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Thursday, January 7, 2016

Obama unveils his plan for gun control

WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Barack Obama, at one point wiping tears from his cheek, unveiled his plan Tuesday to tighten control and enforcement of firearms in the U.S., using his presidential powers in the absence of legal changes he implored Congress to pass.

Obama accused the gun lobby of taking Congress hostage, but said "they cannot hold America hostage." He insisted it was possible to uphold the Second Amendment while doing something to tackle the frequency of mass shootings in the U.S. that he said had become "the new normal."

"This is not a plot to take away everybody's guns," Obama said in a ceremony in the East Room. "You pass a background check, you purchase a firearm. The problem is some gun sellers have been operating under a different set of rules."

Obama wiped tears away as he recalled the 20 first-graders killed in 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School. He paid tribute to the parents, some of whom gathered for the ceremony, who he said had never imagined their child's life would be cut short by a bullet.

"Every time I think about those kids, it gets me mad," Obama said.

At the centerpiece of Obama's plan is a more sweeping definition of gun dealers that the administration hopes will expand the number of sales subject to background checks. Under current law, only federally licensed gun dealers must conduct background checks on buyers. But at gun shows, websites and flea markets, sellers often skirt that requirement by declining to register as licensed dealers.

Aiming to narrow that loophole, the Justice Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is issuing updated guidance that says the government should deem anyone "in the business" of selling guns to be a dealer, regardless of where he or she sells the guns. To that end, the government will consider other factors, including how many guns a person sells, how frequently, and whether those guns are sold for a profit.

(Editor's Note: This is Government overreach. It will be up to a Government Agent to determine if you have broken an Unlawful law and if you will be taken to Court.)

The White House also put gun sellers on notice that the administration planned to strengthen enforcement - including deploying 230 new examiners the FBI will hire to process background checks.

(Editor's Note: The President didn't need an Executive Action for Gun Control to do this, he could have been doing it for the last seven-years without the Executive Action.)

The impact of Obama's plan on gun violence remains a major question, and one not easily answered. Had the rules been in place in the past, the steps wouldn't likely have prevented any of the recent mass shootings that have garnered national attention. The Obama administration acknowledged it couldn't quantify how many gun sales would be newly subjected to background checks, nor how many currently unregistered gun sellers would have to obtain a license.

Pushing back on that critique, Obama said every time the issue is debated, gun rights groups argue the

steps wouldn't necessarily have stopped the last massacre, "so why bother trying?"

"I reject that thinking," Obama said, arguing it would be worth it if the measures would prevent even a single gun death. "We maybe can't save everybody, but we could save some."

To lend a personal face to the issue, the White House assembled a cross-section of Americans whose lives were altered by the nation's most searing recent gun tragedies, including former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and relatives of victims from Charleston, S.C., at Virginia Tech. Mark Barden, whose son was shot to death at Sandy Hook Elementary School, introduced the president with a declaration that "we are better than this."

(Editor's Note: This was nothing but an anti-gun pep-rally. In watching this announcement, we did not see anyone from Chicago, New York or Detroit. All three have more Gun Laws than anyone in the nation but also have more killings each month than any of the gun tragedies.)

Invoking the words of Martin Luther King Jr., Obama said, "We need to feel the fierce urgency of now."

Obama's actions carved a predictably partisan fault line through the presidential campaign. Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, both competing for the nomination from Obama's party, praised the president and pledged to build on his actions if elected. The Republican field formed a chorus of voices vowing to annul the whole package, with Marco Rubio claiming Obama was "Obama is obsessed with undermining the Second Amendment."

In Congress, Democrats and Republicans similarly lined up on opposite sides. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said Obama was acting within his "clear authority," but echoed his call for Congress to finish the job. But House Speaker Paul Ryan predicted a certain challenge in the courts.

(Editor's Note: As a Constitutional Lawyer, Obama said many times that he could not change the Law by Executive Action, but now he says he can.)

"Rather than focus on criminals and terrorists, he goes after the most law-abiding of citizens," said Ryan, R-Wis. "His words and actions amount to a form of intimidation that undermines liberty."

For Obama, the executive actions mark a return late in his presidency to an issue he's elevated time and again but has been unable until now to advance. By bypassing Congress, though, Obama is limited to steps far more modest than what he and like-minded lawmakers had long envisioned.

After the Sandy Hook shooting, Obama in 2013, Obama sought far-reaching, bipartisan legislation that went beyond background checks to ban certain assault-style weapons and cap the size of ammunition clips. When the effort collapsed in the Senate, the White House said it was thoroughly researching the president's powers to identify every legal step he could take on his own. A more recent spate of gun-related atrocities, including in San Bernardino, California, shootings have spurred the administration to give the issue another look.



Obama durning his gun pep-rally.

(Whitehouse Photo)

Questions and answers about Obama's executive plan

(AP) Obama announced a 10-point plan to try to keep guns from people who shouldn't have them. The centerpiece is new federal guidance that seeks to clarify who is "in the business" of selling firearms and has to get a federal license.

Licensed dealers must run background checks on prospective buyers, but private sellers don't. Obama is aiming to narrow that loophole so that more firearms sold at gun shows, flea markets or online are subject to background checks.

Other steps include 230 new examiners the FBI will hire to process background checks. And Obama is directing federal agencies to research smart gun technology to reduce accidental shootings and asking Congress for \$500 million for mental health care. Further steps aim to better track lost guns and prevent trusts or corporations from buying dangerous weapons without background checks.

I SELL A FEW GUNS FROM TIME TO TIME. DO I NEED TO REGISTER?

There's no cut-and-dry answer.

The new guidance says if your "principal motive" is profit, you're a dealer, but if you occasionally sell guns from your personal collection, you're not. Someone who only sells at gun shows or online can still be a dealer.

There's no specific number of guns that triggers a requirement to register. But the Justice Department is warning sellers that courts have convicted people for dealing without a license even when they've sold as few as two guns.

