



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.

But for the last year the minutes have not been reporting

what the Commissioners are doing. If you look at the back issues of the Free Press we have printed the County minutes for 20-years. But now with the \$700 price tag the minutes have changed. About half of the space is taken up with: **RESULT:- ADOPTED - [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Robert Boyd, County Commissioner
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner
AYES: Boyd, Wells, Wilson

On many Agenda items you can not tell what the subject was. All minutes are written by the County Clerks office and approved by the County Commission.

The Free Press was told that you can go on-line and see the Agenda Memos but many of the reports that are important are handed to the Commissioners and never put in the Agenda packet.

Until such time that the minutes are change to reflect what the Commission is doing or a new County Commission is elected, we will not run the minutes. It is a waste of space.

Companies continue to drill despite low oil and gas prices

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — With the price of oil and natural gas far below what it costs to drill a well in Kansas, it's to be expected that oil and gas drilling in the state would grind to a halt.

But a few companies are still drilling anyway. There were 21 active rigs in the state in January, down 80 percent from late 2014, according to the Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association.

Why? Producers are required by contract to drill in a newly acquired lease within a few years in order to maintain the land lease. It gives the landowners, who receive a percentage of the production as payment for the lease, a way to enforce their rights.

Ed Cross, president of the Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association, said it forces producers to make a choice on which leases to let go and which to hang onto by producing. It's a decision to run at a short-term loss in order to stay in the business long term.

"They have to maintain the leases, even though they didn't necessarily want to drill," Cross said.

More generally, producers said that one of the reasons they keep drilling is that it's critical to the long-term success of the company — and the industry as a whole — to keep a nucleus of skilled oilfield workers and service companies working.

But there's also a more cal-

culating reason to drill when everyone else is not: taking advantage of low costs.

Many oilfield workers are out of work, and many oilfield service companies are idle. A producer could certainly get a project done for less money than in recent years.

Rod Andersen of Kansas Petroleum Resources of Wichita is still drilling a few wells in Pawnee, Ness and Rush counties, which he said are shallower and less expensive to operate in.

His investors know and understand the risk and the opportunity, Andersen said.

Rod Andersen on prices in the oil fields

"Nobody knows when it will come back, but everybody thinks it will come back," Andersen said. "We are in a worldwide glut. It will continue to rise in the months ahead, and we will have taken advantage of it. It won't be immediate term, but in the longer term."

The idea is to drill and test these wells at discounted prices and leave the good ones uncompleted so that they will be relatively easy and inexpensive to complete when the price turns up. An uncompleted well can cost \$200,000 to \$300,000 to drill, while a completed well is twice that.

Completing a well typically means inserting several layers of steel casing to protect groundwater and the bore hole, lining the hole with cement,

perforating the lining and fracking the rock at the preferred depth.

Dick Schremmer, owner of Bear Petroleum in Haysville, said his program is to drill one new well every three months in a location he feels confident will produce. He expects to leave these wells uncompleted until production is profitable.

He said he would need oil prices to get up to \$30 or \$35 per barrel for a while to get him to finish his wells. Kansas Common crude oil now sells for about \$20 a barrel.

There are 5,000 uncompleted wells across the state, many just waiting for the right time, he said.

What it means, he said, is that the industry is waiting for better times — and when they arrive, it won't take long for the industry to revive.

Dick Schremmer, owner of Bear Petroleum in Haysville

As for existing wells, producers have a lower financial hurdle to cross in making a decision because the cost of operating an existing well is much lower than the cost of drilling a new one.

The cost of pulling oil out of the ground ranges from \$15 to \$30 per barrel depending on the location. Even so, some existing wells may become uneconomical because of the need to replace equipment or the volume becomes too low.

But producers can't just turn the pumps off and go home when prices fall too low. If they

stop producing, they have 90 days to resume pumping, plug the well for good or get a Temporary Abandonment from the Kansas Corporation Commission.

Producers received Temporary Abandonment permits on 4,566 wells in the last year, and plugged about 2,000 more with cement, according to the KCC.

Some make the decision to shut down a well for good. It can cost between \$10,000 to \$20,000 to pour in the concrete that plugs a well.

But if they want to resume pumping at a later date, they must receive a Temporary Abandonment permit from the Kansas Corporation Commission.

A well can have Temporary Abandonment status for up to 10 consecutive years, after which the operator must file an exception application that could get three more years.

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Tract 2: Home site including 3 acres±
Tract 3: 72.9 acres± with 69.3 acres in crop production. **Directions from Pony Express (Hwy 36 & Hwy 148):** Go west on Highway 36 approximately 3 miles, turn right on Yukon Blvd and go 1 mile north. Property is located on the northwest corner of Yukon Blvd & 19th Rd.
 See upcoming Grass & Grain's for complete details or see our website!
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The Next Riley County General Election Will Be November 8, 2016



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

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

(This is not a paid political advertisement. It is part of an Editorial written by Jon A. Brake, Publisher, Manhattan Free Press.)

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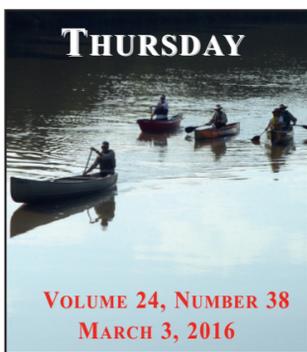
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"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."
 - Thomas Jefferson, 1787



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Clinton, Trump cemented as 2016 leaders; GOP desperate

MIAMI (AP) — Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump seized decisive Super Tuesday victories with math and momentum on their side, leaving rivals scrambling for last-chance, long-shot strategies. For the Republican establishment, the search was increasingly dire.

Trump's seven victories in states across the country amounted to a GOP establishment collapse with no clear sign of rapid recovery. While his rivals promised to fight on, the party remained deeply divided over the preferred Trump alternative. Marco Rubio won only liberal Minnesota. Sen. Ted Cruz took his home state of Texas, neighboring Oklahoma and Alaska.

Clinton also won seven of the nearly a dozen states that weighed in Tuesday. Rival Bernie Sanders won his home state of Vermont, as well as Minnesota, Oklahoma and Colorado.

In his victory speech, Trump sent a chilling warning to the GOP establishment. A moment after Trump professed to have

good relationships with his party's elite, he issued a warning to House Speaker Paul Ryan, who had declared earlier Tuesday that "this party does not prey on people's prejudices." Trump said that if the two don't get along, Ryan is "going to have to pay a big price."

