

WYNN BUTLER
FOR MANHATTAN CITY COMMISSION
It's about **PRIORITIES!**



Priorities - Your Taxes, City Infrastructure and Responsible Growth. As your Mayor and City Commissioner I have focused on Frugal Fiscal Management, Fact Based Decision Making, Innovative Problem Solving and Compromise to Achieve Shared Goals. Early voting begins on March 18th, Election Day is April 7th. Vote Wynn Butler for Manhattan City Commission to ensure that you get best value for your tax dollar.

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Manhattan Free Press

Vol. 23 Number 41

An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper

Thursday, March 12, 2015

Four Renewable Energy Plans From Westar Up For Kansas Corporation Commission Approval

(AP) Westar Energy customers who want more of their energy to come from renewable sources could have as many as four options if the Kansas Corporation Commission approves.

Westar filed a \$152-million rate request with the KCC to pay for environmental work at the La Cygne coal-fired plant and safety upgrades at Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station. The renewable energy programs are part of Westar's filing, but aren't calculated into the rate request. The KCC has jurisdiction over rates and special programs offered by electric utilities in Kansas.

Greg Greenwood, senior vice president of strategy for Westar, said the object of the programs is to provide options for customers who want to support renewable energy, without passing extra costs on to customers who care most about price.

■ One of the changes is just lowering the price of the optional renewable energy tariff. About 43 customers currently pay \$1 on top of the regular rate for 100 kilowatt hours of renewable energy, but that will fall to about 25 cents if the KCC approves, to better reflect the actual cost of producing it, Greenwood said.

"The benefits should go to our customers who say, 'I value a lower utility bill,'" he said.

■ A "community solar" program would allow customers to buy one, two or three units of energy from a central solar farm, Greenwood said.

One unit is equal to 107 kilowatt hours.

The price of solar power would be 15.6 cents per kilowatt hour for 10 years, Greenwood said. That is about 2 cents more than the general price Westar charges for electricity from all sources, so people who buy in could end up saving money if the cost of electricity rises in the next decade, he said. Customers would be locked in for one year, but could leave after that point.

The solar farm will have a capacity of 150 kilowatts and be open to up to 150 customers, Greenwood said. Customers would pay whatever the prevailing rate at the moment was for the rest of their electricity, because 107 kilowatt hours a month wouldn't cover the average household's needs, he said. People who participated in the program still would be attached to the rest of the grid, so they wouldn't have to cut back on their electricity usage when the sun isn't out.

"It's a lot less expensive (to set up a solar farm) than putting it on 150 houses," he said.

■ Another possible solar option would be to build a substantially larger solar farm and allow people to buy a share in one of two ways, Greenwood said. Customers could choose to buy a share at a fixed price regardless of how much the solar farm actually generates, or they could buy a variable share so that they pay only for the actual kilowatt hours produced. The fixed price likely would be the better option in an unusually sunny year, while the variable plan would look better in a cloudier-than-usual



year. "Which is better is going to depend on Mother Nature and sunshine," he said.

■ Large electricity users could have the option to buy a share of wind power, Greenwood said. They would commit for two years to pay the aver-

age cost of wind production, transmission costs and something to offset the costs associated with having back-ups for when the wind isn't blowing, he said. In exchange, they wouldn't have to pay the fuel cost for the equivalent amount of coal, natural gas and uranium needed to produce the wind energy

they actually bought that month, though they would continue to pay the usual costs for any usage the wind energy didn't cover.

"They'll know exactly what they'll pay" per kilowatt hour, he said. "What they don't know is how much (their share of the wind farm) will generate."

Editorial...

By Jon A. Brake
Publisher

What's going on with Westar Energy and the Kansas Corporation Commission? Westar announced that they are going to request a rate increase. Well, that's nothing new. But look at the 4 Plans Westar gave to the KCC last week.

Look at how AP started with the first paragraph: "Westar Energy customers who want more of their energy to come from renewable sources could have as many as four

options if the Kansas Corporation Commission approves."

If you want to have fun do as the Free Press did Tuesday and call Westar and ask if you can be one of the 150 Customers to purchase 150 kilowatts from a solar farm?

The agent for Westar had not see the newspaper story and did not have the plan but he did look it up on the computer and started to make an attempt to explain the program. But before he could get into the program we ask: "Will Westar run a line from the Solar Farm to our house?" This he had the

answer for, "no it will still come from the electrical grid."

Good answer!
Do Westar Customers really think that they can purchase green energy, produced by wind or by solar pannels?

Let me tell them, let me tell them! No, you can not purchase green bolts of electricity made at a Solar Farm. A green thread of electricity does not wind it's way acrosss Kansas and stop at your house because you pay Westar more per kilowatt hour.

It doesn't matter how electricity is

made, coal, nuclear, wind or solar, it all goes to the electrical grid and becomes one, like soup. It is all mixed up.

If Westar needs \$152-million to "pay for environmental work at the La Cygne coal-fired plant and safety upgrades at Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station, just say so. They need to raise the rates because the Federal Government is making them do upgrades at the stations. Don't try to sell people that they are getting something special, because they are

not.

Don't tell people: "they could buy a variable share so that they pay only for the actual kilowatt hours produced." If Westar needs to sell shares of stock to pay for the upgrades then let them sell stocks or bonds.

