P
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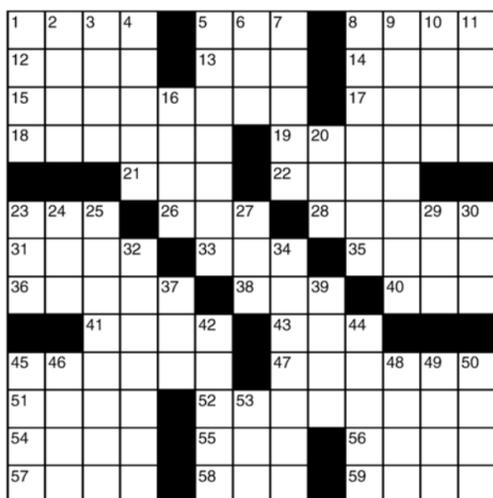
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King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Birthright barterer
 - 5 Shade provider
 - 8 Agree
 - 12 Money
 - 13 "The Raven" writer
 - 14 Quite some time
 - 15 Desire for success
 - 17 Break suddenly
 - 18 Actors' lines
 - 19 Patterned cotton fabric
 - 21 Corn spike
 - 22 Skirt feature
 - 23 Klutzy sort
 - 26 Light touch
 - 28 Insinuating
 - 31 Old Italian bread
 - 33 Kitten's comment
 - 35 Quite some time
 - 36 Intoxicated
- DOWN**
- 1 "Zounds!"
 - 2 Big rig
 - 3 Goya's "Duchess of —"
 - 4 Functional
 - 5 Pithy piece of wit
 - 6 Privy
 - 7 Repairs
 - 8 Flower used
 - 9 Car starter
 - 10 Throb
 - 11 Catch sight of
 - 16 Frog's cousin
 - 20 They (Fr.)
 - 23 Antiquated
 - 24 Football fill
 - 25 Realization
 - 27 Spelling contest
 - 29 "CSI" evidence
 - 30 Kreskin's skill
 - 32 Slowish in music
 - 34 Emulate
 - 37 Small barrel
 - 39 Con
 - 42 Bygone photo hue
 - 44 Goes out with
 - 45 Brewery kiln
 - 46 Unsightly
 - 48 Puerto —
 - 49 Ripped
 - 50 Tightly fitting
 - 53 Right angle



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Loaded Potato Soup

Bacon, ham and potatoes come together to form a cheesy soup made using Progresso® chicken broth and Gold Medal® all-purpose flour – a tasty lunch.

Ingredients

- 1 package (12 oz) bacon
- 1 1/2 cups chopped onion
- 6 cups Progresso™ chicken broth (from two 32-oz cartons)
- 2 lb baking potatoes, peeled, cubed
- 2/3 cup butter
- 3/4 cup Gold Medal™ all-purpose flour
- 4 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 1 cup diced cooked ham
- 1 container (8 oz) sour cream
- 2 1/2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese (10 oz)
- 3/4 cup sliced green onions

Directions

- 1 In 12-inch skillet, cook bacon over medium heat 6 to 7 minutes or until crisp; drain on paper towels. Crumble bacon; set aside. Reserve 2 tablespoons drippings in skillet. Cook onion in bacon drippings over medium-high heat 6 minutes or until almost tender.
- 2 In 6-quart Dutch oven, mix onion, broth and potatoes. Heat to boiling; reduce heat. Cook 10 minutes or until potatoes are very tender.
- 3 Meanwhile, in same skillet, melt butter over low heat. Stir in flour with whisk until smooth. Cook and stir 1 minute. Gradually stir in 2 cups of the milk. Pour milk mixture into potato mixture. Add remaining 2 cups milk, the salt and pepper. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly with whisk, until mixture is thickened and bubbly.
- 4 Stir in ham, half of the bacon, the sour cream, 2 cups of the cheese and 1/2 cup of the green onions. Cook until thoroughly heated and cheese is melted. Evenly top individual servings with remaining bacon, 1/2 cup cheese and 1/4 cup green onions.

Nutrition Information
Serving Size: 1 Serving

Calories 362, Total Fat 25g (Saturated Fat 14g,), Sodium 863mg Total Carbohydrate 20g (Dietary Fiber 1g), Protein 13g ; % Daily Value*: Vitamin A 0%; Vitamin C 0%; Calcium 0%; Iron 0%;

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Fisher, Roepke Break Guinness World Record

Special To The Free Press
By Trinda Chase

On an incredibly cold Sunday afternoon, some hot shots were made at Valley Heights High School.

