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Highlights of Trump's \$4.7 trillion budget request

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's \$4.7 trillion budget request proposes steep cuts to domestic spending, a funding boost for the Pentagon and \$8.6 billion for his signature border wall with Mexico. Leading Democrats immediately rejected the plan, signaling another bruising fight just weeks after a standoff that led to a 35-day partial government shutdown, the longest in U.S. history.

A look at the highlights from the White House proposal:

BORDER WALL FIGHT RENEWED

Trump's proposal for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 includes \$8.6 billion to build the U.S.-Mexico border wall. The proposal shows Trump is eager to renew his confrontation with Congress over the wall, a centerpiece of his agenda that congressional Democrats have staunchly resisted.

The budget request for more than 300 miles (480 kilometers) of new border wall would more than double the \$8.1 billion potentially available to the president for the wall after Trump declared a national emergency at the border last month. The politically contentious declaration would circumvent Congress, though there's no guarantee Trump will be able to use the money in the face of a legal challenge from California and other states. Lawmakers from both parties oppose the emergency declaration, but Congress appears to lack a veto-proof margin to block Trump.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said Trump "was forced to admit defeat" after Congress refused to fund the wall in the current budget, and they predicted a similar outcome if he continues to press for money for the wall. Money targeted for the wall "would be better spent on rebuilding America," they said.

The budget asks Congress to set up a fund of up to \$2 billion to pay for sheltering migrant children who arrive with their families or alone at the U.S. border.

BIG BOOST FOR DEFENSE, CUTS IN DOMESTIC SPENDING

Trump's budget proposes increasing defense spending to



Presiden Donald Trump

\$750 billion — and building the new Space Force as a military branch — while reducing non-defense accounts by 5 percent. The \$2.7 trillion in proposed domestic spending cuts over the next decade is higher than any administration in history. Proposed cuts include economic safety-net programs used by millions of Americans.

To stay within prescribed budget caps, the proposal shifts about \$165 billion in defense spending to an overseas contingency fund, an action that critics view as an accounting gimmick.

The head of the American Federation of Government Employees, J. David Cox, called the budget "a kick in the teeth" to federal workers who've endured years of pay freezes and benefits cuts and just emerged from the 35-day partial shutdown. The proposal "shows a complete disconnect with the needs of the civil servants who are America's workforce," Cox said.

RED INK FLOWS

Under Trump's proposal, the budget deficit is projected to hit \$1.1 trillion next year — the highest in a decade. The administration is counting on robust economic growth, including from the 2017 Republican tax cuts, to push down the red ink. Some economists say the economic bump from the tax cuts is waning, and they project slower growth in coming years. The national debt is \$22 trillion.

Even with his own projections, Trump's budget would not come into balance for a decade and a half, rather than the traditional hope of balancing in 10 years.

Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Respon-

sible Federal Budget, warned that the debt load will lead to slower income growth and stalled opportunities for Americans.

ENVIRONMENTAL SPENDING SLASHED

Trump again is asking Congress to slash funding for the Environmental Protection Agency by about a third, a request that Congress has previously rejected. The budget request seeks \$6.1 billion for the EPA, down 31 percent from current spending. The White House says it aims to ensure clean air and water and chemical safety, while "reducing regulatory burden and eliminating lower-priority activities."

But Ken Cook of the Environmental Working Group says it would work to appease Trump's political base and boost the fossil fuel and chemical industries.

The budget would kill the federal tax credit for electric vehicles among a range of energy-related tax changes. Republicans have launched several efforts to end the \$7,500 tax credit for electric vehicles, which is already set to phase

out for several automakers. The plan is unlikely to win approval in the Democratic-controlled House.

REPEALING OBAMACARE — AGAIN

The budget request would reopen two health care battles Trump already lost in his first year in office: repealing "Obamacare" and limiting future federal spending on Medicaid for low-income people. Under the budget, major sections of both the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid would be turned over to the states starting in 2021.

With Democrats in charge of the House, Trump's grand plan has no chance of being enacted. And few Republican lawmakers want to be dragged into another health care fight.

EDUCATION CUT, SCHOOL CHOICE EXPANDED

The budget request would cut Education Department funding by 10 percent while expanding money for school choice, school safety and apprenticeship programs. The \$64 billion proposal would eliminate 29 programs, including a \$2 billion

program meant to help schools improve instruction and a \$1.2 billion program to create community centers.

Meanwhile, it would add \$60 million for charter schools and \$200 million for school safety initiatives.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos says the plan would end programs better handled at the state or local level. She also proposed up to \$5 billion in federal tax credits to support school choice scholarships.

MORE CHOICE FOR VETERANS

The White House is seeking just over \$93 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs, an increase of \$6.5 billion from current spending.

The request would support implementation of a law Trump signed last year to give veterans more freedom to see doctors outside the troubled VA system, a major shift aimed at reducing wait times and improving care by steering more patients to the private sector. The plan again targets reducing veteran suicides as a top priority and sets aside \$4.3 billion to improve the department's computer system and website.

Pelosi waves off impeachment

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is setting a high bar for impeachment of President Donald Trump, saying he is "just not worth it" even as some on her left flank clamor to start proceedings.

Pelosi said in an interview with The Washington Post that "I'm not for impeachment" of Trump.

"Unless there's something so compelling and overwhelming and bipartisan, I don't think we should go down that path, because it divides the country," she said.

While she has made similar comments before, Pelosi is making clear to her caucus and to voters that Democrats will not move forward quickly with trying to remove Trump from office. And it's a departure from her previous comments that Democrats are waiting on special counsel Robert Mueller to lay out findings from his Russia investigation before considering impeachment.

That thinking among Democ-

rats has shifted, slightly, in part because of the possibility that Mueller's report will not be decisive and because his investigation is more narrowly focused. Instead, House Democrats are pursuing their own broad, high-profile investigations that will keep the focus on Trump's business dealings and relationship with Russia, exerting congressional oversight without having to broach the I-word.

Oversight and Reform Committee Chairman Elijah Cummings, one of the lawmakers leading those investigations, said he agrees with Pelosi and Congress needs "to do our homework." He said impeachment "has to be a bipartisan effort, and right now it's not there."

"I get the impression this matter will only be resolved at the polls," Cummings said.

Still, Pelosi's comments are certain to stoke a stubborn tension with those who believe impeachment proceedings should have begun on day one of the

new Congress. Some new freshman Democrats who hail from solidly liberal districts haven't shied away from the subject — Michigan Rep. Rashida Tlaib used a vulgarity in calling for Trump's impeachment the day she was sworn in.

Billionaire activist Tom Steyer, who is bankrolling a campaign pushing for Trump's impeachment, shot back at Pelosi on Monday: "Speaker Pelosi thinks 'he's just not worth it?' Well, is defending our legal system 'worth it?' Is holding the president accountable for his crimes and cover-ups 'worth it?' Is doing what's right 'worth it?' Or shall America just stop fighting for our principles and do what's politically convenient."

Neil Sroka of the liberal advocacy group Democracy for America said Pelosi's comments were "a little like an oncologist taking chemotherapy off the table before she's even got your test results back."

Other lawmakers who have called for impeachment looked

at Pelosi's comments more practically. Rep. Brad Sherman, D-Calif., who filed articles of impeachment against Trump on the first day of the new Congress in January, acknowledged that there is not yet public support for impeachment, but noted that Pelosi "didn't say 'I am against it if the public is clamoring for it.'"

Sherman said that the multiple Democratic investigations of Trump might be a substitute for impeachment, "it's also possible it will be a prelude."

Republicans alternately praised Pelosi and were skeptical. White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said "I agree" in response to Pelosi's words.

Sanders added of impeachment, "I don't think it should have ever been on the table."

House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy said it was a "smart thing for her to say," but Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee, said he doesn't think it's "going to fly" with some of Pelosi's members.

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Kansas Owes Pizza Magnate A \$50 Million Tax Refund

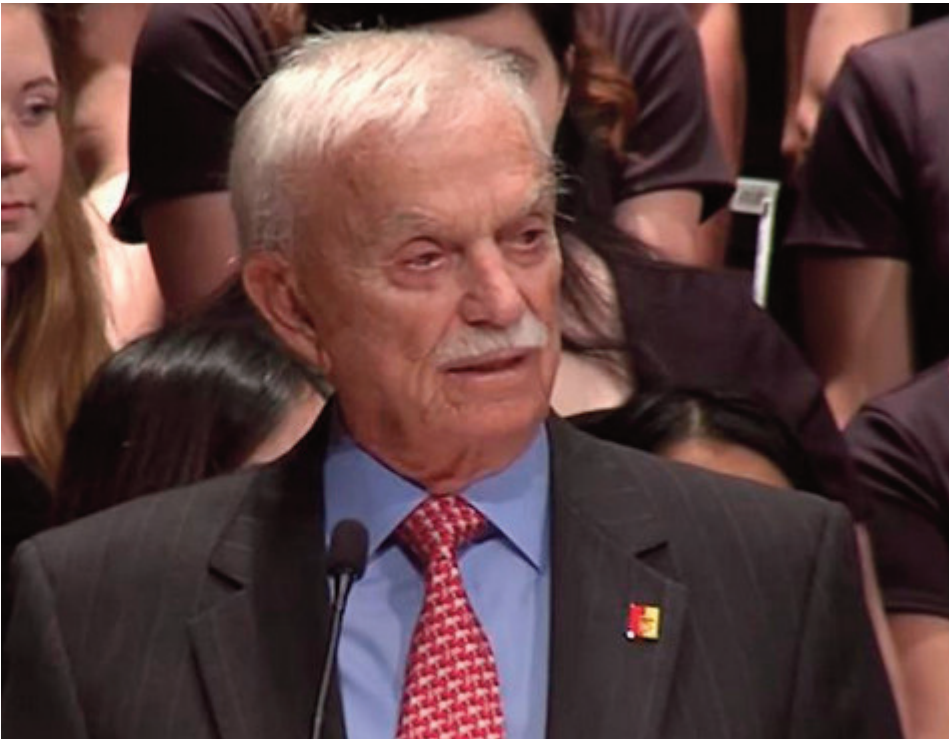
By Madeline Fox
Kansas News Service

Gene Bicknell’s name is all over the campus of Pittsburg State University, his alma mater. It’s on a sports complex. The arts center is simply known as the “Bicknell,” after the homegrown entrepreneur.

But while he’s beloved as a civic booster in Pittsburg, the former businessman is far less endeared to tax officials in Topeka, from whom he’s just wrested back \$48 million in revenue.

In 1962, Bicknell started National Pizza Corporation, which ultimately operated 1,100 Pizza Huts in 27 states. He sold the company in 2006 and retired to Florida, where he’d been living and registered to vote since 2003.

But the Kansas Department of Revenue determined Bicknell was still living in Pittsburg with his cat Checkers at the time of the sale. In 2010, the state hit him with a \$42 million



In 2014, Gene Bicknell introduced the arts center on the Pittsburg State University campus that bears his name. Under a ruling issued Tuesday, Kansas will have to pay back the philanthropist and businessman for a massive tax bill. Pittsburg State University / YouTube

dollar tax bill, which he has been fighting ever since. least for now. A district judge ruled Bicknell had been a Florida resident when Kansas taxed him \$42 million, which has swelled to \$48 million with interest and penalties.

The state can appeal the ruling, though a spokeswoman for Gov. Laura Kelly wouldn’t say whether the governor plans to do so. Paying Bicknell back will punch a nearly \$50 million dollar hole in her budget, which is already under threat from a Legislature skeptical of her fiscal priorities.

Jay Heidrick, one of Bicknell’s attorneys, said after more than a decade, the fight should be over.

“Our hope is that the state will give up on its attempts to extract those funds from Mr. and Mrs. Bicknell,” he said.

Bicknell first challenged the \$42 million bill in the Kansas Court of Tax Appeals (now the Kansas Board of Tax Appeals), saying he’d been a resident of Florida in 2005 and 2006.

That court sided with the Department of Revenue.

In 2016 the Kansas Legislature — over then-governor Sam Brownback’s veto — approved legislation allowing taxpayers the opportunity to

challenge tax decisions in district court, giving Bicknell a second chance. He took his case to Crawford County. The district court there held an eight-day trial last year, leading to Tuesday’s ruling.

Some Pittsburg residents contend Bicknell’s already paid his due — regardless of taxes — through his donations to Pitt State and his business investments in the local community.

Bicknell started another company, Pitt Plastics, in 1972, that still manufactures trash bags in the city. For 20 seasons, the commercial radio station he started, American Media Investments, was the broadcaster for Pitt State Football.

Pittsburg city manager Darren Hall said Bicknell’s businesses brought in “quality people” who have helped the town thrive.

“They’re still here,” he said. “Their families are still here.”

Kansas Looks To Relax Rules On Rural Ambulances

By Corinne Boyer
Kansas News Service

In Norton County, as in many parts of rural Kansas, the ambulance service is stretched thin.

Norton, with a population around 5,400 in the northwest corner of the state, has six full-time ambulance workers and nine volunteers to respond to all the 911 calls as well as transport patients from one hospital to another.

“Sometimes patients needing to be transferred are left waiting,” said Craig Sowards, Norton County EMS director.

Statewide, a shortage of trained personnel has put county ambulance services in a difficult position: having to delay hospital transfers, which can take several hours, to ensure they have enough staff on hand for emergencies.

One proposed solution making its way through the state Legislature could help alleviate the shortage by allowing drivers without medical training to transport stable patients in rural areas. Ambulances would still need to have another person with medical training riding in the back, such as an EMT or a nurse.

But some state and local EMS officials say it could be risky if a patient deteriorates en route with only one medically trained worker aboard. And they worry about lowering standards of care in rural areas.

“Occasionally patients decline and it’s often helpful to have an extra set of hands to stabilize [patients] before they move on,” said David Johnston,



In rural Kansas, a shortage of medically trained ambulance workers leaves some patients waiting for hospital transfers. Wikimedia Commons

president of the Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association.

Joe House is executive director of the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services, which writes EMS and ambulance regulations for the state. Those regulations currently require ambulances be staffed with two medically trained workers, including the driver.

“We write our regulations to protect the public’s well-being and safety,” House said. “It’s either safe to do or not safe to do.”

House said the starting wage for emergency medical service personnel is around \$21,000 a

year. Ambulance services are competing with clinics, hospitals and schools where workers with similar training can earn higher wages.

So many rural ambulance services rely on certified volunteers.

Phillips County is fortunate in that regard. The county in northwest Kansas with a population just under 5,400 draws from a pool of 84 volunteers. That number drops significantly in surrounding counties.

The EMS director for Phillips County, Pete Rogers, said the county is able to maintain such a robust volunteer pool because it hosts the neces-

sary continuing education and the community holds its first responders in high esteem.

Rogers said though he can

understand why rural counties with fewer volunteers would want to, he can’t imagine operating ambulances without two medically trained personnel on board.

“If you have somebody that’s simply a driver and you still have two technicians in the back of the truck with the pa-

tient then, then I, I see absolutely no problems with it,” he said. “But I would be concerned if it was a non-certified person driving and only one technician in the back.”

In Norton County, Sowards doesn’t think having two trained EMS workers for stabilized transfers is necessary.

King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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| R | A | J | A | S | H | A | H | V | I | P |
| E | L | A | N | P | O | L | O | E | D | O |
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| H | U | N | K | C | U | G | A | T | | |
| S | E | V | E | N | C | A | M | E | | |
| I | T | E | M | C | O | O | K | W | A | R |
| B | U | N | T | H | I | N | E | N | O | R |
| S | I | D | E | W | A | L | K | S | C | A |
| E | V | E | R | V | E | E | R | S | | |
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Hero or villain, Ocasio-Cortez remains a media fixation

NEW YORK (AP) — Believe it or not, there are other members of Congress besides Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

You wouldn't know that by how the freshman Democrat from New York has become a media fixation like no other politician since President Donald Trump. She's been a cover subject in both New York tabloids, a punchline on "Saturday Night Live," the target of a Washington Post investigation and depicted as a burglar at a conservative conference — and that's only this month so far.

Boldness, youth and an embrace of social media have made AOC — the shorthand is already widely known — a hero to the left, a villain to the right and irresistible to journalists.

"She is the political mirror image of Donald Trump," said Frank Sesno, director of the School of Media and Public Affairs at George Washington University and a former CNN Washington bureau chief. "He's old, she's young. He's far right, she's far left. What they share is a take-no-prisoners, no-holds-barred approach to politics, and their rhetoric is the brash, sometimes profane rhetoric of our social-media-driven times."

Moving into a presidential primary campaign where a defining issue will be how far left the Democrats want to move, AOC has become a symbol for the party's progressive wing even though, at 29, she's too young to run herself.

Her status is evident on social media. During the second half of February, her Twitter handle, @AOC, was mentioned 3.64 million times on the social network. That was more than handles for the two congressional leaders, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (1.22 million) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (696,000)



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

combined.

Since she took office, stories about AOC have averaged about 2,200 likes, shares, or comments on Facebook, according to the social media analytics company NewsWhip. That's more than double the typical interactions on Pelosi articles. No other Democrats came closer.

With such metrics, news stories are certain to follow. There have been

many, ranging from the Washington Post's look at whether questionable financial practices of Ocasio-Cortez's congressional chief of staff clash with his boss' view on money in politics, to a Daily Mail reporter tracking down her mother and discovering — surprise! — she'd like to see her daughter get married.

AOC frequently uses social media to counter stories. When a dance video

she made with friends in college circulated, she combined video of a brief twirl outside her office with the message: "If Republicans thought women dancing in college is scandalous, wait 'til they find out women dance in Congress, too."

After the New York Post suggested AOC, chief proponent of "Green New Deal" legislation, might be hypocritical for riding in gas-guzzling cars, she noted that she also uses airplanes and air conditioners. "Living in the world as it is isn't an argument against working toward a better future," she tweeted.

"She understood how to use social media in a way that is incredibly effective, both to speak to constituents and other people in power with a truly authentic voice," said veteran news executive Kate O'Brian.

AOC's defeat of powerful Rep. Joseph Crowley in a primary led many young Democrats to embrace her as an underdog. That's also perfect for Republicans who like to portray more extreme elements as typical of the Democratic party, Sesno said. The GOP is increasingly dominated by older, white men, and here's an outspoken, young Latina woman from the heathen environs of New York City.

"This idea of making her the face of the Democratic party hits a lot of boxes for them," said Nicole Hemmer, author of "Messengers of the Right" (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016), about the conservative media's impact on politics. "She is young, a symbol of the party moving to the left, and she isn't afraid of the word 'socialism.'"

In January, Fox News Channel's prime-time hosts Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham did 27 segments focusing on the freshman Democrat. There were none on Mc-

Connell, according to the liberal watchdog Media Matters.

"It's not a mystery," said Tim Graham of the conservative Media Research Center. "AOC is a machine of silly things she says, gaffes and extreme statements, and the impression she gives is amateurism. The same thing that is her appeal is also her downside. She was a bartender."

Her opponents have also been guilty of overreach. Conservative activist Sebastian Gorka claimed of AOC's environmental legislation, "they want to take away your hamburgers."

Ocasio-Cortez told The New Yorker magazine last week that the "ravenous hysteria" about her is getting out of control.

"It feels like an extra job," she said. "I've got a full-time job in Congress and then I moonlight as America's greatest villain, or as the new hope. And it's pretty tiring. I'm just a normal person."

There's already a backlash; the Post's Alexandra Petri wrote satirically last week, "I am sick of hearing about Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez from my voice talking about Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez."

Greta Van Susteren, political analyst for the Gray Television stations, warned AOC to watch out.

"Being the media darling is fun while it lasts and it is power that can be wielded effectively," Van Susteren said. "But of course the media can be like a bad date — fickle. You can get dropped fast, not even a ride home."

Hemmer believes the young politician isn't going anywhere soon.

"She's definitely not a flash in the pan," said the University of Virginia professor. "She definitely has some staying power, and it's going to be interesting to see how she evolves over time."

CEO steps down as dozens ensnared in college admissions scam

BOSTON (AP) — A college admissions scandal moved from bombshell indictments to guilty pleas in a matter of hours, yet the full fallout from the federal case against the rich and famous could take months or more to unfold.

Big names such as actresses Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin headline the list of some 50 people charged in documents released Tuesday that describe a scheme to cheat the admissions process at eight sought-after schools. The parents bribed college coaches and other insiders to get their children into selective schools, authorities said.

At the center of the scheme was admissions consultant William "Rick" Singer, founder of the Edge College & Career Network of Newport Beach, California, authorities said. Singer pleaded guilty and his lawyer, Donald Heller, said his client intends to cooperate fully with prosecutors and is "remorseful and contrite and wants to move on with his life."

Prosecutors said that parents paid Singer big money from 2011 up until just last month to bribe coaches and administrators to falsely make their children look like star athletes to boost their chances of getting accepted. The consultant also hired ringers to take college entrance exams for students, and paid off insiders at testing centers



Felicity Huffman

to correct students' answers.