It looks to this newspaper like the Westar padded offices are being used too much. And if the KCC goes along with this snake oil scheme, they need padded cells.

Obama and the Federal Government squeezes U.S. workers in visa vise

By Kenric Ward
Watchdog.org

The Department of Homeland Security is granting work permits to certain spouses of foreign visa holders in the United States — even as the number of immigrants is increasing twice as fast as jobs are being created.

According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director León Rodríguez, the new policy will take effect May 26 for spouses of H-1B (high-skilled) visa holders who are seeking permanent resident status in the country. The policy stems from President Obama's immigration executive orders last year.

"Allowing the spouses of these visa holders to legally work in the United States makes perfect sense," Rodríguez said. "It helps U.S. businesses keep their highly skilled workers by increasing the chances these workers will choose to stay in this country during the transition from temporary workers to permanent residents. It also provides more economic stability and better quality of life for the affected families."

USCIS said as many as 179,600 people may benefit from the new rule in the first year of implementation and

about 55,000 annually in succeeding years.

The 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act allows H-1B non-immigrants seeking lawful permanent residence to work and remain in the United States beyond the six-year limit on their H-1B status.

The Department of Homeland Security said the new rule will reduce the economic burdens and personal stresses of H-1B visa holders and their families while their papers are processed.

Maheash Bajoria, an immigration

attorney in Fremont, Calif., said more should be done to accommodate foreign workers and their families.

"It would have been better if the rules permitted new non-immigrants coming under H4 visas to work in the U.S. However, this is a breakthrough and a step in the right direction. Hopefully, the administration will further relax the rules and permit the new H4 spouses coming to the U.S. to fulfill their dreams get an opportunity to work in the U.S. and cater to the U.S. economy at the same time," Bajoria said.

While tech companies such as

Microsoft and Google have long lobbied for more foreign employees, critics say the administration has gone too far already.

Watchdog.org reported that a 2001 National Research Council study, commissioned by Congress, found underpayment of H1-B visa holders is an industrywide practice. Economists predict adding foreign spouses to the U.S. workforce at a time of historically low labor participation rates will further depress wages in other sectors and crowd out more American workers.

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Riley County Minutes Cost Taxpayers \$700 Per Month

Board of Riley County Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes

March 05, 2015

115 North 4th Street Manhattan, KS 66502

Commission Chambers 8:30 AM

8:30 AM Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Shepek presented the Commerce Bank revenue share report showing Riley County received \$17,590.42 for 2014.

Volanti said she wanted the Commissioners to consider if they want to hold the quarterly department head reviews again this year.

Wells said he does not feel they are necessary.

P. Collins said the contractor began starting the 911 system today and will take about a month to complete the process.

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

2. Commission Comments

Wilson said yesterday, he toured the Courthouse, which was helpful for visualizing the plans we are discussing for renovations. Wells said he has been working on the Home Show preparation.

Wells said yesterday he welcomed the Noxious Weed Directors Association to our community.

Business Meeting

3. Ka-Comm Annual Contract Renewal

Move to approve to renew the annual contract with Ka-Comm for the maintenance of the 911 radio backbone equipment in Riley County.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Wells, Wilson

ABSENT: Boyd

4. Review and acceptance of Sanborn LiDAR contract

Move to approve signature of contract allowing IT/GIS to move forward with the 2015 LiDAR flight.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Wells, Wilson

ABSENT: Boyd

5. Bid Recommendation for the Daniels Drive Bridge Replacement Project

Staff has reviewed the bids for the above referenced project and found them to be in order. It is our recommendation to award the contract to the low bidder, Ebert Construction, Wamego, KS in the amount of \$186,912.79.

The contractor has indicated he will begin construction on or about August 1, 2015 and anticipates completion within 75 working days. This is a Sales Tax funded project.

Move to approve the bid from Ebert Construction in the amount of \$186,912.79.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Wells, Wilson

ABSENT: Boyd

6. Sign On Line Access Agreements for Alfred Benesch & Company and Heartland Document Retrieval

Move to sign Renewal of Online Access Agreements for Alfred Benesch & Company and Heartland Document Retrieval.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Wells, Wilson

ABSENT: Boyd

7. Sign Riley County Personnel Action Form(s)

The Board of County Commissioners signed Riley County Personnel

Action Forms for the following:

Linda King, for other (6 months completion after promotion - eligible for step increase), as a Tax and Accounting Supervisor, in the Treasurer's Office, at a grade T step 2, at \$28.54 per hour.

Jennifer Jackson, for other (6 months completion after promotion - eligible for step increase), as an Administrative Analyst - Tax, in the Treasurer's Office, at a grade K step 7, at \$21.47 per hour.

Shilo Heger, for other (6 months completion after promotion - eligible for average step increase), as County Treasurer, in the Treasurer's Office, at a grade EE, at \$47.60 per hour.

8. Sign Riley County Position Action Form(s)

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for Public Works Seasonal Laborers - up to 11 positions (6*1560 hrs) (5*520 hrs), in the Public Works Department, at a grade A.

