

City, School Districts Go To The Polls



Wynn Butler re-elected with 2,088 votes.



Linda Morse was 2nd with 2,653 votes



Mike Dodson was 3rd with 2,306 votes

	VOTES	PERCENT
PRECINCTS COUNTED (OF 52)	52	100.00
REGISTERED VOTERS - TOTAL	36,279	
BALLOTS CAST - TOTAL	5,950	
BALLOTS CAST - LEONARDVILLE	180	
BALLOTS CAST - MANHATTAN	4,511	
BALLOTS CAST - OGDEN	157	
BALLOTS CAST - RANDOLPH	42	
BALLOTS CAST - RILEY	272	
VOTER TURNOUT - TOTAL		16.40

Manhattan City Commissioners		
Vote for 3 (WITH 34 OF 34 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
John Ball	1,717	15.49
Wynn Butler	2,088	18.84
Mike Dodson	2,306	20.81
Kaleb James	917	8.28
Jerred McKee	1,349	12.17
Linda Morse	2,643	23.85
WRITE-IN	61	.55

Leonardville City Mayor		
Vote for 1 (WITH 1 OF 1 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
Mike Johnson	86	94.51
WRITE-IN	5	5.49

Leonardville City Council		
Vote for 3 (WITH 1 OF 1 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
Evadne Olson	79	42.70
Jim Olson	81	43.78
WRITE-IN	25	13.51

Ogden City Mayor		
Vote for 1 (WITH 1 OF 1 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
Robert R. Pence	112	86.15
WRITE-IN	18	13.85

Ogden City Council		
Vote for 5 (WITH 1 OF 1 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
Jim Arp	69	12.64
Ed Burch	124	22.71
Kenneth W. Carroll	81	14.84
Roger D. Graham	60	10.99
Eladio Reid Jr.	103	18.86
Brian Still	59	10.81
Felecia Zeedyk	41	7.51
WRITE-IN	9	1.65

Randolph City Mayor		
Vote for 1 (WITH 1 OF 1 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
WRITE-IN	25	100.00

Randolph City Council		
Vote for 5 (WITH 1 OF 1 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
Donna Baer	23	22.77
Jane M. Dunstan	20	19.80
WRITE-IN	58	57.43

Riley City Mayor		
Vote for 1 (WITH 1 OF 1 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
Timothy J. Sharp	169	96.02
WRITE-IN	7	3.98

Riley City Council		
Vote for 2 (WITH 1 OF 1 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
Jeremy M. Ballard	157	81.35
WRITE-IN	36	18.65

USD 378 Position 1		
Vote for 1 (WITH 10 OF 10 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
Kyle Bohnenblust	634	68.25
Jay Caley	34	3.66
Glen R. Hawkins	259	27.88
WRITE-IN	2	.22

USD 378 Position 2		
Vote for 1 (WITH 10 OF 10 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
Shane Allen	587	63.39
Donna J. Bulk	67	7.24
Michael V. Lindell	271	29.27
WRITE-IN	1	.11

USD 378 Position 3		
Vote for 1 (WITH 10 OF 10 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
Randy O'Boyle	577	62.11
Dennis Tegtmeler	352	37.89
WRITE-IN	0	

USD 378 Position 7 At-Large		
Vote for 1 (WITH 10 OF 10 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
Jared V. Larson	667	71.34
Michael D. McCoy	227	24.28
Vinton Visser	40	4.28
WRITE-IN	1	.11

USD 383 At-Large		
Vote for 4 (WITH 42 OF 42 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
David Colburn	3,402	24.55

Nicholas Dyer	1,560	11.26
Darell Edie	2,680	19.34
Leah Fliter	3,278	23.66
Curt Herrman	2,849	20.56
WRITE-IN	86	.62

USD 384 DISTRICT 1 POSITION 1		
Vote for 1 (WITH 5 OF 5 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
WRITE-IN	17	100.00

USD 384 DISTRICT 2 POSITION 2		
Vote for 1 (WITH 3 OF 3 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
David Mitchell Innes	44	88.00
WRITE-IN	6	12.00

USD 384 DISTRICT 3 POSITION 3		
Vote for 1 (WITH 1 OF 1 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
Stephen Corkill	45	77.59
Marla J. Webster	12	20.69
WRITE-IN	1	1.72

USD 384 At-Large		
Vote for 1 (WITH 7 OF 7 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
James Peter	131	92.25
WRITE-IN	11	7.75

State Hospital may freeze admissions due to renovations

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A Kansas state hospital for the mentally ill is being forced to reduce its patient population as it prepares for renovations. The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services announced Tuesday that Osawatimie State Hospital's occupancy will be reduced to 146 from 167 until its ceilings can be upgraded to be safer. Until renovations are completed in October, the hospital

may freeze admissions when 146 patients are already present. During the past six months, federal officials have twice threatened to withhold federal funding from the hospital due to poor conditions and overcrowding. KDADS spokeswoman Gina Meier-Hummel says the renovations will cost \$3 million and that most of the affected patients will be moved.

Judge denies request to let immigration action take effect

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal judge in Texas has kept in place a temporary hold on President Barack Obama's executive action that sought to shield millions of immigrants from deportation, rejecting a U.S. Department of Justice request that he allow the action to go ahead. U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen in Brownsville refused late Tuesday night to lift the preliminary injunction he granted on Feb. 16 at the request of 26 states that oppose Obama's action. Hanen's latest ruling upholds the status quo — that the Obama administration is temporarily barred from implementing the policies that would allow as many as 5 million people in the U.S. illegally to remain. The Justice Department had already appealed to a higher court, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, to lift Hanen's injunction.

The appeals court was scheduled to hear arguments on whether the injunction should be lifted on April 17. In his order Tuesday denying the government's request, Hanen said the government hasn't "shown any credible reason for why this Directive necessitates immediate implementation." There was no immediate comment from the White House. The coalition of 26 states, led by Texas, filed the lawsuit to overturn Obama's executive action, arguing that it is unconstitutional and would force them to invest more in law enforcement, health care and education. Justice Department attorneys have argued that keeping the temporary hold harms "the interests of the public and of third parties who will be deprived of significant law enforce-

ment and humanitarian benefits of prompt implementation" of the president's immigration action. Obama announced the executive orders in November, saying a lack of action by Congress forced him to make sweeping changes to immigration rules on his own. Before ruling on the injunction, Hanen said he first wanted to hear from federal prosecutors about allegations that the U.S. government had misled him about the implementation of part of the immigration plan. The first of Obama's orders — to expand a program that protects young immigrants from deportation if they were brought to the U.S. illegally as children — had been set to take effect Feb. 18. The other major part would extend deportation protections to parents of U.S. citizens and permanent residents who have been in the coun-

try for several years. That provision was slated to begin on May 19. Hanen issued his initial injunction believing that neither of those orders had taken effect. About a month later, the Justice Department confirmed that more than 108,000 people had already received three-year reprieves from deportation and work permits, but DOJ attorneys insisted the moves were made under 2012 guidelines that weren't blocked by the injunction. The DOJ apologized for any confusion, but Hanen seemed unconvinced during a hearing last month and threatened to sanction the attorneys. He wrote Tuesday that while the federal government had been "misleading" on the subject, he would not immediately apply sanctions against the government, saying to do so would not be "in the interests of justice or in the best interest of this country"

because the issue was of national importance and the outcome will affect millions of people. "The parties' arguments should be decided on their relative merits according to the law, not clouded by outside allegations that may or may not bear on the ultimate issues in this lawsuit," Hanen wrote. In a separate order Hanen, told the government it has until April 21 to file to the court and plaintiffs detailed information about its March advisory about the 108,000 three-year reprieves. The order asks the government to produce "any and all drafts" of the advisory, including information on when each draft was written, edited or revised. Hanen also asked for a list of each person who knew about the advisory.