Actress Felicity Huffman was released on \$250,000 bail Tuesday in a case in which she is accused of paying a bribe to secure her daughter's admission to college. Huffman is scheduled to appear in court March 29th in Boston. (March 13)

At least nine coaches and 33 parents, including two TV actresses, have been charged in what prosecutors say was a scheme in which wealthy parents paid bribes to get their children into some of the nation's most elite colleges. (March 12)

Some parents spent hundreds of



Lori Loughlin

thousands of dollars and some as much as \$6.5 million to guarantee their children's admission, officials said.

"These parents are a catalog of wealth and privilege," U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling said.

At least nine athletic coaches and 33 parents were charged. Dozens, including Huffman, the Emmy-winning star of ABC's "Desperate Housewives," were arrested by midday Tuesday. Huffman posted a \$250,000 bond after an appearance in federal court in Los Angeles. Her husband, actor William H. Macy, has not been charged, though

an FBI agent stated in an affidavit that he was in the room when Huffman first heard the pitch from a scam insider.

It was unclear when the "Full House" star Loughlin would turn herself in. Loughlin's husband, fashion designer Mossimo Giannulli, was released in Los Angeles after posting a \$1 million bond.

On Wednesday, a Silicon Valley hedge fund announced that it is replacing its head after he became ensnared in the scandal.

Manuel Henriquez, who was also the top executive investment giant PIMCO until 2016, will be replaced as CEO and chairman of Hercules Capital in Palo Alto, California. Henriquez was arrested in New York City on Tuesday and released on \$500,000 bail. Shares of the hedge fund plunged 9 percent.

Hercules said that Henriquez will still hold a seat on the board and will serve as an adviser.

The coaches worked at schools such as Yale, Stanford, Georgetown, Wake Forest, the University of Texas, the University of Southern California and the University of California at Los Angeles.

Stanford's sailing coach John Vandemoer pleaded guilty Tuesday in Boston. A former Yale soccer coach pleaded guilty before the documents

went public and helped build the case against others.

No students were charged, with authorities saying that in many cases the teenagers were unaware of what was going on. Several of the colleges involved made no mention of taking any action against the students.

Several defendants, including Huffman, were charged with conspiracy to commit fraud, punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

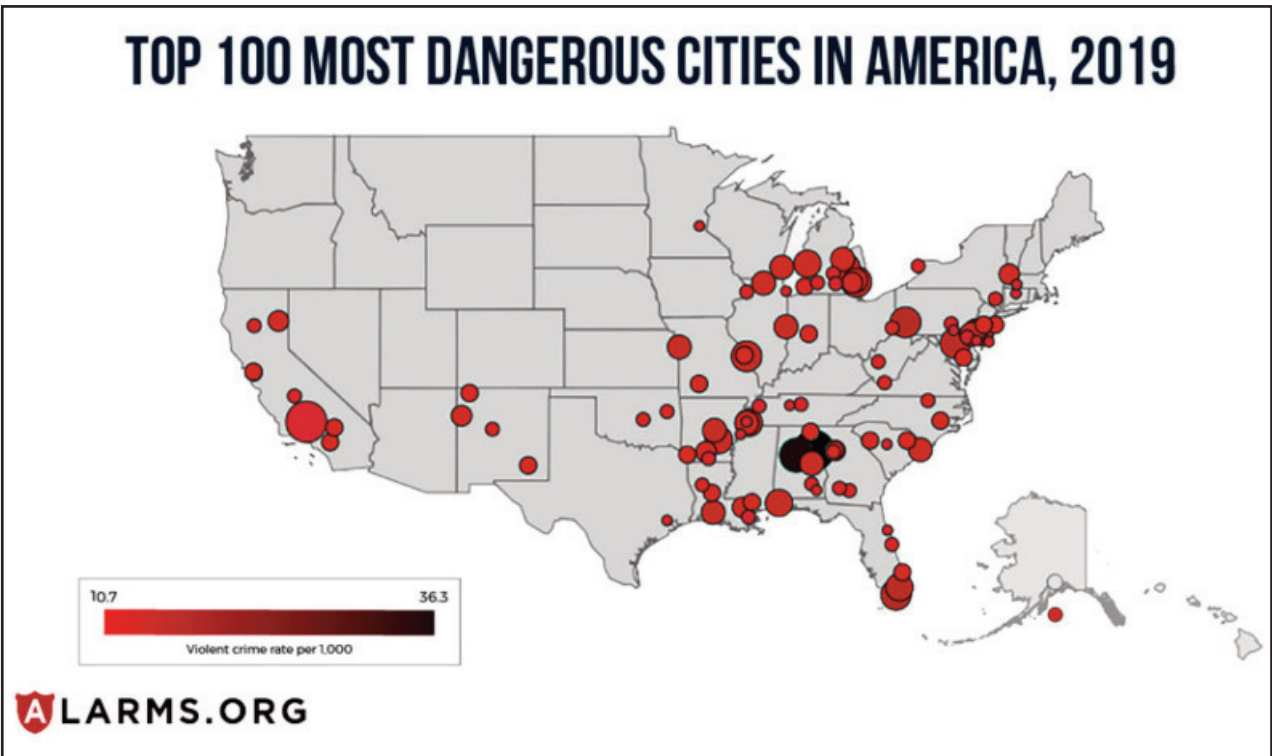
"For every student admitted through fraud, an honest and genuinely talented student was rejected," Lelling said.

Lelling said the investigation is continuing and authorities believe other parents were involved. The IRS is also investigating, since some parents allegedly disguised the bribes as charitable donations.

The colleges themselves are not targets, the prosecutor said. A number of the institutions moved quickly to fire or suspend the coaches and distance their name from the scandal, portraying themselves as victims. Stanford fired the sailing coach, and USC dropped its water polo coach and an athletic administrator. UCLA suspended its soccer coach, and Wake Forest did the same with its volleyball coach.

100 Most Dangerous Cities in America, 2019

| RANK | CITY | STATE | CRIME SCORE |
|------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 | Anniston | Alabama | 34.34297427 |
| 2 | Bessemer | Alabama | 9.85584219 |
| 3 | Florida City | Florida | 22.75890299 |
| 4 | McKeesport | Penn | 21.25423891 |
| 5 | St. Louis | Missouri | 20.82285906 |
| 6 | Detroit | Michigan | 20.56673306 |
| 7 | Baltimore | Maryland | 20.27014907 |
| 8 | Memphis | Tennessee | 20.0332432 |
| 9 | Camden County | NJ | 19.67725003 |
| 10 | Opa Locka | Florida | 19.49844012 |
| 11 | Flint | Michigan | 19.45033901 |
| 12 | Pine Bluff | Arkansas | 18.47118959 |
| 13 | Prichard | Alabama | 18.26484018 |
| 14 | Muskegon Hgt Mg | | 18.07899128 |
| 15 | West Memphis | Ark | 17.7903367 |
| 16 | Danville | Illinois | 17.40627391 |
| 17 | Alexander City | Al | 17.29517092 |
| 18 | Kansas City | MO | 17.24308586 |
| 19 | Highland Park | MI | 17.01217812 |
| 20 | Crowley | Louisiana | 16.35191156 |
| 21 | Little Rock | Arkansas | 16.33603259 |
| 22 | Darby | Pennsylvania | 16.15326822 |
| 23 | Chester | Pennsylvania | 16.09580979 |
| 24 | Milwaukee | Wisconsin | 15.97364106 |
| 25 | Wilmington | Delaware | 15.96042039 |
| 26 | Rockford | Illinois | 15.88199223 |
| 27 | Myrtle Beach | SC | 15.76868574 |
| 28 | Saginaw | Michigan | 15.6825619 |
| 29 | Gallup | New Mexico | 15.4284462 |
| 30 | Camden | Arkansas | 14.99683802 |
| 31 | North Adams Ma | | 14.90577695 |
| 32 | Hammond | Louisiana | 14.87060641 |
| 33 | College Park | Georgia | 14.66895731 |
| 34 | Inkster | Michigan | 14.55352738 |
| 35 | Susanville | California | 14.49979187 |
| 36 | Alexandria | Louisiana | 14.41704973 |
| 37 | Riviera Beach | Florida | 13.6958536 |
| 38 | Asbury Park | NJ | 13.60500766 |
| 39 | Greenwood | SC | 13.54537271 |
| 40 | Springfield | Missouri | 13.38835723 |
| 41 | Indianapolis | Indiana | 13.3396418 |
| 42 | Scottsboro | Alabama | 13.09686221 |

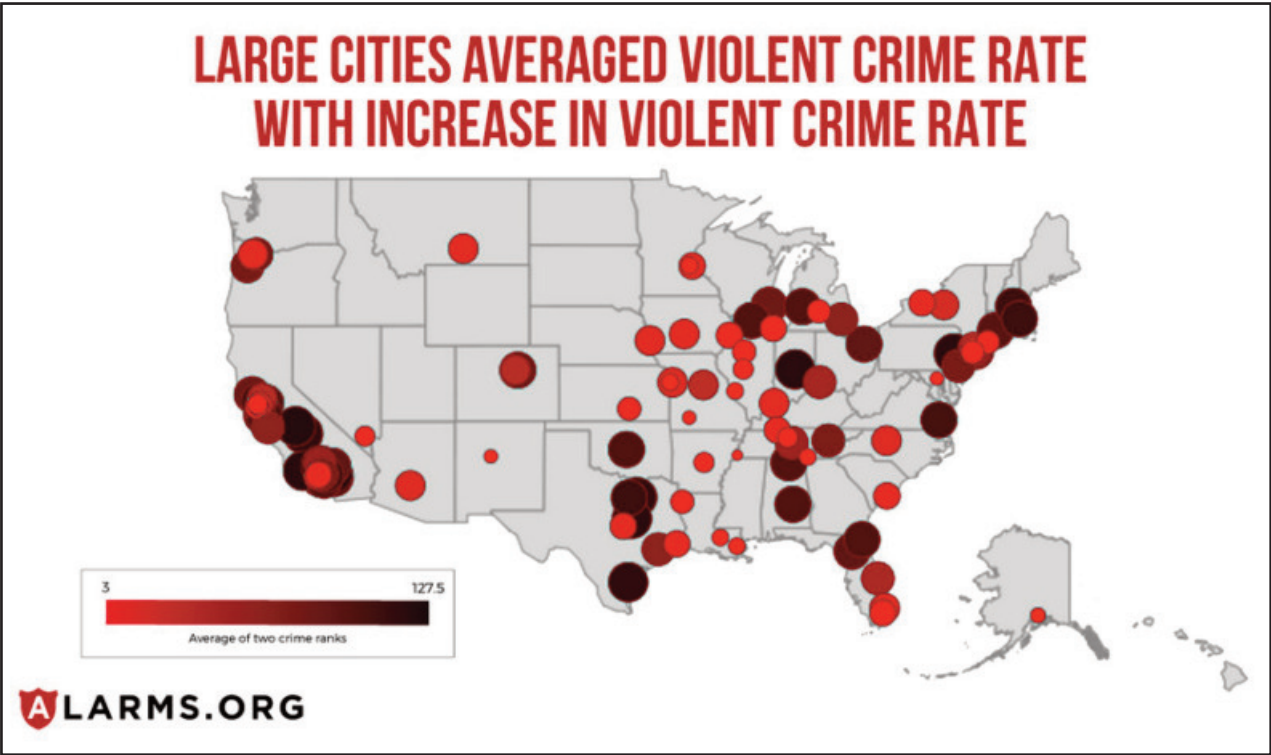


Is this the most dangerous city in America?
Let's look at the two communities that top the list: Anniston, AL (#1) and Bessemer, AL (#2) (see table 1 below). Both are small cities in Alabama that boasted bustling economies in decades past but have since fallen on hard times following the phenomenon of deindustrialization in the late 20th century.
Bessemer was once a hub of manufacturing and ore mining activity and home to a large Pullman Standard railroad car manufacturing factory, but as these industries dried up

and/or moved elsewhere, unemployment rose, and with it, violent crime.
Now, Anniston and Bessemer are plagued by unemployment rates significantly higher than the national average, while the service industry jobs that have replaced manufacturing jobs in these communities often don't come close to providing a decent living wage. The same phenomenon is seen all across the top 100: economic disenfranchisement leading to higher instances of violent crime.

| | | | |
|----|----------------|------------|-------------|
| 43 | East Point | Georgia | 13.06659205 |
| 44 | Oakland | California | 12.99318687 |
| 45 | Cambridge | Maryland | 12.99013712 |
| 46 | Bogalusa | Louisiana | 12.97935103 |
| 47 | San Bernardino | CA | 12.91085755 |
| 48 | Trenton | New Jersey | 12.85749902 |
| 49 | Artesia | New Mexico | 12.83500161 |
| 50 | Kinston | NC | 12.7939974 |
| 51 | Vinita Park | Missouri | 12.74749119 |
| 52 | Farmington | NM | 12.67708842 |
| 53 | Florence | SC | 12.66612916 |
| 54 | Texarkana | Texas | 12.61812998 |
| 55 | Emeryville | California | 12.61381672 |

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| 56 | Barstow | California | 12.56866989 |
| 57 | Benton Township | MI | 12.54005852 |
| 58 | Newburgh | New York | 12.35754986 |
| 59 | Union City | Georgia | 12.24007561 |
| 60 | Shawnee | Oklahoma | 12.23010244 |
| 61 | Wheeling | WV | 12.2076776 |
| 62 | Muskogee | Oklahoma | 12.06837875 |
| 63 | Anchorage | Alaska | 12.03289802 |
| 64 | Henderson | NC | 12.0282863 |
| 65 | Cocoa | Florida | 11.99014509 |
| 66 | Kalamazoo | Michigan | 11.97172941 |
| 67 | Bluefield | West Virginia | 11.92353173 |
| 68 | Los Lunas | New Mexico | 11.91472918 |
| 69 | Natchitoches | Louisiana | 11.86830015 |
| 70 | Tifton | Georgia | 11.76957653 |
| 71 | Selma | California | 11.76612806 |
| 72 | Charleston | WV | 11.72419447 |
| 73 | Elkton | Maryland | 11.64999367 |
| 74 | Harrisburg | PA | 11.5564298 |
| 75 | Clinton | Iowa | 11.55412815 |
| 76 | Troy | Alabama | 11.46694215 |
| 77 | Nashville Metr | TN | 11.38171873 |
| 78 | Lansing | Michigan | 11.35836013 |
| 79 | Jackson | Michigan | 11.30339406 |
| 80 | Albany | Georgia | 11.2964253 |
| 81 | Red Bluff | California | 11.29225775 |
| 82 | El Dorado | Arkansas | 11.28334338 |
| 83 | Dyersburg | Tennessee | 11.25692271 |
| 84 | Niagara Falls | NY | 11.24315387 |
| 85 | New Orleans | Louisiana | 11.21407383 |
| 86 | Dickson | Tennessee | 11.191405 |
| 87 | West Helena | AR | 11.12263173 |
| 88 | Daytona Beach | Florida | 11.07098455 |
| 89 | Minneapolis | MN | 11.01269539 |
| 90 | Atlantic City | NJ | 11.01007746 |
| 91 | Chicago | Illinois | 10.98858867 |
| 92 | Houston | Texas | 10.95227811 |
| 93 | Hartford | Connecticut | 10.92838369 |
| 94 | Bridgeton | New Jersey | 10.90748687 |
| 95 | Holyoke | MA | 10.82791526 |
| 96 | West Columbia | SC | 10.77559966 |
| 97 | Marion | Arkansas | 10.76400129 |
| 98 | York | Pennsylvania | 10.76225004 |
| 99 | Ozark | Alabama | 10.71502164 |
| 100 | Arvin | California | 10.70593735 |

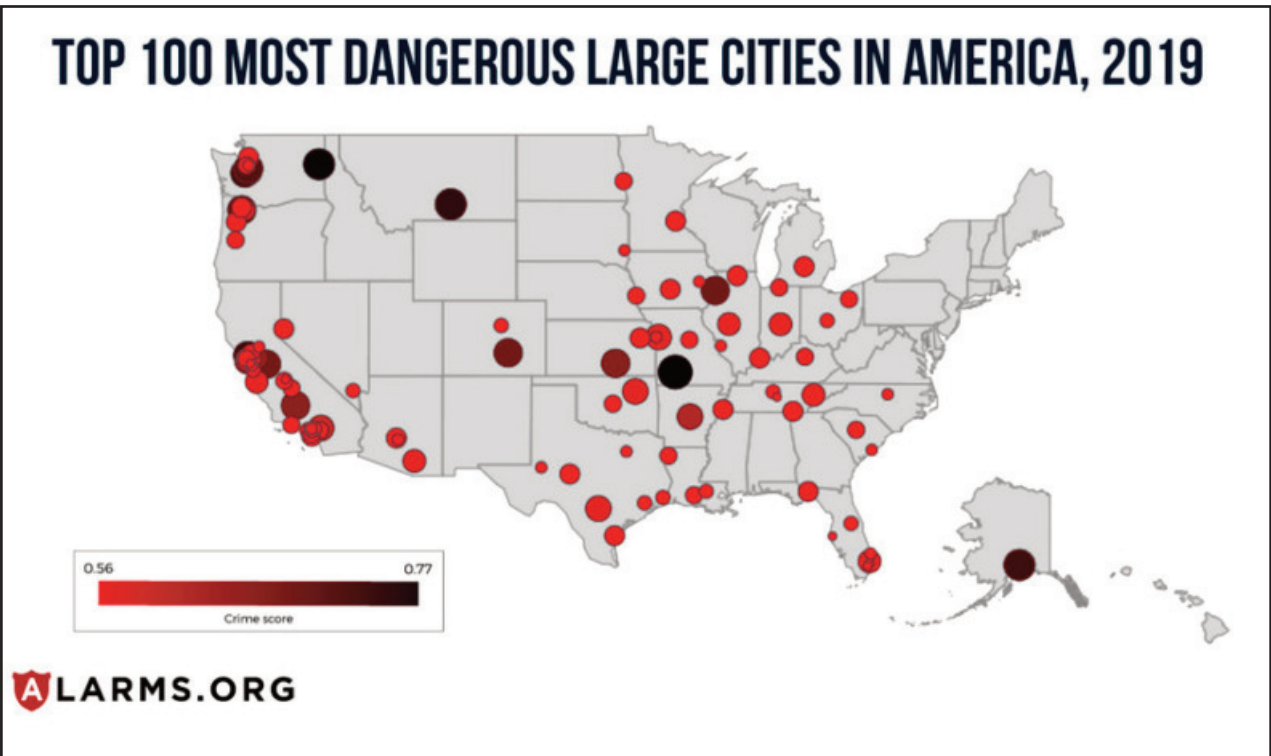


Another way to rank America's most dangerous cities?
Table 5 is an interesting way to look at cities with violent crime issues from a different perspective, by averaging a city's violent crime rate with its increase in violent crime over the last year of available data. This allows us to examine cities with already serious crime issues while taking stock of their potential for further crime increases in the future.
On this list, we find Memphis, Tennessee (#1), Balti-

more, Maryland (#3), and St. Louis, Missouri (#6), mid-sized cities plagued perennially with gun murders and other violent crime.
However, there are some surprises, as well, including Baton Rouge, Louisiana (#10), Anchorage, Alaska (#4) and Minneapolis, Minnesota (#8). These cities aren't the first to be mentioned when discussing American cities with severe crime issues, but are brought up in the ranking by their significant increases in violent crime in the past year, and may get more national attention in coming years.

100 Most Dangerous Large Cities in America

| RANK | CITY | STATE | CRIME SCORE |
|------|----------------|------------|-------------|
| 1 | Springfield | Missouri | 0.767828695 |
| 2 | Spokane | Washington | 0.749935645 |
| 3 | Billings | Montana | 0.723097584 |
| 4 | Tacoma | Washington | 0.719377157 |
| 5 | Vallejo | California | 0.716943948 |
| 6 | Anchorage | Alaska | 0.71605993 |
| 7 | Kent | Washington | 0.713783156 |
| 8 | Renton | Washington | 0.708033763 |
| 9 | Portland | Oregon | 0.704302058 |
| 10 | Davenport | Iowa | 0.699437336 |
| 11 | Pueblo | Colorado | 0.698556722 |
| 12 | Modesto | California | 0.697833363 |
| 13 | Wichita | Kansas | 0.692869094 |
| 14 | Bakersfield | California | 0.692015163 |
| 15 | Oakland | California | 0.689643814 |
| 16 | Antioch | California | 0.68875917 |
| 17 | Little Rock | Arkansas | 0.681923575 |
| 18 | San Bernardino | CA | 0.676706846 |
| 19 | Tulsa | Oklahoma | 0.671136415 |
| 20 | San Antonio | Texas | 0.67055464 |
| 21 | Independence | MO | 0.670155923 |
| 22 | Indianapolis | Indiana | 0.665182981 |
| 23 | Tucson | Arizona | 0.665032295 |
| 24 | Pompano Beach | FL | 0.658606708 |
| 25 | Berkeley | California | 0.657702607 |
| 26 | Salinas | California | 0.651501527 |
| 27 | Springfield | Illinois | 0.649348064 |
| 28 | Knoxville | Tennessee | 0.646383035 |
| 29 | Tallahassee | Florida | 0.642456176 |
| 30 | Gresham | Oregon | 0.64214641 |
| 31 | Memphis | Tennessee | 0.641475949 |
| 32 | Costa Mesa | California | 0.637844128 |
| 33 | Chattanooga | Tennessee | 0.637024782 |
| 34 | Des Moines | Iowa | 0.636767618 |
| 35 | Rockford | Illinois | 0.635939716 |
| 36 | Minneapolis | MN | 0.635281367 |
| 37 | Everett | Washington | 0.635181968 |
| 38 | Reno | Nevada | 0.629239442 |
| 39 | San Angelo | Texas | 0.628679898 |
| 40 | Evansville | Indiana | 0.625795148 |
| 41 | Salem | Oregon | 0.624793832 |
| 42 | Corpus Christi | Texas | 0.624727343 |
| 43 | Vancouver | Washington | 0.62453566 |
| 44 | Concord | California | 0.624019624 |
| 45 | Topeka | Kansas | 0.623881265 |
| 46 | Lansing | Michigan | 0.623609756 |



Does population size matter when ranking America's dangerous cities?

