



Manhattan Free Press

Vol. 21 Number 44

An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper

Thursday, April 25, 2013

City of Manhattan



Kansas State University held their annual Open House Saturday. Visitors were invited to explore the campus during a carnival-like event. All of the different colleges at the University had display and events. Here the K-9 Search Team shows off one of its working pets.

Kansas State's Erik Kynard Named Athlete Of The Week

Kansas State high jumper Erik Kynard posted the No. 1 jump in the world this season outdoors on Saturday at the Mt. SAC Relays and was honored by the USTFCCCA on Monday being named the NCAA Division I National Athlete of the Week.

Kynard was up against a very strong field with multiple Olympians and went toe-to-toe with 2011 IAAF World Champion Jesse Williams and

Canadian Michael Mason with all three clearing 2.31 meters (7-07.00). Kynard was the only one of the three to clear on his first attempt and went on to jump 2.34 meters (7-08.00) on his third attempt and win the competition.

The leap of 2.34 meters is the best mark in the world so far this outdoor season and ties his own school record. It also broke the Mt.SAC Relays meet

record that was previously held by Hollis Conway at 2.32 meters (7-07.25)

Dartmouth's Abbey D'Agostino was recognized as the USTFCCCA Women's National Athlete of the Week for her performance at the Mt. SAC Relays as well after posting the No. 3 in-season collegiate mark in history in the 5,000 meters.

Rifle Club Wins NCK League

The 2013 North Central Kansas Gallery League Awards Dinner was held April 11, 2013 in Longford. The Manhattan Rifle Club was the League Champion with 8 wins and 0 losses. The League is composed of teams from Abilene, Delphos, St. John's Military School and Wichita. Teams shoot two matches against each of the other teams.

Wade Stroda, Manhattan, was the League Champion with a 284.7 average out of 300 points possible in the 3 Position 50 foot indoor small bore matches. Kerry Moore, Riley, was the High Expert with 272.3 points. Megan Hilbish, Emporia, was the High Junior Shooter with 272.3 points. Richard Lundquist, Manhattan, was the High Sharpshooter with 257.0 points. Sally Stroda was the third place Marksman with 228.8 points and was recognized for improving by 13 points over her 2012 average. Matt Plummer, Wamego, was the third place Intermediate Junior with 231.0 points.

Members also received their awards from the Kansas State Indoor Championships held March 7-9 at the St. Johns Military School in Salina. Stroda was the Junior State Champion with 557 points of 600 possible. Hilbish was the 1st place Junior with 547 points. Hilbish and Stroda were the 1st place Junior team. Juniors shot 20 shots in prone, standing and kneel-



Manhattan Rifle Club Members pose with their awards after the North Central Kansas Gallery League Awards Dinner held in Longford on April 11, 2013. Pictured left to right are Wade Stroda, Manhattan; Kerry Moore, Riley; Richard R. Lundquist, Manhattan; Richard Gray, Manhattan; Matthew Plummer, Wamego; and Sally Stroda, Manhattan. Not pictured is Megan Hilbish, Emporia.

ing at 50 feet indoor on the USA 50 target with iron sights only. The adults shot 20 shots in prone, standing and kneeling with iron sights and the same course of fire with any sight for 1200

possible points. Moore was the Sharpshooter Champion with 1034 points. Lundquist was the 2nd place Marksman with 928 points. Moore and Lundquist were the 2nd place

NBAF

Moran Quesitons Janet Napolitano

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This week, U.S. Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) asked Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano for her assessment regarding the need for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) during a U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security Hearing.

Sen. Moran asked Secretary Napolitano to update the subcommittee regarding what the state of Kansas is doing to make this project more affordable for the federal taxpayer. He also asked Sec. Napolitano to discuss the immediate need and threat Americans face if construction of the facility fails to move forward.

Sen. Moran: (0:14) "You and I've had conversations at many hearings, both in the Authorizing Committee, and in the Appropriations Subcommittee and Full Committee, in regard to the National Bio and Agro Defense Facility, which is included in the president's budget request. I want to take a moment and have you indicate why now that request is there, why it's important, and perhaps what the alternative is, the cost of Plum Island, I'd like for you to explain to the committee why that is an expensive proposition, and why the administration decided to move forward in this request."

