

Priceless
Take One



Manhattan Free Press

An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper

Westar Energy: Electricity For Dummies

(Editor's Note: What do they say: "One is born every minute.")

Westar Energy has come up with a new program where they say they can guarantee, by paying more, a customer can get some electricity from a renewable source. We would like to see the wording on that guarantee.

When you call Westar, like we did, ask if they are going to run a line from the solar or wind power unit to your home. If not, you are going to be paying more for the same electricity that you are getting now.

Electricity is generated and put onto the grid (wires) that ties cities, counties, states, homes, offices and plants to each other. A power grid is like soup, once you put everything in, it can never come out the same.

The Westar Energy power grid is also connected to power grids in other states. If another state loses power they take extra power from Westar.

The extra money Westar wants you to give them is just like the power grid, that money is mixed with everyone else's money and place into Westar's bank account.)

TOPEKA (AP) - For an extra \$10 a month, Westar Energy customers can guarantee a portion of the electricity they use is coming from solar power.

The state's largest electric utility announced this week that it is taking subscriptions for a new "solar garden." The size of the eventual solar array will depend on how many people sign up, said Westar spokesperson Gina Penzig.

By buying into the program, cus-



Westar Energy gets 15% of its electricity from wind and solar. That electricity is put onto the grid where it is mixed with coal and nuclear energy. There is no way Westar can guarantee a customer by paying more will get solar or wind electricity.

tomers can also lock in a rate, \$30 a month, they will pay for the solar power for the length of their commitment.

"Eventually they could even be saving money, if solar energy reaches a point it becomes cheaper than regular rates," Penzig said.

The company needs at least 160 subscriptions, at \$30 each, to build the first megawatt of solar power, she

said. Plans are to build up to 10 megawatts, again, depending on how many people buy in.

Community solar installations are perfect for customers with historic homes, for renters and families who want to add solar without any upfront cost or debt, the company stated in a news release. In addition, if a customer moves within the service area, their solar energy and guaranteed pricing follows them.

By subscribing, a customer will receive 1 kilowatt -- approximately 15 percent of their monthly electricity -- from the solar project, replacing energy they would receive, and pay for, from other fuel sources. Based on current rates, the electricity being replaced by solar power would cost a customer around \$20 per month, making the overall impact of the \$30 per

month solar subscription around \$10.

"Some months, like July or August, it might be more, while months like April or October, when it's cooler and rainy, it will be less," she said.

Subscribing now locks in that rate for the length of the subscription, which can range from 5 to 20 years, Penzig said.

"If the rate increases in the future, your \$30 doesn't change," she said, "even if the price of electricity goes up."

The guarantee is only on the 15 percent tied to solar. Other rates can still rise.

They based the rate, she said, on the estimated cost to build and operate a solar array.

"We don't have a location yet," for the solar garden. "If there's a particular interest level in a community, we might be apt to build it closer to that community."

Besides committing to solar, customers paying their bills online can also subscribe to guaranteeing part of their energy comes from wind.

"There is an extra cost for that, but it doesn't involve a contract so a subscriber can opt out at any time," she said. "In order to have all energy from renewables, you're looking at an extra \$2 or \$3 per month."

About 15 percent of the energy customers use comes from renewable sources, primarily wind. By early 2017, Penzig said, Westar intends to be generating 1,700 megawatts of wind energy to serve customers.

Customers can learn more and enroll through March 31 by going online to WestarEnergy.com/community/solar.

Another Stupid Round Thing For Manhattan

(Editor's Note: Don't take our word that the City of Manhattan is going to spend \$6.5 Million for another stupid round thing. Here a memo given to the City Commission:)

CITY COMMISSION AGENDA MEMO

January 20, 2016

FROM: Brian D. Johnson, P.E. City Engineer

MEETING: January 26, 2016

SUBJECT: West Anderson Avenue Design Update PRESENTER: Robert K. Ott, P.E., Director of Public Works

BACKGROUND

On December 2, 2014, the City Commission authorized City Administration to negotiate a work authorization with BG Consultants, Inc., of Manhattan, Kansas. Public Works Administration worked with BG Consultants, Inc., to finalize a project scope. City Administration evaluated the scope and fee that was proposed and negotiated a work authorization with BG Consultants, Inc., for design services related to the West Anderson Avenue Improvements based on the direction from the Commissioners. Since that authorization to move to final design, plans and specifications have been updated to 80% complete. A refined cost estimate has been completed to include the additional cost of the roundabout, extension of the project to near Windsong Lane for a dedicated west-bound left turn lane into Anneberg Park, a "Hawk" Signal for pedestrian movements across Anderson Avenue at Anneberg Park, and extension of the project to Christy Avenue on the west end.

On September 1, 2015, the City Commission signed a contract amendment with BG Consultants, Inc., to complete the design of West Anderson Avenue in conjunction with the Development Agreement and Final Plat of Scenic Crossing.

The Development Agreement with Scenic Crossing, LLC, dictated that costs associated with turn lanes into the development will be paid by the development through either a Benefit District or a Transportation Development District (TDD). Since the September 1, 2015, Commission meeting, a TDD has been established, and a "draft" Benefit District petition



Roundabouts work, but for people trying to get onto a major roadway a block or two from the roundabout it can be a nightmare. The roundabout works because cars do not stop. Cars slow down and keep on down the road. The roundabout at 4th and Bluemont works but try to get onto Bluemont from 5th or 6th street. City across the country are either taking out their roundabouts or putting up stop signs.

has been received and is anticipated to be heard by the Commission on February 2, 2016. Plans and specifications are near completion and bid letting documents are being prepared.

DISCUSSION

In September 2015, the City Commission directed staff and BG Consultants, Inc., to prepare final plans and specifications with a roundabout at the Kimball Avenue/Scenic Drive/Anderson Avenue intersection and eliminate the roundabout proposed at the Sharingbrook Drive/Anneberg Park/Anderson Avenue intersection. Final plans and specifications are near completion and Public Works is preparing to advertise for bids in the next 60 days.

Before advertising for bids, Public Works and BG Consultants, Inc., made a presentation to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on January 4, 2016. The general discussion was positive and the Board voted on two recommendations. The first recommendation was for the improvements at the Anderson Avenue and Anneberg Park entrance. The unani-

mous vote for approval included some discussion concerning the sidewalk access on the west side of the intersection and some minor adjustments that could be made to the sidewalk alignment which the consultant is reviewing.

The second unanimous vote for approval was to include a pedestrian connection at the Wildcat Creek bridge under Scenic Drive. This alignment would allow for pedestrian access between both sides of Scenic Drive and the Linear Trail and Anneberg Park. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in general recommended moving forward with the improvements.

Some minor changes to the pedestrian entrance to Anneberg Park were discussed, and changes to the final plans will reflect those discussion items. Overall, the input from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was well received. Staff is looking for input and direction from the City Commission before advertising the project for bids.

