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## City Business...

### Award Contract for CDBG 11th and Fremont Streets Intersection Improvement Project

**City Memo To Commissioners:**  
**PRESENTERS: Karen Davis, AICP, Director of Community Development**

#### BACKGROUND

On July 1, 2010, the City of Manhattan began participating in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This program provides funding for projects that benefit low and moderate income (LMI) persons. The Program is guided by a 2010-2014 Strategic Plan, which includes objectives to meet identified community needs. One objective included in the 2010-2014 Strategic Plan is improvement of the livability and safety of eligible neighborhoods through infrastructure improvements. An Annual Action Plan is developed each program year to implement projects and activities that meet Strategic Plan objectives. The approved 2014 Program Year Annual Action Plan included partial funding for intersection improvements at 11th and Fremont Streets, which is in an eligible LMI neighborhood (as identified through block group data from HUD and the U.S. Census.)

#### DISCUSSION

The need for improvements at the intersection of 11th and Fremont Streets was identified by City Administration during annual consultations conducted prior to drafting the Annual Plan. Traffic volumes and accident rates had risen in recent years on the 11th Street and Fremont Street corridors. Public Works Staff completed traffic counts to evaluate the performance of the existing intersection and it was determined that this location had surpassed the threshold required to warrant signalization. (Editor's Note: Here comes another Stupid Round Thing.)

City Administration evaluated a number of alternative designs to address the multi-modal demand on the intersection and to improve the safety and performance of this intersection for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists.

Two bids were received for the proposed project with T & M Concrete Construction Company, of Junction City, Kansas, submitting the low base bid of \$432,077.50, and \$15,165.71.00 for Bid Alternate No. 1, for a total project cost of \$447,243.21. The Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost for the base bid was \$417,335.00 and \$17,005.00 for Bid Alternate No. 1, for a total project cost of \$434,340.00 which was \$12,903.21 less than the lowest bidder.

Upon review of the bids, the Parks and Recreation Department agreed to provide funding for Bid Alternate No. 1 which encompasses extra sidewalk widening. The City Engineer concluded that the best alternative was to award a contract to T & M Concrete Construction Company for the base bid of \$432,077.50 and Bid Alternate No. 1 of \$15,165.71 for a total amount of \$447,243.21.

#### FINANCING

CDBG funds will finance \$200,015.51 of the base project costs, and the Public Works Department will provide \$232,061.99 for the balance of the base project cost. The Public Works Department's share of project costs were programmed and budgeted to come from Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds. The Parks and Recreation Department will provide \$15,165.71 for Bid Alternate No. 1 from the Special Parks and Recreation Fund.

Any change orders that may occur for the base bid will be financed by Public Works and any change orders for Bid Alternate No. 1 will be financed by Parks and Recreation.

You Can See The Complete Memo by going to the City of Manhattan Web and look under City Commission and

## If Iran starts cheating, Netanyahu has no choice but to strike

By James Jay Carafano, Ph.D.  
Heiritage Foundation

The Vienna Agreement overseeing Iran's nuclear program brought no joy to Tel Aviv.

"Israel is not bound by this deal with Iran," declared Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, "because Iran continues to seek our destruction." He then added pointedly, "We will always defend ourselves."

Of course, Netanyahu is right. Israel, like all nations, has the inherent right of self-defense. The crucial question is: How will Israel choose to exercise that right?

The right of self-defense does not demand a country wait until it is physically attacked before taking steps to protect itself. But there are rules - and they mark the difference between preventative war and pre-emptive action.

Preventative war is when a country strikes another first because it perceives a potential future threat. Early in the Cold War, there was serious debate in U.S. policy circles about launching a preventative nuclear strike on the Soviet Union - before Stalin had a chance to build-up his nuclear arsenal. It never happened, partly because such action would have been unethical, immoral and illegal.

While preventative war is beyond the pale, pre-emptive war is not. If a nation believes it is under threat it has the inherent to protect itself. That



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

requires judiciously weighing two factors: intent and actions.

First, is someone really threatening an attack? Iranian leaders and street demonstrators routinely chant "Death to Israel" and paint glorious visions of "a world without America."

It can be argued that these are just rhetorical constructs, to be taken no more literally than football fans' calls for their opponents to be "crushed."

On the other hand, Hitler candidly published his dreams of world domination in 1925. Few took it seriously as a blueprint for action; most dismissed it as Hitler just "playing to the crowd."

The Jews know how that turned out better than anyone. And they've heard nothing but a steady drumbeat of anti-Israeli rhetoric from Tehran since the regime took over. Is Netanyahu supposed to just

ignore it?

Second, there is the issue of whether your adversary has the means to carry out the threat.

Just overlay the range of Iran's missile force on a map of the Middle East, and it's clear Tehran has the ability to deliver the goods.

This leaves us with the ultimate question: What is the appropriate and proportional response?

The question isn't new. Arguing over how to deal with the Iranian threat has been a top-tier strategic debate for Israeli leaders for over a decade.

And there's nothing to suggest that they've figured out the answer. If they had, they would have acted by now.

What complicates the Israelis' decision is that they can't deal with Tehran in isolation. Their plate is piled high with serious security concerns.

Hamas is making trouble from the Gaza Strip while Hezbollah makes trouble from Lebanon. The Sinai's a mess, and they have to worry about the stability of Egypt and Jordan. And then there's ISIS, whose reach keeps extending throughout the region.

Worrisome, too, is the relentless information warfare, a global campaign aimed at undermining the legitimacy of the Israeli state and the Israeli people. And increasingly wobbly policies from its most important ally, the U.S., are giving Tel Aviv the jitters.

Small wonder that self-defense looms paramount in the minds of Israeli leaders. They are duty-bound to protect their people.

Israel's right to defend itself is unquestionable. But how it should exercise that right remains a thorny question.

All that can be said with absolute confidence is that the Vienna agreement has not made Israel's options any easier. By empowering Iran, the deal is all but guaranteed to spark a conventional arms race - and quite possible a nuclear one - in what is already the most unstable and dangerous region in the world.

- A 25-year Army veteran, James Jay Carafano is vice president of Defense and Foreign Policy Studies for The Heritage Foundation.

## Helping The Breadbasket



As part of its continued commitment to the local community, the LongHorn Steakhouse and Olive Garden restaurants in Manhattan recently hosted a Campfire Breakfast, silent auction and car wash charity event to benefit Flint Hills Breadbasket. A total of \$1,605 was raised for the local food bank. All proceeds went towards Flint Hills Breadbasket's mission to minimize hunger and poverty through the distribution of available food and to nurture projects that will help alleviate hunger and poverty. From left to right... Josh Stockman, Manager at the LongHorn Steakhouse in Manhattan, John Green, Manager at the LongHorn Steakhouse in Manhattan, Maribeth Kieffer, Executive Director of Flint Hills Breadbasket, Katrina Marshall, Managing Partner of the LongHorn Steakhouse in Manhattan.

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# Riley County Minutes Cost Taxpayers \$700 Per Month

**Editor's Note: (What the Riley County Clerk and the Riley County Commissioners are doing with the Commission Minutes is Deceiving. Look at the Minutes taken by County Clerk Rich Vargo, the County is paying \$700 per month to produce nothing but filler and last year it did not cost extra to write a complete history of the meeting.)**

Riley County Commission Minutes 27 July 2015  
8:30 AM Call to Order

Business Meeting  
3. Sign a Tax Roll Correction for Farmers State Bank/Plaza West Strip, LLC

Move to approve the Tax Roll Correction for Farmers State Bank/Plaza West Strip, LLC (216-14-0-10-03-006.02-0) for tax year 2014. This results in a decrease in tax dollars of \$20,548.88.