Secretary Napolitano: (0:57) "Well, and I must say, Senator, and I think you could tell from the other questions, the demands on the department in our budget for large-scale capital investments, recapitalizing the fleet, another icebreaker, and so forth, are very substantial. And with sequester, and the fiscal environment, and the Budget Control Act, it is very, very tough out there."

About The Need For The Bio And Agro-Defense Facility

(1:24) "But over the last four-plus years that I've been secretary, I have been reviewing the literature, and the need for a new facility for — to protect the nation's food supply, but also to help us protect the nation on a security basis from the types of threats that require a so-called Level 4 laboratory. It's also clear to me that Plum Island, the current facility is neither big enough, nor advanced enough, where plowing a billion dollars into it ultimately makes any sense. You just simply can't."

(2:29) "It's been peer-reviewed. It's been sent back for a re-review by a number of scientific bodies. Every step along the way, that has been complied with."

Sen. Moran: (3:23) "Madam Secretary, a couple of questions again about NBAF: Would you inform the subcommittee about the original nature of the state of Kansas' contribution to the project, and its more recent determination to assist at a greater level? ... The NBAF facility was called for nine years ago in the report that followed 9/11. And a sense for associated costs with continued delay? Do you have thoughts about that? And secondly, would you outline for the subcommittee what the state of Kansas is doing to make this project more affordable for the federal taxpayer?"

Secretary Napolitano: (4:19) "Well, the state of Kansas has increased their contribution to the NBAF. I think they're now north of \$300 million that they are putting in. When you combine that with the federal investment, you pay for a \$1 billion+ facility...Every delay in this project adds cost. Every one of the double checks and the triple checks we've done to make sure that all the criteria are met — and I know this is a big deal project, so we want to be very careful here — has added expense and cost to the project."

Secretary Napolitano: (5:01) "We know we need it. We know we are not positioned in the long-term to deal with these kind of biological threats without it. And delay only in the end postpones the inevitable at cost."

Sen. Moran: (5:17) "In your capacity as the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, do you have information that validates the belief that these threats exist — that they are real, they're not imaginary — and that they have the potential of having significant consequences to the health and safety of Americans, as well as significant economic consequences if we are unable to prevent and/or respond to those threats?"

Secretary Napolitano: (5:45) "Well, the threats in this area can be both from a human adversary and from Mother Nature, quite frankly. So, without going into intelligence or anything like that, we can ascertain that the risk is very much with us — it's with us now — and we know that the existing facility we have is too small and too antiquated to take us where we need to be."

Obituaries

Wanda Lee Navarro

Wanda Lee Navarro, age 83, of Manhattan, Kansas, died April 22, 2013, at the Good Shepherd Hospice House in Manhattan.

Wanda was born on March 29, 1930, in Ogden, Kansas, the daughter of John H. Gieber, Sr. and Lela M. (Cummings) Gieber who preceded her in death along with siblings: Doris Ray, LeRoy Gieber, Jake Gieber, LaVerta Christopherson, and Pauline Hannah. She is survived by her brother John H. Gieber of Ogden.

She graduated high school from Scared Heart Academy in 1947.

Wanda was a wonderful wife, mother and homemaker. Competitive by nature she enjoyed golf and her bowling leagues. She loved crafts such as ceramics and knitting. She was always proud of her Ogden heritage and served on the

Ogden City Council for many years. She was a member of the Ogden American Legion Auxiliary. Wanda lived life to its fullest. Most of all she adored her family, especially her grand and great grandchildren.

Wanda was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Ogden, and a lifetime member of the Altar Society. She served on the St. Patrick's parish council, and was an active Lector and Eucharistic minister. She was passionate about her Catholic faith and sharing her religion with her family and friends.

She was married to Roy R. Stehr for 54 years, he precedes her in death. They share 4 surviving children. Son: Larry L. Stehr and his wife Sonya, of Baton Rouge Louisiana, Daughters: Elizabeth A. Glessner and her husband Steve, Reyne S. Lehman and

husband Ron, and Jolene F. Campbell and husband Eddie, all of Manhattan, Kansas.