Many of the communities in Table 1 are relatively small, with most having populations hovering in between 10K and 30K. In smaller cities, it only takes a few violent crimes to lend a significant boost to the crime rate.

However, many of these communities are adjacent to larger metropolitan areas, such as #4 McKeesport, PA (population: 19,731), which is part of the Pittsburgh metropolitan area, and Florida City, FL falling just outside of the Miami border.

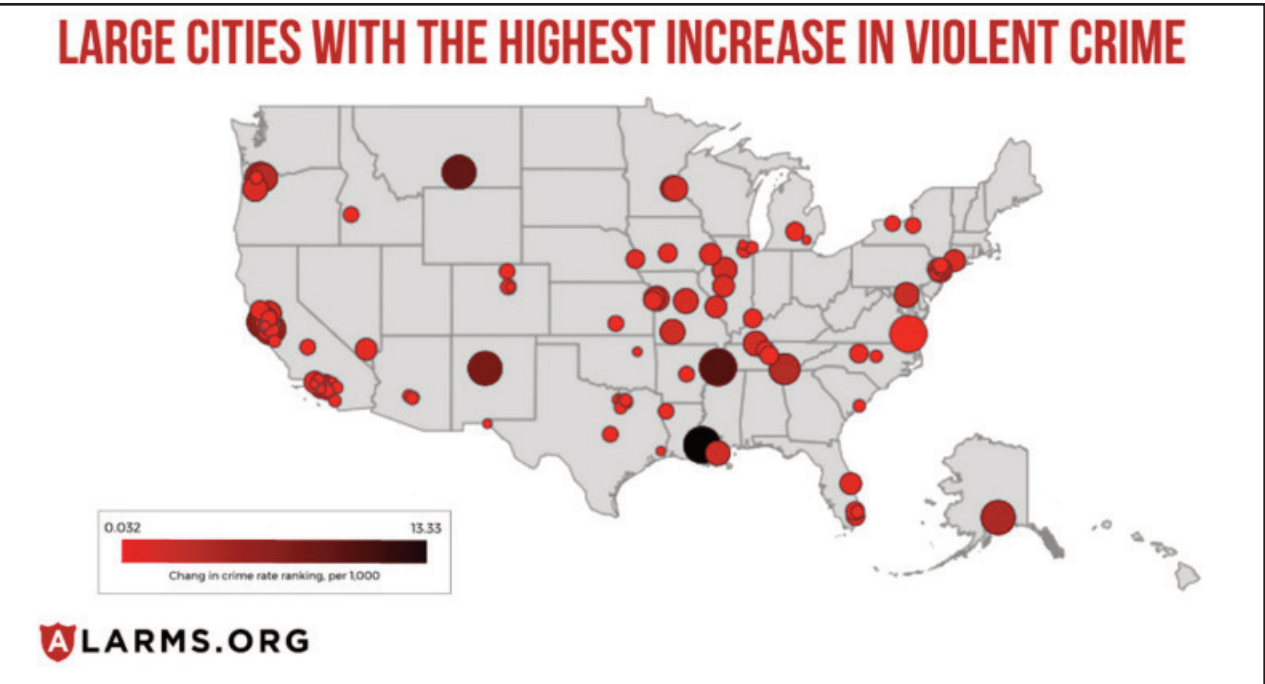
Many of these smaller communities have violent crime rates similar to the most dangerous neighborhoods of the

larger cities they are adjacent to, and in many cases, they border these neighborhoods. The difference is that the larger cities also have more affluent, low crime areas that lower their overall violent crime rates, while their smaller satellite cities do not.

Looking at the cities with the highest increase in violent crime (Table 3), we do not find booming megalopolises, but rather smaller communities just breaking the population threshold.

In essence, it is the smaller cities that actually may have the greatest ongoing risk of violent crime. Baton Rouge, LA (#16), Louisiana's capital city, is the outlier here, with a population of 227,715.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 47 Glendale Arizona | 0.62339135 | 60 Fairfield California | 0.613606951 |
| 48 Riverside California | 0.62212986 | 61 Oklahoma City OK | 0.612745356 |
| 49 South Bend Indiana | 0.621115942 | 62 Richmond California | 0.610352007 |
| 50 Visalia California | 0.620685965 | 63 Fargo North Dakota | 0.610216662 |
| 51 Seattle Washington | 0.620594675 | 64 Columbia Missouri | 0.609009309 |
| 52 Lexington Kentucky | 0.619363312 | 65 Omaha Nebraska | 0.608657591 |
| 53 Ventura California | 0.619155861 | 66 Akron Ohio | 0.608104577 |
| 54 Shreveport LA | 0.619018506 | 67 Garden Grove CA | 0.606799743 |
| 55 San Francisco CA | 0.618273556 | 68 Lafayette Louisiana | 0.606205028 |
| 56 Downey California | 0.617460457 | 69 Beaumont Texas | 0.605977283 |
| 57 Columbia SC | 0.616862623 | 70 San Jose California | 0.604272725 |
| 58 Eugene Oregon | 0.616589458 | 71 Lakewood Colorado | 0.603591415 |
| 59 Fresno California | 0.613930678 | 72 Pomona California | 0.601949764 |
| | | 73 Orlando Florida | 0.599773336 |
| | | 74 Baton Rouge LA | 0.599042753 |
| | | 75 Houston Texas | 0.598831586 |
| | | 76 Nashville Metro TN | 0.59857062 |
| | | 77 Columbus Ohio | 0.598403581 |
| | | 78 North Las Vegas NA | 0.594745768 |
| | | 79 Sioux Falls SD | 0.59154341 |
| | | 80 North Charleston SC | 0.591217643 |
| | | 81 Phoenix Arizona | 0.590746813 |
| | | 82 Bellevue Washington | 0.590351364 |
| | | 83 Odessa Texas | 0.590175915 |
| | | 84 Sacramento California | 0.589574585 |
| | | 85 Cedar Rapids Iowa | 0.588804593 |
| | | 86 Mesquite Texas | 0.58735419 |
| | | 87 Fullerton California | 0.587003723 |
| | | 88 El Monte California | 0.586904977 |
| | | 89 Durham NC | 0.584999156 |
| | | 90 West Covina CA | 0.584781091 |
| | | 91 Kansas City Missouri | 0.582779907 |
| | | 92 Fremont California | 0.582169827 |
| | | 93 St. Louis Missouri | 0.581853251 |
| | | 94 West Palm Beach FL | 0.580614947 |
| | | 95 Murfreesboro TN | 0.579415288 |
| | | 96 St. Petersburg Florida | 0.578016539 |
| | | 97 Hayward California | 0.577819761 |
| | | 98 Fort Lauderdale FL | 0.577815484 |
| | | 99 Clovis California | 0.576053487 |
| | | 100 Miami Gardens FL | 0.575906515 |



Is violent crime decreasing in America?
Despite the high violent crime rates plaguing these cities, there is evidence that, overall, the violence is lessening, and will continue to do so.

Nationwide, the violent crime rate fell 0.9%, overall, despite rises in the cities found in Table 4. Most American communities experienced a net decrease in murder rate and violent crime.

While the trend of declining violent crime across the board offers up some hope for American cities besieged by violence and murder, many of them have deep-seated issues that have

plagued their neighborhoods for decades, and it is not entirely clear where the solution lies.

In addition, even if ranked among the “worst” trends for larger cities, many of these cities still have negative crime trending (reduced violent crime over time). The “surprise” is that cities of such size make up a minority of the 100 cities with high violent crime rates. This may be an artifact of our information system. More attention is paid to the events of a large city from outside that city. Small cities’ events tend to not be propagated as far in the media.

ACLU wants proof of citizenship removed from voter registration

By Danedri Herbert
The Sentinel

Legislation introduced by Rep. Brett Parker, (D) Overland Park, on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) would make it easier for non-citizens to vote in Kansas by removing the proof of citizenship requirement when first registering to vote. HB 2220 also allows people to register on election day and allows applications for advance voting to be placed on a permanent advance ballot list; that means someone could register to vote without ever appearing in person or having to provide proof of citizenship.

Former Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach calls that a “perfect recipe for voter fraud.”

“Same day voter registration allows anybody to show up at the polls and cast a ballot before their citizenship or their address can be verified,” he said.

Lauren Bonds, the interim director of the ACLU of Kansas, says Election Day Registration increased voter turnout in the 19 states that enacted it. “In fact, those states have the highest voter turnout in the nation, roughly 12 percent higher than states, such as Kansas, without election day

registration,” she said. In 2016, 59.2 percent of Kansas voters turned out to cast ballots in the presidential election. According to an ACLU study, that puts Kansas at 34th in the country in terms of voter turnout. Kobach says Kansas is number one in the country for voter security.

“This bill would move Kansas from our position as number one in the nation with the most secure elections to the bottom of the pack with some of the least secure elections in the country,” he said. “It allows people to easily drive across the state line to cast a ballot if there’s a close race in Kansas that non-residents want to vote in.”

Bonds says same-day voter registration would virtually eliminate the need for provisional ballots, and eligible voters would not be turned away simply because they aren’t listed in a registration book.

“Election Day registration should alleviate any fears about voter fraud—though virtually all Kansas election officials reject the notion that such fraud is even a minor concern,” she said.

As Secretary of State, Kobach championed laws to ensure only U.S. citizens can vote in Kansas. He also increased efforts to eliminate other things

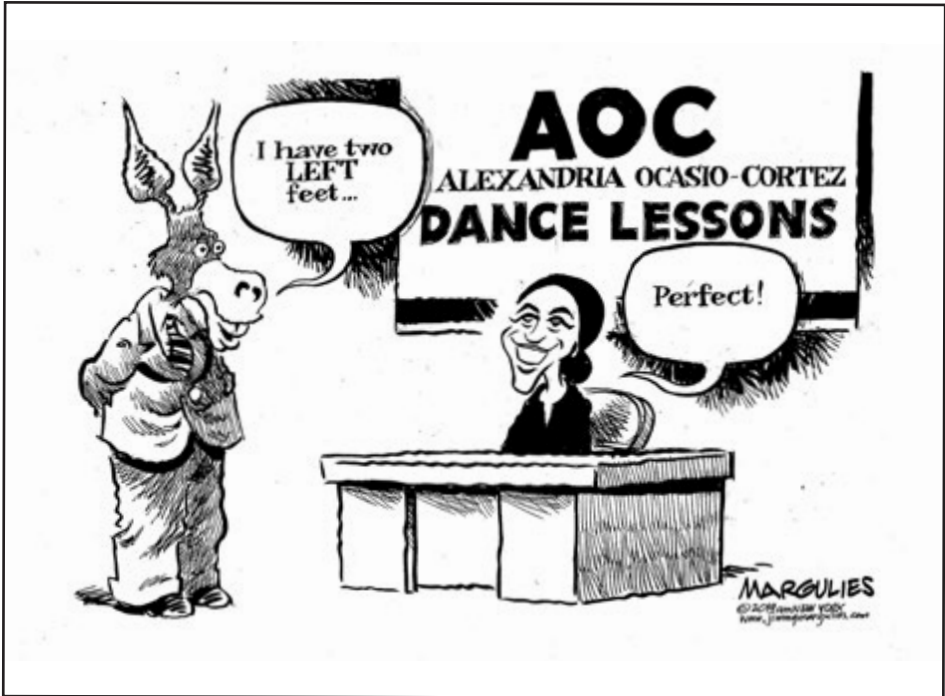
like double voting. The ACLU calls Kobach’s voter security initiative, adopted in 2013, the “papers please law.”

The organization successfully filed a federal lawsuit to stop Kansas counties from requiring people to prove they are U.S. citizens in order to register to vote. That decision is under appeal.

HB 2220 would eliminate the proof of citizenship requirement from state law, regardless of the outcome of the case. The bill didn’t receive a hearing this legislative session. It’s unlikely to reach the House floor, which means lawmakers probably won’t debate the issue this year.

The Kansas Secretary of State’s office oversees elections, and Secretary of State Scott Schwab, who took office in January, says HB 2220 would have made fundamental changes to Kansas elections.

“Thoughtful time and deliberation are essential to implementing substantial changes to election operations,” Schwab said. “We have asked lawmakers to refrain from making any major election policy changes to give us time to visit with county clerks on the impact of such policies would have on their abilities to ensure Kansas elections remain safe and secure.”



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Utility Companies Battle Electricity Rates Proposal

By Danedri Herbert
The Sentinel

Kansas electricity rates are the highest in the region, but legislation intended to determine the reasons and possible solutions faces fierce opposition from utility companies. SB 69 would commission an independent, third party to study the issue.

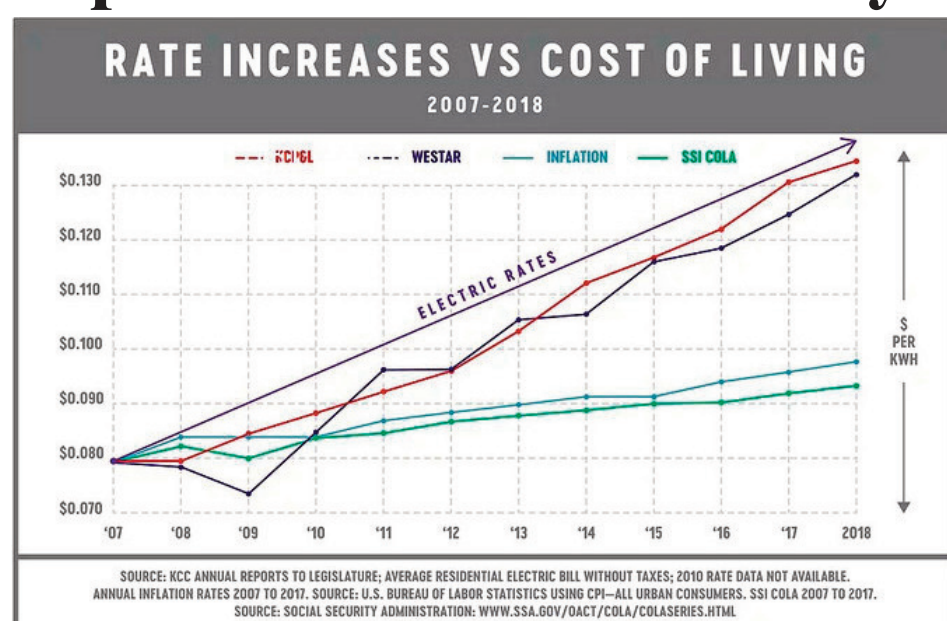
"It is a well-known fact that during the past decade, electricity rates have increased by 70 percent," Jeff Glendening, the state director for Americans for Prosperity-Kansas, said. "Those increases raise red flags by themselves, but when benchmarked to the inflation rate for the same period, the urgency and necessity of the study proposed in this legislation becomes rather clear."

Since 2007, KCP&L and Westar Energy bills increased by 70 percent and 67 percent, respectively. Inflation rose by 18 percent. The two companies merged in 2018 to form Evergy, which serves more than 1 million Kansas customers.

Chuck Caisley, a lobbyist for Evergy, told a Kansas Senate Committee that the Kansas Corporation Commission completed such a study in 2018, and Kansas Senate and House utility committees were given a presentation detailing the findings of the 125-page study. Caisley said while he supports a third party study, SB 69 is "the proverbial wolf in sheep's clothing."

"We support looking at solutions up to and including deregulation in Kansas," he told the Senate committee. "Any bill that is a fair study of rates designed to seek a solution; we have nothing to hide. That said, we do not support this bill...I have never seen such a one-sided bill as SB 69."

Today, when an investor-owned utility like Evergy wants to increase electricity rates, it



Graphic courtesy of kansasenergyproblem.com

must seek the permission of the Kansas Corporation Commission, whose members are political appointees. The commission authorizes shareholders of the utility companies a 9.3 percent rate-of-return on investment, which Caisley said is lower than peer utilities. Additionally, shareholder-owned utilities can seek permission to increase electricity rates for things like capital improvements.

Caisley said the legislation is a "crafty attempt" to make changes to the way electric rates are set. The proposal mandates that utility companies show that potential rate increases wouldn't harm the competitiveness of Kansas compared to other states.

Steve Chriss, Walmart's director of energy services, testified in support of the legislation. The national retail chain purchases electric services from 22 different providers in Kansas. Chriss said Kansas's utility rates are not competitive

with surrounding states. Walmart pays 10 percent less per kilowatt hour in Missouri, 13 percent less in Colorado, 18 percent less in Arkansas, 19 percent less in Nebraska, 24 percent less in Iowa, 25 percent less in Texas, and 36 percent less in Oklahoma.

"Walmart recognizes that electric utilities have a duty to provide safe, adequate and reliable service and should have the opportunity to recover their reasonable and prudent costs and earn a reasonable return on their investments," Chriss said. "However, it is important that customer impacts are at the forefront of Corporation Commission decision-making and that customer interests are fully balanced with utility shareholder interests."

The proposed bill also would require the KCCC to justify any rate increases that exceed the consumer price index (CPI) in any given year.

"Such an arbitrary standard does not take into consideration

all of the cost factors that should be considered in the ratemaking process," Caisley said in written testimony submitted to the Senate committee. When he appeared before the committee, he used taxes as an example for why utilizing CPI is not good public policy.

"The very schools that have signed on as proponents of this bill and complained about rate increases are a significant reason rates have gone up over the last several years," Caisley said. He noted that school mill levies have increased at dramatic rates, at a faster pace than CPI and than utility rates.

"KCP&L and Westar are the largest payers of property taxes in almost every single county we operate in, and property taxes from schools are an ever-increasing driver of increases in utility rates," Caisley said.

Meanwhile, the Wichita Public Schools argued that high utility rates are straining school budgets.

"The school districts do not

have customers to whom it can pass higher electricity costs," Tom Powell, Wichita USD 259's legal counsel said in written testimony. "The money to pay for electricity rate increases must come from reductions in other parts of school district budgets."

KCC's study determined one reason for KCP&L and Westar rate spikes is due to the companies making investments in electric generation, like wind power, and in response to federal and state environmental mandates. Utility companies in other states face environmental mandates, however, yet still have much lower rates. Critics say large energy companies

have beaten a path to the KCC's door requesting more and more increase, and SB 69 provides a way to work toward common sense solutions to high utility rates.

"I believe Kansas is at a crossroads," Adam Pogue, the Vice President of Manufacturing Services at Spirit Aerosystems, told the committee in written testimony. "The legislature must decide if regulators have done a great job supporting efforts to build a more prosperous economy, or if it is time for a more comprehensive and strategic examination of ways we can work together to achieve more competitive electricity rates for everyone."

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Third Hospital Once Run By North Kansas City Company Closes Its Doors

By Dan Margolies
Kansas News Service

Yet another ailing rural hospital once operated by EmpowerHMS, which used to be based in North Kansas City, has closed.

The Horton (Kansas) Community Hospital about 78 miles northwest of Kansas City shut its doors at 5 p.m. Tuesday, according to City Administrator John Calhoon.

"I can tell you the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has been here a couple of days this week and the attorney general's office arrived yesterday afternoon and were there into the early evening," Calhoon said.

"However, I believe that the hospital basically voluntarily shut down due to lack of personnel from no wages being paid to them since Feb. 15th."

CJ Grover, a spokesman for Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt, said in a statement that the attorney general's office "has an ongoing investigation into Horton Community Hospital."

"We have no further comment at this time," he said.

Gerald Kratochvil, a spokesman for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, said officials of the agency were at the hospital to conduct a survey of the hospital after receiving a complaint.

"Under CMS (the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) rules, we're not allowed to reveal what the complaints were or who made the complaints," Kratochvil said. "We'll likely have a report coming out regarding the results of the survey. However, it might not matter since the hospital is closed, so CMS will determine if they need a report from us."

The hospital's interim CEO, Ty Compton, could not be



Horton Community Hospital is the third EmpowerHMS-run hospital to close in the last few weeks. Facebook

reached for comment.

The 25-bed hospital's closure came just weeks after two other hospitals once operated by EmpowerHMS turned off the lights.

Oswego Community Hospital in Oswego, Kansas, about 160 miles south of Kansas City, shut down a month ago. The 12-bed facility said it was no longer able to cover its operating expenses.

