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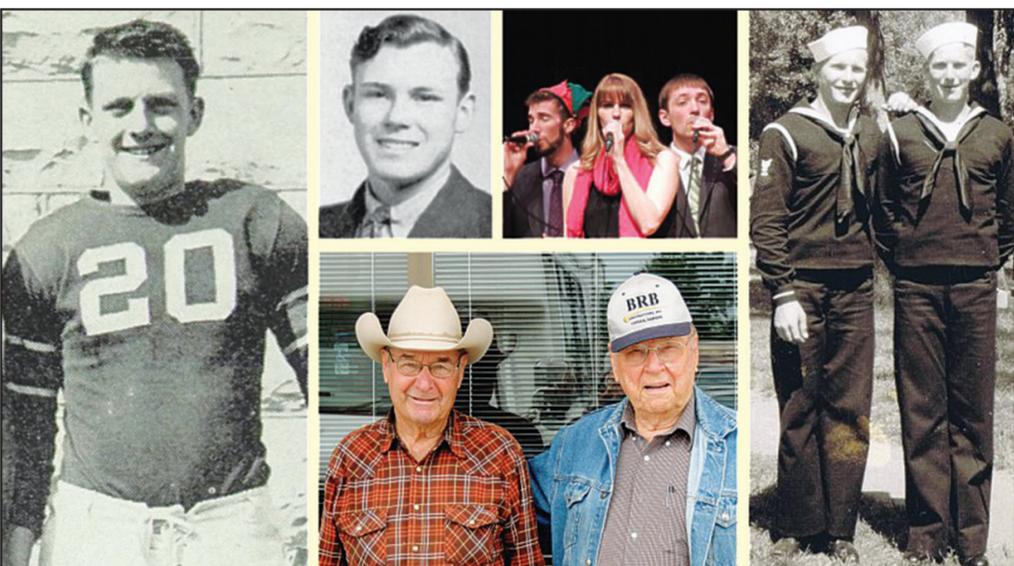


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Remember "The 101"



Left: Robert Srack in his football uniform; center-left-top: Harry Gehrt's senior picture; center-right-top: Xan Perkins, left, Katie Vaughan and Zach Button, three members of In-A-Chord, perform at the Peace Memorial Auditorium in December 2013; center-bottom: Buck Gehrt, left, with friend Jim Sharp. Sharp is a Battle of the Bulge veteran and auditorium activist; right: Forest, left, and Elmer Ebaugh.

By Gloria Freeland
In the photo, Bob Srack has the smile of a fellow who has been selected as next-year's co-captain of the high school football team. There is no hint of the difficulties he has had in his short life ... the loss of his father, mother and grandfather - half his family gone. Only his sister, his grandmother and he remained. He would go on to be the team's starting quarterback, be crowned king of the prom, excel in basketball and be on the staff of the student newspaper and yearbook.

But that year was as good as it got. Srack graduated in the middle of World War II, and he and several of his classmates decided to enlist. Dave Fiser, the son of Srack's football coach, told me, "I have a letter someplace that Bob wrote to my father. In the letter, Bob told Dad things were pretty tough fighting the Japanese. He asked Dad to take care of his grandmother because he didn't think he'd be coming home."

In May 1945, Marine Robert Wayne Srack became a member of "The 101." He died on Okinawa about a month after turning 20 and just three months before the war was over.

While Srack was from Manhattan, Harry Gehrt was a country boy, the oldest of five children. His family lived in the Deep Creek area several miles southeast of town. Like Srack, he graduated from Manhattan High School, but a couple of years earlier. He also played football and was on the sen-

ior class committee. After a few months as an apprentice machinist for the Santa Fe Railroad, he joined the Army Air Corps. First Lieutenant Gerht was assigned to the 9th Air Force, 50th Squadron, 314th Troop Carrier Group, delivering men and supplies to the European battlefield. He too became a member of "The 101." He died in a crash on April 6, 1945 near Hackenberg, Germany about a month before V-E Day.

Harry's brother Buck, now 87, remembered coyote hunting with Harry when the two were growing up. He has kept his brother's obituary and a letter written from overseas. He said when he and his family heard about Harry's death, they were told conditions were foggy and that the plane probably flew too close to electric lines. His body was never found. Graveside services were held in Manhattan in 1949, nearly four years after the crash.

Brothers Elmer and Forest Ebaugh also became members of "The 101." They were about three years apart in age and grew up 10 miles northwest of Manhattan in the small community of Stockdale. There were 10 Ebaugh children supported by a father who was an auto mechanic. Both had joined the Navy before the war began and, probably at their request, were assigned to the same ship, the U.S.S. Houston. On Feb. 28, 1942, the heavy cruiser was attacked and it sank in the strait between the two main islands of Indonesia. Elmer was never found. Forest spent nearly 18 months as a prisoner of war before dying of malaria in Moulmein, Burma on Sept. 14, 1943.

After V-E Day, men in Europe began preparing to head to the Pacific to join the others already there who were dreading a drawn-out and deadly affair. But the atomic bombs led to the war ending abruptly. For awhile, people wanted to put the war behind them as best they could.

But a year after the war ended, a list of the names of those who died - "The 101" - was generated. That same year, voters in Manhattan approved an \$800,000 bond to construct a living memorial to honor all those who had served and particularly those who had died. Rather than a monument, the Peace Memorial Auditorium would be built. It would include a stage and basketball court. Later, city offices and a fire station were added.

Construction was delayed to avoid high post-war prices. But Clyde Powell, whose son Glenn was a member of "The 101," expressed what many felt.

"This memorial is for the boy I lost and for many others lost in the war. I don't think there's any place too good to put it. The memorial is not a business proposition and I think we could put up a beautiful building in the park. I am not so much interested in where the site is but in getting started ..."

The 1100 block of Poyntz south of the city park was eventually selected and the project was completed in 1955, Manhattan's centennial year.

Yet over 60 years, even a living memorial can fall into disrepair and later generations not understand its importance. In July 2013, the Manhattan City Commission looked into

removing the existing seating to create more office space and taking out the stage to build more practice courts.

But veterans groups and others had not forgotten. After listening to them, the commission decided to keep the auditorium intact and build new offices on the north side of City Hall.

The Friends of Peace Memorial Auditorium committee and related task force are now looking at ways to restore the auditorium to its original use. Renovating the foyer, stage, basketball court and seating and finding ways to pay for it are central to the project.

Help has come from Kansas State University's Tau Alpha Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. The group has "adopted" the auditorium and has presented holiday and spring musical events to help raise money for lighting, sound, seating and a memorial plaque with the names of the 101.

While none of these efforts will allow Bob, Harry, Elmer, Forest, Glenn or the other 96 to experience a full life, it could be said that they and others like them had a hand in allowing us to do so. So this 70th anniversary of the end of the war is a good moment to remember "The 101."

(Gloria Freeland writes a weekly online blog, "Kansas Snapshots." She is an assistant professor in Kansas State University's A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.)

Kansas Senate committee advances plan for increasing taxes

By JOHN HANNA
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A budget-balancing plan to raise Kansas' sales tax and repeal an income tax break championed by Republican Gov. Sam Brownback cleared a state Senate committee Tuesday, but GOP legislators are split and influential business groups oppose it.

The Assessment and Taxation Committee's plan would raise \$496 million during the fiscal year that begins July 1 to close a projected budget shortfall and leave the state with a small financial cushion. The measure also would increase tobacco and gasoline taxes.

The Republican-dominated committee voted 6-4 to forward a bill containing the plan to the Senate for debate without endorsing its contents — showing that members feel some pressure to demonstrate that lawmakers are making progress toward balancing the budget. The Senate could debate the plan as early as Thursday.