Bob Fisher, age 57 from Centralia, and Brandi Jo Roepke, a Junior at Valley Heights High School, paired up and broke the Guinness Book of World Records for most basketball free throws in one minute by a mixed pair making 44 (out of 49) shots. The current record of 34 by Michael Anderson and Katherine Oosthuizen back on August 17th, 2013 will stand until Guinness approves the 44 made by Fisher and Roepke, which can take 4-6 weeks.

For Bob, setting world records is nothing new. Currently he holds 13, which are all for basketball free throws: 2,371 in one hour (1,501 out of 1,744 right-handed), 870 out of 1,233 left-handed), 33 in 30 seconds, 50 in one minute, 92 in two minutes, 448 in 10 minutes, 44 in one minute alternating hands, 88 in two minutes alternating hands, 28 in one minute underhanded, 22 in one minute blindfolded, 37 in two minutes blindfolded, 49 in one minute standing on one leg, 29 in one minute by a pair using unlimited balls (with Garrett Steinlage), and 24 in one minute by a pair using 2 balls (also with Garrett Steinlage).

If you ask Bob, or either of Jo's parents (Brad and Lynn Roepke, Waterville), they will tell you that Bob and Jo first met before basketball season this year. Jo recalls a different date. She remembers "meeting" Bob for the first time back on January 9th, 2010, when Jo was just a 6th grader. That was when Bob came to Valley Heights High School and set his first world record for free throws shot in one minute. Maybe it was being back at the original location that moved Bob to attempt to break his own record, which Bob's wife Connie said they were not originally planning to attempt. Things were going his way and he beat his record of 50 making 52 (out of 75) shots in one minute. Bob didn't stop there with setting records. With much help from Connie, Bob set the goal high with a new



Bob Fisher and Brandi Jo Roepke

category record for the most free throws in 30 seconds while blindfolded making 21 out of 24. He attempted another new category for the most free throws consecutively made in one minute alternating hands. Guinness set the bar at 30 shots and Bob just missed that goal making 29. Once Guinness approves the records set on Sunday, Bob will hold a total of 15 world records and Jo will hold her first.

When Bob met with Jo for the first time, he was impressed with her shooting and casually asked her if she wanted to break a world record together. Jo was with her dad and they both thought why not. They met again in November for additional shooting training and thought maybe they could try to break the record over Christmas break. Their first practice attempt was made the day before, on Saturday, only practicing about 30 minutes. Jo said she was "very nervous to shoot side-by-side with the best free throw shooter in the world". It didn't take long for her confidence to build as they

each started making shots in sync. Of course it was possible that they wouldn't beat the record on Sunday; however, Jo said she "felt confident" that they would. Bob knew what it would take to beat the record as he and Dana Kramer, a Junior from Wetmore High School, had previously held the mixed pair record making 32 shots back on December 17th, 2011.

Lynn and Bob both summed up Sunday's event as "good" and Jo thought it was "cool". Brad felt like it "served as a motivator" and things Jo learned "can be taken out on the court". He also agreed with Jo that overall the event was "really a cool thing". Bob wanted to set the record with Jo because "it was available" and because he "thought it would help Jo get where she wants to go". Since Jo can remember, her dream goal is to play Division I college basketball after high school.

Being the best free throw shooter in the world, holding over a dozen records, helps provide credibility for Bob that he's put all his years of intense research into action and figured

out what it takes to be a great shooter. But he is still learning and trains every day. And the desire to teach young athletes all over is evident just watching him around all of them that attended on Sunday. Hopefully teaching others what he has learned will only blossom and grow because it is clear he is successful at it. Jo describes Bob as an "awesome, great teacher" and knows he has helped her greatly just in their few meetings. Both Jo and her dad feel like from here Jo's shooting percentages and confidence will greatly increase, and she's looking to have gained the ability to make a quicker shot. But Jo emphasizes the importance of remaining humble through all her successes as an athlete.

Does the future hold more records for either Bob or Jo? Bob states, "Since I failed at the consecutive alternating hands that will be my next challenge". In February, Bob has been asked to shoot at the Baileyville Benefit Tournament and he is thinking he might set a record there. Bob feels like his determination to keep setting world records "should give people hope because I am just like everyone else...just an ordinary guy who learned late in life that it only takes three things to become good at anything: knowledge, practice and time".

For Jo, she is looking to beat the most free throws in one minute by a female. The current record is 40, which Jo attempted to beat (unplanned) on Sunday and was able to get 35. She is confident that she can break the record with practice and using the techniques learned from Bob. And Brad is willing to organize another event for Jo, possibly in the spring or summer. He feels like it was not a lot of "work" but more "a lot of people" to make it work and wants to thank everyone that gave up their Sunday afternoon to come help. In the meantime, Jo will continue practicing hard getting a perfect balance of support from her dad (the one who is much more like Jo being critical and always pushing, looking for ways to improve) and her mom (the one Jo knows will provide her with compliments).