And 15-bed I-70 Community Hospital in Sweet Springs, Missouri, about 65 miles east of Kansas City, also said about a month ago that it was temporarily closing after state regulators said it was "out of regulatory compliance."

It's not clear if I-70 Community Hospital will be able to reopen; federal regulators have cut off its participation in the Medicare program, typically a death knell for a small community hospital.

Until recently, all three hospitals — Horton, Oswego and I-70 — had been owned and operated by EmpowerHMS, a company that bought up ailing

rural hospitals with the aim of turning them around. Empower until recently was based in North Kansas City, but its office appears to have been vacated.

Earlier this year, Empower transferred management of 13 of its hospitals in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, Florida and North Carolina to Florida-based iHealthcare. Attempts to reach iHealthcare officials at the phone number listed on the company's website were unsuccessful.

All 13 hospitals, including Hillsboro Community Hospital in Hillsboro, Kansas, and Fulton Medical Center in Fulton, Missouri, have struggled recently to make payroll, pay creditors and keep hospital supplies on hand.

Kansas Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly released a statement on Wednesday noting that Horton Community Hospital is the third rural hospital in Kansas to close in the last three months. Mercy Hospital in Fort Scott closed on Dec. 31.

"This is becoming a far too

five decades.

Until the end, he said, employees "really put their heart and soul in trying to hold out as long as they could in hopes they would get their wages paid to them."

"The promises and statements that were made by corporate never came through and unfortunately, we're without a hospital," Calhoon said.

Anticipating the hospital might close, the town made arrangements with Town and Country Ambulance, about 12 miles northwest, to ensure that ambulance service would not be interrupted.

"We had no lapse in ambulance service," Calhoon said. "But we do want to get every other type of medical provider and services that we can back to our community as soon as possible."

Rep. John Eplee, an Atchison Republican, met recently with hospital administrators in three communities near his district — including Horton — to determine what it would take to keep their doors open. He said administrators at all three — Horton, Winchester and Hiawatha — said that passing Gov. Kelly's Medicaid expansion proposal would provide needed infusions of cash.

"The recurrent theme that I heard was that KanCare expansion would make a big difference in stabilizing them and allowing them to catch their breath," Eplee said.

KanCare was the name given

to the state's Medicaid program when former Republican Gov. Sam Brownback privatized it in 2013.

Eplee, a physician, is one of several Republicans eager to vote with Democrats to pass legislation to extend KanCare coverage to an estimated 130,000 additional low-income Kansans. But at the halfway point of the 2019 session, Republican leaders in the House and Senate appear determined to block a vote on the governor's expansion bill.

"I'm not in a position to know whether leadership will allow this to come to a vote or not," Eplee said. "I'm obviously in the camp that I hope we get that opportunity but we'll have to wait and see."

Opponents of expansion say the state can't afford to increase the cost of what is already the state's second most expensive program at a time when more money is needed for public schools, universities, highways and the state's troubled foster care program.

GOP members of the House Appropriations Committee voted Wednesday to remove funding for the governor's expansion bill from the budget.

Eplee and other supporters of expansion insist expansion is affordable given that the federal government is obligated to cover 90 percent of the state's costs. In addition, they say, expansion would generate millions of dollars in offsetting savings.

Kansas bill may let donors choose to keep organs in state

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — Lawmakers will consider a bill that could allow Kansas organ donors to specify whether they want their organs to go to transplant patients in the state.

The proposed legislation comes as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is poised to nationalize the system used to distribute livers for transplant, KCUR-FM reported. The federal health agency wants to scrap the existing system that distributes organs within regions after being sued by six transplant patients in California, New York and Massachusetts.

The geography-based system benefited states such as Kansas, where donor rates are around 80 percent, said Sean Kumer, a liver transplant surgeon at the University of Kansas Hospital. But New York and California

are states where the need for donated organs is high, but donor rates are low.

Donor rates on the country's coasts are around 55 percent, Kumer said.

U.S. Sens. Jerry Moran of Kansas and Roy Blunt of Missouri said the new allocation system would disproportionately affect patients in rural areas.

"This shortsighted liver allocation policy . will not only mean fewer life-saving organs

in our part of the country, but it will also adversely affect health outcomes throughout the Midwest," the senators said.

Kumer added that the new system should give preference to regions where higher percentages of patients are dying while awaiting transplant surgery. About 20 percent of liver transplant patients in Kansas die on the waiting list, compared to about 8 percent in New York, Kumer said.

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K-State Big 12 Champions



Final Home Game Clinches Big 12 Title for K-State

KSU Sports Informaion

MANHATTAN, Kan. — It was a fitting Senior Day, as the trio of Barry Brown, Jr., Kamau Stokes and Dean Wade all scored in double figures to help No. 18/17 Kansas State clinch a share of the Big 12 regular season title with a 68-53 win over Oklahoma before a sold-out crowd at Bramlage Coliseum.

With the win, K-State (24-7, 14-4 Big 12) finished in a first-place tie with No. 8/8 Texas Tech (26-5, 14-4 Big 12), which defeated Iowa State, 80-73, earlier in the day, to earn the program 21st conference championship, including the 19th in the regular season, and the first since also sharing the title in 2012-13. By virtue of the tiebreaker, the Wildcats will be the No. 1 seed at next week's Phillips 66 Big 12 Championship at the Sprint Center.

The seniors combined to score 45 of the 68 points to go with 14 of the 15 assists in their final game at Bramlage Coliseum, as Stokes scored a game-high 19 points on 7-of-15 field goals, including 4-of-10 from 3-point range, to go with a game-high 6 assists in 34 minutes. He has now scored in double figures in 5 consecutive games. He was joined in double figures by Brown, who posted 15 points on 5-of-12 shooting to go with 4 assists and 3 steals, and Wade, who added 11 points on 5-of-14 field goals to go with 7 rebounds and 4 assists.

K-State is now 20-6 all-time when the trio scores in double figures in the same game in their respective careers, including 8-0 this season.

In addition, the seniors each enjoyed milestones on the evening, starting with Brown, who became the school leader in games played with his 136th career appearance to break his tie with Jacob Pullen (2007-11) and Rodney McGruder (2009-

13). With his 4 triples on the day, Stokes became just the fourth Wildcat to eclipse 200 career 3-point field goals, while Wade became just the 10th player in school history with top 1,500 career points.

K-State led for more than 33 minutes of Saturday's game with the lead changing just four times, all in the first 6 minutes of play. Tied 14-all with just under 10 minutes to play in the first half, the Wildcats took the lead for good on a 3-pointer by Wade en route to finishing the half on an 18-8 run and leading 32-22.

K-State opened the second half on an 8-1 run to push the lead to 42-23 at the 16:59 mark on the strength of back-to-back 3-pointers from Stokes. The Sooners were able to close the gap to 45-31 at the 13:41 mark, but the Wildcats responded with a 17-2 run over the next 6 minutes to build a 62-33 lead with just 7:12 to play.

Oklahoma erupted for 12 straight points to close to within 62-45 with 4:29 remaining, but sophomore Mike McGuirl answered with a 3-pointer off a Brown assist to push the lead back to 20 points.

K-State connected on 44.8 percent (26-of-58) from the field, including 31 percent (9-of-29) from 3-point range, while Oklahoma was held to a season-tying low of 53 points on 41.5 percent shooting (22-of-53), including 29.4 percent (5-of-17) from long range.

The Sooners were led junior Kristian Doolittle, who scored a team-high 14 points on 7-of-11 shooting to go with 4 rebounds and 3 assists in 36 minutes, while freshman Jamal Bieniemy had 12 points on 5-of-11 field goals, including 2-of-5 from beyond the arc, to go along with 4 assists and 2 rebounds.

HOW IT HAPPENED

| Final Big 12 Standings | | | |
|------------------------|--------|---------|------|
| School | Big 12 | Overall | Pct. |
| Texas Tech | 14 - 4 | 26 - 5 | .839 |
| Kansas State | 14 - 4 | 24 - 7 | .774 |
| Kansas | 12 - 6 | 23 - 8 | .742 |
| Baylor | 10 - 8 | 19 - 12 | .613 |
| Iowa State | 9 - 9 | 20 - 11 | .645 |
| Texas | 8 - 10 | 16 - 15 | .516 |
| Oklahoma | 7 - 11 | 19 - 12 | .613 |
| TCU | 7 - 11 | 19 - 12 | .613 |
| Oklahoma State | 5 - 13 | 12 - 19 | .387 |
| West Virginia | 4 - 14 | 12 - 19 | .387 |

The two teams went back and forth in the early going, including numerous lead changes and ties.

K-State got on the board first but a layup from senior Christian James and a dunk from fellow senior Kristian Doolittle put Oklahoma up early, 4-2, at the 18:36 mark. A jumper from senior Dean Wade and a fast break layup from junior Xavier Sneed put K-State back in front moments later.

Senior Barry Brown, Jr., tied the game at 9-all after going 1-of-2 from the line after the 16-minute media timeout and fellow senior Kamau Stokes followed with a 3-pointer to break the tie. Oklahoma tied it right back up, 12-12, after a Doolittle jumper and a James free throw after the 12-minute media.

After both teams traded the lead four times in the first 10 minutes before three-pointers from Wade and Stokes on back-to-back possession put the Wildcats up 20-14 at the 8:11 mark.

The highlight-reel play of the first half came on a reverse dunk from Wade on a line-drive pass through the lane from Stokes, putting K-State up 24-18. The Wildcats scored five straight after a Rashard Odomes layup to hold their largest lead of the first half. Junior Austin Trice made a layup but was un-

able to convert the free throw on a three-point play opportunity. Brown connected on a jumper after Stokes saved the ball from going out of bounds seconds earlier. Stokes made 1-of-2 from the line for the 29-20 lead.

A three-pointer from Brown with 1:54 to play were the last points scored in the first half, which gave K-State a 32-22 lead going into the break.

The Wildcats came out of the locker room strong, starting the second half on a 10-1 run in the first 3:12. A Makol Mawien layup was followed by a jumper from Stokes to put them in front by 14 points. The senior then made it eight consecutive points after back-to-back three-pointers to give K-State its largest lead of the game at 42-23. After a dunk from Doolittle, a few missed shots from the Wildcats and a corner three from Odomes enabled the Sooners to cut into the 19-point deficit to trail 42-28 with 14:33 to play.

Coming back from the break, Sneed hit 1-of-2 from the line and Wade followed with a lay-in on the next possession. Stokes answered an Oklahoma three with a driving layup, upping his game-high in points to 17. Sophomore Mike McGuirl hit a three for his first points to match the 19-point lead.

A pair of Brady Manek free throws ended the 8-3 K-State

spurt until the Wildcats jumped up to a game-high 25-point lead with an 8-0 run. Sneed was responsible for 4 of those points, connecting on two from the strike and a one-handed slam with 8:35 to go, resulting in Oklahoma's second-to-last timeout.

The run went to 12-0 after a jumper from Brown and a fast break layup from Stokes. Oklahoma ended the overall 17-2 K-State run with back-to-back threes from Jamal Bieniemy. The Sooners went on to score 12 straight cut K-State's lead to 17 (62-45). Miles Reynolds, Bieniemy and Manek all converted points in the paint to nearly cut their deficit in half.

Another McGuirl three ended the run with 4:03 to play. Manek received a Flagrant 2 foul and was ejected from the game a few seconds later after an elbow to the throat of Trice.

Brown, Stokes and Wade all exited the game with 1:05 to play with the Cats up 68-51. The Sooners ended the game on an 8-3 run with baskets from four different players in the last 3:16.

PLAYER OF THE GAME
Kamau Stokes — Senior Kamau Stokes scored a game-high 19 points on 7-of-15 field goals, including 4-of-10 from 3-point range, to go with a game-high 6 assists in 34 minutes. With his 4 3-point makes, he became just the fourth Wildcat to eclipse 200 or more career 3-point field goals. He has scored in double figures in 5 consecutive games.

STAT OF THE GAME
45 — Seniors Kamau Stokes, Barry Brown and Dean Wade combined for 45 of K-State's 68 points. The trio all scored in double figures in the same game for the 26th time in their careers, including the eighth time this season.

SEASON RECORD UPDATE
K-State 24-7 (14-4 Big 12)
Oklahoma 19-12 (7-11 Big 12)

IN THEIR WORDS
BRUCE WEBER, K-STATE HEAD COACH
On teamwork...
"I keep saying be the best version of us and if we're us, we're really good. That first 32 minutes of defense, you're holding them to 30-something points. They're really good offensively the last five games, averaging 75 points per game. And we did a great job. The effort was there. When we moved the ball, we looked good. I thought the first half, we made a couple of good open 3's. We get a stretch of that, and then we didn't. And then in the second half we made that run and kept it going and I was hoping it would stay around 30, so I could get them all out, but they pushed us a little bit. They're good and Lon's (Kruger) done a great job with that group. They're going to be an NCAA [Tournament] team. I'm just so proud of the seniors, obviously, it's a special group. But the whole team stuck together, they've been resilient. Tough losses, injuries, sicknesses, they keep coming back. You lose your first two games in the conference and you still win the title. That even makes it a little more extra special. But the message I've given them, and I still blame myself. In 2013, we were so worried about getting that banner up there, getting that group, their names and numbers up there. I didn't help them for the NCAA Tournament and that's what we told these guys, this is just one phase of our mission. We have to keep going. Moving forward, there's a lot more stuff to add to their reach."

Brown Named Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year; Brown, Wade Named All-Big 12 First Team



KSU Sports Information

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Senior Barry Brown, Jr., became the first K-State player to be named the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year, while he and teammate Dean Wade became the first Wildcat duo to be named All-Big 12 First Team in the same season, as the league office announced its annual men's basketball awards on Sunday.

Brown was one of three unanimous selections to the All-Big 12 First team, along with Kansas' Dedric Lawson and Texas Tech's Jarrett Culver, while Wade became just second Wildcat player to be named to league's First Team in back-to-back seasons, joining Jacob Pullen (2010, 2011). The duo was joined on the All-Big 12 Teams by fellow senior Kamau Stokes and junior Xavier Sneed, who were both honorable mention selections.

The four overall selections for the Big 12 co-champion Wildcats (24-7, 14-4 Big 12) tied for the most in the Big 12 era, as four players were named honorable mention in 1999. It marks the first time K-State has had two First Team picks since the Big Seven/Eight/12 began designating various all-conference teams and the first time overall since Mike Evans and Curtis Redding were both honored as All-Big Eight selections in 1977.

Brown became the first Wildcat to be named the conference's Defensive Player of the Year since Rolando Blackman earned the honor in consecutive seasons in the Big Eight in 1979 and 1980. He was also a Big 12 All-Defensive Team selection for the second straight season and one of just two unanimous picks. He is the sixth Wildcat to

earn recognition to the All-Defensive Team and first repeat selection since Jacob Pullen (2010, 2011).

Brown and Wade (2018, 2019) join Michael Beasley (2008), Jacob Pullen (2010, 2011) and Rodney McGruder (2013) as the only First Team selections in the Big 12 era with only Pullen and Wade doing it twice. They are just the seventh tandem in the Big 12 era to earn spots on the 15-member All-Big 12 First, Second or Third Teams and the first to repeat since Bob Boozer and Jack Parr did it in 1957 and 1958.

Brown was All-Big 12 Second Team selection a season ago, while Stokes and Sneed earn all-conference honors for the first time in their respective careers.

Fellow co-Big 12 champion Texas Tech earned a pair of individual awards, as sophomore guard Jarrett Culver was named the Player of the Year, while head coach Chris Beard was the Coach of the Year for the second consecutive season. Kansas' Dedric Lawson was the Newcomer of the Year, Texas' Jaxon Hayes was the Freshman of the Year and Iowa State's Lindell Wigginton was the league's Sixth Man Award winner. Oklahoma's Kristian Doolittle became the first winner of the Most Improved Player Award.

The All-Big 12 awards are selected by league's 10 head coaches, who are not allowed to vote for their own players.

The school's all-time leader in both games played (136) and steals (252), Brown led the Wildcats in nearly every statistical category, including scoring (15.1 ppg.), double-digit scor-

ing games (26), 20-point games (seven), field goals made (172) and attempted (386), free throws made (86) and attempted (122) and steals (63). He connected on 44.6 percent from the field, including 30.2 percent from 3-point range, and shot 70.5 percent from the line. With his 63 steals, he now ranks three times in the school's Top 10 single season list.

Brown ranks among the all-time leaders in a number of categories, including third in field goals attempted (1,480), fourth in double-digit scoring games (89), fifth in scoring (1,751), field goals made (621) and 3-point field goals attempted (527), sixth in field goals made (621) and assists (341) and eighth in 3-point field goals (169), free throws made (340) and ninth in free throws attempted (486).

Wade, who missed 6 games due to injury, proved to one of the most valuable players in the Big 12, as the Wildcats went 20-5 in games in which he played, including 13-2 in league

action. He averaged 12.9 points on 49.2 percent (122-of-248) shooting, including 41.8 percent (23-of-55) from 3-point range, and 78.9 percent (56-of-71) from the free throw line to go with a team-best 6.2 rebounds and 2.8 assists in 30.4 minutes per game. He ranked second on the team in scoring, double-digit scoring games (19) and 20-point games (four).

Wade became just the 10th Wildcat to eclipse 1,500 career points, while he joined Boozer and McGruder, as the only players in school history to rank in the Top 10 in both career scoring (1,510/10th) and rebounding (685/8th). He also ranks among the career Top 10 in double-digit scoring games (81), field goals made (548) and starts (123).

The most unheralded of the senior class, Stokes played perhaps his best basketball of his career in the last month, averaging 13.1 points on 44.4 percent shooting (40-of-90), including 42.3 percent (22-of-52) from 3-point range, with 3.2 rebounds

and 3.1 assists in the last 9 games. He was spectacular in his last home games, totaling a game-high 19 points to go with a game-high 6 assists and zero turnovers. For the season, he is averaging 10.8 points on 38.8 percent (107-of-276) shooting, including 36.8 percent (60-of-163) from 3-point range, with a team-high 102 assists. He has 100 or more assists in three consecutive seasons.

Stokes is just the third Wildcat to eclipse 400 career assists (407), while he became just the fourth player in school history to top 200 career 3-point field goals with his four triples in Saturday's 68-53 win over Oklahoma.

One of four players to aver-

age double figures, Sneed averaged 10.3 points on 39.8 percent (104-of-261) shooting, including 35.3 percent (48-of-153) from 3-point range, to go with 5.4 rebounds, 1.9 assists and 1.4 steals in 30.6 minutes per game. He ranked second on the team in rebounding, steals and 3-point field goals.

Kansas State is the top seed at this week's Phillips 66 Big 12 Championship at the Sprint Center in Kansas City and will play the winner of the first-round matchup between No. 8 seed TCU (19-12, 7-11 Big 12) and No. 9 seed Oklahoma State (12-19, 5-13 Big 12) at 1:30 p.m., CT on Thursday on ESPN or ESPN2.

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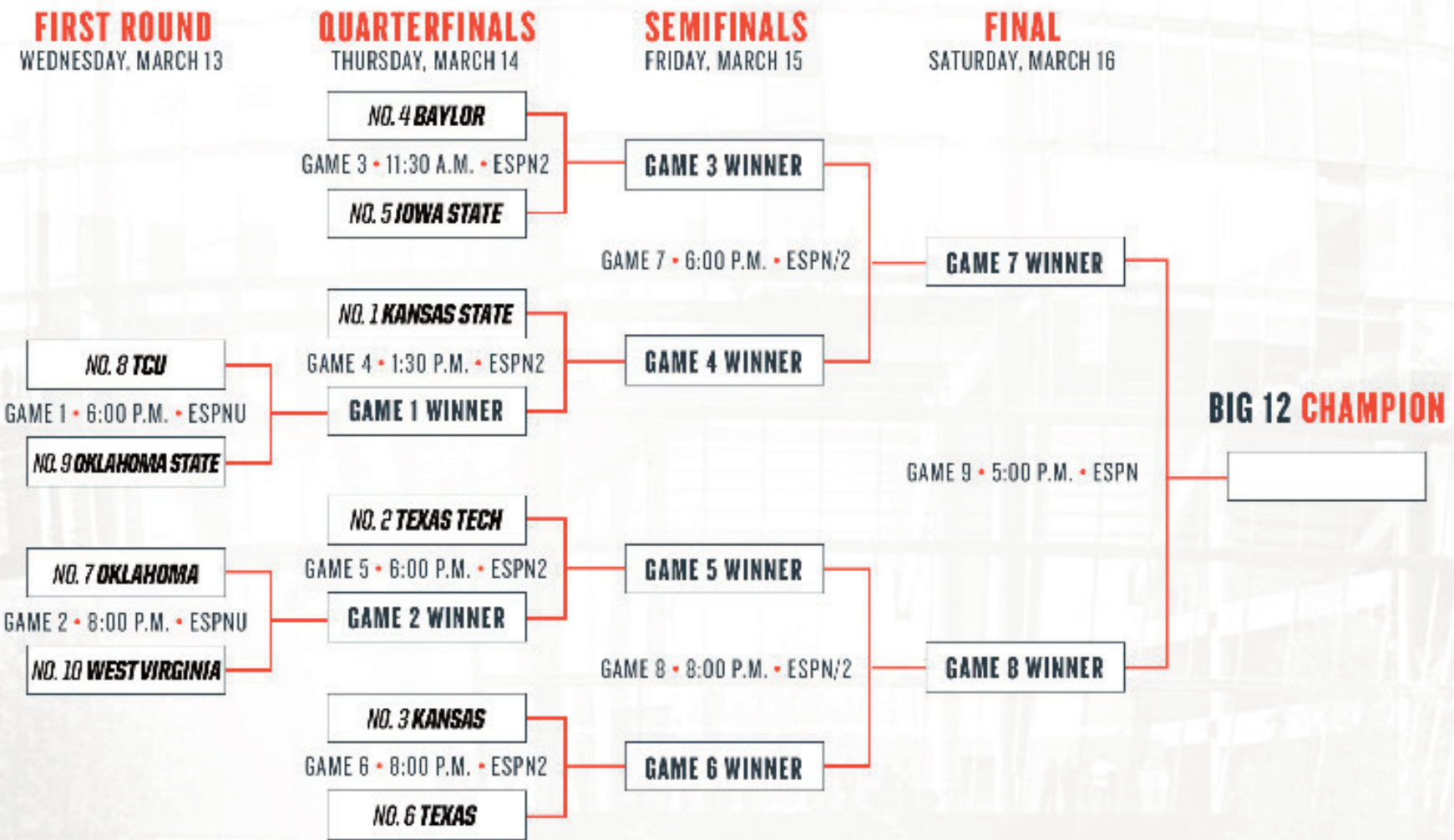
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2019 PHILLIPS 66
BIG 12 MEN'S BASKETBALL
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SECOND GAME OF EACH SESSION BEGINS 30 MINUTES AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST GAME
ALL GAMES ALSO AVAILABLE VIA ESPN APP

Men's Basketball All-Big 12 Honors Announced

Big 12 Information

Texas Tech's Jarrett Culver earned the program's first Player of the Year honor while Chris Beard was selected Coach of the Year for the second consecutive season, headlining the 2018-19 Phillips 66 All-Big 12 Men's Basketball awards.