RESULT: ADOPT-ED [UNANIMOUS]  
MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner  
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner  
AYES: Wells, Wilson  
ABSENT: Boyd

Review Minutes  
4. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Jul 23, 2015 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.  
RESULT: ACCEPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]  
MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner  
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner  
AYES: Wells, Wilson  
ABSENT: Boyd

Review Tentative Agenda

5. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

6. Discuss Press Conference  
Jennifer Wilson - Fair update  
Larry Couchman - Hot Weather Health Precautions

9:00 AM Shelly Williams, Community Corrections Director

7. FY16 Revised Final Budgets/FY15 Year-End Outcome Report

Williams thanked the Board for the approval to fund the cost of their merit pay.

Williams presented the revised final budgets for FY 2015 Year-end outcomes.

Move to approve the Behavioral Health FY16 Revised Budget in the amount of \$107,313.00.

Move to approve the Adult

Services FY16 Revised Budget in the amount of \$438,341.00.

Moved to approve the FY15 Quarterly and End of Year Outcome Report.

RESULT: ADOPT-ED [UNANIMOUS]  
MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner  
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner  
AYES: Wells, Wilson  
ABSENT: Boyd

9:15 AM Lori Feldkamp, Big Lakes Developmental Center Director

9:30 AM Press Conference  
8. N. 52nd Street Culvert Replacement 2015- Leon Hobson (2 minutes)

Hobson said a culvert replacement project is scheduled to begin on North 52nd Avenue, Monday, August 3, 2015. The project is located approximately 500 feet west of Silver Creek Road. The road will be closed to the traveling public from Anderson Avenue east to Silver Creek Road.

Hobson said the project has been allotted one week, and is expected to be completed by August 10, 2015. Adverse weather conditions may cause unexpected delays.

9. Seal Deep Creek 2015- Leon Hobson (2 minutes)

Hobson said an asphalt seal is scheduled to begin Monday, July 27, 2015 on Deep Creek Road. The project is scheduled to take 2 working days.

Hobson said adverse weather conditions may cause unexpected delays or rescheduling.  
Hobson said traffic will be allowed through this project, but drivers should expect delays of up to 15 minutes. Be advised that fresh asphalt oil will be applied - take alternate routes when possible.

10. Fair Activities Report- Gregg Eyestone or Ginny Barnard (5 minutes)

Eyestone stated the Riley County Fair has been great. Eyestone said the carnival rides are available tonight. Eyestone discussed the Riley County Fair activities.

10:10 AM C l a n c y Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

11. Administrative Work Session

12. Sign Conservation Easement

Holeman presented the conservation easement requested from the City of Manhattan.

Move that the Board sign and accept the conservation easement as presented.

RESULT: ADOPT-ED [UNANIMOUS]  
MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner  
SECONDER: Ronald Wells,

County Commissioner  
AYES: Wells, Wilson  
ABSENT: Boyd

13. Pending County Projects  
County Counselor  
Holeman presented the Commission Project List.

14. Executive session to discuss a performance matter involving non-elected personnel.

Move that the County Commission recess into executive session pursuant to the non-elected personnel matters exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act in order to discuss a performance matter involving a county employee and to protect the privacy of the employee, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 10:25 a.m.

RESULT: ADOPT-ED [UNANIMOUS]  
MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner  
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner  
AYES: Wells, Wilson  
ABSENT: Boyd

10:25 AM  
Move to go out of executive session.

RESULT: ADOPT-ED [UNANIMOUS]  
MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner  
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner  
AYES: Wells, Wilson  
ABSENT: Boyd

No binding action was taken during the executive session.  
Adjournment

Move to adjourn after the Intergovernmental Luncheon.

RESULT: ADOPT-ED [UNANIMOUS]  
MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner  
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner  
AYES: Wells, Wilson  
ABSENT: Boyd  
12:00 PM

Intergovernmental Luncheon  
15. Intergovernmental Luncheon Agenda

**Riley County Commission Minutes 8:30 AM Call to Order**

9:00 AM  
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 Adam Schooler, a Public Works Operator I, in the Public

Works - Road & Bridge Department, for Separation from County Service, effective August 5, 2015.

4. Sign Riley County Position Action Form(s)

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for a Public Works Operator II, in the Public Works - Road & Bridge Department, at a grade I.

5. 2016 Budget Resolution

Move to approve "Resolution No. 073015-20, A Resolution expressing the property taxation policy of the Board of Riley County Commissioners with respect to financing the 2016 annual budget for Riley County, the Riley County Rural Fire District, University Park Water & Sewer District, Terra Heights Sewer District, Carson Sewer District, Valleywood Stormwater District and cemeteries included in the Riley County 2015 Budget."

RESULT: ADOPT-ED [UNANIMOUS]  
MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner  
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner  
AYES: Wells, Wilson  
ABSENT: Boyd

6. Approve vouchers

Move to approve the following warrant vouchers for July 31, 2015:

2015 Budget	
County General	950,137.43
Health Department	
Teen Court Collected Fund	33,477.67
Court Technology	110.68
Juvenile Intake Case Mgr	475.00
Riley Co Juvenile Service	344.25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,915.97</b>

Motor Vehicle Operations	1,296.25
21st Jud Dist Teen Court	2,816.31
Riley Co Adult Services	130.00
Economic Development	3,386.95
Emergency 911	41,422.57
Solid Waste	3,849.65
County Building	1,402.18
RCPD Levy/Op	10,288.41
Riley Co Fire Dist #1	949,825.04
Fire Dist #1 Tuttle Cove	12,817.43
University Park W&S	2,178.75
Univ Park Capital Project	320.00
Hunters Island Water Dist	60.00
Deep Creek Sewer	1,012.81
Moehlman Bottoms	177.73
Konza Water Operations	319.84
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,017,764.92</b>

RESULT: ADOPT-ED [UNANIMOUS]  
MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner  
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner  
AYES: Wells, Wilson  
ABSENT: Boyd

Review Minutes

7. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Jul 27, 2015 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

RESULT: ACCEPT-ED [UNANIMOUS]  
MOVER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner  
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner  
AYES: Wells, Wilson  
ABSENT: Boyd

Review Tentative Agenda  
8. Tentative Agenda  
Press Conference Topics

9. Discuss Press Conference

Jennifer Wilson - Fair & Livestock auction update

Larry Couchman - see if there was any EMS related activity at the Fair

Ron Wells - National Disaster Resiliency Grant Competition Meeting

9:00 AM C l a n c y Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

10. Administrative Work Session

Holeman stated when there are proposed developments many times commissioners individually may get invited to view the development. Holeman recommended commissioners not participate in viewing a development in which they will be on the Board required to make a decision on the project.

9:15 AM  
Adjournment

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## The Next Riley County General Election Will Be November 2, 2016



Riley County Commissioner Ron Wells (left) and Riley County Commissioner Bob Boyd will be up for re-election on November 2, 2016. Both voted to take the vote away from the citizens of Riley County when they passed a Riley County Building Commission.

By appointing themselves as the Building Commission they could approve a \$50 million 9th Grade re-construction for the School District without a vote of the people or they could help the City of Manhattan add \$50 million in debt for a Sports Complex without a vote. Before you talk to a Commissioner go to [manhattanfreepress.com](http://manhattanfreepress.com) August 1, 2013 issue and read where Cities and Counties can use "Home Rule" to get around a vote of the people.