The key issues for Republicans are how much to increase the state's 6.15 percent sales tax and whether to backtrack on a 2012 policy exempting the profits of 281,000 business owners and 53,000 farmers from income taxes. Brownback pushed for the exemption, and he and business groups see it as an economic stimulus, but retaining it would require a larger sales tax increase than some GOP lawmakers want.

"Compromise is not a bad word," Chairman Les Donovan, a Wichita Republican, told the Senate committee near the start of its meeting. "Those folks that have these 100 percent opinions — that your idea, your way is the only way that matters — that is so counter-productive, so bad."

The state's projected budget shortfall of \$406 million for the next fiscal year arose after legislators cut personal income taxes in 2012 and 2013 at Brownback's urging.

Brownback met Tuesday morning with top Republican legislative leaders. The House Taxation Committee worked on a plan to increase sales, tobacco

and gasoline taxes, while also reinstating taxes on business owners' and farmers profits but didn't finish with its debate.

Tuesday was the 93rd day of the Legislature's annual session, three more than its leaders traditionally schedule.

The Senate committee's proposal would repeal the exemption for business owners and farmers and replace it with a less lucrative tax credit against their payrolls. It also would freeze existing income tax rates, jettisoning reductions promised for the future.

"There's nothing about that bill that we would like," said Eric Stafford, a lobbyist for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce, which is lobbying with the National Federation of Independent Business to retain the exemption for business owners and farmers.

The sales tax would rise to 6.5 percent, though the rate on food would drop to 6 percent. The cigarette tax would increase by 50 cents a pack, to \$1.29, and the gasoline tax would rise by 5 cents a gallon, to 29 cents.

Republican Sen. Mary Pilcher-Cook, of Shawnee, a committee member who opposes the bill, said the state shouldn't raise taxes at all.

"We need to cut more spending, as difficult as that may be," she said.

But the Republican chairmen of the House and Senate budget committees said they expect only minor adjustments in recommendations that so far would allow spending to grow about 3 percent.

Democrats argue that increasing sales, tobacco and gasoline taxes hurts poor and working-class families more than wealthier ones. Democrats have shown no inclination so far to help Republicans pass a budget-balancing plan, having opposed the 2012 and 2013 income tax cuts and having argued that they would wreck the state's finances.

"Until they can own up and take the responsibility for that, we're going to continue to see these unfair kind of solutions," said Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, a Topeka Democrat.

Governor, lawmakers give Kansas school districts extra funds

By JOHN HANNA
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Kansas will change how it collects taxes from businesses to finance benefits for unemployed workers, and three school districts will receive additional state funds because of decisions made Monday by Gov. Sam Brownback and top legislators.

Brownback signed a bill that overhauls the state's unemployment insurance program. Besides making changes for businesses that pay taxes to

finance benefits, it sets a new cap on that aid.

The Republican governor and top leaders in the GOP-dominated Legislature also met as the State Finance Council to consider requests from public school districts for additional aid under a school funding law that took effect last month. They granted three requests totaling nearly \$302,000.

Monday was the 92nd day of lawmakers' annual session, two more than legislative leaders traditionally schedule.

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Riley County Minutes Cost Taxpayers \$700 Per Month

Riley County Commission Minutes May 4, 2015 8:30 AM

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Public Comments Business Meeting

3. Sign Riley County Personnel Action Form(s)

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Personnel Action Form for Micah Dehning, a new hire, as a Seasonal Laborer, in the Public Works Department, at Grade A Step 01, at \$10.91 per hour.

4. Mental Health Month 2015 Proclamation

Move to approve the Mental Health Month 2015 Proclamation.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Robert Boyd, County Commissioner

SECONDER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner

AYES: Boyd, Wells, Wilson

5. Discuss Joint City/County/County Meeting Agenda

Review Minutes

6. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Apr 30, 2015 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

RESULT: ACCEPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Robert Boyd, County Commissioner

SECONDER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner

AYES: Boyd, Wells, Wilson

Review Tentative Agenda

7. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

8. Discuss Press Conference

aTa Bus report on Kansas Sampler-Anne Smith

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

9. Administrative Work Session

Holeman presented a draft letter to the legislators regarding HB 2253 regarding the changes to the KPERS bill which exempts legislators.

Move to sign the letter to the legislators regarding HB 2253, regarding the changes to KPERS, which exempts legislators.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Robert Boyd, County Commissioner

SECONDER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner

AYES: Boyd, Wells, Wilson

Holeman discussed HB 2165 regarding the sewer repairs now also includes the provision in which counties must approve city annexations in HB 2003.

The Board agreed to proceed with the focus on the sewer repair limit in HB 2165.

10. Pending County Projects County Counselor

9:20 AM Break

9:30 AM Press Conference

11. Real Estate and Personal Property Tax - 2nd Half Due- Shilo Heger (3 minutes)

Heger presented the following about Real Estate and Personal Property Tax 2nd Half Payments:

Due Date: May 11, 2015

Tax payments must be post-marked by this date

Interest will start accruing on May 12th

No motor vehicle transactions may be processed if personal property, intangible, watercraft, 16/20m truck, or oil/gas taxes are delinquent after May 11th

We offer several ways to pay:

In person in the Treasurer's office Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Drop box in the lobby will be available starting Wednesday May 6th

Drop box on the front of the building is available after hours

Online - credit/debit card or E-Check: www.rileycountytks.gov

Credit/Debit card payments will incur 2.5% convenience fee on the amount charged

E-Check will incur a \$1.00 processing fee per transaction

Pay through the telephone by credit/debit card - 1-800-272-9829 - convenience fee will be added

Call our office at 785-537-6321 if you have any questions

or if you need any additional information

12. Kansas Sampler Report- Michelle Crisler (2 minutes)

Crisler reported the weather was great and attendance was 12,054. Crisler said aTa Bus provided 2,615 rides to the Kansas Sampler.

13. RCPD update - Luke Breault (5 minutes)

Breault stated there was a shooting in Aggieville this weekend. Breault stated they did make a traffic stop in which they found a stolen hand gun. Breault said the arrest led to additional stolen items being located.

14. Riley County Historical Society quarterly dinner meeting May 6- Cheryl Collins (2 minutes)

C. Collins said the Riley County Historical Society will hold its quarterly meeting Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Blue Hills Room, 2317 Tuttle Creek Boulevard. The program will be "Railroad Empire Across the Heartland: Rephotographing Alexander Gardner's Westward Journey" by Jim Sherow, Professor of History at Kansas State University. The program will begin about 7:15 p.m.

15. Present proclamation for Mental Health Month-Ron Wells & Robbin Cole (5 minutes)

Wells presented the Proclamation for Mental Health Month to Robbin Cole, Director of Pawnee Mental Health.

Cole presented a mental health calendar to the Board. Cole presented a copy of the Pawnee Annual Report.

16. Public Notices-Alvin Perez or Julie Winter (3 minutes)

Perez said Monday, May 4th, Shilling Construction Company will begin milling and laying asphalt on Charles Little Road and Wharton Manor Road from Claflin south to Tecumseh Road.

These roads will closed during the construction process. Parking will not be allowed along these streets. Vehicles must be moved or will be towed. The project is anticipated to be completed in four days. The schedule may change due to weather delays.

Perez said beginning Monday, May 4th, Avery Avenue will be closed for construction repairs from the intersection of Kimball

Avenue proceeding south for approximately 400 feet.

Traffic will not be allowed through this project, take alternate routes. The project is anticipated to be completed in 3 days.

The schedule may change due to weather delays.

17. USD 383 LOB mail ballot election - Rich Vargo (2 minutes)

Vargo reported the USD 383 Mail Ballot Election voter registration deadline is May 12th. Vargo said ballots will be mailed May 13th. Vargo said ballots must be returned to the County Clerk's Office by noon on June 2nd.