Wanda was blessed to have found love a second time in her life. Survived by, Manuel (Ray) Navarro, they have shared 9 wonderful years together, here in Manhattan, KS.

Also surviving are eight grandchildren: Niki Rakowitz and husband Dan, Shay Franklin, Clayton Campbell, Suzette Murphy and husband Paul, Codi Potts and husband Prentes, Sarah Stehr, Brent Lehman and Maree Lehman. She is also survived by eight great grandchildren: Zachary, Danyel, Abigayle, Andrew, Kylenna, Dylan, Raegan, Caybren, along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family whom she all loved dearly.

The family will receive friends from 6:30 until 7:30 P.M. Friday at the Yorgensen-

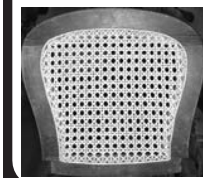
Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home. A Christian Wake Service and Rosary will be held at 7:30 P.M. Friday in the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home Chapel.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held 10:00 A.M. Saturday at the St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Ogden, Kansas with Father Joseph S. Popelka as Celebrant. Interment will follow in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Ogden, Kansas.

A memorial has been established for Wanda L. Navarro at St. Patrick's Church or The Good Shepherd Homecare and Hospice. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

Online condolences may be left for the family through the funeral home website at www.ymlfuneralhome.com.

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References upon Request

Dona-Rose Katherin Hackerott

Dona-Rose Katherin Hackerott, 81, of Manhattan, Kansas, died peacefully on April 15, 2013, at Good Shepherd Hospice House in Manhattan. Born September 12, 1931, in Ogden, Kansas, she is predeceased by her parents, Walter L. Hewes and Laverne J. Allen, step-father Manuel J. Novak, and triplet children, two boys and one girl, born and deceased in December 1961. She was married to Fredrick William Hackerott on April 10, 1959, at First Lutheran Church in Manhattan.

Dona-Rose was a homemaker and mother. Blind from the age of 12, she acquired Tawny, her first Seeing Eye dog, in 1973. Her partnership with Tawny opened a whole new world of independence for her. She began attending psychology classes at Kansas State University as a "non-tradition-

al" student. Always active in local and State associations for the blind, she worked especially hard to pave the way for other blind individuals with dog guides. Always seeking a new and stimulating endeavor, she acquired her license as a ham radio operator in 1993 and quickly became the Net Controller of a Tuesday night "net."

Her many creative endeavors included caning chairs, hooking rugs, knitting, and especially crocheting. Her creative interests led her to found Crafty Seniors +, a group of local artists and craftspeople, still active today. Up until the date of her death, she regularly crocheted lap robes to donate to residents of local nursing homes. Her passion for crocheting turned into a small cottage industry of sorts, and for many years she was affectionately referred to by the nick-

name of "the poop-duck lady." A strong and creative spirit, unfailingly cheerful, patient and tolerant; a strong, wise, and always-loving mother; a true-blue friend with a ridiculously huge silly streak; a compassionate and interested listener who never judged; a lover of animals, hot-fudge sundaes, and dance-skating. She loved to laugh, she loved her family, she loved her dog(s). She had the utmost faith in her God. Her highest and constant wish always, that her family and her friends be happy.

Dona-Rose is survived by her husband, Fredrick (of the home); her sons Gary (Linda) Grubbs, Michael (Donna King) Moore, Lonny (Jean) Moore; and daughter Jody (Art) Gibney; brothers Buck (Kay) Hewes, Dean (Debbie) Hewes, Bobby (Barb) Hewes, Eugene Hewes; and sister Sheila (Richard) Johnston; grandchil-

dren Brandon (Dawn-Marie) Grubbs, Michelle (Ryan) Markvicka, David (Jessica) Wakefield, Lonny Moore, Jr., as well as seven great-grandchildren and many close friends.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude to Good Shepherd Hospice House and its many lovely and kind staff for their care and support in her final days. In lieu of flowers, Dona-Rose has requested that donations be made to Second Chance Animal Refuge Society, P.O. Box 22, Auburn, KS 66402. Donations may also be made in Dona-Rose's name to Kansas Specialty Service Dogs, 124 W. Street, Washington, Kansas.

