



# Manhattan Free Press

An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper

## City Of Manhattan Starts Work On 2017 Budget



Manhattan City Commission: Mayor Karen McCulloh; Usha Reddi; Linda Morse; Mike Dodson; Wynn Butler

The following table illustrates the absence of growth in revenues from 2013 to 2016.

General Fund	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Budget
Beginning Cash Balance	\$2,484,687	\$1,750,000	\$2,025,068	\$2,000,000
Property Taxes	1,084,394	1,752,075	1,937,877	2,158,552
State & Local Taxes	8,464,622	8,813,785	9,058,725	9,035,758
Franchise fees	3,101,686	3,385,170	3,235,408	3,578,000
Other Transfers	\$5,350,499	\$6,284,638	\$7,034,748	\$7,459,297
<b>TOTAL REVENUE FROM MAJOR REVENUE SOURCE</b>	<b>21,985,668</b>	<b>23,291,827</b>	<b>21,536,429</b>	<b>24,231,607</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>27,760,692</b>	<b>28,936,633</b>	<b>27,249,785</b>	<b>29,826,773</b>

*(Editor's Note: It's that time of the year again where the City of Manhattan starts looking at how much of your money they can spend.*

*And we start off with the General Fund, same as every year, why? To confuse citizens. Look at the graph above, you would think the City of Manhattan's Budget for 2016 was \$29.8 million.*

*That is what they want you to think. Look at the graph at the bottom, it came from the City's 2015 Budget book. It shows the 2016 Budget was \$138 million, up from \$124 million just 4-years ago.*

*You can go to the City Web site and find the Finance Department and look at all of the spending done by the City of Manhattan. Take a good look at the Debt of Manhattan, total debt: \$276 million.)*

**CITY COMMISSION AGENDA MEMO**  
February 15, 2016

**FROM:**  
Gulten Celebi, Operations and Budget Officer  
**MEETING:** February 23, 2016  
**SUBJECT:** Annual Revenue Projections

**PRESENTERS:** Bernie Hayen, Director of Finance  
Hillary Badger, Assistant Director of Finance

**BACKGROUND**

Annually, the Finance Department reports on City revenues as a precursor to budgetary considerations held later in the year. This work ses-

sion is intended to provide an overview to City Management and the City Commission regarding the key revenue sources for both the 2016 and 2017 budget years.

**DISCUSSION**  
This year's revenue work session will focus on the City's major budgeted funds including a review of the City's General Fund revenues which fund many of the City's day-to-day operational expenditures.

The General Fund has experienced minimal revenue growth over the past two years. There are 10 revenue line items in the General Fund which provide 76% of total revenues. These revenue sources consist of beginning fund balance (7%), sales taxes (46%), franchise fees (11%), property taxes (7%), and transfers (24%). There are 149 other revenue line items in the General Fund which provide the remaining 24% of revenue.

The following table illustrates the absence of growth in revenues from 2013 to 2016.

**See Graph Above**

One major revenue source that has experienced a significant increase in recent years is 'Other Transfers'. This is primarily due to sales tax transfers, administrative and franchise fees charged from the City's utility funds, administrative fee from the Economic Development Fund, and transient guest taxes from the Tourism and Convention Promotion Fund.

The Bond and Interest Fund has had a significant increase in revenues over the past two fiscal years due to the beginning

cash balances from the .25 cent 'quality of life' sales tax collections and the renewed 2012 'roads and jobs' sales tax.

**(Editor's Note... They forgot to say that the main reason the Bond and Interest Fund has increased is because of the large City Debt which is paid out of this fund.)**

The attached 'Revenue Summary by Category' (Enclosure 2) provides a historical view of annual revenues from 2013, 2014, and 2015 compared to the 2016 budget.

There is also considerable concern regarding proposed tax lid legislation affecting municipal governments statewide. Late into the 2015 Kansas legislative session, a tax lid was passed which would link future property tax increases to the national consumer price index for urban consumers (CPI-U). This legislation included a number of exemptions and would become effective for the 2018 City budget (HB2109).

A second version of the proposed tax lid was introduced early in the 2016 Kansas legislature which would reduce the number of exemptions allowed in HB 2109 and would become effective for the 2017 City budget (SB316).

Both proposed pieces of legislation could have an adverse affect on the City Commission's ability to develop an annual budget that adequately meets the needs of a growing community.

**FINANCING**  
The revenue projections that are attached constitute the majority of revenues required to fund City operations in 2016.

Additional revenue and expenditure projections will be presented as scheduled budget work sessions for the 2017 City Budget unfolds beginning in May and continuing throughout the summer until a formal budget is adopted in August.

**ALTERNATIVES**  
The Commission has the following alternative concerning the issue at hand. The Commission may:

Provide direction regarding any issue or revenue source discussed in the attached reports.

Provide direction regarding the process for expenditures and capital improvement spending.

Emphasize any priorities for 2016 that would help guide the budget process in developing the 2017 budget.

**RECOMMENDATION**  
City Administration recommends that the City Commission review and provide comment regarding the 2016 Annual Report on City Revenues.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**  
No motion is needed as this is a Work Session.

Enclosures:  
Major Revenue Sources Supporting the 2016 City Budget  
Revenue Summaries by Category  
Comparison of Tax Lid Legislation  
PowerPoint Presentation  
Major Revenue Sources Supporting the 2016 City Budget

Showing the percent of each major revenue source to the annual budget

## County Sends Testimony To State

*(Editor's Note: What are we going to do? The State of Kansas passed a Law that we can only spend so much money?)*

*By the way this is nothing new. In the mid-1980's the State of Kansas had each county re-evaluate all of their property to make taxing equal around the state. The result was a big increase in Tax Money because the property values went up so much.*

*The State then passed a law that Cities and Counties could not raise Taxes to bring in more money. But like this year their were areas where taxes could be raised. The Free Press watched as the City of Manhattan and Riley County moved program after program from one Fund to another to raise the amount of money they wanted to increase each year. Here is a Memo that (Two) Riley County Commissioners signed to the State House Tax Committee. Commissioner Ben Wilson did not agree with the Testimony and would not sign. Commissioners Ron Wells and Bob Boyd signed.)*

February 8, 2016  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
115 N. 4th Street, 1 Floor  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

The Honorable Marvin Kleeb, Chairman House Tax Committee  
Re: H.B. 2609 - Neutral Written Testimony

Dear Chairman Kleeb and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Riley County Commissioners is neutral on H.B. 2609.