10:00 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administration

18. Resolution Declaring the Intent of Riley County Fire District No. 1, County of Riley, Kansas to Issue its General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$650,000 for the Purpose of Acquiring, Constructing, Furnishing and Equipping a New Fire Station Facility and Giving Notice of Intent to Issue Such Bonds

Holeman said this is part of the process of putting financing in place for constructing the proposed Tuttle Cove Fire Station. As you know, the County has applied for a \$650,000 loan from USDA in order to supplement the \$150,000 designated from funds of the Fire District. If the loan is approved, funds generated by this bond issue of the Fire District will be used to repay that loan.

Move to approve "Resolution No. 050415-13, A Resolution Declaring the Intent of Riley County Fire District No. 1, County of Riley, Kansas to Issue its General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$650,000 for the Purpose of Acquiring, Constructing, Furnishing and Equipping a New Fire Station Facility and Giving Notice of Intent to Issue Such Bonds."

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Robert Boyd, County Commissioner

SECONDER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner

AYES: Boyd, Wells, Wilson

10:15 AM Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer

19. CIP Work Session

Shepek presented information on various financing methods for capital projects.

Boyd asked for various options to finance the ambulances, generator and tandem axle truck with plow and shredder.

Howser stated a used generator may be an alternative.

11:13 AM Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Robert Boyd, County Commissioner

SECONDER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner

AYES: Boyd, Wells, Wilson

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When: Gates open at 1 p.m. Sept. 6, with the concert at 6 p.m.
Where: Alcove Spring Historical Park, 6 miles south of Marysville
Cost: \$55 for adults; \$15 for children 12 years and younger
Tickets: On sale Friday at www.oort.org or (844) 252-6830

To buy tickets - use your smart phone and scan this QR Code:



Pedestrian bridge collapses

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A pedestrian bridge at a Topeka race track has collapsed as a dump truck loaded with dirt crossed it.

The Topeka Capital-Journal (http://bit.ly/1FxRGyV) reports that no injuries were reported Tuesday morning after the city-owned truck fell 15 feet and landed on its back end.

City spokeswoman Aly Van Dyke says the driver indicated he had been told he could use the bridge. A small sign on the

bridge says no vehicles larger than golf carts or quads are allowed.

The collapse occurred as many workers were at the track preparing for the NHRA Mello Yello drag racing event to start Friday. City workers had been working on fire hydrants. Plans are being made for a contractor to evaluate the damaged bridge and another smaller bridge at the track for safety.

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Obama's poverty mythology

By Stephen Moore
Heritage Foundation

Our class warrior in chief was at it again this week complaining about our "ideological divides that have prevented us from making progress" in solving problems like poverty. Just when you thought you'd heard it all. Our most ideological president perhaps ever is arguing that there is too much ideology in Washington. Wow. Apparently, an ideology is a firmly held belief that is held by other people — especially those on the right.

The president managed to blame the slow-growth economy and stagnant wages on everything from Ayn Rand (who promoted "cold-hearted policies" and classified everyone as a "moocher") to California's Proposition 13 (which is responsible for the Golden State's dreadful schools). Everything has contributed to our current malaise except for his own failed policies.

Here's a brief truth squad examination of Mr. Obama's mythologies and misstatements of fact. This was a long speech, so I will just identify as many of the whoppers as space permits.

President Obama: "The stereotype is that you've got folks on the left who just want to pour more money into social programs, and don't care anything about culture or parenting or family structures"

After more than \$20 trillion

spent on the War on Poverty since 1964 (in inflation adjusted dollars), how is it a stereotype to say the left only wants to pour money at programs? Just a few weeks ago, the president blamed the Baltimore riots on Republicans for not spending and borrowing even more money for his social programs. He sounded like a parody of himself.

If the left really wants to preserve family structure and advance cultural values such as work, why do they oppose reforms to a welfare system that pays teenage girls to have babies out of wedlock and disparage conservative proposals that require able-bodied Americans to work for their welfare benefits like food stamps?

President Obama: "It is a mistake for us to suggest that somehow every effort we make has failed and we are powerless to address poverty. That's just not true. First of all, just in absolute terms, the poverty rate when you take into account tax and transfer programs, has been reduced about 40 percent since 1967."

There's two problems with this defense of the welfare state. First, poverty was falling long before 1965 and at a faster rate than after the Great Society got rolling in the late 1960s. Second, the decline in poverty that Mr. Obama is boasting about is only after taking into account tax credits, government handouts and welfare

benefits. When excluding these programs, there has been little progress at all. The original purpose of the welfare state was to lift people into self-sufficiency, not to create a permanent underclass dependent on taxpayers. LBJ told us when he started these programs that "the days of the dole are numbered." We have passed Day 18,000.

Mr. Obama also wants it both ways. He says over and over, even in this speech, that the biggest problem with the economy is income inequality because the rich are getting richer and the poor poorer. If the poor are getting poorer, how have his social programs worked to reduce poverty?

President Obama: "In some ways, rather than soften the edges of the market, we've turbocharged it."

Wait, we've turbocharged the free market? When? Where?

President Obama: "There are programs that work to provide ladders of opportunity ... but we just haven't figured out how to scale them up."

Hold on. One of the few programs that has proven to provide "a ladder of opportunity" is the Washington D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program for more than 1,500 kids each year to attend private schools. They are all poor and almost all black. The graduation rates and test scores for these kids have improved in some cases markedly. But guess who doesn't want to

"scale it up"? In every budget Mr. Obama has submitted, he has proposed eliminating the program. It's more than a little hypocritical for a president who sends his own daughters to private schools that cost \$30,000 a year to prevent poor children in Washington, D.C. attend those same schools.

President Obama: "And so over time, families frayed. Men who could not get jobs left. Mothers who are single are not able to read as much to their kids."

The president acts as though "families frayed" by accident. No, families broke apart as a direct consequence of the welfare state, which financially took the place of the father and which he keeps expanding. In 1960, not even one in four black children were born without a father in the home. By 2010 that number had soared, tragically, to more than two of three black children being born out of wedlock. As economist Thomas Sowell has put it: "The black family survived centuries of slavery and generations of Jim Crow, but it disintegrated in the wake of the liberals' expansion of the welfare state."

President Obama: "You look at state budgets, you look at city budgets, and you look at federal budgets, and we don't make those same common investments that we used to And there's been a very specific ideological push not to make those investments."

Five Rules for an Age of Terrorism, Nuclear Weapons

By David Boaz

This article appeared in Orange County Register on May 15, 2015.

In this 15th year of war in Afghanistan, as the United States is becoming further entangled in military conflicts in Iraq, Syria and Yemen, we need a serious debate about whether we want to be permanently at war.

We can start by noting a few simple rules about war and foreign policy. First, war kills people. Especially in the modern world, it often kills as many civilians as soldiers. War cannot be avoided at all costs, but it should be avoided wherever possible. Proposals to involve the United States — or any government — in foreign conflict should be treated with great skepticism.

Second, war creates big government. That's one reason libertarians and other believers in limited government have tried to avoid war. Throughout history, war has provided an excuse for governments to arrogate money and power to them-

selves and to regiment society.

During World Wars I and II, the United States government assumed powers it could never have acquired in peacetime — powers such as the military draft, wage-and-price controls, rationing, close control of labor and production and astronomical tax rates. Constitutional restrictions on federal power were swiftly eroded.

That doesn't tell us whether those wars should have been fought. It does mean that we should understand the consequences of war for our entire social order and thus go to war only when absolutely necessary.

Third, the United States can no more police and plan the whole world than it can plan a national economy. Without a superpower threat to rally against, the political establishment wants us to deploy our military resources on behalf of democracy and self-determination around the world and against such vague or decentralized threats as terrorism, drugs and environmental destruction. The military is

designed to fight wars in defense of American liberty and sovereignty; even the world's largest bureaucracy is not well-equipped to be policeman and social worker to the world.