A celebration of Dona-Rose's life was held at First Lutheran Church, 930 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan, on Monday, May 13, 2013, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.; interment followed at the Columbarium Wall at the Veterans Cemetery, 5181 Wildcat Creek Rd., Manhattan.

Online condolences may be left for the family through the funeral home website at www.ymlfuneralhome.com

The Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502 is assisting the family with the funeral arrangements.

Ruth M. Cramer

Ruth M. Cramer, age 98, of Manhattan, Kansas, died Tuesday evening, April 16, 2013, at the Mercy Regional Health Center in Manhattan.

She was born on February 25, 1915, in Dickinson County, Kansas the daughter of Ralph B. and Myrtle E. (Cress) Cooley. Ruth graduated from St. George High School, St. George, Kansas in 1933.

In 1934, she was united in marriage to Albert H. Cramer in Marysville, Kansas and they soon moved to Manhattan to make their home.

Mrs. Cramer was a longtime Bookkeeping Machine Operator for various businesses in Manhattan including Griffith Lumber and the Kansas Farm Bureau. She then took her skills to Kansas State University where she went to work in the Physical Plant and later for the Chemistry Department. She was also a wonderful homemaker.

Mrs. Cramer was a member of the First United Methodist Church and former member of the Manhattan Lady Elks, the Jim Beam Bottle Collectors Club and a local Antique and

Classic Car Club. Ruth enjoyed collecting dolls, music, dancing, knitting and quilting. She will also be remembered fondly for the wonderful meals she prepared when hosting family dinners.

Ruth and her husband enjoyed traveling. They traveled extensively throughout the United States and had traveled to Canada, Mexico and in 1984 to Ireland. Ruth had also enjoyed a cruise to Alaska. For the past 11 years she had spent her winters in McAllen, Texas at Paradise Park where she enjoyed excursions to Padre Island with her family.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1986, by her brothers: Ralph Verl Cooley, Joseph C. Cooley, Oliver R. Cooley and her sisters: A. Pauline Ballentine, Frances E. Schmoe and Helen Walker. She was also preceded in death by one grandson, Mark Tessendorf in 2002.

She is survived by her daughter, Carolyn R. Tessendorf and her husband Don of Manhattan, Kansas, one sister: Bessie "Liz" Price; Victorville, CA, her grandson:

Steven D. Tessendorf; Evansville, IN and two great granddaughters: Lauren A. Hurstell and her husband Doug; Houston, TX and Katherine E. Tessendorf; Evansville, IN. Also surviving is one brother-in-law: Floyd Schmoe; Ottawa, KS and one sister-in-law: Marge Cooley of Lecompton, KS. Numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews also survive.

Funeral services were held 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 23, 2013, at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Chapel with Reverend Ben Duerfeldt officiating. Interment followed in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

On-line condolences may be left for the family through the funeral home website located at www.ymlfuneralhome.com.

Memorials have been established for the National Stroke Association and for the First United Methodist Church. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