Clinton, meanwhile, called for "love and kindness" — a contrast to hard-edge Trump — while her rival Bernie Sanders promised to fight on to the convention.

Both victors spoke from Florida, which did not vote on Tuesday, but where the general election is often won or lost.

Both Rubio and Cruz said they would fight on.

"Our campaign is the only campaign that has beaten, that can beat, and that will beat Donald Trump," Cruz thundered to supporters gathered at the wood-paneled Redneck Country Club in Stafford, Texas.

Still, he'd been counting on more appeal in the Southern states and among evangelical Christian voters. Trump, who

dubs his surging campaign the "Trump Train," has derailed those plans.

Rubio and the other Republicans still in the race, John Kasich and Ben Carson, struggled Tuesday to convey optimism even as they vowed to fight on.

Simple math reinforces a bind for the Republicans who reject Trump, as the brash billionaire businessman carried seven states and continues to barrel toward the 1,237 delegates needed to secure the GOP nomination.

Trump won at least 203 delegates Tuesday. Cruz collected at least 144 delegates and Rubio picked up at least 71. Overall, Trump leads with 285 delegates, Cruz has 161, Rubio has 87, Kasich has 25 and Carson has eight. It takes 1,237 delegates to win the GOP nomination.

Increasingly, leading Republicans talk of a contested convention in July as their best remaining option for stopping Trump, whose divisive rhetoric about immigrants and ethnic and religious groups has some

fearing a GOP wipeout in November.

Sanders assured supporters he'd take his fight to "every one" of the remaining contests. With a staggering \$42 million raised in February alone, Sanders has the campaign cash to do just that — though Clinton is well on her way to the 2,383 delegates needed on the Democratic side.

Clinton collected wins in seven states, and Trump swept up victories in seven, including Virginia, another important general election battleground.

She is assured of winning at least 457 of the 865 delegates at stake Tuesday. Sanders gains at least 286. When including party leaders, Clinton has at least 1,005 delegates and Sanders has at least 373.

Clinton held on to older voters and strongly prevailed among Hispanics and African-Americans, according to exit polls conducted for The Associated Press and television networks by Edison Research. Trump, a political newcomer, pulled in two-thirds of voters looking to install an outsider in

the White House, while GOP voters seeking an experienced candidate were split between Rubio and Cruz, both first-term senators.

Speaking from his gold-flecked Mar-a-Lago resort, Trump asserted that his candidacy is a "movement" and he claimed he would unify the party was by training his fire on Clinton.

He said she should be disqualified from even running for office because she broke government protocol by using a private email server while she was secretary of state.

Clinton tried to turn Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan on its head, saying the country instead must be made "whole again."

"What we need in America today is more love and kindness," she said. "Instead of building walls, we're going to break down barriers and build ladders of opportunity and empowerment."

Trump ridiculed her comments. "She's been there for so long," he said. "If she hasn't

straightened it out by now, she's not going to straighten it out in the next four years."

Rubio said his supporters would never rally around Trump. He and Kasich showed little sign of relenting, especially with their home states of Florida and Ohio voting on March 15.

"We are so excited about what lies ahead for our campaign," Rubio said at his Tuesday night rally in Miami, his hometown. "You see, just five days ago we began to unmask the true nature of the front-runner in this race."

He portrayed his attacks on Trump as having an impact already, though that wasn't evident in Super Tuesday's results.

"Two weeks from tonight right here in Florida," Rubio said, "we are going to send a message loud and clear: The party of Lincoln and Reagan will never be held by a con artist."

Brownback has cut higher education spending by \$17 million

TOPEKA, Kansas — Republican Gov. Sam Brownback cut Kansas' higher education spending Tuesday after the state's tax collections fell \$54 million short of expectations in February.

The lower-than-anticipated revenues last month left the state facing a small deficit in its current budget, for the fiscal year ending June 30. The Department of Revenue's report on monthly tax collections came only two weeks after the Republican-dominated Legislature passed a bill aimed at keeping the budget balanced through June 2017.

Brownback ordered a \$17 million cut in spending on state universities, or 3 percent of the tax dollars allocated to them, over the next four months. The Board of Regents said it will decide by the end of the week how the reductions will fall.

The state must make further adjustments to keep its budget balanced. Senate President Susan Wagle, a Wichita Republican, said it can no longer rely on "budget maneuvers" it has used in the past, including this year.

"The time has come to cut every government funded entity," Wagle said in a statement. "The reduction will be small when equitably spread across the board."

Kansas has struggled to balance its budget since Republican legislators slashed personal income taxes in 2012 and 2013 at Brownback's urging in an effort to stimulate the economy. Democratic legislative leaders blamed revenue shortfalls on what they described as the governor's fiscal mismanagement.

Brownback and Department of Revenue officials cited national economic factors, particularly a slump in agriculture and oil and natural gas production. The Republican governor has argued that his tax policies have created jobs that have offset other economic problems.

"My focus is on managing spending, not on raising taxes," Brownback said in a statement. "Our goal is not to fund the growth of state government; it is to help the Kansas economy grow."

Most of Brownback's income tax cuts were preserved amid the budget problems that followed, but Republican legislators last year raised sales and cigarette taxes.

Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, a Topeka Democrat, accused Brownback of "gross negligence" in handling the state's finances.

House Minority Leader Tom Burroughs, a Kansas City Democrat, said in a statement:

"It is time for Kansans to stand up and demand the Republican majority change course and fix the mess they've created."

The Department of Revenue said the state collected \$303 million in taxes last month instead of the \$357 million projected in a November fiscal forecast. The shortfall for the month was 15 percent.

Since the current fiscal year began in July, the state has collected \$3.68 billion in taxes. That's \$80 million less than anticipated and a shortfall of 2.1 percent.

Collections of sales, individual income and corporate income taxes all have fallen short of expectations during the current fiscal year.

Department of Revenue officials said the state is processing individual income tax refunds more quickly this year than last year. February also saw an unusually large number of refunds because the leap year added an extra, 29th day to the month.

"If you look at those states that have that ag, oil in their economy in any significant way, we're all in the same boat," Revenue Secretary Nick Jordan said.

The budget-balancing plan approved by legislators closed

gaps in the current \$15.6 billion budget and the next fiscal year's \$16.1 billion spending blueprint largely by shuffling funds and capturing unanticipated savings. The bill is on Brownback's desk, and he has until Thursday to decide whether to veto individual items in it.