Fourth, our Cold War allies have recovered from the destruction of World War II and are fully capable of defending themselves. The countries of the European Union have a collective population of more than 500 million, a gross domestic product of \$18 trillion a year and nearly 2 million troops. They can defend Europe and deal with internal problems such as the conflict in Ukraine without U.S. assistance. South Korea has twice the population and 40 times the economic output of North Korea; it doesn't need our 29,000 troops to protect itself.

Fifth, the communications explosion means that the information imbalance between political leaders and citizens is much reduced. For all our vast intelligence network, presidents often watch world events unfolding on satellite news networks, along with all the rest of us. That means that presidents will find it more difficult to expect public deference on matters of foreign policy, so they should proceed cautiously in undertaking foreign commitments without popular support.

Despite the constant warnings of war hawks, and the ongoing images of conflict on our screens, the world is safer than it's ever been. And for the United States, the most secure power in world history, protect-

ed by two oceans and friendly neighbors, that's especially true.

The first purpose of government is to protect the rights of citizens. We must maintain an adequate national defense, but we can defend the vital interests of the United States with a military budget about half the size of the one we have — if we reorient our foreign policy to one of self-defense and restraint, not global commitments to collective security agreements.

Libertarians who propose to bring U.S. troops home and concentrate on the defense of the United States are sometimes accused of being isolationist. That's a misconception. Libertarians are, in fact, confident and cosmopolitan. We look forward to a world bound together by free trade, global communications and cultural exchange. We support maintaining the world's largest and most powerful military, by a wide margin, although not as big as the foreign-policy establishment wants.

Military intervention around the world costs Americans substantial blood and treasure and benefits them little. Although the world is growing closer together in many ways, it is inappropriate to view the whole world as a village in which everyone must pitch in to stop every fight. In a world with terrorism and nuclear weapons, it is better to keep military conflicts limited and regional rather than to escalate them through superpower involvement.

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Help Wanted

Part time kitchen assistant at the Riley County Seniors' Services Center, 4 hours/day M-F. Benefits are sick leave, holidays, paid vacation. Application and job description at the Senior Center, 301 N 4th St., Manhattan, KS or send resume to 401 Houston, Manhattan KS 66502 Call 1-800-432-2703 for information. EOE/AA

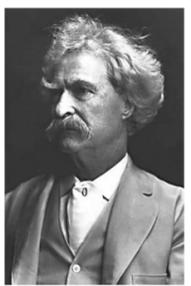
Help Wanted

Nutrition Coordinator position available. Outgoing and enthusiastic person, who is willing to host seniors by coordinating and serving meals, and filing monthly reports, 2.5 hours a day M-W-F with a possibility of 1 additional hour for food transportation. Applications available at the Ogden community Center, 220 Willow, Ogden Ks. Send resume to NC-FH AAA, 401 Houston St. Manhattan, KS or call 1-800-432-2703 or 785-776-9294. EOE/AA

Help Wanted

Part time cook at the Riley County Seniors' Services Center four (4) hours M-F. Benefits are sick leave, holidays, paid vacation. Application and job description at the Senior Center, 301 N 4th St., Manhattan, KS or send resume to 401 Houston, Manhattan KS 66502 Call 1-800-432-2703 for information. EOE/AA

"The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated"



Mark Twain

Some people think Newspapers are a dying breed....Those reports are also greatly exaggerated.

TELEVISION:
 Many will tell you that television is the only advertising you need. Ask your advertising agency to explain "Commercial Skip".

RADIO:
 Tell your Radio Representative that you want to get Serious.

The Answer:
 Commercial Skip is after a program has been recorded, pressing the SKIP button once during playback will automatically advance the tape 30-seconds forward bypassing recorded commercials. Pressing the skip button on the remote again will advance the recorded tape for another 30-seconds for a total of 60-seconds.

The Answer:
 He will drop over from fright. XM Satellite Radio and Sirius Satellite Radio, are two companies competing for the newly emerging satellite radio market. A market where there are no commercials. To Radio people that's SERIOUS.

NEWSPAPERS:
 Newspapers will change. For one thing, the Free Press feels the newspaper subscription is a thing of the past. Young people will read newspapers, they just may not want to pay for one. Advertise where you can see the results, advertise in newspapers, you could start with the Manhattan Free Press. We tell the truth, as we see it.



Wichita woman dies after hit-and-run at party

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — A 31-year-old woman has been arrested on suspicion of first-degree murder after an argument at a party ended with the death of the hostess.

The Wichita Eagle reports Lydia Treto, also 31, was killed after being hit by a vehicle Sunday evening in the backyard of her Wichita home.

Lt. Todd Ojile says witnesses

told investigators Treto was hosting a party when she and the suspect got into a violent argument.

Witnesses say the suspect and her two children got into an SUV after the woman was asked to leave, and that the suspect drove the vehicle into the backyard of the home and struck Treto, killing her.

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Hawaii's health care collapse a bad omen for state Obamacare

By Bruce Parker
Watchdog

The collapse of Hawaii's state-run health exchange has observers wondering which of the other beleaguered exchanges could be next to fail. Hawaii dumped its Obamacare exchange last week after state lawmakers refused to pump an additional \$28 million into what they saw as a failed experiment.

Despite using up \$135 million of an appropriated \$205 million, Hawaii Health Connector fell well short of goals, enrolling just 37,000 Hawaiians since 2013.

The program ceased taking new enrollees on Friday, and health officials will end outreach services at the end of the month. The exchange's 70-plus employees, temps and contractors will go home for good on Feb. 28, 2016.

The decision by lawmakers to abandon the exchange came after the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services restricted the state's grant money. Earlier this year, the group warned Hawaii Health Connector would lose funding for not integrating with Medicaid or reaching target enrollment goals.

As Hawaii begins transitioning to the federal exchange, Americans in other states may wonder what the death of Hawaii Health Connector portends for their state exchanges.

To date, the Obama administration's Department of Health and Human Services has spent \$5.4 billion on state exchange websites.

According to Americans for Tax Reform, top recipients of that \$5.4 billion are California (\$1.06 billion), New York (\$575 million), Oregon (\$305 million), Washington (\$302 million), Kentucky (\$289 million), Massachusetts (\$224 million), Hawaii (\$205 million) and Vermont (\$200 million).

Of the 16 states that have health insurance exchanges, at least three — Vermont, Minnesota and Colorado — are debating a permanent shut-down. Oregon, Massachusetts, Maryland, Nevada, New Mexico have already shut down or relaunched using new

technology vendors. In Vermont, a decision to call it quits could come by the end of the month.

Since launching in October 2013, Vermont Health Connect has been in constant meltdown. Last month, Vermont State Auditor Doug Hoffer released a 60-page report casting doubt on the survivability of the exchange.

Hoffer's report cites a host of problems critical to operations as of March: mismatching data between state, vendor and insurer systems, 70 moderate-risk security holes, lack of website functionality, 7,256 unprocessed change-of-circumstance requests, and 7,360 unprocessed renewals for customers in qualified health plans, among other issues.

The report found "serious deficiencies" in financial controls for the premium payment process, and called lack of financial reporting and full reconciliation of customer account balances "troubling."

In response, health officials are hurriedly working on major fixes set to complete on May 30 and Nov. 1. Gov. Peter Shumlin is expected to give a progress report by the end of the month.

Josh Archambault, senior fellow at the nonpartisan Foundation for Government Accountability, said other state exchanges may follow Hawaii Health Connector's lead, but for different reasons.

"The question of the timing of the collapses has to do with the political environment and whether state lawmakers are willing to fund operations. In Hawaii they weren't," Archambault said.

Archambault added that states with fees in the 5 percent to 7 percent range are generating enough funding to support ongoing operations. Hawaii's fees and sign-ups were too low to provide sustainable funds.