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Riley County Minutes Cost Taxpayers \$700 Per Month

Board of Riley County Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes
March 30, 2015
115 North 4th Street
Manhattan, KS 66502
Pledge of Allegiance
Public Comment
Public Comments
Commission Comments
Board of Riley County Commissioners
March 30, 2015
Commission Comments
Wilson's comments:

Thursday I attended a City Commission candidate forum and appreciated getting to hear from all the candidates.

Friday I went to the new software training for our appraisers and IT/GIS at the county shops.

Business Meeting
2015 Advanced
Correctional Healthcare
Amendment for Inmate
Health Services

The amendment to the agreement for the provision of inmate health services with Advanced Correctional Healthcare was pulled from the agenda.

Grant of Permanent Easement for S. 32nd Street Bridge Replacement Project
Move to approve the Grant of Permanent Easement with Gregory B. Nelson.

RESULT:

MOVER: SECONDER:
AYES: ABSENT:
ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
Ben Wilson, County Commissioner
Ronald Wells, County Commissioner
Wells, Wilson
Boyd
Approve vouchers
Move to approve the following warrant vouchers for March 31, 2015:

2015 BudgetCounty General\$360,161.35Health Department\$34,798.58Teen Court Collected

Fund\$14.32Juvenile Intake Case Mgr\$648.00Riley Co Juvenile

Service\$1,440.16P.A.T.F.429.55Motor Vehicle

Operations\$30.0421st Jud Dist Teen Court\$287.75Riley Co Adult Services\$4,231.54

Capital Improvements Fund\$8,500.00Emergency

9 1 1 2 4 , 7 9 7 . 5 2 S o l i d W a s t e 4 , 8 2 6 . 6 1 C o u n t y B u i l d i n g 2 8 , 8 0 1 . 9 7 R o a d & B r i d g e

C a p P r o j e c t 2 , 0 4 8 . 1 3 R C P D L e v y / O p 3 , 5 3 3 . 5 4 R i l e y C o F i r e D i s t # 1 6 , 3 8 6 . 5 9 U n i v e r s i t y P a r k W & S 3 2 0 . 0 0 U n i v P a r k C a p i t a l

P r o j e c t 8 3 , 2 5 0 . 0 0 H u n t e r s I s l a n d W a t e r D i s t 1 , 0 2 4 . 4 3 D e e p C r e e k S e w e r 6 6 . 8 2 M o e h l m a n B o t t o m s 3 7 8 . 9 0 V a l l e y w o o d O p e r a t i o n s 7 2 . 7 6 K o n z a W a t e r O p e r a t i o n s 2 , 0 1 3 . 9 6 T O T A L . . .

...\$568,362.52
RESULT:
MOVER: SECONDER:
AYES: ABSENT:
ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
Ben Wilson, County Commissioner
Ronald Wells, County Commissioner
Wells, Wilson
Boyd
Review Minutes
Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Mar 26, 2015 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

RESULT:
MOVER: SECONDER:
AYES: ABSENT:
ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]

Ben Wilson, County Commissioner
Ronald Wells, County Commissioner
Wells, Wilson
Boyd

Review Tentative Agenda
Tentative Agenda
Press Conference Topics

8. Discuss Press Conference
Rich Vargo-April 7th
General Election
9:00 AM

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services
9.

Administrative Work Session
The Board watched the KAC legislative video update.

Holeman discussed legislation.

10. Pending County Projects
County Counselor
9:20 AM
Break
9:30 AM
Press Conference

11. Motor Vehicle End of Month Reminders - Shilo Heger (5 minutes)

Heger announced tomorrow is the last day to renew tags for the letter B.

12. Riley County Health Department and Regional Partners' Press Conference to Improve the Health of Mothers and Babies - Linda Redding (3 minutes)

Redding invited the public to the press conference tomorrow at the Mercy Regional Hospital at 1:00 p.m. to improve the health of mothers and babies.

13. 2015 Kansas County Health Rankings: Community efforts resulting in Riley County ranked "healthiest county" to be shared at Topeka meeting - Brenda Nickel (5 minutes)

Nickel discussed Riley County's ranking as the "healthiest county" in Kansas for 2015.

14. "Know Your Immunization Status" event planned at Health Department for National Public Health Week - Gail Chalman (5 minutes)

Chalman announced the "Know Your Immunization Status" event planned at the Health Department for National Public Health Week on April 8th from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

15. Agricultural burning & Severe Weather Awareness - Pat Collins (3-5 minutes)

P. Collins discussed agricultural burning for pasture management.

16. 2016 Budget Calendar - Johnette Shepek (3 minutes)
Shepek reviewed the 2016 Riley County Budget calendar.

17. April 7th General Election - Rich Vargo (2 minutes)

Vargo reported 402 residents have participated in advance voting in person. Vargo reported advance voting is open this week from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon and closes Monday, April 6th at noon by State Law.

10:00 AM
Jennifer Wilson, County Extension Director
18. Extension Staff Report

J. Wilson discussed the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

J. Wilson discussed the "Build to Lead" event on April 11th with the STEM program which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Eystone discussed the 2015 Manhattan Area Garden Show. Eystone said 17 youth attended the Youth Mowing Clinic.

10:15 AM
Heather Jager, Community Corrections
19. County and City Alcohol Grant Applications
Jager presented the City and County Alcohol grant applications.

Move to approve the recommendations of JCAB to fund the following: Friends of Riley County \$1,520.00 for after-prom and an additional \$500 for the purchase of the Fatal Vision Goggles and for Ogden Community Center \$2,400.

City Alcohol Tax applications for Adult Services, Juvenile Services and Youth Court as submitted and recommended by the JCAB. Adult Services \$10,000, Juvenile Services \$4,000 and Youth Court \$4,000.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner
AYES: Wells, Wilson
ABSENT: Boyd
Adjournment Move to adjourn after the Intergovernmental Luncheon.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner
AYES: Wells, Wilson
ABSENT: Boyd
12:00 PM
Intergovernmental Luncheon
20. Intergovernmental Luncheon Agenda

Nebraska senator says "Expel me"

By Deena Winter | Nebraska Watchdog

LINCOLN, Neb. — A defiant state Sen. Ernie Chambers says he's ready for his colleagues to punish him for speaking his mind when he compared police to ISIS terrorists.

"I have not taken it back, I have not apologized for it," Chambers said. "I will not take it back, I will not apologize for it."

The north Omaha lawmaker spent two hours Monday morning lambasting fellow lawmakers on the floor of the Legislature, calling them petty and thin-skinned, threatening to gum up the legislative session and daring them to censure him for comparing cops to ISIS terrorists during a March 20 hearing.

Courtesy of the Nebraska Unicameral Information Office

AND IT CONTINUES: State Sen. Ernie Chambers told his fellow lawmakers on Monday, "I have not taken it back, I have not apologized for it. I will not take it back, I will not apologize for it."