It's up to individuals to look at the guidance and determine whether they need a license. The penalties for making the wrong call are steep: up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 for those who deal firearms without a license. If you're not sure, you can contact the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

WOULD THIS HAVE STOPPED RECENT MASS SHOOTINGS? Probably not.

An Associated Press review shows that Obama's executive actions would have had no impact in keeping weapons from suspects in several of the deadliest incidents, including Newtown, Connecticut; San Bernardino, California; and Aurora, Colorado. The shooters in Newtown and San Bernardino, for example, used weapons purchased by other people.

Obama's actions could potentially reduce other gun deaths — especially suicides, which cause two-thirds of gun deaths. But it's unclear whether the steps will significantly curb unregulated gun sales.

Millions of guns are sold annually in informal settings outside of gun shops, including many through private sales arranged online. The Obama administration acknowledged it couldn't quantify how many gun sales would be newly subjected to background checks. Nor could it say how many currently unregistered gun sellers would have to obtain a license.

WHY NOW?

Obama is running out of time. With barely a year left in his presidency, he has to act quickly to roll out new policies, especially if he wants them to become ingrained and harder to rescind when the next president takes over.

After the Newtown shooting, Obama in 2013 sought far-reaching, bipartisan legislation that went beyond background checks to ban certain assault-style weapons and cap the size of ammunition clips. When the effort collapsed in the Senate, the White House said it was working to identify every legal step he could take on his own.

But a more recent spate of gun-related atrocities, including in San Bernardino, California, spurred the administration to give the issue another look.

CAN THE PRESIDENT DO THIS ALONE?

Obama says he can. Republicans and gun rights advocates say he can't.

The White House says Obama is acting fully within his legal authority, by clarifying existing laws that Congress has already passed. It's an argument Obama has used before when opposition in Congress has led him to take sweeping executive action on immigration, climate change and other issues.

Still, Obama readily concedes the executive steps will be challenged in court. One likely option for opponents is to challenge Obama's authority to define what it means to be "engaged in the business" of selling guns, since that definition isn't laid out in the law.

NRA Responds

Fairfax, Va. — The executive director of the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action, Chris W. Cox, released the following statement on Tuesday regarding President Barack Obama's Executive Gun Control Order:

Once again, President Obama has chosen to engage in political rhetoric, instead of offering meaningful solutions to our nation's pressing problems. Today's event also represents an ongoing attempt to distract attention away from his lack of a coherent strategy to keep the American people safe from terrorist attack.

The American people do not need more emotional, condescending lectures that are completely devoid of facts. The men and women of the National Rifle Association take a back seat to no one when it comes to keeping our communities safe. But the fact is that President Obama's proposals would not have prevented any of the horrific events he mentioned. The timing of this announcement, in the eighth and final year of his presidency, demonstrates not only political exploitation but a fundamental lack of seriousness.

The proposed executive actions are

ripe for abuse by the Obama Administration, which has made no secret of its contempt for the Second Amendment. The NRA will continue to fight to protect the fundamental, individual Right to Keep and Bear Arms as guaranteed under our Constitution. We will not allow law-abiding gun owners to be harassed or intimidated for engaging in lawful, constitutionally-protected activity — nor will we allow them to become scapegoats for President Obama's failed policies.

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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.)

Board of Riley County Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes
December 21, 2015
115 North 4th Street Manhattan, KS 66502

8:30 AM Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments

Commission Comments

Business Meeting

Consider the Appointment of David Kreller as a Replacement for Kelly Briggs on the Riley County Solid Waste Management Committee

Move to appoint David Kreller as a member of the Riley County Solid Waste Management Committee and approve "Resolution No. 122115- 46, A Resolution appointing a representative to the Solid Waste Management Committee."

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

Robert Boyd, County Commissioner Ronald Wells, County Commissioner Boyd, Wells
 Wilson

Bid Recommendation for N. 52nd Street and Green-Randolph Road Culvert Replacement Projects

Rosewicz presented the Ebert Construction bid. Rosewicz stated the Ebert adjusted base bid is \$246,659.21 which staff recommends.

Rosewicz said staff is split on recommending the shoo-fly which would increase the bid significantly.

Wells said he is concerned if the shoo-fly is built he is concerned it may get washed out due to spring rains.

Boyd stated we should do the shoo-fly due to the need of emergency services.

Move to approve Grand Total Base Bid and Alternate No. 1 from Ebert Construction Co. in the amount of \$300,869.43.

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

Robert Boyd, County Commissioner Ronald Wells, County Commissioner Boyd, Wells Wilson

Retail Dealer's 2016 Cereal Malt Beverages License for Rabern Vawter (Possie's Place), 13730 Tuttle Creek Blvd., Randolph, Kansas

Move to sign a Retail Dealer's 2016 Cereal Malt Beverages License for Rabern Vawter (Possie's Place), 13730 Tuttle Creek Blvd., Randolph, Kansas

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

Robert Boyd, County Commissioner Ronald Wells, County Commissioner Boyd, Wells
 Wilson

Sign a Tax Roll Correction for Travis Bowman

Move to approve the Tax Roll Correction for Travis Bowman (216-24- 0-30-06-006.00-0) for tax year 2015. This results in a decrease in tax dollars of \$214.88.

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

Robert Boyd, County Commissioner Ronald Wells, County Commissioner Boyd, Wells
 Wilson

Sign a Tax Roll Correction for Dorothy Martin

Move to approve the Tax Roll Correction for Dorothy Martin (189-31- 0-30-02-002.00-0) for tax year 2015. This results in a decrease in tax dollars of \$59.40.

RESULT:
 MOVER: AYES: ABSENT:
 ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

Robert Boyd, Ronald Wells Boyd, Wells
 Wilson

Sign a Tax Roll Correction for Keck Rentals, LLC and Donald and Diane Johnson

Move to approve the Tax Roll Correction for Keck Rentals, LLC and Donald and Diane Johnson (203-06-2-70-02-003.00-0) for tax year 2015. This results in a decrease in tax dollars of \$127.98.