Barry Brown, Jr. (K-State) was named Defensive Player of the Year while Dedric Lawson (Kansas) was voted Newcomer of the Year and Jaxson Hayes (Texas) captured Freshman of the Year. Lindell Wigginton

(Iowa State) picked up the Sixth Man Award and Kristian Doolittle (Oklahoma) was voted as the Most Improved Player, a new award presented by the Conference.

Culver helped the Red Raiders to a share of their first Big 12 regular season title. The sophomore guard ranks third in the Big 12 in scoring (18.3 ppg), fifth in assists (3.6) and is 10th in rebounding (6.2).

Brown is recognized as K-State's defensive stopper and holds the school record in

steals. He ranks first in the Big 12 in steals (2.0) and is fifth in scoring (15.1). He helped the Wildcats to a share of their second Big 12 regular season championship.

In his first season with the Jayhawks, Lawson leads the Big 12 in scoring (19.1), rebounding (10.6) and double-doubles (20). He is the only player in the Conference averaging a double-double.

True freshman Hayes has started 21 of 30 games for the Longhorns. He leads the Big 12

in field goal percentage (.728), is fourth in blocks (2.2) and free throw percentage (.823), 26th in scoring (10.3) and 13th in rebounds (5.4).

As Iowa State's first player off the bench, Wigginton is second on the team in scoring (13.4 ppg). An early season injury sidelined him for six weeks. Since regaining his form, the sophomore guard has averaged over 15 points in the last 12 games while shooting 48 percent from the field.

Doolittle has made a much

bigger impact for the Sooners during his junior season with 11 ppg and 6.9 rpg while playing in every game with 28 starts. In his sophomore year he started just six games with averages of 2.9 points and 4.3 rebounds.

Beard led Texas Tech to a share of the Big 12 championship in just his third season after tying for second last year. The No. 8 Red Raiders are currently 26-5 overall and finished 14-4 in league play on a nine-game winning streak.

Culver, Brown and Lawson

were unanimous All-Big 12 First Team selections and joined on the first team by Marial Shayok (Iowa State) and Dean Wade (K-State). Wade is the only repeat first team selection from last season.

The official All-Big 12 awards are selected by the league's head coaches, who are not allowed to vote for their own players.

K-State Big 12 Champions



Kansas State's Fans celebrate their teams Big 12 Championship.

Photos by Ben Brake



K-State's Barry Brown Jr. is taken out of the game with 1 minute to go and is greeted by Head Coach Bruce Weber for a great game and a great year.



K-State's Kamau Stokes, Barry Brown Jr., and Dean Wade's last game.



And the team celebrates.



The team greats each other after the win.

K-State Big 12 Champions



Kansas State's Dean Wade (32) hits on a behind the head dunk. Something you don't see everyday. He also helped in a big way and win the game and the Championship.

Photos by Ben Brake



K-State's Xavier Sneed (20) gets a dunk the old fashion way.



K-State's Barry Brown Jr. (5) gets off a jump shot.



Dean Wade (32) looks to the inside.



Makol Mawien hits from in front of the basket.



Kayla Goth



Peyton Williams



Jasauen Beard

K-State Places Three on All-Big 12 Teams

MANHATTAN, Kansas — Kansas State's Kayla Goth, Peyton Williams and Christianna Carr were recognized by the Big 12 coaches for their performances in the 2018-19 season, as the league office announced the 2018-19 Phillips 66 All-Big 12 Awards on Wednesday.

Goth and Williams were named to the All-Big 12 First Team and Carr was chosen for the Big 12 All-Freshman Team. Williams also collected Big 12 All-Defensive Team honors for the first time in her career.

This is the third straight season K-State had three student-athletes earn All-Big 12 honors. Since the formation of the Big 12 in 1996-97, Kansas State has received 50 All-Big 12 honors by 24 different players. Of the 50 All-Big 12 citations, 22 have been on the first team, 11 second team honors, four third team recipients and 13 honorable mention honors.

During the 2018-19 season, Goth leads the Big 12 in assists (203) and assists per game (6.8). She ranks among the top-10 in the nation in both cate-

gories. For the season, Goth is responsible for 48.1 percent of K-State's made field goals this season. She leads the Big 12 and is the top guard among Power 5 schools for percentage of a team's field goals responsible for. She ranks fourth in career assists in program history with 500 or more assists.

In addition to pacing the team in assists, Goth is second on the team in scoring with 12.9 points per game (388 points) and leads the squad in steals (57; 1.9 spg). The preseason candidate for the 2019 Nancy Lieberman Award is the first player in program history to register consecutive seasons with 375 or more points and 200 or more assists.

The All-America candidate from DeForest, Wisconsin, leads all guards in the Big 12 for double-doubles with a career-high six this season. Earlier this season, Goth became the 41st player in program history to reach 1,000 or more points in a career. She is the fourth player in program history with 1,000 or more points, 500 or more as-

sists and 300 or more rebounds.

Williams finished Big 12-play by averaging a double-double with 16.2 points and 10.0 rebounds. She is the first Wildcats to average a double-double in league play since Kendra Wecker in the 2004-05 season.

The All-America candidate from Topeka, Kansas, has carded a career-high and Big 12 best 14 double-doubles this season. Her 14 double-doubles rank tied for third in school history for double-doubles in a single season.

Williams, a preseason candidate for the 2019 Katrina McClain Award, has increased her scoring average from last season to this season by 1.1 points per game and leads the Wildcats with 15.8 points per game (459 points), field goal percentage (.501) and free throw percentage (.836).

She also leads K-State in rebounding with a career-high 286 (9.9 rpg). Williams leads all players in the Big 12 for rebound percentage at 27.3 percent. Her rebounding total this season ranks sixth in program

history for a single season and are the most since Wecker pulled in 292 rebounds in the 2004-05 season.

Defensively, Williams is the second player in program history to garner Big 12 All-Defensive Team honors, joining former teammate and three-time Big 12 All-Defensive Team selection Breanna Lewis. Williams has recorded 35 blocks and a career-high 52 steals this season. She ranks among the top-10 in the Big 12 in blocks per game (1.2) and steals per game (1.8).

Carr, a two-time USBWA National Freshman of the Week and Big 12 Freshman of the Week selection, is averaging 9.3 points, 2.6 rebounds and 0.9 steals. She has 10 games in double figures for points, including three games with 20 or more this season.

The product of Manhattan, Kansas, is also averaging 1.6 three-point field goals per game. She has 12 games this season with two more 3-point field goals made including eight games in Big 12 action.

With the guidance of fifth

year head coach Jeff Mittie, Kansas State (20-10, 11-7 Big 12) is postseason eligible for the fifth straight season. K-State recorded 11 Big 12 wins, for the second time in three seasons.

2018-19 Phillips 66 All-Big 12 Awards

Coach of the Year: Kim Mulkey, Baylor

Player of the Year: Bridget Carleton, Iowa State

Freshman of the Year: Christlyn Carr, Texas Tech

Newcomer of the Year: Vivian Gray, Oklahoma State

Defensive Player of the Year: Lauren Cox, Baylor

Sixth Man Award: Kari Niblack, West Virginia

All-Big 12 First Team (all honors listed alphabetical by school)

Kalani Brown, Baylor; Lauren Cox, Baylor; Bridget Carleton, Iowa State; Kayla Goth, Kansas State; Peyton Williams, Kansas State; Vivian Gray, Oklahoma State; Jordan Moore, TCU; Sug Sutton, Texas; Naomi Davenport, West Virginia; Tynice Martin, West Vir-

ginia

All-Big 12 Second Team

Chloe Jackson, Baylor; Juicy Landrum, Baylor; Kristin Scott, Iowa State; Ana Llanusa, Oklahoma; Amy Okonkwo, TCU

All-Big 12 Honorable Mention

Alexa Middleton, Iowa State; Kylee Kopatich, Kansas; Christalah Lyons, Kansas; Braxtin Miller, Oklahoma State; Joyner Holmes, Texas; Danni Williams, Texas; Brit-tany Brewer, Texas Tech; Chris-lyn Carr, Texas Tech

Big 12 All-Defensive Team

Kalani Brown, Baylor; Lauren Cox, Baylor; DiDi Richards, Baylor; Peyton Williams, Kansas State; Jordan Moore, TCU

Big 12 All-Freshman Team

Ashley Joens, Iowa State; Christianna Carr, Kansas State; Taylor Robertson, Oklahoma; Chrislyn Carr, Texas Tech; Madisen Smith, West Virginia



K-State's coach Jeff Mittie directs the Wildcats against Baylor.



K-State's Peyton Williams and Rachel Ranke go for the loose ball against Baylor.



Kansas State’s Chrissy Carr, Rachel Ranke, Kayla Goth, Ashley Ray and Peyton Williams, applaud after Baylor misses their technical foul shots during the Phillips 66 Big 12 Women’s Basketball Championship.

Photos by Scot D. Weaver,
K-State Athletics



K-State’s Rachel Ranke competes for a loose ball against Baylor’s Moon Ursin.



K-State’s Kayla Goth disputes a call during the game against Baylor.

K-State Falls in Semifinals of Phillips 66 Big 12 Championships

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — Kansas State made its ninth appearance in the semifinals Phillips 66 Big 12 Championships on Sunday afternoon, but (1/1) Baylor proved to be too strong and downed the Wildcats 88-60 at Chesapeake Energy Arena. This was the sixth meeting in the last nine seasons between the schools in the Phillips 66 Big 12 Championships.

The loss snaps K-State's six-game winning streak, however, Kansas State has won seven of

its last nine games with both losses coming against the Lady Bears during that stretch.

Kansas State (21-11) dashed out to a 16-10 lead in the first six minutes of the contest. The Wildcats shot 63.6 percent (7-of-11) from the field to start, as Rachel Ranke and Christianna Carr each hit a three-pointer.

Baylor (30-1) would end the first quarter on an 11-2 run to pull in front 21-18 at the end of frame.

K-State kept matters close in

the first five minutes of the second quarter, as the Wildcats overcame an eight-point deficit to trail by six, 33-27, with 4:59 remaining. Jasauen Beard scored four straight points for the Wildcats to bring them to within two possessions.

The Lady Bears would conclude the first half on a 14-2 run to hold a 47-29 lead at the break. K-State was held to 18.2 percent shooting (2-of-11) in the second quarter and a 34.5 percent effort (10-of-29) in the opening half. Baylor shot 43.2

percent (16-of-37) and were boosted by 10 offensive rebounds.

In the final quarter, K-State opened the quarter on a 10-0 run and closed to within 76-55 to force a Baylor timeout with 7:18 to play. The Lady Bears then inserted their starters back into the game to rebuild its lead to 28 points, 86-58, with 2:40 to play. The Wildcats would win the fourth quarter, 15-12.

Kansas State ended the afternoon shooting 28.8 percent (17-

of-59) from the floor, while Baylor shot 45.2 percent (33-of-73). The Lady Bears outpaced the Wildcats on the boards, 54-32.

The Wildcats had three players in doubles figures, as Peyton Williams tallied 12 points and seven rebounds, Christianna Carr added 12 points and three rebounds and Rachel Ranke notched 10 points, three rebounds, three assists and three steals.

Baylor had four players in

double figures led by Kalani Brown with 24 points and nine rebounds. Lauren Cox added 18 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists.

Kansas State is postseason eligible for the fifth straight season. The Wildcats will find out its postseason destination on Monday, March 18, as the 2019 NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship bracket will be announced on ESPN at 6 p.m.



Kalani Brown, C, Baylor -
Most Outstanding Player
Lauren Cox, F, Baylor
Bridget Carleton, G, Iowa
State
Alexa Middleton, G, Iowa
State
Sug Sutton, G, Texas

Diary of Issac T. Goodnow - 1862-63

Transcribed by staff and volunteers of the Riley County Historical Museum from a type-script of the original diary held in the collection of the Kansas State Historical Society. The Goodnow House Historic Site, 2001 Claflin Road Manhattan, Kansas 785-565-5490 is open to the public Saturday and Sunday 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and when Riley County Historical Museum staff is available Tuesday through Friday 9:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free.

Diary of Isaac T. Goodnow 1862

Friday, December 5. Drove to Topeka 20 miles & dined at Mrs. Allen's, Dr (?) & lady. Visit with W. W. H. Lawrence. Took tea with D. M. Adams at Mrs. Bartlett's. J. Paulson, L. Wilmarth 11 & 12 P M. Total Eclipse of the Moon—dark.

Saturday, December 6. Called at Rev. Paulson's &c. Left at 10 ½ A.M. for Lawrence. Dined at Rev. Griffin's Arrived at L. B. Dennis' 5 ¼ P.M. & put up for the Sabbath. L. B. D. sore throat Prescribed a piece of pork. Good visit.

Sunday, December 7. Beautiful morning! A.M. sermon by Rev. Lawrence. Went to J. S. Laman's to dinner. White S. school at noon. 2 ½ P.M. Colored S. School,—interesting. Rev. Wilkerson. Negro melodies & oddities Stopped over night at L. B. Dennis.

Monday, December 8. Wrote R. Allyn. Called on Grovenor. Went to Baldwin City. Called at Dr Davis. Put up at Br Taylor's, Mrs. Duvall, &c. Prof. Schnebley. Dumas. Beautiful weather. Miss Schofield, Music.

Tuesday, December 9. Went into school. 54 scholars. Dined at Prof. Hartman's. Took tea at Judge Woodworth's Music Teacher, Miss Rhodes. Senatorial, Lee, senate. Visited Deaf & Dumb school. Spent the night at Br Walker

Wednesday, December 10. Early calls, C. A. Lovejoy. Called on Mr Hall's school. Dum. Rode back to Lawrence. Dined at Grovenor's with Lawrence. Miss Bliss alias Mrs. Haskell. Call on Dr Lee. Wedding in the evening at Br L. B. Dennis's. Dr Dallas.

Thursday, December 11. Beautiful hallo around the Moon. Vandeuson. Called Mrs Wesley Duncan, Mrs Killam, looked at my lot, &c. Miscellaneous business. 11 A.M. started for Topeka. Took tea at Rev. Griffin's. Arrived at Topeka 5. P.M. Letter J. W P S. P. P.—Read papers & wrote to T. H. Baker & John Francis

Friday, December 12. Called on Gordon, Lee, Lawrence Col. Richey, Hargrove, &c Rainy P.M. Gave up going home till Monday. Eve—read Time— (?) News-

papers, &c. Called on F. G. Adams, &c.

Saturday, December 13. Scrip of Richey. Repairs Rode into the Country 3 miles. Saw Griffin. P.M. Took tea at Rev. Paulson's— School Report from N. Bateman. Noctes. Cloudy & Damp.

Sunday, December 14. A.M. Sermon by Rev McVicar. "Repent & do thy first works" Rain in the night. Damp day. P.M. Sermon by Rev. Steele, D— S. P. Parmalee

Monday, December 15. Talk with J. & D. Brockway Farnum, Stark, D. Wilson, &c. T. Roosa. Mechanics, &c. Miscellaneous business. P.M. 3. Oclock, started for home. Rode 22 miles to Mr Waterman's & put up.

Tuesday, December 16. Left at 7 ½ A.M. Rode to Waubonsee 18 miles, & to Moses' & Bardwell's Met D. M. Adams. Learned of the shooting of 2 horse thieves, by Gayle & Co. Saw the dead body of one. Dined at Br Bardwell's pr Paget. Home at 5. P.M. Pleasant.

Wednesday, December 17. Letters from W. Marlatt, J. P. M. L. H. W. E. Fenlon, C. H. Payne N. P. Selee, H. Beal, M. R. Bateman, Mother, D. Denison, J. Francis N. Goodrich, W. A Rose, Wrote N. P. \$10 S. E. Fenlon J. P. Magee \$20. D. Adams spent the night.

Thursday, December 18. Worked around college, grading, &c, with J. Morgan & Smyth. Evening prayer meeting.

Friday, December 19. Worked around college with E. B. Smith. Hauling away stone &c. Eve—attend University meeting at Higinbotham Called on Wagner with Wells & J. Pipher &c. Appropriation &c.

Saturday, December 20. White washed at college. Built cover over hay. Caught a rabbit. Mr Poyntz at dinner. Hazy. Eve read newspapers, &c. Letter from O.

Sunday, December 21. A.M. sermon by R. L. Harford. 2 ½ Bible class. 3 ½ Preaching at college Eve—prayer meeting. Read papers Hazy.



Hulse-Daughters House, 617 Colorado Street

The Hulse-Daughters House is a two-and-a-half story Shingle style house designed by Herman McCure Hadley, a Topeka architect, and built in 1892 for client David Hulse. This style of home was highly popular in seaside resorts along the shorelines of Cape Cod, Long Island and coastal Maine. While the Shingle style architecture was mainly found in the northeast, the existence of such a clear and unique example of this style of residence in the Midwest is likely due to the east coast training and influence of its architect, Hadley. Several Shingle style elaborations, including grouping of three windows with multiple panes above a single id il t i f t i panewindow, an irregular exterior footprint, Romanesque arches and chimneys, textured shingles and a lack of exterior ornamentation, are easily identified. The Hulse-Daughters House is one of the few remaining structures left on the south side of Poyntz Avenue where homes like it were once commonplace.

Monday, December 22. Made out deeds, &c. Read a little. Burnt stalks &c. Letter from A. E. Tilton

Tuesday, December 23. Load of wood from J. Kimball Strickler & Pipher at dinner. Calls from Houston Lee & Hubbard. Wells & Powers. Took a look at Wood &c 20 loads to Wells for \$5. Eve—call from Mr D. M. Morgan spends the night with us.

Wednesday, December 24. Worked with Wells, Morgan & Bowers around college fixing walk, &c White washed in Hall. Load of wood from J. Kimball. Ellen unwell at night. Quite fatigued.

Thursday, December 25. Christmas. A.M. Rainy. Out to dinner at J. Denison's, with Br Powers. Read some. Eve—prayer meeting Wrote S. P. P. H. Beal.

Friday, December 26. Sent letter to L. H. Whitney, \$20, Went to Manhattan & paid taxes, C.87.98 State 44.73. Cash 22.13. John Arnold buried. Eve—at home to work on deeds & tax papers. Read Conservative.

Saturday, December 27. Went to Manhattan. Called on Humphrey, &c Letter from E. Fenlon. Called on Strong for S. Brooks. Painted front porch. Pointed up some &c. Eve—prayer meeting.

Sunday, December 28. Read papers. 2 ½ Sabbath school Eve—Sermon by J. D. Prayer afterward. House full. Read Independent &c. Sings of snow.

Monday, December 29. Worked with G. L. Coleman

bills & letters, &c.

Tuesday, December 30. Went to Manhattan, Humphrey, Bowers & taxes. Made out Deed, &c. Call from J. Gill. Chored it some. Eve—prayer & preaching at college. Cold & pleasant.