## Tax filing problems could jeopardize health law aid for 1.8M

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR

WASHINGTON (AP) — About 1.8 million households that got financial help for health insurance under President Barack Obama's law now have issues with their tax returns that could jeopardize their subsidies next year. Administration officials say those taxpayers will have to act quickly.

"There's still time, but people need to take action soon," said Lori Lodes, communications director for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which runs HealthCare.gov.

The health care law provides tax credits to help people afford private insurance. Nationally, that aid averages \$272 a month, covering roughly three-fourths of the premium. By funneling

the aid through the income tax system, Democrats were able to call the overhaul the largest middle-class tax cut for health care in history. But they also spliced together two really complicated areas for consumers: health insurance and taxes. Confusion has been the result for many.

Consumers who got health care tax credits are required to file tax returns that properly account for them, even if they are unaccustomed to filing because their incomes are low. Unless they follow through, "they will not be able to receive tax credits to help lower the cost of their health insurance for 2016," Lodes explained.

Treasury officials said 1.8 million households are at risk of losing subsidies for next year, and that number breaks

down as follows: About 710,000 households that have not filed a 2014 tax return, although they were legally required to account for health insurance tax credits that they received.

Some 360,000 households that got tax credits and requested an extension to file their returns. They have until Oct. 15.

About 760,000 households that got tax credits and filed their tax returns omitted a new form that is the key to accounting for the subsidies. Called Form 8962, it was new for this year's tax filing season.

"I think it was definitely confusing for people," said Elizabeth Colvin of Foundation Communities, an Austin, Texas, nonprofit that helps low-income people with health insurance and taxes.

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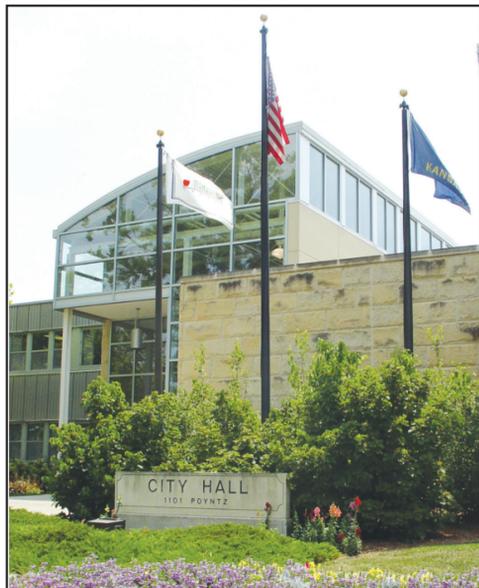
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City Business...

Award Construction Contracts for Frank Anneberg Park Improvements (CP1405) and Authorize

Part of a Memo given to the City Commissioners  
**PRESENTER: Eddie Eastes, CPRP, Director of Parks and Recreation**

**BACKGROUND**

The 2015 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes three (3) projects to improve athletic facilities at Frank Anneberg Park: synthetic turf on two infields at Twin Oaks Complex (\$400,000.00 budgeted; CIP #RC031P); synthetic turf on one soccer field (\$1,000,000.00 budgeted; CIP #RC033P); and sports field lighting at Twin Oaks 1-4 and soccer fields 1 and 2 (\$800,000.00 budgeted; CIP #CP157P). The total budget to complete this work is \$2.2 million.

On September 2, 2014, the Commission authorized City Administration to solicit a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from consultants to design and bid sports turf and lighting improvements at Frank Anneberg Park and appointed a City Commissioner to the Selection Committee.

The RFQ for Frank Anneberg Park improvements was advertised on September 4, 2014, and six (6) submittals were received on Thursday, September 25, 2014. The Selection Committee, comprised of Wynn Butler, Mayor; Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; Wyatt Thompson, Park Planner; Chris Curtis, Recreation Superintendent; Shane Swope, Stormwater Engineer; and Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent, reviewed submittals.

The Selection Committee agreed on Olsson Associates, of Manhattan, Kansas, for recommendation to the City Commission for design and bidding services for Frank Anneberg Park improvements to include synthetic turf infields at Twin Oaks Complex, synthetic turf on one soccer field, and sports lighting at Twin Oaks fields 1-4 and soccer fields 1 and 2.

On October 7, 2014, the Commission approved the recommendation of the Selection Committee of Olsson Associates and authorized City Administration to negotiate a contract for design and bidding services for Frank Anneberg Park improvements to include synthetic turf infields at Twin Oaks Complex, synthetic turf on one soccer field, and sports lighting at Twin Oaks fields 1-4 and soccer fields 1 and 2.

Bids were requested for several aspects of the project. Contractors could submit bids for:

1 - athletic field base construction; 2 - synthetic turf construction; 3 - athletic base construction and synthetic turf construction combined. Bids were opened on June 26, 2015. Bids were received from six companies and Bayer Construction Company, Inc., of Manhattan, Kansas, submitted the low bid for the athletic field base construction and Shaw Sports Turf of Calhoun, Georgia, submitted the low bid for the synthetic turf construction (\$549,747.00). The bid from Shaw Turf Company was approximately 40% lower than the Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost but the Bayer Construction Company, Inc., bid (\$2,304,892.60) for the athletic field base construction was approximately 15% higher than the Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost making the total project bid approximately 4% higher than the Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost.

On July 7, 2015, the City Commission accepted the Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost in the amount of \$2,004,291.50 for the athletic field base construction and \$760,360.00 for athletic field synthetic construction, and authorized City Administration to negotiate a construction contract with Bayer Construction Company, Inc., of Manhattan, Kansas, for the athletic field base construction.

**FINANCING**

The 2015 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes three (3) projects to improve athletic facilities at Frank Anneberg Park: synthetic turf at Twin Oaks Complex (\$400,000.00; CIP #RC031P); synthetic turf on one soccer field (\$1,000,000.00; CIP #RC033P); and sports field lighting at Twin Oaks 1-4 and soccer fields 1 and 2 (\$800,000.00; CIP #CP157P) for a total \$2.2 million budget. Funding for these improvements will be from the Special Parks and Recreation (SP&R) Fund. City Administration anticipates issuing temporary notes for the construction of them-provement and then issuing General Obligation Bonds for permanent financing in 2018 or 2019.

Each city that has a population of more than 6,000 receives 70% of the amount of alcohol tax which is collected from clubs, public venues or drinking establishments located in such city, from caterers whose principal places of business are so located or from temporary permit holders whose permitted events are so located and which is paid into the state treasury during the period for which the allocation is made and 1/3 of the amount is deposited in general fund of the city, 1/3 to a special parks and recreation fund and 1/3 to a special alcohol and drug programs.

This alcohol tax and subsequent Special Parks and Recreation Fund were established in the early 1980's and have been a steady funding source for Parks and Recreation projects.

The City of Manhattan receives approximately \$400,000.00 annually for the Special Parks and Recreation Fund. The SP&R budget for 2015 is \$410,410.00 but anticipate receiving \$475,000.00 in 2015. The 2016 budgeted amount is \$498,000.00.

An annual payment of \$200,000.00 for this project will allow approximately \$250,000.00 annually to complete other Parks and Recreation projects. The Special Parks and Recreation Fund may be expended only for the purchase, establishment, maintenance or expansion of park and recreational services, programs and facilities.