Tax collections fell short of the state's projections for six of the seven months through January, and lawmakers expected the budget legislation to leave the state with cash reserves of only \$6 million on June 30 and \$86 million at the end of June 2017.

South Dakota governor vetoes law on transgender bathrooms

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's governor vetoed a bill that would have made the state the first in the U.S. to approve a law requiring transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms that match their sex at birth.

Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who initially reacted positively to the proposal but said he needed to research the issue, rejected the bill Tuesday after groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Human Rights Campaign insisted it was discriminatory.

In his veto message, Daugaard said the bill "does not address any pressing issue" and that such decisions were best left to local school officials. He also noted that signing the bill could create costly liability issues for schools and the

state. The ACLU had promised to encourage legal action if the bill became law.

"I am so happy right now. You have no idea," said 18-year-old Thomas Lewis, a transgender high school student in Sioux Falls. Lewis said he has support at his school, but that the veto shows such support goes beyond his friends.

"The government's not going to hold me back from who I really am," he said.

The bill's sponsor, Republican Rep. Fred Deutsch, said he would ask lawmakers not to override the veto, saying more focus on the issue would detract from the Legislature's other accomplishments this year. The Republican-controlled Legislature approved the bill last month, with sup-

porters saying it would protect student privacy.

Transgender rights have become a new flashpoint in the nation's cultural clashes following the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage last year. The high court victory encouraged advocates for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights to push harder, prompting backlash from conservatives.

Caitlyn Jenner, the transgender activist and former Olympic decathlon gold medalist, had called on Daugaard to veto the bill. Opponents also used the South Dakota Tourism Department's Twitter hashtag to take aim at the state's roughly \$3.8 billion tourism industry.

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Will Tie Votes on the Supreme Court Be a Problem?

Philip Wegmann
Heritage Foundation

For more than a century, the Supreme Court's bench has had nine spots, enough to round out the roster of a baseball team. With the death of Antonin Scalia, eight justices remain.

Now President Barack Obama and his fellow Democrats are pushing Republicans to OK an Obama recruit to replace Scalia. But Republicans say the court can field cases with eight justices until the next president fills the slot of Scalia, a conservative known for his "originalist" interpretation of the Constitution.

In the past week, two justices—one conservative, one liberal—said in public remarks in Washington, D.C., that the court could get along just fine for as long as it takes.

"We will deal with it," Justice Samuel Alito said Tuesday while answering a question from an audience at Georgetown University law school about Senate Republicans' determination not to advance any Obama nominee.

"We'll miss him, but we'll do our work," Justice Stephen Breyer said of Scalia during an appearance Thursday at the Newseum to talk about his new book.

"The cases come along," Breyer added, according to NBC News.

Alito, named by President George W. Bush, is part of the court's conservative wing. Breyer, appointed by President Bill Clinton, is part of the liberal wing.

The court's current lineup makes a 4-4 split possible, since half of the justices were nominated by Republican presidents and the other half by Democrats. In the case of a tie, the lower court's ruling stands.

According to the White House, that scenario "will be harmful and create unsustainable uncertainty" because "4-4 decisions have no value in establishing precedent on which future decisions can rely."

Without confirming a replacement nominee, the White House warns, the Senate will create "uncertainty—for the law, for individuals liberties, and for our economy."

But historically, half of the Supreme Court's decisions are unanimous, Breyer told NBC News justice correspondent Pete Williams during the Newseum event.

Perhaps 20 percent are decided by a tie-breaking 5-4 vote, he said.

"For the most part, it will not change," Breyer said.

Alito reminded his law school audience that the court previously has functioned with an even number of justices, CBS News reported. He noted the high court's size isn't prescribed by the Constitution.

Originally, six justices sat on the court before it expanded to nine. At one point during the Civil War, Congress added a 10th seat.

"They must have been more agreeable," Alito quipped.

Some legal experts predict a measurable impact from Scalia's absence in 2016. Six landmark cases will come before the Supreme Court regarding abortion, affirmative action, religious liberty, unions, and voting rights.

President Ronald Reagan appointed Scalia to the court in 1986.

Democrats blame Republicans for keeping the court understaffed and unable to handle a queue of controversial cases without a full bench.

"The United States Supreme Court will be unable to render decisions that are vital to people's lives," Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said on a recent conference call with reporters. "We're talking about voting rights, reproductive rights, affirmative action, immigration."

Blumenthal's opinion isn't shared by his Republican colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, which considers and votes on all presidential nominations to federal courts.

"A 4-4 court functions, it has functioned in the past, and it'll function this time," Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said Feb. 16 on CNN. "Look, this is not the end of the world."

The same day Alito made his remarks at Georgetown University, Hatch and the committee's 10 other Republicans released a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell affirming their



intent not to advance a nominee until after Obama's successor takes office Jan. 20.

Carrie Severino, chief counsel at the Judicial Crisis Network, agrees with Hatch. Even if the Senate confirmed a justice, he or she wouldn't join the bench in time to cast a tie-breaking vote, she said.

"If they were literally confirmed overnight, [the justice] wouldn't hear most of the cases this term," Severino told The Daily Signal.

Severino, a former clerk to Justice Clarence Thomas, said any nominee confirmed by the Senate this summer likely

would begin work when the court begins hearing cases again in October.

That's "practically during the presidential election," she said.

The Supreme Court met Monday for the first time since Scalia's unexpected death at age 79 on Feb. 13 and a funeral Mass last Saturday. His seat on the bench was draped in black.

The court previously has not ground to a halt without nine justices at the helm. When justices die, retire, or recuse themselves from a case, the court continues with regular busi-

ness.

As a new justice in 2010, Elena Kagan recused herself from 25 cases in which she concluded her past experience as a solicitor general created a conflict of interest. One was a major case concerning affirmative action in higher education, Fisher v. Texas.