Arrest stats point to New York Police Department slowdown

By TOM HAYS
Associated Press

NEW YORK Despite efforts by New York City officials to tout a dip in serious crime, another statistic is getting more attention — a steep decline in the number of arrests across all five boroughs in the two weeks since two police officers were shot dead in their patrol car.

The totals suggest that a rumored work slowdown has taken hold amid discord between the rank and file and Mayor Bill de Blasio, and raise questions about what impact it could have on the city's crime rate.

Patrick Lynch, head of the powerful Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, insisted Tuesday that the union was not sanctioning a labor action. He pointed to a shootout during an armed holdup late Monday that left two plainclothes officers wounded as proof that it was business as usual at the nation's largest police department.

Officers, who are working without a contract, are "putting themselves in danger to keep this city safe just as they always do," Lynch said.

But the enforcement statistics strongly indicate that the slowdown is real, even if it was initiated at the grassroots level.

Last week, the number of summonses for minor criminal offenses and traffic and parking violations decreased by more than 90 percent compared with the same week a year earlier, statistics show. For example, summonses for urinating in public were down to 347 from more than 4,077 last year.

Arrests citywide last week for more serious offenses were down 55 percent. In midtown Manhattan alone, they fell to 112 from 348.

Thomas Repetto, a police expert and author who has written extensively about the New York Police Department, called the results too "overwhelming" to be coincidental and said

there could be real-life consequences for the public if left to fester for too long.

"If the law is not being enforced in the street, we're all in danger," Repetto said. "The criminals take their cue and run wild."

The figures first plummeted in the week after the two officers were killed on Dec. 20 in a brazen daytime ambush by a fugitive who had ranted on social media that he wanted to avenge the police killings of Michael Brown and Eric Garner. The patrolmen's deaths exacerbated tensions between de Blasio and police officers already upset by the mayor's remark sympathizing with protesters who claim a pattern of excessive force in minority communities.

The potential for a slowdown was evident the day after the killings, when word began circulating among officers that they should wait to respond to every radio call with two cars and not make arrests "unless absolutely necessary." A recent online posting on a site popular with police officers referred to the stance as "Operation Stand-down, Protect Yourself, Do Nothing."

Sgt. Ed Mullins, head of the Sergeants Benevolent Association, argued that in the current climate, it would only make sense that police officers would take extra precautions that could result in fewer arrests.

"You have protests, you have broken morale," Mullins said. "You also have the assassination of two police officers. The threat of assassination is real — it has already happened."

The apparent slowdown threatened to hamper de Blasio's efforts to assure New Yorkers that historically low crime numbers — even as the NYPD drastically scaled back intrusive street stops — showed that it was possible to create a "safer city" and a "fairer city."

Big threat for Obama's climate efforts from GOP-run Congress

By JOSH LEDERMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's determined efforts to combat global warming face their biggest trial yet as Republicans take full control of Congress this week. The GOP vows to move fast and forcefully to roll back his environmental rules and force his hand on energy development.

The GOP's first order of business: the Keystone XL pipeline. The Republican-led House has repeatedly passed legislation to approve the pipeline, which would carry tar sands oil from Canada deep into the United States. The bills died in the Senate when Democrats were in control, but that will change Wednesday when a Republican-led Senate committee holds a Keystone hearing.

"The president is going to see the Keystone XL pipeline on his desk and it's going to be a bellwether decision by the president whether to go with

jobs and the economy," Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., said Sunday.

Success for Republicans on the climate front would jeopardize a key component of Obama's legacy. And the ramifications would likely ricochet far beyond the United States.

Later this year, nations are supposed to sign a major global climate treaty in Paris. Aggressive action by the U.S. under Obama has upped the pressure on other governments to get serious about climate change, too. But if Obama can't make good on his commitments at home, it's unclear whether poorer nations will still feel compelled to act.

"The American government has been responsible for sending very strong political and economic signals with what they have announced so far," former Mexican President Felipe Calderon, now a global climate leader, said in an Associated Press interview. "I know that there is a risk that

those will be overcome by the new political reality in the U.S."

Obama has made clear he will use his veto power if Republicans succeed in getting hostile bills to his desk — especially on climate change. "I'm going to defend gains that we've made on environment and clean air and clean water," he has said.

And Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, says the Republicans aren't likely to overturn his veto. That would require a number of Democrats to vote against the president.

"There's reason to be concerned, but I don't think there's reason to be panicked," Schatz said.