The budgeting process in Riley County is completely transparent and public every year. One of our Board's primary concerns is always to keep Riley County's property tax mil levy as low as possible consistent with local funding needs. Those local funding

needs include: providing ambulance service for the entire county and all its cities; construction and maintenance of a county jail; prescription costs and medical care for all jail inmates; construction and maintenance of a county courthouse; construction and maintenance of all county roads and bridges. All of the foregoing are unfunded mandates passed down to us by the legislature. Additionally, Riley County funds the staffing and operation of: a county attorney, county clerk, county register of deeds, health department, county appraiser, county counselor, public works department and emergency management serv-

ice. The daily cost of operation for each one of those county offices is increased every year, in part, due to unfunded mandates passed down to us by the legislature. Finally, every year Riley County does its best to assist at least the following outside agencies with their requests for funding assistance: Riley County Council on Aging; Pawnee Mental Health; the Emergency Shelter; K-State Extension. Shrinking direct federal and/ or state financial support to these types of agencies is expected to continue, making county support more important to them all.

One common trait among every one of these county-supported entities is that they deliver services the citizens of Riley County demand. A second common trait is that they are all supported, to the extent this Board is able to provide it, by the local property tax. It is every county's primary source of income, just

as the income tax has historically been the primary source of income for the State of Kansas.

A tax lid is unacceptable to us, in principle, because it deprives our local citizens of control over their county's level of property taxation. Our Board is subject to the will of the voters every two

years. Our constituents know us. They are not shy about contacting us with their opinions about our budgeting decisions, and they will let us know the next time we see them in the grocery store. That is in contrast to the lack of direct daily interaction members of the legislators have with those same constituents.

The best control over local budgeting decisions is local control. We encourage you to abandon the notion that you can do so better from Topeka than this Board does every day.

Although we oppose H.B. 2609 for all of the above reasons, if it must be a choice between H.B. 2609 and S.B. 316 in its current form, this Board would reluctantly support passage of H.B. 2609 in the form it appears before the committee today.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our County Commission's neutral position on H.B. 2609.

Sincerely,  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF RILEY COUNTY, KANSAS**  
**Robert L. Boyd, Jr. Vice-Chairman**  
**Ronald E. Wells, Member**

## Kansas Senate approves parental early release program

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A bill that would release some prisoners who are parents has received first-round approval in the Kansas Senate.

The Topeka Capital-Journal (<http://bit.ly/lozixnh>) reports that action was taken Monday. The bill would allow the Kansas secretary of corrections to transfer low and moderate-risk inmates from prisons to house arrest as part of a community parenting release if they satisfy several requirements.

The inmates must have cus-

tody of a child, have no convictions for sex offenses or dangerous felonies, must not be eligible for deportation and must have less than a year remaining on his or her prison sentence.

Supporters include the Kansas Department of Corrections and the Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Jeff King says the effort has been successful in Washington state.

Category	2013 Budget	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	2016 Budget
Personnel Services	\$ 25,039,230	\$ 26,062,573	\$ 27,350,274	\$ 28,635,665
Contractual Services	27,127,205	30,565,411	30,453,078	33,420,433
Commodities	3,825,772	4,096,552	4,250,038	4,496,060
Grants	889,074	875,586	1,021,963	1,036,791
Other Charges	3,543,496	3,200,442	2,985,987	3,144,319
Capital Outlay	5,287,689	6,268,607	5,291,280	7,087,112
Debt Service	24,751,197	26,061,924	26,424,413	26,966,150
Transfer Charges	13,545,859	15,115,250	14,367,827	12,905,807
Cash Reserves	17,794,620	18,538,822	22,054,333	20,396,132
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 121,804,142</b>	<b>\$ 130,785,167</b>	<b>\$ 134,199,193</b>	<b>\$ 138,088,469</b>

The City of Manhattan's Budget went from \$121 million in 2013 to \$136 million in 2016. The Total Debt of the City stayed at \$276 million. It will be going up because the City has many plans for large construction projects.

Dick Edwards Cars

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## 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.

## Why Partisan Fights over Supreme Court Nominees Are a Good Thing

By Trevor Burrus  
Cato Institute

With Justice Antonin Scalia's untimely death, we are preparing for a new fight over the meaning of the Senate giving "advice and consent" on the president's nominees. It's time that we look at that those words in context of what we will be fighting over—that is, an appointment to the body that increasingly plays a central role in our citizens' lives but over which they have no direct democratic control. In other words, it's time to generally endorse, for both parties, long, bitter, and nakedly partisan fights over Supreme Court nominees.

A little history can help us figure out what the words "advice and consent" might mean. In August, 1789, when the government was only a few months old, President George Washington nominated Benjamin Fishbourn for naval officer for the Port of Savannah, Georgia. For the first time, the Senate did not confirm a presidential nominee.

The reasons for the rejection were nakedly political. Fishbourn was not the favorite of James Gunn, a senator from Georgia, who wanted the post to go to a closer political ally. Washington was a little peeved, and he responded to the rejection with a letter to the Senate that teemed with anger—or, at least, an overly stuffy 18th-century form of anger. Washington wrote that if the "propriety of Nominations appear questionable to you" then perhaps the

Senate could "communicate that circumstance to me" and then he could have the "pleasure [to] lay before you...the information which led me to make [the nomination]."

In the early days of our republic, there was a glorious improvisational aspect to the first government of the United States under the new Constitution. The Constitution commanded certain things, but other things were quite vague. No traditions existed as to where people should sit, who speaks first, and other matters of governmental decorum. On nominees and treaties, the Constitution instructs the Senate to give "advice and consent," but that could mean anything from rubber-stamping to sitting down with the president to confer about every single nominee and treaty.

And, in fact, Washington did try to confer with the Senate on an Indian treaty only a few weeks after the Fishbourn rejection. He marched into Federal Hall in New York City (Congress met in New York until 1790, and then in Philadelphia from 1790-1800), and convened the senators to discuss the treaty. He sat in Vice President John Adams's chair while the Senate considered the provisions. Little progress was made, however, and the Senate eventually asked for more time, to which Washington angrily said, "This defeats every purpose of my being here!"