Wednesday, December 31. Called on J. Denison & at J. P. Ryan's. Also at W. E. P.'s, Gove's, & Wells'. Wrote S. C. Pomeroy. Sent 4 Meteorological charts to Patent office. W. B. Powers & wife, S. Kimball, Lawrence, & Harford at tea. Call from Gill. Eve—Watch night. Interesting. Awake till 1. A.M. 1863.

Diary of Isaac T. Goodnow 1863

Thursday, January 1. Rode to Ogden, to J. Meyers. Visit on University matters. Satisfactory. Capt. Stewart on the way. Called at Ryan's, Pierce's, Brown's. Eve—visited at J. Morgan's. Call from J. D's Letter from Paulson, worked around college &c.

Friday, January 2. Worked around college with W. A. P. & Pierce. Rode to Manhattan, Humphrey & Bowers. Tax business Called on Gove, Kress. Visit at J. H. Brous's. Eve—prayer meeting. Talk with Houston.

Saturday, January 3. Worked around college with Coleman, Kress, & Parkerson. Went to Manhattan, & paid taxes, \$107.62 Pleasant day. Mistake 21.66

Sunday, January 4. A. M. Sermon by Harford J. A. Soldier. Pony went to J. Beal's to remain for winter. 2 ½ P. M. Bible Class. Eve—sermon by Harford: 8 arose for prayers. Wrote to Conservative & Independent.

Monday, January 5. 6 men at work on Library Room Called at Manhattan. Up till 1 ½ night arranging Books, &c with Bowers, Henry, Brous &c.

Tuesday, January 6. Left horse back for Topeka at 11. A. M. Called at Manhattan till 12. Arrived at Baldwin's Waubunsee at 3 ¼ P. M. Lawrence carried me to Waterman's 18 miles where we spent the night. Cold.

Wednesday, January 7. Started on foot for Topeka 22 miles. Overtook Lynde's & walked & rode alternately to Topeka,—arriving at 3. Called on Paulson & put up at R. A. Allen's Calls and greetings, numerous Wrote S. C. Pomeroy

Continued next week

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Redeye

WELL, MIGHTY HUNTER AND PROVIDER...WHERE'S THE GAME?

HEY! I SAW LOTS OF TRACKS!

WATER FOR DINNER?

NO... "TRACK SOUP"

SLOW DOWN!

LOOK OUT FOR THAT ROCK!

STOP!

ANOTHER BACKSEAT DRIVER IN THE MAKING!

YOU'RE GOING TOO FAST!

WATCH OUT FOR THAT TREE!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS WITH REDEYE. HE ALWAYS SEEMS TO RUB PEOPLE THE WRONG WAY!

THIS IS THE TEPEE OF SENDEM GRAVEQUICK

WARRIOR ACE HUH?

NO. CAMP COOK

THIS CATFISH STEW TASTES PRETTY GOOD FOR A CHANGE

THANK YOU...

...IT'S THE RECIPE I ALWAYS USE...

...ONE CAT...ONE FISH

OPEN WIDE

FIRST OF ALL, WE HAVE TO WORK ON THAT FEVER

GRIN & BEAR IT

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PRESS BRIEFING WHITE HOUSE

"We have time for one more stupid question."

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

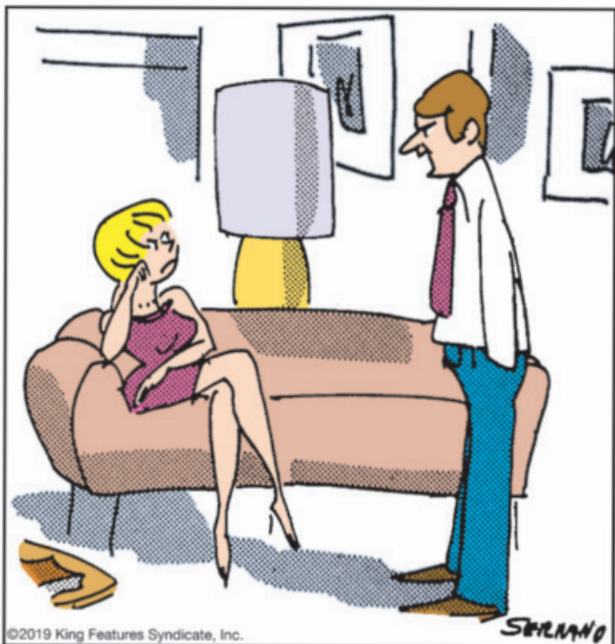
Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Scarf is different. 2. Boots are higher. 3. Small shed is wider. 4. Puddle near sled is missing. 5. Snow is gone from window ledge. 6. Bush on left has been moved.

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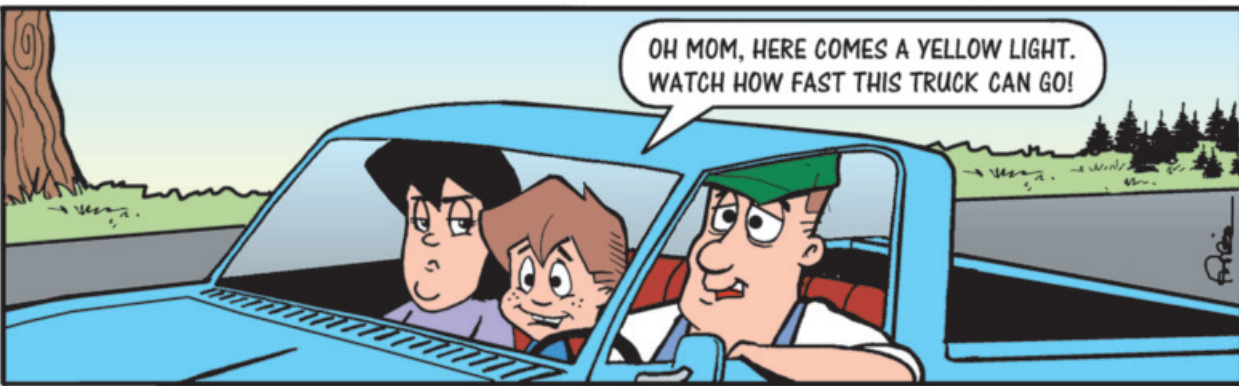
LAFF - A - DAY



"You don't have to tell me I'm a poor husband — all I have to do is look at the bills that came in."

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hindu prince
 - 5 Persian leader
 - 9 Bigshot, for short
 - 12 Verve
 - 13 Horseback game
 - 14 Tokyo's old name
 - 15 Chamber of the heart
 - 17 Born
 - 18 Good-looking guy
 - 19 Bandleader
 - 21 Lucky roll of the dice
 - 24 Arrived
 - 25 Thing
 - 26 Pots and pans and such
 - 30 Chignon
 - 31 Yours
 - 32 Neither mate
 - 33 Pavement
 - 35 Cicatrix
 - 36 Always
 - 37 Swerves
- DOWN**
- 1 Cleric's address (Abbr.)
 - 2 Brewery product
 - 3 One of the Brady Bunch
 - 4 Country song?
 - 5 Rotate
 - 6 Pawn
 - 7 Every last bit
 - 8 Cornmeal creation
 - 9 With a —
 - 10 Concept
 - 11 Bard
 - 16 Scoot
 - 20 Coal diggers' org.
 - 21 Bro and sis
 - 22 Needle case
 - 23 Feuds
 - 24 Hit on the head
 - 26 Burn something
 - 27 Lubricant
 - 28 Bellow
 - 29 Blunders
 - 31 Dozens
 - 34 First lady
 - 35 Lead astray
 - 37 Namely (Abbr.)
 - 38 — over heels
 - 39 Norway's capital
 - 40 Unsigned (Abbr.)
 - 41 Leftovers
 - 44 Before
 - 45 Shade tree
 - 46 Felon's flight
 - 47 Whatever

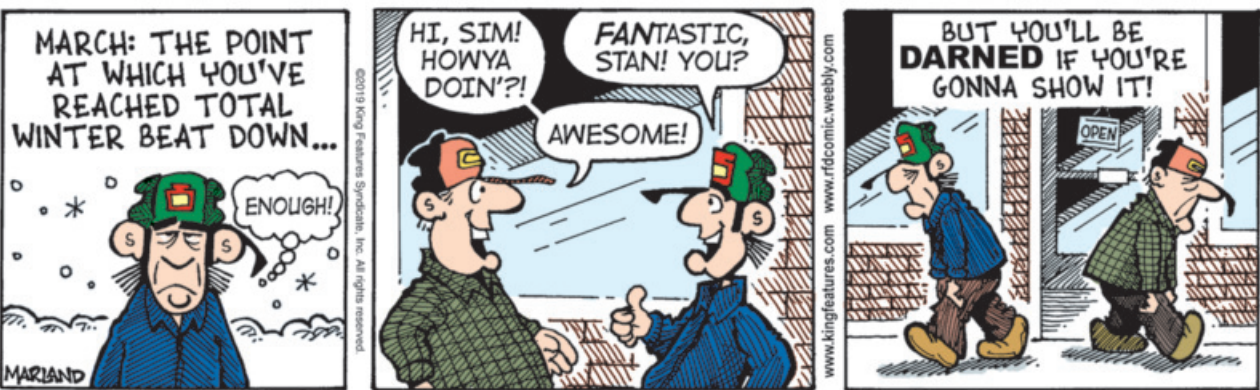
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Answers on page 2

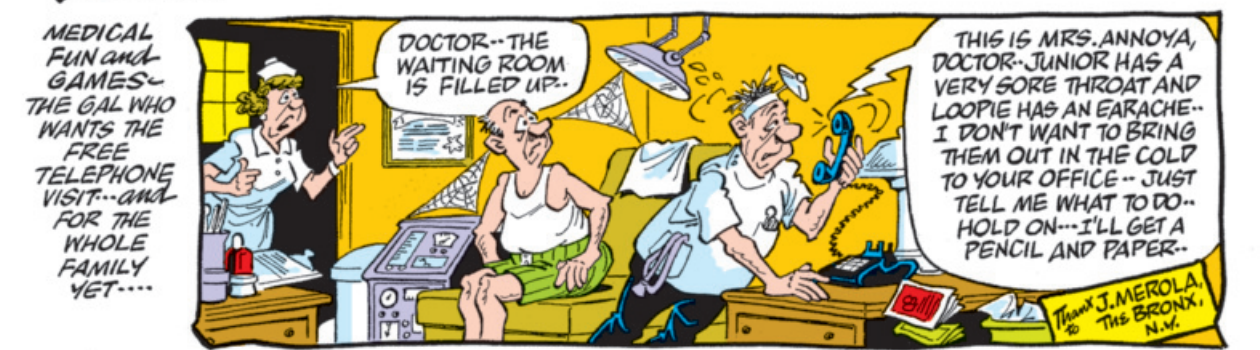
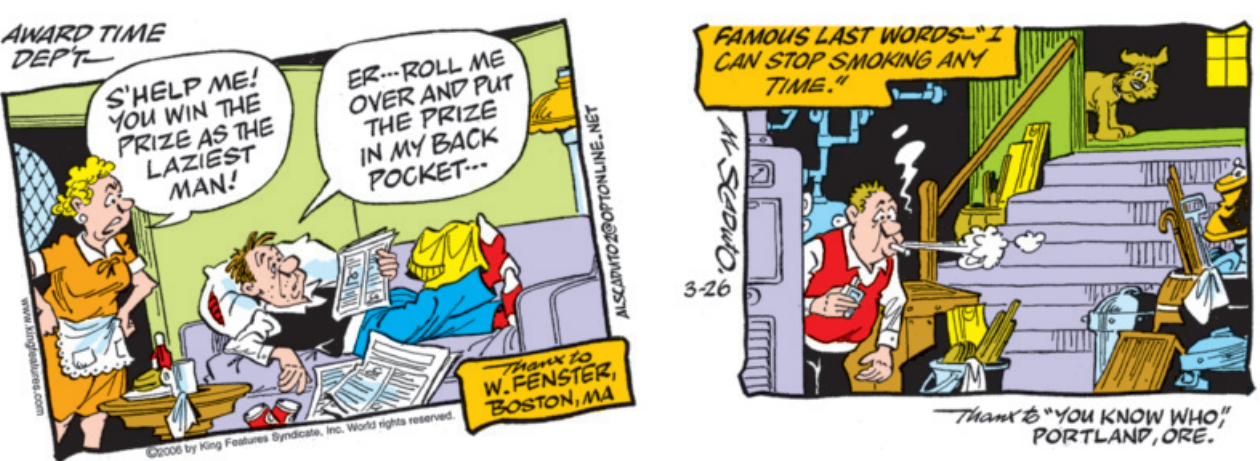
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



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Kansas Profile –

Now That's Rural: Todd Steinbach, Aero-Mod

By Ron Wilson
Kansas State University

"Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink." That old saying refers to a situation where lots of resources are around us but none of them are useable. In the case of water itself, this saying reminds us that water is vital to life. Today we'll learn about a Kansas company which specializes in cutting-edge technologies for waste water treatment. This company's systems are being used across the nation and around the globe.

Todd Steinbach is co-owner and CEO of Aero-Mod, Incorporated, the company which is designing and providing such water treatment systems. The company began as a project of K-State civil engineering professor Larry Schmid. In 1981, Professor Schmid and some partners founded a company to work on treatment systems for waste water. They designed and installed small treatment plants and worked on housing developments as well.

The company grew and changed through the years. After Larry Schmid, John McNellis served as president of the company. He worked with a contact in Algeria to build the business overseas. Todd Stein-



Aero-Mod, Inc. specializes in custom-designed wastewater treatment facilities.

bach joined the business in 1994. He and partner Rob Mahan own the company today.

Aero-Mod specializes in cutting-edge waste water treatment systems. "There is oxygen demand when bacteria attack waste," Todd said. "We are essentially treating water so that oxygen isn't consumed." This works kind of like an aerator in a household aquarium.

"We use naturally-occurring bacteria to make the water safe for consumption," Todd said. These systems are built to remove nitrogen cost-effectively and produce superior effluent quality.

"We're treating this waste water and putting it back into the rivers so that it is useable again," Todd said. "Think of the health benefits of people having

clean, unpolluted drinking water world-wide."

Aero-Mod specializes in small- to mid-size municipal type systems. Many smaller towns used lagoon water treatment systems for years, but now are needing to upgrade. Aero-Mod systems provide that opportunity in a cost-effective way.

Aero-Mod has developed

and installed municipal systems from California to Vermont, and as far away as Algeria, Costa Rica, and Chile. The company's corporate clients include Ford Motors, General Motors, Kraft Foods, Frito-Lay, Coca-Cola, Intel Corporation, and more.

The company's headquarters is located on the east side of Manhattan, Kansas. Aero-Mod staff design, build and market the equipment at the Aero-Mod facility.

"We have a great group of employees here," Todd said. The company has grown to 45 employees.

"We need more engineers," Todd said. "There are great opportunities in civil engineering. It is a very broad field. You can get into things such as water, like we're doing here, or other environmental issues, structural design such as buildings, you can get into transportation, you can get into geotechnical things, construction materials, there's lots of opportunities."

Todd, a Wisconsin native, studied civil engineering at Iowa State before coming to Aero-Mod. His professor at Iowa State was a friend of Larry Schmid's and helped make the connection with Todd and the company. "We knew nothing about Kansas," Todd said.

Todd's business partner Rob Mahan previously served as a consulting engineer himself. Rob comes from the rural community of Rossville, population 1,151 people. Now, that's rural.

"For the consulting engineer (on these water projects), we can be an extension of their office," Todd said. Such support has made a big difference as projects are bid, built, installed and maintained.

"We now offer a two-day school for water system operators," Todd said. "Our customers know we're there to support them."

Demand is strong for high-quality, efficient waste water treatment systems across the nation. "We had a record year," Todd said.

For more information about the company, see www.aero-mod.com.

"Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink." That old saying reminds us that we all need water but the water is no good to us if it isn't clean and safe. We commend Todd Steinbach, Rob Mahan, John McNellis, Larry Schmid, and all those involved with Aero-Mod for making a difference by providing systems for treating water for our use. I wish those systems were in use everywhere.

Coach Beaty Sues KU

By Ma Galloway
Topeka Capital/Journal
LAWRENCE — David Beaty has sued his former employer.

Beaty, the former Kansas football head coach, on Tuesday filed a lawsuit in Kansas federal district court seeking the \$3 million buyout that was to come following his termination without cause last November but has been delayed amid a subsequent investigation into alleged NCAA violations Beaty's attorneys labeled "an excuse."

"Kansas Athletics apparently wants to un-bake the proverbial cake it made," reads the lawsuit, which requests a trial by jury. "It unequivocally terminated Coach Beaty without cause. Post hoc attempts to change that now are unbecoming of the institution that Coach Beaty still holds in great regard. Nevertheless, Coach Beaty will not stand idle and do nothing while Kansas Athletics fails to honor its agreements and commitments to him."

In addition to the \$3 million, Beaty is seeking interest on the amount due under the Kansas Wage Payment Act; statutory penalties; costs of suit incurred; pre- and post-judgment interest at the maximum rate allowed by law; and any further relief "as the Court may deem just and proper."

Perhaps the most explosive accusation in the lawsuit alleges that, in the weeks after Beaty's firing, first-year athletic director Jeff Long and at least one other senior Kansas Athletics official sought to get out from under the amount still owed to the former coach.

"More specifically," the filing reads, "it was suggested by those same employees that

Kansas Athletics needed to find 'a dead hooker ... in [Coach Beaty's] closet' to provide leverage in resolving their \$3 million dollar payment problem."

In a response released Tuesday night, KU cited an ongoing NCAA investigation into potential violations by Beaty as its cause for withholding the payments.

"Immediately following the end of the season, Kansas Athletics staff conducted standard exit interviews of all football coaches and staff, and through that process we learned of possible NCAA violations allegedly committed by Beaty," associate athletics director Jim Marchiony said in the statement. "KU contacted the NCAA and the Big 12 Conference and began an investigation into the matter. Beaty refused to cooperate with the KU review and, ultimately, the NCAA took the lead in the still-ongoing investigation."

According to the statement, KU has "in a show of good faith" placed the full amount owed to Beaty in escrow, pending the results of the investigation, which the university says could reveal a violation in the terms of Beaty's contract. It said the filing is "full of false claims and factual misstatements," and while it didn't specifically mention the "dead hooker" remark, it made reference to "salacious comments about seeking reasons to withhold payment from Beaty" — "Simply, that did not happen," Marchiony said.

Beaty was fired Nov. 4 and finished out his fourth and final season, a tenure that ended with a 6-42 overall record.

"While disappointed in the court filing, the university is

committed to seeking the truth and upholding our high standards of ethical conduct," Marchiony said.

Beaty's lawsuit details his timeline of the events, which he indicates escalated when he rejected Kansas Athletics' request for an extension for the severance payments over a longer period of time "to alleviate the tax implications" shortly after his termination. Beaty received "an unannounced letter" from KU general counsel Brian White on Dec. 14 informing him that the university was "initiating an 'investigation' to determine if one of Coach Beaty's former subordinates had allegedly committed NCAA rules violations a year or more earlier."

According to the lawsuit, Beaty responded with a Dec. 21 letter to Kansas Athletics confirming "his willingness to promptly interview as part of KU's investigation" and to request documents relating to his employment with the university. Some of those documents were delivered Feb. 1, but to date, "the majority" have not been received, the lawsuit alleges.

Moreover, Beaty's attorneys accuse the university of actively trying to keep their client unemployed.

"While Kansas Athletics was unwilling to act with any urgency, it has been more than willing to notify prospective employers that Coach Beaty is the subject of an open NCAA investigation," the lawsuit read. "Coach Beaty believes this is yet another tactic by Kansas Athletics to pressure Coach Beaty into accepting something less than what is undisputedly owed."

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Loss of local news hinders ability to watchdog government

(AP) One of the last investigations Jim Boren oversaw before he retired as executive editor of The Fresno Bee was a four-month examination of substandard housing in the city at the heart of California's Central Valley.

The multimedia project revealed the living conditions imposed on many of the city's low-income renters, many of them immigrants: apartments filled with mold, mice and cockroaches, to name some of the more glaring problems. Local housing advocates compared it to the tainted water crisis in Flint, Michigan.

The investigation got immediate results.

"We made people's lives better. We changed laws," said Boren, who retired in 2017 and is now director of the Institute for Media and Public Trust at Fresno State University.

Among other things, the city responded by requiring property owners to make repairs when it found violations, rather than just levy fines.

"Those are the kinds of things that journalists do," Boren said.

It's the kind of journalism — holding local government officials accountable for problems that affect the lives of real people — that is in danger of being lost in many communities around the country.

Newspapers are closing or being consolidated at an astounding rate, often leaving behind what researchers label as news deserts — towns and even entire counties that have no consistent local media coverage.

According to an Associated Press analysis of data compiled by the University of North Car-

olina, more than 1,400 towns and cities in the U.S. have lost a newspaper over the past 15 years. Many of those are in rural and lower-income areas, often with an aging population.

The loss of a reliable local news source has many consequences for the community. One of them is the inability to watchdog the actions of government agencies and elected officials.

Newspapers typically have played the lead role in their communities in holding local officials accountable. That includes filing requests to get public records that shine a light on government action — or inaction — or even filing lawsuits to promote transparency.