"I just wish you'd try to censure me," Chambers said. "In fact, don't stop there, expel me!"

The tidal wave was unleashed after Omaha Sen. Beau McCoy, R-Omaha, delivered on his promise to stand up and call on Chambers to apologize every day until he does so. McCoy read an Omaha World-Herald editorial condemning Chambers' comments, saying he went too far, regardless of context or perspective.

Chambers often goes on anti-white racist rants and calls Christians hypocrites, but his colleagues rarely say anything about it, and the media often ignores it. But after Nebraska Watchdog reported Chambers' latest inflammatory speech, national headlines followed, and on Thursday a number of lawmakers stood up and called on Chambers to apologize, clarify or, in one case, resign.

And though he refused to apologize, walk it back or clarify

his comments, Chambers did sneak in a few defenses during his rants Monday. At one point, he said ISIS terrorists deliver on their promises "to take your head," but the same cannot be said of police officers, who promise to serve and protect.

He said he has never been involved in violence other than defending himself in school. He said he was drawing an analogy, arguing his comments were taken out of context.

"There's not a person in my legislative district who thinks I would want to kill a cop," he said. "The kids in my community are too smart to put that interpretation on those words."

He also mentioned he footnoted his comments with the phrase: "You know I couldn't get away with that."

His full comment, to put it in context, was:

"If I was going to carry a weapon, it wouldn't be against you, it wouldn't be against these people who come here that I might have a dispute with. Mine would be for the police. And if I carried a gun, I'd want to shoot him first and then ask questions later, like they say the cop ought to do. But could I get away with it? You know I couldn't get away with it. They'd better hope I never lose my mind and find out that I'm on my way out of here."

During a March 20 hearing on a bill that would allow concealed guns in bars and restaurants that serve alcohol, Chambers asked the bill sponsor, Sen. Tommy Garrett, for the rationale behind the bill. Garrett cited the increasingly dangerous world, including threats from Islamic terrorist groups ISIS and ISIL.

"My ISIS is the police," Chambers said, adding police can get away with shooting people if they "think" they're going to do something — like pull a weapon.

"The police are licensed to kill us — children, old people," he said.

Lawmakers have talked of censuring, admonishing or expelling Chambers for the rest

of the session, which he challenged his colleagues to try, suggesting they should see whether they can use their collective brainpower to examine legislative rules and beat him.

"What I wish you would do is censure me," he said. "You don't have the backbone to do it."

He challenged lawmakers to "have it out" with him, calling their denunciations last week a "shameful display" and "a mob."

"You shot your wad, and now you're tired," he said. "Nobody can make me do anything."

As for the Sen. Brett Lindstrom's decision to strip his name from Chambers' death penalty repeal bill, Chambers said if people mess with his bills, he'll mess with them — noting every motion is debatable. Chambers often filibusters bills and is quite capable of making life difficult for lawmakers the rest of the session.

Although he says he isn't a Bible believer, Chambers spent much of the morning recalling Bible stories about Jesus' suffering and crucifixion, drawing parallels to his solitary crusade, noting that he's recognized wherever he goes in Nebraska.

But, Chambers said, he's also "the most hated man in Nebraska."

He talked about how Jesus united many different people, and then talked about how Gov. Pete Ricketts, Republican U.S. Rep. Jeff Fortenberry and Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert have condemned

him.

Chambers read Lincoln Public Safety Director Tom Casady's Friday tweet saying Chambers is more likely to give birth than shoot a police officer, and that he wouldn't have minded "having him as a partner in the 1970s," but "it never hurts to say, 'I'm sorry.'" By contrast, Omaha Police Chief Todd Schmaderer called Chambers' comments "not only reprehensible, but completely without merit."

State Sen. Bob Krist, R-Omaha, who vowed last week to stop putting up with Chambers' mockery of his beliefs and accusations that all white people are racist, told Chambers he respects what he went through as a black man, but he needs to move forward, as does the Legislature. He told Chambers he needs to "know when to shut up."

"Can we get on with the people's business?" Krist said. "I think you made your point."

Freshman state Sen. David Schnoor, R-Scribner, who called for Chambers' resignation by Monday, told Chambers he prayed for him over the weekend, drawing more derision.

After lunch, Chambers quieted down, abandoning his morning practice of debating virtually every motion. It's not clear whether lawmakers will move to censure or expel him, but they're getting some pressure to do so, including from Fortenberry, who pushed lawmakers to at least censure Chambers.

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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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"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

Free Press Second Front

Manhattan Free Press

Thursday, April 9, 2015

3A

Affordable Health Insurance

By Logan Albright | Watchdog Opinion

The mantra that progressives used to pass ObamaCare was the constant call for “universal coverage.” Everyone, it was argued, should have a health insurance policy, and this goal was considered important enough to force everyone in the country to buy a product whether they wanted it or not.

But focusing on one goal to the exclusion of all others can lead to unexpected pitfalls, and now, as ObamaCare turns five, we are seeing that universal coverage is meaningless without taking into account the price and quality of the – now mandatory – insurance policies.

By now, we’ve all heard about the cancelled policies

and the rising premiums, which the administration has tried to justify with the unprovable claim “it would have been worse without ObamaCare.” We’ve heard about the coming doctor shortage, and the declining attendance at medical schools. And we’ve heard about the rising penalties for those who choose not to buy health insurance. But there is one aspect of insurance that has not received enough attention, and that is more devastating to people’s actual access to care than almost anything else: rising deductibles.

The deductible on an insurance policy is the amount you, the customer, have to pay out of pocket before the insurance

company starts picking up the tab. Obviously, low deductibles are preferable to high ones, but some people may opt for a higher deductible in exchange for lower monthly premiums. Or at least, they used to back when they actually had a choice.

The Kaiser Family Foundation recently released a study showing just how few people are actually able to afford ObamaCare’s

deductibles. On average, just 63 percent of non-poor, non-elderly households have enough money to afford a mid-range deductible of \$1,200 to \$2,400. Most mid-priced ObamaCare plans fall into this category, meaning that more

than a third of people who are forced to buy these plans cannot actually afford to use them.

For less well-off individuals, the news gets worse. For higher deductible plans, between \$2,500 and \$5,000, only 51 percent of households have enough money to pay. This is particularly grim, considering the individual deductible for ObamaCare’s cheapest plan, the Bronze Plan, has been set at an astonishing \$5,181 for 2015.

People who opt for the Bronze Plan are not likely to be rolling in cash. These are the people who do not have employer-provided health insurance, and who want to pay as little per month as possible, while gambling that they remain healthy enough to avoid

any serious hospital visits. In short, young people and those working temporary or part-time jobs, and not exactly the type to have \$5,000 just lying around. Unaffordable insurance might as well be no insurance at all, except, of course, that anyone trying to opt out will be punished with steep penalties from the IRS.

And even without making these kinds of assumptions about Bronze Plan users, the fact that fully half of households cannot afford such high deductibles should be cause for concern for anyone who cares about actually lowering the cost and increasing the quality of medical care, rather than just ticking symbolic “universal coverage” box.

All this reveals what we have known all along. ObamaCare was never about helping people. There is no point in having insurance at all if the deductibles will bankrupt you, and universal coverage becomes a meaningless shibboleth for progressives more concerned with legacies and talking points than with actual governance.