After that, Washington was

reticent to engage the Senate so directly, and the Senate more or less adopted the concept of "senatorial courtesy" in approving presidential nominees, including Supreme Court nominees.

"Advice and consent" is vague enough that it could mean many things without violating the Constitution. Had Washington continued the tradition of conferring in person with the Senate, then perhaps today we wouldn't have a tradition of "senatorial courtesy," but something more like a tradition of "substantial Senate input" into nominees.

Now that a crucial Supreme Court seat is open, we should create a new tradition of "substantial Senate input." With a lifetime appointment and few credible threats to their power once seated, a justice can spend 30 plus years steering the course of our country, whether it is to the left or to the right.

This time the Republicans are going to the mat to fight the president tooth and nail, but next time it will be the Democrats. If there's one hard and fast rule in Washington, it's that once one party invents a new type of partisan chicanery, it will eventually be used by both parties.

People lambaste "playing politics," but "playing politics" serves a purpose. We "play politics" for two years before every presidential election, because choosing a person for that powerful office demands a long, drawn-out process wherein the

candidates are properly vetted. "Playing politics" is what happens when different ideologies clash and a winner must emerge.

Similar ideological differences exist on the Supreme Court. Both right-wing and left-wing jurists have largely adopted jurisprudential theories that broadly endorse their policy preferences. This is not to say that modern judicial philosophies have been reduced to pure outcome-oriented judging, but there is a strong alignment between policy preferences and jurisprudential philosophies, and presidents know this.

The most important characteristics of Supreme Court nominees are no longer legal brilliance and impartial judging, if they ever were. Rather, prospective justices must be 1) young, so as to influence the bench for as long as possible; and 2) ideologically predictable. Neither party is looking for an impartial justice.

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**151.9± Acres Washington County Land**

**Tract 1: 76 acres ±** with 47.9 irrigated river bottom acres featuring Muir Silt Loam soil type. Water rights are in good standing dating back to 1961 with 55 approved irrigated acres.  
**Legal Description:** S05, T03, R05, 6th PM, 79 ACRES, North 1/2 of Northwest 1/4 Less R/W  
**2015 Real Estate Taxes \$1,422.19**  
**Directions from Pony Express (Hwy 36 & Hwy 148):** Go west on Highway 36 approximately 2 miles, turn south on Yankee Rd approximately 1/2 mile. Property is located on the east side of Yankee Rd.

**Tract 2: Home site including 3 acres±**

**Tract 3: 72.9 acres±** with 69.3 acres in crop production (95% crop production) featuring Crete Silty Loam, 1-3% slope and 3-7% slope.  
**Legal Description:** S30, T02, R05, 72.9 ACRES, South 1/2 of Southwest 1/4 Less R/W  
**2015 Real Estate Taxes \$1,015.43**  
**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.

**Listing Agent's Notes:** Agricultural Producers & Investors ... These properties would make an excellent addition to your current portfolio or farming operation. Irrigated river bottom, highly productive soil types, and high percentages of productivity make these properties especially desirable. Contact me direct with any questions you may have on these properties.

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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.)

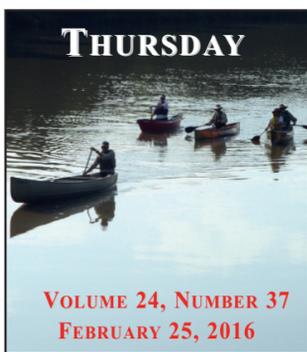
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"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."  
- Thomas Jefferson, 1787



# Free Press Second Front

An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper

3A

## Kansas Considered

### Obama: Guantanamo Bay undermines security, must be closed

WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Barack Obama on Tuesday vowed to "once and for all" close the detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and transfer the most detainees to a facility in the U.S., submitting a plan short on specifics and unlikely to make headway with opponents in Congress.

Obama cast his proposal as a moment to turn the page on a facility that for years has raised nettlesome legal questions, become a recruitment tool for violent extremists and garnered strong opposition from some allies abroad.

"I don't want to pass this problem onto the next president, whoever it is," Obama said, in an appearance at the White House. "If we don't do what's required now, I think future generations are going to look back and ask why we failed to act when the right course, the right side of history, and justice and our best American traditions was clear."

Despite the big ambitions, Obama's proposed path to closure remained unclear. It leaves unanswered the politically

thorny question of where in the U.S. a new facility would be located and whether it could be completed by the end of Obama's term. Moving detainees to U.S. soil is currently prohibited under U.S. law and lawmakers have shown little interest in removing the restrictions.

"We will review President Obama's plan but since it includes bringing dangerous terrorists to facilities in U.S. communities, he knows that the bipartisan will of Congress has already been expressed against that proposal," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said Obama had yet to convince Americans that moving detainees to U.S. soil is "smart or safe."

"It is against the law - and it will stay against the law," Ryan said.

Even Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a former prisoner of war and an advocate of closing the prison, called Obama's report a "vague menu of options," which does not include a policy for

dealing with future terrorist detainees.

Obama has "missed a major chance to convince the Congress and the American people that he has a responsible plan to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility," he said.

It's not clear whether that chance ever existed. Momentum to close the facility has slowed dramatically under Obama's tenure. Congress remains deadlocked on far less contentious matters, and the issue has little resonance on the presidential campaign trail.

Still, for Obama, the facility stands as a major unfilled promise and a painful reminder of the limits on his power: His first executive order sketched out a timeline for closing the prison, but was ultimately derailed by Congress.

The White House has not ruled out the possibility that the president may again attempt to close the prison through executive action - a move that would directly challenge Congress' authority. The plan submitted Tuesday does not address that

option.

The proposal underscores the administration's strategy of shrinking the population, hoping the massive cost for housing the diminished population would ultimately make closure inevitable.

Under the plan, roughly 35 of the 91 current detainees will be transferred to other countries in the coming months, leaving up to 60 detainees who are either facing trial by military commission or have been determined to be too dangerous to release but are not facing charges.

Those detainees would be relocated to a U.S. facility that could cost up to \$475 million to build, but would ultimately be offset by as much as \$180 million per year in operating cost savings. The annual operating cost for Guantanamo is \$445 million. The U.S. facilities would cost between \$265 million and \$305 million to operate each year, according to the proposal.