Since the last City Commission

Work Session, improvements for Anderson Avenue have been extended to Christy Lane, which is the western city limits.

Improvements for Kimball Avenue, north of Anderson Avenue, have also been refined to coordinate with the Scenic Crossing development and entrances along Kimball Avenue. The developer of Scenic Crossing is financially responsible for turning entrances into their development, and a "draft" Benefit District petition for those improvements has been submitted.

Utility coordination with this project has also been refined. Existing water and sewer mains have been identified to be relocated or extended beyond the construction limits, and storm sewer collection and conveyance systems have been evaluated and sized for coordination with Scenic Crossing development.

Trail/sidewalk improvements along Anderson Avenue for the entire length of the project have been reviewed, including a pedestrian crossing at the entrance to Anneberg Park, and cross-

ings at the roundabout. A concept trail crossing of Wildcat Creek along Scenic Drive has also been evaluated. With this project, there is an opportunity to build a connection between the east and west sides of Scenic Drive under the existing Wildcat Creek Bridge, then use the existing bridge to develop a safe pedestrian area across the existing Wildcat Creek Bridge to connect the Highland Ridge area south of Wildcat Creek to the Linear Trail/pedestrian system and shopping center.

Since the last City Commission Work Session, a more refined cost estimate has been generated and several funding sources are proposed. At the last City Commission Work Session in July 2015, it appeared that an annual debt service payment shortfall on a 20 year bond of approximately \$200,000.00 existed. With the plans nearing completion, a revised cost estimate is provided later in the memo. It appears that the anticipated

\$200,000.00 funding shortfall is still accurate.

(The memo then talks finance)

Dick Edwards Cars



SALES & SERVICE 785-776-4004
• TOLL FREE 800-257-4004



Riley County Commission Minutes

Riley County Minutes Cost Taxpayers \$700 Per Month: The minutes for years did not cost the county extra. They were produced using Word. A new program now costs \$700 per month.

Board of Riley County Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes Commission Chambers 8:30 AM 9:00 AM Call to Order Business Meeting

Contract for Culvert Replacements on N. 52nd Street & Green-Randolph Road with Ebert Construction Co., Inc. Move to approve the contract with Ebert Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$300,869.43 for the Culvert Replacement on N. 52nd Street, Culvert Replacement on Green-Randolph Road and Alternate No.1 Shoo-fly Detour. RESULT: SECONDER: ROBERT BOYD, COUNTY COMMISSIONER AYES: ABSENT: RONALD WELLS, COUNTY COMMISSIONER ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

Request to Travel to American Planning Association National Conference in Phoenix, AZ Move to approve an Out of State Travel Request for Monty Wedel to attend the 2016 American Planning Association National Conference in Phoenix, Arizona in the amount of \$2,700 to be funded by the Planning and Development fund. RESULT: SECONDER: ROBERT BOYD, COUNTY COMMISSIONER AYES: ABSENT: RONALD WELLS, COUNTY COMMISSIONER ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

Out of State Travel Request for IT/GIS staff (Jake Galyon and Kevin Howser) to attend 2016 ESRI User Conference Move to approve the Out of State Travel Requests for Kevin Howser and Jacob Galyon to attend the 2016 ESRI User Conference in San Deigo, California in the amount of \$2,059 and \$1,959 to be funded by the IT/GIS fund. RESULT: SECONDER: ROBERT BOYD, COUNTY COMMISSIONER AYES: ABSENT: WILSON ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

Sign Riley County Position Action Form(s) The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for a Customer Service Representative I, in the Public Works-Admin Services, at a grade F. Approve payroll/accounts payables (when completed) Move to approve the payroll vouchers in the amount of \$409,405.54 and the following warrant vouchers for January 22, 2016:

2015 Budget County General \$162,487.28 Health Department 64,589.43 Court Technology 1,323.15 Riley County Juvenile Service 23.89 Motor Vehicle Operations 1,574.87 Riley Co Adult Services 349.29 Capital Improvements Fund 33,056.25 Emergency 911 3,648.72 Solid Waste 63,989.76 County Building 20,524.22 Road & Bridge Cap Project 90.82 RCPD Levy/Op1, 536.47 Landfill Closure 617.97 Riley Co Fire Dist #16, 545.30 Fire Dist #1 Tuttle Cove

99,651.49 University Park W&S 5,936.03 Hunters Island Water Dist1, 303.42 Carson Sewer Benefit Dist 42.56 Deep Creek Sewer 289.24 Moehlman Bottoms 808.61 Valleywood Operations 185.77 Terra Heights Sewer 755.73 Terra Heights Sinking 2,109.80 Konza Water Operations 3,130.09 Univ Park W&S Cap Reserve 1,260.00 Lakeside Heights Sewer 35.03 TOTAL: \$575,865.19

2016 Budget County General \$1,076,673.14 Health Department 51,498.34 JJA Prevention St Formula 2,672.25 Teen Court Collected Fund 89.94 Court Technology 722.78 Riley Co Juvenile Service 4,754.82 Motor Vehicle Operations 3,720.42 21st Jud Dist Teen Court 723.83 Riley Co Adult Services 7,860.79 Economic Development 180,000.00 Emergency 911 4,324.87 Solid Waste 4,910.65 County Building 586.36 RCPD Levy/Op 999,938.23 Riley Co Fire Dist #12,767.93 University Park W&S260.00 Univ Park Capital Project36.00Terra Heights Sewer338.22Konza Water Operations150.00 TOTAL: \$2,342,028.57 RESULT: SECONDER: ROBERT BOYD, COUNTY COMMISSIONER AYES: ABSENT: RONALD WELLS, COUNTY COMMISSIONER ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

Review Minutes Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Jan 14, 2016 8:30 AM Move to approve the minutes. RESULT: SECONDER: ROBERT BOYD, COUNTY COMMISSIONER AYES: ABSENT: WILSON ACCEPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]

Tentative Agenda Press Conference Topics 21. Discuss Press Conference 9:30 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services 22. Administrative Work Session Cindy Kabirol attended the meeting. Rich Vargo left the meeting. The Board watched the KAC Legislative video update. The Board of County Commissioners agreed by consensus for a commissioner to attend the hearing Tuesday with Clancy Holeman and permission for Clancy Holeman to draft a testimony letter to be signed for the two delinquent tax bills. 9:50 AM Break 10:00 AM Jennifer Wilson, Extension Director 23. Riley County Extension Staff Time J. Wilson presented an Extension staff report. 10:02 a.m. B. Wilson attended the meeting. J. Wilson said the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program will be held at the Manhattan Public Library Tuesdays 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Wednesdays 2:00-8:00 p.m.; and Thursdays 2:00-8:00 p.m.