"Strong newspapers have been good for democracy, and both educators and informers of a citizenry and its governing officials. They have been problem-solvers," said Penelope Muse Abernathy, a University of North Carolina professor who studies news industry trends and oversaw the "news desert" report released last fall.

"That is what you are missing when you don't have someone covering you and bringing transparency or sunlight onto government decisions and giving people a say in how those government decisions are made."

The absence of a local newspaper playing a watchdog role also can translate into real costs to a community and its taxpayers.

Researchers from the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Notre Dame found that municipal borrowing costs increase after a newspaper ceases publication. They found the increase had nothing to do

with the economy. Rather, the demise of a paper leaves readers in the dark and emboldens elected officials to sign off on higher wages, larger payrolls and ballooning budget deficits, their study found.

"Our evidence suggests that a local government is more likely to engage in wasteful spending when there is no local newspaper to report on that government," said University of Illinois Chicago's Dermot Murphy, one of the study's authors. "Investors find it riskier to lend money to wasteful governments, and thus the costs of financing public infrastructure projects, such as schools, hospitals, and roadways, for a local government are higher."

Stanford University's James Hamilton applies a wider lens to the problem of newspaper closures, examining the benefits that come with investigative journalism — and what is lost when it disappears.

In his book "Democracy's Detective," he examined several case studies of newspaper investigations, including police shootings of civilians, and found that each dollar spent by the news organization generated hundreds of dollars in benefits to society.

"When investigative scrutiny declines, stories go untold, which means waste, fraud, and abuse will be less likely to be discovered," said Hamilton, director of the Stanford Journalism Program. "News outlets will still have stories about a bad doctor, identified through court cases or patient complaints. The story about a bad hospital, which would require more resources and analysis to document, will be less likely to be told."

Richard "Rob" Robison

Richard "Rob" Robison passed away on March 9, 2019 at the Good Shepherd Hospice House in Manhattan, KS.

Rob was born on January 8, 1951 in Boise, ID, the youngest son of William & Margaret Robison. Rob was preceded in death by his father and mother, brother Bill Robison and sister Eleanor 'Sis' VanBenthuyssen. He is survived by his ex-wife Jennifer Robison, sons Troy, Ty and Michael Robison, sister Patricia "Pat" Stasi and brother-in-law Bob, sister-in-law Joyce Robison, nieces and nephews Barbie, Charlie "Bill", Tammy, Teena, Mike, Robin, Chris, Kim, Billy and seven grandchildren.

He was a friend to many and felt honored to be a father figure to Amanda Eales, Anthony Dodson and Zachary Langston.



Rob grew up in Portland, OR, where he played Little League Baseball and graduated from Centennial High School in Gresham, OR. He served 8 years in the United States Army as a Military Policeman and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. After serving in the military, Rob was a police officer and investigator for the Riley County

Police Department and later worked at Hawley Printing, the American Institute of Baking and was a member of the American Legion Post 17. Rob always had a smile on his face and many will remember him whistling, golfing or visiting with friends with an occasional beer in hand.

A memorial service will be held at 2:30 on Saturday, March 16, 2019 at Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home in Manhattan.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Good Shepherd Hospice House or the American Legion Post 17 in Manhattan. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

Utah teacher forces student to wash off cross

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) _ A teacher in the predominantly Mormon state of Utah was placed on administrative leave after she forced a Catholic student to wash off the Ash Wednesday cross from his forehead.

William McLeod, 9, had just returned to his school near Salt Lake City after attending Catholic mass when his fourth-grade teacher called the ash marking "inappropriate" and gave him a hand wipe to clean it off in front of his classmates, grandmother Karen Fisher said.

At first William explained that he couldn't remove it because it was important for the beginning of Easter but eventually obliged, Fisher said.

"He went to see the school's psychologist crying," said Fisher. "He was embarrassed."

The incident at Valley View Elementary in Bountiful, Utah, is being taken very seriously and an investigation into whether disciplinary action will be levied against William's teacher has been opened, said Davis School District spokesman Chris Williams. In the meantime, she isn't teach-

ing, he said.

"The actions were unacceptable," Williams said. "No student should ever be asked or required to remove an ash cross from his or her forehead."

The teacher, Moana Patterson, was called into a meeting with the principal about the incident, Williams said. After that meeting, she called Fisher to apologize, he said.

Fisher, who lives with William, said Patterson gave a handwritten note and candy bar to William as an apology.

Kansas doctor sentenced to life in prison for patient death

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) _ A Kansas doctor was sentenced to life in prison Friday for unlawfully prescribing medication blamed for an overdose death, the latest prosecution in a government crackdown on physicians amid an opioid epidemic.

Steven R. Henson was immediately taken into custody following sentencing. There was an audible gasp in the packed courtroom when U.S. District Judge J. Thomas Marten pronounced the life sentence. Henson showed no emotion.

A federal jury convicted the 57-year-old Wichita doctor for the 2015 death of Nick McGovern. Prosecutors alleged McGovern, who received prescriptions from Henson, died of an overdose of the anti-anxiety drug alprazolam and methadone, which is used to wean addicts off heroin.

The government presented evidence at trial that Henson wrote prescriptions in return for cash, postdated prescriptions and wrote them without a medical need or legitimate medical exam. Prosecutors said the doctor prescribed opioid medications in amounts likely to lead to addiction.

He also was convicted of conspiracy to distribute prescription drugs outside the course of medical practice, unlawfully distributing various prescription drugs, presenting false patient records to investi-

gators, obstruction of justice and money laundering.

His case is the latest in a string of prosecutions across the nation targeting physicians accused of overprescribing opioids.

"I want this case to send a message to physicians and the health care community," U.S. Attorney Stephen McAllister said in a news release. "Unlawfully distributing opioids and other controlled substances is a federal crime."

The National Association of Attorneys General, working under a research grant, found there had been 378 doctors who had been charged or whose cases were resolved by the end of 2016. Of those, U.S. attorneys' offices charged 249 and state authorities charged 131, its researchers found.

Defense attorney Michael Thompson said his client was disappointed in the sentence and planned to appeal.

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Duane E. Walker

Duane E. Walker, age 80, died on Friday, March 8, 2019, at the Good Shepherd Hospice House, Manhattan, Kansas.

He was born on April 3, 1938, in Green, Kansas the son of Homer E. and Bernita (Huginin) Walker. He graduated from Green High School in 1956 and later completed his education with a Masters Degree from Kansas State University in Electrical Engineering. Following graduation, Duane moved to Albuquerque and worked at Sandia National Laboratory where he worked on early guided missile technology. He returned to Manhattan in 1970 and began teaching at K-State in the Electrical Engineering Department. In 1978, he started working for the



USDA Grain Marketing Research Lab where he worked on many projects to digitize their research efforts. He also worked on some early technology around sorting grain based on color. Duane retired in 2003

and kept busy driving a school bus until 2009. Duane always kept in touch with friends and colleagues from all the places he worked.

On September 22, 1979, he was united in marriage to Connie Wilcox in Manhattan, Kansas. This union was blessed with two sons: Troy and Wade.

Duane was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, the Mason Lodge and was very active in Boy Scout Troop #74 with his boys. He also enjoyed collecting Springbok jigsaw puzzles and had collected almost all of them ever made! Traveling, Duane had been to all 50 states, many of them while on lengthy road trips with

Connie and the boys and Connie's parents, Jim and Nelva Wilcox, in the families blue 1990 van. Duane really enjoyed following K-State sports, the Royals, and the Chiefs. He enjoyed playing all kinds of card games but especially loved Cribbage and Bridge. Duane always enjoyed socializing with his many friends and acquaintances. He especially looked forward to his Tuesday Subway lunches and monthly breakfasts with former colleagues. He enjoyed tackling home repair projects and anything else that allowed him to use his ingenuity and problem-solving abilities.

Above all, he loved being with his family, especially all of his grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister: Diane Assel.

Survivors include his wife: Connie; sons: Troy & wife, Katarina Walker, and their children: Paul, Mary, and one on the way of Newton, Kansas; Wade & wife, Deidra Walker, and their children: Cora and Dean of Lenexa, Kansas; and Brent Walker his daughters Rachael and Samantha Walker and their mother Kathryn of Tucson, Arizona. He is also survived by a brother: Allen (Pat) Walker of Manhattan, Kansas, and 2 sisters: Jolene (Jim) Evans of Olathe, Kansas and Marilyn Masen of Brain-tree, Mass.

Visitation will be from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas.

Funeral Services will be at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, 2019, at the First Presbyterian Church 801 Leavenworth Street, Manhattan, Kansas with Rev. R. Cam McConnell officiating. Inurnment will be at a later date in the Sunrise Cemetery, Manhattan, Kansas.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Boy Scout Troop #74 in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

Ann Elvie Gusafson

Ann Elvie Gustafson, age 90, died on Thursday, March 7, 2019 in Glendale, Arizona. Though her condition was not completely free from suffering and agitation, she died in a state of stillness and peace. Her body simply shut down after a long period of decline. In the morning of the day of death, the sound of songbirds was in the air.

Elvie was born on October 23, 1928 in Chicago, Illinois, the daughter of Johan Sundberg and Frida (Astrom) Sundberg, Swedish immigrants.

As a teenager, Elvie worked



at the Erie Neighborhood House, devoted to social work

and child welfare and founded by Reformer Jane Addams, in Chicago. Elvie graduated from North Park College in Chicago.

In 1953, she married Merlin Gustafson. She met Merlin at the Swedish Covenant Church she attended. He was teaching at North Park College. Merlin Gustafson went on to teach political science at Kansas State University from 1960 to 1991.

While living in Manhattan, Kansas, Elvie worked at Pawnee Mental Health Services, a social service agency, from 1980 to 1990. The relief of economic poverty by political

means was one of Elvie's guiding concerns. She expressed this concern in her professional work and in her work with various churches. She was a member of the First Lutheran Church from the mid-1970s until 2005.

Survivors include her brother, Rudy Sundberg of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and her two children, Berit Carrasco of Las Vegas, Nevada (an elementary school teacher) and Peter Gustafson of Glendale, Arizona (a consumer bankruptcy attorney). She has five grandchil-

dren: Javier Ahumada (Michelle Hofmann Ahumada); Erika Ahumada (Brian Weber); Christina Ahumada (Richard Beausoleil); Dana Gustafson; and Rene' Gustafson. She has two great-grandchildren: Annika Ahumada and Lillian Ahumada. A third great-grandchild, Noah Beausoleil, is due any day.

Funeral services are planned for 10:30 A.M. Thursday, March 21st, at the Walsburg Lutheran Church, northeast of Leonardville, Kansas, with Reverends Keith Wiens and

Kevin Larson officiating. Burial will follow in the Walsburg Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at the Yorgensen Meloan Londeen Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be left for the family by clicking on "Send Condolences" on this page.

Memorial contributions may be made to Lutheran World Relief and/or the Thich Nhat

Nanette Soper Kaup

Nanette Soper Kaup, passed away on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community.

She was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, the daughter of Ann H. Soper and Charles H. Soper.

On April 8, 1951, in Kansas City, Missouri, she was married to Charles K. "Chuck" Kaup. She graduated from Kansas State College in May of 1951.

She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma and P.E.O Sisters.

terhood, holding many offices in both groups. She was also a member of the First Presbyterian Church, a life member of the KSU Alumni Association, President's Club, Mike Ahearn Scholarship Club, Tower Club, Music Services Guild and a trustee of the KSU Foundation.

Nanette was a volunteer for Girl Scouts, was a Cub Scout leader and promoted junior golf. She was active with golf, bowling and bridge. She and her husband were avid travel-

ers.

She was the bookkeeper for the Kaup Furniture Store for many years.

Chuck preceded her in death in 2009.

Survivors include her son Steven Kaup and his wife Migette, her daughter Nancy Brosted and her husband Carl, and by her two grandchildren, Rachel and Brandon.

Cremation is planned with private family graveside services in Sunset Cemetery.

Margaret Johnson

Margaret Johnson, age 82, died on Tuesday March 5, 2019 at her residence in Manhattan, Kansas.

She was born on December 9, 1936 in Waubay, SD the daughter of Nels and Marsha (Painter) Peterson. Throughout her life, she was a Daycare Provider, Nurse's Aide and most of all a wonderful homemaker for her family.

Margaret was married to Kenneth Johnson in Waubay, SD. This union was blessed with 3 children: Donna, Diane and David.

She enjoyed playing cards with friends and family, was



well known as a great cook and loved to cook and bake for her

family. Margaret was also willing to help anyone in need and was very kind to everyone. She also had a deep love for God and lived her life following his word. Above all, she loved being with her family, especially the grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were her parents and her husband: Kenneth.

Survivors include her children: Donna Krumm of Manhattan, KS, Diane Johnke of Manhattan, KS and David Johnson of Longmont, CO; 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren and one on the way in May.

Planners in Kansas City suburb approve Islamic center

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (AP) _ A proposed Islamic center in a Kansas City suburb that could serve as a centralized location for Muslims on both sides of the state line has gained approval from planning commissioners.

The Overland Park Planning

Commission on Monday granted preliminary approval to the Islamic Center of Kansas for its plan to build a roughly 111,000-square-foot (10,300-square-meter) multi-use religious facility, the Kansas City Star reported. The move came after hundreds of residents pe-

titioned for the proposal to be delayed or dismissed.

The center's plans include a mosque, a K-8 school, a day care center and a banquet hall. The school would accommodate 270 students, while the day care could take in 110 children.

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Three Kansas City Area Hospitals Get Dinged By Medicare For High Complication Rates

By Dan Margolies
Kansas News Service

Three Kansas City-area hospitals are among 17 in Missouri and seven in Kansas that are being penalized by Medicare this year for high infection and patient-injury rates.

Truman Medical Centers, Research Medical Center and Belton Medical Center will see their Medicare payments reduced by 1 percent because of high rates of complications. It's the fifth year in a row Truman has been penalized.

The government began imposing the penalties five years ago under the Affordable Care Act as part of an ongoing effort to improve patient care. The quarter of hospitals nationwide with the highest rates get punished – even if their records have improved over the previous year.

Altogether, 800 general hospitals nationwide will see their Medicare payments cut. Pediatric, specialty, veterans and mental hospitals are not included.

The penalties are assessed based on rates of infections, blood clots, cases of sepsis, bedsores, hip fractures and other complications.

A frequent criticism of the program is that it doesn't take into account hospitals that treat the most fragile patients and pe-



The government began imposing the penalties five years ago as part of an ongoing effort to improve patient care. Bigstock

nalizes those that are the most diligent about testing for infections and other complications.

Academic medical centers like Truman often fare less well under the program because they tend to have higher numbers of patients with pre-existing infections or multiple conditions or both.

Leslie Carto, a spokes-

woman for Truman Medical Centers, noted that a large percentage of that hospital's patients have multiple chronic diseases.

"While Truman Medical Centers supports transparency and a system allowing patients and the community to have a complete understanding of the health care system they choose, we agree with groups like

America's Essential Hospitals and the American Hospital Association when they point out [the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services] does not fully take into account factors like concurring chronic disease, health literacy, access to transportation, difficulty obtaining medicine and other socioeconomic factors – which can send a misleading message to consumers," Carto said in a state-

ment.

A significant proportion of Truman's patients are uninsured or on Medicaid. Carto said the hospital expects to provide nearly \$150 million in uncompensated care this year.

A spokeswoman for HCA Midwest Health, which owns Research and Belton medical centers, did not immediately provide a comment.

The penalties are assessed under the government's Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction Program (HAC), one of three mandatory pay-for-performance programs created under the Affordable Care Act. The other programs penalize hospitals with high readmissions rates and award bonuses or penalties based on various quality measures.

Here are the 24 Missouri and Kansas hospitals being penalized this year:

- SSM Health St. Joseph Hospital-St. Charles
- SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital-Jefferson City, Jefferson City, Mo.
- Texas County Memorial Hospital, Houston, Mo.
- Research Medical Center, Kansas City, Mo.
- Truman Medical Centers

Hospital Hill, Kansas City, Mo.

Mercy Hospital Lebanon, Lebanon, Mo.

SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital, St. Louis, Mo.

Southeast Hospital, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

University of Missouri Health Care, Columbia, Mo.

Fitzgibbon Hospital, Marshall, Mo.

Christian Hospital Northeast-Northwest, St. Louis, Mo.

Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital, St. Peters, Mo.

Citizens Memorial Hospital, Bolivar, Mo.

SSM Health Saint Joseph Hospital-Lake Saint Louis, Lake St. Louis, Mo.

St. Alexius Hospital, St. Louis, Mo.

Belton Regional Medical Center, Belton, Mo.

Progress West Hospital, O'Fallon, Mo.

Via Christi Hospital, Pittsburg, Kan.

Geary Community Hospital, Junction City, Kan.

Stormont Vail Hospital, Topeka, Kan.

McPherson Hospital, McPherson, Kan.

Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital, Leavenworth, Kan.

Salina Surgical Hospital, Salina, Kan.

Via Christi Hospital St. Teresa, Wichita, Kan.

Kansas House Presses On With Tax Relief, Edges Closer To Showdown With Governor

By Stephen Koranda
Kansas News Service

The Republican-controlled Kansas House approved wide-ranging tax legislation Thursday. The measure would reduce sales taxes on food, which could help Kansans across the income spectrum. It would also give some big corporations a break, and that will likely spark a showdown with Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly.

Senate leaders introduced the initial version of the bill earlier this session in response to the federal tax overhaul of 2017. They pushed for the legislation to allow Kansans to continue itemizing on their state taxes even if they no longer do so on their federal returns because of larger standard deductions. They also wanted to free Kansas businesses from owing state taxes on overseas income that Congress incentivized them to repatriate.

Supporters of the proposal in both the Senate and the House said without it the federal tax cuts would trigger a state tax increase on businesses and people who itemize.

Opponents argued it amounts to a tax break for big business and the wealthy and would prompt the state to forfeit an estimated \$400 million in revenue over the next three years just as its finances are stabilizing.

"I understand the temptation to keep the money," Republican state Rep. Les Mason said during the House debate Thursday. "Are we going to do the right thing? Are we going to get this money back to the rightful owners?"

To make the legislation more



The Kansas House on Thursday debated who would benefit from a tax cut package and what it would cost the state. The measure is likely to be in Gov. Laura Kelly's hands soon. Stephen Koranda / Kansas News Service

palatable, House lawmakers bundled in a provision to cut the sales tax by 1 percentage point, which alone would lower state tax collections by around \$175 million over three years. Another added provision would offset that some by collecting more from online purchases, raising an estimated \$88 million during that time.

If lawmakers advance it with another vote, the bill will head to negotiations between the chambers to reconcile the changes made by the House.

Gov. Kelly hasn't explicitly threatened to veto the bill, but she has said that tax cuts should not be a priority right now. Instead, she said the Legislature should come up with

the money to satisfy the Kansas Supreme Court that school funding is adequate.

"It is time to put the priorities of Kansas families first and fund our schools," she said last month. "With a Supreme Court deadline fast approaching, the Legislature should be focusing on education, not another irresponsible tax plan."

The state's finances are on solid ground since lawmakers reversed many of the tax cuts passed in 2012. But, Kelly has said making major tax changes could cause a repeat of the fiscal troubles Kansas faced during former Gov. Sam Brownback's tenure.

In a way, the internet tax collections and food sales taxes are

a political dare legislators may drop in front of Kelly. The food sales tax cut and internet sales tax provisions appear quite popular and they could be used to pressure her to sign the bill into law or stoke criticism if she vetoes it.

"It's all about the hate of our governor," Democratic state Rep. Cindy Neighbor said on the House floor. "It's time to quit playing party politics."

Reducing the food sales tax has broad support as a way to benefit lower-income Kansans, but it never happens because of the huge financial cost to the state budget.

Some House members blasted the bill for only cutting the state food sales tax from 6.5

to 5.5 percent. Local sales taxes further raise the rate.

Uncertainty over the cost of the bill is also a sticking point, with supporters and opponents alike questioning the accuracy of the estimates.

"It's a shot in the dark," Republican Senate President Susan Wagle said earlier in the session. She wondered aloud how much Kansas could stand to lose if the legislation doesn't

pass and businesses leave the state for a more favorable tax climate.

The uncertainty is exactly why Democrat Jim Gartner opposed it Thursday in the House. Without knowing the true cost, he said the bill could put the state in dire financial straits if the country enters a recession.

"What are we doing?" he asked on the floor. "We have no data. No concrete data."

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Records Show Bruce Ohr Communications with Clinton-linked Fusion GPS and Steele

Judicial Watch

Big news. We just uncovered 339 pages of heavily redacted records from the Justice Department which reveal that former Associate Deputy Attorney General Bruce Ohr remained in regular contact with former British spy and Fusion GPS contractor Christopher Steele after Steele was terminated by the FBI in November 2016 for revealing to the media his position as an FBI confidential informant.

The records show that Ohr served as a go-between for Steele by passing along information to “his colleagues” on matters relating to Steele’s activities. Ohr also set up meetings with Steele, regularly talked to him on the telephone and provided him assistance in dealing with situations Steele was confronting with the media.