The plan considers 13 different locations in the U.S., including seven existing prison

facilities in Colorado, South Carolina and Kansas, as well as six other locations at current correctional facilities on state, federal or military sites in several states. It also notes that there could be all new construction on existing military bases. The plan doesn't recommend a preferred site and the cost estimates are meant to provide a starting point for a conversation with Congress.

More detailed spending figures, which are considered classified, will be provided to Congress. Lawmakers have been demanding the Guantanamo plan for months, and those representing South Carolina, Kansas and Colorado have voiced opposition to housing the detainees in their states.

"We must safeguard the missions on Fort Leavenworth, the nearly 14,000 military and civilian personnel and their family members, and the thousands of Kansans who live in the Leavenworth community," Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., said in a statement Tuesday.

Advocates of closing Guantanamo say the prison has long been a recruiting tool for militant groups and that holding extremists suspected of violent acts indefinitely without charges or trial sparks anger and dismay among U.S. allies.

Opponents, however, say changing the detention center's ZIP code won't eliminate that problem.

Obama's proposal faced criticism even from those who endorse closing the detention center. His initial campaign pledge was widely viewed as a promise to end the practice of detaining prisoners indefinitely without charge, not to bring that practice to the U.S., said Naureen Shah, director of Amnesty International USA's Security and Human Rights Program.

"Whatever the president proposes, even if it doesn't come to fruition, the administration is changing the goal posts on this issue," she said.

### GOP Senators: No hearing, no vote for Obama Court pick

WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Barack Obama's nominee to the Supreme Court won't get a hearing or a vote from the Republican-led Senate, GOP members of the Judiciary Committee said Tuesday as they insisted only the next president must fill the vacancy.

"No hearing, no vote," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., as he emerged from a closed-door meeting with Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Even the most divisive nominees for the high court have received a hearing before the Judiciary Committee, and the election-year decision to deny such a session is a sharp break with the Senate's traditional

"advise and consent" role. A committee review and a hearing is the first step in the process.

"We believe the American people need to decide who is going to make this appointment rather than a lame-duck president," said Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the Senate's No. 2 Republican and like Graham, a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Hearings would be "a waste of time," added Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

As a rationale for their decision, Republicans pointed to a 1992 speech by Vice President Joe Biden, then the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, in

which Biden said that in a presidential election year the Senate should "not consider holding hearings until after the election."

"Instead, it would be our pragmatic conclusion that once the political season is under way, and it is, action on a Supreme Court nomination must be put off until after the election campaign is over," said Biden, then the Delaware senator.

As it turned out, there was no opening on the court that year.

Earlier in the day, McConnell said his party won't permit a

vote on any Supreme Court nominee submitted by Obama and will instead "revisit the matter" after the presidential election in November.

"Presidents have a right to nominate just as the Senate has its constitutional right to provide or withhold consent," the majority leader said in a speech on the Senate floor. "In this case, the Senate will withhold it."

Scalia's unexpected Feb. 13 death ignited a major fight in Washington over whether Obama should be able to replace him in a presidential election year. McConnell

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### Kansas measure aims to change forfeiture laws

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) \_ A bill in the Kansas Legislature would change the state's current forfeiture law to require that a person has to be convicted of a crime before the state can take their property.

Kansas' current forfeiture law does not require a person to be convicted of a crime before law enforcement can take property they believe was used in a crime. A forfeiture case is civil, not criminal, and law enforcement must prove by a preponderance of evidence rather than beyond a reasonable doubt that the seized property was used in a crime, the Lawrence Journal-

World reported.

"When I tell people that in the state of Kansas, you don't have to be convicted of a crime (to have your property forfeited), people are shocked," said Rep. Gail Finney, a Wichita Democrat and one of the sponsors of the measure, which would require individuals be convicted of a crime before they can have their property taken. "This is terrible, and the majority of people don't even know that."

Rep. John Bradford, a Lansing Republican who also sponsored the bill, said friends have told him about cases

where their money was seized, they were never charged with a crime and still had a difficult time getting their money back.

"The system as it is is kind of corrupt when you have to fight to get back what is already yours," he said. "So I said, 'We have to fix this.'"

Currently, the state allows law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to keep forfeited money and property to spend on law enforcement needs as long as it does not supplant their operating budgets provided by taxpayers. As proposed, the new law would require that money to go into a special state fund.

### A Topeka racetrack's redevelopment project hasn't made efforts toward completion in the

TOPEKA, Kansas — A Topeka racetrack's redevelopment project hasn't made efforts toward completion in the past several years, prompting one senator to say the state has been "duped."

The Topeka Capital-Journal (<http://bit.ly/1oxK5ZW>) reports that longstanding frustrations have drawn new attention as some lawmakers have grown weary of STAR bonds, the economic development tool used to finance Heartland Park's redevelopment.

The city of Topeka issued a \$10.4 million STAR bond for the improvements in 2006. Through the bonds, cities and counties fund projects by borrowing from anticipated sales tax revenue. But in practice, Topeka uses property tax rev-

enue to help make debt payments because sales tax revenue has been less than anticipated from Heartland Park and the surrounding area.

The city serviced debt from the racetrack's bond of more than \$629,000 in the past year and \$5.6 million since 2006. STAR bond spending now accounts for a greater percentage of the racetrack's project costs than the maximum allowed by law when the project terminates in 2025.

But despite the debt, the redevelopment hasn't been completed, according to Heartland Park's annual report.

Completion percentages derived from the original project estimates show that asphalt for the drag race and road

course tracks replacement stands at 82 percent. Road repairs to the property stands at 73 percent, and RV and camping amenities are 48 percent complete. No work has been made on the spectator entrance bridge, and tower improvements and fan amenities improvements are only 7 percent complete.

The bond is an ongoing issue over the racetrack's future. The most recent development came in December, when the racetrack came under new ownership after city council rejected a plan last spring to purchase the track by issued a new STAR bond.

Republican state Sen. Julia Lynn, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, said the



## Obama's Radical Decision to Cozy up to Brutal Dictatorship

### Heritage Foundation

Between calls for comity and lamentations over bitter partisanship, Barack Obama does the darndest, most divisive things. Take his upcoming visit to Cuba, home of a communist, military dictatorship that remains unrepentantly anti-American.

