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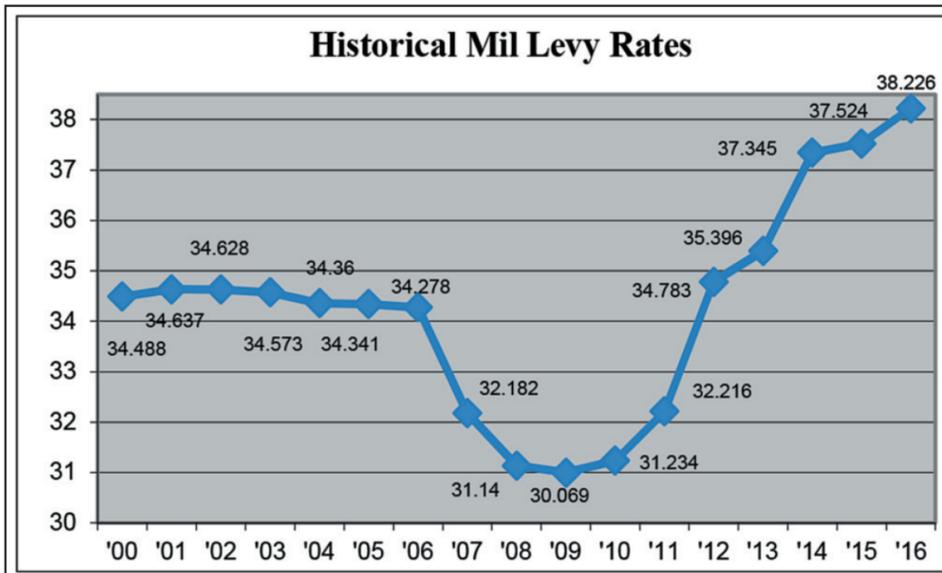


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Thursday, September 17, 2015

Why Are Your Taxes High



Live in Riley County and think your taxes are going up? They are and here is part of what the County says about the taxes: "The chart above depicts historical mil levy rates. Historically, assessed valuations rose by an average of 6% to 8%. Assessed Valuation for the 2016 budget is 591,032,247, an increase of 4.10% over last year. In the past 3 years, valuations have increased on average by 3.91%.

'Misinformed' about Common Core, Indeed

By Neal McCluskey
CATO Institute

Defenders of the Common Core national curriculum standards have a favorite tactic: deem opponents "misinformed." This has been especially popular in response to plummeting public support for the Core, and pollsters behind a new Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE) survey say they've found proof. But the evidence doesn't support the charge.

The Core certainly has popularity problems. While total support depends on how questions are worded, even the most loaded ones reveal plummeting approval.

A question from the journal Education Next paints the Core in the kindest light, making adoption sound fully voluntary while saying the standards will "be used to hold public schools accountable for their performance." This elicits high support — who doesn't like accountability? — but the trend has been distinctly southward. In 2013, it garnered 65 percent support. Two years later, it hit 49 percent. Among teachers, approval crashed from 76 percent to 40 percent.

PACE asked Californians this and other questions used in major polls, revealing what an outlier the Education Next question is and how limited is Core support, at least in the Golden State. The Education Next question garnered 52 percent support, but when respondents were asked, straightforwardly, "To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the Common Core State Standards?" a mere 26 percent approved and 31 percent disapproved. Respondents were also asked a question from the annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup poll: "To what extent do you support or oppose having the teachers in your community use the Common Core State Standards to guide what they teach?" It's an odd wording, but got essentially the same response as the straightforward question: 24 percent support, 27 percent opposition.

Why such flimsy support? In the summary accompanying the poll, University of Southern California professor Morgan Polikoff said, "There remains a great deal of misinformation about the standards, and this is almost certainly driving some portion of the opposition."

Polikoff based this conclusion on several questions. From the summary: "A plurality of voters also had misconceptions about several tenets of the standards: 34 percent ... said Common Core requires more testing than California's previous standards.

... 25 percent said the federal government required California to adopt the Common Core ... and 30 percent said the statement that Common Core only applies to English and math is false."

Here's the problem: For two of these, the answer simply cannot be reduced to true or false. Reality is just too messy.

First, while Washington did not outright order states to adopt the Core, it did require that they promise to adopt standards common to a majority of states — a description fit only by the Core — to get maximum points in the \$4 billion Race to the Top competition, held at the nadir of the Great Recession. After the vast majority of states had made that promise — but many had not won money — the Obama administration declared that, to get waivers from the hated No Child Left Behind Act, they would have to either adopt the Core most had already promised to use, or standards certified "college- and career-ready" by a public university system. Washington also selected and paid for Core-aligned tests — including the Smarter Balanced assessment used by California — that would be plugged into NCLB's testing requirements.

So Core adoption was not imposed by federal fiat, but was coerced using money taxpayers had no choice but to give, and rules to escape parts of a despised, punitive federal education law. Well-informed people could easily see that as de facto federal imposition.

How about the Core applying only to English and math? PACE says that's true, but the Core itself begs to differ. It consists of mathematics standards, English language-arts standards, and standards for "literacy in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects." It also mandates that students read "documents of historical and literary significance" including the Declaration of Independence and Lincoln's Second Inaugural. And when supporters argue that the Core's focus on "informational texts" will not push great literature out of English classes, they often say much of the informational reading will be done in science and history classes.

Here again, people who responded in a way the pollsters deem misinformed may have been quite well-informed, thank you.

Of course, Core opponents do get things wrong; reality is complicated. Indeed, it is far more complicated than Core supporters crying "misinformation" would have you believe, and perhaps more complicated than they even know.

Closure of Kansas hospital highlights rural care challenges

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — The upcoming closure of the hospital in the southeast Kansas community of Independence has highlighted the problems faced by rural medical providers in states that have refused to expand their Medicaid programs.

"The climate of health care these days is very challenging, and particularly for small rural hospitals like ourselves," said Joanne Smith, spokeswoman for Mercy Hospital in Independence. "We are facing decreased reimbursement; the fact that Kansas did not expand Medicaid has been a significant factor in our reimbursement, and declining population here in our corner of Kansas, as well as a lot of outmigration of patients to other communities for their health care."

According to the National Rural Health Association, at least 55 rural hospitals across the nation have closed since 2010, and 283 more are at risk of closure.

Rural hospitals were already struggling with declining populations, and, in many cases, their financial situations had become critical because of changes in the way hospitals get reimbursed under the Affordable Care Act. The cuts in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements were designed to be offset by additional revenues from the Medicaid expansion. So when Kansas refused to expand Medicaid, its hospitals were hit especially hard.