By design, Obama's biggest steps on climate rely on existing laws and don't explicitly require Congress to act. But Republicans can try to undercut them before they take effect. Republicans argue that Obama's coal plant emissions limits, for example, would dev-

astate local economies and hamper job-creation.

These are some of the most likely ways the GOP will try to stop Obama on climate change, as described by Republican leadership aides:

—After Wednesday's hearing on Keystone, GOP senators plan to work on the bill's details on Thursday and then start debating the legislation next week. The Senate could vote soon after Obama's Jan. 20 State of the Union address. A separate House vote on Keystone could come as early as this week.

That makes Keystone likely to be one of the first bills to hit Obama's desk in 2015. White House aides decline to say how they might respond until they see the final GOP bill. But in his most recent news conference, Obama spoke at length about how Keystone would basically save money for Canadian energy producers, with negligible effects for U.S. gasoline prices or American

jobs.

— Republicans aim to pass legislation forcing Obama to certify — before his regulations on power plants take effect — that they won't drive up power prices or eliminate jobs. Attaching that requirement to a broader spending bill would make it harder for Obama to veto without jeopardizing other government spending.

In the "defund" approach, Republicans could pass bills prohibiting the government from spending any money to implement his EPA regulations. Meanwhile, states and other groups are pursuing litigation in the courts challenging the administration's authority to proceed without Congress.

— The GOP could try to block Environmental Protection Agency regulations directly. The Congressional Review Act enables such resolutions to pass the Senate with a simple majority vote, meaning Democrats couldn't fili-

buster, once the regulations became final. That's scheduled to happen this year for Obama's carbon dioxide rule, which aims to cut power plant emissions nearly a third from 2005 levels.

— Lawmakers could refuse to give Obama the \$3 billion he has already pledged on the country's behalf to a global fund to help poorer nations address climate change. Obama hasn't yet asked Congress for any money to fulfill that pledge. The White House says the administration will make its first request in its budget plan for fiscal year 2016, which begins Oct. 1.

— Republicans are likely to send Obama bills aimed at spurring energy development in the U.S., such as promoting drilling on federal lands or making it easier to export gas and oil. Many of these bills have previously passed the House and are teed up for quick passage by the new Congress.

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Sports

Manhattan Free Press - Thursday, January 8, 2015

6A



Kansas State Football Fans turned out to see the Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas (Photos by Jon A. Brake)



One of the many bridges over the river in San Antonio.



Fans found the riverside cafes fun but not on the rainy day.



San Antonio, Texas is known for the Riverwalk and the beauty of the City and it is something special. The loss to UCLA still stings but it was a time to remember and someday return.

Kansas State falls in the Alamo Bowl 40-35

By Tonya Rickfefs
Free Press

On game day in San Antonio, you couldn't find a place to eat anywhere that was not frequented by guests wearing purple. Five hours before kickoff, the fans walking along the Riverwalk broke into an impromptu K-S-U chant. More than one fan jokingly referred to San Antonio as Manhattan South. By the time the game started, the cheers when the team ran onto the field, made the Alamo Dome sound like a KSU home game.

Unfortunately, UCLA quieted the crowd noise very quickly by scoring a touchdown in less than three minutes.

At the very beginning, Kansas State seemed to not be clicking on either the offensive or defensive side of the ball. Tackles were missed by players, some seemed to miss the beginning of the play. Then, when Kansas State got the ball, Waters was sacked twice on the opening drive and had to throw it away. Some plays started coming together in the first half with McDaniel breaking up a

touchdown attempt by UCLA, but then rare events were happening on the offensive side of the ball when a rare pass miss to Lockett goes through his hands in the end zone. And while the defense begins to get their game together in the first half, they still were allowing UCLA to gain an average of 8.3 yards per play.

Changes were made during halftime, one of the most obvious being moving BJ Finney iwas moved to right tackle in the second half. But, overall, the Cats just seemed to become

more aggressive, often having to go for it on 4th down plays because the Cats were running out of time to win the game.

Two major records were achieved, one is that Curry Sexton and Tyler Lockett became the first two wide receivers in Kansas State history to achieve over 1,000 career yards. The other record set is that Quarterback Jake Waters has now broken the single season passing yardage total at Kansas State. Curry Sexton commented after the game how "People will look back one day

and realize how good of a quarterback he was and how much he meant."

With the 40-35 loss, lots of talk has turned to Coach Snyder's bowl win/loss record (6-9). Even with Travis Tannahill chiming in on Twitter during the game to speculate on the fact that the prep time is even for both teams, so Coach Snyder's gift for getting the most out of weekly practice is nullified. I would spend more time speculating about this and the time that most reporters are spending analyzing Coach

Snyder, but I think he is spending more time than all of us together trying to figure out what went wrong with the game. Plus, the true focus for the team should be, and will be, rebuilding what has been lost with the massive amount of talent that has graduated this year. There are some solid players, such as McDaniel and Whitehair that are staying, but the Quarterback position will be up for grabs this coming season. It will be an interesting spring game this year. How long until football starts again?