"I'm not sure the domino effect is a guarantee, because I think there will be some states that step forward and start funding their state-based exchange."

Darcie Johnston, founder of Vermonters for Health Care Freedom, says Vermont's problem is more technical than financial, as Vermont Health Connect, unlike Hawaii Health Connector, complies with the Affordable Care Act's integration to Medicaid.

"I don't think Vermont has the same fundamental problem. Although Hawaii had Medicaid expansion, it was separated out from the exchange marketplace, whereas ours has been co-mingled and built in," Johnston said.

"From a budgetary point of view, there will always be some appropriation activity going on for the exchange. The feds are

The Conservative Side...



not going to come in here and close the Vermont exchange," she added.

While Vermont isn't running afoul of Medicaid expectations, severe operational failures cited in the Hoffer report may yet doom the site. Vermont House Speaker Shap Smith said if the site is failing at the May 30 deadline, he will begin discussions on a transition to the federal exchange.

According to Johnston, the public may never know the truth since there's no way to verify claims from the administration.

"The governor's going to say

"it works fine, we're good to go, we're fixed.' They're not going to throw in the towel on this," Johnston predicted.

A wild card for all state exchanges is the upcoming King v. Burwell Supreme Court decision.

Plaintiffs in the case argue the Affordable Care Act mandates that only states with state-run exchanges may receive Obamacare subsidies and tax credits. The Obama administration opposes that argument, as it would mean Obamacare is applicable to just 17 states that have exchanges.

Archambault says if the

Court strikes down subsidies for states without exchanges, it is unlikely that states will rush out and create exchanges, in part due to disasters in Hawaii and elsewhere.

"Hawaii reinforces for those state legislators that they will not want to take on this very costly, complicated state-based exchange if the plaintiffs win in King v. Burwell. It costs so much money and is so difficult to set up ... they're going to avoid it like the plague," Archambault said.

Nicholas Horton, the FGA's policy impact specialist, sees one more reason states without

exchanges won't rush to create them — federal penalties.

"If they go in and say 'We're going to try to fix this' and try to set up a state exchange ... they'll be subjecting their state to massive Obamacare penalties," Horton said.

"If the Court strikes down the subsidies and every state moves to set up a state exchange, you're talking about potentially 375,000 businesses and 86 million employees who would then be subject to the employer mandate. I don't think that's a scenario state lawmakers want to put themselves or their taxpayers in."

King Crossword

Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

R	I	P	A	C	A	B	S	L	A	M	
I	D	O	L	O	R	E	H	E	M	O	
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A	I	M	S	A	S	H	T	R	A	Y	S
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Top US regulators warn of new threats to financial system

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The panel created to prevent a repeat of the 2008 financial crisis said Tuesday that banks and other financial institutions are stronger now but regulators must remain alert to new risks including the danger posed from cyberattack.

In its annual report to Congress, the Financial Stability Oversight Council said recent cyberattacks have heightened concerns about the potential of even more destructive attacks that could signifi-

cantly disrupt the workings of the financial system.

It said that greater attention must be paid to developing ways to combat computer hackers and it urged greater collaboration among financial institutions and government agencies to share data that could help thwart a growing threat.

"Over the past year, financial sector organizations and other U.S. businesses experienced numerous cyber incidents, including large-scale data breaches that compromised financial information," the panel said in its report.

The council was created by the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act which Congress passed in the wake of the worst financial crisis in seven decades. It is chaired by Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew and includes representatives from other government financial regulatory agencies including the Federal Reserve, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Lew was critical of legislation being pushed by Senate Banking Committee Chairman

Richard Shelby, R-Alabama, which Lew said would put the country at greater risks of another crisis.

"Senator Shelby's bill ... contains changes to our financial regulatory framework that would roll back the clock and leave us with weakened oversight, fewer consumer protections and less effective tools to address risks in the system," Lew said. "It would also needlessly tie this council in knots with delays and hurdles that would significantly impair our ability to identify and mitigate threats to financial stability,

while leaving potential risk unchecked."

Shelby's bill would raise the asset threshold for banks whose failure would present the greatest risks to the financial system from \$50 billion to \$500 billion. These banks are subject to greater regulatory oversight. The measure also gives regulators greater oversight powers over the Federal Reserve.

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen, who did not address the pending legislation in her

remarks, said that the largest and most complex banking firms have made "great strides" in building up their capital cushions. But she said more work is needed to understand new threats posed by rapidly changing markets.

"While we have made considerable progress in recent years in reforming the financial system, our job is not done," Yellen said. "We must continually look ahead to new risks to build and maintain the resilient financial system that can support economic growth."

Nurtured by Clinton network, O'Malley now becomes 2016 rival

By LISA LERER and KEN THOMAS

Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — More than a decade ago, Bill Clinton spotted a political star in the making, someone he predicted would go from a big-city mayor to a national leader — maybe even to the White House. "I won't be surprised if you go all the way," Clinton wrote in a 2002 letter to Baltimore's mayor, Martin O'Malley.

In the years that followed, Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton showed up time and again as their young ally gained stature as governor of Maryland, hosting fundraisers, headlining rallies and connecting him to their sprawling network of political donors.

Now, O'Malley is just days away from walking down the path Clinton laid out for him more than a decade ago, as he prepares to announce his presi-

dential campaign in Baltimore on May 30. And that means transforming himself from one of Hillary Clinton's most loyal supporters into her chief adversary for the Democratic nomination.

"It's certainly been a long and friendly relationship," said Steve Kearney, a former O'Malley aide. "Times change. He clearly thought she was the best candidate in 2008. We'll find out whether that remains true today."

O'Malley quickly endorsed Clinton in her nomination contest with Barack Obama, raised at least \$500,000 for her from Maryland donors when he was governor, defended her on cable news and traveled to New Hampshire to campaign for her.

"If I can, I will help her, wherever I can, whenever I can," O'Malley said then.

Today, O'Malley says that while he maintains "tremendous respect" for the Clintons, Democratic voters deserve more than a coronation. "What would be more awkward is if no one were willing to compete for the Democratic party's nomination for president," he told NPR last month. "That would be an extreme poverty indeed."

Hillary Clinton, who last spoke to O'Malley in October at a Maryland campaign rally, and her advisers remain reluctant to comment on O'Malley's candidacy. But some longtime supporters see his bid as an opportunistic maneuver to remain relevant, after his hand-picked Democratic successor lost the governor's race last year in heavily Democratic Maryland.

"Martin O'Malley is certainly not the first person who has

turned against her and who she helped enormously," said Stella O'Leary, a Democratic activist whose relationship to O'Malley dates back to the early 1990s when she hired the young man — who fronts a Celtic folk band — to perform at a birthday party for former Minnesota Sen. Eugene McCarthy. "I don't know how she doesn't lash out and start screaming."

Some who question his motives also think the challenge could benefit Clinton by giving her a debate sparring partner — as long as O'Malley avoids tough hits on her finances, family foundation and character.

In the waning days of the Clinton administration, O'Malley was starting his first term as mayor. During one of their earliest meetings, at the 2000 NAACP Convention in Baltimore, the Irish-American mayor asked to be included in a White House delegation going to Northern Ireland later that year. He scored a last-minute invite, joining many of Clinton's top political aides and fundraisers on the trip.

Others in that delegation remember O'Malley for his musical talents. At one stop, as they waited in a pub for the

notoriously late president, O'Malley and New York Rep. Joe Crowley pulled out their guitars and entertained the group with renditions of traditional Irish songs.

"Next thing I know we almost forgot all about the president," said Brian O'Dwyer, a New York lawyer and Clinton friend who's active in Irish-American issues. "It was a terrifically warm trip."