9. Approve payroll/accounts payables (when completed)

Move to approve the payroll vouchers in the amount of \$294,453.10 and the following warrant vouchers for March 6, 2015:

2015 Budget

County General\$368,084.84Health Department\$54,828.09Court Technology\$605.71Riley Co Juvenile Service\$4,558.28Motor Vehicle Operations\$3,504.171st Jud Dist Teen Court\$675.63Riley Co Adult Services\$13,875.49Capital Improvements Fund\$3,995.91Economic Development\$1,680.00Solid Waste\$136,321.34County Building\$3,475.50Road & Bridge Cap Project\$158,099.69RCPD Levy/Op\$9,509.22Riley Co Fire Dist #13,017.86Riley Co Fire Dist CapOut\$2,304.36University Park W&S\$243.20Univ Park Capital Project\$65,000.00Exp Laksd Sew/UP Water\$42,459.80Valleywood Operations\$89.17Konza Water Operations\$217.40

TOTAL

\$872,545.66

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Wells, Wilson

ABSENT: Boyd

Review Minutes

10. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Mar 2, 2015 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

RESULT: ACCEPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner

AYES: Wells, Wilson

ABSENT: Boyd

Review Tentative Agenda

11. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

12. Discuss Press Conference

Rich Vargo-April 7th General Election

RCPD-Fake Patty's Day report

9:00 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

13. Administrative Work Session

Holeman discussed changes he is going to make to the Counselor's pending projects list.

9:20 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

14. Sign Notice of Public Hearing-Dissolution of Eureka Valley Drainage District

Move to authorize the Chairman to sign the Notice of Public Hearing.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Wells, Wilson

ABSENT: Boyd

9:30 AM Monty Wedel, Planning/Special Projects Director

15. Planning & Development - Staff Update

Wedel presented the draft Manhattan Urban Area Comprehensive Plan update.

Wedel discussed the Metro Transportation Plan. Wedel discussed Planning and Development projects.

9:37 AM Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Wells, Wilson

ABSENT: Boyd

US agency seeks proposals to keep wild horses

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — The U.S. Bureau of Land Management is seeking additional homes for potentially thousands of wild horses rounded up from Western rangelands by asking landowners in a dozen states to submit proposals to rent out pastures for the animals.

The federal agency currently has contracts with landowners to keep 31,000 wild horses on about 20 off-range pastures in Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma and South Dakota. The pastures range in size from 1,000 to 35,000 acres and average 20,000 acres, according to the Bureau of Land Management Wild Horse and Burro Program.

The problem with wild horses on the range is they keep proliferating. They can double their numbers every four years.

Right now, an estimated 49,200 wild horses roam the

West, or 22,500 more horses than the bureau's target population. Regular roundups are among the control methods.

The Bureau of Land Management adopts out many of the younger rounded-up horses. Others go to wild horse eco-sanctuaries, where people can stop by to look at and learn about the animals.

Off-range pastures are more utilitarian. The landowner agrees to occasional pre-arranged visits by the public and media, but the pastures typically aren't open to the public.

"We're kind of renting their pasture to feed the animals. They're providing supplemental feeding, and there's minimal contact with the animals," said Debbie Collins, a spokeswoman for the Wild Horse and Burro Program in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The federal agency is seeking additional off-range pas-

tures in any of a dozen states: Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming.

Landowners with off-range pasture contracts commit to making sure the horses have sufficient forage, supplemental feed and water while giving the animals room to roam. There are numerous other requirements, and Bureau of Land Management officials say they will inspect candidate off-range pastures before awarding contracts.

How many additional off-range pastures the agency con-

tracts will depend on the bids submitted, Collins said.

"If we have several that could hold a couple thousand versus just a couple hundred, all of that's going to come into play as to how many actual awards we may make. But we would anticipate making more than one," Collins said.

Contractors agree to provide humane care for horses for one year, with options to renew for four or nine years after that. All males are gelded before shipment to prevent the horses from reproducing. Proposals are due by April 22.

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Stop The Building Commission... Elect Two New Commissioner... and Take Your Vote Back



Riley County Commissioners Ron Wells and Bob Boyd voted to form the Riley County Building Commission. If they stay in office and start financing Riley County and Manhattan building projects the citizens of Riley County will not vote on another City or County building project again. If they decide to run for re-election it will be in 2016.

What is next?

The Riley County Commission have signed the papers forming a Riley County Building Commission. It can not be stopped.

What the voters of Riley County can do for the next two years is watch the Commissioners. If they try to use the Building Commission, voters need to put together a petition to take the project to a vote of the people and turn it down.

In two years Commissioners Bob Boyd and Ron Wells will be up for re-election, vote them out of office and replace them with two who will kill the Building Commission.

Any two Commissioners can change anything that these Commissioner have put together but if a building is constructed using the Building Commission it can not be stopped until the Bonds have been paid off. It might be a long time coming. The County Commissioners (see the video at manhattanfreepress.com) have been talking about a 50-year bond issue for a new Courthouse.

If this continues you will see the Building Commission become the lending agency for the City, County, School District and the State of Kansas. You will not have another vote on any new buildings projects in Manhattan or Riley County

Know Your LIMITS
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Check out the Videos of the two meetings the Riley County Commission held on a Public Building
Commission at our web site:
manhattanfreepress.com

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Kansas Press Association **AP**

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

No one in government knows how to use email - except Hillary Clinton

By Yaël Ossowski | Watchdog.org

Yet again, Americans can rest reassured their government officials don't really know how to use email. Or technology for that matter. Save for Hillary Clinton, of course.

This has been made more clear after revelations that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton used her private email address, hdr22@clinton-email.com, during her tenure to conduct State Department business, bringing the topic of email and Internet security back into the national limelight.