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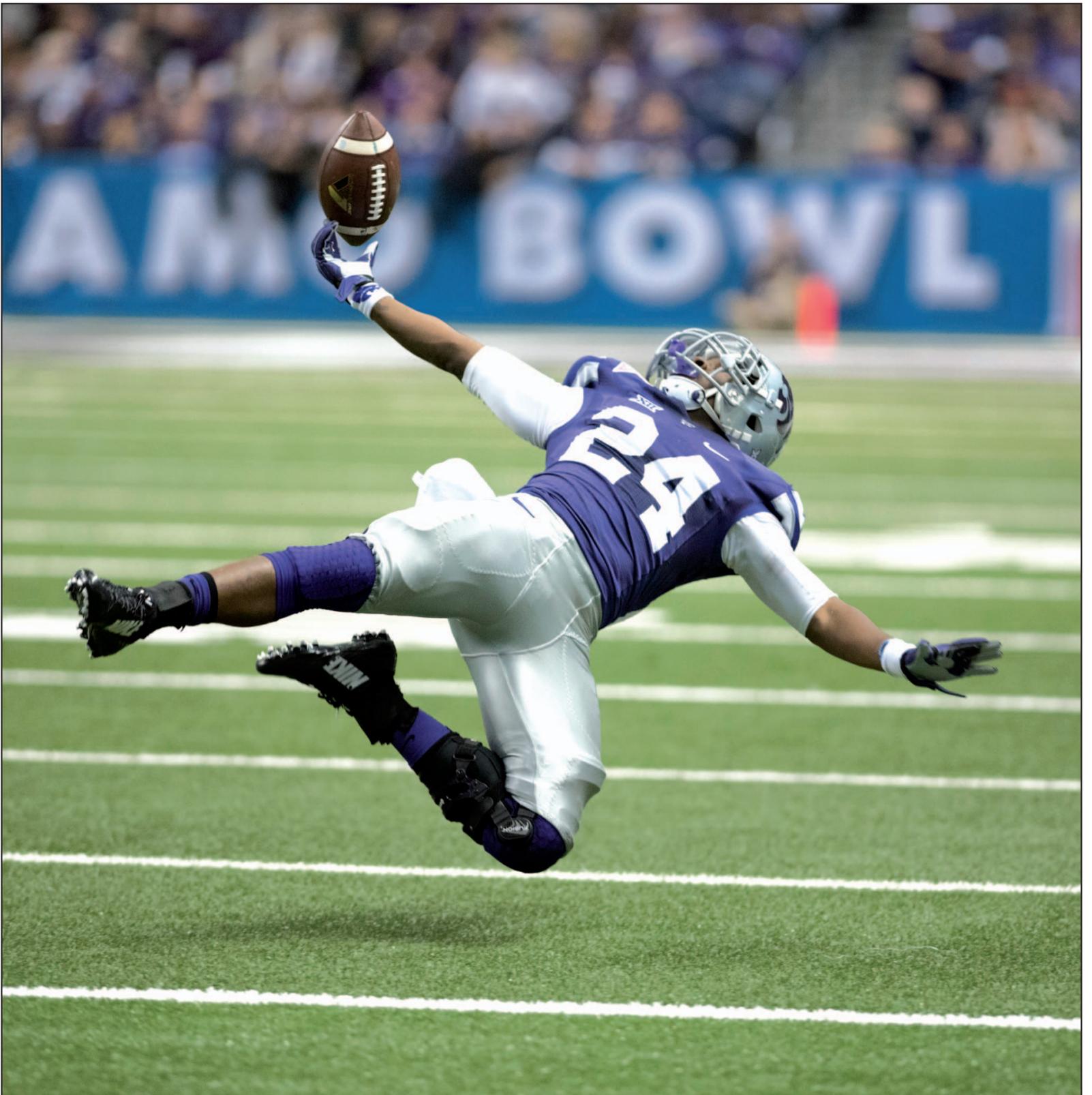


Alamo Bowl Special

Manhattan Free Press v - Blue Rapids Free Press

Thursday, January 8, 2015

1B



Runningback Charles Jones (24) missed this pass thrown by Wide receiver Tyler Lockett by just inches, the same way Kansas State missed winning the Alamo Bowl, by just inches. (Photo by Ben Brake)

UCLA holds off Kansas State in Alamo Bowl

By IM PRICE
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Even with a 31-6 halftime lead, UCLA coach Jim Mora knew the Bruins had a lot of work to do to finish off Kansas State in the Alamo Bowl.