Anyone actually interested in making health care in America better, rather than simply scoring political points, would do well to follow the principles of free markets and patient-centered care. It’s time to dismantle a broken federal bureaucracy, and let doctors go back to serving the interests of patients, not of the government.

Wyoming becomes an alternative energy producer

Minerals prices are low, tax revenue is on the decline, and Gov. Matt Mead and many Wyoming legislators are scrambling to appear to be doing something about it. One something that came out of the 2015 legislative session was the Minerals to Value Added Products Program. Yes, just what we need, another government program, but this one proposes to make taxpayers a partner in alternative energy projects private companies are fleeing from as fast as they can. But if people using their own money are unwilling to engage in such risky ventures, politicians are wrong to take Wyoming down this path.

The Minerals to Value Added Products program is one of those boondoggles that allows politicians to stand up and say

they are diversifying the economy, creating jobs, and—let’s never forget—increasing government revenue. Under the program, the state would provide a minerals supply guarantee to a minerals-to-value-added product facility by purchasing minerals, paying for minerals processing in the facility and then selling the product in the market. Facilities eligible would be those such as DKRW’s coal-to-liquids, or Two Elk’s proposed gas-to-liquids, facilities. No single contract would be greater than \$50 million and the amount processed in the plant would be no greater than 20 percent of the plant’s capacity.

Put plainly, Wyoming taxpayers would purchase minerals, use a privately owned plant for minerals processing and

then sell the end product to someone. This process is known as tolling.

Corporate welfare comes in many forms, but I must admit, getting into the minerals buying-and-selling business is more ambitious than just throwing money at companies and hoping it sticks. But why is the state using this form of corporate welfare now?

During the House floor debate on Jan. 28, 2015, Rep. Lloyd Larsen, (R-Fremont) said the thinking behind this bill was: “When you bring on an industry like this into the state, one of the things they are really trying to do is capture financing ... one question they are asked [by financing companies] is do you have customers, do you have a supply of feedstock for this?” By committing

to 20 percent of the company’s inputs, this “goes a long way for them to get the financing necessary to make the product come to fruition.”

But since when is it the role of government to provide supply guarantees to private businesses?

This question was not lost on some legislators. State Rep. Tyler Lindholm (R-Crook/Weston) asked the obvious question: “What is the role of government?”

State Rep. Norine Kasperik (R-Campbell), who sits on the Joint Minerals, Business & Economic Development Committee that sponsored the bill, said its proper role is to “make sure the state meets the needs of our people.”

Wow! Which people? Everyone? Which needs? All?

Why stop at buying minerals for value-added minerals plants? Why not buy food? And why stop at guaranteeing the supplies of some businesses to attract them? Why not guarantee the supply of shoes at a new Macy’s or of organic vegetables at a new Whole Foods here in town?

In a separate debate on the Senate side, state Sen. Cale Case (R-Lander) said it best when he pointed out that major oil and gas companies are sitting on massive reserves of natural gas and would love to be able to convert all that cheap gas into higher valued diesel. He said: “Don’t you think they would be doing it if it were financially feasible? You would do it in a heartbeat if it made sense.”

Major oil and gas companies

are not doing it – what does that tell us?

It tells us no one is having any success with coal or gas alchemy. In fact, both Sasol, a large South African Energy company, and Royal Dutch Shell recently cancelled plans to build gas-to-liquids facilities.

It is not for state legislators to force Wyoming taxpayers to go on risky adventures with unproven projects people are unwilling to put their own money towards. If legislators were interested in doing more than just appearing to do something, they would get out of the way by reducing regulation and lowering taxes so people are freed to make real investment decisions.

This piece was first published by the Wyoming Liberty Group

Can Libertarian-Leaning Rand Paul Really Win the GOP Nomination?

By David Boaz
CATO Institute

Sen. Rand Paul has officially announced he’s running for president. But can a libertarian-leaning candidate win the Republican nomination and ultimately the presidency?

In a political world dominated by the liberal-conservative divide, there are many doubters. But there’s growing evidence that Paul can broaden the Republican base and appeal to the broad center of the electorate.

The Republican base may be divided into establishment, tea party, Christian right, and libertarian wings. Paul starts out with a strong base in the libertarian wing, which gave his father, Rep. Ron Paul, 21 percent of the Iowa caucus vote and 23 percent of the New Hampshire primary in 2012. With his strong opposition to taxes and spending and his book “The Tea

Party Goes to Washington,” he’s also well positioned for the tea party vote. His pro-life views will make him acceptable to religious conservatives as the field narrows.

The wild card may be who can attract voters who don’t usually vote in Republican primaries. Paul’s stands on military intervention, marijuana, criminal justice reform, and the surveillance state give him a good shot at getting independents and young people to come out for him.

The race could come down to former Florida governor Jeb Bush as the establishment candidate against the last standing insurgent candidate, and Paul is, as pundit Peter Beinart wrote recently, “as bold as any reformist in the race.”

Political observers usually talk about liberals, conservatives, and moderates. But not all voters fit into

those boxes. Every year Gallup divides the public into liberal, conservative, libertarian, and populist. In the 2014 survey the firm classified 27 percent of respondents as conservative and 24 percent as libertarian. Paul has the libertarian field all to himself.

Indeed, a 2006 Zogby poll for the Cato Institute asked respondents, “Would you describe yourself as fiscally conservative and socially liberal?” Fully 59 percent said yes, and only 27 percent said no. That’s a huge untapped market for a candidate who can cut across red-blue barriers.

Events of the past few years have pushed voters in a libertarian direction, causing some observers to talk about a “libertarian moment” in American politics. The financial crisis, the Wall Street bailouts, the \$18 trillion national debt, and Obamacare created the tea party. The revelations

about spying and surveillance since 2013 have caused grave concerns about privacy. Less traumatically, growing support for gay marriage and marijuana legalization shows the strength of libertarian attitudes in a country founded on the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The small band of neoconservatives who dominate conservative punditry have tried to ignore or dismiss Paul’s chances on the grounds that his mildly non-interventionist foreign policy will make him unacceptable to Republican voters. They need to read more polls. Last June 75 percent of Americans, and 63 percent of Republicans, told CBS News/New York Times pollsters that the Iraq war wasn’t worth the costs. Seventy percent of Republicans opposed military action in Syria.

The brutal rise of the Islamic State

has made many Americans, including more Republicans, more hawkish. But nine months from now, when Republicans start voting in Iowa and New Hampshire, they’re likely to be tired of endless wars and to notice that 15 years of military intervention under President Bush, President Obama, and Secretary of State Clinton have left the Middle East in chaos. As the only skeptic about promiscuous intervention running in the GOP primaries, Paul has a chance to gain support from the war-weary.

Rand Paul is trying something different in a Republican presidential race. He yields to no other candidate in his opposition to taxes, spending, debt, regulation, and Obamacare. But he also talks to Silicon Valley about government spying, and African-American audiences about racial bias in the drug war.

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Jim Rose

So Many Employers Unable to fill Jobs

CATO Institute
The great conundrum of the U.S. economy today is that we have record numbers of working age people out of the labor force at the same time we have businesses desperately trying to find workers.

As an example, the American Transportation Research Institute estimates there are 30,000-35,000 trucker jobs that could be filled tomorrow if workers would take these jobs— a shortage that could rise to 240,000 by 2022.