The Special Parks and Recreation (SP&R) Fund currently has a balance of approximately \$1.2 million. A transfer from the Special Parks and Recreation Fund of \$1.2 - \$1.4 million is expected to buy down the principal before bonding the project. An annual transfer from the SP&R Fund to the Bond and Interest Fund of approximately \$200,000.00 will finance the annual principal and interest payments.

Construction administration fees will be included in the overall project budget funded from the Special Parks and Recreation Fund.

City Administration has prepared a bond resolution in an amount sufficient to cover all costs associated with the design and construction. At the time of permanent bonding it is anticipated the Special Parks and Recreation Fund will be utilized to cover the bond and will be permanently financed with a 10 year General Obligation bond and funded through the Bond and Interest Fund.

**For Those Who Do Not Believe The Free Press:**

You Can See The Complete Memo by going to the City of Manhattan Web and look under City Commission and Agends.

# Solar firm gets \$422M in tax dollars, customers get horror

By **Tori Richards | Watchdog.org**

We all get them — telemarketing callers pushing home solar-energy systems that will save us from rising electric bills.

Most of us generally hang up. But in 2012, Jeff Leeds, who lives in the Northern California town of Half Moon Bay, listened. His 3,100-square-foot home features 91 incandescent bucket lights, a 180-gallon fish tank, three large refrigerator-freezers and a huge entertainment system. His electric bill was averaging \$350 per month.

The sales pitch Leeds was hearing on the phone sounded ideal: Lease a system from SolarCity, the nation's second-largest solar electrical contractor, for a low monthly fee and reap the rewards of cheap electricity.

"For a \$600 fee up front, I would pay \$182 a month for the next 20 years," Leeds said. "They have a performance guarantee. If I don't make enough electricity, they said, 'No problem, don't worry, we will write you a check.' I thought, 'I'm covered.'"

Tacked on to that would be what the company called a small bill from the local utility company allowing the customer to use the grid and to cover the use of any electricity Leeds drew from the utility rather than from his SolarCity solar panels.

Now, 15 months later, the local utility company has raised its rates and instead of a lower bill, Leeds is pushing \$500 a month with no way out for the next two decades. And he has the eyesore of solar panels that cover most of his roof.

"As a customer, you have no say," Leeds said. "With a solar lease, you are putting the stuff on your roof. You have a signed contract with the devil and you are stuck with the stuff."

SolarCity looked into Leeds' case after receiving a call from Watchdog.org and offered this comment: "Mr. Leeds' system did produce less than we guaranteed last year so he will be compensated for that under his performance guarantee."

Was Leeds' case an aberration?

SolarCity has generated a high number of cases of shoddy installation, said Gerald Chapman, building inspector manager for San Mateo County, which includes Half Moon Bay.

"SolarCity seems to be the biggest offender," Chapman told Watchdog.org.

By contrast, he said, SolarCity's small business competitors — he called them "the little guy" — "wants to do it right."

"We pride ourselves on installation quality, but if we do make a mistake, we make it right," countered Jonathan Bass, SolarCity's vice president of communications. "We are rated A-plus by the Better Business Bureau, the highest rating they provide. Our work has been inspected and approved by more U.S. building departments than any other solar provider."

Who is SolarCity?

The Obama administration's 2009 stimulus package created an open trough of cash subsidies, leading to an explosion of solar-energy companies. Some of those — Solyndra is the most prominent example — went bust spectacularly. But such high-profile failures and reports of widespread abuse have done little to dampen entrepreneurial enthusiasm.

With rebates, tax breaks and the steady climb of electric rates, more and more Americans have been signing on for solar. But retail solar technology remains expensive — upward of \$20,000 per home.

That's where SolarCity comes in.

Founded in California in 2006 by Elon Musk — PayPal and SpaceX founder and CEO of Tesla Motors, creators of the

luxury electric car — SolarCity leverages a unique business model to make solar more affordable. It leases systems to homeowners, typically for a 20-year period.

SolarCity has accepted more than \$11 million in federal stimulus funds to make its business run. But the real public support appears elsewhere. Because SolarCity technically owns the energy systems it installs, SolarCity — not the homeowner — earns the federal tax break intended as an incentive to go solar. So far the company has earned \$411 million in such tax breaks. The company also may earn additional income on state subsidies.

If that lease is a financial boon to SolarCity, it may prove problematic for SolarCity consumers. No matter how rapidly solar technology evolves, the SolarCity lease ties each homeowner to technology that is cutting edge only at the signing of the 20-year contract.

"Our approach is to install systems to the highest engineering standards," SolarCity says on its web site. "SolarCity has assembled one of the most experienced clean-energy project design and installation teams in the world."

The marketing has paid off. SolarCity claims some 90,000 customers in 14 states, and says it signs a new customer every five minutes. The company says its customers include Home Depot, Walmart and the U.S. government.

SolarCity vs. inspectors

Yet consumer-oriented sites like Yelp and the Better Business Bureau, the organization that rates SolarCity an A+, feature criticism from unhappy customers whose complaints follow a similar theme — shoddy installation, poor customer service and hidden fees. Many of the postings have an almost panic-stricken tone as the consumers plead for some sort of resolution to their nightmarish scenario.

More often than not, the negative comments attract the

attention of SolarCity officials, who post resolutions to the various problems. Many of the consumers complain that they have spent months trying to remedy faulty installation, only to receive either continuous boilerplate responses from customer service or no response at all.

One California man got a front-row seat at the conflict between SolarCity installers and municipal building inspectors who are sent to sign off on the system before it is allowed to operate.

"The city came out during installation and an inspector gave them the codes and requirements," said the consumer, who asked not to be identified. "The city guy told them exactly what he wanted and what was necessary, and they still put in the wrong breakers and the wrong wiring. The inspector came back out and looked at it and said, 'You guys put the wrong breakers on — I told you guys what I needed for the code.'"

The consumer said nearly three weeks went by with no word from SolarCity. He finally called and talked to a manager who said the system had a design problem.

"I said, 'What do the designs have to do with the breakers? Why not have the right design from the get-go?'" he said.

In all, he claimed, it took four months to finish.

Four months was blazing fast compared to the experience of San Diego lawyer Andrew Athanassious. He first talked to SolarCity in June 2013, eager to get a system installed on his massive home before a large September 2013 utility rate

hike. Despite a contract, Athanassious said SolarCity later told him his roof was "not the right material" and he'd have to pay an additional \$7,500.

Athanassious is no building contractor, but he said SolarCity's installers should have known what they were getting into.

"It's obvious what kind of roof I have. It's clay tile. It's not like you could think it's anything else," he said.

That was on Aug. 1.

Athanassious said SolarCity virtually ignored him for the next two months. He finally agreed to split the cost of the system with SolarCity because they were still the lowest-priced contractor and because finding another solar company would take too much time. SolarCity finally installed the system in October. Unlike Leeds, subsequent electricity costs haven't been a problem. Athanassious' utility bill was \$410 per month and now it's zero. He pays SolarCity \$357 per month for a lease, saving about \$50 a month.

SolarCity responded: "Mr. Athanassious' system did require a roof upgrade, and we sourced it for him at the lowest cost."

But Athanassious has problems that remain. During installation, contractors rewired his swimming pool heater incorrectly when they were working on the home's electric panel. They still haven't fixed that, he said. And SolarCity has started tacking on \$15 per month to Athanassious' bill because he refuses to pay via direct deposit, a surcharge hidden in the contract.