It's claimed Clinton hosted her own email server at home, a practice endorsed by privacy enthusiasts as one of the best ways to avoid the government snooping on your private emails. The irony being, of course, Clinton was one of the country's most powerful government officials and using this practice.

This set-up allowed Clinton to keep her emails far away from the prying eyes of the Federal Records Act, which requires government officials to keep digital records of their email correspondence. Her staffers only recently disclosed her emails to the State Department for review, according to the Associated Press, and only upon request.

A public probing of Clinton's email set-up has revealed a staggering ignorance on the part of government officials when it comes to email specifically, and technology more generally.

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, declared on national television on Sunday he's never sent a single email.

"I don't email," Graham said on NBC's Meet the Press. "You can have every email I've ever sent. I've never sent one. I don't know what it makes me. He's not alone."

"People have different ways of communicating," said U.S. Sen. Benjamin Cardin, D-Maryland. "I have a granddaughter who does nothing but text. You'll never find a letter written with her. So everybody's different."

Clinton's successor, Secretary of State John Kerry, downplayed the issue while at a public event in Saudi Arabia.

"I think we have all the (emails) that are state.gov, which are appropriately the ones in the purview of the department," said Kerry. "But let me check on that when I actually have time to pay attention to such an important issue when I get home."

A much bigger technological foul on the part of the government is the scandal surrounding the Internal Revenue Service's handling of the emails of Lois Lerner, the former director of the Exempt Organizations Unit.

Faced by the House Committee on Oversight's investigation into its alleged targeting of tax-exempt conservative nonprofit organizations, the IRS claimed to have lost up to two years' worth of Lerner's emails.

How could this be possible?

Because of a "computer crash," IRS officials claimed. And any back-ups were automatically deleted, said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen.

This, despite the fact that emails are stored on cloud servers and were explicitly required by law to be recorded and backed up in a secure location.

Months later, it's now been revealed those emails are not only recoverable, but an archive of up to 33,000 emails, up to 10 years' worth, were easily found by a separate department.

Tim Camus, deputy inspector general of the Treasury Department, said finding the emails was done without issue.

"They were right where you would expect them to be," he told the Oversight Committee on Feb. 27.

Federal officials are now probing for potential criminal activity related to the covering-up of Lerner's emails.

And how can anyone forget the infamous "glitch" embedded on Healthcare.gov, which prevented untold thousands of potential users from signing up for the Affordable Care Act in 2013.

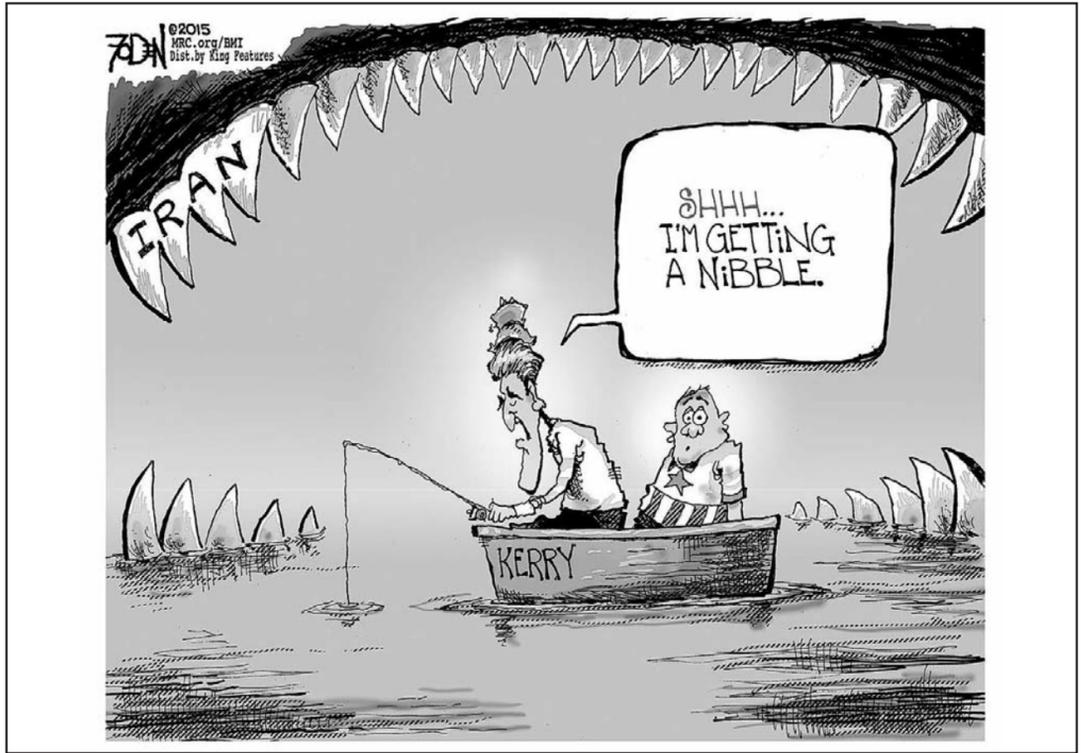
The \$400 million for the website caused a huge political embarrassment for President Barack Obama.

Other government officials choose not to use email.

"I think email just sucks up time," former Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said in March 2013. "I stopped using email when I was attorney general of Arizona. I was like, 'Why am I spending my time scrolling through this?'"