Years later, O'Malley would tap the connections he made on that trip to aid his political rise. During his first campaign for governor, Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, a top Clinton donor who met O'Malley on the Ireland trip, held a fundraiser for him at her Georgetown home. In Manhattan, lawyers at O'Dwyer's firm started a group called New York Irish for Martin O'Malley. And O'Leary's political action committee, Irish American Democrats, made campaign contributions.

O'Malley's relationship with the Clintons deepened as he became more involved with the Democratic Leadership Council, a centrist group that helped craft much of Bill Clinton's policy agenda. After the 2001 terrorist attacks, he

worked with Hillary Clinton, then a New York senator, on homeland security issues.

When O'Malley faced a tough race for governor in 2006, the Clintons held fundraisers and starred at rallies for him. In the final days of that race, Bill Clinton answered pleas from O'Malley aides to appear in a campaign ad — stopping in an airport to tape an endorsement of his "good friend."

While Hillary Clinton served as secretary of state, Bill Clinton returned to Baltimore four years later to help O'Malley win re-election.

O'Malley maintained his ties to Bill Clinton as he prepared for a presidential run. Last year, O'Malley tweeted a photo of himself with the ex-president at a New York book party, and flew to Denver solely to appear with him at the Clinton Global Initiative.

Some friends of all three don't see malice in O'Malley's ambitions, but also don't feel conflicted. "It's not that I love Martin any less but I love Hillary more," said O'Dwyer. "She was a partner in bringing peace to in Ireland. That type of loyalty is hard to ignore."

Iraqis abandoned US-supplied equipment

By ROBERT BURNS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iraqi troops abandoned dozens of U.S. military vehicles, including tanks, armored personnel carriers and artillery pieces when they fled Islamic State fighters in Ramadi on Sunday, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

A Pentagon spokesman, Col. Steve Warren, estimated that a half dozen tanks were abandoned, a similar number of artillery pieces, a larger number of armored personnel carriers and about 100 wheeled vehicles like Humvees. He said some of the vehicles were in working condition; others were not because they had not been moved for months.

This repeats a pattern in which defeated Iraq security forces have, over the past year, left behind U.S.-supplied military equipment, prompting the U.S. to destroy them in subsequent airstrikes against Islamic State forces.

Asked whether the Iraqis should have destroyed the vehicles before abandoning the city in order to keep them from enhancing IS's army, Warren said, "Certainly preferable if they had been destroyed; in this case they were not."

Warren also said that while the U.S. is confident that Ramadi will be retaken by Iraq, "It will be difficult."

The fall of Ramadi has prompted some to question the viability of the Obama administration's approach in Iraq, which is a blend of retraining and rebuilding the Iraqi army, prodding Baghdad to reconcile with the nation's Sunnis, and bombing Islamic State targets

from the air without committing American ground combat troops.

"The president's plan isn't working. It's time for him to come up with overarching strategy to defeat the ongoing terrorist threat," House Speaker John Boehner said.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said President Barack Obama has always been open to suggestions for improving the U.S. approach in Iraq.

"It's something that he's talking about with his national security team just about every day, including today," Earnest said.

Derek Harvey, a retired Army colonel and former Defense Intelligence Agency officer who served multiple tours in Iraq, says that while the extremist group has many problems and weaknesses, it is "not losing" in the face of ineffective Sunni Arab opposition.

"They are adaptive and they remain well armed and well resourced," Harvey said of the militants. "The different lines of operation by the U.S. coalition remain disjointed, poorly resourced and lack an effective operational framework, in my view."

One alternative for the Obama administration would be a containment strategy — trying to fence in the conflict rather than push the Islamic State group out of Iraq. That might include a combination of airstrikes and U.S. special operations raids to limit the group's reach. In fact, a Delta Force raid in Syria on Friday killed an IS leader known as Abu Sayyaf who U.S. officials

said oversaw the group's oil and gas operations, a major source of funding.

Officials have said containment might become an option but is not under active discussion now.

Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, issued a written statement Monday that suggested Ramadi will trigger no change in the U.S. approach.

"Setbacks are regrettable but not uncommon in warfare," Dempsey said. "Much effort will now be required to reclaim the city."

It seems highly unlikely that Obama would take the more dramatic route of sending ground combat forces into Iraq to rescue the situation in Ramadi or elsewhere. A White House spokesman, Eric Shultz, said Monday the U.S. will continue its support through airstrikes, advisers and trainers.

The administration has said repeatedly that it does not believe Iraq can be stabilized for the long term unless Iraqis do the ground fighting.

Pentagon officials insisted Monday the current U.S. approach to combating IS in Iraq is still viable and that the loss of Ramadi was merely part of the ebb and flow of war, not a sign that the Islamic State had exposed a fatal weakness in the Iraqi security forces and the U.S. strategy.

Others are skeptical. "We don't really have a strategy at all," former Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Tuesday on MSNBC. "We're basically playing this day by day."

Gates, who headed the Pentagon for Obama as well as President George W. Bush's administration before that, said "right now, it looks like they're (Iraq) going the way of Yugoslavia," suggesting an eventual breakup of the state.

The Institute for the Study of War, which closely tracks developments in Iraq, said Ramadi was a key Islamic State victory.

"This strategic gain constitutes a turning point in ISIS' ability to set the terms of battle in Anbar as well to project force in eastern Iraq," the institute said.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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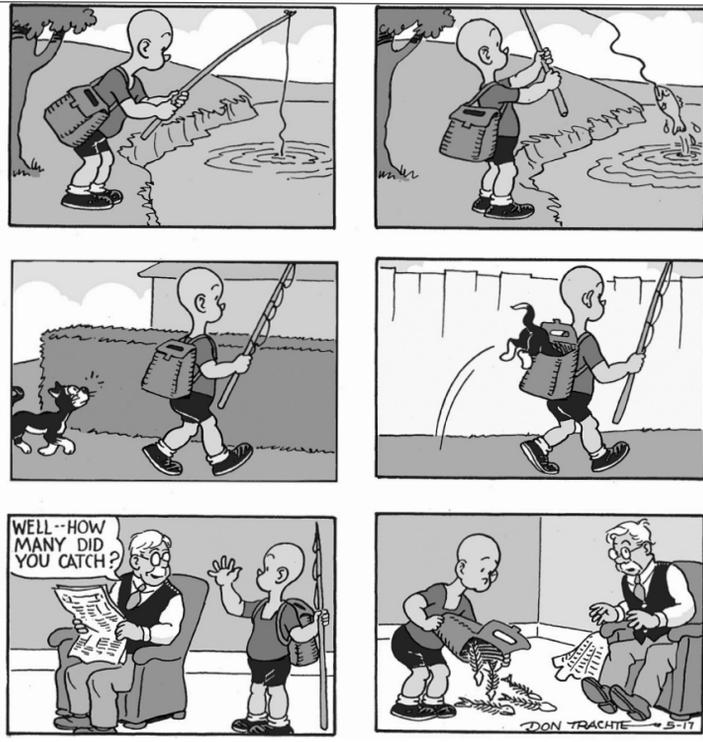
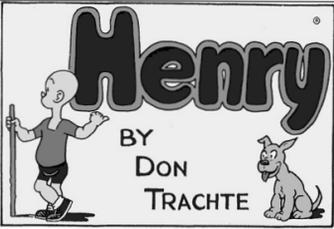
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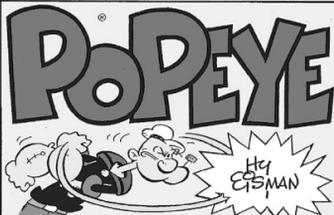
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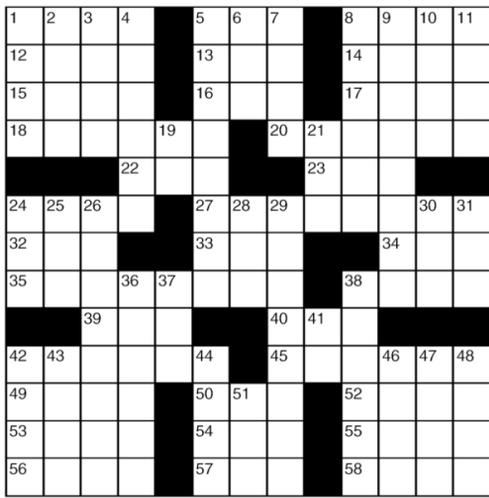
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 - 5 Urban transport
 - 8 Bridge coup
 - 12 "American -"
 - 13 Tramcar fill
 - 14 Blood (Pref.)
 - 15 Cat call?
 - 16 "Gosh!"
 - 17 State with conviction
 - 18 Hero meat
 - 20 Dervishes
 - 22 Still
 - 23 Profit
 - 24 Intends
 - 27 Butt holders
 - 32 "The Raven" writer
 - 33 Placekicker's pride
 - 34 Ball-bearing item
 - 35 Discourtesy
 - 38 With 3-Down, info for inter-
- DOWN**
- 1 Edges
 - 2 Concept
 - 3 See 38-Across
 - 4 Nonstop
 - 5 Think deeply
 - 6 Exist
 - 7 Vegan's no-no
 - 8 Half a dinner-table pair
 - 9 Rise
 - 10 Cupid's specialty
 - 11 Takes blades to blades
 - 19 Yours truly
 - 21 Pismire
 - 24 Spring mo.
 - 25 Chit
 - 26 Ponder
 - 28 "Help!"
 - 29 Be indecisive
 - 30 Longing
 - 31 Witness
 - 36 Got the lead out?
 - 37 Fresh
 - 38 Happy Gilmore, e.g.
 - 41 Accomplish
 - 42 Mr. Sharif
 - 43 Color quality
 - 44 Malaria symptom
 - 46 Entice
 - 47 Send forth
 - 48 Landowner's paper
 - 51 Thickness