While the jobs market overall remains weak, demand is high in certain sectors.

For skilled and reliable mechanics, welders, engineers, electricians, plumbers, computer technicians, and nurses, jobs are plentiful; one can often find a job in 48 hours.

As Bob Funk, the president of Express Services, which matches almost half a million temporary workers with employers each year, said, "If you have a useful skill, we can find you a job. But too many are graduating from high school and college without any skills at all."

The lesson, to play off of the famous Waylon Jennings song: Momma don't let your babies grow up to be philosophy majors.

Three years ago the chronic disease of the economy was a shortage of jobs. This shortage persists in many sectors. But two other shortages are now being felt—the shortage of trained employees and of low-skilled employees willing to work.

Patrick Doyle, the president of Domino's Pizza, says that the franchises around the country are having a hard time filling delivery and clerical positions. "It's a very tight labor market out there now."

This shortage has an upside for workers because it allows them to bid up wages. When Wal-Mart announced last month that wages for many starter workers would rise to \$9 an hour, well above the federal legal minimum, they weren't being humanitarians. They were responding to a tightening labor market.

The idea that blue-collar jobs

aren't a pathway to the middle class and higher is antiquated and wrong. Factory work today is often highly sophisticated and knowledge-based with workers using intricate scientific equipment.

After several years honing their skills, welders, mechanics, carpenters, and technicians can, earn upwards of \$50,000 a year—which in most years still places a household with two such income earners in the top 25 percent for income. It's true these aren't glitzy or cushy jobs, but they do pay a good salary.

So why aren't workers filling these available jobs—or getting the skills necessary to fill them. I would posit these impediments to putting more Americans back to work:

1) Government discourages work.
Welfare consists of dozens of different and overlapping federal and state income support programs. A recent Census Bureau study found more than 100 million Americans collecting a government check or benefit each month.

The spike in families on food stamps, SSI, disability, public housing, and early Social Security remains very high even five years into this recovery. This should come as no surprise given the vast majority of the federal government's roughly 80 means-tested welfare programs don't include any type of work requirement.

Economist Peter Ferrara argues in his new book, "Power to the People," that if "we simply required work for all able-bodied welfare recipients, the number on public assistance would fall dramatically. This is what happened after the work for welfare requirements in 1996."

2) Our public school systems often fail to teach kids basic skills.

Whatever happened to shop classes? We have schools that now concentrate more on ethnic studies and tolerance training than teaching kids how to use a lathe or a graphic design tool.

Charter schools can help remedy this. Universities are even more negligent. Kids graduate from four-year colleges with little vocation training and with debt averaging more than \$25,000—although this number now commonly exceeds \$100,000 at some universities.

A liberal arts education is valuable, but it should come paired with some practical skills.

3) Negative attitudes toward blue-collar work.

I've talked to parents who say they are disappointed if their kids want to become a craftsman—instead of going to



college. This attitude discourages kids from learning how to make things, which contributes to sector-specific worker shortages. Meanwhile, too many people who want to go into the talking professions: lawyers, media, clergy, professors, and so on.

4) A cultural bias against young adults working.

The labor force participation rate is falling fastest among workers under 30.

Any time a state tries to

change laws to make it easier for teenagers to earn money, the left throws a tantrum about repealing child labor laws. The move to raise minimum wages in states and at the federal level could hardly be more destructive to young people.

My own research finds that the higher the minimum wage in a state, the lower the labor force participation rate among teenagers.

Anecdotally, I've always been struck by how many suc-

cessful people I have met who grew up on farms and started working—milking cows, building fences, cleaning out the barn—at the age of 10 or 11. They learn a work ethic at a young age and this pays big dividends in the future. Many studies document this to be true.

5) Higher education has become an excuse to delay entry into the workforce.

I always cringe when I talk to 22-year-olds who will gradu-

ate from college and who tell me their next step is to go to graduate school. Maybe by the time they are 26 or 27 they will start working. Here's an idea: colleges could encourage kids to have one or two years of work experience before they enroll.

Here's an even better idea: abolish federal student loans and replace the free government dollars with privately sponsored college work programs.

Q. When Will Hillary Announce for 2016 ?



King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

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N	I	L	C	A	R	E	E	N	S	
F	O	L	D	E	R	L	A	V		
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Schools invade students privacy with data mining

By Moriah Costa | Watchdog.org
 DOWNINGTON, Pa. — Susan Buzin never thought she would homeschool her children.

But after researching data changes to the Chester County, Pennsylvania, school district, she discovered that loopholes in the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act means her children's identifying information is released to third-party vendors and collected into a data system.

"It makes me very angry that parents still believe, if they don't know a lot of this going on... that their child's information is being kept private," she said.

Concerned about the privacy of her children, she pulled her two youngest children out of school this year. Her eldest daughter, an eleventh grader, is still enrolled in a public high school.

FERPA is a federal law meant to protect student priva-

cy, but as parents like Buzin have found out a number of exceptions allow for-profit companies to collect student information. Schools are legally allowed to disclose directory information, such as a child's name, address, phone number, birth date, awards and ID number, without parental consent, as long as the school district informs parents once a year and gives them the opportunity to opt-out.

Schools aren't the only ones collecting data. In 2008, the Department of Education changed the term "school officials" in the law to include for-profit companies and vendors. That means schools can release student records to other "school officials" such as a third-party educational outlets.

While parents can opt out of directory information, they can't opt out of third-party vendors receiving their child's information if it's for an educational purpose. That means sometimes no one knows for sure who is collecting data.

These loopholes aren't new. Schools have released directory information on students since FERPA was passed in 1974. But with the use of technology in schools and data breaches in school districts across the country, student privacy has become a national issue.

Privacy bill
 A bill circulating in draft form aims to curb fears about student privacy. The proposed Student Digital Privacy and Parental Rights Act of 2015, co-sponsored by Rep. Jared S. Polis, D-Colorado, and Rep. Luke Messer, R-Indiana, has gained the support of Microsoft and Common Sense Media.

Privacy advocates say the bill doesn't protect students' privacy and is instead a way for companies to make money off of data mining without parental consent.

Leonie Haimson, co-chair of the Parent Coalition for Student Privacy, said in a statement the bill does nothing to address loopholes in FERPA and would create even more privacy con-

cerns. "The bill doesn't require any parental notification or consent before schools share personal data with third parties, or address any of the current weaknesses in FERPA," she said. "It wouldn't stop the surveillance of students by Pearson or other companies, or the collection and sharing of huge amounts of highly sensitive student information..."

These loopholes in data collection have some parents worried.

Ann Miller, a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland, opted to take her children out of public school after finding out how much personal data was being collected on her four kids. She homeschools one of her children, sends another child to a private school and decided to keep her eleventh grader enrolled in public high school. Her oldest child graduated from a Baltimore public high school in 2007.

While state legislation is supposed to protect identifying

data, Miller said it doesn't protect her children enough.

"One of the things that I would say most alarmed me about what is going on is all of the data collection and the fact that our children are not being protected by either the Legislature or our state school system," she said.

The need for data collection Some say responsible data collection is needed to help students succeed.

Paige Kowalski, vice president of policy and advocacy at the Data Quality Campaign, said if school districts are collecting information about students, then parents and teachers should use it in a way that benefits students.