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Free Press Second Front

Tuttle Creek Dam Will Be 50 This Year

Blue River Valley Residents Defend Their Land

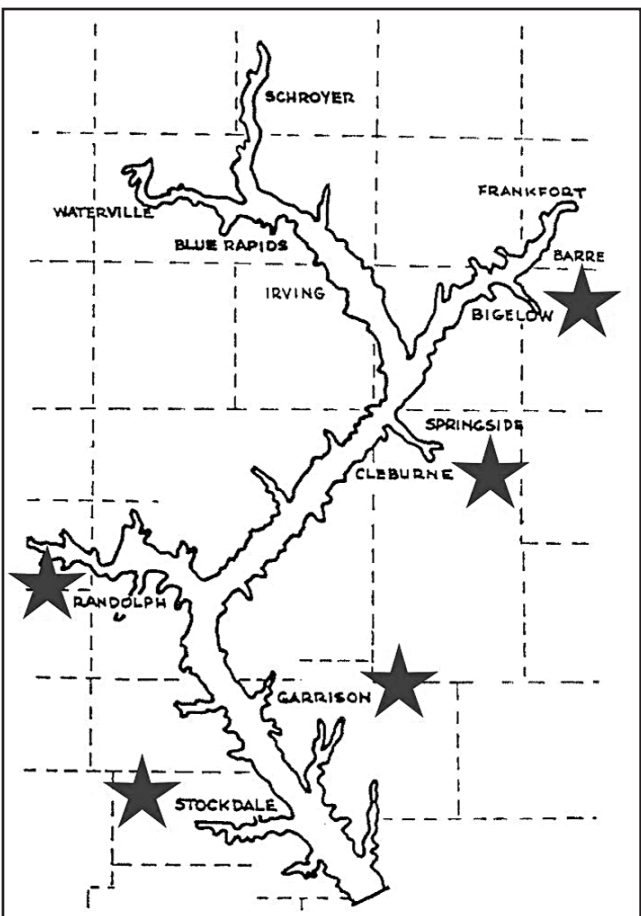
The Blue River Valley lies north of Manhattan, Kansas. The residents were primarily farmers who worked their land in the hopes of improving life for themselves and their children. Like many Kansans of the time, the residents of the Blue Valley had not been actively involved in politics.

In March 1938 a committee of the U. S. House of Representatives first discussed building Tuttle Creek Dam. Discussion of the flood control project continued in Washington, D.C. for many years without money being appropriated for the building of the dam. The people of the Blue Valley became aware of the looming threat of a large dam and reservoir flooding their peaceful valley.

The Blue Valley Study Association gathered information concerning the monetary and social impact of the destruction of the valley and presented it at each of the meetings they attended.

“To Whom It May Concern:”

The Blue Valley Study Association unanimously opposes the construction of the



The Stars represent the towns lost to the dam.

Tuttle Creek Dam at its present proposed site for reasons listed in the brief. All facts and figures herein

presented were gathered in 1944 through a comprehensive survey of the rural and urban areas affected, and were revised in 1947 in the light of current prices. . . .

The Association has agreed upon counter proposals, which are respectfully submitted for the serious consideration of the proper authorities.

Agriculture Destruction Would Be Too Great

- Initial farm losses would total \$11,276,556
- Farm lands including at least 55,000 acres valued at \$8,250,000 would be taken out of production all or part of the time with a great part inundated permanently
- Farm buildings and permanent fixtures valued at a total of \$3,026,556 would have to be abandoned
- Only the most valuable and most productive land would be purchased by the federal government leaving thousands upon thousands of acres of pasture land in the surrounding hills which would be of comparatively little value without the bottom land that produces the necessary grain and feed

crops

Possible Damage to Land Below the Proposed Dam

- An annual recurring loss of \$6,121,233 would begin building up year after year if and when the land is taken out of production, since livestock and crops produced for market reach that figure annually
- In 1947 the 55,000 acres in question produced for market: 10,541 head of cattle valued at \$1,054,100 125 horses and mules valued at \$6,019 1,690 sheep—\$23,660

In addition to the figures above there would be the loss of crops corn, wheat, oats barley, flax, soybeans, rye, kafir, brome, alfalfa native hay

Total recurring loss of \$6,121,233,000

Losses in the five small towns that would be inundated

Residential property

Business property

Garrison	\$28,450
Stockdale	\$17,500

\$2,500	Randolph	\$236,300
\$267,000	Cleburne	\$75,050
\$62,500	Bigelow	\$45,000
\$50,000	Total Losses	\$402,300
\$404,250	Social Destruction	
	• 1,500 persons would be forced to leave farms	
	• 230 town homes would be inundated along with 80 businesses	
	• Many schools, churches, cemeteries, and public utilities would have to be moved or covered with flood waters.	
	Miscellaneous Destruction	
	• Gravel plant—\$75,000	
	• Union Pacific Railway losses (in addition to moving or abandoning the line)—\$1,041,358	
	• Kansas Power and Light Company (moving of electrical lines, etc.) —\$410,000	
	• Highways K-13, K-113, and K-16 along with numerous county and township roads would have to be relocated.	