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

Robert Boyd, County Commissioner Ronald Wells, County Commissioner Boyd, Wells Wilson

Advisory Board appointments and Resolution appointing Riley County representatives to Council/Advisory Boards

Move to approve the following appointments and Resolution No. 122115-47, A Resolution appointing Riley County representatives to Council/Advisory Boards.

David Shipman Comm Dist 1Fair Board 4 yearJanuary 1, 2016 to

December 31, 2019 Josh Wendland Comm Dist 2Fair Board 4 yearJanuary 1, 2016 to

December 31, 2019 Patty Parker Comm Dist 3Hunters Island Water District 3 yearJanuary 1, 2016 to

December 31, 2018 Janet Duncan Comm Dist 1Museum Board of Trustees 3 yearJanuary 1, 2016 to

December 31, 2018 Phillip Anderson Comm Dist 3Museum Board of Trustees 3 yearJanuary 1, 2016 to

December 31, 2018 Lynne Berry Comm Dist 2Museum Board of Trustees 3 yearJanuary 1, 2016 to

December 31, 2018 Chris McClead Comm Dist 2Riley County Public Health Council 3 yearJanuary 1, 2016 to

December 31, 2018 Ginny Barnard Comm Dist 1Riley County Public Health Council 3 yearJanuary 1, 2016 to

December 31, 2018 Adam Bowen Comm Dist 3Riley County Public Health Council 3 yearJanuary 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018

Sign Riley County Personnel Action Form(s)

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Personnel Action Form for Adam Thieschafer, an IT Specialist-PC Support, in the Information Technology Department, for Separation from County Service, effective January 1, 2016.

Sign Riley County Personnel Action Form(s)

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Personnel Action Form for Allan Merle, a Seasonal Laborer, in the Public Works Department, for Separation from County Service, effective December 4, 2015.

Approve payroll/accounts payables (when completed)

Move to approve the payroll vouchers in the amount of \$400,150.37 and the following warrant vouchers for December 23, 2015:

2015 Budget	
County General	\$140,579.51
Health Department	25,696.28
Riley Co Juvenile Service	4,358.25
Motor Vehicle Operations	3,494.91
21st Jud. Dist Teen Court	730.48
Riley Co Adult Services	5,552.08
Solid Waste	2,792.34
Riley Co Fire Dist #12,	228.94
TOTAL	\$185,432.79

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

Robert Boyd, County Commissioner Ronald Wells, County Commissioner Boyd, Wells Wilson

Review Minutes

Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Dec 17, 2015 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

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

Robert Boyd, County Commissioner Ronald Wells, County Commissioner Boyd, Wells Wilson

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

16. Executive session to discuss a performance matter involving non- elected personnel (10 minutes)

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 9:10 a.m.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
 MOVER: Robert Boyd, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Boyd, Wells

ABSENT: Wilson

9:08 AM Move to go out of executive session.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
 MOVER: Robert Boyd, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Boyd, Wells

ABSENT: Wilson

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

17. Administrative Work Session
 18. Pending County Projects County Counselor

9:20 AM Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk

19. Residency Requirements for Appointed Department Heads

Volanti stated the Board had asked to have the discussion of "required" residency requirement for appointed department heads.

P. Collins said 25 years ago when he received the job it was the unwritten requirement when he took the position.

Peterson said his question is if it would be required for existing personnel promoted into a department head position.

Wedel stated if it is a requirement they be allowed a certain amount of time to reside in the community.

Hobson asked if there has been a problem with our current residency requirement.

Wells said there are people who believe it should be required. Wells stated it has come up when hiring department head level position.

Boyd said he supports the current policy which allows commissioners flexibility in hiring department heads.

Move to retain the current residency requirement as preferred for appointed department head level positions.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
 MOVER: Robert Boyd, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Boyd, Wells

ABSENT: Wilson

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



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

What is next?

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

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

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

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

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

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

No new applicants for controversial school innovation program

(AP) Kansas' at-times controversial innovative schools program will remain its current size — half a dozen districts — for another year after no districts submitted applications to join in 2016.

The Legislature created the Coalition of Innovative School Districts in 2013 as a deregulation program meant to remove barriers to better school performance and better outcomes for students. Up to 20 percent of the state's 286 public school districts can join.

Nowhere near that many have applied, but one of the program's architects, Sen. Steve Abrams, R-Arkansas City, says this isn't cause for concern.

"I see it as an option for some districts that may want to do it," said Abrams, chairman of the Senate's education panel and a former member of the Kansas State Board of Education. "And if they don't want to, that's obviously their decision to do it or not to do it."

Abrams introduced the legislation to create the program, which has faced its share of skeptics, including opposition from the state's main teacher's union.

Marcus Baltzell, communications director for the Kansas National Education Association, says his group still believes the program doesn't address the real obstacle to innovation in Kansas schools — insufficient funding from the state. Gov. Sam Brownback and lawmakers should fix that

Coalition of Innovative School Districts has six members, but can accommodate nearly 60

instead, he said.

"We said it at the time — there was no need for this legislation," Baltzell said. "If you really want to untether innovation, then support teachers and schools the way you should."

The 2013 innovative districts legislation waives state laws and regulations for participating schools. It was controversial from its inception because it appears to waive all state laws and regulations automatically, with a few key exceptions, such as transparency, finance and student safety laws.

Opponents argued the concept undermines the accountability of schools and the authority of the Kansas State Board of Education to regulate them.

In practice, however, the participating districts have taken the approach of seeking the state board's approval for each regulatory waiver they desire, part of a collaboration that helped win over the support of the board, which initially was critical of the 2013 legislation.