The newspaper Granma, is telling the captive population on the island that President Obama's visit proves that there are no human rights violation in Cuba.

Cozying up to a brutal regime is a radical, in-your-face action. It's being done unilaterally, without regard to the will of Congress.

Most Americans prize their freedom and, all things being equal, would like others around the world to also be free. Yet extending the hand of friendship to the Castro dictatorship will be a setback for those who hoped for a transition to democracy on the island.

Already, the mouthpiece of the Cuban Communist Party, the newspaper Granma, is telling the captive population on the island that President Obama's visit proves that there are no human rights violation in Cuba. Granma habitually lies to the Cuban people, who have no other recourse as all newspapers are state-owned, but sadly the party organ has it one quarter right this time: the visit obviously proves that human rights violations do not matter to our president.

Many conservatives this will be offended by a presidential photo-op with the regime leaders—especially the military dictator Raul Castro and his perennially dying elder brother, Fidel. And offense is in order. The Castros, after all, urged the Soviet Union to launch a pre-emptive nuclear strike against New York during the Cuban Missile Crisis. "The victory of socialism is well worth millions of atomic victims," boasted their comrade Che Guevara.

Nor are these transgressions in the past. Just two years ago, the Castro regime helped North Korea evade UN weapons sanctions.

But none of that seems to faze Barack Obama. He appears to revel in offending conservative Americans (those rubes who "cling to their guns and religion" as he once delighted in saying). Yet he's shocked, shocked when the rubes don't give him whatever he wants. He looks hurt, for instance, when Senate leaders tell him that, no, they're not going to let him fill a Supreme

Court vacancy near the end of his term, when he has one foot out of the White House.

All that the Senate leaders are saying is that they will let the American people decide—something the oppressed people of Cuba never have a chance to do. But the president, who as senator wanted to filibuster the appointment of Justice Samuel Alito, now insists that it is his right to install the justice he wants, when he wants to.

The president has already done all he legally can in re-establishing diplomatic relations with Havana. He is limited by law from ending the embargo—a step solely within the purview of the Congress. That makes the visit to Cuba symbolic.

And conservatives should welcome the symbolism. That photo with one or both of the Castros should be the one by which the Obama presidency is remembered.

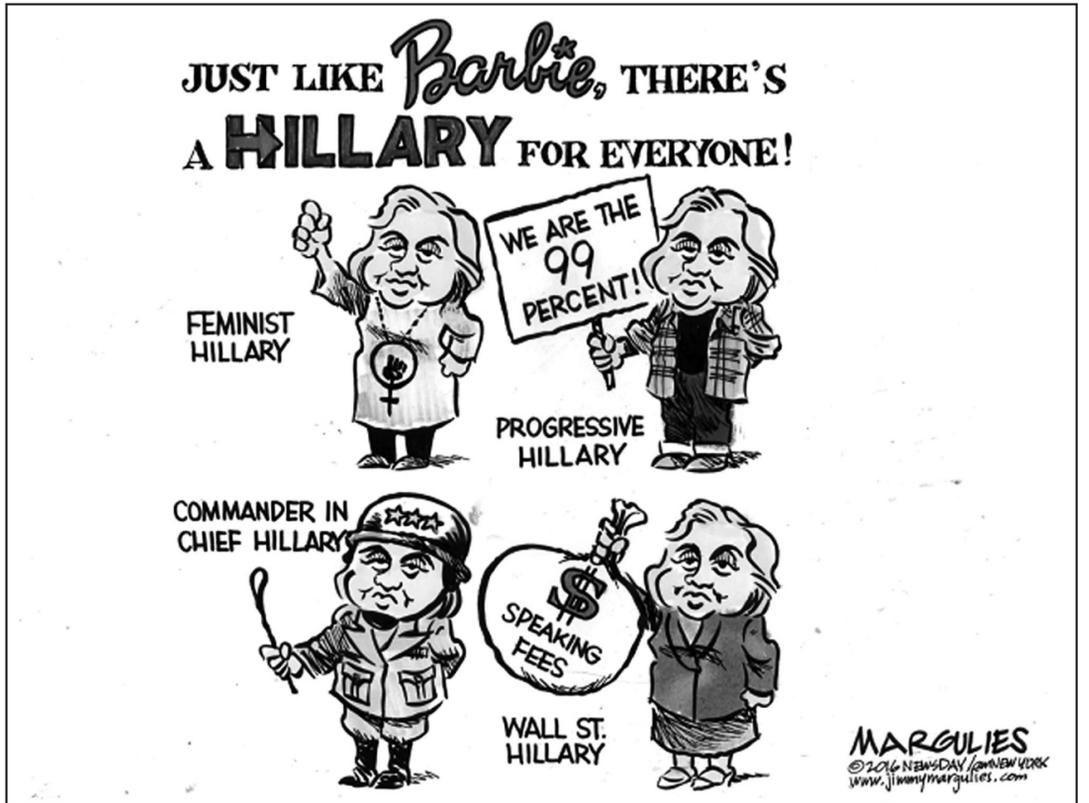
To the surprise of nobody, the president said this week in San Francisco that he would remain "very active in the public life of this country" after leaving office. Nobody really thought that the quiet dignity of George W. Bush would be right for this president.

Since he intends to continue to weigh in on the important issues of the day, the photo with the tormentors of 11 million Cubans, in Havana, should serve as a salutary reminder of his time in office, just as iconic as President Richard Nixon's trip to the city we then knew as Peking.

Obama believes that his trip to Havana is in keeping with that tradition. He forgets that the phrase "Only Nixon could go to China" meant that Nixon could go to China only because he had Cold War, anti-communist bona fides—something this president clearly lacks. He also forgets that China was a strategic antidote to the Soviet Union.

Lastly, he also forgets (but we shouldn't) that when running for office in Miami in

## The Conservative Side...



2008, Obama had this to say:

I will maintain the embargo.... It provides us with the leverage to present the regime with clear choice. If you take significant steps towards democracy, beginning with the freeing of all political prisoners, we will take steps to begin normalizing relations.

He also said: My policy towards Cuba will be guided by one word: liberty. The road to freedom for all

Cubans must begin with justice for Cuba's political prisoners, the right of free speech, a free press, freedom of assembly, and it must lead to elections that are free and fair. That is my commitment.