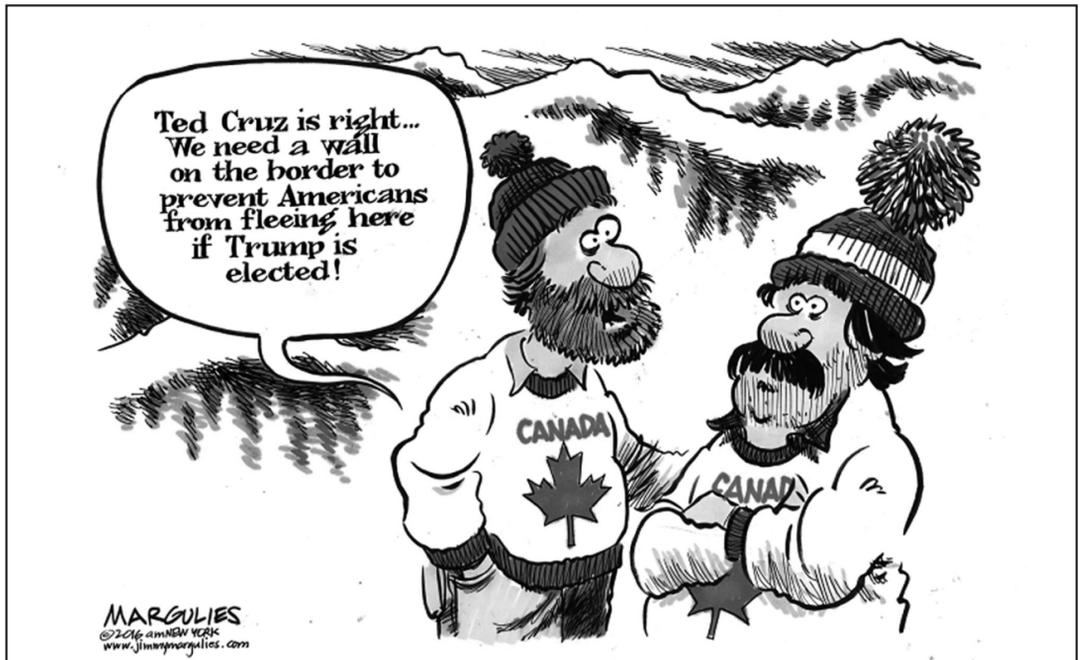
Alito, like many other justices, has recused himself in more than a dozen cases because of his financial investments.

If Republicans get their way, the court would be without nine justices for more than 10

months. But Hatch and other Republicans says that's the only fair thing to do.

"Look, it's not the end of the world [to leave Scalia's seat open]," Hatch told CNN's Chris Cuomo. "As a matter of fact, it's a smart thing to do rather than be in the middle of ... a presidential election that is so complicated and aggressive as this one."

"Let's wait until the next president, whether a Democrat or Republican, can have the right to nominate," he said.



King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

S	K	A	N	U	T	S	O	B	O	E
P	I	C	E	S	A	U	F	O	I	L
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Socialism Has Created a Humanitarian Disaster in Venezuela

By Juan Carlos Hidalgo
CATO Institute

Venezuela's accelerating economic meltdown is rapidly turning into a full-fledged humanitarian crisis. For too many in that country, the pervasive shortages of food, medicine, electricity, and other basic goods are making everyday life a nightmare. It is Venezuela's version of the "winter of discontent," except that it has been brewing for much longer and its unfolding consequences are far more frightening.

Margaret Thatcher's dictum that the problem with socialists is that "they always run out of other people's money" faced a unique challenge in Venezuela: during the course of a decade and a half, the government received nearly \$1 trillion in oil revenues—the equivalent in today's money of more than seven Marshall Plans. This was enough to mask the effect of hundreds of expropriations, stifling economic controls, and otherwise running the private economy into the ground.

Part of the windfall was spent on social programmes, which temporarily improved some social indicators and made the regime popular among poor Venezuelans. But a

couple of years ago, the then minister of education admitted that the aim of the regime's policies was "not to take the people out of poverty so they become middle class and then turn into escuálidos" (a derogatory term to denote opposition members). In other words, the government wanted grateful, dependent voters, not prosperous Venezuelans.

What defenders of the Bolivarian revolution have seldom acknowledged is that a significant portion of the oil revenues was simply stolen. It is difficult to specify an exact figure thanks to the government's opaque finances, but two former ministers-turned-critics claim that it amounts to \$300bn—an estimate consistent with independent analysis. No wonder Transparency International ranks Venezuela alongside Haiti as one of the two most corrupt countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Thatcher's axiom did eventually catch up with Venezuelan socialism. Even when oil prices were hovering above \$100 per barrel, the government's finances went increasingly into the red. Now that a barrel of

Venezuelan crude is trading at only \$25, the situation has reached a breaking point. External debt has gone up by 115 per cent in the last decade and inflation is out of control: the IMF says it will reach 720 per cent this year. The situation is so bad that the government recently had to use 36 Boeing 747 cargo planes to import five billion notes of its worthless currency.

Behind the macroeconomic figures is a deepening humanitarian crisis. The government lacks the dollars to pay for imports which, compounded with price controls and their devastating effect on production, has caused widespread shortages. People queue for hours only to find empty shelves in government-run supermarkets. Even if they're lucky, they can only buy a few products—in return for which they must undergo fingerprint scanning under the country's rationing system. A national poll found that the percentage of Venezuelans eating two or fewer meals a day increased by more than 10 percentage points last year. Looting is now a common occurrence.

The economic crisis is having a particularly nasty impact on healthcare. According to the Venezuelan Pharmaceutical Federation, only 20 per cent of the drugs that doctors require are available. People must rely on social media to scout the country for medications for their loved ones. The lack of spare parts means that much medical equipment is useless: 86 per cent of X-Ray machines are out of service, for example. "Babies born prematurely are dying like little chicks" was a February headline of El Nacional, Venezuela's last independent daily. It quoted a resident doctor in one of the public hospitals saying that, due to the shortages, they cannot save the lives of all patients. "We are operating under war conditions," she said.

The reaction of the government, when it is not jailing opponents or shutting down media outlets, has been farcical. It recently encouraged people to create "urban gardens" so they can grow their own food. President Nicolás Maduro even claimed that he had 60 laying hens. One man told the US National Public

Radio that he tried to follow the President's example by buying 30 chickens, but he could not find feed for the birds, so his family ended up eating them all.

Not long ago Jeremy Corbyn, Ken Livingstone, and other Labour bigwigs were praising this Bolivarian revolu-

tion. Sycophantic Hollywood stars, such as Sean Penn and Oliver Stone, flocked to Caracas to voice their admiration for its socialist policies. The lovefest continued even when many of the aforementioned problems were becoming apparent. Today, all we hear from them regarding Venezuela is deafening silence.

This Is the Real Reason Apple Is Fighting the FBI

By Julian Sanchez
CATO Institute

The first thing to understand about Apple's latest fight with the FBI—over a court order to help unlock the deceased San Bernardino shooter's phone—is that it has very little to do with the San Bernardino shooter's phone.