Napolitano described herself

The Conservative Side...



as a Luddite, a term used to describe artisans who opposed technological progress in 19th century France.

Keep in mind these are the same public and government officials who are devising legislation and carrying out policy that affect the Internet, email usage and technology for millions of Americans.

It seems the one knowledgeable person who understands how email actually works is Clinton, especially if she

thought to host her own mail server.

It takes a high level of technical skill to create — or even delegate — the maintenance of a home server dedicated to email, as revealed in one step-by-step guide published in Ars Technica.

It can even be complicated for journalists covering the issue.

An article published Friday by The Blaze claims Clinton's domain registrar, Network

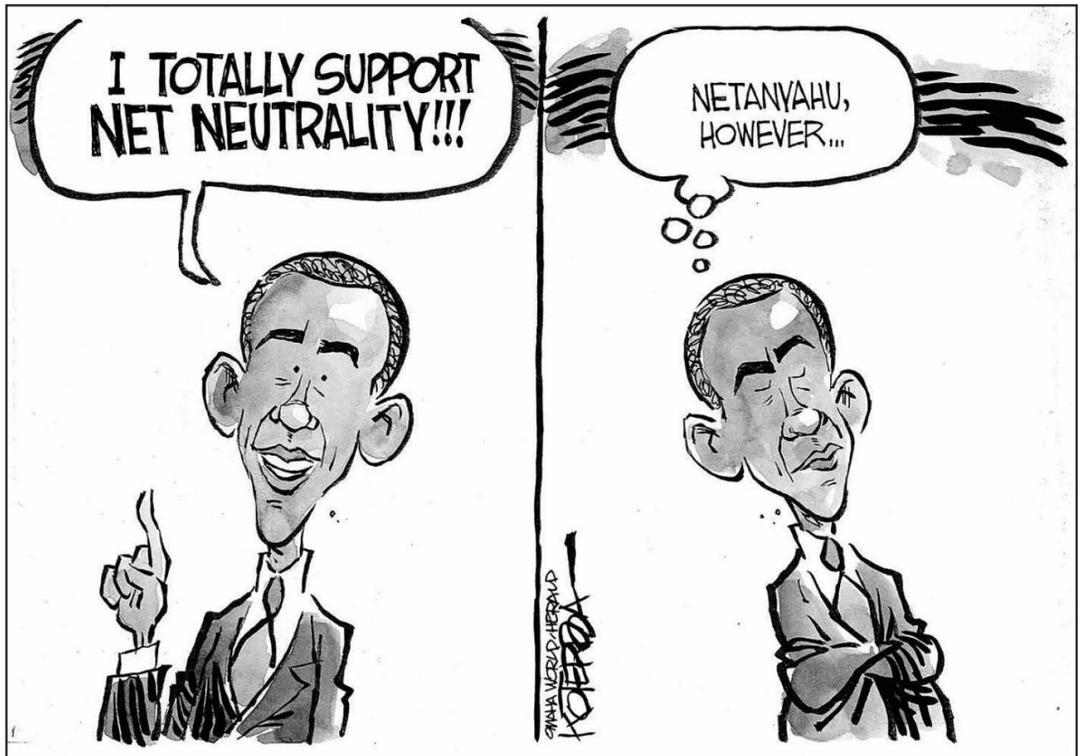
Solutions, was hacked in 2010 and her domain IP address may have been "redirected to a Ukrainian attack server" in the process. A further commentary published on the website makes the assertion the Kremlin has copies of Clinton's email as a result of this "hack".

However, the MX records reviewed by Watchdog.org show Clinton's server was set up on a MXLogic server, owned by McAfee, which has never publicly revealed a

breach of its systems. McAfee claims to be one of the strongest servers on the market.

And because the domain registrar only pointed to the address of MX records, and did not actually host or house mail servers, the claim of a hack, or potential hack, are overblown. And it surely isn't a security nightmare as some claim.

Rather, it takes some examination of the technology behind email servers to truly understand the issue at heart.



— King Crossword —
Answers
Solution time: 24 mins.

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

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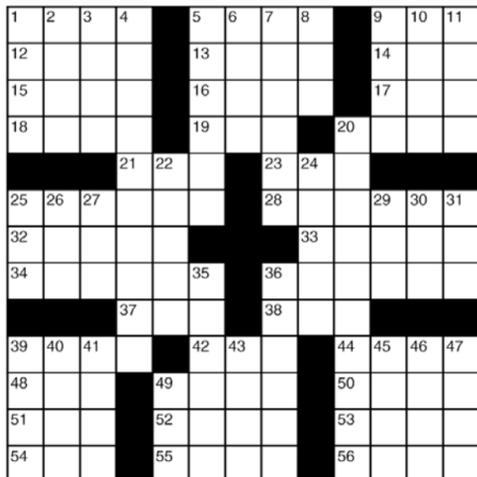
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King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Actor Cobb
 - 5 One
 - 9 Upper limit
 - 12 City of India
 - 13 Forbidden
 - 14 In vitro cells
 - 15 Standard
 - 16 Solidarity symbol
 - 17 Archaeological site
 - 18 Being, to Brutus
 - 19 Illustrations
 - 20 Green stone
 - 21 Tackle moguls
 - 23 Ostrich's cousin
 - 25 Woodsy shout
 - 28 1983 Michener bestseller
 - 32 The sort who'll court
 - 33 Leg bone
 - 34 Ahead
 - 36 Swell
 - 37 Catcher's place?
 - 38 List-ending
- DOWN**
- 1 Highway division
 - 2 Hollywood clasher
 - 3 Blunders
 - 4 Chef with an eponymous award
 - 5 Prejudiced
 - 6 Bleak, film-wise
 - 7 Foot part
 - 8 Youngster
 - 9 Last few notes
 - 10 Enthusiastic, plus
 - 11 Senate
 - 20 staffer
 - 22 TV's "French Chef"
 - 22 Massachusetts politico
 - 24 John
 - 24 Sacred composition
 - 25 Low card
 - 26 Charged bit
 - 27 Tend the grass
 - 29 "The View" airer
 - 30 Medical research org.
 - 31 Rotation duration
 - 35 Flood
 - 36 Rang out
 - 39 Prolonged cry of grief
 - 40 Fussess
 - 41 Tear asunder
 - 43 Hebrew month
 - 45 Biblical brother
 - 46 Advertising award
 - 47 Kesey and Follett
 - 49 Beavers' creation