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## Truth as the Victim of Kerry's Promise to Iran

By David S. Addington  
Heritage Foundation  
U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry made an unusual promise to the Islamic Republic of Iran: All senior Obama Administration officials will make every effort to support the Iran deal in their public statements. For any Obama Administration officials who have doubts about all or any part of the Iran deal, or about the likelihood that Iran will actually honor the deal, Kerry's formal promise to Iran amounts to a gag order. When Congress summons Administration foreign policy and defense experts and other senior officials to testify on the Iran deal, Congress is entitled to the unvarnished, un gagged truth.

### Section 28 of Iran Deal: A Promise That Senior U.S. Officials Will Hide the Truth from Congress and the American People?

Section 28 of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)—better known as “the Iran deal”—says “Senior Government officials of the E3/EU+3 and Iran will make every effort to support the successful implementation of this JCPOA including in their public statements.” The reference to “E3/EU+3” is diplomat-speak for China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and the United States. Thus, the deal contains an odd U.S. promise to Iran that senior government officials of the U.S. will make every effort to support successful implementation of the Iran deal in their public statements. A footnote to that promise further states that “Government officials” for the U.S. means senior officials of the U.S. Administration.”

In plain language, Secretary Kerry has promised Iran that senior Obama Administration officials will make every effort to support the Iran deal, and specifically in their public statements. Given the likely appearance of many senior officials of the Obama Administration before congressional committees for public hearings on the Iran deal, this Kerry promise to Iran is of concern.

### The U.S. Constitution Entitles Congress to the Truth

The Constitution vests in the Congress the legislative powers it grants, which includes the power to secure information needed to legislate. The U.S. Supreme Court has made clear that “the power of inquiry—with process to enforce it—is an essential and appropriate auxiliary to the legislative function.” Federal law implements the congressional power

of inquiry in aid of legislation by providing specifically for process to compel testimony and production of documents and for administration of oaths.

Failure to tell the truth, by any witness summoned before Congress to testify and placed under oath, may constitute the crime of perjury. Failure to tell the truth, by any witness appearing before Congress, whether summoned or appearing voluntarily, and whether placed under oath or not, may constitute the crime of false statement. While the courts have indicated that in certain circumstances an executive branch witness duly summoned by a congressional committee may have a legal privilege to decline to answer a question, there are no circumstances under which the witness may lawfully lie in response to the question.

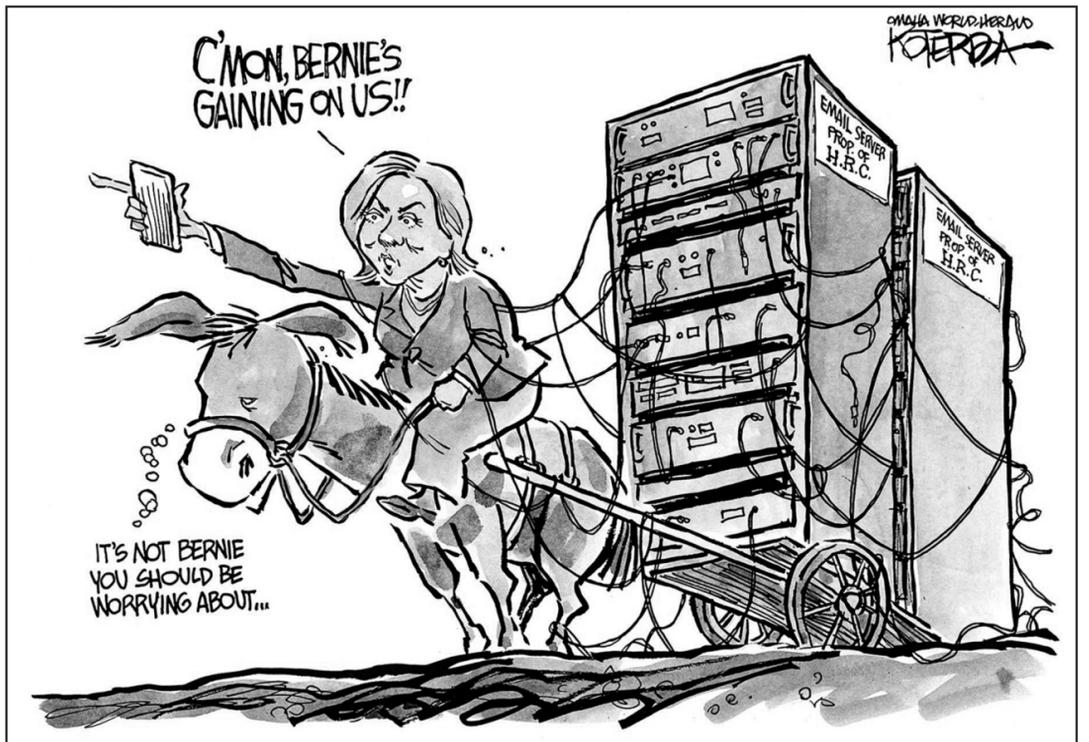
When the foreign relations, armed services, or other committees of jurisdiction in Congress summon “senior officials of the U.S. Administration” and ask for information or opinions regarding the Iran deal, the officials must tell the truth, without regard to the promise Secretary Kerry made to the Iranians that the officials would make every effort to support the deal. Indeed, federal law explicitly empowers a federal employee in an agency primarily concerned with matters relating to foreign countries to “express his views and opinions, and make recommendations he considers appropriate” when requested by a congressional committee of jurisdiction]. Also, a number of senior officials of the U.S. Administration have statutory duties with respect to advising Congress, such as the Chairman or another member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who “[a]fter first informing the Secretary of Defense, . . . may make such recommendations to Congress relating to the Department of Defense as he considers appropriate.”

### Congressional Actions to Increase Chances Congress Gets the Truth

To encourage senior officials of the Obama Administration to testify to Congress truthfully on their views and concerns about the Iran deal, without feeling pressure to suppress or hedge the truth due to Secretary Kerry's promise to Iran, Congress can take the following steps:

1. The Chairmen of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee can write to the President to seek written confirmation that: (a) Secretary Kerry's promise to Iran that senior officials of the U.S. Administration “will make

## The Conservative Side...



every effort to support the successful implementation of this JCPOA including in their public statements” is subordinate to, and shall not interfere with, the duty of those senior officials to tell the truth when testifying on the Iran deal to congressional committees, and (b) the Secretary of State or the heads of the agencies or entities concerned will so instruct, in advance and in writing, U.S. government witnesses appearing before congressional committees on the Iran deal.

2. The chairman of any congressional committee of jurisdiction conducting a public

hearing on the Iran deal with U.S. government witnesses can, in accordance with committee procedures:

a. issue compulsory process to summon government witnesses, thereby making clear the duty of the witnesses to appear and testify;

b. administer to the witnesses an oath to tell the truth;

c. remind the witnesses that they have a legal duty to tell the truth, and that Secretary Kerry's promise to Iran that senior Administration officials will make every effort to support in their public statements the Iran deal's successful

implementation does not provide a legal excuse to tell anything other than the truth to the committee; and

d. in the case of witnesses from the Department of State or another agency primarily concerned with matters relating to foreign countries or multilateral organizations, request that the witness, in the course of testifying truthfully, express his or her views and opinions and make such recommendations as he or she considers appropriate, noting that the law specifically authorizes doing so.