On Thursday, after the president announced his visit, I reached Antonio Rodiles on the phone. A Cuban dissident leader, Rodiles bemoaned the fact that Obama is going to Cuba "without any pre-conditions," despite the clear promises made in Miami. He's also wary of White House promises that the president will meet with dissidents in Havana, "just as in Panama." But, Rodiles notes that the only "dissidents" Obama during last year's Summit of the Americas in Panama were pro-Castro "dissidents," hand-picked by the regime.

Rodiles thinks it far more likely that Obama will spend

his time in Havana touring the baseball stadium, since the presidential visit just happens to coincide with a match there between the Cuban National Team and the Tampa Bay Rays. "Obama will probably throw the first pitch. It will be a show," Rodiles told me.

It looks like Cuba's dissidents know how to read Obama pretty well. Let's hope our Senate does, too.



— King Crossword —  
Answers  
Solution time: 21 mins.

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

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Austin Budke (35) and Barry Brown (5) make it hard for Kansas to bring the ball down court.

## No. 2 Kansas blows lead, escapes K-State with 72-63 win

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — Second-ranked Kansas had to show plenty of fight to hold off Kansas State on Saturday.

Perry Ellis has the wounds to prove it.

The Jayhawks' leading scorer missed a long stretch in the second half with a gouge behind his right ear that required 12 stitches. Then, Ellis got scratched in the eye by teammate Wayne Selden Jr. during a flurry with the game in the balance, sending the senior forward to the bench once again.

Kansas wound up getting just enough from everyone else down the stretch for a 72-63 victory.

"We knew once we lost Perry, we had to come together as a team, do some things differently," point guard Frank Mason III said, "and the guys off the bench did a good job of coming in and making plays."

Ellis still managed 14 points, and Mason had 15 as the Jayhawks (23-4, 11-3 Big 12) squandered most of a 17-point

second-half lead before holding on for their first win at Kansas State in three years.

Stephen Hurt and Barry Brown scored 13 points apiece for the Wildcats (15-12, 4-10), who got within 65-62 with less than 2 minutes to go. But that's when Devonte Graham hit his first field goal after five straight misses, and the Jayhawks pulled away from the foul line to secure the victory.

"They're so unselfish and they play together," Kansas State coach Bruce Weber said. "They have a lot of guys who can make plays, and when you have guys coming off the bench, that makes a big difference."

After third-ranked Oklahoma beat No. 10 West Virginia earlier in the day, Kansas has a two-game lead over the Sooners, Mountaineers and No. 25 Baylor with four games left in the conference race.

The Jayhawks have won at least a share of 11 consecutive Big 12 championships.

"We're in decent position," Mason said, "but we're not satisfied with the team we are right now."

The Jayhawks trailed 25-21 before going on a 12-0 run to take control, and Ellis scored at the rim in the closing seconds of the first half to give the defending Big 12 champions a 39-29 lead.

The story of the first half wasn't the score, though. It was the fouls.

The teams combined for 21 of them, resulting in a disjointed 20 minutes that lacked any sort of rhythm. Kansas State had a trio of players with two fouls apiece, and Austin Budke had three, while the Jayhawks paraded to the foul line 19 times — yep, nearly once per minute.

Weber was probably hoarse by the time he reached the locker room.

The Jayhawks stretched the lead to 52-35 early in the second half, and still led 55-41 when Ellis was banged under the rim and blood began pour-

ing from a cut behind his right ear. The Jayhawks' leading scorer spent the next 6 minutes getting treatment for it in the locker room.

"The serious deal is Wayne scratched him in the eye," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "We'll go back and have an eye doctor look at it. If it's a scratch, he'll be OK, but we just don't know."

Kansas State took advantage of Ellis' absence, pounding the ball to Hurt and D.J. Johnson in the paint. The duo combined to score 16 consecutive points for the Wildcats, and the 6-foot-11 Hurt's third 3-pointer got Bramlage Coliseum rocking and made it 62-58 with 4 minutes left.

But the Wildcats couldn't make a stop when they needed it down the stretch.

"It was great to have the crowd behind us," Hurt said. "I just wish we could have gotten the win."



Hey Dean (Wade - 32) "You Can Do That." Kansas got 2 points because Wade had his arm in the net.

## Kansas State Sports Summary

### Men's Basketball

This weekend the Sunflower Showdown was hosted at Bramlage Coliseum. The Kansas Jayhawks returned to Manhattan for the first time since the controversial court-storming incident. At one point the Cats were down 17 points to the Jayhawks. Fouls were a huge issue on both sides of the ball. Multiple players on both teams were in foul trouble early. In the second half of the game, the Cats began fighting back. Their shooting became more consistent and the Cats were much more aggressive on defense. At one point with five minutes left, K-State was within four points, but with two minutes left in the game, they just ran out of gas. The final



**Tonya Ricklefs**  
 - phd  
**Free Press Sports**

score was Kansas University 72, Kansas State 63. The game was close, but basically Kansas was better on offense by turning the ball over and generally shooting better than Kansas State.

On Monday night, Texas then came to Bramlage as

well to face Kansas State. Once again, the Cats found themselves in a close battle. Justin Edwards was the story of the game for the Wildcats with 20 points total in the game. He had a huge impact, but the Cats just couldn't pull it off ending on a heartbreaker shot by Dean

Wade, missing a three point attempt with seconds left. It seemed Kansas State had no game plan to try to drive to the basket. They were only down by one point. K-State lost 71-70. Post-game Bruce Weber commented, "We won everything but the game". I am not sure what stats he was examining, but Texas out-shot Kansas State in both field goals, and three-pointers. Kansas State is on the road again to Iowa State this Saturday, and then next Wednesday, TCU comes to Manhattan. TCU is most likely the next win that Kansas State can secure. This win will be a big influence in if the Wildcats will even get an invite to the NIT tournament.