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Answers On Page 3



Dijon-Parmesan Chicken Breasts

Try a new twist on baked chicken breasts! Dijon mustard, Parmesan cheese, basil, garlic and high-fiber cereal create the tasty wow.

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup Fiber One™ original bran cereal
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon dried basil leaves
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/4 teaspoon coarse ground black pepper
- 1 egg white, beaten
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 4 boneless skinless chicken breasts (about 1 1/4 lb)
- 1 tablespoon canola or vegetable oil

Directions

- 1 Heat oven to 400°F. Spray 15x10x1-inch pan with cooking spray. Place cereal in resealable food-storage plastic bag; seal bag and finely crush with rolling pin or meat mallet (or finely crush in food processor).
- 2 In shallow bowl, mix cereal, cheese, basil, garlic salt and pepper. In another shallow bowl, mix egg white and mustard until blended.
- 3 Dip chicken into egg white mixture, then coat well with cereal mixture; place in pan. Drizzle oil over chicken.
- 4 Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until juice of chicken is clear

when center of thickest part is cut (170°F).

Expert Tips

Serve chicken breasts with a bowl of steaming broccoli and sliced fresh tomatoes.

WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR KEYS TO A STRANGER?

To a scammer, your Medicare card is the key to stealing your benefits.

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Vermont green energy takeover bill to face fresh opposition

By Bruce Parker | Watchdog

A bill that requires a green energy takeover in Vermont skated through committee and a preliminary House vote despite no clear estimate of what the legislation will do to electricity rates or the state's pristine landscapes.

But Republican lawmakers hope to strip parts of the bill Tuesday, and poor modeling on the bill's true impact could invite fresh scrutiny in the Senate.

Prior to the mid-session break, H. 40 sailed through the House Committee on Natural Resources and Energy by a vote of 10-1. In the House, the bill received a preliminary vote and passed by a 127-11 margin.

At that time, lawmakers had no information on the economic impact of the legislation.

On Feb. 23, a memorandum sent by state economist Tom Kavet to the Joint Fiscal Office and the House Ways and Means Committee said "the full economic impacts of the program have yet to be modeled."

Bottom of Form

Kavet, who reviewed estimates from the Department of Public Service, reported in the memo that the estimates are "are sensitive to relative energy prices, the mix of assumed renewable energy investments, (and) uncertainty regarding actual vs. projected savings per investment."

The Department of Public Service, widely viewed as the originator of the bill, claims H.40 will deliver energy-bill savings of \$275 million, a 15 million metric ton reduction of CO2 emissions, and 1,000 new jobs.

While Kavet's memo notes direct costs to the state might be in the \$2 million range, it said "fiscal gains or losses from secondary impacts are impossible to estimate."

Referred to as RESET, H.40 requires that 75 percent of electricity sold in the state be generated from sources like wind, solar and biomass. Utilities must provide 55 percent of power from renewables starting in 2017 and reach the 75 percent target by 2032.

The bill's speedy approval so far is likely owed to Vermont's carbon-credit crisis. Over the past year, the Green Mountain State was caught double-counting carbon credits sold to other states. A boycott of Vermont's carbon credit sales would cause an immediate 6-percent rise in electric prices, as utilities would lose \$50 million in carbon trading revenue and be forced to raise rates.

Despite the easy ride so far, H.40 may be about to hit some turbulence.

House Minority Leader Don Turner, R-Milton, told Vermont Watchdog on Monday that a "strike everything amendment" will be introduced Tuesday to

remove "tier three" of the bill. That "innovation tier" requires utilities to reduce customers' energy use through the sale and installation of high-efficiency equipment, such cold-climate heat pumps.

"We don't think utility companies can just be turned into efficiency companies," he said.

Turner added the financial impacts of the legislation need vetting as the bill moves on to the Senate.

Dave Hallquist, chief executive officer of the Vermont Electric Cooperative, said H.40 requires utilities like his to get into a new line of business.

"Typically, a distribution utility's strength is keeping the lights on. But getting into actually providing home appliances is something we as a co-op haven't done since the 1960s. ... We have to think about how we can compete in a market we haven't competed in," he said.