10:45 AM Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer/Audit Services RFP Proposed Calendar Shepek said on December 14, 2015, the Commission agreed by consensus for the auditing services for Riley County to be bid competitively in 2016 for the 2016 audit. Shepek said she has been gathering information from statute, KMAAG and other counties. With this information, I am preparing an outline for this process. This information has been shared with Rich and Shilo as well as the Budget and Planning Committee for their review, feedback and approval. I wanted to share the proposed calendar with the Commission. It is as follows: Mail RFP Notification August 1, 2016 Receive Proposals September 12, 2016 Budget & Planning Committee Review Proposals September 13th -23rd, 2016 Interviews of top proposals September 26th-30th, 2016 Budget & Planning Committee Review Interview Results October 3rd-7th, 2016 Recommendation to BOCC October 13, 2016 Contract Award October 20, 2016 Pre-audit Meeting October 24th -28th, 2016 Boyd requested for the commission to view the RFP. The Board agreed by consensus to the proposed calendar. 29. 2016 Agency Appropriations Shepek said during the 2016 budget process, the Commission approved specific agency appropriations. Attached please find the "Riley County Agency Appropriation

J. Wilson presented and discussed the K-State Research and Extension 2016 Annual Report. 10:15 AM Brad Schoen, Riley County Police Department Director

24. Riley County Police Department update Schoen presented a RCPD update. Schoen discussed staffing the Courthouse security. Boyd discussed forming a working group. Wells said District Court should be responsible for the cost of the Courthouse security. 10:30 AM Pat Collins, Emergency Management Director 25. USDA grant and Loan Application P. Collins said if the commissioners choose to purchase the new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) using the USDA grant and loan, then we would need to apply for both a \$25,000 USDA grant which has no match and a USDA loan for the remaining \$375,000. Move to sign the USDA grant and loan application forms. RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: ROBERT BOYD, COUNTY COMMISSIONER SECONDER: RONALD WELLS, COUNTY COMMISSIONER AYES: BOYD, WELLS, WILSON

26. Staff Update P. Collins presented a EM/Fire District update. 27. Tuttle Creek Fire Station Change Order(Sewer) P. Collins said BG originally designed the sewer to parallel the water line and where it crossed the water line they had designed in at least a 10" sleeve on each side of the sewer line. Upon inspection Steve DeHart informed them that the sewer line needed to be at least 25 feet from the water line or be sleeved the entire length. P. Collins said the contractor looked at options of the sleeve, boring the water line or digging a new line 25 feet away and chose the least expensive method of just adding a sleeve to the existing design. P. Collins said the sleeve will add about \$5.00 per foot for the nearly 330 feet of sewer line from the station to the lagoon. The total cost is \$2,248 and will add five days to the contract. Please see the change order request for specific pricing. Move to approve the USDA Contract Change Order with Cheney Construction in the amount of \$2,248 for the Tuttle Creek Fire Station. RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: ROBERT BOYD, COUNTY COMMISSIONER SECONDER: RONALD WELLS, COUNTY COMMISSIONER AYES: BOYD, WELLS, WILSON

Request and History" report. This report provides the agency as well as the amount requested and approved not only for 2016, but provides the history back to 2010. The "% Change" column provides the % change from the amount requested in a given year from what was approved by the Commission in the prior year. Shepek said it was requested of me by the Commission to bring back the 2016 appropriations for the Commission to review. Please note, the Commission approved in 2015 to change the 2016 appropriation for the Riley County Soil Conservation from the amount approved in the 2016 budget of \$49,622 to amount requested of \$55,136. This is an increase of \$5,514 over the budget amount. In 2015, the Commission also approved the change in the 2016 budget appropriation to the Riley County Community Corrections department from \$15,306 to \$4,878. This is a decrease of \$10,428. Shepek said if the Commission takes action to restore the 2016 Agency Appropriations back to the requested amounts, the effect on the budget is an increase of \$155,988. Boyd said he would like to reinstate some of the appropriation cuts to the agencies. Wells said he would like to see how they are doing and would like to keep the extra we have received in sales tax revenue. Shepek said she could gather information from the agencies. The commission agreed by consensus for Shepek to gather information from agencies and bring it back. Holeman said he would like to have all commissioners sign the legislative testimony letters. 11:30 AM Lunch 1:30 PM Rich Vargo attended the meeting 1:30 PM Cindy Kabirol left the meeting. 1:30 PM Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer 30. Federal Fund Exchange Program Work Session Hobson discussed the Federal Fund Exchange Program. The Board agreed by consensus to authorize the Public Works Department to enter into an agreement with KDOT to exchange all of our 2015 and 2016 Federal Fund Allocations (when known). Hobson asked when we get reimbursed the moneys which budget should the funds be placed in? Hobson said he does not mind it being placed in the CIP fund as long as it would be designated to specific transportation projects. Shepek said she would recommend the funds be placed in the CIP fund and designated for transportation projects. The Board agreed by consensus the reimbursed Federal Fund Exchange Program funds would be placed in the CIP fund designated for transportation projects. RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: ROBERT BOYD, COUNTY COMMISSIONER SECONDER: RONALD WELLS, COUNTY COMMISSIONER AYES: BOYD, WELLS, WILSON

2:10 PM Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk 32. Promotion Request for Records Assistant II in IT Dept Volanti presented the promotion request for the Records Assistant II in the IT department. Volanti recommended the Board approve the promotion request. Howser stated he does have the increased funding available in the IT budget. Move to approve the promotion of Lauren Schiller to Records Assistant II of the IT/GIS Department effective January 30, 2016. RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: RONALD WELLS, COUNTY COMMISSIONER SECONDER: ROBERT BOYD, COUNTY COMMISSIONER AYES: BOYD, WELLS, WILSON

2:45 PM Executive session to discuss a performance matter involving non-elected personnel Move that the Board of 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 personnel matter involving a Health Department employee, specifically the search for and hiring of a Health Department Director, including but not limited to review of applications, creation of interview questions and selection of a member of the search committee, and to protect the privacy of the employee, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 2:45 p.m. RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: ROBERT BOYD, COUNTY COMMISSIONER SECONDER: RONALD WELLS, COUNTY COMMISSIONER AYES: BOYD, WELLS, WILSON

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US Must Remain a Stabilizing Force Around the World

Heritage Foundation

Does the world need the United States to keep the peace?

Some say no. They argue that the U.S. would be better off without actively engaging around the world, and that we should instead retrench ourselves – allowing our allies to fend for themselves.

However, this is an overly simplistic theory, which is inadequate to deal with the complexities of modern international relations.

According to this “offshore balancing” argument, not only is the world “better off” without U.S. engagement, but the costs of engagement outweigh the benefits to America. One proponent of this argument includes our own President Obama.

But this does not hold up in the real world. Based on experience in the Middle East, Asia, and Europe, U.S. retrenchment

is a poor foreign policy. It has either led to, or shows signs of leading to, an international disaster.

Recently at a Heritage event, the problems of an offshore balancing strategy were discussed. In three key regions of the world, we have seen a lack of American presence lead to international disorder and crisis.