Final Kansas Rural Center "Ideas Into Action" Workshop to be Held in Manhattan on September 24

Topeka, Kansas — Kansans interested in effecting positive change in their communities are encouraged to register now to attend the Kansas Rural Center's final "Ideas Into Action" workshop, a free event happening in Manhattan, Kansas, on Thursday, September 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Manhattan Public Library. This non-partisan workshop aims to inspire and activate public action around issues that matter to Kansans. The event includes interactive advocacy training, and an opportunity to learn about a range of groups working to support farms and improve health locally and statewide. Lunch will be provided by 4 Olives.

A detailed agenda of the day and registration information for this event are available online at: kansasruralcenter.org/ideas-into-action-registration.

This Manhattan event is the final of four workshops in KRC's Feeding Kansas: Ideas Into Action series. The workshop will feature presentations and an opportunity to dialogue with guest speakers working on the frontlines of positive change, for the good of the Kansas food system. After a wholesome lunch, several concurrent sessions will provide participants with strategic advocacy tools and tactics for raising awareness and creating change around the issues that matter to them.

Morning presentations and panelists include:

Jessica Fiscus - Riley County Health Department, Health Educator. Fiscus will share stories about the food access environment and food-related health issues she sees in her work in Riley County. She will also discuss the political climate that shapes her work;

Loren Swenson - Owner of Prairie Produce, farmer, and member of the statewide Local Food and Farm Task Force. Swenson will discuss his farm operation and food business, and how he has been able to navigate the policy environment and ensure that he and others can make a living at both. He will share stories about his experience as a member of the governor-appointed Local Food and Farm Task Force that formed in 2014;

Representative Adam Lusker - State Representative, District 2, and member of the statewide Local Food and



Speaking at a previous workshop.

Farm Task Force. Rep. Lusker will reveal how connecting with individuals and listening to their stories has influenced his work as a legislator. He will also describe what's happening with the governor-appointed Local Food and Farm Task Force, whose recommendations to the legislature are due this year;

Missty Lechner - Kansas Alliance for Wellness, Project Director. Lechner will talk about the power of community coalitions, where and how they are forming across Kansas, and what types of changes those coalitions have already made in their regions;

Cole Cottin - Kansas Rural Center, Advocacy Coordinator. Cottin will discuss the goals outlined in KRC's Feeding Kansas report and how participants can help make those goals a reality this year, and beyond. A summary of the report will be provided. The full report can be found at: kansasruralcenter.org/Feeding-Kansas.

Afternoon concurrent sessions include:

How to Have a Voice in Politics: Leveraging Local Coalitions to Bring about Change - Missty Lechner of the Kansas Alliance for Wellness will share information on what it takes to pull together a task force or council to empower community members to shape local policy. Participants will then be supported by Missty, KRC staff, and others in the room, as they brainstorm how to cultivate or strengthen coalitions in their own

unique location and situation.

Strategic Communication with Decision-Makers - Participants will learn to identify which decision-maker(s) have power to change a particular issue, and how best to approach the target decision-maker(s) to persuade them towards their cause. Representative Lusker will be present to share his perspective as an insider. (Other policymakers are encouraged to attend!)

Communicating with the Media - Katie Allen, Communications Specialist, K-State Research and Extension, will discuss strategies for communicating effectively with reporters so that their intended message comes across clearly, how to get the media to cover an important issue or event, and tips for writing an impactful "op-ed."

The Manhattan workshop will be preceded by a separate "Ideas into Action" workshop the day before, on September 23, at the El Dorado Civic Center in El Dorado, Kansas. KRC welcomes participants in both. Two previous workshops in the series were held last month in Colby and Dodge City.

"Ideas Into Action" workshop registration is available at kansasruralcenter.org/ideas-into-action-registration.

Questions about KRC's "Ideas Into Action" workshop series may be directed towards Natalie Fullerton, KRC Program Director, at nfullerton@kansasruralcenter.org or (866) 579-5469.

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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 September 9, 2015
8:30 AM Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Public Comments

P. Collins discussed the monthly construction meeting with USDA at the Tuttle Creek Fire Station Project.

Business Meeting

3. Sign Riley County Personnel Action Form(s)

The Board of County Commissioners signed Riley

County Personnel Action Forms for the following:

..Kathie R. Spillman, a Diversion Officer/Legal Secretary, in the County Attorney's Office, for Separation from County Service, effective September 11, 2015.

..Kimberly Jo Lenhart, a status change for a promotion, as a Diversion Officer/Legal Secretary, in the County Attorney's Office, at a grade I step 4, at \$17.82 per hour.

4. Sign Riley County Personnel Action Form(s)

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Personnel Action Form for Rhonda Lund, an Administrative Assistant II, in the Public Works Department, for Separation from County Service, effective September 14, 2015.

5. Sign Riley County Position Action Form(s)

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for an Administrative Assistant II, in the Public Works Department, at a grade K.

6. Highway Use Permit, Leonard Backhoe Service

Move to approve the Highway Use Permit to grant permission to Leonard Backhoe Service to bore diagonal across highway right of way from one corner of Charlie Schurle property to the other for purpose of water service.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Robert Boyd, County Commissioner

SECONDER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner

AYES: Boyd, Wells, Wilson

7. Tandem Axle Truck Bid Recommendation

Move to approve the bid from Truck Center Companies for the total amount of \$150,344.00.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Robert Boyd, County Commissioner

SECONDER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner

AYES: Boyd, Wells, Wilson

8. Approve payroll/accounts payables (when completed)

Move to approve the payroll vouchers in the amount of \$404,894.26 and the following warrant vouchers for September 4, 2015:

2015 Budget	
County General	\$381,904.92
Health Department	
	32,255.78
Riley Co Juvenile Service	4,407.39
Motor Vehicle Operations	3,503.03
21st Jud Dist Teen Court	702.76
Riley Co Adult Services	5,524.94
Capital Improvements Fund	
	8,839.11
Solid Waste	3,801.68
County Building	745.96
RCPD Levy/Op	5,169.06
Riley Co Fire Dist #1	2,228.94
Valleywood Operations	97.10
Univ Park W&S Cap Reserve	11,692.00
TOTAL	\$460,872.67

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Robert Boyd, County Commissioner

SECONDER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner

AYES: Boyd, Wells, Wilson

Review Minutes

9. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Aug 31, 2015 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

RESULT: ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Robert Boyd, County Commissioner

SECONDER: Ben Wilson, County Commissioner

AYES: Boyd, Wells, Wilson

Review Tentative Agenda
10. Tentative Agenda
Press Conference Topics

11. Discuss Press Conference
..Big Lakes Developmental Center

9:00 AM
Shelly Williams, Community Corrections Director

12. Staff Report
Williams discussed Community Corrections risk/needs assessment information.

Bruning discussed the risk/needs assessment numbers and how they are working on mental health and substance abuse diagnosis.