In future international negotiations, American officials

should refrain from promising to any foreign country what the President's subordinates will say to the American public and in the U.S. domestic legislative processes by which the U.S. may determine whether it will enter into an international agreement or implement a joint comprehensive plan of action. The President and his subordinates are accountable to the American people and their elected representatives for implementation of the U.S. Constitution—not to the people and leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran or any other foreign country.



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# Free Press Big 12 Sports

Manhattan Free Press

Thursday, August 6, 2015

5A

Date	Opponent	Location	Time/Result
Sat. Sep 5	South Dakota	Manhattan	6:00
Sat. Sep 12, 2015	Texas San Antonio	San Antonio	11:00 AM
Sat. Sep 19, 2015	Louisiana Tech	Manhattan	2:00 PM
Sat. Oct 3, 2015	Oklahoma State	Stillwater, OK	
Sat. Oct 10, 2015	TCU Horned Frogs	Manhattan	
Sat. Oct 17, 2015	Oklahoma Sooners	Manhattan	
Sat. Oct 24, 2015	Texas Longhorns	Austin, TX	
Thur. Nov 5, 2015	Baylor Bears	Manhattan	6:30 PM
Sat. Nov 14, 2015	Texas Tech	Lubbock, TX	
Sat. Nov 21, 2015	Iowa State Cyclones	Manhattan	
Sat. Nov 28, 2015	Kansas Jayhawks	Lawrence, KS	

Date	Opponent	Location	Time/Result
9/5/2015	South Dakota State	Lawrence, Kan.	11 a.m.
9/12/2015	Memphis (Band Day)	Lawrence, Kan.	6 p.m.
9/26/2015	Rutgers	Piscataway, NJ	TBA
10/3/2015	Iowa State	Ames, Iowa	TBA
10/10/2015	Baylor	Lawrence, Kan.	TBA
10/17/2015	Texas Tech	Lawrence, Kan.	TBA
10/24/2015	Oklahoma State	Stillwater, Okla.	TBA
10/31/2015	Oklahoma (Homecoming)	Lawrence, Kan.	TBA
11/7/2015	Texas	Austin, Texas	TBA
11/14/2015	TCU	Fort Worth, Texas	TBA
11/21/2015	West Virginia	Lawrence, Kan.	TBA
11/28/2015	Kansas State	Lawrence, Kan.	TBA

### Baylor Football Schedule

Date	Opponent / Event	Location	Time /	Result
09/04/15	at SMU	Dallas, Texas	6:00 p.m. CT	
09/12/15	vs. Lamar	Waco, Texas	6:30 p.m. CT	
09/26/15	vs. Rice	Waco, Texas	2:00 p.m. CT	
10/03/15	vs. Texas Tech *	Arlington, Texas	TBA	
10/10/15	at Kansas *	Lawrence, Kan.	TBA	
10/17/15	vs. West Virginia *	Waco, Texas	TBA	
10/24/15	vs. Iowa State *	Waco, Texas	TBA	
11/05/15	at Kansas State *	Manhattan, Kan.	6:30 p.m. CT	
11/14/15	vs. Oklahoma *	Waco, Texas	TBA	
11/21/15	at Oklahoma State *	Stillwater, Okla.	TBA	
11/27/15	at TCU *	Fort Worth, Texas	6:30 p.m. CT	
12/05/15	vs. Texas *	Waco, Texas	TBA	

### Iowa State Football Schedule

Date	Opponent / Event	Location	Time /	Result
Sat, Sep 05	Northern Iowa	Ames, Iowa	7:00 p.m.	Cyclones.tv
Sat, Sep 12	Iowa	Ames, Iowa	3:30 p.m.	Fox
Sat, Sep 19	Toledo	Toledo, Ohio	7:00 p.m.	ESPNNEWS
Sat, Oct 03	Kansas *	Ames, Iowa	TBA	
Sat, Oct 10	Texas Tech *	Lubbock, Texas	TBA	
Sat, Oct 17	TCU *	Ames, Iowa	TBA	
Sat, Oct 24	Baylor *	Waco, Texas	TBA	
Sat, Oct 31	Texas *	Ames, Iowa	TBA	
Sat, Nov 07	Oklahoma *	Norman, Oklahoma	TBA	
Sat, Nov 14	Oklahoma State *	Ames, Iowa	TBA	
Sat, Nov 21	Kansas State *	Manhattan, Kansas	TBA	
Sat, Nov 28	West Virginia *	Morgantown, W.V.	TBA	

\* Conference Games

### Oklahoma Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time (CT)	Results	Media
Sat, Sep 05	Akron	Norman	6:00 p.m.	PPV	
Sat, Sep 12	Tennessee	at Knoxville, Tenn.	5:00 p.m.	ESPN	
Sat, Sep 19	Tulsa	Norman	11:00 a.m.	FS1	
Sat, Oct 03	West Virginia *	Norman	TBA		
Sat, Oct 10	Texas *	at Dallas, Texas	TBA		
Sat, Oct 17	Kansas State *	at Manhattan, Kan.	TBA		
Sat, Oct 24	Texas Tech *	Norman	TBA		
Sat, Oct 31	Kansas *	at Lawrence, Kan.	TBA		
Sat, Nov 07	Iowa State *	Norman	TBA		
Sat, Nov 14	Baylor *	at Waco, Texas	TBA		
Sat, Nov 21	TCU *	Norman	TBA		
Sat, Nov 28	Oklahoma State *	at Stillwater, Okla.	TBA		

### Oklahoma State Football Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT/TIME	RECORD/TICKETS
Thu, Sept3	@ Cent Michigan	7:00 PM ET	
Sat, Sept 12	vs Cent Arkansas	7:30 PM ET	
Sat, Sept 19	vs UTSA	3:30 PM ET	
Sat, Sept 26	@ Texas	TBD	
Sat, Oct 3	vs Kansas State	TBD	
Sat, Oct 10	@ West Virginia	TBD	
Sat, Oct 24	vs Kansas	TBD	
Sat, Oct 31	@ Texas Tech	TBD	
Sat, Nov 7	vs TCU	TBD	
Sat, Nov 14	@ Iowa State	TBD	
Sat, Nov 21	vs Baylor	TBD	
Sat, Nov 28	vs Oklahoma	TBD	

### TCU Football Schedule

Date	Opponent / Event	Location	Time / Result
09/03/15	at Minnesota	Minneapolis, Minn.	8:00 p.m. CT
09/12/15	vs. Stephen F. Austin	Fort Worth, Texas	2:30 p.m. CT
09/19/15	vs. SMU	Fort Worth, Texas	7:00 p.m. CT
09/26/15	at Texas Tech *	Lubbock, Texas	TBA
10/03/15	vs. Texas (Homecoming) *	Fort Worth, Texas	TBA
10/10/15	at Kansas State *	Manhattan, Kan.	TBA
10/17/15	at Iowa State *	Ames, Iowa	TBA
10/29/15	vs. West Virginia *	Fort Worth, Texas	6:30 p.m. CT
11/07/15	at Oklahoma State *	Stillwater, Okla.	TBA
11/14/15	vs. Kansas *	Fort Worth, Texas	TBA
11/21/15	at Oklahoma *	Norman, Okla.	TBA
11/27/15	vs. Baylor *	Fort Worth, Texas	6:30 p.m. CT