"We're playing the 11th-ranked team in the country, and it's not going to be easy," Mora said. "You know they're going to fight back. If they don't fight back, they don't deserve to be No. 11."

The No. 14 Bruins held on, beating the Wildcats 40-35 on Friday night.

Mora and Kansas State coach Bill Snyder had an awkward

exchange on the field after the game. Apparently upset that Kansas State took a timeout and hit Bruins quarterback Brett Hundley as he kneeled to down the ball on the final play, Mora quickly turned away from the 75-year-old Snyder after barely shaking hands, then went back and got into an animated chat.

"I will defend the safety of my players ... forever," Mora tweeted.

The message was retweeted by many Bruins players.

Facing the large deficit at the half, Snyder bristled at the thought that TV broadcasters might say the same thing about

his Wildcats that they did about Florida State in the Rose Bowl. "We had a TV announcer indicate in another ballgame that a football team had quit, and that's the last thing in the world anybody wants to hear on national TV, I assure you," Snyder said. "I reminded our youngsters of it, that we weren't about to let somebody say that about us. And they didn't."

Kansas State (9-4) scored 22 of the first 25 points in the second half, cutting it to 34-28 on quarterback Jake Waters' 1-yard run with 4:54 left.

Paul Perkins countered for UCLA (10-3) with a 67-yard

run with 2:20 to go.

"That hole was huge. Anybody could have run through it," said Perkins, who ran for 194 yards on 20 carries. "And on the kick, I just wanted to secure the ball and get us out of here with the win."

The Wildcats weren't finished.

Waters threw a 29-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Lockett with 1:21 left, but Perkins recovered the onside kick for UCLA and the Bruins ran out the clock.

"Our players didn't give in," Snyder said. "Fought back. It wasn't enough."

It's been a week of big come-

backs at bowl games. Michigan State trailed Baylor by 20 in the fourth quarter at the Cotton Bowl and won 42-41. Earlier Friday, Houston scored 29 points in the fourth quarter to beat Pittsburgh 35-34 in the Armed Forces Bowl.

Waters was 31 of 48 for 338 yards, but was sacked seven times - twice by Butkus Award winner Eric Kendricks - and threw two interceptions and lost a fumble.

Lockett had 13 catches for 164 yards for Kansas State.

Hundley ran for 96 yards and two touchdowns on 11 carries and passed for 136 yards. Mora has said Hundley is forgoing

his senior season to enter the NFL draft.

UCLA raced to a 17-0 lead in the first quarter, with Hundley scoring on runs of 10 and 28 yards. The Bruins outgained Kansas State 218-4 and had a 9-1 edge in first downs in the quarter.

In the second quarter, Perkins had a 32-yard touchdown run and Hundley threw a 7-yard scoring pass to Devin Lucien. The Bruins sacked Waters five times in the half.

"By my count we left 28 points on the field in the first half," Snyder said. "That's our fault."

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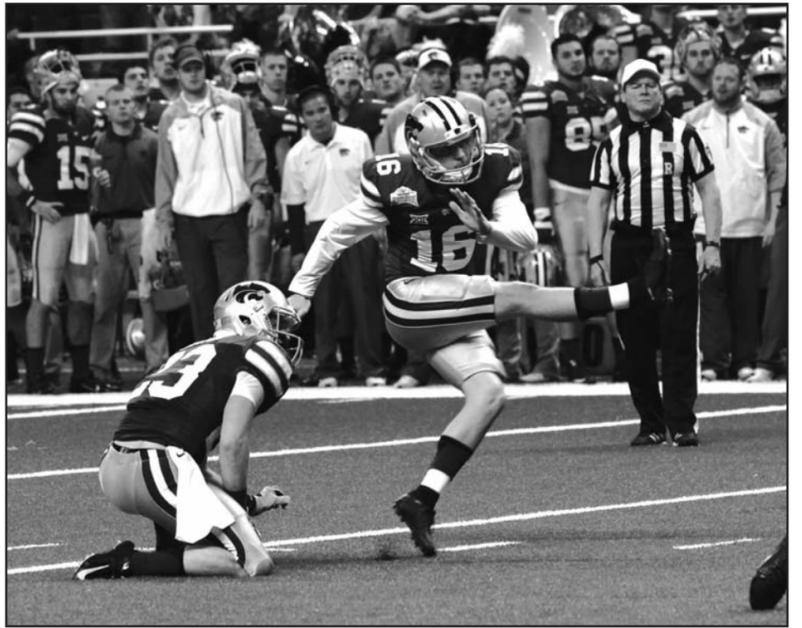
2B