It's not even, really, the latest round of the Crypto Wars—the long running debate about how law enforcement and intelligence agencies can adapt to the growing ubiquity of uncrackable encryption tools.

Rather, it's a fight over the future of high-tech surveillance, the trust infrastructure undergirding the global software ecosystem, and how far technology companies and software developers can be conscripted as unwilling suppliers of hacking tools for governments. It's also the public face of a conflict that will undoubtedly be continued in secret—and is likely already well underway.

First, the specifics of the case. The FBI wants Apple's help unlocking the work iPhone used by Syed Farook, who authorities believe perpetrated last year's mass killing at an office Christmas party before perishing in a shootout with police. They've already obtained plenty of information about Farook's activities from Apple's iCloud servers, where much of his data was backed up, and from other communications providers such as Facebook. It's unclear whether they've been able to recover any data from two other mobile devices Farook physically destroyed before the attack, which seem most likely to have contained relevant information.

But the most recent data from Farook's work-assigned iPhone 5c wasn't backed up, and the device is locked with a simple numeric passcode that's needed to decrypt the phone's drive. Since they don't have to contend with a longer, stronger alphanumeric passphrase, the FBI could easily "brute force" the passcode—churning through all the possible combinations—in a matter of hours, if only the phone weren't con-

figured to wipe its onboard encryption keys after too many wrong guesses, rendering its contents permanently inaccessible.

So the bureau wants Apple to develop a customized version of their iOS operating system that permits an unlimited number of rapid guesses at the passcode—and sign it with the company's secret developer key so that it will be recognized by the device as a legitimate software update.

Considered in isolation, the request seems fairly benign: If it were merely a question of whether to unlock a single device—even one unlikely to contain much essential evidence—there would probably be little enough harm in complying. The reason Apple CEO Tim Cook has pledged to fight a court's order to assist the bureau is that he understands the danger of the underlying legal precedent the FBI is seeking to establish.

Four important pieces of context are necessary to see the trouble with the Apple order.

1. This offers the government a way to make tech companies help with investigations. Law enforcement and intelligence agencies have for years wanted Congress to update the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act of 1992, which spells out the obligations of telephone companies and Internet providers to assist government investigations, to deal with growing prevalence of encryption—perhaps by requiring companies to build the government backdoors into secure devices and messaging apps. In the face of strong opposition from tech companies, security experts and civil liberties groups, Congress has thus far refused to do so.

By falling back on an unprecedentedly broad reading of the 1789 All Writs Act to compel Apple to produce hacking tools, the government is seeking an entry point from the courts it hasn't been able to obtain legislatively. Moreover, saddling companies with an obligation to help break their own security after the fact will raise the cost of resisting efforts

to mandate vulnerabilities baked in by design.

2. This public fight could affect private orders from the government. Several provisions of the federal laws governing digital intelligence surveillance require companies to provide "technical assistance" to spy agencies. Everything we know suggests that government lawyers are likely to argue for an expansive reading of that obligation—and may already have done so. That fight, however, will unfold in secret, through classified arguments before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. The precedent set in the public fight may help determine how ambitious the government can be in seeking secret orders that would require companies to produce hacking or surveillance tools meant to compromise their devices and applications.

3. The consequences of a precedent permitting this sort of coding conscription are likely to be enormous in scope. This summer, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance wrote that his office alone had encountered 74 iPhones it had been unable to open over a six-month period. Once it has been established that Apple can be forced to build one skeleton key, the inevitable flood of similar requests—from governments at all levels, foreign and domestic—could effectively force Apple and its peers to develop internal departments dedicated to building spyware for governments, just as many already have full-time compliance teams dedicated to dealing with ordinary search warrants.

This would create an internal conflict of interest: The same company must work to both secure its products and to undermine that security—and the better it does at the first job, the larger the headaches it creates for itself in doing the second. It would also, as Apple's Cook has argued, make it far more difficult to prevent those cracking tools from escaping into the wild or being replicated.

4. Most ominously, the

effects of a win for the FBI in this case almost certainly won't be limited to smartphones. Over the past year I worked with a group of experts at Harvard Law School on a report that predicted governments will respond to the challenges encryption poses by turning to the burgeoning "Internet of Things" to create a global network of surveillance devices. Armed with code blessed by the developer's secret key, governments will be able to deliver spyware in the form of trusted updates to a host of sensor-enabled appliances. Don't just think of the webcam and microphone on your laptop, but voice-control devices like Amazon's Echo, smart televisions, network routers, wearable computing devices and even Hello Barbie.

The global market for both traditional computing devices and the new breed of networked appliances depends critically on an underlying ecosystem of trust—trust that critical security updates pushed out by developers and signed by their cryptographic keys will do what it says on the tin, functioning and interacting with other code in a predictable and uniform way. The developer keys that mark code as trusted are critical to that ecosystem, which will become ever more difficult to sustain if developers can be systematically forced to deploy those keys at the behest of governments. Users and consumers will reasonably be even more distrustful if the scope of governments' ability to demand spyware disguised as authentic updates is determined, not by a clear framework, but a hodgepodge of public and secret court decisions.

These, then, are the high stakes of Apple's resistance to the FBI's order: not whether the federal government can read one dead terrorism suspect's phone, but whether technology companies can be conscripted to undermine global trust in our computing devices. That's a staggeringly high price to pay for any investigation.

Inside the Push to Make It Harder for Government to 'Steal'

Heritage Foundation

OKLAHOMA CITY—

Oklahoma state Sen. Kyle Loveless is not backing down. The Republican has been called a liar and a socialist, in the pocket of organized crime, and al-Qaeda's and ISIS' best friend by officers of the law who protect and serve.

But in a year when Loveless, R-Oklahoma City, is up for reelection to the state legislature—a time when most lawmakers would choose not to stir the pot—the state senator has decided to challenge Oklahoma's civil asset forfeiture laws, which some consider a "cash cow" for police and prosecutors because of their ability to seize cash and property without charging the owner with a crime.

"The way I look at it is, it comes back to should the government be able to take someone's stuff and keep it without charging them or proving it, and I say no," Loveless said. "If they're going to keep calling me names, I'm a big boy. I can take it."

This year, at least a dozen state legislatures across the United States are considering legislation to reform civil forfeiture laws.

But in no other state is the debate more contentious than in Oklahoma, where Loveless, who introduced a bill to challenge the current system, has been fielding attacks from prosecutors, sheriffs, and police officers for his efforts.