In addition to this partnership with the state board, proponents of the program say the innovative districts concept doesn't weaken the public accountability of schools because the participating districts remain account-

able to voters through their elected school boards.

So far the Coalition of Innovative Districts includes two of Kansas' largest districts — Kansas City Unified School District 500 and Blue Valley USD 229, which have about 22,000 students each — along with McPherson USD 418, Concordia USD 333, Marysville USD 364 and Hugoton USD 210.

Jim McNiece, chairman of the Kansas State Board of Education, who also sits on the board of the Coalition of Innovative School Districts, said some school districts reached out to express interest in applying this year but ultimately held back.

He said he believes school boards may have set aside, for now, the question of whether to join the program because public education is in flux. The state's school funding formula and federal K-12 accountability regulations are changing, and Kansas is moving toward a less test-centric model for measuring the progress of schools and students.

"There's a lot of educational activity right now," McNiece

said, calling it a "pretty exciting time."

Applications to join the innovative districts program must be accepted by the Coalition of Innovative School Districts — the board of which consists of the participating superintendents plus two members of the Kansas State Board of Education and one representative from the Kansas State Department of Education. As a final step, applicants need to win the approval of a majority of the 10-person state board of education.

Regulatory waivers granted under the program so far include, for example, allowing participating districts to pay college tuition for high school students who take dual-enrollment classes and to grant students physical education credits for athletic activities pursued outside of school.

The single most controversial waiver allows districts to bypass state requirements for teacher licensure, but only with state board approval on a case-by-case basis. This option hasn't been used yet.

On whether the innovative districts program has been successful so far, Abrams said it is too early to know and more years of data will be needed to make such a determination.

"I want students to be successful after they get out of school. That's the objective of education," he said. "And obviously from that standpoint it's too early to tell."

Key things to know about federal land ownership in the West

(AP) An armed group occupying the headquarters of a national wildlife refuge in southeastern Oregon wants the federal government to relinquish the land to local officials so it becomes more accessible for ranching, mining and other uses.

Less visible efforts to wrest control of federal lands date back more than a century in the West, where the U.S. government manages most of the land in some states.

HOW MUCH LAND DOES THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OWN?

It controls about a million square miles, mostly in the West, according to the Congressional Research Service. It owns 85 percent of Nevada, 66 percent of Utah, 62 percent of both Idaho and Alaska, and 53 percent of Oregon.

Most of the land is managed by U.S. agencies including the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service.

The federal government also owns significant portions of California and Wyoming, at 48 percent each; Arizona, at 42 percent; Colorado, at 36 percent; New Mexico, at 35 percent; Montana, at 29 percent; and Washington state, at 28 percent.

HOW DID THE GOVERNMENT ACQUIRE SO MUCH LAND?

As the country expanded West, the federal government sought to protect some areas, such as Yellowstone National

Park in 1872, and took control in the 1900s of unclaimed areas that were generally too harsh and difficult for homesteaders to make a living.

For example, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management administers much of the sagebrush steppe of the Great Basin, which is habitat for the imperiled sage grouse but unsuitable for farming.

IS THE LAND-CONTROL CONFLICT NEW?

No. The debate over management of federal land has spanned decades. Some state officials and others contend that state control would mean less regulation and greater freedom for ranchers, miners, recreationists and others, boosting state income.

Critics of that view say the land would be too expensive for states to maintain and would be sold off to private interests, cutting off access to the public.

Congress approved a law in 1976 saying that remaining public land would stay under federal control.

WHAT EFFORTS ARE STATES MAKING TO CONTROL FEDERAL LAND?

State lawmakers, notably in Utah and Idaho, have sought a legal way to take control of federal land. However, Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden has said the state's constitution gave up claims to the land when Idaho joined the union.

Congress has the authority to turn over federal land to the states, but efforts to pass such a law have failed so far.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT THE LAND IN OREGON?

President Theodore Roosevelt created the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in 1908. Administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the 300-square-mile refuge is partly a marshland that's a key rest area in the Oregon high desert for migrating birds.

The number of migrating

shorebirds qualifies the refuge as a Regional Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve, the wildlife service says. It also supports more than 20 percent of the state's breeding population of greater sandhill cranes, as well as many other species.

Birding is a popular pastime at the refuge, which also draws anglers, hunters and wildlife watchers.

GRIN and BEAR IT



"When I told him the magic was gone, he offered to saw me in half!"

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2015 — 10:00 AM
Watterville Community Center - WATERVILLE, KS

683± Acres Marshall County Kansas

TRACT 1: 160 acres ± Pasture & Hunting
Legal Description: S22, T05, R07, ACRES 159.9±, NW4 LESS R/W
Location: From Blue Rapids go south on 8th Rd to Cyclone Lane then 2 miles East to 10th Rd then 1/2 mile north. Property sets on east side of 10th Rd.
2015 Taxes: \$246.85

TRACT 2: 523 acres± with 428 acres± Pasture & Hunting with 95± acres of cropland
Legal Description: S35, T04, R06, ACRES 243.1±, E2 SW4 & SE4 S36, T04, R06, ACRES 158.6±, SW4 S02, T05, R06, ACRES 121.2±, NW4 NE4 & E2 NW4
Location: From Watterville Golf Course go south on 5th Rd approximately 1 mile, turn left at the "T" in the road, follow past Or-Al Quarries entrance, proceed 1/2 mile south till you reach gate at north end of property.
2015 Taxes: \$2526.45

Listing Agent's Notes: These property consists of tillable bottom ground, native grass pasture, beautiful flowing crystal clear creeks, and incredible wildlife habitat suitable for producing MONSTER whitetail year after year. While touring the property I saw whitetail deer, turkey, quail, bobcat, and even a mature bald eagle. The pastures have excellent fencing in place. Cropland is mostly highly productive creek bottom. If you've been looking for that perfect hunting piece or cattle ranch with great wintering possibilities come take a look at this one — it won't disappoint you.