Middle East

The Middle East is the main source of global instability. Over the past several years, we have seen that if you don’t visit the Middle East, the Middle East will visit you. U.S. withdrawal created a regional power vacuum, leading to the rise of ISIS. U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan allowed the Taliban to regroup and cement its power. Unchallenged, these groups intend to stick around. Therefore, the U.S. must actively engage in the region in order to manage problems, stabilize



U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopters depart Forward Operating Base Wolverine, Afghanistan. (Photo: Tech. Sgt. Efrén Lopez, U.S. Air Force/Released)

the region, and advance its interests. We cannot afford to walk away from the Middle East.

Asia

It would be downright foolish to withdraw from Asia. China’s

aggressive rise poses serious regional political, economic, and security threats to the region.

It’s highly provocative activity in the South China Seas threatens the very freedom of

the seas. China is the source of 95 percent of state-sponsored cyberattacks. It also actively provokes key U.S. allies including Japan, India, and Taiwan.

The U.S. security presence, cemented by its string of

regional allies, serves as “the principle guarantor of regional stability.” Ultimately, the great power competition in the Pacific demands our active presence and engagement.

Europe

We have tried offshore balancing in Europe before. It has failed every time. U.S. isolationism in the 1930’s ended with the beginning of WWII. The U.S. withdrawal from Europe following WWII led to the rise of the USSR. The “The Hour of Europe” ended with the Balkan Wars, where the U.S. intervened in order to stop the humanitarian crisis.

The concept of offshore balancing profoundly misunderstands the importance of American leadership in the balance of power and in managing alliances. As shown in all three regions, “there is no substitute for American power.”

Meet 4 Pro-Life Lawmakers Who Chose to Adopt

Heritage Foundation

In college, Tim and Angela would counsel women facing an unplanned and unwanted pregnancy. And they always suggested adoption as an option. Some took their advice. Many didn’t.

Tim praises those who did, the mothers who gave up their children and “made one of the toughest and most loving choices there is.” When Tim and Angela started their own family, they opted to adopt—first one little girl, then three more children.

It’s not an unusual story. Thousands of American families adopt each year.

But it’s unique because today Tim Huelskamp splits his time between Kansas and Washington, D.C. And it’s remarkable because Huelskamp is a Republican member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Like Huelskamp, some other members of Congress have opened their homes through adoption. They’ll tell you it’s a blessing but also admit it’s a challenge. And many consider it an opportunity to show a positive alternative to abortion.

“Life is incredibly precious,” Rep. David Schweikert, R-Ariz., says. “The only time I’ve cried in my adult life,” he tells The Daily Signal, is when he first held his adopted baby girl, Olivia.

At 53 years old, Schweikert became a father.

“It’s a little backwards,” he admits, but after six years on a

waiting list to become foster parents, he and his wife, Joyce, jumped at the opportunity to adopt a child.

That was last month. Since then, Schweikert has learned to juggle public policy while changing diapers, building cribs, and assembling strollers. But though he’s a new dad, he’s not new to adoption.

‘Many Options’

Abortion was still illegal in America when Schweikert’s biological mother, only miles away from the Mexican border, decided not to abort. The teenager turned her car around, choosing to skip the appointment she had in Tijuana.

Months later, in 1962, Schweikert was born in Los Angeles in a home for unwed mothers. Looking back, he says he’s “incredibly blessed.” And he thanks his birth mother for choosing not to end the pregnancy and instead giving him up for adoption.

As an adopted son who became an adoptive father, Schweikert doesn’t downplay the difficulty of an unplanned pregnancy. None of the lawmakers who spoke with The Daily Signal did. But Schweikert also notes that adoption has become easier “in the modern world.”

He explains:

There are so many options out there and so many families looking for babies. If a young woman finds herself in that very difficult situation, she’s gotta understand that there are so



Rep. Tim Huelskamp, R-Kan., with his wife Angela and their four adopted children. (Photo courtesy of Huelskamp family)

many options available.

And now Schweikert is that dad, the one “with the photos” who’s always showing off his new kid. He also is telling everyone that “adoption’s not something to be scared of.”

Adoption Caucus

Although there is no official count of how many members of Congress have chosen adoption, broad support exists for the institution on both sides of the aisle. The largest conference of lawmakers in Washington, the Congressional Adoption Caucus, has broad bipartisan support.

The mission of the caucus is “to work for every child to have a safe and loving family.” The group’s partner organization also sponsors an internship program that has placed more than 170 college students, once in foster care, in prestigious

internships on Capitol Hill.

But while members offer their support, Rep. Markwayne Mullin, R-Okla., says many think their work in Congress would keep them from adopting kids.

At 42, Mullin didn’t want to adopt. He already had a young family of three. But his wife Christie kept pushing him about two little girls—twins separated at birth who needed a home.

“Quite frankly, I ran out of excuses,” Mullin says:

My wife was talking to me, talking to me, and trying to talk me into it. She finally said pray about it. How do you pray for something like that? That’s what opened the door.

When his family adopted and reunited the twins, Mullin’s hectic life became even busier. It’s been “the biggest blessing”

but the biggest scheduling conflict, he says.

To make more time for the kids, the Oklahoma Republican often rolls into meetings and fundraisers with a posse. “Events have to be kid-friendly,” he explains, “or I don’t go.”

“So Amazed”

And now, Mullin gets inundated with questions—not about policy or politics, but about his family’s experience.

“My wife and I are so amazed about how many people just want to talk about the adoption,” he says. And they’re ready to talk. The couple has met with lawmakers, staffers, even Capitol Hill police.

Mullin’s advice is always the same:

If it’s crossed your mind, then there’s something that’s been put on your heart, then you need to actively pursue that. Until

you know for a fact the door is closed. Otherwise that nagging is never going to go away.

But while the lawmakers who spoke to The Daily Signal all highlight the benefits of adoption, they’re quick to point out the cost.

Adopting families easily can rack up tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees. While saving to adopt his second son, Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, moved out of his D.C. apartment and slept on the couch in his office instead.

Now chairman of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee, Brady says he worries that “adoption is just too expensive for working families.”

In the upcoming effort to overhaul the tax code, Brady says, he’ll be looking for ways to encourage the practice. Nothing’s official, but the tax wonk says his committee will consider an increase in the adoption tax credit.

But it’s when he sets aside spreadsheets and tax policy to talk about his two adopted boys that the big Texan chokes up.

“Adoption doesn’t just change your life,” he says. “It makes your life.”

His voice cracking, Brady explains:

When you have the opportunity to have a family, you can hardly wait till you can get home from Washington—to get in that front door and to see your children. To see your wife as a mother, that’s just remarkable.

Kansas Profile: Lloyd Stearman

Ron Wilson, director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University.

What aircraft was the most widely used model for training airplane pilots during World War II? Would you believe, an airplane named for one of the early pioneers of the aviation industry who came from rural Kansas? It’s today’s Kansas Profile.