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Answers on page 4



Taste Chicken Wings

Brining brings out the succulence of poultry, and this quick-brine of salt, beer and brown sugar will intensify the taste of these spicy wings. To make them truly authentic, serve with ranch dressing and crisp celery stalks.

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon packed brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon coarse salt
- 1 bottle (12 oz) beer
- 2 lb chicken wings (12)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons onion powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons garlic powder

- 1 1/2 teaspoons paprika
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup red pepper sauce

Directions

- 1 Heat oven to 350°F. Line cookie sheet with foil.
- 2 In large bowl, beat brown sugar, salt and beer with whisk. Add chicken wings; toss gently to coat. Refrigerate 30 minutes to brine.
- 3 In large resealable food-storage plastic bag, mix onion powder, garlic powder and paprika. Drain chicken; pat dry with paper towels. Discard brine. Add chicken to bag; toss until evenly coated. Place chicken on cookie sheet.
- 4 In 1-quart saucepan, melt butter. Stir in pepper sauce. Heat to a simmer. Pour mixture over wings.
- 5 Bake 30 to 35 minutes or until juice of chicken is clear when thickest part is cut to bone (165°F). If desired, shake extra pepper sauce over wings after baking.

That's The Brakes

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Conlon, Griep Highlight 7 Wildcats Named All-Big 12

TULSA, Okla. -- Shane Conlon became the second Wildcat ever to earn All-Big 12 First Team honors twice in a career as the redshirt senior, who was a unanimous selection, and Nate Griep, who was named All-Big 12 Second Team, highlighted a group of seven Wildcats to pick up post-season honors announced by the conference office.

Along with Conlon and Griep's Big 12 accolades, senior Max Brown and newcomers Corey Fischer, Tyler Moore and Tyler Wolfe were named All-Big 12 Honorable Mention while freshman pitcher Bryce Ward was selected to the All-Big 12 Freshman Team.

In addition to being the second Wildcat to ever earn All-Big 12 First Team honors twice -- joined by Pat Maloney (2001-02) -- Conlon is the 10th player in K-State's overall history to earn all-conference first team honors two times. Eight players were selected to the All-Big Eight First Team from 1958 to 1996.

A fifth-year senior, Conlon paced the Wildcats with a .308 batting average, 57 hits and a .401 on-base percentage during the regular season. Within his second-highest hit total of his career, Conlon notched his 200th career hit on May 5 at Wichita State, becoming the 18th player in program history to reach that milestone.

In 49 games this year, Conlon had 13 doubles, two triples, two home runs, 26 RBIs and 10 stolen bases to go with his .300+ batting average. Defensively, the first baseman committed a career-low three errors, turning in a .994 fielding percentage.

Conlon enters this week's

Big 12 Baseball Championship tied for sixth in K-State history with 209 career games played while he is also tied for fourth in hit by pitches with 34.

Griep, who is the seventh Wildcat pitcher in the last nine years to be named All-Big 12, has put together one of the best seasons by a starting pitcher in the Brad Hill era as he is 6-2 with a 2.35 ERA and 63 strikeouts in 12 starts this season. In six Big 12 starts, the redshirt sophomore had a 1.96 ERA, which finished as fourth-best in the conference. His overall ERA, registered over a career-high 76 2/3 innings, was seventh-best.

Griep limited hitters to a .215 batting average against over the course of the season, which is the best clip against by a Wildcat starting pitcher in program history.

Brown hit .272 (53-for-195) with six doubles, six triples and a career-high 33 RBIs in 53 games of his final season in a Wildcat uniform. The Bellevue Community College transfer not only led the Wildcats in RBIs for the overall season, but in Big 12 play, Brown had a team-best 17 RBIs, which were more than he had in all 43 games as a junior (14). Meanwhile, his six triples were the second-most by a Big 12 hitter this regular season and the most by a Wildcat since 2011.

A transfer from Madison College, Fischer went from a starting pitcher to key reliever for K-State down the stretch of the season. In 10 relief outings in conference-only games, the junior was 3-2 with a 2.45 ERA and .212 batting average against. Over his first nine Big 12 relief appearances, the right-



Shane Conlon and Nate Griep

hander allowed just one run and recorded a stretch of 13 1/3 innings without a run and just three hits against from April 2-May 10.

Moore, a Coffeyville Community College transfer, played in 46 games in his first regular season as a Wildcat, hitting .302 (48-for-159) with 11 doubles, two triples, four home runs and 29 RBIs. The junior, who was awarded a Big 12 player of the week honor twice this year, had the most home runs by a K-State catcher since 2012. Behind the plate, the Shawnee, Kansas native threw out 38% of attempted base stealers (16-for-42).

Starting every game at shortstop for K-State, Wolfe finished

the Big 12 season leading the Wildcats with a .366 batting average, 30 hits, 13 walks and .448 OBP, which were fourth, eighth, 11th and third, respectively, among all conference hitters. The junior finished out the regular season hitting .411 (23-for-56) with 10 walks and 14 RBIs in the final 14 games, as he batted .286 (53-for-183) on the year.

Wolfe also appeared in three games as a pitcher, including in two Big 12 games, and did not allow a run while surrendering just one hit in four total innings.

Ward, the sixth Wildcat since 2011 to be named to the conference's All-Freshman Team, appeared in 18 games this year,

posting a 2.56 ERA and .254 batting average against. In eight relief outings in Big 12 games, the Jenks, Oklahoma native had a 1.38 ERA and .191 batting average against. He recorded his first career save at Oklahoma State on March 27, helping the Wildcats to a 4-2 win over the No. 12 Cowboys.

The All-Big 12 team and individual awards are voted on by the league's head coaches, who are not allowed to vote for their own players. For a complete list of all Big 12 postseason awards, click here.

This year marked the third time since 2009 that K-State had seven or more All-Big 12 honors.