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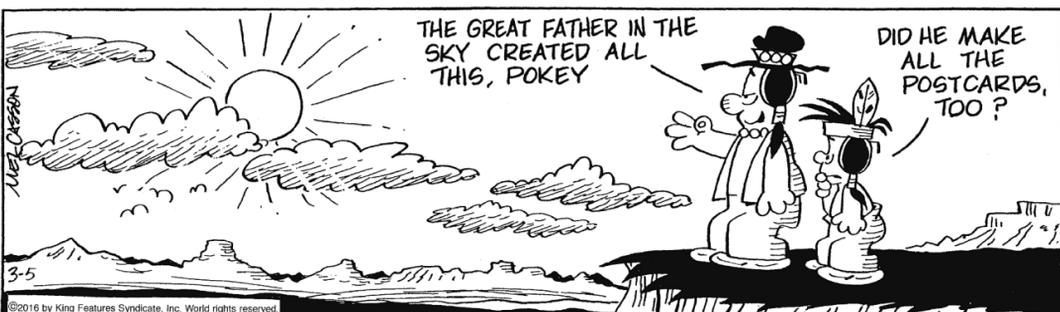
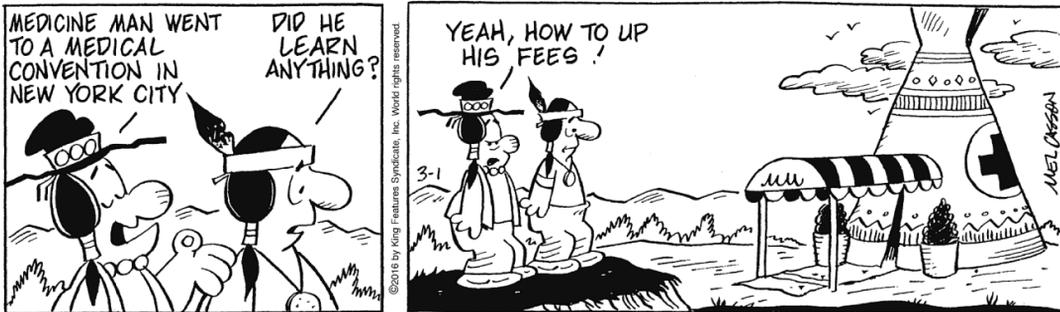
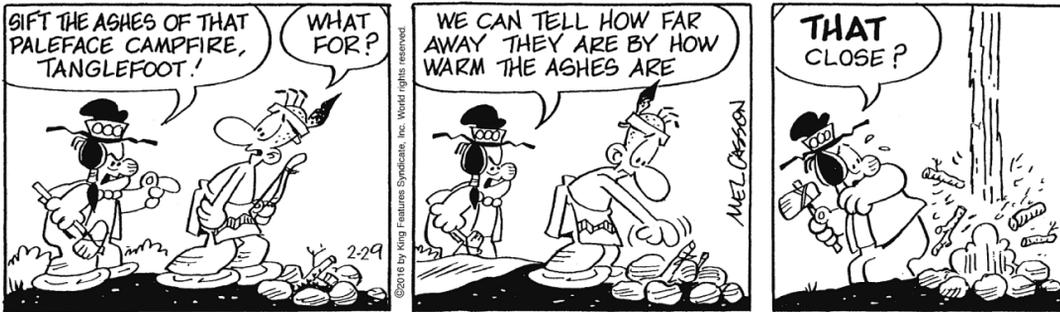
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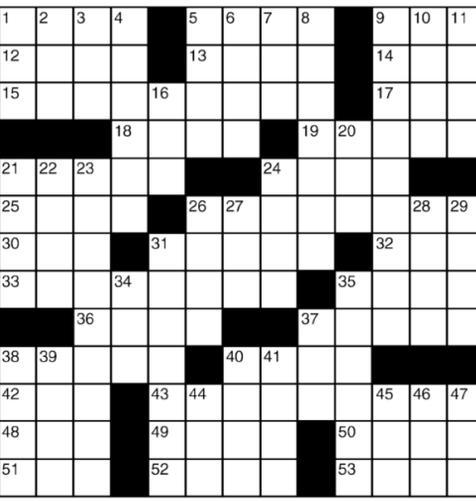
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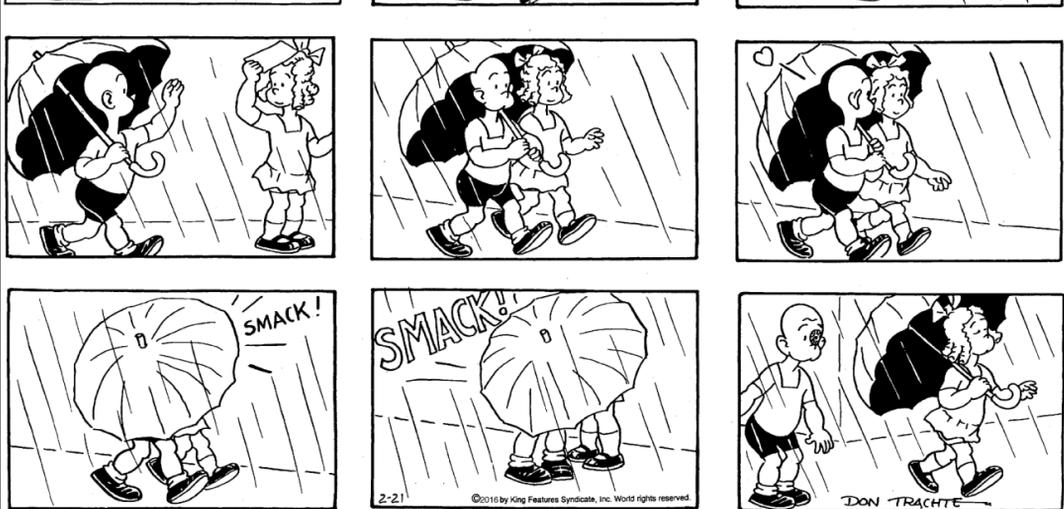
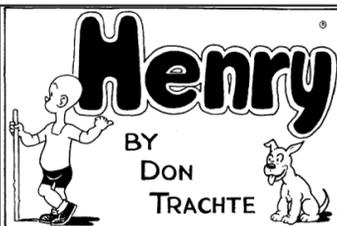
**King Crossword**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Assistant
  - 5 Praise to the skies
  - 9 Banned bug spray
  - 12 A-line originator
  - 13 Choir member
  - 14 Playwright Levin
  - 15 Went on a tangent
  - 17 Weep loudly
  - 18 Approximately
  - 19 Makes less intense
  - 21 Military group
  - 24 Sandwich shop
  - 25 Colors
  - 26 Sight-seers
  - 30 Dadaist Jean
  - 31 Debtors' woes
  - 32 Take to court
  - 33 Type of parking
  - 35 DNA carrier
  - 36 And others
- (Lat.)**
- 37 Fragrant wood
  - 38 Founded (on)
  - 40 Ethereal
  - 42 "Of course"
  - 43 Talked over
  - 48 Pirouette
  - 49 Great Lake
  - 50 Architect Saaninen
  - 51 Conclusion
  - 52 Gridiron arbiters, for short
  - 53 Anger
- DOWN**
- 1 Tack on
  - 2 Mid-afternoon, in a way
  - 3 Pooch
  - 4 Mistakes
  - 5 Highland girl
  - 6 As well
  - 7 Multipurpose truck
  - 8 Walks feebly
  - 9 Permitted to leave
  - 10 Let fall
  - 11 Filing aids
  - 16 Before
  - 20 "The Greatest"
  - 21 Bloke
  - 22 Emanation
  - 23 Sad
  - 24 Boring
  - 26 Cash drawer
  - 27 Bullring bravo
  - 28 Albacore, e.g.
  - 29 Palm reader, for one
  - 31 Football lining
  - 34 Chowd down
  - 35 Old Faithful, e.g.
  - 37 French vineyard
  - 38 Data amount
  - 39 Ages and ages
  - 40 "Yeah, right!"
  - 41 Frosts
  - 44 Rage
  - 45 Vast expanse
  - 46 Measure of work
  - 47 Fawn's mama