9:15 AM

Dennis Peterson, Noxious Weed Director

13. Staff Report

Peterson presented the Noxious Weed/HHW staff report.

9:30 AM

Greg McHenry, Appraiser

14. Appraiser's Office Report

McHenry presented the Appraiser's Office report.

9:45 AM

Monty Wedel, Planning/Special Projects Director

15. Planning & Development - Staff Update

Wedel presented the Planning and Development staff report.

10:00 AM

Break

10:10 AM

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

16. Administrative Work Session

Holeman reviewed Riley County's four legislative items to be proposed to the KAC Legislative Policy Committee.

Holeman reviewed the other counties legislative proposals to be presented to KAC.

10:30 AM

Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk

17. Department of Labor Changes in Overtime and Exempt Status Positions

10:45 AM

Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer

18. 2016 Budget Brochure

Shepek presented the Riley County 2016 Budget Brochure.

11:34 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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Action delayed on Confederate flag removed in Wichita

The Wichita Board of Park Commissioners voted Monday to delay taking any action for at least another 60 days on a Confederate flag that was removed this summer from Veterans Memorial Park.

A Confederate flag had been displayed at the John S. Stevens Pavilion at Veterans Memorial Plaza near downtown since 1976, when it was placed there in a historical flag display as part of the nation's bicentennial. It was removed July 2 by order of Mayor Jeff Longwell who acknowledged then that he and City Council members received countless e-mails and phone calls following deadly shootings at a black church in South Carolina.

The suspect in the shootings, Dylann Roof, posed with the Confederate flag on social media before the shootings. Authorities have called the shootings a hate crime.

On Monday, the park commission heard from John Stevens, whose father's name is on the pavilion, and who proposed the city replace the Confederate flag with the Kansas flag.

"What we are looking at today is a flag replacement for a controversial flag that has caused a lot of negative publicity," Stevens said.

Eric Cale, director of the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, also advocated for the Kansas flag.

"I think it is an excellent choice, not only because it is locally relevant but it is historically relevant in terms of Kansas' role in joining the Union in 1861 as the 34th state; but particularly as many states from the South were seceding and Civil War was breaking out," Cale said.

During the meeting, Herb Duncan, a retired Vietnam War Navy veteran, stood in opposition to Cale and Stevens.

"The park is to represent those who have fought and died for our country," Duncan said. "By taking that battle flag down you will be doing a disservice to all – especially the next generation and the generations to come.

"The battle flag represents veterans who lost their lives in combat – black and white."

Troy Hendricks, Wichita Park and Recreation golf course manager, told the board that the park department has plans to create a Reconciliation Memorial at Veterans Memorial Park pertaining to the Civil War conflict.

The park commission unanimously voted to postpone a decision on the flag until there is a design for the new memorial.

For now, the Confederate flag that flew over the park remains with the park department.

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Medicare Yet to Save Money Through Heralded Medical Payment Model

Heritage Foundation

A high-profile Medicare experiment pushing doctors and hospitals to join together to operate more efficiently has yet to save the government money, with nearly half of the groups costing more than the government estimated their patients would normally cost, federal records show.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services offers the lure of bonuses to health care practitioners who band together as accountable care organizations, or ACOs, to take care of patients. The financial incentives are intended to encourage these doctors, hospitals, nursing homes and other institutions to keep patients healthy rather than primarily treat illnesses, which is what Medicare payments traditionally have rewarded. ACOs that save a substantial amount get to keep a share of the savings as a bonus.

The Obama administration touts ACOs as one of the most promising reforms in the 2010 federal health care law. The administration set a goal that by the end of 2018, half of Medicare spending currently based on the volume of procedures a doctor or hospital performs will instead be linked to quality and frugality. But so far the ACO program generally has been a one-way street, with most doctors and hospitals happy to accept bonuses while declining to be on the hook for a share of any excessive costs run up by their patients.

Last year, Medicare paid \$60

billion to 353 ACOs to take care of nearly 6 million Medicare beneficiaries. Some ACOs made significant strides in reducing use of hospitals and other costly resources. But patients at 45 percent of groups cost Medicare more than the government had projected based on their patients' historic costs, records show. After paying bonuses to the strong performers, the ACO program resulted in a net loss of nearly \$3 million to the Medicare trust fund, government records show.

"It's turning out to be tougher to transform care and realign delivery than people had expected," said Eric Cragun, an analyst with The Advisory Board Company, a consulting group based in Washington.

Medicare officials said most ACOs are still in their infancy, and that performances will improve with experience and ultimately save significant sums for Medicare while improving care for beneficiaries. "In the long run we're shooting to achieve those goals," Sean Cavanaugh, CMS' deputy administrator, said in an interview.

Nonetheless, the results are short of what Medicare projected in 2011 as it launched the program. Those estimates anticipated the government would save between \$10 million and \$320 million during 2014.

'Bearing Risk Is a Big Leap'
The ACO program's bottom line has been hurt by the reluctance

of most ACOs to accept financial responsibility for their patients. Only 7 percent of ACOs opted last year for a high-risk/high-reward deal in which they had the potential to earn larger bonuses but would have to reimburse the government should their patients instead cost Medicare more than expected.

The rest of the ACOs opted to avoid the potential of financial punishment even though it meant their potential bonuses would be smaller. The risk aversion proved so widespread that Medicare has given ACOs up to six years to participate without fear of penalties, instead of phasing out that option.

"Many of these ACOs are newly formed groups of doctors and hospitals, and bearing risk is a big leap," Cavanaugh said.

Last year, 196 ACOs saved Medicare money, while 157 ACOs cost more than expected. Medicare ultimately did not realize any savings because it paid out bonuses to 97 ACOs, but only three of the costly ACOs had to repay Medicare for losses their patients incurred.

In Oregon, North Bend Medical Center ACO patients cost Medicare \$9 million. Spending for those patients was 12 percent more than projected, the largest gap of any ACO. In Los Angeles, the government spent \$20 million, or 11 percent, more than expected for ACO patients at Cedars-Sinai Medical Care Foundation. That

was the largest amount in dollars. Both ACOs had chosen to be exempt from financial penalties.

North Bend dropped out of the program earlier this year.