"Right now kids walk in the door after summer and they're coming a blank slate for teachers," she said. "We tie their hands behind their backs when we don't provide them information."

The nonprofit advocates for effective use of data, including

updating FERPA laws to reflect the use of technology and data collection in schools.

Others, including the Obama administration, are looking for other ways to ensure student privacy.

The Future of Privacy Forum and The Software & Information Industry Association are encouraging companies to sign a privacy pledge endorsed by President Barack Obama. So far over 100 companies, including Google, Microsoft and Apple have agreed to not sell student data and use it for educational purposes only.

For parents like Susan Buzin, a privacy bill or pledge isn't enough. She wants data collection to end.

"This is not education reform," she said. "We need to keep the federal government out of our students' personal lives, our family's personal lives. ...until this is fixed, I will never, ever put my children back into the public school system."

Wisconsin is Rising in Rankings

By M.D. Kittle | Wisconsin Watchdog

MADISON, Wis. — Wisconsin shot up in the rankings of economic competitiveness, hitting its highest mark ever, according to the just-released edition of the Rich States, Poor States report from the American Legislative Exchange Council.

Wisconsin finished 13th, up from 17th, the state's previous high-water mark. AP file photo

WISCONSIN RISING: The Badger State climbed to 13th on a ranking of states' economic outlook. Wisconsin jumped four spots on the annual Rich States, Poor States report published by the American Legislative Exchange Council.

Utah ranked at the top of the list of states with the best economic outlook in 2015. North Dakota, Indiana, North Carolina and Arizona closed out the top five.

The bottom five on the list include New Jersey, Connecticut, Minnesota, Vermont, and the least competitive, New York.

ALEC is a nonprofit organization made up of mostly conservative state legislators and private sector representatives that drafts and shares model state-level legislation.

Bigger things are coming for the Badger State, according to the report. Next year, Wisconsin should see an increase in its economic outlook thanks to the recent passage of a right-to-work law, ending compulsory union membership for workers at shops with an organized labor presence. Wisconsin became the 25th right-to-work state.

The Rich States, Poor States report emphasizes the relief property taxpayers have experienced in recent years. Buoyed by better-than-expected state revenue over the past two years, Gov. Scott Walker and the Republican-controlled

Legislature pushed hundreds of millions of dollars in tax cuts, particularly relief on the property tax side. Wisconsin taxpayers had for years seen their property taxes rise before the recent round of cuts.

Walker's latest two-year budget proposal includes another \$280 million in property tax reductions.

"Just as I promised, property taxes by the end of 2016 will be lower than they were in 2014. That means lower property taxes for six years in a row," Walker said in his budget address in February.

"Due to property tax relief and other pro-growth reforms, Wisconsin's economic outlook ranking increased four spots," said Jonathan Williams, vice president of Center for State Fiscal Reform at ALEC and co-author of Rich States, Poor States.

"While the effective date of Wisconsin's recent right-to-work law missed the 2015 edition's cut-off date, I predict that

this new policy will increase the state's economic outlook ranking in the 2016 edition of this report," he added.

The data ranks the 2015 economic outlook of states using 15 equally weighted policy variables, including various tax rates, regulatory burdens and labor policies. The eighth edition examines the trends over the past few decades that help or hurt states' rankings. States with low tax rates and right-to-work laws are more likely to have a better economic outlook.

Wisconsin's job growth has lagged the nation and the Midwest, however. The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, considered the most comprehensive of employment gauges, showed Wisconsin posted a private sector job-creation rate of 1.16 percent between September 2013 and September 2014. Nationwide, the rate was 2.3 percent.

But Wisconsin has seen some turnaround in its key sectors, particularly manufacturing. Legislative leaders say the reforms that have made the state more competitive to existing business and companies considering relocation will pay big dividends.

"Wisconsin has made important strides toward even greater economic competitiveness over the last few years," said state

Sen. Leah Vukmir, R-Wauwatosa, in an ALEC press release. "Through important reforms such as historic tax cuts, reduced government spending and streamlined regulations on businesses, we have gone from a \$3.6 billion budget deficit to annual surpluses in the hundreds of millions."

Bottom of Form

Nuclear Bombs in Iran

By JOSH LEDERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iran could have the capabilities to build a nuclear bomb almost immediately after the first 13 years of the emerging nuclear deal, President Barack Obama acknowledged on Tuesday. The Republican leader of the U.S. House reacted tersely, arguing that Obama had just confirmed what critics of the deal have long feared.

Under the framework for a final deal, Iran would be kept at least a year away from a bomb for the first decade, Obama said, as he pressed ahead in his campaign to sell the deal to skeptics. Pushing back on criticism that the deal allows Iran to keep enriching uranium, Obama told NPR News that enrichment isn't the prime concern because Iran will be capped for a decade at 300 kilo-

grams — not enough to convert to a stockpile of weapons-grade material.

"What is a more relevant fear would be that in Year 13, 14, 15, they have advanced centrifuges that enrich uranium fairly rapidly, and at that point, the breakout times would have shrunk almost down to zero," Obama said.

Breakout time refers to how long it would take to build a bomb if Iran decided to pursue one full-bore — in other words, how long the rest of the world would have to stop it. The framework deal expands Iran's breakout time — currently two to three months — to at least a year.

Yet that constraint would stay in place only for 10 years, at which point some restrictions would start phasing out.

House Speaker John Boehner said Tehran was tak-

ing the long view and cautioned that the Iranian regime could exploit the easing of restrictions to fulfill its ambitions of exporting revolution across the globe.

"It is clear that this 'deal' is a direct threat to peace and security of the region and the world," Boehner said. Considering Iran's history of evading international inspections, he added, "no one should believe that the proposed inspection and verification are bullet-proof."

The tough talk from Boehner suggested congressional leaders were continuing to sour on the framework deal that Obama and world leaders reached with Iran last week in Switzerland. Previously, Boehner had expressed serious concerns about the deal's parameters, but withheld full judgment until

lawmakers had time to digest all the details.

Other top lawmakers, including some members of Obama's party, have been pressing for Congress to hold a vote on whether to approve the deal — a prospect Obama has rejected outright. Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker, a Republican, is pushing legislation that would also prevent Obama from using his own authority to temporarily waive existing U.S. sanctions while Congress debates the deal.

Although Obama acknowledged in the interview that Iran's breakout time could shrink after 13 or 14 years, he said at least the world would have better insight into Iran's capabilities because of extensive inspections in the earlier years.