In recent weeks we’ve learned about Clyde Cessna and Walter Beech, two of the three men who founded an airplane business in Wichita in 1924. Today we’ll learn about the third of those three: Lloyd Stearman, whose plane, the Stearman Kaydet, was the primary trainer for World War II pilots.

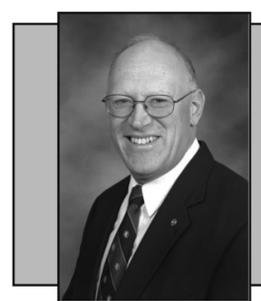
Lloyd Stearman was born in the rural Kiowa County town of Wellsford, Kansas in 1898. Wellsford had been a thriving community but faded away through the decades until it

legally disincorporated. Other than the southeast Kansas town of Treece, which disbanded itself due to pollution problems in 2012, Wellsford was the last Kansas town to eliminate its legally incorporated status which it did in 1975. As of the town’s last official census in 1970, Wellsford had an official population of 9 people. Now, that’s rural.

Lloyd Stearman was born at Wellsford and went to school in Harper. While in grade school, he saw his first airplane, piloted by Clyde Cessna.

In 1917, Stearman attended what is now Kansas State University and studied engineering and architecture. During World War I, he enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve Flying Corps in Kansas City. He went to ground school in Seattle and then was stationed in San Diego where he learned to fly seaplanes.

After the war, Stearman returned to Kansas and worked as an airplane mechanic.



Ron Wilson
 director of the Huck
 Boyd National
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There he met the aforementioned Walter Beech, who was a test pilot and salesman. Beech taught Stearman the finer points of piloting an airplane.

In 1924, Lloyd Stearman became chief engineer of the Swallow Airplane Company. Stearman designed his first airplane, called the New Swallow. Beech flew it at the National Air Races at Dayton, Ohio where it was crowned the nation’s best performing commercial airplane.

Of course, this was back in the day when planes were still

constructed with wood and canvas. Stearman and Beech wanted to redesign their aircraft to make the fuselage of welded steel tubing instead of wood, but their owner resisted. So they reached out to a guy who had recently purchased one of the New Swallows. His name was Clyde Cessna

— the very same man who had piloted the plane which Stearman saw as a child.

In 1925, Lloyd Stearman, Walter Beech and Clyde Cessna went together to form a new business to build their

planes using metal. The company was called Travel Air Manufacturing.

In 1926, the three young Kansans entered an airplane in the Ford Reliability Tour, a cross-country airplane performance competition that attracted the best aircraft in the country, and won handily.

But this moment of triumph quickly turned into a time of tragedy. In Wichita, Lloyd Stearman took his plane up for an aerial demonstration. Upon landing, he taxied his plane along the runway where stood a prominent citizen of Wichita who had stopped there with his family to watch the flight. The propeller of Stearman’s plane struck the man, killing him instantly. When he realized what had happened, Stearman himself collapsed in horror and had to be carried from the plane.

After that incident, Lloyd Stearman moved his family to California where he created his own aircraft company. Eventually he was recruited

back to the airplane business in Wichita. The biplane which bore his name, the Stearman Kaydet, was so durable and reliable that it became the primary trainer aircraft for the US military during World War II.

Stearman would go on to work for Boeing and serve as President of Lockheed before passing away at age 77.

What was the most widely used training airplane for pilots in World War II? It was the Kaydet built by Lloyd Stearman, who made a difference with his pioneering aviation work.

Why did Kansas become such a center for aviation? Is it wide open spaces, the work ethic of our people, or visionary leaders? I think all of the above have helped keep Kansas flying high.

Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development.

The Conservative Side...

Oakland's Minimum Wage Is Up, Wal-Mart Is Out

Heritage Foundation
A minimum wage of \$12.55 an hour in Oakland, Calif., may be the culprit for a Wal-Mart store's closure.

Last Friday, Wal-Mart announced it will close 269 stores globally—including 154 locations in the United States—impacting about 10,000 associates here at home.

"The minimum wage in the city of Oakland played a factor, was one of the factors, they considered in closing the stores," Oakland City Councilman Larry Reid told the San Francisco Chronicle.

"They wouldn't go into any specific details in terms of their rationale for closing the store," Reid told ABC 7 News. "But this store has been very successful for Wal-Mart."

The Oakland location, which ranked among the city's top sales-tax producers, closed its doors Sunday evening following the corporate announcement. The store's 400 employees will stay on moving inventory through mid-February, reported the San Francisco Chronicle.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. "took into account a number of factors, including financial performance as well as strategic alignment with long-term plans." The company said in a press release that it has plans to open 200 to 240 stores in the coming year internationally.

"Actively managing our portfolio of assets is essential to maintaining a healthy business," Doug McMillon, president and chief executive of Wal-Mart, said in a statement. "Closing stores is never an easy decision, but it is necessary to keep the company strong and positioned for the future."

Hundreds of Wal-Mart employees fasted this past November in protest for a \$15 minimum wage, arguing that Wal-Mart employees do not make enough money to put food on the table.

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, a Democrat, has been leading statewide efforts to

raise the minimum wage to \$15.

"This higher city minimum wage eliminated the jobs of the very workers advocates wanted to help," said James Sherk, a research fellow in labor economics at The Heritage Foundation.

California's minimum wage rose to \$10 an hour on Jan. 1. Oakland's minimum wage was bumped from \$9 to \$12.25 in March 2015 and was raised to \$12.55 at the start of this year.

"The true minimum wage is \$0.00 an hour," Sherk said. "Companies do not have to hire workers, and they will not pay them more than the value they create."

If the Oakland Wal-Mart workers don't find employment by Feb. 10, they will get 60 days of additional pay and a severance package with a week of pay for every year employed by Wal-Mart, reports the San Francisco Chronicle.

Other Wal-Mart locations may hire some of the Oakland workers, ABC 7 News reports. More than 95 percent of the stores closing are within an average of 10 miles of another Wal-Mart in the United States.

The San Francisco Chronicle says two Wal-Mart locations in Oakland's neighboring city of San Leandro, where minimum wage is \$10, will remain open.

The difference between these three locations is the Oakland Wal-Mart has over a 25 percent difference in labor costs for entry-level employees than the San Leandro locations, says Mark Perry, an American



OBAMA'S DIVISION OF POWER

Enterprise Institute scholar and professor of economics and finance at the University of Michigan's Flint campus.