Cedars-Sinai said its ACO patients ended up more expensive than other previous patients because the hospital added new physician practices specializing in cancer and heart disease, which are among the most costly conditions to treat. In a statement Thursday, Cedars said it unintentionally failed to include those patients in the comparisons it sent to Medicare and was now revising its calculations.

Even some of the ACOs that saved the most money have yet to accept financial risk. Costs for patients at Winchester Community ACO in Massachusetts were 16 percent less than Medicare estimated. The ACO earned a bonus of \$5 million. Catharine Robertson, an executive with Winchester Hospital, said their cost-saving initiatives were created when the ACO was formed. One team at the ACO identified patients as high risk of getting sick and sought to intercede before they ended up requiring hospitalization.

"We're absolutely thrilled with our success the last few years, but the reality is there's a lot to learn about population-based management," she said.

The largest bonus in dollars, \$23 million, went to Memorial Hermann Accountable Care Organization in Houston, which was 11 percent below Medicare's cost expectations. Christopher Lloyd, the CEO of Memorial Hermann's ACO, credited its success to a decade's worth of changes that improved cooperation among physicians and the hospital, as well as the creation of systems to share medical details of patients.

"The ACO when we formed it in 2012 was just an extension of what we were already doing," Lloyd said. He said committed ACOs could make the same improvements in

three to four years. "What took us 10 years to build does not take 10 years to replicate," he said. Still, Memorial Hermann, like Winchester, is not yet accepting risk.

Difficulties in Implementing the Program

To wring overall savings for Medicare, the government faces a bind, analysts said. If Medicare makes the potential of repayments mandatory, many existing ACOs may drop out of the program and new ones are less likely to join. If the majority of ACOs continue to risk no financial repercussions, they have less incentive to save the government money. And without showing savings, it will be hard for Medicare to expand the program.

Clif Gaus, president of the National Association of ACOs, said Medicare should be making it easier for ACOs to earn bonuses as they assemble their operations. "Any start-up company, I don't care who they are, never makes profits in the early years," Gaus said. "Starting a health care delivery system is just as hard, if not harder, than starting a Facebook or an Amazon."

Because Medicare sets its expectations based on national spending averages, "it's really hard to save money in some parts of the country," said David Muhlestein, an executive at the consulting firm Leavitt Partners based in Salt Lake City. "We've talked to ACOs that have joined the program, started to make changes and decided that it's really too much work right now."

Sharp Healthcare, a well-regarded five-hospital system in San Diego, dropped out of the program last year after concluding it might not be able to avoid penalties. In a financial statement, Sharp said that because Medicare's assessments are "based on national financial trend factors that are not adjusted for specific conditions that an ACO is facing in a particular region (e.g., San Diego), the model was financially detrimental to Sharp

ACO."

Jeff Goldsmith, a health industry analyst and professor at the University of Virginia who is a longtime ACO critic, said the ACO model is flawed. Consumers do not actively opt to participate in the ACOs and do not share in any savings, so they lack financial incentives to help keep costs down, he said. ACOs also have limited leverage to control the costs incurred by highly paid specialists such as surgeons and cardiologists. Patients in ACOs can still go to any doctor who accepts Medicare's regular method of paying, in which they receive a set fee based on the nature of the service without regard to its outcome.

"Faux managed care is actually harder to do than real managed care," Goldsmith said. The ACO program, he said, "has a bad enough reputation in the provider community that is not going to grow sufficiently to replace regular Medicare."

The Obama administration is more optimistic. The administration said patients are benefiting with better care, as most quality measures Medicare is using to track ACO performance improved between 2013 and 2014.

CMS' actuaries believe the ACOs are performing better than they appear when compared to the historical benchmarks that the health law established, which CMS has been using. The actuaries employed an alternative method in a report issued last spring, comparing Medicare spending trends in places with ACOs and those without, and concluded that, overall, ACOs were saving money.

Still, ACOs' appetite for taking risk remains small. The number of ACOs opting for the largest potential bonuses and penalties has shrunk from 32 at the start of the program to 19. Rob Lazerow, an Advisory Board consultant, said, "In a world where ACOs are still optional, CMS still has to make it attractive for providers to want to participate."

Senate to hold another more vote on Iran nuclear deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans will try a second time on Tuesday to move ahead on a resolution rejecting the Iran nuclear deal, and the outcome is expected to be the same: Democrats are poised to block the measure and preserve President Barack Obama's foreign policy win.

Last week, Senate Democrats blocked GOP attempts to get a disapproval resolution to Obama's desk and House Republicans settled for passing two related measures that are never expected to get out of Congress.

The international accord backed by the United States, Iran and five world powers would curb Iran's nuclear program in exchange for relief from crippling sanctions that

have undercut Tehran's economy.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has scheduled another vote Tuesday to end debate, but that motion is likely to be blocked by Senate Democrats as well. It's unclear if this is the last vote the Republican-led Senate will take on the Iran nuclear deal.

Though measure is unlikely to advance, Republicans are staging the Senate vote to make political points against Democrats and in future Senate races. They point to polls showing Americans have reservations about the deal.

Republicans are also working to craft new sanctions legislation to maintain a hardline stance against Iran. Looking

ahead to next year's elections, Republican campaign committees also have targeted Democrats who backed the deal and some organizations against the deal already have threatened to withdraw political contributions from members of Congress who backed it.

The National Republican Congressional Committee issued several statements on Monday criticizing individual Democrats who were in favor of the deal, including those in Connecticut, Florida and New York. Katie Martin, communications director for the committee, described the agreement as a "dangerous deal with Iran" that will put U.S. national security and the safety of U.S. troops and allies at risk.

GOP senators ask Justice to clarify Clinton email inquiry

By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two top Republican senators asked the Justice Department Monday whether it is conducting a criminal investigation related to Hillary Rodham Clinton's use of a private server for email and whether the computer specialist who helped set it up is the subject.

Sens. Chuck Grassley of Iowa and Ron Johnson of Wisconsin also asked Attorney General Loretta Lynch whether the department would deem a

preliminary offer of immunity to the computer worker as a waiver of his constitutional rights against self-incrimination.

Computer specialist Bryan Pagliano has refused to answer questions about his role in setting up the server used by Clinton while she was secretary of state. His lawyers say Pagliano does not want to relinquish his Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination.

Clinton, the 2016 Democratic presidential front-

runner, has been dogged by questions about her use of a private email account for government business.

"Does the FBI or any other component of the Department of Justice currently have a criminal investigation open relating to Secretary Clinton's private server?" the senators wrote Lynch. "If so, is Mr. Pagliano a subject of that investigation?"

The senators asked her to respond to this question and several others by Sept. 21.