Farmers Resist Food Regulations

Whiting, Ks. - Earlier this year, the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) proposed a series of four regulations impacting food businesses and food sales. The first three proposed regulations received little resistance, but the fourth generated a flood of calls and letters from concerned farmers market managers, farmers, food businesses, and consumers across the state. That regulation (K.A.R. 4-28-35) would adopt requirements for exempt food sold directly to the end consumer; in other words, direct sales to consumers from farmers market type settings.

“The flood of concerns has moved KDA to announce that it will table the fourth regulation (K.A.R. 4-28-35) in order to fully address the public comments received,” stated Cole Cottin Local Food Field Coordinator for Kansas Rural Center. “KRC received a lot of phone calls and e-mails on this issue, and we are pleased with KDA’s response to the public’s concerns.”

KDA’s scheduled public hearing for all four of the proposed regulations will go on as planned on April 23, but they have stated they will not pass the fourth regulation at this time, as they anticipate proposing a revised version of it in the near future.

But why all the worry? K.A.R. 4-28-35 proposed to “clarify what foods could be sold by exempt food establishments directly to the end consumer at farmer market type settings.” What foods are those? The proposal states, “Exempt foods may include: cookies, breads, cakes, cinnamon rolls, and fruit pies; cereals and granola; popcorn and popcorn balls; cotton candy; roasted coffee beans; candy; whole fresh or dried fruits and vegetables; herbs; nuts; honey; dried mixes from a licensed processor that are repackaged; jams, jellies, and fruit butters; and bottled flavored vinegars.” That list includes many but not all types of food that farmers and food businesses currently sell to end consumers across Kansas. But that is not where the concern lies.

According to several farmers’ market vendors, it is K.A.R. 4-28-35’s attempted governance of how those exempt foods should be sold that has generated the most resistance. The draft regulation reads: “Exempt food shall be sold only in a package or wrapping that protects the food from contamination and shall not be sold from a bulk container. Each package or wrapped item of exempt food shall be labeled with the following information in a color that contrasts the background and in at least eight-point font...”

Upon reading this language, Lawrence produce and grain farmer, Jill Elmers, threw her hands into the air and declared, “Well, that would be the end of my career selling at farmers markets!”

Farmers and food entrepreneurs are concerned about more than the logistical challenges of marketing 100% packaged and labeled foods to the end consumer. Tamara Werth, a baker from Lawrence, submitted the following laundry list of negative impacts K.A.R. 4-28-35 could have:

“increased environmental waste, increased expense to vendors, increased cost to consumers, hindrance of small businesses development, damaged product quality, compromised spirit of farmers markets...”

Werth adds that the proposed requirement for un-licensed food vendors to display a sign reading “the home kitchen or facility where the exempt food is prepared is not subject to routine inspection by the Kansas Department of Agriculture,” is fear based. She sees no evidence of food safety risks posed by unpackaged foods sold at market.

Did the proposed regulations really intend to transform “farmer market type settings” across Kansas into seas of plastic or other labeled packaging, covering everything from tomatoes and basil to cotton candy and local chestnuts? Did KDA envision an end to vendors’ cascades of abundant zucchini, onions, potatoes, or other items typically sold from bulk bins?

“No,” commented Rick Scheufler, a KDA staff attorney interviewed for this article. “It was never the intent for KDA to require the bagging of every sweet potato or squash.” Scheufler conceded that the deluge of public comments revealed a flaw in either the drafting of the regulation or in the method of disseminating information to the people.

submit written comment on the proposed regulations prior to the public hearing, scheduled for April 23, 2013, 1:30 p.m. at the Department of Agriculture. Public comment will be accepted for all four proposals. K.A.R. 4-28-6, 4-28-33, and 4-28-34, would adopt risk levels, fees, and other requirements for licensed food establishments and define food businesses exempt from licensure. But the fourth proposal, K.A.R. 4-28-35, will not be passed at this time. KDA anticipates proposing a revised version of it in the near future.

Proposed regulations may be found at <http://www.ksda.gov/statutes/index/249>. Written comments on the proposed regulations may be directed to the Secretary of Agriculture, 109 S.W. 9th, 4th Floor, Topeka, 66612, or by email at leslie.garner@kda-ks.gov.

this proposal would effect, or both. “That is why we will not move forward with adopting 4-28-35.”