"Every way across the board in different agencies, city, county, statewide agencies, the system is fraught with abuse," Loveless told The Daily Signal during an interview from his office in the state capitol. "Innocent people's stuff is being taken. The system is so perverted that it is like climbing Mount Everest to get your stuff back."

Apache, Okla., Chief of Police Stephen Mills had his Ford F-250 seized by law enforcement in 2010. He's since come out as a vocal opponent of civil forfeiture. (Photo: Patchbay Media/The Daily Signal)

'It Was Stealing'

Civil forfeiture is a tool that gives law enforcement the power to take people's cash, cars, and property if they suspect it's connected to criminal activity. The procedure was expanded in the 1980s and hailed as a tool law enforcement needed to fight the war on drugs.

In recent years, civil forfeiture has been dubbed "policing for profit" by opponents, a term used to describe the money-making scheme civil forfeiture creates for police and prosecutors, since law enforcement doesn't have to charge people with a crime to take their cash, cars, or houses.

In Oklahoma, anecdotes involving innocent people who had property and cash wrongfully seized by police under civil forfeiture have emerged, and such stories have fueled Loveless' efforts to reform the state's laws.

In 2010, for example, Grady County ranch owner and operator Stephen Mills, who was in the military at the time, had his

truck taken by the Grady County Sheriff's Department after he lent it to a ranch employee to use.

The worker was arrested for stealing equipment from an oil field, and law enforcement seized Mills' truck under civil forfeiture.

Mills, who currently serves as the police chief in Apache, Okla., called the Sheriff's Department twice a week for four months asking them to return his vehicle. They eventually stopped returning his calls.

"It was stealing," Mills told The Daily Signal during an interview at his Grady County ranch. "It doesn't matter if they had the color of the law behind them. They were stealing."

Six months after the Sheriff's Department took Mills' truck, he made a phone call to the Chickasha Express Star, a newspaper, which called the district attorney's office for a comment.

Not long after, a lawyer assisting Mills told him he could go pick up his truck.

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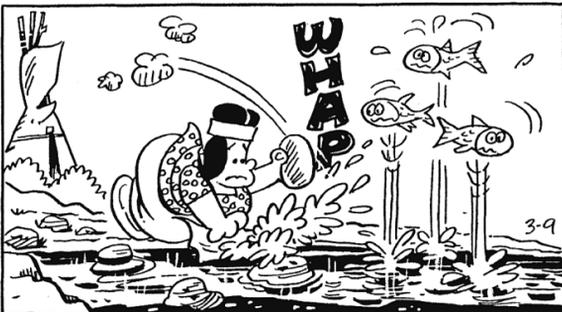
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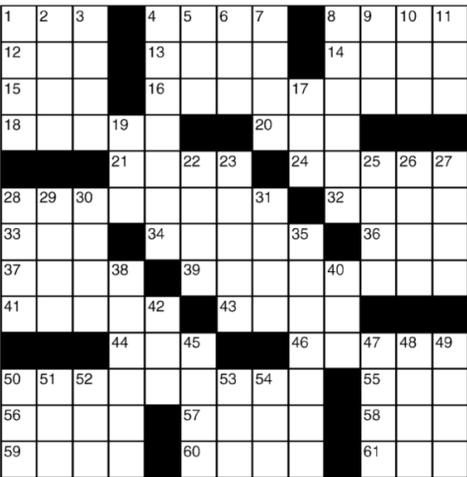
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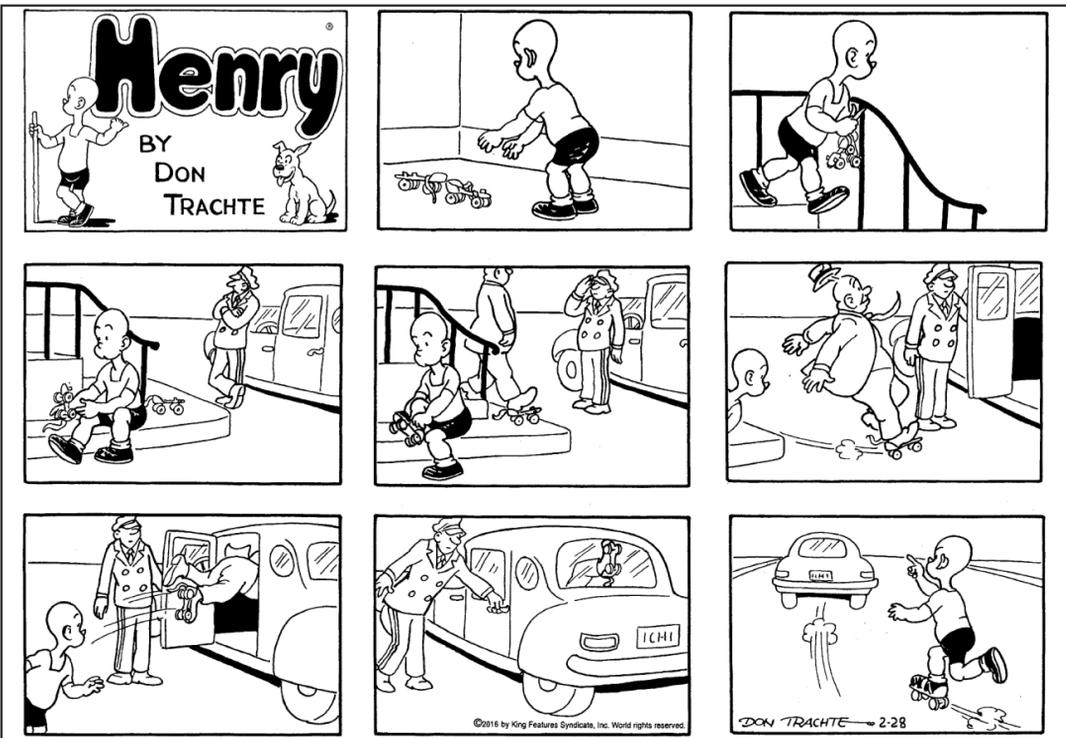
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Relative of reggae
 - 4 Crazy instrument
 - 8 Reed Snapshot
 - 12 Jacob's twin
 - 14 Thwart
 - 15 Brewery product
 - 16 Cascade
 - 18 Wander off
 - 20 Witness
 - 21 Corn eaters' castoffs
 - 24 Unforeseen problems
 - 28 Napoleon's downfall
 - 32 Plummet
 - 33 Historic period
 - 34 "Smallville" family
 - 36 - Khan
 - 37 Roseanne of comedy
 - 39 1998 Sandler movie, with "The"
 - 41 Censorial sound
 - 43 Classic theater name
- DOWN**
- 1 Resorts
 - 2 Bagpiper's attire
 - 3 Big name in PCs
 - 4 The Big Apple
 - 5 Mex. neighbor
 - 6 Skin art, for short
 - 7 Seeks restitution
 - 8 Insult
 - 9 Feathery neckpiece
 - 10 Lubricate
 - 11 Right angle
 - 17 In medias
 - 19 Expert item
 - 22 Huffed and puffed
 - 23 Echolocation method
 - 25 Bedouin
 - 26 Energetic
 - 27 Fix, in a sense
 - 28 "Dragnet" star
 - 29 Uzbekistan sea
 - 30 Container weight
 - 31 Director Premiering
 - 35 Neuter
 - 38 Say again
 - 40 "Catcher in the -"
 - 42 Apiece
 - 45 Taj Mahal city
 - 47 Charitable donations
 - 48 Test tube
 - 49 Catch sight of
 - 50 Bankroll
 - 51 Exist
 - 52 Can material
 - 53 Have a bug
 - 54 Upper surface