K-State will open the 2015 Phillips 66 Big 12 Baseball Championship on Wednesday at 4 p.m. when it takes on third-seeded Oklahoma at ONEOK Field in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The sixth-seeded Wildcats went 1-2 against the Sooners in the regular season, a series held in Manhattan from May 8-10.

All-Big 12 First Team
Shane Conlon, RS Sr.

All-Big 12 Second Team
Nate Griep, RHP, RS So.

All-Big 12 Honorable Mention
Max Brown, OF, Sr.
Corey Fischer, RHP, Jr.
Tyler Moore, C, Jr.
Tyler Wolfe, INF, Jr.

K-State Women Place Second at Big 12s

AMES, Iowa -- Akela Jones snagged high-point honors and Kim Williamson took home the high jump title, highlighting a stellar final day showing for K-State Track and Field at the Big 12 Outdoor Championships in Ames, Iowa.

Tallying 129.50 points over the three-day meet, the women finished second to only Texas (141.50), while the men took eighth with a score of 62 points.

Head coach Cliff Rovelto had plenty of praise for the overall team effort, mentioning the women's performance particular as going above and beyond even his expectations coming into the meet.

"From our perspective, we scored well beyond what I had us doing. We had so many athletes perform well," Rovelto said. "Coming into the meet, I had us at mid-90s and I had Texas with 160 points or so and then there were literally the two-through-six spots I had between the 90s and low-100s. So, obviously that is not what happened. It was a great effort."

Finishing second-place outdoors for the first time-ever in the Big 12 era, the women's overall point total was also a program-best. A point total even better than the back-to-back outdoor champion squads of 2001 (128.25 pts.) and 2002 (121 pts.) - squads which Rovelto said have a lot of common with this year's group.

"This year has definitely been a phenomenal one," Rovelto said. "How do you say this is better than the years where you won the championships? It's kind of hard to say, but certainly I think it's safe to say that the team we're placing second to now is probably a little bit superior to the teams we were finishing just ahead of both those years. So there's a lot of similarities in a way and that team was pretty complete. We were scoring in a lot of different event areas back then and we're scoring in a lot

of different areas now. We still obviously has holes, and so does everybody, but we really had a lot of good showings from just about everybody this weekend."

Jones Tabbed High-Point Scorer a Second Time

Since joining the Wildcats this season, Akela Jones has been nothing short of magnificent.

A junior-transfer from Oklahoma Baptist, Jones dominated indoor competition to the tune of one conference title, high-point scorer honors at the conference meet and All-American designation in three events. With her latest showing at Big 12 Outdoors, Jones looks well on her way to a repeat performance. Though not capturing an individual title on the weekend, Jones added runner-up showings in both the high jump and 60-meter hurdles in today's action to her second-place effort in the long jump earlier this weekend, as well helped the 4x100 and 4x400 relay squads to scoring performances.

Rovelto had significant praise for Jones on each of the five events she competed in on the weekend.

"[Akela] had a great meet," Rovelto said. "Her long jump was a school record, her hurdles time in the prelims was a school record. Obviously she ran a little bit faster in the final with the wind going the way it was today, and her high jump was a personal best. She also ran very well on both relays. She ran a phenomenal 4x100 anchor leg, I thought, and she had a stumble there in the 4x400 but still clocked 54-flat. Take out that stumble and she's probably running 52-something. So she had a great weekend."

For her efforts, Jones tallied a gaudy 26.50 points over five events to earn high-point scorer of the meet over Texas' Morolake Akinosun. The point total was the highest tallied by a women's athlete outdoors in

the Big 12-era since Marshvet Hooker of Texas scored 32.50 points in 2006 and she joins Austr Skujyte (2001, 2002) and Renetta Seiler as the only Wildcat to earn the honor in the Big 12-era.

Rovelto added Jones' will only continue to get better as her career moves forward.

"For her, not taking any light away from this weekend, but she's working towards something, not just the NCAA meet, but even beyond that. A lot of what we're doing here is a part of the bigger picture for her down the road. It's part of the reason why she [competed in five events], part of the reason why we're still working hard, still preparing for those bigger goals down the road."

Fresh off of setting the 60H school record in yesterday's preliminary action, Jones excelled against a stacked field in the final, clocking a wind-assisted 13.11 seconds for second-place. Eclipsing her previous wind-aided season-best of 13.30, Jones' time was the fastest wind-aided time in school history. She finished behind only Tiffani McReynolds of Baylor (12.70), while outlasting both Morgan Snow of Texas (13.15) and Le'Tristan Pledger of Texas Tech (13.19) -- all three of whom entered the meet ranked in the Division I top-10.

Her other runner-up performance on the day came in the high jump, where she tied a personal best 1.87m/6-01.50 to finish second behind teammate Kim Williamson. And in the relays, Jones helped the 4x100 group of Zanri Van der Merwe, A'Keyla Mitchell and Jordan Matthews to fifth and the 4x400 squad of Mitchell, Sonia Gaskin and Tia' Gamble to third.

Women Score 25.50 Points in High Jump

Kim Williamson highlighted an excellent showing by the women's high jump group, capturing the conference title in

the event and adding 10 points to a total team tally of 25.50 points. Clearing 1.87m/6-01.50 on her first attempt, Williamson matched a season-best, while securing the indoor/outdoor title sweep in the event for the season. Notching scoring efforts along with Williamson were Akela Jones, Alyx Treasure and Rhizlane Siba.

For Williamson and Jones, who also finished 1-2 at Indoors this season, the match-up was near identical with both athletes matching each other bar for bar and Williamson winning by virtue of less missed attempts. Jones' clearance at 1.87m came on her third attempt and despite missing at 1.90m in her following three attempts, the mark matched a personal best for the junior -- both she and Williamson tied Rita Graves at No. 4 in school history with their efforts.

Rovelto said Williamson's performance was more than deserving of the conference title.

"For Kim, it's one centimeter beneath her PR [1.88m/6-02]. Anyone who was watching the competition knows that Kim

was jumping very well. She had a couple of hiccups in there, but really looked to be the athlete that was going to come out on top today."

With the victory, Williamson's title was the first not captured by a Longhorn high jumper outdoors since 2008, while she also became only the second Wildcat in school story to win the Big 12 title outdoors -- Wanita Dykstra placed first in 1997.

As for the remaining Wildcat high jump scorers, Treasure cleared 1.81m/5-11.25 to take fourth and Siba cleared 1.76m/5-09.25 to tie for sixth. Siba's clearance in particular was an outdoor season-best and her best showing in the event since clearing a Moroccan national record of 1.81m/5-11.25 in her Wildcat debut this indoor season.

Freshmen Shine for K-State
K-State garnered key contributions from three freshmen Wildcats on Sunday, with A'Keyla Mitchell and Terrell Smith recording multiple scoring efforts on the track and Nija Collier taking third in the triple jump.

First on the track, Mitchell and Smith both entered day three coming off school record showings in the 200-meter prelims. For Mitchell, she took a solid third-place in the 200m finals, while also capturing sixth in the 100-meter dash. Adding to her final point totals were scoring efforts as both part of the 4x100 and 4x400 relay squads to give her 12.50 points on the day -- a half-point better than her showing at Big 12 Indoors.

Smith, on other hand, sped his way to an eighth-place finish in the 100m and fourth-place finish in 200m. Both wind-aided times, Smith was the lone freshman to qualify for the 100m final, while he also finished only .02 seconds behind Baylor's Kevin Harris (21.13) in the 200m -- the only other freshman to qualify in that event final. The Vicksburg, Mississippi, native finished with an overall point total of 6.25 thanks to the individual efforts in the sprints, as well as taking seventh with Dane Steen, Ifeanyichukwu Otuonye and Kancil Harrison in the 4x100.

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