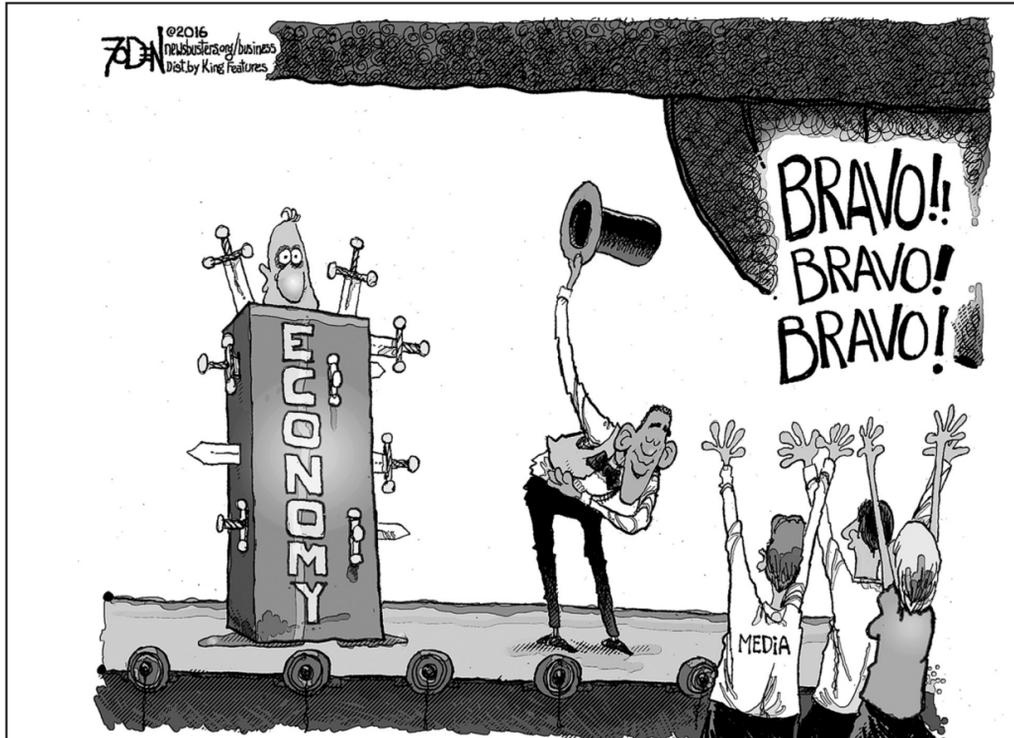
"Given the reality that Wal-Mart operates on razor-thin

profit margins (only 2.8 percent last quarter), a 25 percent difference in labor costs for entry-level workers can be the difference between a store that turns a profit and a store that barely breaks even, or loses money,"

Perry wrote.

Of the U.S. stores closing, 102 are Wal-Mart Express locations, smaller convenience stores that have been piloted since 2011.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday that most Wal-Mart hourly store employees in the U.S. will see a pay increase in February.



THE ILLUSIONIST

King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

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Kansas State Basketball has a successful weekend

K-State Men's basketball

The Cats were home this weekend after another exciting overtime game against Baylor. Kansas State went into double overtime in Waco last Wednesday. They lost 79-72. The important thing for Wildcat fans to remember about this team is how close many of their losses have been. As different reporters noted after the Baylor loss, their 12-7 record does not truly reflect the team that they are growing to be. That was proven again on Saturday when they dominated Oklahoma State at home. The Cats completely out scored the Cowboys and were aggressive on both offense and defense. They won 89 to 73. The next test for Kansas State will be on Tuesday when they travel to Morgantown to face West Virginia at home. The home court that upset Kansas earlier this year. While KU may not seem as difficult to beat as they did when they lost at West



Tonya Ricklefs

- phd
Free Press Sports

Virginia, any home court in the Big 12 is a challenge to play at. Kansas State will have to face WV with the intensity that they played at Baylor with to pull a win off there.

Kansas State Women's basketball

The women's team was just as successful this weekend. Fresh off of their victory in Allen Fieldhouse against last Wednesday against KU, Kansas State faced Texas Tech on Sunday. This was the Cats

fourth win in a row. If there is a time for a team to get hot, end of January into February is the time to do it. The Cats shooting has improved and there are multiple players that have stepped up to be scoring leaders on the team. The Cats are back at home against Texas on Sunday, January 30th. This is part of a basketball double-header that weekend. In addition, former players Nicole Ohlde and Kendra Wecker will be recognized at half-time and be put into the Kansas State

Hall of Fame.

Kansas State Track

Kansas State hosted the DeLoss Dodds invitational last weekend. They had eight first-place finishes. Teams attending were Oklahoma State, North Texas, and Tulsa. Kansas State Women are still ranked 4th place nationally and the men are ranked 20th nationally. Track continues to improve and make strides. Akela Jones set a school and Ahearn record in the pentathlon over the weekend.

Super Bowl

In non Kansas State news, it will be the Denver Broncos facing the North Carolina Panthers in the Super Bowl on February 7th at 5:00pm. With Peyton Manning 39 and Cam Newton age 26, it is the largest age difference between quarterbacks in Super Bowl history. They will be playing in Levi Stadium in Santa Clara, California.

Big 12 Men's Basketball Standings

School	Big 12	Overall	Pct.
Oklahoma	5 - 2	16 - 2	.889
West Virginia	5 - 2	16 - 3	.842
Baylor	5 - 2	15 - 4	.789
Iowa State	5 - 3	16 - 4	.800
Kansas	5 - 3	16 - 4	.800
Texas	4 - 3	12 - 7	.632
Texas Tech	2 - 5	12 - 6	.667
Kansas State	2 - 5	12 - 7	.632
Oklahoma State	2 - 5	10 - 9	.526
TCU	1 - 6	9 - 10	.474

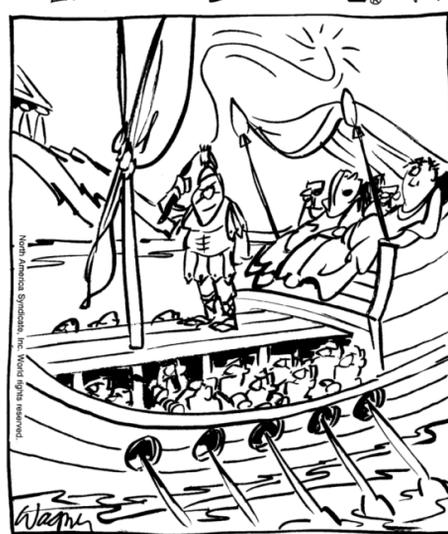
Big 12 Women's Basketball Standings

School	Big 12	Overall	Pct.
Texas	7 - 1	18 - 1	.947
Baylor	6 - 1	19 - 1	.950
West Virginia	5 - 2	16 - 4	.800
Oklahoma State	5 - 3	15 - 4	.789
Oklahoma	4 - 3	13 - 5	.722
Kansas State	4 - 4	14 - 5	.737
Iowa State	3 - 4	11 - 7	.611
TCU	3 - 5	11 - 8	.579
Texas Tech	1 - 7	10 - 9	.526
Kansas	0 - 8	5 - 14	.263



KU's Lagerald Vick (with ball) looks to the inside for the cutting team mate. (KU Sports Information Photo.)