Hallquist said he is researching how VEC might promote, finance and lease hybrid air-to-air water heating systems to customers.

While Hallquist says the appliances work, he said utilities likely would need to outsource the work to Efficiency Vermont, a state-sponsored efficiency utility.

"The last thing I want to do is be going into our members' homes and be installing systems. But I would love to partner with somebody who would

do that," he said.

When asked if it was the state's job to require efficiency upgrades for private homes and businesses, Hallquist said the state could "create a market where a market may not exist."

"(Take) for example the Northeast Kingdom. Without this bill, would anybody be going up there and promoting hybrid hot water heaters? It's questionable if the business case is there without this bill," he said.

The business case, according to Hallquist, is that customers could purchase efficiency appliances and finance them over 10 to 20 years. Over that time period, the customer would supposedly save as much on energy bills as the appliances cost.

If the business model doesn't get enough consumers to bite, utilities could face a stiff penalty. The alternative compliance payment in H.40 amounts to a penalty of 6-cents per kilowatt hour.

Vermont Electric Cooperative's chief said if it doesn't work out, utilities might have the option to negotiate changes through the Public Service Board.

"There are a lot of assumptions, and there's a lot that can go wrong. But there are carve-outs (in the bill) if things do go wrong. We'll go to the Public Service Board and make our case. The bill has off-ramps built into it."

Newspaper: School bill would hit poorer districts harder

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A proposal for changing how Kansas public schools are funded appears to cut money from most of the state's poorest school districts while protecting the wealthiest, a newspaper analysis has found.

The Topeka Capital-Journal (<http://bit.ly/1NxnCoz>) examined the effect of a GOP plan that would replace the state's existing per-student formula for distributing its aid to 286 school districts, which is designed to ensure that poor districts don't fall behind wealthy ones. The measure incorporates Republican Gov. Sam Brownback's proposal to give districts "block grants" based on their current aid until lawmakers can write a new formula during the next two years.

The newspaper review found

that many of the reductions in the plan are achieved by shrinking a type of state aid meant to help less wealthy school districts that aren't able to raise as much money with property taxes.

According to The Capital-Journal's analysis of the block grant plan, it appears 90 percent of the state's richest districts — those that don't qualify for the so-called "equalization" because their per-pupil tax bases are strong — would gain state aid for operational expenses. By contrast, 80 percent of the poorest districts — those that qualify for equalization worth more than half of their supplementary general funds — would lose money, about \$170,000 on average.

Brownback spokeswoman Eileen Hawley didn't immediately respond to an email from

The Associated Press seeking comment.

The Capital-Journal found that the Topeka school district would lose an estimated \$2.07 million from three funds that are used for teacher salaries, technology purchases, roof repairs, and other operational and maintenance costs. The Kaw Valley school district, with one of the strongest per-pupil tax bases in the state, would gain about \$26,000.

Statewide, the median school district would lose about 0.8 percent of its state aid in three key operational and maintenance funds. But the losses would vary. The Topeka, Wichita and Olathe districts, for example, would lose about 2 percent each. The Blue Valley and Shawnee Mission districts would lose less than half of 1 percent.

Topeka, Wichita and Olathe have weaker per-pupil tax bases than Blue Valley and Shawnee Mission.

The plan's introduction this past week comes after two court rulings in the past year found various aspects of the state's current school funding to be unconstitutionally low. The Kansas Supreme Court ruled that school districts with weaker local tax bases must receive more equalization aid to offer equitable education to the children in those districts.

A panel of judges at the district level ruled that overall statewide K-12 funding is too low, and should be boosted by hundreds of millions of dollars per year. The state is appealing this finding to the Kansas Supreme Court.

California student group bans American flag

IRVINE, Calif. (AP) — The student government at University of California, Irvine has voted to ban display of the American flag — or any flag — from its lobby.

A resolution that was narrowly approved by the legislative council of the campus' Associated Students calls bans all flags from the common lobby area of student government offices, according to the Orange County Register (<http://bit.ly/1EV1kJD>). It prompted removal of the

American flag from a lobby wall.

The student council approved the resolution on a 6-4 vote Thursday, with two abstentions. The executive cabinet was expected to consider a veto on Saturday.

The resolution authored by student Matthew Guevara of the university's social ecology school lists 25 reasons for the ban, saying that the American flag has been flown in times of "colonialism and imperialism" and could symbolize American

"exceptionalism and superiority." The resolution says "freedom of speech, in a space that aims to be as inclusive as possible, can be interpreted as hate speech."

The American flag had hung on a wall in the student government suite. A few weeks ago, someone removed the flag and put it on the desk of Reza Zomorrodian, the Associated Students' president, with an anonymous note saying it shouldn't be in the lobby.

The executive members

decided to put up the flag again. Then the resolution was brought to the council.

Zomorrodian, an opponent of the ban, said the American flag was "an iconic and symbolic representation of our values in the U.S."

On Friday, state Sen. Janet Nguyen, R-Santa Ana, said she and other legislators may introduce a state constitutional amendment to prohibit "state-funded universities and college campuses from banning the United States flag."

Everyone is entitled to my opinion.