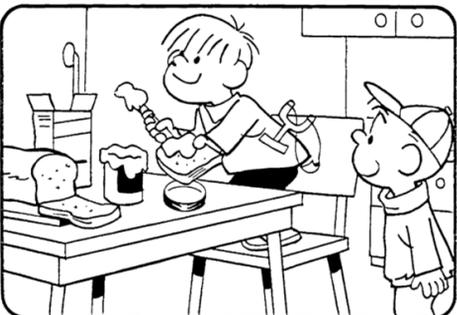
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Answers on page 4

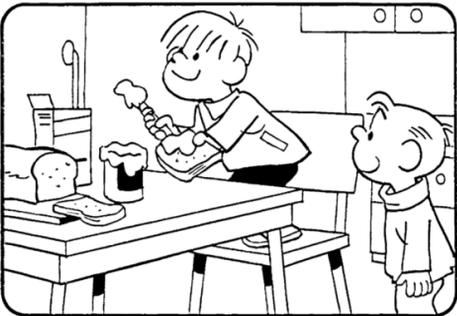


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Slice of bread is smaller. 2. Jar cap is missing. 3. Shims is missing. 4. Boy's cap is missing. 5. Arm is moved.

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Kansas University... 12 Straight In The Big 12

Big 12 Men's Basketball Standings

School	Big 12	Overall	Pct.
Kansas	4 - 3	26 - 4	.867
West Virginia	11 - 5	22 - 7	.759
Oklahoma	10 - 6	22 - 6	.786
Baylor	10 - 6	21 - 8	.724
Iowa State	10 - 7	21 - 9	.700
Texas	10 - 7	19 - 11	.633
Texas Tech	8 - 8	18 - 10	.643
Kansas State	4 - 12	15 - 14	.517
Oklahoma State	3 - 14	12 - 18	.400
TCU	2 - 14	11 - 18	.379

(AP) Since the beginning of the season, the University of Kansas basketball team broke their end-of-practice huddles by chanting "Big 12 Champs" in unison. That daily ritual became a reality on Saturday afternoon as the second-ranked Jayhawks defeated Texas Tech, 67-58, inside Allen Fieldhouse to clinch at least a share of the program's 12th-straight Big 12 Conference regular season title.

Kansas has won an NCAA-leading 59 conference regular-season titles, including 16 in the Big 12. The Jayhawks are now one shy of UCLA's 13-straight Pac-10 regular season titles, won under hall-of-fame coach John Wooden from 1967-79. In the 20-year history of the Big 12, Kansas has won a regular-season or tournament title in 17 of those years.

Sophomore guard Sviatoslav Mykhailiuk came off the bench to score 17 points on 5-of-5 shooting from 3-point range, and junior floor general Frank Mason III added 16 points with three 3-pointers to lead the Jayhawks.

Junior forward Landen Lucas gave the Jayhawks an early spark by scoring KU's first five points, including making his first three free throws.

The Kansas defense forced a shot clock violation on Texas Tech's first possession and held the Red Raiders scoreless until the 17:31 mark of the first half. Mason made a wide-open 3-pointer from a reverse pass from Devonte' Graham to give KU an early 8-0 lead.

Both teams went into a scoring slump midway through the first half. Senior forward

Jamari Traylor ended an 0-for-8 KU shooting drought with a layup in the paint, and-1, at the 11:34 mark.

With Tech down by two, 16-14, and nipping at KU's heels, Mykhailiuk came off the bench to drain his first 3-pointer of the day and swing KU's lead to 19-14. Mykhailiuk proceeded to make three 3-pointers in the final five minutes of the first half, including one at the buzzer, to give KU a 37-29 lead.

Kansas started the second half on a 12-0 run, holding the Raiders scoreless from the 19:47 mark to the 12:46 mark of the second half.

The run to start the second half allowed KU to take its largest lead of the game — 20 points with 10:19 remaining.

Texas Tech, winners of five-straight games coming into Allen Fieldhouse, ran off a quick 14-2 run to make one final push, but Mykhailiuk had another answer: hitting two 3-pointers within two minutes to help the Jayhawks stay composed and secure the program's 12th-straight Big 12 title.

Junior forward Landen Lucas flushed home a dunk and Mason made two free throws with 40 seconds remaining to secure the 67-58 victory for the Jayhawks.



The Jayhawks defeated Kansas State in Manhattan for the first time in three years.

Ellis and No. 1 Kansas romp over No. 23 Texas

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Enough about winning a share of the Big 12 title: Kansas wanted the crown all to itself.

The top-ranked Jayhawks grabbed it in emphatic style Monday night, romping over No. 23 Texas 86-56, an impressive exclamation point on yet another title-winning season.

"That was definitely motivation. We didn't want to come out flat and thinking the league was over. We wanted to come out and win it outright," Jayhawks guard Devonte' Graham said.

Perry Ellis scored 20 points and Kansas settled the question of its undisputed title in the opening minutes with a barrage of 3-pointers, a steady diet of

points from Ellis and defense that gave Texas nothing easy.

"For 20-25 minutes, that was about as well as we can play," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "We talked about we don't want to share anything."