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Medicare Yet to Save Money Through Heralded Medical Payment Model

By Jordan Rau
Heritage Foundation

A high-profile Medicare experiment pushing doctors and hospitals to join together to operate more efficiently has yet to save the government money, with nearly half of the groups costing more than the government estimated their patients would normally cost, federal records show.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services offers the lure of bonuses to health care practitioners who band together as accountable care organizations, or ACOs, to take care of patients. The financial incentives are intended to encourage these doctors, hospitals, nursing homes and other institutions to keep patients healthy rather than primarily treat illnesses, which is what Medicare payments traditionally have rewarded. ACOs that save a substantial amount get to keep a share of the savings as a bonus.

The Obama administration touts ACOs as one of the most promising reforms in the 2010 federal health care law. The administration set a goal that by the end of 2018, half of Medicare spending currently based on the volume of procedures a doctor or hospital performs will instead be linked to quality and frugality. But so far the ACO program generally has been a one-way street, with most doctors and hospitals happy to accept bonuses while declining to be on the hook for a share of any excessive costs run up by their patients.

Last year, Medicare paid \$60 billion to 353 ACOs to take care of nearly 6 million Medicare beneficiaries. Some ACOs made significant strides in reducing use of hospitals and other costly resources. But patients at 45 percent of groups cost Medicare more than the government had projected based on their patients' historic costs, records show. After paying bonuses to the strong performers, the ACO program resulted in a net loss of nearly \$3 million to the Medicare trust fund, government records show.

"It's turning out to be tougher to transform care and realign delivery than people had expected," said Eric Cragun, an analyst with The Advisory Board Company, a consulting group based in Washington.

Medicare officials said most ACOs are still in their infancy, and that performances will improve with experience and ultimately save significant sums for Medicare while improving care for beneficiaries. "In the long run we're shooting to achieve those goals," Sean Cavanaugh, CMS'

deputy administrator, said in an interview.

Nonetheless, the results are short of what Medicare projected in 2011 as it launched the program. Those estimates anticipated the government would save between \$10 million and \$320 million during 2014.

"Bearing Risk Is a Big Leap" The ACO program's bottom line has been hurt by the reluctance of most ACOs to accept financial responsibility for their patients. Only 7 percent of ACOs opted last year for a high-risk/high-reward deal in which they had the potential to earn larger bonuses but would have to reimburse the government should their patients instead cost Medicare more than expected.

The rest of the ACOs opted to avoid the potential of financial punishment even though it meant their potential bonuses would be smaller. The risk aversion proved so widespread that Medicare has given ACOs up to six years to participate without fear of penalties, instead of phasing out that option.

"Many of these ACOs are newly formed groups of doctors and hospitals, and bearing risk is a big leap," Cavanaugh said.

Last year, 196 ACOs saved Medicare money, while 157 ACOs cost more than expected. Medicare ultimately did not realize any savings because it paid out bonuses to 97 ACOs, but only three of the costly ACOs had to repay Medicare for losses their patients incurred.

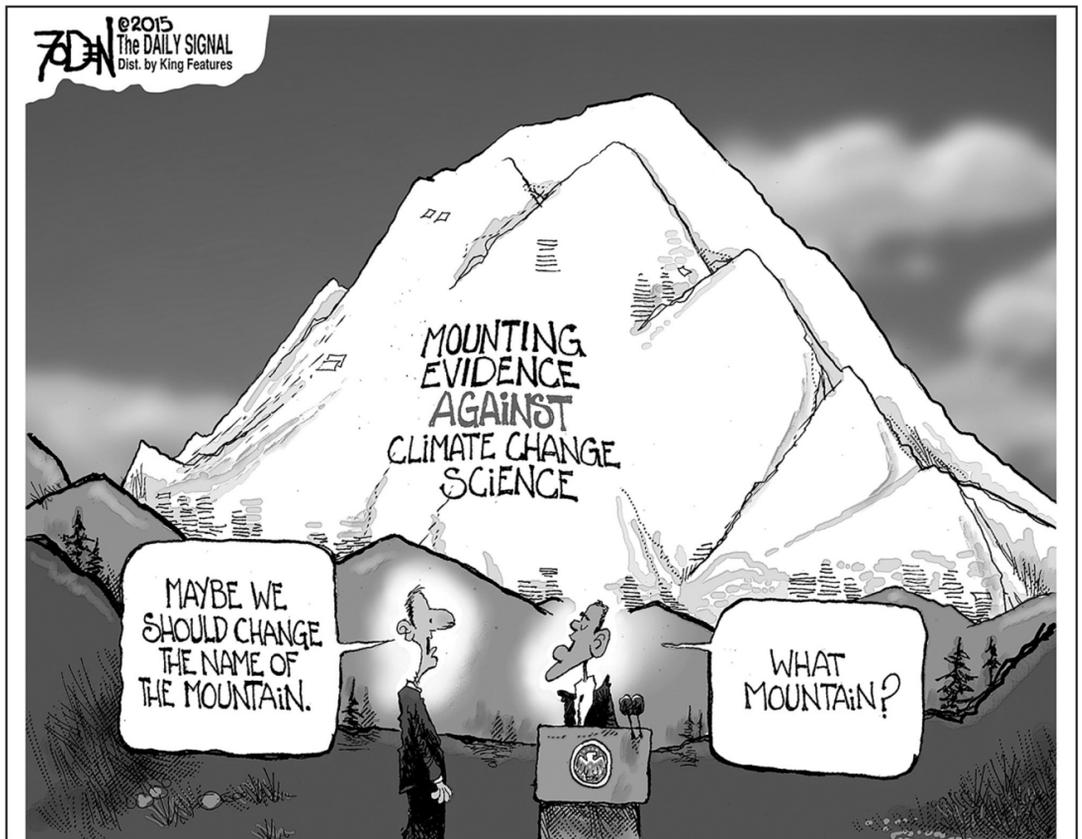
In Oregon, North Bend Medical Center ACO patients cost Medicare \$9 million. Spending for those patients was 12 percent more than projected, the largest gap of any ACO. In Los Angeles, the government spent \$20 million, or 11 percent, more than expected for ACO patients at Cedars-Sinai Medical Care Foundation. That was the largest amount in dollars. Both ACOs had chosen to be exempt from financial penalties.

North Bend dropped out of the program earlier this year.

Cedars-Sinai said its ACO patients ended up more expensive than other previous patients because the hospital added new physician practices specializing in cancer and heart disease, which are among the most costly conditions to treat. In a statement Thursday, Cedars said it unintentionally failed to include those patients in the comparisons it sent to Medicare and was now revising its calculations.