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Over Easy

“No government ever voluntarily reduces itself in size. Government programs, once launched, never disappear. Actually, a government bureau is the nearest thing to eternal life we’ll ever see on this earth!” Ronald Reagan

You know why we love the guy so much? He made sense easy and oftentimes humorous. And on this subject, his view is a far cry from what we are hearing around town about the size of local government - particularly from our elected officials concerning anything that might suggest rationalizing the burden. We know because we’ve been actively listening.



Bob Strawn

First was the city commission campaign at which this writer spent his candidacy pretty much solely on the subject of “local government unification.” You noticed how well that went, right? Then former mayor and Kansas House Speaker Kent Glasscock published a thoughtful column here and in The Mercury calling for a consolidation study. He later described the feedback as akin to being in a deep dark hole. Nada! Not to go unnoticed, The Mercury itself wrote a splendid editorial supporting Mayor John Matta’s call for a consolidation study. Silence!

So, never being one to accept that silence might actually mean, “Shut up, Bob!” I started asking people directly. One wise friend - over coffee at Ray’s - said that “consolidation” starts with the same letter as “control.” And people fear the centralized authority that comes from both. Well, I get that. It’s a legit concern that would need to be addressed particularly for those in the outlying county.

But what do the elected believe? What makes Reagan’s premise so logical right here in Manhappy? Here’s how someone close to the elected and their staffs sees it.

vors concept that might risk losing this well-paying job and allied benefits.

Commissioner two: talks a lot but is intellectually lost in the subject.

Commissioner three: relies on an old study to kick the can down the road.

Commissioner four: does not want city ordinances creeping into county.

Commissioner five: waiting for the Chamber of Commerce to take a stand.

Mayor and commissioners 7 and 8: essentially favor the proposition of a blue ribbon study.

And, of course, the city and county staffs are not at all enamored with the concept, as it would certainly cause questions and chaos in their lives. We include the RCPD in these interest groups, as the last thing the police want is an actual boss questioning their decisions. Their position is not unlike the former stand-alone Health Department before it was placed back under county control. By the way, how’s that financial transition to the county going, gentlemen? Um, I better leave that for another day. We’ll run out of ink.

Anyway, there it stands. The mayor and a couple other commissioners - which I lumped into one group of eight above - well those three officials, have a tough road to hoe. And folks, silence is their enemy. Or per-



haps it’s your friend depending on how you see the issue. Yet for conservatives, many of you who read this paper, you who claim to support smaller, more efficient government, that’s closer to the people, this proposition should be quite clear. We should commission this study. And your silence is not helping get that done, my friends. Reagan was right. And so was Martin Luther King, Jr. “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

Guest Editorial: Electric Rate Shift

Lawrence Journal-World

Westar Energy’s latest rate-increase request represents a major shift in the burden for supporting the utility from large customers to individual consumers.

Ask and ye shall receive. Especially if you’re Westar Energy Inc.

The cheering on one sideline comes from medium and large businesses and schools. The mumblings and exclamations of discontent come from residential customers, small businesses and, unlikely as it might be, probably Kansas City Power & Light.

The current concern is Westar’s request to the Kansas Corporation Commission to raise an additional \$31.7 million annually by boosting rates for its residential customers — and lowering them for some 5,500 business customers. According to figures compiled by the Citizens Utility Ratepayer Board, medium and large businesses will see their rates decline between 6 percent and 8.4 percent, resulting in about \$36 million less revenue for Westar. At the same time, however, rates for residential customers will go up by 8.77

percent, resulting in an additional \$62 million for Westar. Increased rates for small business will contribute another \$21.5 million.

Westar and KCP&L jointly own the coal-fired power plant at LaCygne. Ironically, and perhaps unfairly, Westar probably will get a 10 percent return on its investment (approved by the KCC in Westar’s last case) for its share of the upgrades, even though KCP&L was allowed only a 9.5 percent profit on its investment at the same facility. Ask and ye shall receive.

The simultaneous shifting of the rate burden from large users to individuals and families is a disturbing trend that mirrors the shifting of the state tax burden in Kansas. Already we’ve seen corporations freed from paying income taxes while individual wage-earners continue to get soaked. Also, that sales tax increase that supposedly was to sunset this year seems likely to stay in place.