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Studies Cast Doubt on Effectiveness of Prisoner Reentry Programs

By David B. Muhlhaupt, Ph.D. Heritage Foundation

To date, we do not know enough about what works in helping former inmates safely and successfully reintegrate into society. In fact, the scientifically rigorous evaluations of prisoner reentry programs that use random assignment—the gold standard of evaluation designs—have found, at best, mixed evidence of success. This conclusion is particularly relevant for employment-based reentry programs. A large-scale multisite experimental evaluation of the federal government's Reintegration of Ex-Offenders (REXO) program, an employment-based intervention, found the program to be ineffective. This conclusion has significant implications for congressional consideration of versions of the Second Chance Reauthorization Act (S. 1513).

In 2014, the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) issued a study on the recidivism rates of former prisoners released from 30 states in 2005. The BJS found that 67.8 percent of released prisoners were arrested for a new crime within three years. The recidivism rate for the five-year period was 76.6 percent.

This bad news should come as no surprise. A 2002 BJS report found similar trends. Since the 1990s, the Justice Department has poured significant funding resources into prisoner reentry programs. To date, however, we do not know enough about what works in helping former inmates safely and successfully reintegrate into society.

Evaluation Design is Critical
The quality of the research used to answer this question can greatly influence the answer. For example, quasi-experimental designs that employ scientific methodology, but do not use random assignment frequently fail to account for individual differences that affect program outcomes. This failure leaves open the possibility that the underlying differences between the groups of former inmates receiving and not receiving reentry services, not the program, caused the observed impact. While quasi-experimental designs may use sophisticated techniques, experimental evaluations are still considered better at producing reliable estimates of program effects. Compared with experimental designs, evidence in criminal justice policy indicates that quasi-experimental evaluations are more likely to find favorable intervention effects and less likely to find harmful intervention effects. Simply put, randomized experiments provide more reliable impact assessments than quasi-experiments do.

For example, propensity score analysis, a popular quasi-experimental technique that tries statistically to account for possible differences in the characteristics of program participants, has been applied

to assess the effectiveness of prisoner reentry programs. Propensity score quasi-experiments have found three prisoner reentry programs—InnerChange Freedom Initiative, EMPLOY, and the Boston Reentry Initiative - to be effective. The problem with this technique when used for the InnerChange and EMPLOY programs is that it compares offenders volunteering for services with less motivated offenders not volunteering for services. For the Boston Reentry Initiative, program administrators carefully selected inmates for participation, and the evaluation compared these preferred inmates with inmates not selected for participation. The effect of this selection bias is nearly impossible to remove from assessments of effectiveness performed by propensity score analysis.

In sum, propensity score analysis is not a valid substitute for experimental evaluations. Propensity score analysis's main failing is that the method cannot remove the effects of selection bias caused by unobserved variables, such as an offender's motivation to change his or her life for the better. No matter the level of statistical sophistication, the method cannot account for unobserved factors. Thus, policymakers should exercise caution when interpreting the results of evaluations using this method.

In addition, policymakers need to ensure that programs are evaluated with regard to their impact on the primary purpose for which they have been established. When assessing the impact of prisoner reentry programs, the most important outcome measure is recidivism. Some have questioned the emphasis on recidivism as a measure of effectiveness compared with other measures that assess adjustment or reintegration of former prisoners into society.[9] While intermediate measures, such as finding employment and housing, may be important, these outcomes are not the ultimate goal of reentry programs. If former prisoners continue to commit crimes after going through reentry programs, then the programs cannot be judged effective. For this reason, policymakers should place primary importance on measures of recidivism when judging the effectiveness of prisoner reentry programs.

The Conservative Side...



— King Crossword —
Answers
Solution time: 21 mins.

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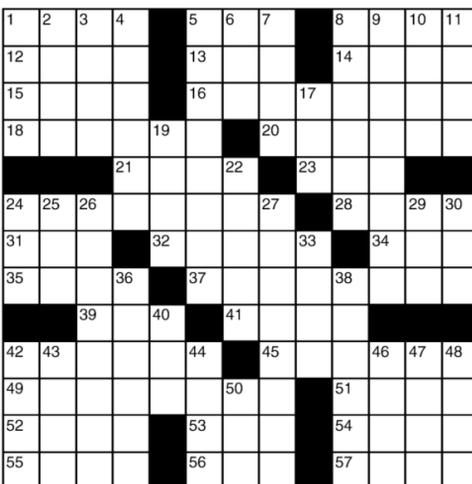


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King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lose color
 - 5 Actress Lupino
 - 8 Half a ticket
 - 12 Not "fer"
 - 13 Neither mate
 - 14 Bean curd
 - 15 Tin Man's problem
 - 16 Carriage
 - 18 Cookbook entry
 - 20 Underscore
 - 21 Lacks the ability
 - 23 Brit. reference book
 - 24 One seeking political asylum
 - 28 Unaccompanied
 - 31 — Khan
 - 32 Doctrine
 - 34 Tiny
 - 35 Trumpet, e.g.
 - 37 Shame
 - 39 Third letter
 - 41 Close up tight
 - 42 Narcotic
 - 45 Jackson or Johnson
 - 49 Oppressive ruler
 - 51 Skeleton component
 - 52 October birthstone
 - 53 Peacock network
 - 54 Reed instrument
 - 55 Depend (on)
 - 56 Blond shade
 - 57 Shriek bark
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Jamie of "M*A*S*H"
 - 2 Chills and fever
 - 3 Platter
 - 4 Lure
 - 5 Started a paragraph
 - 6 Female deer
 - 7 Weaponry
 - 8 Gawks
 - 9 Make less intense
 - 10 Venusian vessels?
 - 11 Prickly seed cases
 - 17 Ike's command in WWII
 - 19 Treaty
 - 22 Morrison and Braxton
 - 24 Doo follower
 - 25 Id counterpart
 - 26 Absurd
 - 27 Use Wikipedia, maybe
 - 29 Zodiac feline
 - 30 "— the ramparts we watched ..."
 - 33 Compared to
 - 36 Without making a mess
 - 38 Address to a bloke
 - 40 Greek vowel
 - 42 Smell
 - 43 Meerschaum, e.g.
 - 44 Sicilian spouter
 - 46 Post-bout attire
 - 47 Carbon compound
 - 48 Cry
 - 50 Out of use, as a wd.