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 - 19 Lurches
 - 21 File container
 - 24 Restroom, for short
 - 25 Before
 - 26 Bathroom fixture
 - 28 Malodorous
 - 32 Criterion
 - 34 Space
 - 36 Stash
 - 37 Black tea of India
 - 39 That man's
 - 41 Chaps
 - 42 Varnish ingredient
 - 44 Cheap and shabby
 - 46 Cutting tool
 - 50 Under the weather
 - 51 Wrinkly fruit
 - 52 Lax
 - 56 Compared to
 - 57 Caspian feeder
 - 58 Try the sherry
 - 59 Engaged in karaoke
 - 60 Newspaper page
 - 61 Pigpen
- DOWN**
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 - 2 Meadow
 - 3 Distress-free
 - 4 Billfold
 - 5 Hearty brew
 - 6 Platter
 - 7 Cordage
 - 8 Capital of old Assyria
 - 9 Reed instrument
 - 10 Teller's
 - 11 Old partners
 - 16 Disencumber
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 - 21 Greek salad ingredient
 - 22 Raw minerals
 - 23 Carpet
 - 27 "Humbug!"
 - 29 Eternal
 - 30 Mid-month date
 - 31 Say it isn't so
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 - 35 Snapshot
 - 38 More, to Manuel
 - 40 Protect
 - 43 Chocolate source
 - 45 Right angle
 - 46 Shacks
 - 47 Turkish title
 - 48 Family
 - 49 Distort
 - 53 "Norma —"
 - 54 Perch
 - 55 Agent



Maple Chicken Drumsticks

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup real maple syrup or honey
- 1/4 cup chili sauce
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon ground mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon ground red pepper (cayenne), if desired
- 2 pounds (about 20) chicken drumsticks

Directions

1 Heat oven to 375°F. Mix all ingredients except chicken. Place chicken in ungreased pan, 15 1/2x10 1/2x1 inch. Pour syrup mixture over chicken; turn chicken to coat.

2 Bake uncovered 45 to 55 minutes, turning once and brushing with sauce after 30 minutes, until juice of chicken is no longer pink when centers of thickest pieces are cut. Serve chicken with sauce.

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Corporate Tax Rates

By Kenric Ward Watchdog.org

The United States may have the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world, but large companies are reaping billions of dollars in subsidies from Uncle Sam.

And the biggest beneficiary isn't even an American firm - it is the Spanish utility giant, Iberdrola.

Since 2000, the federal government has given \$68 billion in grants and special tax credits to businesses, with two-thirds going to large corporations, according to a new report.

AP file photo 'CORPORATE WELFARE': Rep. Dave Brat says government officials are gambling with taxpayer dollars.

U.S. Rep. Dave Brat, R-Va., blasted the "corporate welfare programs," saying, "Government subsidies create unfair competition among businesses, and they're gambling with taxpayer dollars to do it."

Iberdrola received nearly \$2.2 billion, mostly stemming from investments in power generation facilities supported

by federal stimulus programs. The lion's share of those ventures involved heavily subsidized wind projects.

U.S. government subsidies in hand, Iberdrola announced last month it would buy UIL Holdings Corp., which serves electric and natural gas customers in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and New York.

A handful of corporate players captured the most federal dollars. Two-thirds of all grants and tax credits were awarded to 582 firms. Twenty-one companies - primarily in the energy sector - netted more than \$500 million each.

Ten of the 50 parent companies receiving the most lucrative federal grants and credits are based overseas. Most of the top subsidies were linked to energy projects.

The federal contractor with the most grants and allocated tax credits is General Electric, with \$836 million, mainly from the Energy and Defense departments. Boeing received \$64 billion in assistance from the Export-Import Bank.

Answers on page 4

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Book is missing; 2. Cap is reversed; 3. Pendant is missing; 4. Airplane is missing; 5. Hair is shorter; 6. Skateboard is missing.

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Tennessee hires former Texas coach Rick Barnes

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Just two days after leaving Texas, Rick Barnes has landed at Tennessee.

Tennessee announced the hiring Tuesday, calling Barnes an "elite basketball coach in every respect." The agreement is for six years at \$2.25 million annually. The school scheduled an afternoon news conference.

Barnes succeeds Donnie Tyndall, who was fired Friday after one season amid an NCAA investigation of his two years at Southern Mississippi.

Barnes went 402-180 in 17 seasons at Texas and reached the NCAA Tournament in 16 of his 17 seasons, including a Final Four appearance in 2003. Texas announced his departure Sunday, saying it was a mutual deci-

sion. Barnes said at his farewell news conference he was given the choice of firing his staff or being fired himself.

"Rick brings an extremely impressive track record of excellence, as well as much-needed stability, to our men's basketball program," Tennessee athletic director Dave Hart said in a statement. "This is an exciting day for our Tennessee family."

The 60-year-old Barnes is 604-314 in 28 seasons overall with stops at George Mason, Providence and Clemson. He has reached the NCAA Tournament in 19 of his last 20 seasons.

Hart said he fired Tyndall for cause after determining the NCAA would likely find the coach committed major

violations while at Southern Mississippi from 2012-14. Tyndall went 16-16 in his lone season at Tennessee.

Although Barnes' only Southeastern Conference experience came during a brief stint as an Alabama assistant in 1985-86, Barnes has some familiarity with the area. He grew up in Hickory, North Carolina, about 200 miles east of Tennessee's Knoxville campus.

Barnes takes over a Tennessee program that has gone at least as far as the NCAA regional semifinals four of the last nine seasons despite encountering plenty of recent coaching turnover.

Bruce Pearl was fired in 2011 amid an NCAA investigation after leading

Tennessee to NCAA Tournament appearances in each of his six seasons. Pearl was replaced by Cuonzo Martin, who left for California after earning one NCAA invitation and two spots in the NIT in his three seasons. Tyndall took over for Martin.

Tennessee loses all-SEC guard Josh Richardson to graduation and doesn't return any proven point guards or post scorers.

Barnes' 402 wins at Texas were the most in school history. Kevin Durant and T.J. Ford earned national player of the year honors while starring on Barnes' teams.

He led Texas to the Sweet 16 five times, one Final Four and three trips to the regional finals — but hadn't

advanced the Longhorns beyond the first weekend of the NCAA Tournament since 2008.

Hiring a veteran coach from a Big 12 school represents a change of pace for Tennessee, which selected head coaches from the mid-major ranks for its last four hires: Buzz Peterson (Tulsa), Pearl (Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Martin (Missouri State) and Tyndall (Southern Mississippi).

Tennessee becomes the second SEC school to hire a veteran coach with Final Four experience this month. Mississippi State announced last week it was replacing the fired Rick Ray with 57-year-old Ben Howland, who made three consecutive Final Four appearances with UCLA from 2006-08.

Shaka Smart leaving VCU to coach Texas basketball

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Shaka Smart has been a hot coaching commodity since leading Virginia Commonwealth to the Final Four in 2011. He had reportedly shunned several big-time offers, but the lure of Texas was finally too much to turn down.

VCU sports information director Scott Day confirmed Thursday night that Smart was leaving the Richmond university to take over the program in Austin. Smart met with VCU players earlier in the evening at the Siegel Center, the team's home arena, and at least one player was seen crying when he left.

Smart, who has won at least 26 games in each of his six seasons at VCU, is bolting for a Texas program that hasn't been able to unseat Kansas atop the Big 12. But the Longhorns also boast the wealthiest athletic department in the country and easy access to some of the nation's most fertile recruiting grounds in Dallas and

Houston.

Terms of Smart's contract were not immediately released and VCU said a statement would be released Friday. Barnes made \$2.62 million last season, while Smart made \$1.8 million with the Rams.

Texas athletic director Steve Patterson had zeroed in on bringing Smart to Texas immediately after firing former Longhorns coach Rick Barnes last weekend. Patterson flew to Richmond on Thursday to close the deal. Texas officials did not have any immediate comment on the hire.

Smart did not speak to the media gathered Thursday and VCU players were escorted from the building by university public relations without offering comments.

That Barnes was pushed out shows Patterson, a former NBA executive, expects big things from basketball. Barnes won three Big 12 titles and recruited elite talent to Austin. Former Longhorns T.J. Ford (2003) and Kevin

Durant (2007) won national player of the year honors.