The day before the Alamo Bowl fans turned out for a pep rally for the Wildcats. (Photo by Rick Dykstra)



Quarterback Jake Waters (15) ran for 61 yards on 15 carries. (Photo by Ben Brake)



Mathew McCrane (16) hit two Field Goals in the 2nd Quarter. (Photo by Jon Brake)



Kody Cook pulls in one of his 3 receptions for 26 yards. (19) (Photo by Jon Brake)



Curry Sexton (14) had 104 yards on 10 passes. (Photo by Ben Brake)

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3B



The K-State Defensive Line moves as a unit on a play in the first half. They gave up a total of 331 yards on the ground. (Photo by Jon Brake)



Tyler Lockett (16) and Kody Cook (19) celebrate after a TD. (Photo by Ben Brake)



Curry Sexton (14) goes to the ground after a reception. (Photo by Jon Brake)



DeMarcus Robinson (20) goes around end. (Photo by Ben Brake)



Charles Jones (24) is hit going up the middle. (Photo by Jon Brake)

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4B



Tyler Lockett (16) picked up 164 yards on 13 passes during the Alamo Bowl. (Photo by Ben Brake)



The Offensive Line goes to celebrate after a touchdown. L to R Zach Nemecek (89); Drew Liddle (61); Luke Hayes (68); Zach Trujillo (85). (Photo by Jon Brake)



K-State Quarterback Jake Waters (15) gets a pass off before getting hit. (Photo by Ben Brake)



Jonathan Truman (21) lead the Wildcats with 5 Solo and 9 Ast tackles. (Photo by Ben Brake)



"You Can't Do That!" "You Can't Do That!" (Photo by Jon Brake)

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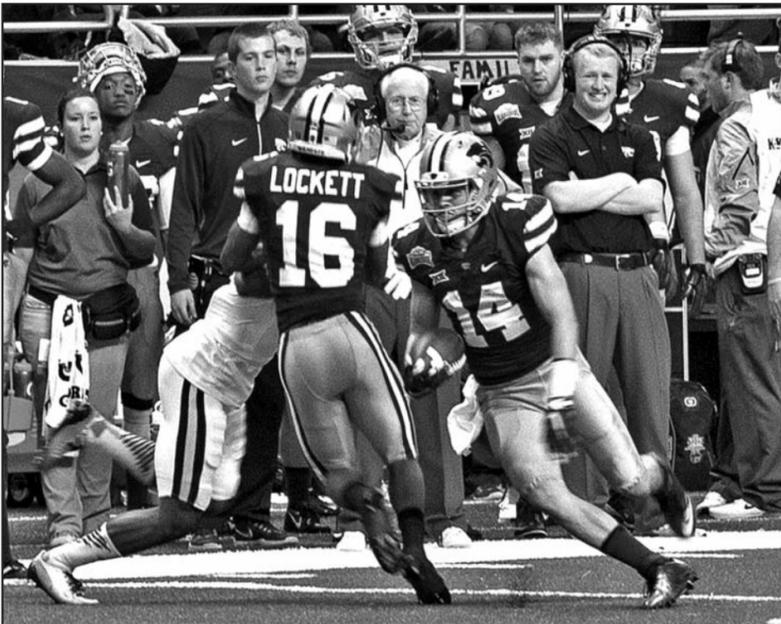
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5B



Marcus Bryant (45) had a total of 4 tackles during the game. (Photo by Jon Brake)



Curry Sexton (14) gets past a tackler because team mate Tyler Lockett make the block. (Photo by Rick Dykstra)



Sometimes it is hard for a Quarterback like K-State's Jake Waters (15) to complete a pass. (Photo by Ben Brake)



Tyler Lockett (16) scoring another Wildcat touchdown (Photo by Ben Brake)



Quarterback Jake Waters (15) takes it across for a TD from the one-yard-line. (Photo by Jon Brake)

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6B



Ryan Mueller (44) and 99 Valentino Coleman take down the UCLA runner. (Photo by Ben Brake)



K-State's Cornerback Nate Jackson (24) hits low, sends high. (Photo by Ben Brake)



Jake Waters (15) looks for the open man on the sidelines. (Photo by Jon Brake)



Runningback DeMarcus Robinson (20) hits the center of the line. (Photo by Jon Brake)



Inside the Alamo Bowl before the Purple Wave hit. (Photo by Rick Dykstra)