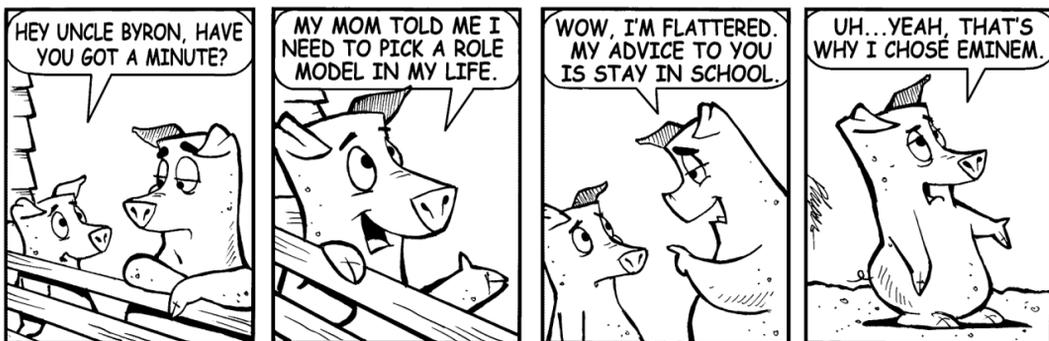


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Answers on page 4

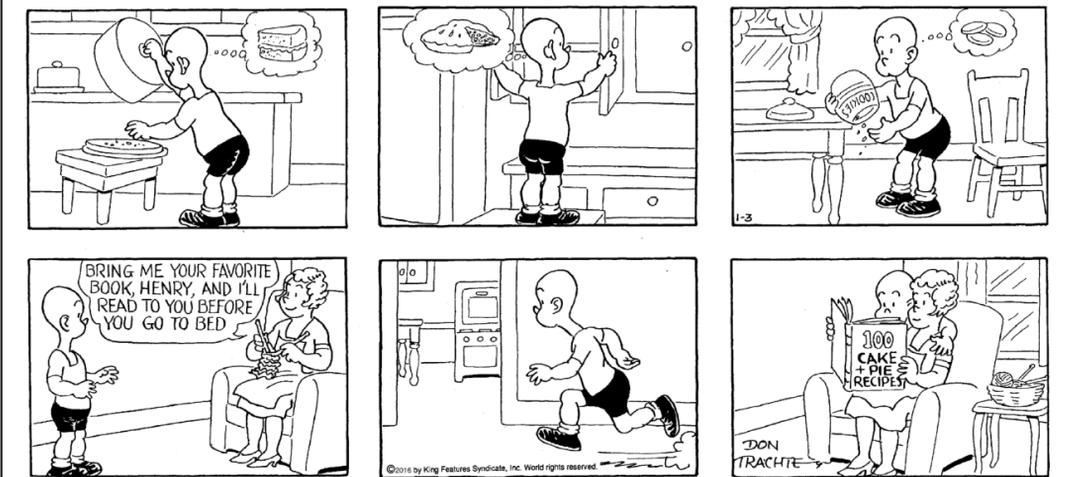
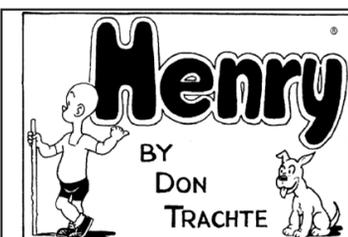
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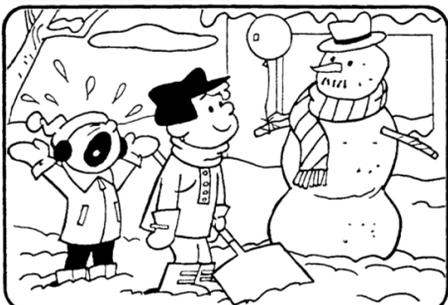
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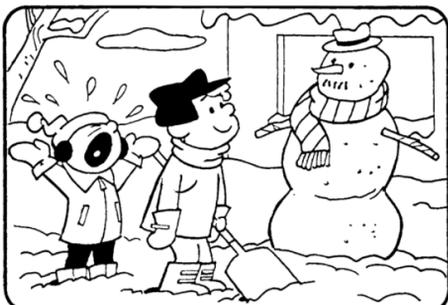


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K-State sports start off the New Year with a hangover

By Dr. Tonya Ricklefs

On January 2nd Kansas State football was in Memphis, Tennessee to play the University of Arkansas in the Autozone Liberty Bowl at 2:20pm. That same day, the men's basketball team faced West Virginia in Manhattan, KS and the women's basketball team traveled to Fort Worth to face TCU.

K-State Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team started off the packed sports day at 11am in Bramlage. They faced #19 ranked West Virginia. This game brought former Kansas State coach Bob Huggins back to Manhattan. The entire game was back and forth with multiple lead changes. Kansas State once again struggled with their free throw shooting (65%) and field goals (45%). With a minute left in regulation, West Virginia's Dexter Miles Jr. received a technical foul for doing a pull-up on the rim. Once again, Kansas State did not capitalize on this error when Kamau Stokes missed the free throw. DJ Johnson pulled through on free throws at the end of regulation. Kansas State and West Virginia continued to battle through two overtimes. Some important layups were missed but Kansas State battled until the end. This Big 12 season will test the young Kansas State team. There are many areas that need continued work, such as the free throw shooting. The ability to face Big 12 teams on

the road will be tested on Tuesday, January 5th against Texas and then again on January 9th in Norman, Oklahoma against OU.