Even some of the ACOs that saved the most money have yet to accept financial risk. Costs

The Conservative Side...



for patients at Winchester Community ACO in Massachusetts were 16 percent less than Medicare estimated. The ACO earned a bonus of \$5 million. Catharine Robertson, an executive with Winchester Hospital, said their cost-saving initiatives were created when

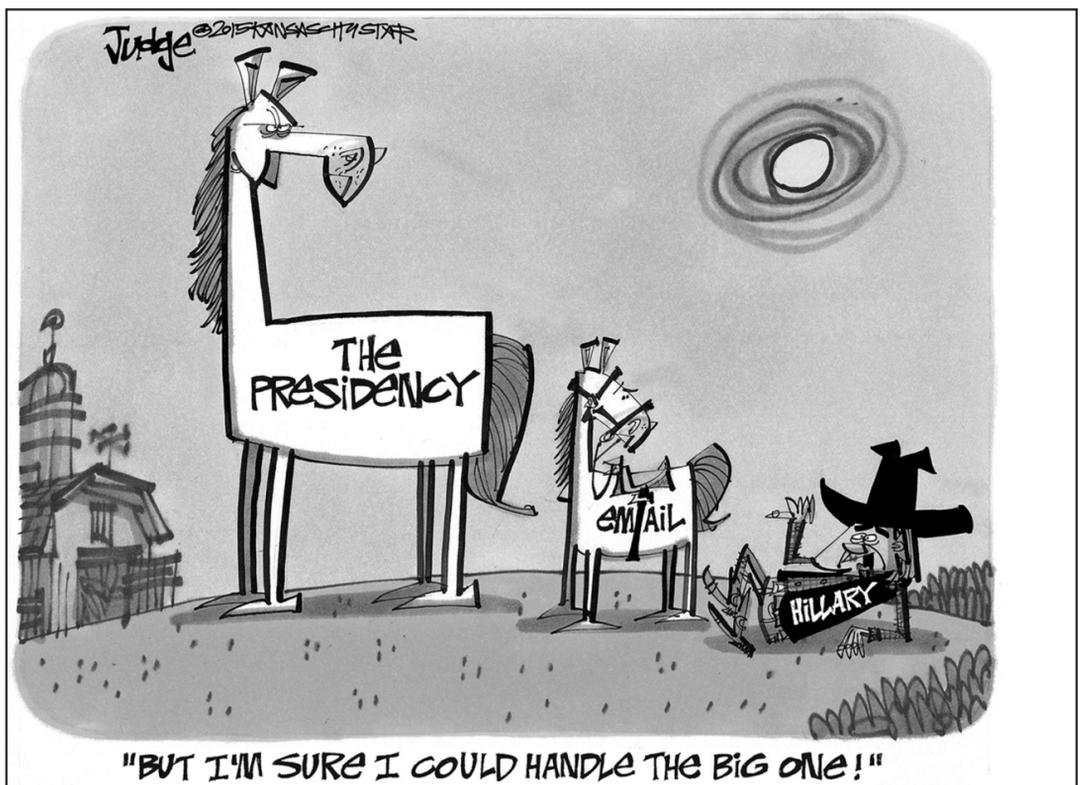
the ACO was formed. One team at the ACO identified patients as high risk of getting sick and sought to intercede before they ended up requiring hospitalization.

"We're absolutely thrilled with our success the last few years, but the reality is there's a

lot to learn about population-based management," she said.

The largest bonus in dollars, \$23 million, went to Memorial Hermann Accountable Care Organization in Houston, which was 11 percent below Medicare's cost expectations. Christopher Lloyd, the CEO of

Memorial Hermann's ACO, credited its success to a decade's worth of changes that improved cooperation among physicians and the hospital, as well as the creation of systems to share medical details of patients.



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Free Press Big 12 Sports

Manhattan Free Press

Thursday, September 17, 2015

5A

Kansas State Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time/Result	Record
Sat. Sep 5	South Dakota	KSU 35-0	1-0
Sat. Sep 12, 2015	Texas San Antonio	KSU 30-3	2-0
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	
Sat. Dec 5, 2015	West Virginia	Manhattan	

Kansas Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time/Result	Record
9/5/2015	South Dakota State	Lawrence, Kan.	KU 38-41	0-1
9/12/2015	Memphis (Band Day)	Lawrence, Kan.	KU 23-55	0-2
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	Record
09/04/15	at SMU	Dallas, Texas	6:00 p.m. CT	BU 56-21	1-0
09/12/15	vs. Lamar	Waco, Texas	6:30 p.m. CT	BU 66-31	2-0
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	Record
Sat, Sep 05	Northern Iowa	Ames, Iowa	ISU 31-7	1-0
Sat, Sep 12	Iowa	Ames, Iowa	ISU 17-31	1-1
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	Record
Sat, Sep 05	Akron	Norman	6:00 p.m.	OU 41-3	1-0
Sat, Sep 12	Tennessee	at Knoxville, Tenn.	5:00 p.m.	OU 31-24	2-0
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
Thu, Sept 3	@ Cent Michigan	OSU 24-13	1-0
Sat, Sept 12	vs Cent Arkansas	OSU 32-8	2-0
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 /	Record
09/03/15	at Minnesota	Minneapolis, Minn.	TCU 21-17	1-0
09/12/15	vs. Stephen F. Austin	Fort Worth, Texas	TCU 70-7	2-0
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 /	Record
09/05/15	vs. Sam Houston State	Lubbock, Texas	TT 59-45	1-0
09/12/15	vs. UTEP	Lubbock, Texas	TT 69-20	2-0
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	Result	Record
9/5/2015	Notre Dame	South Bend, Ind.	TU 3-38	0-1
9/12/2015	Rice	Austin, Texas	TU 42-28	1-1
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	Result	Record
Sep 05, 2015	Georgia Southern	ROOT Sports	WV 44-0	1-0
Sep 12, 2015	Liberty	ROOT Sports	WV 41-17	
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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Hubener Strong in First Start in K-State's 30-3

KSU Sports Information
 SAN ANTONIO, Texas - Kansas State scored 30 unanswered points behind a solid performance from junior quarterback Joe Hubener, as the Wildcats topped the UTSA Roadrunners, 30-3, on Saturday before 29,424 fans at the Alamodome. The victory snapped a seven-game losing streak when playing in a domed stadium.

Overcoming a slow start in the first quarter, K-State (2-0) had no trouble moving the ball, posting 418 yards of total offense on its way to a 27-point win. Holding a narrow 7-3 lead at the half, the Wildcats exploded for 23 points and 254 yards of total offense, including 111 on the ground, in the second half. It marked the second-straight game that the Wildcats scored at least 30 points.