The Jayhawks (26-4, 14-3) made 11 3-pointers, led by 24 points by halftime and sent Texas' sellout home crowd headed to the exits early. Ellis finished 9 of 11 from the field.

Frank Mason III added 14 points for Kansas.

Javan Felix scored 13 points for Texas (19-11, 10-7), which has never beaten a No. 1-ranked opponent in nine tries.

Kansas, which spent two weeks at No. 1 in early January, looked every bit the part this

time. And in a season the Big 12 finally seemed like it could crown a new champion, the Jayhawks stormed through the second half of the league schedule with a nine-game winning streak to take it again.

Kansas has won nine of its last 10 against Texas, but came into this one expecting a much tougher fight than the Longhorns put up.

With four wins already this season over Top 10 opponents, Texas looked like a team ready to grab another. The Longhorns came in brimming with confidence as the league upstart under first-year coach Shaka Smart. And after its impressive win two days earlier over Oklahoma, Texas turned out its

biggest — and rowdiest — crowd of the season.

The Jayhawks greeted it with little more than a shrug and a scoring burst at the start that overwhelmed the Longhorns from the opening tip.

Graham and Mason made three 3-pointers in a 15-0 run as Texas missed its first 14 shots. Ellis dominated Texas' front line for 15 points in the first half. His 3-pointer put the Jayhawks up by 21 points with 4 minutes left.

Even when Texas started matching shots, that's all the Longhorns could do. The Jayhawks shot 66 percent in the first half and consecutive 3-winners by Wayne Selden Jr. and Brannen Greene in the

final minute sent Kansas into

halftime with a 47-23 lead. "We're not going to be like this every night, but the guys had fun," Self said.

The Kansas swagger seemed to get bigger with every basket. Ellis weaved his way to another easy layup, Graham swished two more 3-pointers and two thunderous dunks by Jamari Traylor pushed the Jayhawks' lead to 67-36 with just under 13 minutes to play.

"I don't think we were overwhelmed," Felix said. "We didn't defend well. We missed some shots ... you can't do that against a team like that."

TIP-INS:

Kansas: The Jayhawks rank fourth nationally in 3-point per-

centage and have made 10 or more 3-pointers 11 times this season.

"We were moving the ball well. We didn't take any bad 3-point shots," Ellis said.

Texas: The Longhorns' offense stalled mostly because Isaiah Taylor never got started. The point guard has been the catalyst for Texas all season — he's their leading scorer — but started 0-for-8 shooting and missed several open looks. Taylor didn't score until making a steal and a layup with 1:26 left in the first half.

Taylor finished with five points and took only one shot in the second half.

No. 17 Iowa State beats Kansas State 80-61

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Jameel McKay looked rejuvenated. Hallice Cooke was a factor for the first time in months.

Iowa State finally got the bench production it's been looking for heading into March.

Matt Thomas scored 20 points and Georges Niang added 17 and 17th-ranked Iowa State rolled past Kansas State 80-61 on Saturday night, clinching its fifth straight 20-win season.

McKay added 14 points with 17 rebounds off the bench for the notoriously-thin Cyclones (20-9, 9-7 Big 12), who got 24 points from their reserves and outscored the Wildcats by 18 in the second half.

"This is the time of year you have to have your team figured out," Iowa State coach Steve Prohm said. "The second half, you saw us at a really good clip offensively and defensively."

Iowa State strung together 13-0 runs in each half, which proved to be the difference. The Wildcats pulled as close as 65-

59 before backup Hallice Cooke's 3 with just under four minutes left swung momentum back in favor of the Cyclones.

D.J. Johnson had 22 with nine boards for Kansas State (15-14, 4-12), which shot just 4 of 18 from 3-point range.

"It's all the little details that make the difference in the game," Wildcats coach Bruce Weber said, pointing to Monte Morris' buzzer-beating 3 to end the first half when K-State had a foul to give. "It's a shame because our guys work so hard. They give themselves a chance. But you've got to be smart."

Iowa State's dream of a share of the Big 12 title ended last weekend when Kansas secured its 12th league win.

But the Cyclones are still hoping they have a big run left in them.

Beating K-State was a necessary start.

Two consecutive 3s from

Thomas in the left corner put Iowa State ahead 45-39 early in the second half. Cooke, who has mostly struggled in his first season with the Cyclones after transferring from Oregon State, then drilled one from that exact

spot to make it 48-39.

Deonte Burton's first basket, an emphatic one-handed dunk, pushed Iowa State's lead to 60-45. K-State answered with seven straight and Niang was

forced to the bench with his fourth foul with 7:27 left. But McKay followed Cooke's huge 3 with a dunk as the Cyclones pulled away.

Cooke finished with 10

points after being held scoreless for four straight games.

"He was a huge spark off the bench," Thomas said. "I think he can be that for us every night."

Kansas State Sports Summary

K-State Women's Basketball

If you haven't been paying attention, the K-State Women's Basketball program has quietly been building up momentum towards a possible NCAA tournament bid. They have won 4 of their last 5 games, including a win on the road in Ames, Iowa. This last Saturday was Senior Day, where they would face #4 Baylor. K-State hung in with Baylor in the first half, leading for over 12 minutes. To keep close, K-State continued to rebound the Lady Bears, but by the second half they could not pull it off. The final score was Baylor 63 Kansas State 52. This was the final home game for the K-State woman. Seniors Bri Craig, Stacey Malone, and Megan



Tonya Ricklefs
- phd
Free Press
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Deines. The women played at Oklahoma State Monday night and lost against OSU 59-51. The Cats hung in until the 4th quarter. The Big 12 tournament will be in Oklahoma City March 4-7th.

K-State Baseball

After winning two against

UC Riverside and splitting the series, K-State dropped both games against Oregon State. K-State. The Cats were in Surprise, AZ over the weekend facing Utah and will have their first home game on Friday, March 4th with a three game home stand against Arkansas Pine-Bluff. The first game is at

3:05pm and will feature dollar hot dogs.

K-State men's basketball

The K-State men played in Ames, Iowa on Saturday. This game was a battle right from the beginning, and while the men tried to hang in their most of the game, Iowa State started pulling away in the last five minutes of the game again. The final score was 80 - 61. DJ Johnson had an impressive game and kept the Cats hanging in there with 22 points just himself. With this loss, it is a question if the men will even be invited to play in the NIT this year. The Cats face TCU at home on March 2nd. It will be important for the Cats to soundly defeat TCU at home.

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