### Texas Tech Football Schedule

Date	Opponent / Event	Location	Time / Result
09/05/15	vs. Sam Houston State	Lubbock, Texas	2:30 p.m. CT
09/12/15	vs. UTEP	Lubbock, Texas	2:00 p.m. CT
09/19/15	at Arkansas	Fayetteville, Ark.	6:00 p.m. CT
09/26/15	vs. TCU *	Lubbock, Texas	TBA
10/03/15	vs. Baylor *	Arlington, Texas	TBA
10/10/15	vs. Iowa State *	Lubbock, Texas	TBA
10/17/15	at Kansas *	Lawrence, Kan.	TBA
10/24/15	at Oklahoma *	Norman, Okla.	TBA
10/31/15	vs. Oklahoma State *	Lubbock, Texas	TBA
11/07/15	at West Virginia *	Morgantown, W.V.	TBA
11/14/15	vs. Kansas State *	Lubbock, Texas	TBA
11/26/15	at Texas *	Austin, Texas	6:30 p.m. CT

### Texas Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time/Result
9/5/2015	Notre Dame	South Bend, Ind.	6:30 p.m.
9/12/2015	Rice	Austin, Texas	7 p.m.
9/19/2015	California	Austin, Texas	6:30 p.m.
9/26/2015	Oklahoma State	Austin, Texas	TBA
10/3/2015	TCU	Fort Worth, Texas	TBA
10/10/2015	Oklahoma	Dallas, Texas	TBA
10/24/2015	K-State	Austin, Texas	TBA
10/31/2015	Iowa State	Ames, Iowa	TBA
11/7/2015	Kansas	Austin, Texas	TBA
11/14/2015	West Virginia	Morgantown, W.Va.	TBA
11/26/2015	Texas Tech	Austin, Texas	6:30 p.m.
12/5/2015	Baylor	Waco, Texas	TBA

### West Virginia Football Schedule

Date	Opponent / Event	Location	Time / Result
Sep 05, 2015	Georgia Southern	ROOT Sports	7:30 PM
Sep 12, 2015	Liberty	ROOT Sports	3:00 PM
Sep 26, 2015	Maryland		TBA
Oct 03, 2015	at Oklahoma*		TBA
Oct 10, 2015	Oklahoma State* (Homecoming)		TBA
Oct 17, 2015	at Baylor*		TBA
Oct 29, 2015	at TCU*		7:30 PM
Nov 07, 2015	Texas Tech* (Mountaineer Week)		TBA
Nov 14, 2015	Texas*		TBA
Nov 21, 2015	at Kansas*		TBA
Nov 28, 2015	Iowa State*		TBA
Dec 05, 2015	at Kansas State*		TBA

\* Big 12 Conference game  
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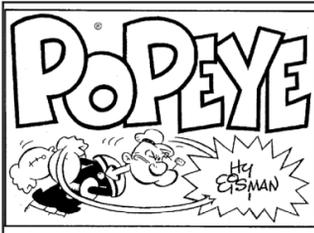
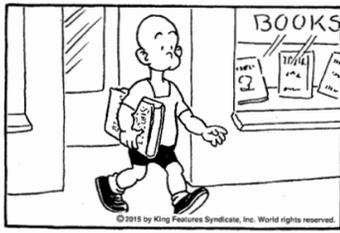
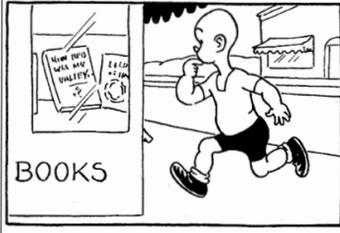
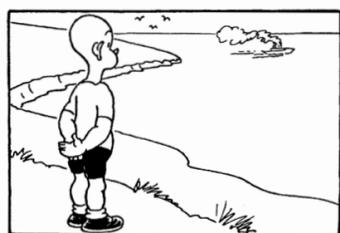
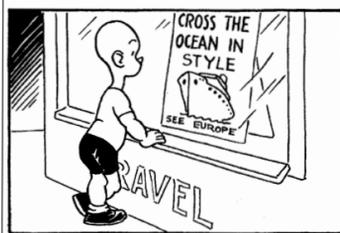
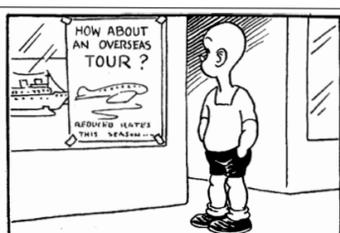
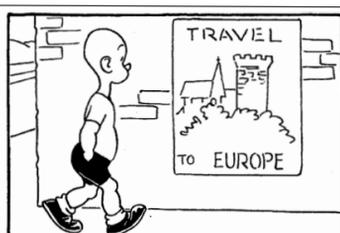
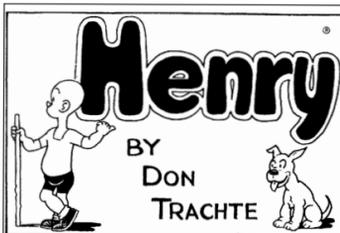
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



**King Crossword**  
Answers  
Solution time: 25 mins.

LAW	PAM
CLUE	EUROS
FLORA	TRAUMA
DAY AT THE BEACH	
ADD HAYES	RHO
BELL	STEW
SHIRK	GAUSS
STAG	RUBE
ARM	GUESS
WALK IN THE PARK	POE
WEIMAR	NURSE
TEMPO	CLIO
VET	ELS

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## Slow-Cooker Italian Beef Stew

### Ingredients

- 1 pound beef stew meat
- 1 teaspoon beef base
- 3 large carrots, cut into 1-inch pieces (2 cups)
- 2 medium stalks celery, cut into 1-inch pieces (1 1/2 cups)
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 medium onion, coarsely chopped (1 1/2 cups)
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 can (19 ounces) Progresso™ cannellini (white kidney) beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (28 ounces) crushed tomatoes in puree, undrained
- 1 jar (12 ounces) beef gravy
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 2 cups Green Giant™ frozen cut green beans (from 1-pound bag)

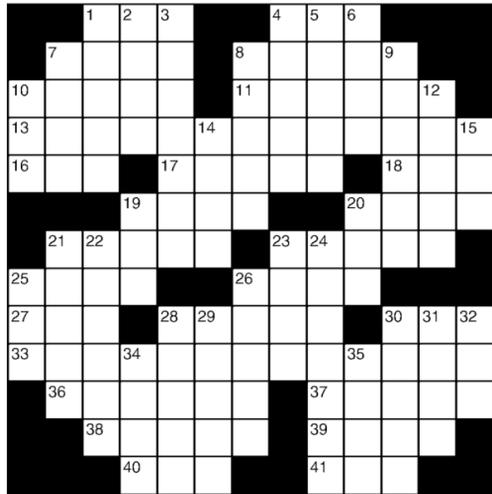
### Directions

- 1 Place beef, beef base, carrots, celery, garlic, onion, pepper, kidney beans, tomatoes and gravy in order listed in 3 1/2- to 4-quart slow cooker.
- 2 Cover and cook on low heat setting 10 to 12 hours.
- 3 Stir in Italian seasoning, sugar and frozen green beans. Increase heat setting to high. Cover and cook 15 minutes or until green beans are tender.