Hubener finished the day with a career-high 243 yards passing on 12-of-23 attempts to go with a team-high 58 yards rushing and a touchdown. Hubener was one of six players that helped the Wildcats total 175 yards on the ground on 44 attempts and three touchdowns. Redshirt freshmen Winston Dimel and Justin Silmon each recorded touchdowns, as Silmon picked up his first career score to start the fourth quarter.

Dimel led all receivers with 80 yards on two catches, including a 53-yard reception in the second quarter, while senior Andre Davis had 73 yards on a team-high four catches.

On the defensive side, K-State allowed just three points on 229 total yards to UTSA (0-2), which had 32 points and 525 yards of total offense in its loss to No. 22 Arizona in the season opener. The Wildcats held the Roadrunners to just 37 rushing yards, the second-



K-State's kick off returner Morgan Burns (33) returned two kickoffs for 76 yards.

straight week that the defense has held an opponent to under 100 yards rushing.

The three points allowed through the first two games are the fewest since 2002.

Junior linebacker Will Davis led the defense with nine tackles on the day, while senior defensive tackle Travis Britz added four tackles of his own, including two sacks. Senior defensive back Nate Jackson had a career-high six stops.

"K-State got a strong performance from back-up kicker Jack Cantele, who replaced Matthew McCrane early in the game after he went out with an

injury. Cantele went a perfect 3-of-3 on the day, converting from 29, 27, and 21 yards.

UTSA would jump on the scoreboard first, as place-kicker Daniel Portillo converted on a 51-yard field goal to cap a 10-play, 45-yard drive on the Roadrunners' first possession. The teams would trade possessions throughout the first quarter until Hubener scored from one-yard out with 11:34 left in the second quarter. The score capped a 9-play, 88-yard drive by the Wildcats, which was highlighted by Dimel's 53-yard catch.

Leading 7-3 at halftime, K-State responded with an 8-play, 41-yard drive to open the third quarter that was capped by a 29-yard field goal by Cantele at the 10:47 mark that gave the Wildcats a 10-3 lead. All but four yards of the drive came on a 36-yard reception by Davis from Hubener. After forcing a three-and-out, the team added a second Cantele field goal of the quarter - a 27-yarder at the 4:34 mark - to extend the lead to 13-3.

The Wildcats pushed their advantage to 20-3 just 10 seconds into the fourth quarter with a 14-yard touchdown run

Photos by Jon A. Brake

by Silmon, who had 38 of the drive's 62 yards on five carries. The score was Silmon's first of his career.

K-State took advantage of terrific field position on its next possession, as the defense stopped the Roadrunners on 4th and 6 from its own 36 with 13:47 left in the fourth quarter. The team drove all the way to the UTSA 2 before a penalty stalled the drive, forcing Cantele's third field goal of the day - a 21-yarder - to give the Wildcats a 23-3 lead with 10:49 to play.

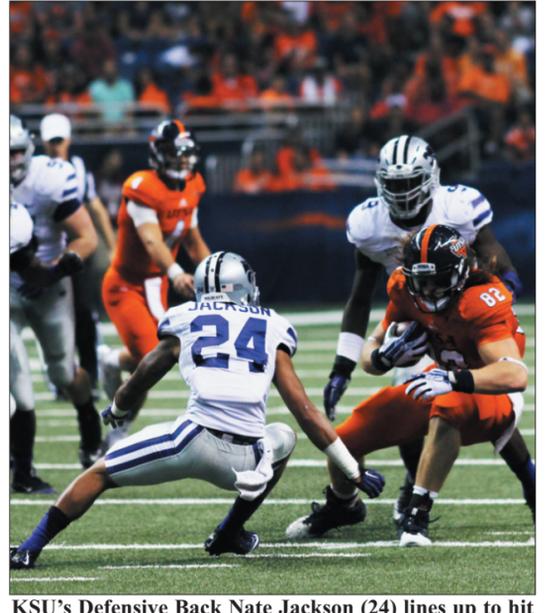
Dimel capped the game off

with the team's third rushing touchdown of the game, punching it in from one yard out for his third score of the year. He finished the game with 98 total yards, including 80 yards receiving. The 10-play, 62-yard drive was highlighted by red-shirt freshman Dalvin Warmack's 22-yard scamper.

The Wildcats return home next Saturday for their final non-conference test, as the team hosts the Louisiana Tech Bulldogs (1-1, 0-1 C-USA). Kickoff is slated for 2 p.m. CST and can be seen on the Fox Sports Network.



Wildcat Linebacker Sam Sizelove (41) gets to the Roadrunner Quarterback on the 15-yard line.



KSU's Defensive Back Nate Jackson (24) lines up to hit the running back.



K-State quarterback Joe Hubener (8) looks downfield for a receiver.



KSU's back-up kicker Jack Cantele, who replaced Matthew McCrane early in the game after he went out with an injury. Cantele went a perfect 3-of-3 on the day, converting from 29, 27, and 21 yards.

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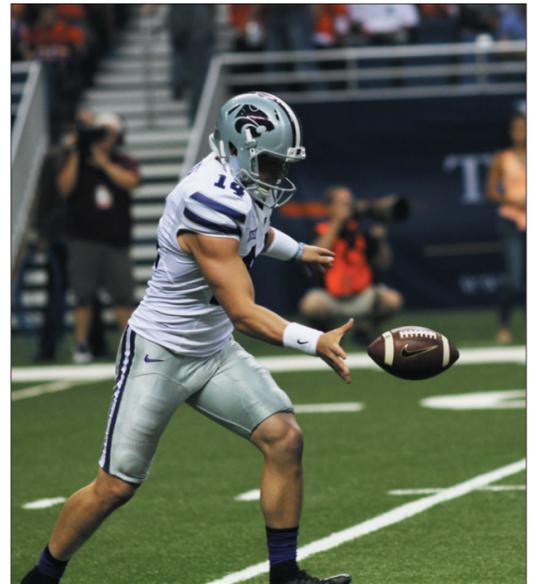


Kansas State's Charles Jones (24) picks up four-yards.