K-State Women's Basketball

The women started their game at TCU at 1:00pm while the men were still battling it out with West Virginia. Kansas State had just dropped their first Big 12 game against Iowa State. While Kansas State struggled most of the game, a last minute attempt to pull ahead was not enough to put the Cats ahead. Overall, TCU had a better shooting percentage than K-State in all categories (free throws, field goals, and three-point shots). Kindred Wesemann was the leading scorer for Kansas State with 21 points. Big 12 play will continue on Wed, January 6th when the women face the Cats on January 6th 6pm at home and on January 10th in Norman, Oklahoma at 1:00pm.

K-State Football

Kansas State Football finished off their season with a 6th straight bowl game. After a challenging year, Kansas State managed to get their sixth win to make them bowl eligible. They, along with University of Arkansas were selected to play in the Autozone Liberty Bowl on January 2nd, in Memphis, Tennessee. By playing Arkansas in Memphis, most people knew that it would be basically a home game for Arkansas. Arkansas had sold their allotment of tickets and

asked for more. Kansas State sold close to their total allotment. The game ended up being an official sell out.

Kody Cook has his first official start as quarterback in the bowl game. The game started out very exciting for Kansas State, with the Cats scoring in four plays, Dimel rushed for a touchdown. Arkansas responded quickly with a touchdown of their own. The struggles for both the Cats defense and offense continued from there. By the end of the game, Arkansas had more than doubled Kansas State's offensive yards. Arkansas scored twice in the fourth quarter extended the final score to Arkansas 45-Kansas State 23.

Kansas State will look ahead to changes they can make for next season. Coach Snyder has confirmed at this point that he will coach another year, Glenn Gronkowski has confirmed that will go ahead and enter the NFL draft his junior year. Gronkowski has already graduated with his degree and based on the minimal amount of touches he got this year it may make sense for him to seek greater opportunities in the NFL where his family name is already recognized. The next peek we will get at the football team will come in a few months at the spring game where we hope to see a fresh new approach to next season.

Photos by Dr. Tonya Ricklefs



K-State Band played at the Liberty Bowl halftime.



K-State's Winston Dimel makes it into the endzone.



K-State blocked the field goal try.

Kansas, Oklahoma looking ahead to rematch after 3OT

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Oklahoma's Buddy Hield was still wringing wet after a three-overtime thriller against Kansas, the longest game ever played in the long, storied history of Allen Fieldhouse, when he flashed a brilliant smile and said, "I can't wait for the rematch."

Neither can anybody else. The first 1-2 matchup in their league since the Sooners and Jayhawks met 26 years ago in the Big Eight tournament not only lived up to expectation, it exceeded every one of them.

Hield hit eight 3-pointers and scored 46 points in one of the finest performances in school history, one that earned him a standing ovation from Kansas fans. Jordan Woodard and Ryan Spangler hit critical shots that kept the Sooners going against the nation's top-ranked team, which was on the ropes several times in an epic clash.

On the other side, Perry Ellis was piling up 27 points and 13 rebounds in a virtuoso performance of his own against the second-ranked Sooners. Wayne Selden Jr. and Devonte Graham hit key shots, and Frank Mason III — limping through a bruised shin — picked Hield's pocket twice to help seal the win.

Kansas 109, Oklahoma 106. Round 1 to the Jayhawks.

"I'd say about the 2-minute mark in regulation, I looked down there at the bench, and they're smiling, and I said, 'God, there's a bunch of kids playing their tails off, making play after play,'" Kansas coach Bill Self said. "If we'd have lost the game, I would have walked into the locker room and said, 'You'll never forget this one.'"

Round 2. The brutal benefit of the Big 12 is that everyone plays each other twice, which means the Jayhawks head to Norman on Feb. 13. And who knows? Maybe a third matchup awaits in the Big 12 tournament.

Good luck living up to this one, though. Start with Hield, who played on some of the same summer teams as Ellis and at a prep school not far from Lawrence. Kansas recruited him but he ultimately went to Oklahoma, and he certainly made Self wonder what might have been when he was pouring in shots on a night that seemed to never end.

Hield played 54 of a possible 55 minutes. His 46 points matched the second-most by a Kansas opponent, and trumped Oklahoma State's Randy Rutherford for most by an opposing player in the fieldhouse. It tied for the sixth-most in school history, and the most since Brent Price scored 56 in 1990, the same year as that Big Eight tilt when No. 1 Oklahoma beat No. 2 Kansas 95-77 in the Big Eight tournament semifinals.

Hield was so good that he churned through three different defenders, getting Selden and Graham into foul trouble and forcing Mason onto him for the balance of the game.

"He's as good as there's been in this building for a long time," Self said. "And he made hard shots, good gosh. That one there at the end, what were we up, four? And we got the loose ball, got two rebounds that go through our hands — and that's a great time to shoot 3s is off offensive rebounds. The ball just happens to bounce to him and contest and he made that

one. That was ridiculous."

Ultimately, Hield's brilliance was outmatched by the Jayhawks' balance.

Sure, he got plenty of help from Woodard (27 points) and Spangler (14 points, 18 boards). But Isaiah Cousins struggled with his shot, and the Sooners' bench only contributed five points.

"They deserved to keep going if they could, and they wanted to for sure," Oklahoma coach Lon Kruger said of his starting lineup. "It would have been tough to step in there and get in the flow."

The Jayhawks' top five did the bulk of the work, too, but Kansas got crucial minutes from just about everyone on the bench. Svi Mykhailiuk and Brannen Greene hit 3-pointers at important junctures, and Landen Lucas and Jamari Traylor provided help on Spangler in the paint.

In the end, they seemed to be the fresher team.

"I can play an extra two or three overtimes right now," Mason said, stone-faced and serious. "No matter how much time you put on the clock, I can keep playing."