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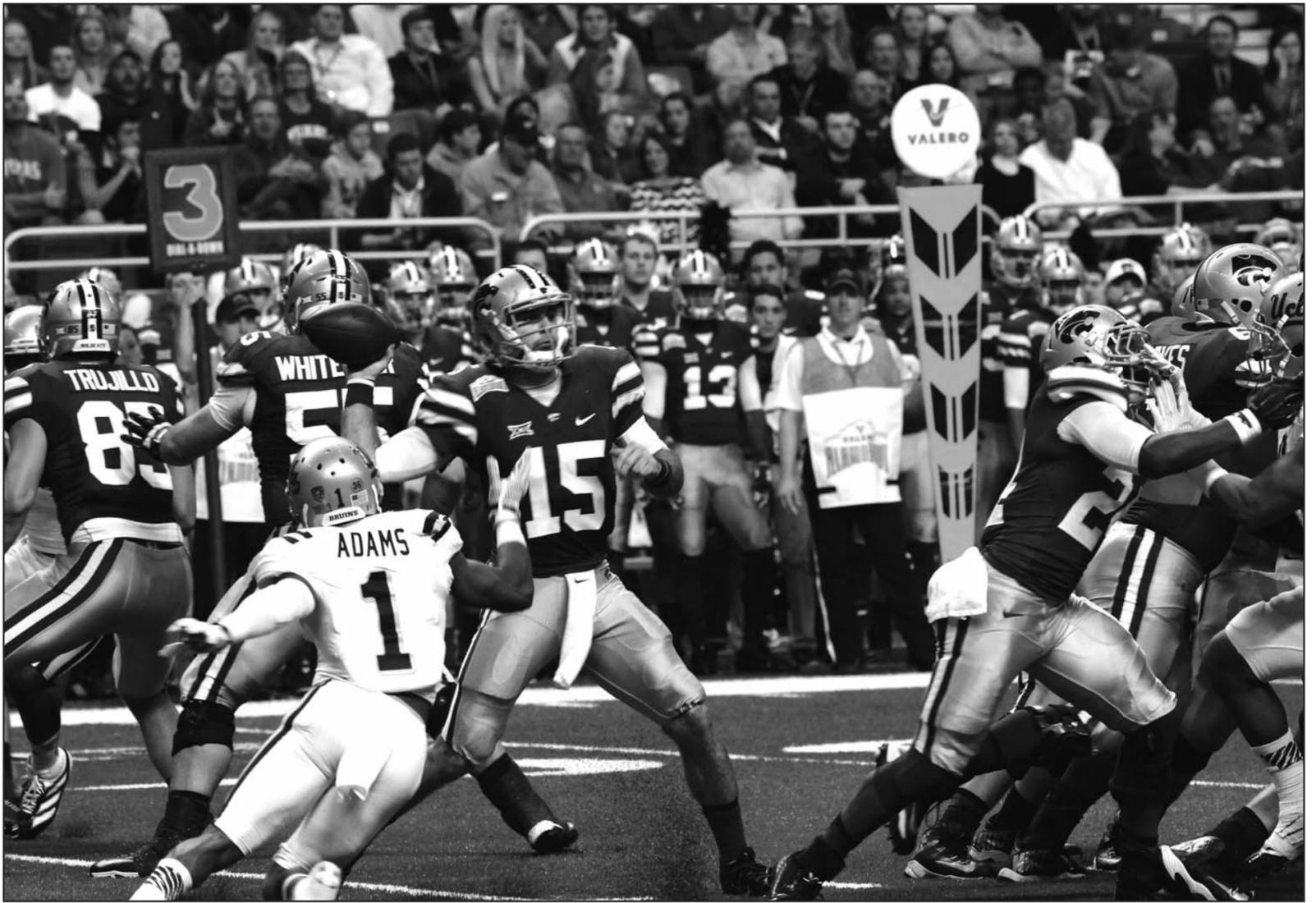


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7B



In his last game as the Wildcat Quarterback, Jake Waters puts up a pass. (Photo by Jon Brake)



Sometimes Morgan Burns (33) will take anything he can get. (Photo by Jon Brake)



Tyler Lockett watches the game from the sidelines. (Photo by Ben Brake)



Kansas State fans love their Wildcats. (Photo by Ben Brake)



The K-State Marching Band plays before the start of the game. (Photo by Jon Brake)

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8B



Tyler Lockett pulls in another pass. He owns every receiving record at Kansas State. (Photo by Ben Brake)



Dakorey Johnson (32) returns his interception for more yardage. (Photo by Rick Dykstra)



Travis Green (2) and Will Davis (35) take down the UCLA runner. Photo by Jon Brake)



Curry Sexton (14) goes back to the huddle after receiving a pass. (Photo by Ben Brake)



The Kansas State Cheerleaders at the Pep Rally. (Photo by Rick Dykstra)

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