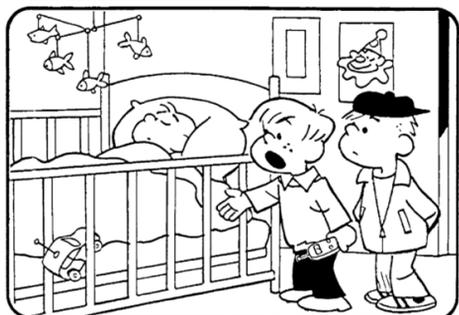
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Answers on page 4

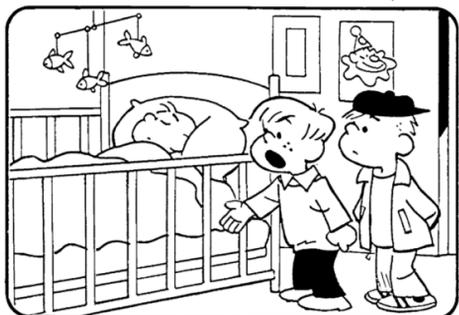


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## No. 25 Texas outlasts Kansas State 71-70

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — With one of the top seeds at next month's Big 12 conference tournament still up for grabs, Isaiah Taylor knew No. 25 Texas couldn't afford to lose on the road this late in the season to an inexperienced Kansas State.

So when push came to shove late, Taylor provided the type of clutch effort a team needs to grind out road wins in league play.

The junior guard scored 19 points, including a 3-pointer to all but ice the game with less than a minute to play, and Texas held on to beat Kansas State 71-70 on Monday night.

"I had the ball at the top of the key. Shaquille (Cleare) set the screen, but I really had no intention of using the screen," Taylor said. "I just told Shaq to move out of the way."

He did, and Taylor found nothing but net.

Javan Felix had 11 of his 13 points in the first half and Eric Davis, Jr. finished with 10 points for Texas (18-10, 9-6 Big 12). Connor Lammert had eight points and seven rebounds.

"I don't care if we win by one or by 100. We came up here to win," Texas coach Shaka Smart said. "It certainly wasn't our best game, but our guys battled."

Kansas State (15-13, 4-11) was forced to play catch-up in the second half after falling behind by as many as eight points. When the Wildcats got as close as 66-65 with 1:03 to play, Taylor stepped back and hit a 3-pointer with a defender in his face.

Dean Wade later had a chance to be the hero for Kansas State, but his would-be game winner clunked off the front of the rim to end the game.

Justin Edwards had 20 points and eight rebounds for Kansas State, while D.J. Johnson added 16 points and Wesley Iwundu had 12.

The Wildcats have lost six conference games by 10 points or less.

"Maybe one of these times," Kansas State coach Bruce Weber said, "something will go our way and we'll find a way to win."

The thrilling finish didn't entirely tell the story.

Texas stormed out to an early lead before Felix book-ended the period with seven of his 11 first-half points in a 2-minute span to give the Longhorns a 38-35 halftime lead.

Kansas State was fortunate

to only trail by three.

At one point, the Wildcats were behind 22-18, with only Edwards and Johnson having made field goals. It wasn't until the 7:29 mark that assistance came with Carlbe Ervin hit two free throws.

The teams combined for 24 fouls, resulting in a sloppy 20 minutes that lacked any sort of rhythm. Eleven were called against the Wildcats, including one on Wade with 3:35 to play, when the freshman was actually elbowed in the face. The purple-clad fans' groans grew so loud during the ensuing free throws that the officials went over to the monitor to take another look.

Nothing else was called.

Texas clung to its lead throughout the second half, fending off each Kansas State run, including a jumper from Taylor with 3:34 left to stretch

a one-point lead back to three. The guard then did it again with 43 seconds remaining, stepping back and hitting the big 3-pointer with a defender in his face.

"We are still becoming who we really are," Smart said. "It was a good step to go on the road in this league and win — I do not care who you are playing."

TIP-INS

Texas: Center Prince Ibeh played just 9 minutes, fouling out with 4 minutes to play in the game. He finished with three points and one field goal. The Longhorns have won four straight against Kansas State.

Kansas State: Since scoring 17 points against then-No. 1 Oklahoma on Feb. 6, Wade has shot just 11 of 32 from the field.



**Ben Brake**

Free Press Sports Photographer



Justin Edwards (14) gets a clean block on this play late in the game.



D.J. Johnson (with ball) starts his drive for the basket.



It is hard to get a shot off with Carlbe Ervin (1) and D.J. Johnson (4) trying for the block.



Dean Wade (32) put on a good defense out front.



Brian Rohleder (33) gets hit but is called for a foul.

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