But the program had plateaued and the early-round exits in the NCAA Tournament started to mount, despite rosters full of future NBA talent.

At VCU, Smart took over a program that had had great success under Jeff Capel, and then Anthony Grant. He hopes to avoid the pitfalls at Texas that his predecessors encountered when they left to take over programs at universities considered "football schools."

Capel lasted five years at Oklahoma before being fired, and Grant spent six at Alabama before he was dismissed.

By leaving before May 1, Smart owes VCU a \$500,000 buyout. His contract also contains a provision that if he became a head coach at another institution, that school would have to pay VCU in a home-and-home series, or pay VCU \$250,000.

Barnes led Texas to 16 NCAA Tournaments in 17 seasons but his

teams haven't made it out of the first weekend since 2008.

His best years came from 2003-2008, when Texas made its first Final Four in more than 50 years and twice more reached the tournament's final eight. Texas also earned the program's first No. 1 ranking in the 2009-2010 season.

Smart had some success right away at VCU when the Rams won the CBI postseason tournament in his first year.

But it was VCU's monumental run in the NCAA Tournament the following year that really got Smart noticed. The Rams went from being a questionable selection, barely getting a bid and playing in the First Four in Dayton, Ohio, to beating five major-conference schools to reach the Final Four.

The Rams have been back in the NCAA Tournament each of the past four seasons, but were eliminated in the round of 32 in 2012 and 2013 and

lost their first game in overtime each of the past two seasons.

Beyond the Final Four run, this year might have been Smart's best coaching job at VCU.

The Rams lost Briante Weber, the leader of their "havoc" defensive style, on Jan. 31 to a knee injury, and played the last month and a half with scoring leader Treveon Graham bothered by a high left ankle sprain, sometimes even sidelined.

VCU (26-10) lost six of 10 late in the season, enduring its first three-game slide in Smart's six seasons, before winning five straight, including four in four days, to win the Atlantic 10 title.

Smart's 26 wins in six consecutive seasons is a feat matched only by Duke. With the interest he has generated in basketball, a \$25 million basketball practice facility is under construction and scheduled to be ready for use in the fall.

Disgraced ex-Baylor coach Bliss hired at NAIA

BETHANY, Okla. (AP) — Dave Bliss, who resigned at Baylor in 2003 following a major scandal, has been named head coach at Southwestern Christian University, a small NAIA school.

In 2003, Baylor player Patrick Dennehy was found shot to death after he had been missing for six weeks. Former teammate Carlton Dotson pleaded guilty to murder, and the ensuing investigation uncovered

NCAA violations, illegal tuition payments and unreported failed drug tests on Bliss' watch, leading him to resign. Bliss also was secretly recorded by an assistant coach as he tried to persuade others to cover up his misdeeds by portraying Dennehy as a drug dealer.

"There's no doubt I was ashamed and embarrassed by what occurred at Baylor," Bliss told The Oklahoman. "But in my heart, I felt that wasn't who I was. That's what I did."

Bliss, 71, has won more than 500 games in 28 years in stops at Oklahoma, SMU, New Mexico and Baylor. His teams have qualified for the NCAA Tournament 10 times.

Now, he is ready to focus on a much different task.

"When I was in my lowest moment, I didn't miss money and I didn't miss the fame that goes with being a D-I coach. I missed being called coach," Bliss told The

Oklahoman. "I missed dealing with my kids, even if it involved a loss. I missed character and integrity. I got my head turned by the competitive world of athletics, but I've been given a second chance."

Bliss hopes to make the best of his new opportunity.

"I look at Southwestern as very similar in some manner of speaking to a lot of jobs that I have had," he said. "What they need, I feel I am excited

about trying to provide. I know even though Southwestern might not be a D-I school, I know they want to be successful. My goal is, within the requirements of the school, have a program that's very competitive, that faculty and students can be very proud of, and will be a great help in building the enrollment of the school. There's no doubt that successful athletic programs have a chance to help that situation."

Homecare worker, patient challenge Wolf's order that paves way for unionization

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Direct-care worker Don Lambrecht has looked after David Smith, a home-bound quadriplegic, for the last quarter century, more than enough time for the two to develop a friendship that goes beyond the patient-caregiver dynamic.

"Don's really been my arms and legs for 25 years," the 59-year-old Smith, who has muscular dystrophy, said in a statement issued Tuesday. Both of them fear what might happen if a union ended up part of that relationship.

Lambrecht and Smith, who lives in Phoenixville, are suing Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf and the state Department of Human Services, challenging an executive order that would allow a union to organize home care workers such as Lambrecht.

Unionization could compromise patients' abilities to hire, fire and manage their direct-care workers, said

their attorney, David Osborne. Before hiring Lambrecht, Smith had to fire a previous caretaker who tried to take advantage of him financially, according to The Fairness Center.

"Governor Wolf's illegal executive order would radically alter Dave and Don's working relationship, needlessly forcing Don to collectively bargain against Dave, his legal employer," Osborne said in a statement. "In fact, many home care workers care for and are employed by their own elderly parents or disabled children. Perversely, Wolf's order would force them to collectively bargain against their own family members."

The Fairness Center also contends the executive order sets a lower bar for organization than labor laws do and would allow a union to deduct dues from workers paid through Medicaid or other state programs. Some might not be able to afford that or want the

representation, The Fairness Center argued.

Jeffrey Sheridan, Wolf's press secretary, said in an email the executive order "ensures that home care workers have a voice in shaping the future of the industry and seniors have choices about where to receive care."

"The executive order does not grant collective bargaining rights to workers, does not force them to join a union, and does not make them state employees," Sheridan wrote. "It simply creates a process where workers can share their ideas to improve the industry."

Former Gov. Ed Rendell, also a Democrat, issued a similar executive order in 2010. He rescinded it after it was challenged in the courts.

The Pennsylvania Homecare Association and United Cerebral Palsy of Pennsylvania have also sued over Wolf's executive order.

Obama's New Website

By Kenric Ward | Watchdog.org
A redesigned information website launched by the Obama administration last week looks like a bad April Fool's joke.

Users can no longer search federal spending by keywords or find information that was previously available. Type in "contracts" and the response comes back empty.

Billed as a "transparency" tool, Usaspending.gov makes it more difficult to track taxpayer dollars.

"Information, such as how much the Pentagon spends on Viagra, used to be available at the click of a button," the Washington Free Beacon noted. "Locating those same contracts on the new website is virtually impossible, akin to finding a needle in a haystack."

Users now need a "federal grant identification number" to see details of a contract.

The new and unimproved version provides totals of funding, sub-awards and transactions. The results list the highest dollar amounts by company, but provide no links to specific contracts.

The Free Beacon found the list of agencies does not include some government bodies, such as the National Endowment for the Arts, but does have data on the "Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation."

Results for profiles of "Other Small Agencies" returns zero grants or contracts. "No data found," the site replies.

Users have found the site to be clunky. Functions are not intuitive. When the site does retrieve information, it spits out voluminous data that cannot be sorted or disaggregated — forcing inquirers to drink out of a fire hose.

President Obama pledged in 2009 that his administration would be "the most transparent in history."

That audacious promise has been broken repeatedly. Last month, Watchdog.org was refused financial information on Small Business Investment Companies, which received public funding. Freedom of Information Act requests have gone unanswered.



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