GRIN THE BEAR IT



"What do you think of the new cruise director?"

No. 4 Kansas falls to No. 14 Iowa State 85-72.

AMES, Iowa (AP) — If Kansas hopes to live up to its preseason promise, the Jayhawks are going to have to learn to win on the road.

No. 4 Kansas lost its third straight Big 12 game on the road Monday night, this one to No. 14 Iowa State 85-72.

All three losses have been by double figures, not what coach Bill Self is accustomed to seeing from his competition-hardened teams.

"We haven't played with a lot of poise away from home," Self said.

The Jayhawks (16-4, 5-3 Big 12) unraveled at noisy Hilton Coliseum after leading for the first 28 minutes. Turnovers, bad shots and Iowa State's improved aggressiveness on defense all contributed to the Kansas collapse.

"We didn't stay composed, we didn't take care of the ball and we didn't get the stops we needed," said Perry Ellis, who led the Jayhawks with 23 points.

Monte Morris scored 21 points and Georges Niang had 19 — 15 in the second half — for Iowa State, which rolled to its fourth straight win.

Abdel Nader added 17 points for the Cyclones (16-4, 5-3), who have beaten three of the top four teams in this week's Top 25.

Iowa State overcame a slug-

gish start with a 24-7 run midway through the second half, and Niang's three-point play made it 80-67 with 2 minutes left.

"I think in the second half they played really well," Self said. "But we didn't do much to combat that."

Frank Mason III added 16 points for Kansas, which lost early road games to West Virginia (by 11) and Oklahoma State (by 19). The Jayhawks have lost four of their last five against the Cyclones, a first for a Self-coached team against a Big 12 opponent.

Iowa State was only a week removed from toppling top-ranked Oklahoma, its first win over a No. 1 team since 1957.

But this was the game the Cyclones and their fans have had circled on their calendars since October.

Some Iowa State students camped out for up to a week waiting for tickets to the game, which has long figured to have major implications for the Cyclones if they hope to end Kansas's 11-year streak of Big 12 titles.

It was the Jayhawks who came out on fire.

Kansas hit 17 of its first 29 shots against a defense that entered play ranked last in the Big 12 in points allowed and went up 43-36 at halftime.

"I thought we played pretty well the first 25 minutes," Self

said. "Then they got hot."

And the Jayhawks went cold. The Cyclones finally pulled even at 53-all on a 3-pointer by Matt Thomas with 11:40 left. Deonte Burton's 3 with 9 minutes to go gave Iowa State its first lead, 60-57.

The Cyclones kept rolling after that. Kansas shot just 40 percent in the second half, including 0 for 6 from 3-point range after making five 3s in the opening half.

"I really believe shot selection is a big deal," Self said. "I also believe our defensive intensity (slipped). The things you have to do to win away from home, we're not doing that yet."

TIP-INS

Kansas: Four Kansas starters had at least three field goals in the first half — and all of them shot at least 50 percent. ... The Jayhawks joined No. 1 Oklahoma and No. 3 Iowa as teams who have lost in Ames this season. ... Kansas was outscored 49-29 in the second half.

Iowa State: Morris was named the Big 12's player of the week Monday. He averaged 19 points a game in wins over Oklahoma and TCU. ... Thirteen-year-old Henry Campbell, a ball boy for Iowa State who lives in nearby Waukee, hit consecutive half-court shots before warmups. He

then made the "3" sign with both hands as the student section cheered him on.

OH GEORGES!

"When he gets to that left shoulder, he's hard to stop. He gets there in a plethora of ways." — Self on Niang.

WHAT'S NEXT

Kansas hosts No. 20 Kentucky on Saturday.

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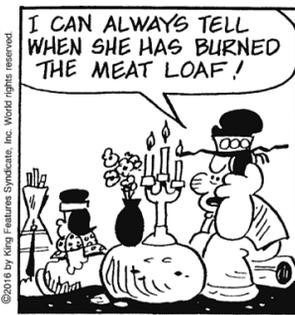
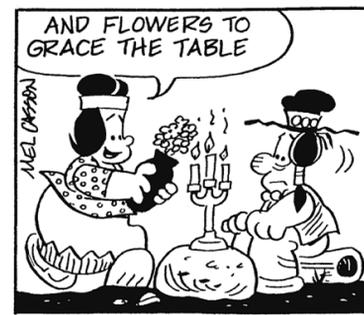
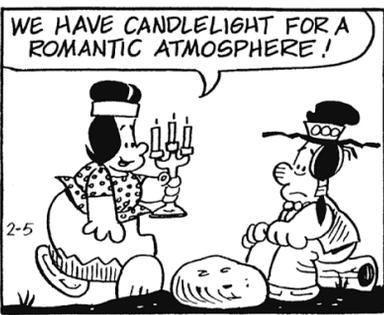
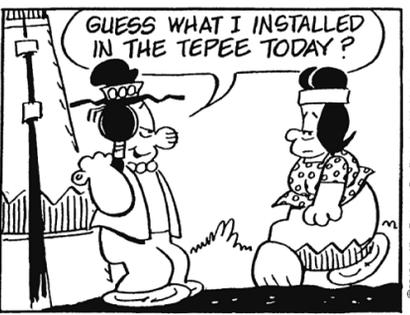
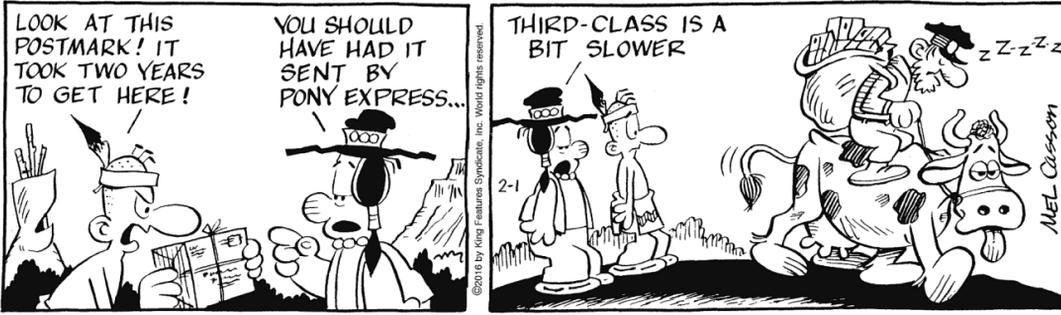
The City of Blue Rapids, Kansas will be receiving applications for an ADDITION to the existing fire station located at 413 Main Street, Blue Rapids, Kansas 66411.

The project will consist of a Pre-Engineered Metal Building (PEMB) atop a concrete foundation. The City of Blue Rapids has hired VMT Engineering P.A. to complete the preliminary design and engineering work for the facility project and to work collaboratively with contractors in this design build process. It is the intent of this addition project to match the existing building's construction type and style as much as feasibly possible.