## King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Legislation
  - 4 Cooking spray brand
  - 7 Hint
  - 8 Overseas money
  - 10 Plant life
  - 11 Psychological injury
  - 13 Easy task comparison
  - 16 Toss in
  - 17 Grant's successor
  - 18 Letter after pi
  - 19 Phone inventor
  - 20 Mulligan, e.g.
  - 21 Dodge
  - 23 Magnetic induction unit
  - 25 Unescorted
  - 26 Cartoonist Goldberg
  - 27 Branch
  - 28 Surmise
- DOWN**
- 1 Frank — Wright
  - 2 Emanation
  - 3 Newscast segment
  - 4 Blender setting
  - 5 Large part of Al-Jazeera's audience
  - 6 Small grimace
  - 7 Dressed (in)
  - 8 — alcohol
  - 9 Stings
  - 10 Rx watch-dog org.
  - 12 Liniment targets
  - 14 Converse
  - 15 Explanation
  - 19 Huge
  - 20 Take to court
  - 21 Sucker
  - 22 Shakespeare title role
  - 23 Spew like Old Faithful
  - 24 "Perfect attendance" spoiler
  - 25 Witnessed
  - 26 So old it's new again
  - 28 Greedy kid's demand
  - 29 Inappropriate
  - 30 Hilton heiress
  - 31 Roughly
  - 32 — out a living
  - 34 Ukraine's capital
  - 35 Yank



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### Answers on page 6

**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Hair is different. 2. Sleeve is shorter. 3. Handle is missing. 4. Curtain is different. 5. Comb is missing. 6. Soda can is missing.

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# KSU: Dynamic Leadership Crucial for 2015 Captains



Kansas State's offensive lineman Cody Whitehair and a Team Captain in the Iowa State last year. (Photo by Ben Brake)

By Kelly McHugh  
KSU Sports Information

This year's K-State football captains bring a plethora of experience to the playing field. They've been through the fire; they've worked their way through the ranks and have earned the respect of their fellow teammates along the way.

The group is made up of five seniors – offensive lineman Cody Whitehair, safety Dante Barnett, defensive tackle Travis Britz, cornerback Morgan Burns and wide receiver/special teams player Stanton Weber – who have all already begun working together to become the best leaders they can be.

"They're good young guys," said head coach Bill Snyder earlier this week. "They have that value system in place. They care. They do the right things. These are young guys who have come through the system and who have done well. They're willing and committed to the value system that we're all about and their teammates understand that, they respect that."

When it comes to their leadership style, each captain is different, but that's what makes this group special, explains Barnett.

"We all bring different aspects to the field," said Barnett. "Stanton is the genius; he works hard and Morgan has the speed. If we were going to a workout, Stanton and Morgan are the ones leading the way. I'm more of a laid back type of guy, I lead by example, and Cody and Travis are the same way. We all have different aspects to our leadership, but I think that's why it works so well."

Barnett is the only player in the group with experience as a captain as he's entering his second-consecutive season in the position. Barnett enters his senior campaign coming off of a solid junior year where he tallied 77 tackles, 11 defended passes and three interceptions.

He recently was named to the watch lists for five national awards, including the 2015 Walter Camp Player of the Year Award, and was named to the Preseason All-Big 12 team.

"Being a captain, it's big," continued Barnett. "It's big because your fellow teammates are watching you. When they don't know what to do, they're going to look at what you're doing at the time. We have to always be on our game and set a good example for our teammates."

Like Barnett, Whitehair describes himself as a quiet leader. However, he knows in order to be fully effective on the football field, he will have to step up his game.

"I've been a leader by example, that's been kind of who I am," explained Whitehair, "but lately I've had to step up in my vocal leadership and really demand excellence, especially with all the young guys we have."

Also like Barnett, Whitehair was named to this year's Preseason All-Big 12 team. Following a season where he was one of the best and most versatile offensive linemen in the conference, Whitehair has also earned Preseason All-America honors from Athlon.

"This is kind of a different group," said Whitehair, a native of Abilene, Kansas. "We're all pretty new to being captains. We're younger guys who grew up in the program, so we're a group that stepped into this position. We couldn't have done it without our older guys preparing us for this step, so we look forward to leading this team this season."

Also hailing from the Midwest, Britz, Burns and Weber have each grown up knowing the K-State way and what it takes – on and off the field – to be successful in a Bill Snyder program.

"We really appreciate each other's strengths, and we do a good job of collaborating and decision making," explained Weber. "I'm really happy with the group. All of them

are great character guys; they focus on the right things. We're all different, but that's kind of the beauty of the group."

Weber, an Overland Park, Kansas, native, has been a key special teams contributor each of the last three seasons. He's made 12 career special teams tackles in his last 33 games, including a career-best two stops against both Iowa State and Oklahoma State in 2014. He is a two-time First Team Academic All-Big 12 performer and was recently named President of K-State Athletics' Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

A two-time Honorable Mention All-Big 12 player, Britz started the first 10 games of 2014 and totaled 27 tackles, including five for loss while also holding a school-record-tying five career blocked kicks. Though his junior season was cut short because of injury, the Harrisonville, Missouri, native has now recovered and is ready to make an impact in 2015.

Burns, a Wichita, Kansas, native, started every game at cornerback in 2014. He recorded 55 tackles, including three for loss and a sack while also picking off three passes. Boasted as one of the team's fastest players, Burns will be a crucial piece to the dynamic Wildcat defense this fall.

"It's been really fun because these are guys that I came in with four years ago," said Burns. "We all came on the same summer, so we're all really close. We've been through a lot of the same things; we've experienced a lot of the same things. We're all just really good friends."

This year's team-chosen captains are ready to take the reins and lead this year's Wildcat football team to success. Though they're a good group of guys, Snyder said they are still growing.

"(Their leadership) needs to be dynamic," said Snyder. "When you visit with them, you see a lot of really good young guys, guys you'd say,

'I'd take him as my son any day,' and anybody would. But one of the things we have to be better at is a dynamic leadership. It's the vocal, the demanding leadership, and sometimes you have to step out of your comfort zone in order to show that kind of leadership. That's where they need to continue to enhance their capabilities."

With the team's month-long fall camp just around the corner (players report on August 5) the Wildcat captains will soon have the opportunity to put their leadership to the test.

"It's been fun. It's always been a goal of ours to lead our team, to be captains," said Whitehair. "We're going to rally around our guys, and we will, hopefully, have a successful season."

K-State begins its 2015 slate on Saturday, September 5, at 6:10 p.m., as the Wildcats host South Dakota at Bill Snyder Family Stadium. The remaining six home games feature five opponents that advanced to bowl games in 2014, including a pair of top-10 teams in TCU (No. 3/3) and Baylor (No. 7/8).

A limited number of single-game tickets are still available for the 2015 season. Fans can purchase tickets online by visiting [www.k-statesports.com/tickets](http://www.k-statesports.com/tickets) or by calling the ticket office at 1-800-221-CATS.

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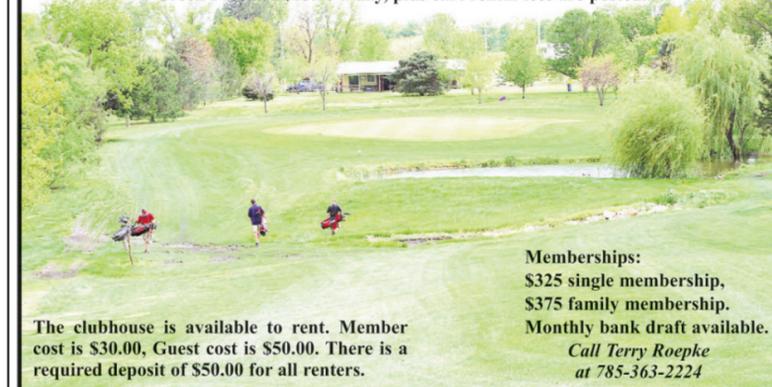
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