“Get Trump” Dossier author Steele worked for the Glenn Simpson’s Fusion GPS, the Hillary Clinton campaign/DNC contractor that also employed Nellie Ohr, Bruce Ohr’s wife.

We obtained the records through a March 2018 Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed after the Justice Department failed to respond a December 2017 request Judicial Watch v. U.S. Department of Justice (No. 1:18-cv-00490). The lawsuit seeks:

All records of contact or communication, including but not limited to emails, text messages, and instant chats between Bruce Ohr and any of the following individuals/entities: former British intelligence officer Christopher Steele; owner of Fusion GPS Glenn Simpson; and any other employees or representatives of Fusion GPS.

All travel requests, authorizations and expense reports for Bruce Ohr.

All calendar entries for Bruce Ohr.

We asked for records from January 1, 2015, to December 7, 2017. Of course, the emails between Bruce Ohr and Steele were heavily redacted, including some of the dates they were sent and received.

Here is a sampling.

On Friday, July 29, 2016, Steele emails Bruce Ohr about a meeting that is to include Bruce’s wife Nellie Ohr, who then worked for Fusion GPS, at the Mayflower Hotel:

Steele: Dear Bruce,

Just to let you know I shall be in DC at short notice on business from this PM till Saturday eve, staying at the Mayflower Hotel. If you are in town it would be good to meet up, perhaps for breakfast tomorrow morn? Happy to see Nellie too if she’s up for it. Please let me know. Best, Chris

Ohr: Dear Chris –

Nice to hear from you! Nellie and I would be up for breakfast tomorrow and can come into town. What would be a good time for you? Bruce

Steele: Thanks Bruce.

On me at the Mayflower Hotel, Conn Ave NW at 0900 should work but I’ll confirm the time for definite this eve if I may. Looking forward to seeing you. Chris

Ohr: Sounds good, but we



Associate Deputy Attorney General Bruce Ohr

won’t let you pay for breakfast! I’ll wait for your confirmation on time. Bruce

Steele: Let’s do 0900 then. See you in the lobby. Chris

Ohr: Very good. See you at 900.

On Saturday, July 30, 2016, Steele sends his thanks to Bruce Ohr for the meeting, “Great to see you and Nellie this morning.”

Ohr: Great to see you and Nellie this morning Bruce. Let’s keep in touch on the substantive issues/s. Glenn [Fusion GPS co-founder Glenn Simpson] is happy to speak to you on this if it would help. Best, Chris

On Friday, September 16, 2016, Steele and Ohr begin planning a meeting in the Capital Hilton:

Steele: Dear Bruce, I hope you are well. I am probably going to visit Washington again in the next couple of weeks on business of mutual interest. I would like to see you again in person and therefore to coordinate diaries. So when are you planning to be in town please? Thanks and Best, Chris

P.S. I don’t think I have up to date cell or landline phone numbers for you. Grateful if you could send met them.

Ohr: Hi Chris – It would be great to see you I DC. I’ll be out of town Sept 19-21 but should be here the rest of the time. My numbers are office 202 307 2510 and cell [Redacted] Let me know what works best for you.

Steele: Dear Bruce, I have now arrived in DC and am staying at the Capital Hilton, 1101 16th Street NW. I don’t know my client-related programme yet but am keen to meet up with you. Might we provisionally say breakfast on Friday morn or even tomorrow morn if necessary? Look forward to hearing back from you. Best, Chris

Ohr: Hi Chris

Would tomorrow for breakfast still work for you? My calendar is pretty good tomorrow morning, not so good on Friday. An early breakfast Friday, say 8 am?, would work too. Should I come to your hotel?

Bruce

Steele: Thanks Bruce. 0800 on Friday would still be better for me, at the hotel. More useful to all I think, after my scheduled meetings tomorrow. Thanks, Chris

Ohr: Chris – Perfect. I’ll see you Friday at your hotel at 8 am. Bruce

Bruce Ohr’s December 8, 2016, phone log shows he called Simpson for a meeting “tomorrow at 3.”

Bruce Ohr’s December 13, 2016, phone log shows he spoke with Glenn Simpson the day before and received “some more news.” The log also lists “Rod Rosenstein 5:48 pm.”

An exchange beginning December 11, 2016, between Bruce Ohr and Simpson shows them discussing a Daily Beast and a Think Progress article and setting up a phone call between them.

The documents we obtained show a string of encrypted text messages from January to November 2017, well after the FBI had terminated Steele, discussing a possible new point of contact should Ohr leave the FBI; a series of appointments for phone calls; and assurance that Ohr shared information with his “colleagues”:

On January 31, 2017, messages are exchanged between Bruce Ohr and Steele regarding fired acting Attorney General Sally Yates:

Steele: B, doubtless a sad and crazy day for you re-SY [Sally Yates]. Just wanted to check you are OK, still in situ and able to help locally as discussed, along with your Bureau colleagues, with our guy if the need arises? Many Thanks and Best as Always, C

Ohr: Bruce: Yes, a crazy day. I’m still here and able to help as discussed. I’ll let you know if that Changes. Thanks!

Steele: Thanks. You have my sympathy and support. If you end up out though, I really need another (Bureau?) contact point/number who is briefed. We can’t allow our guy to be forced to go back home. It would be disastrous all round, though his position right now looks stable. A million thanks. C

Ohr: Bruce: Understood. I can certainly give you an FBI contact if it becomes necessary.

On March 6, 2017, Senator Grassley wrote a letter to former FBI Director Comey regarding payments to Steele.

On March 7, 2017, messages are exchanged between Steel and Bruce Ohr about the Grassley letter:

Steele: Would it be possible to speak later today please? We’re very concerned by the Grassley letter and it’s possible implications for our operations and our sources. We need some reassurance. Many thanks

Ohr: Bruce: Sure Would 1:30 today, DC time, work?

Steele: Yes thanks it would... I know you’ll appreciate why we are concerned.

Ohr: Bruce: Of course.

Ohr: Bruce: My Skype app is acting up. Can we use the Whatapp [sic] voice call?

Ohr: Bruce: I think my skype is working now if you want to call me.

Steele: Thanks for that, old friend. Please do fight our cause and keep in touch. Really fundamental issues at stake here. Very Best

Ohr: Bruce: Likewise, hang in there!

An exchange beginning on March 18, 2017, mentions apprehension regarding Comey’s scheduled March 20, 2017, testimony before Congress and hopes that “important firewalls will hold”:

Steele: Hi! Just wondering if you had any news? Obviously we’re a bit apprehensive given Comey’s scheduled appearance at Congress on Monday. Hoping that important firewalls will hold. Many thanks,

Ohr: Bruce: Sorry, no new news. I believe my earlier information is still accurate. I will let you know immediately if there is any change.

Beginning on March 24, 2017, following Comey’s testimony, Ohr and Steele discuss “our response”:

Steele: Hi Bruce, ... we understand an approach from the Senate Intelligence Committee to us is imminent. I would like to discuss this and our response with you in the next couple of days if possible. Please let me know when might suit? Many thanks and Best, Chris

Ohr: We can chat this weekend if you are available. Would sometime on Sunday work for you? I’m pretty open.

Steele: Thanks Bruce. Let’s speak on Sunday eve UK time, maybe 1400 or 1500 EST if that works for you? Best

Ohr: Bruce: 1400 east coast time on Sunday will work. Thanks and talk with you then.

On March 30, 2017, Steele

writes to Bruce Ohr about concerns with Senate Intelligence Committee leaks:

Steele: Hi Bruce, any news? The Senate Intel Committee is leaking like a sieve [Redacted] Hopefully speak soon. Best, Chris

Ohr: Chris, no news on this end, aside from what I’m reading in the papers. Just amazing. [Redacted] Let me know if you would like to talk.

In May several messages are exchanged regarding scheduling calls ending on May 15, 2017, with Bruce Ohr confirming that he spoke with the FBI and will update Steele:

Ohr: Bruce: thanks again. I chatted with my colleagues and can give you an update when you have a minute.

On July 16, 2017, Steele asks Bruce Ohr to pass on information, and Ohr agrees:

Steele: Hi Bruce, hope you’re enjoying the summer. [Redacted] Please pass this on as appropriate. Crazy week over there just past! Best, Chris

Ohr: Bruce: Hi Chris, it’s good to hear from you. Hope all is well. I will pass this along to my colleagues. Thanks!

On October 26, 2017, Steele says he’s “very concerned” about documents the FBI intends to turn over to Congress “about my work and relationship with them.”

Steele: Hi Bruce. Can we have a word tomorrow please? Just seen a story in the media about the Bureau handing over docs to Congress about my work and relationship with them. Very concerned about this. Peoples live may be endangered [sic]. [Redacted] Thanks, Chris

On October 30, 2017, Steele writes that he spoke to Simpson about information discussed with Bruce Ohr:

Steele: Bruce, having spoken with Glenn [Simpson] in London today, I now understand and appreciate what you were talking about on Saturday. Love and Best Wishes to you, Nellie and all the family.

On November 18, 2017, Steele and Ohr plan to discuss “difficulties and uncertainty” via Whatsapp:

Steele: Dear Bruce, I hope you and the family are well. It’s been another tough week here under the media spotlight and with legal pressures bearing down on us. I am presuming [redacted]. Also, we remain in the dark as to what has been briefed to Congress about us, our assets and previous work. I know you understand the importance of all this and have done your very best to support us, but we would be grateful if you could continue to [Redacted]. Sincere thanks for everything you are doing and I hope to speak to you again soon. Best, Chris

Ohr: Chris, thanks for reaching out. I understand the diffi-

culties and uncertainty you are experiencing. I [redacted]. Let’s plan to talk early in the week – Bruce

Steele: Hi Bruce, is there any chance we could have a catch-up Whatsapp call this eve GMT, maybe around 1500 with you? Otherwise tomorrow eve GMT? Many thanks, Chris

Ohr: Bruce: Chris – I have a meeting ending at 1500 today that might spill over a few minutes. Would 1515 work for you?

Steele: Yes, of course. C

Ohr: Bruce: I will call you then.

The documents also show that Nellie Ohr sent numerous emails and reports to Bruce Ohr and other Justice Department officials on Russia issues.

These smoking gun documents show that Christopher Steele, a Hillary Clinton operative and anti-Trump foreign national, secretly worked hand-in-glove with the Justice Department on its illicit targeting of President Trump

These documents leave no doubt that for more than a year after the FBI fired Christopher Steele for leaking, and for some 10 months after Donald Trump was sworn in as president, Bruce Ohr continued to act as a go-between for Steele with the FBI and Justice Department. The anti-Trump Russia investigation, now run by Robert Mueller, has been thoroughly compromised by this insider corruption.

Earlier, we released 412 pages of documents about FISA (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act) warrants targeting Carter Page, who had been a Trump campaign adviser, which seem to confirm that the FBI and DOJ misled the courts in withholding the material information that Hillary Clinton’s campaign and the DNC were behind the “intelligence” used to persuade the courts to approve the FISA warrants that targeted the Trump team.

We revealed that the Justice Department (DOJ) admitted in a court filing that the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court held no hearings on the FISA spy warrant applications targeting Page, who was the subject of four controversial FISA warrants.

We also uncovered documents showing that Steele was cut off as a “Confidential Human Source” (CHS) after he disclosed his relationship with the FBI to a third party. The documents show at least 11 FBI payments to Steele in 2016 and document that he was admonished for unknown reasons in February 2016.

We have more documents coming and more lawsuits pending on this Deep State collusion to target President Trump, so stay tuned ...

Judicial Watch Sues DOJ for Records on Effort to Roll-back Trump Decision to De-classify Russia Probe Documents

The Deep State bureaucracy is adept at covering up misconduct by government officials –

Continued on page 25

Continued from page 24 ... Records Show Bruce Ohr Communications with Clinton-linked Fusion GPS and Steele

especially the misconduct related to the illicit spying on and targeting of President Trump. This is why Judicial Watch's independent lawsuits to pry loose information on this assault on the rule of law are essential.

We just filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the Department of Justice for records about the agency's involvement in persuading President Trump to defer his September 2018 decision to declassify DOJ documents related to the Russia investigation.

Our lawsuit is also seeking DOJ official Bruce Ohr's records of communications around the time of Trump's declassification announcement. Ohr, once the fourth-ranking official at DOJ, was a key conduit between anti-Trump dossier author Christopher Steele and the FBI.

We filed the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia after the DOJ failed to respond to a September 18, 2018, FOIA request (Judicial Watch v U.S. Department of Justice (No. 1:19-cv-00507)). Judicial Watch seeks:

Any and all records regarding, concerning, or related to the proposed declassification of certain Department of Justice records as ordered by President Trump on September 17, 2018. The request includes, but is not limited to, any and all related records of communication sent by or addressed to any official, employee, or representative of the Department of Justice.

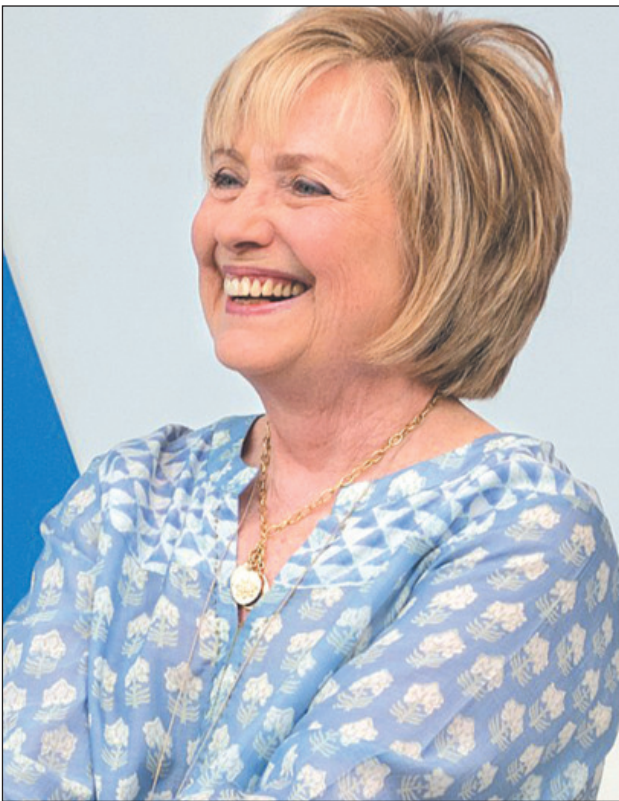
Any and all emails or other records of communication sent by or addressed to DOJ official Bruce Ohr between September 16, 2018 and September 18, 2018.

On September 17, 2018, President Trump ordered the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) and the Justice Department to declassify certain documents related to the investigation of possible meddling by Russia in the 2016 election. The documents included FBI reports on interviews with Ohr; pages of an application for a renewed surveillance warrant against Carter Page; and all FBI reports of interviews prepared in connection with all other applications to surveil Carter Page. Also included are text messages of Ohr, former FBI agent Peter Strzok, former FBI lawyer Lisa Page, former FBI Director James Comey and former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said that Trump ordered the documents released "at the request of a number of committees of Congress, and for reasons of transparency."

On September 21, 2018, President Trump tweeted: "I met with the DOJ concerning the declassification of various UNREDACTED documents. They agreed to release them but stated that so doing may have a perceived negative impact on the Russia probe. Also, key Allies' called to ask not to release."

In a follow-on tweet, President Trump said: "Therefore, the Inspector General ... has been asked to review these documents on an expedited basis. I



Hillary Clinton (Above) "Get Trump" Dossier author Steele worked for the Glenn Simpson's Fusion GPS, the Hillary Clinton campaign/DNC contractor that also employed Nellie Ohr, Bruce Ohr's wife.

believe he will move quickly on this (and hopefully other things which he is looking at). In the end I can always declassify if it proves necessary. Speed is very important to me — and everyone!"

The documents have not yet been declassified.

The UK's Telegraph reported that the British spy agency MI6 had urged Trump not to declassify the documents.

We have little doubt the Deep State DOJ is improperly trying to cover-up FISA abuse and other Russia hoax documents that President Trump initially ordered declassified. President Trump should immediately declassify these documents in order to expose any other abuses by the DOJ and FBI. Regardless, Judicial Watch will continue to press for the truth through the courts in the ongoing Deep State scandal.

Obama Holdover Fires Journalists Over Report Critical of Soros

Two years into the administration of President Trump we have a holdover Obama appointee firing government employees in seeming retaliation for a report critical of the leftwing billionaire activist George Soros. The story involves your own Judicial Watch, as our Corruption Chronicles blog reports.

At the request of a scandal-plagued Democratic senator tried for bribery and corruption, the head of the government's international media networks is abusing his office to punish employees behind a broadcast critical of leftwing billionaire George Soros. U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) Chief John F. Lansing, an Obama appointee, is utilizing Stalinist techniques to retaliate against the journalists and producers involved in the Spanish-language segment which aired in May 2018 on Television Martí and was available for months online. Eight

reporters and editors at the taxpayer-funded media outlet have been fired and Lansing has ordered a review of all content to address "patterns of unethical, unprofessional, biased, or substandard journalism."

An employee at the Miami, Florida-based Martí headquarters said in a local newspaper report "the environment that has been created by the upper hierarchy of the Agency for Global Media is repressive. People write with fear. Adjectives are no longer used."

Television Martí—and its radio counterpart—operate under the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) and comprise one of the USAGM's five international multimedia networks. The others are Voice of America (VOA), Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Radio Free Asia and Middle East Broadcasting. The media outlets get about \$685 million a year from American taxpayers and reportedly reach 345 million people worldwide in 59 languages. The global media agency was created to counter disinformation spread by oppressive regimes abroad. The USAGM website states that its mission is "to inform, engage and connect people around the world in support of freedom and democracy." Television and Radio Martí were created to promote freedom and democracy by providing the people of Cuba with objective news and information programming.

The Soros broadcast focused on his efforts to cripple sovereign governments in Latin America. Judicial Watch was cited as a source because it investigated State Department funding of Soros groups in Colombia and published a report on Soros' initiatives to advance a radical globalist agenda in Guatemala. Judicial Watch also released a special report documenting the financial and staffing nexus between Soros' Open Society Foundations (OSF) and the U.S. govern-

ment. In that document, Judicial Watch connects the dots between U.S.-funded entities and OSF affiliates to further the Hungarian-born philanthropist's agenda seeking to destabilize legitimate governments, erase national borders, target conservative politicians, finance civil unrest, subvert institutions of higher education, and orchestrate refugee crises for political gain. A few years ago Judicial Watch exposed a scheme in which the U.S. government spent millions of dollars to destabilize the democratically elected, center-right government in Macedonia by colluding with Soros' OSF.

More than five months after the Spanish-language Soros broadcast aired on Television Martí, the segment caught the eye of disgraced New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez. In an October 31, 2018 letter to Lansing, the senator orders an immediate investigation into the Soros broadcast as well as an audit "on patterns of unethical and unprofessional reporting" at OCB. Menendez also smears Judicial Watch, stating that the Soros segment had "no credible sourcing" and "occasionally cites only a fringe website." Lansing uses similar language in a mainstream newspaper article about the recent Martí firings over the Soros video. "The person developing the Soros story was using Judicial Watch as a source as I understand it —

the story was not only poorly sourced, it relied heavily on one less-than-credible source," Lansing says in the article, which states that "Soros has emerged as a leading boogeyman on the right."

Menendez, who serves on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee despite his sordid history, blocked President Trump's nomination last year to replace Lansing as USAGM chief. A few years ago, Menendez was charged with federal bribery and corruption stemming from his relationship with a crooked south Florida eye doctor that lavished him with cash, gifts and trips in exchange for political favors. The eye doctor, Salomon Melgen, got convicted of stealing \$73 million from Medicare and was sentenced to 17 years in prison. Menendez got off because jurors were unable to reach a verdict and his trial ended in mistrial. His colleagues on the Senate Ethics Committee determined that the veteran lawmaker not only violated senate rules, but also federal law and applicable standards of conduct. In a public letter of admonition, the committee writes that over a six-year period Menendez knowingly and repeatedly accepted gifts of significant value from Melgen in violation of senate rules and federal law. "Additionally, while accepting these gifts, you used your position as a Member of the Senate

to advance Dr. Melgen's personal and business interests," the committee writes.

Menendez has been embroiled in other corruption schemes throughout his political career and Judicial Watch has served as a credible source in uncovering them. As far back as 2007, Menendez was investigated by a federal grand jury for illegally steering lobbying business to his former chief of staff Kay LiCausi, with whom he was also romantically linked. In just a few years, her firm reported \$1.3 million in business with nearly \$300,000 coming from a New Jersey medical center that was later awarded government funding thanks to a push from her former boss and lover.

In 2010, Menendez and his colleague in corruption, New Jersey Democrat Frank Lautenberg, allocated \$8 million for a public walkway and park space adjacent to upscale, waterfront condos built by a developer whose executives donated generously to their political campaigns. Perhaps not so coincidentally, the developer's Washington D.C. lobbyist was a longtime senior aide to Menendez. The senator was also embroiled in a hooker scandal in the Dominican Republic with his incarcerated eye doctor pal and he hired an illegal immigrant sex offender to work in his senate office.

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