(Photos by Jon A. Brake)



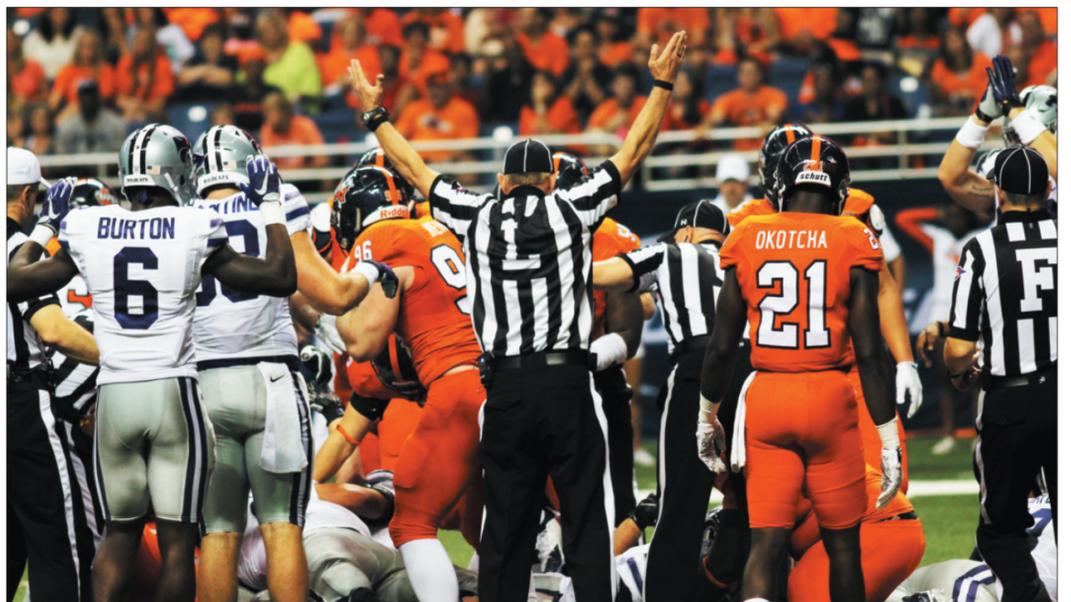
Kansas State was on the one-yard-line 3rd down when Quarterback Joe Hubener took the snap from under center and the fight. Final picture on this play is at the lower right.



Nick Walsh (14) gets a punt away.



K-State's Will Davis (35) cuts down UTSA's Quarterback Blake Bogenschutz after a short gain.



It looked like KSU's Joe Hubener was stopped on this one yard play but the referee said different.

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Hubener leads K-State to 30-3 win in first start

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Kansas State junior Joe Hubener vowed his first career start at quarterback on any level would be just another game.

Hubener quickly learned his assumptions were wrong under the heavy pressure of UTSA's defense and the deafening cheers of the Roadrunners' fans at the Alamodome.

But Hubener was able to slow the game down, leading Kansas State to a 30-3 victory against UTSA on Saturday afternoon.

"I was just antsy," Hubener said. "I was nervous all day. There were a lot of throws that I just rushed. I just need to focus on staying calm. I said I was going to treat it just like any other day and it still got me nervous."

The Wildcats' defense helped calm his nerves, holding the Roadrunners to 37 yards rushing on 25 carries.

Hubener had a career-high 243 yards passing, completing 12 of 23 attempts, and also rushed for 58 yards and a touchdown on 17 carries.

He is taking over for Jesse Ertz, who suffered a season-ending knee injury on the third play of the Wildcats' opener last week.

Hubener began his career at Kansas State as a walk-on before earning a scholarship prior to last season, when he served as the team's primary backup quarterback.

"Being a walk-on, you play with a chip on your shoulder," Hubener said. "You have always got something to prove. It's totally fine that I'm always going to be a 'walk on.'"

That's how he attempted to play, but UTSA's defense flustered Hubener early by sending multiple defenders at him. The 6-foot-5 junior frantically called for a hurried snap early



Justin Silmon (32) Kansas State Running Back get hits after a good gain.

in the opening drive and was forced to call timeout on the same possession to prevent a delay. Hubener walked out of the pocket shaking his head following that timeout as Kansas State running back Charles Jones tapped his thumb and fingers together to mimic talking.

"I was very surprised, I didn't expect it to be quite that loud," Hubener said. "I think they said 40,000, (29,000 actually). Twenty-nine? Wow, they were a loud 29,000. We had to

go on center snap count the whole game, so they were very loud."

Hubener settled in after the initial drive, guiding the Wildcats (2-0) to three straight scoring drives to open the second half.

Kansas State amassed 418 total yards, helping keep UTSA's explosive offense off the field.

"I thought he made some good decisions in regards to what he got into and out of,"

Wildcats coach Bill Snyder said. "He handled the running game well. He handled his part of the running game well. Overall, he did some good things, but we still have some growth in some aspects of the passing game."

Kansas State's defense struggled early, too, before stifling UTSA's frenetic offense.

The Roadrunners (0-2) marched 41 yards on six plays to open the game before incurring consecutive false start

penalties. The break allowed Kansas State to catch their breath and gain their bearing against the no-huddle offense. UTSA settled for a 51-yard field goal from Daniel Portillo.

Coming off a 42-32 loss to No. 22 Arizona in which they gained 525 total yards on 95 plays, UTSA was limited to 229 yards on 62 plays by Kansas State.

"Just get three and outs,"

Wildcats linebacker Elijah Lee said. "A big emphasis is whenever you get a team three and outs, they have to start slowing down and they can't run as many plays as they are used to."

The victory snapped Kansas State's seven-game losing streak at indoor facilities. The Wildcats' last victory indoors was 1993 against Minnesota in the now-defunct Metrodome.

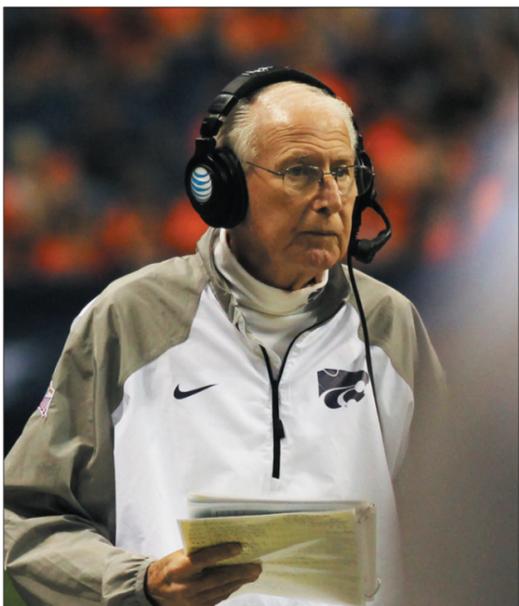
(Photo by Jon A. Brake)



It takes two Roadrunners to take down Andre Davis (2) on this play.



Matthew McCrane (16) gets the extra point. Collin Sexton (23) is the holder.



Coach Bill Snyder watches the play unfold.



Kansas State's Quarterback Joe Hubener come in for a crash landing after picking up yardage.

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