Anonymous

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Sooners' Hield Leads All-Big 12 Men's Basketball Honors

Big 12 Sports Information

After becoming the first Sooner to lead the Big 12 in scoring since 2008-09, junior guard Buddy Hield has been named the Big 12 Player of the Year. Iowa State's Jameel McKay was chosen as Defensive Player of the Year, while OU's TaShawn Thomas is the Newcomer of the Year. Texas forward Myles Turner is the Freshman of the Year, with Baylor's Taurean Prince earning the Sixth Man Award. Bob Huggins of West Virginia was selected as Big 12 Coach of the Year for the first time.

Hield's 17.4 points per game was the best in the league for all games played, while his 18.5-point average also ranked first in conference competition. He ranked in the top 15 in rebounding (5.5 rpg), field goal percentage (.424), free throw shooting (.804) and steals (43). The junior has scored in double figures in all but one Big 12 game, including 20 points or more eight times. Hield is the second Sooner (Blake Griffin, 2008-09) to earn Big 12 Player of the Year honors.

McKay became eligible in December and finished third in conference play in rebounding with 7.4 boards per game. The junior was second in blocks with 45 in 18 league contests, while his total of 50 rejections overall was third among Big 12 players despite playing in just 21 games. He has finished the regular season strong, posting double-doubles in the final three outings. McKay is the first Cyclone to be named the Big 12's top defender.

Thomas transferred to Oklahoma prior to this season and made an immediate impact. The senior forward scored in double figures 17 times and had 42 blocked shots. He shot 51.4 percent on the season (second in the league), was a three-time Big 12 Newcomer of the Week and has started all 126 games of his career. Thomas is the fifth OU player to be chosen for newcomer accolades.

For the fifth time, the Freshman of the Year is a Texas Longhorn. Turner has 87 blocked shots, three away from the Big 12 single-season freshman record and five short

of the school mark. He has recorded at least five blocks in nine different games and also leads the team in rebounding (6.6 rpg) while placing second in scoring (10.8 ppg).

Among the top 15 in overall scoring and rebounding, Prince established his presence without making one start in Big 12 play. He finished third in conference action with 15.6 points per contest and was fourth in field goal percentage (.473). He has a team-best 25 games in double-figures in 2014-15 and has reached the plateau in 15 consecutive outings. Prince is the third Baylor Bear to win the Sixth Man Award.

Huggins led the Mountaineers to the second-highest win total in the Big 12 after being selected sixth in the conference preseason poll. West Virginia has 11 conference wins for the first time since the 2010-11 campaign and its 23 wins overall are the most since the 2009-10 Final Four season. The award is the 11th Coach of the Year accolade for Huggins in his 33-year coaching career.

The All-Big 12 First, Second, Third and Honorable Mention teams were also announced, while conference coaches also selected All-Defensive and All-Newcomer Teams. Juwan Staten (West Virginia) was the lone repeat selection on the first team.

The official All-Big 12 awards are selected by the league's head coaches, who are not allowed to vote for their own players.

Coach of the Year:
Bob Huggins, West Virginia

Player of the Year:
Buddy Hield, Oklahoma

Defensive Player of the Year:
Jameel McKay, Iowa State

Sixth Man Award:
Taurean Prince, Baylor

Newcomer of the Year:
TaShawn Thomas, Oklahoma

Freshman of the Year:
Myles Turner, Texas



Thomas Gipson (with the ball) was one of 3 Kansas State players that were named Big 12 Honorable Mention.

All-Big 12 First Team

All-Big 12 First Team	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown/Previous School(s)
Rico Gathers, Baylor	F	6-8	275	Jr.	LaPlace, La./Riverside Academy
Georges Niang, Iowa State	F	6-8	230	Jr.	Methuen, Mass.
Perry Ellis, Kansas	F	6-8	225	Jr.	Wichita, Kan./Wichita Heights
Buddy Hield, Oklahoma	G	6-4	212	Jr.	Freeport, Bahamas/Sunrise
Juwan Staten, West Virginia	G	6-1	190	Sr.	Dayton, Ohio/Dayton

All-Big 12 Third Team

All-Big 12 Third Team	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
Jameel McKay, Iowa State	F	6-9	215	Jr.
TaShawn Thomas, Oklahoma	F	6-8	242	Sr.
Phil Forte, Oklahoma State	G	5-11	185	Jr.
Isaiah Taylor, Texas	G	6-1	170	So.
Myles Turner, Texas	F	6-11	240	Fr.

All-Big 12 Second Team

All-Big 12 Second Team	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown/Previous School(s)
Kenny Chery, Baylor	G	5-11	180	Sr.	Montreal, Quebec/Archbishop Carroll
Taurean Prince, Baylor	F	6-7	215	Jr.	San Antonio, Texas/Earl Warren
Monté Morris, Iowa State	G	6-2	170	So.	Flint, Mich./Beecher
Frank Mason III, Kansas	G	5-11	185	So.	Petersburg, Va.
Le'Bryan Nash, Oklahoma State	F	6-7	235	Sr.	Dallas, Texas/Lincoln

All-Big 12 Honorable Mention

All-Big 12 Honorable Mention (Listed alphabetically by school)
Dustin Hogue (Iowa State), Kelly Oubre (Kansas), Wayne Selden (Kansas), Marcus Foster (Kansas State), Thomas Gipson (Kansas State), Nino Williams (Kansas State), Isaiah Cousins (Oklahoma), Ryan Spangler (Oklahoma), Kyan Anderson (TCU), Jonathan Holmes (Texas), Devin Williams (West Virginia)

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