The City of Blue Rapids, KS Selection Committee shall review all applications and make a decision as to which contractors to recommend that the City of Blue Rapids, KS select to interview for this project. The City of Blue Rapids, KS shall make the selection as to which construction firms to interview at the Date of Meeting. The goal for the City of Blue Rapids, KS is to have a design build construction firm under contract no later than March 30th, 2016. Interviews with construction firms will be conducted between the dates of January 27 and February 9, 2016. Arrangements will be made with contractors who apply for consideration for this project to be given a tour of the facilities as soon as is possible to arrange.

The City of Blue Rapids, Kansas reserves the right to reject any and all applications and to select the application deemed most advantageous to the City. The documents, application forms and plan information may be examined at: Blue Rapids City Hall
 04 Public Square, Blue Rapids, KS 66411, 785-363-7736 or on the Cities website at www.bluerapids.org.

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by Dave T. Phipps



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 - 5 Fond du —, Wisc.
 - 8 Wan
 - 12 Pitch
 - 13 Bachelor's last words
 - 14 Old portico
 - 15 Largest continent
 - 16 — canto
 - 17 Get ready, for short
 - 18 Catch sight of
 - 20 Eye layer
 - 22 West Virginia industry
 - 26 — nerve
 - 29 Japanese sash
 - 30 Sticky stuff
 - 31 Frog's cousin
 - 32 Pair
 - 33 Timely question?
 - 34 Unwell
 - 35 Miller
 - Sebas-tian
- DOWN**
- 1 N'Djamenas country
 - 2 Northamp-tonshire river
 - 3 Rainbow
 - 4 Limp
 - 5 Egypt's neighbor
 - 6 Citric quaff
 - 7 Rumbled
 - 36 Coffee break time
 - 38 Duck down
 - 39 Shroud city
 - 42 Jason's ship
 - 43 Any day now
 - 44 Nervous
 - 45 PC's brain
 - 46 Fleur-de- —
 - 48 "Born in the —"

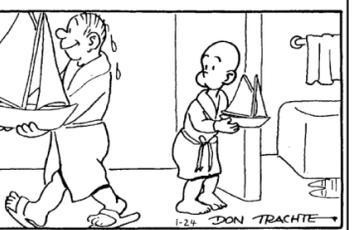
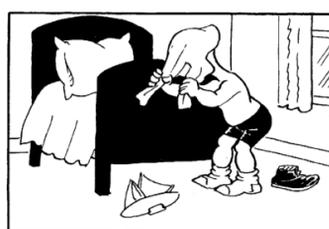
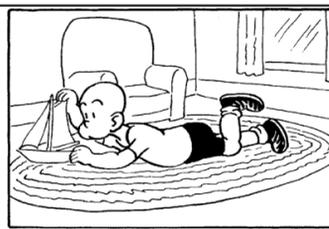
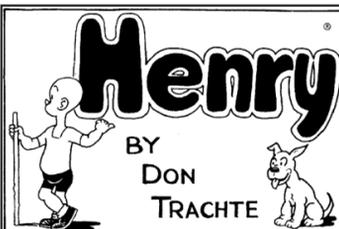
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Answers on page 4

R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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Kansas State tops Oklahoma State 89-73

MANHATTAN, Kansas (AP) — Kansas State coach Bruce Weber has long insisted that when it comes to practice, the rim likes attention.

"If you come in the gym and give it attention," Weber said, "it'll like you and good things will happen."

By that token, the Wildcats must've put in work the last few days, because it certainly appeared to favor them on Saturday.

Kamau Stokes and Justin Edwards scored 13 points apiece, and Kansas State hit nine 3-pointers to help snap a two-game losing streak, topping Oklahoma State comfortably 89-73.

Dean Wade and Wesley Iwundu finished with 12 points apiece, and Stephen Hurt added 11 points and five rebounds.

"I think our coaching staff did a good job trying to get them to realize there's still a lot to play for," Weber said. "Even though we've lost these games, if you play the right way — hard and as a team — good things will happen."

Lackluster shooting had plagued Kansas State (12-7, 2-5) in Big 12 play so far, but it was the 3-point ball that propelled the Wildcats to a second conference win. The Wildcats converted 9 of 17 3-point attempts, led by Stokes with four makes.

Even when the deep ball wasn't connecting, Kansas State still found a way to score. D.J. Johnson rose above two Oklahoma State defenders to throw down an emphatic put-back dunk with 13:02 to play after Barry Brown missed a 3-point attempt.

Tyree Griffin led Oklahoma State (10-9, 2-5) with 18 points and five assists. Jeff Newberry added 14 points and five rebounds.

"Both teams were teams that needed wins," Cowboys coach Travis Ford said. "Two different scenarios, but the question was who was going to respond, and we didn't respond. Give them all the credit."

The 3-point shot caused an offensive surge early and often for Kansas State. The Wildcats connected on 6 of 8 3-pointers in the first half, including four during a 27-13 run to close out the half. Stokes buried two of the triples, while Wade bookended the barrage with a 3-pointer at the top of the key to give Kansas State a 45-28 advantage with 1:41 to play. Brown later finished a tough layup at the buzzer as the Wildcats went into halftime with a 19-point lead, 49-30.

"We were at a magic level,

just like Oklahoma State was at a magic level against Kansas," Weber said. "We made those threes, but we also got to the paint."

The Cowboys shot 30 percent (7 of 23) from the field in the first half, including a seven-minute cold spell where the visitors shot just 2 of 12.

Oklahoma State guard Jawun Evans entered the game as Big 12 Newcomer of the Week after posting 42 points against No. 1 Oklahoma, a near triple-double at Texas and 22 points against No. 3 Kansas. But after scoring seven points in the first half, Evans was forced to the bench with 15:18 left after picking up his fourth foul. He didn't return until the 6:18 mark.

Lacking an offensive spark, Oklahoma State could only get as close as 13 points before the Wildcats opened up a 21-point lead with four minutes remaining.

"It's always good to get a win, but from here on out it doesn't get any easier," Iwundu said. "We want to enjoy this win but get back to work tomorrow for the next game."

TIP-INS

Oklahoma State: The Cowboys have lost five-straight games at Bramlage Coliseum, with their last win coming on Jan. 23, 2010, and are still winless in true road games this season (0-4).

Kansas State: The 89 points are the most in Big 12 play since scoring 94 against Texas Tech on Jan. 15, 2011.

ACCOUNTABILITY

"His parents have made sure since we've come back from Christmas break that he's in the gym," Weber said of Stokes. "They even make him FaceTime from the gym to show that he's there."



Ben Brake

Free Press Sports Photographer



Coach Weber gives instructions setting down.



Justin Edwards (14) takes the ball up between defenders.



Barry Brown (5) brings the ball down court.



Dean Wade (32) tries to stay in front of his man.



Wesley Iwundu works his way in for a layup.

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