As soon as the final buzzer sounded, the comparisons to some of the college basketball's best games began. Self said he thought it trumped the six-overtime game between Syracuse and Connecticut in the 2009 Big East tournament because of the shot-making involved, and compared it to the Jayhawks' angst-filled overtime defeat of Missouri four years ago in the final edition of the "Border War."

The big difference between that game and this one?

"This was a respect game," Self said. "I think that's how both teams handled it."

Big 12 Men's Basketball Standings

School	Big 12	Overall	Pct.
Kansas	2 - 0	13 - 1	.929
West Virginia	2 - 0	13 - 1	.929
Texas Tech	1 - 0	11 - 1	.917
Oklahoma State	1 - 0	9 - 4	.692
Oklahoma	1 - 1	12 - 1	.923
Iowa State	0 - 1	11 - 2	.846
Baylor	0 - 1	10 - 3	.769
Kansas State	0 - 1	10 - 3	.769
Texas	0 - 1	8 - 5	.615
TCU	0 - 2	8 - 6	.571

Big 12 Women's Basketball Standings

School	Big 12	Overall	Pct.
Texas	2 - 0	13 - 0	1000
Iowa State	2 - 0	10 - 3	.769
TCU	2 - 0	10 - 3	.769
Baylor	1 - 1	14 - 1	.933
Oklahoma State	1 - 1	11 - 2	.846
Oklahoma	1 - 1	10 - 3	.769
West Virginia	1 - 1	11 - 4	.733
Kansas State	0 - 2	10 - 3	.769
Texas Tech	0 - 2	9 - 4	.692
Kansas	0 - 2	5 - 8	.385

Photos of K-State's loss to Arkansas



Kansas States' Kody Cook (19) gets this pass past an Arkansas defender for a first-down.

(Photos by Ben Brake)



Kansas State's SS Kendall Adams (21) makes an open field tackle.



Fullback Winston Dimel (38) gets stopped after picking up yardage.



Kansas State's LB Charmeachelle Moore (52) hits the line to make this tackle.



KSU's Winston Dimel (38) and two linemen keep the defender out so Kody Cook (19) can make the pass.


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K-State loses to Arkansas in Liberty Bowl

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — It ultimately didn't matter much who Kansas State started at quarterback in the Liberty Bowl.

The defense's inability to slow down Arkansas would have doomed the Wildcats no matter who ran their offense.

Alex Collins ran for 185 yards and three touchdowns and Arkansas capped its late-season surge with a 45-23 victory over Kansas State on Saturday to snap the Wildcats' three-game winning streak.

"Give credit to (Arkansas)," Kansas State coach Bill Snyder said. "They came out and played their game. They didn't do anything that we hadn't looked at or hadn't seen offensively or defensively. They just did it extremely well."

Kansas State (6-7) finished a season below .500 for the first time since Snyder began his second stint as coach in 2009.

Snyder added some intrigue to this game by making a quarterback switch.

Kody Cook started at quarterback for the first time in his career Saturday. Cook was Kansas State's second-leading receiver during the regular season while also backing up quarterback Joe Hubener.

Snyder said Cook had earned the starting assignment with his practice performance.

"You're not really as intense (at quarterback) because you try to stay focused," Cook said. "But other than that, a lot of it is the same. You've got to go out and compete and have the same attitude we have in every game."

Cook went 12 of 24 for 163 yards and threw a 48-yard touchdown pass to Winston Dimel, who also had a 10-yard touchdown run. Cook improved his accuracy in the

second half and seemed intent on continuing Kansas State's late-season penchant for comebacks.

Kansas State had erased a 21-point deficit against Iowa State and had come from behind to beat West Virginia during its winning streak, but it couldn't complete the comeback this time. Collins wouldn't allow it.

Collins had touchdown runs of 22 yards and 13 yards in the first 17 minutes. His total of three touchdown runs tied a Liberty Bowl record. He also had a 68-yard kickoff return that set up Jared Cornelius' 13-yard touchdown on an end around.

"The kid is unbelievable," Arkansas offensive guard Sebastian Tretola said. "He runs angry. He runs mad. The legs never stop."

Kansas State trailed 31-23 late in the third quarter and appeared ready to make a stop when Arkansas knocked out the Wildcats with a one-two punch.

Facing third-and-13, Arkansas' Brandon Allen found All-America tight end Hunter Henry down the left sideline for a 43-yard completion. On the next play, Collins spun away from a couple of defenders, eluded the grasp of a third and dragged a couple more into the end zone for a 14-yard touchdown with 12:04 remaining.

Kansas State wouldn't threaten again in a matchup that pitted two friends against each other. Arkansas coach Bret Bielema worked as an assistant coach on Snyder's Kansas State staff from 2002-03. When Arkansas was struggling early this season, Bielema even sought Snyder for advice.

"I love Coach Snyder," Bielema said. "I love every-



Kansas States' starting quarterback for the Liberty Bowl was Kody Cook (19) and he performed well but K-State could not stop the running game of Arkansas. (Photos by Ben Brake)

thing about him. A lot of the things in our program are things I learned from him. I'm very blessed to be in this position."

The game had a scary

moment late in the second quarter when Arkansas' Dominique Reed was carted off the field on a stretcher. Reed lay on the ground for several minutes after making a 15-yard

reception. Replays appeared to show him taking a blow to the side of the head at the end of the play. Reed was taken to the hospital for precautionary reasons, but Bielema said the jun-

ior receiver was in the locker room after the game.

"He's got a heck of a headache probably, but he's alive and well, walking, talking," Bielema said.



Kansas State's WR Zach Reuter gets hit as the ball arrives.



Arkansas' Alex Collins (3) looked like a freight train without a whistle as he picked up 185 yards and three touchdowns.



Kansas State's All-American Morgan Burns (33) is stopped on a kickoff return.



KSU's RB Charles Jones (24) picks up yardage on the left side.

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