This most recent request from Westar is one in a chain of approved and pending increases that accelerated starting in 2009. They involve general rates, transmission-line rates, environmental rates, energy efficiency rates, a property-tax surcharge, “wind costs in fuel charges,” and on and on. The utility gets a tidy 10 percent profit.

On the other hand, assuming all the pending requests are authorized, typical Lawrence residential customers will see their summer electric bills go from \$123 in 2008 to \$196 this year, a 59 percent increase.

Altogether, those increases represent more than half a billion (with a B) in resources not available for individuals to save or spend on education, purchases to cycle through the local economy, or just plain fun. It’s time for Kansas utility customers to stand up to climbing rates.

Unlike Westar, they may not get everything they want, but they should at least ask!

Local Home Sales Up

Manhattan area home sales rose by 1.6 percent in the 1st quarter of 2013 compared to the same period the prior year, according to new figures released by the Manhattan Association of REALTORS®. Sales totaled 127 units in the 1st quarter, up from 125 units

in 2012.

Across the Manhattan area, there were 249 active listings at the end of the quarter. Supply of new and existing homes on the market - which is determined by taking the number of active listings and dividing by the number of sales - represents

5.9 months.

The average sale price last quarter was \$194,054, compared to \$189,930 in the 1st quarter of 2012. This represents an increase of 2.2 percent. The median sale price last quarter was \$187,000, compared to \$178,500 for the same period last year. The median price is the value for which half of the homes sold for more and half sold for less.

Kathleen McPeak, President of the Manhattan Association of REALTORS® added, “Our steady growth reflects the strength of our local economy. With record low interest rates, it’s still a great time to purchase a home.”

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Riley County Commission Minutes

**The Board of County Commissioners
Of Riley County, Kansas**

The Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners met at the Riley County Plaza East Building April 11, 2013 with the following members present: Dave Lewis, Chair; Robert Boyd, Vice Chair; Ron Wells, Member; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk.

8:30 Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment, Commission Comments, & Business Meeting

Clancy Holeman, Counselor /Director of Administrative Services; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/ Deputy Clerk; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Robert Nall, Information Technology/GIS Director; Vern Henricks, CEO, Greater Manhattan Community Foundation; and Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

Henricks reported the Community Health Foundation is within \$2,400.00 of meeting the \$12,500.00 grants matching funds. Henricks said our \$12,500.00 will bring \$25,000.00 additional in state funding. Henricks said commitments are needed by April 15th, 2013 and funds are needed by July 1st, 2013. Henricks said the City of Manhattan has verbally committed \$2,000.00.

Shepek suggested that any contributions come from the Healthy Families budget.

Boyd moved to contribute \$2,000.00 to the Community Health Foundation for the Healthy Communities Initiative Grant. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Hobson said the disc golf

step increase for the 2014 budget preparation.

9:08 Boyd moved that the Riley County Commission recess into executive session pursuant to the non-elected personnel matters exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act in order to discuss a performance matter involving a county employee and to protect the privacy of the employee, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 9:30 a.m. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:32 Boyd moved to go out of executive session. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

9:32 Eileen King, Treasurer Clancy Holeman, Counselor/ Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

King presented monthly revenue reports.

9:40 Lyle Butler, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce

Trent Armbrust, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Greg McHenry, Appraiser; Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

Butler discussed the \$714 million in the President's budget for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) at Kansas State University.

Butler discussed local economic development projects.

Armbrust discussed the Continental Mills Company project at the previous Quaker Oats mill in the Green Valley Industrial Park in Pottawatomie County.

Boyd moved to approve the minutes of April 8, 2013 as amended. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

10:00 Tour Courthouse Building

Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Jerry Howard, Facility Supervisor; Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; and Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services, attended.

The Board of County Commissioners toured the Riley County Courthouse.

1:00 Tour Plaza Buildings

Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Jerry Howard, Facility Supervisor; and Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services, attended.

The Board of County Commissioners toured the Riley County Plaza office buildings.

3:19 Boyd moved to adjourn. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

**The Board of County Commissioners
Of Riley County, Kansas**

The Regular meeting of the

Board of County Commissioners met at the Riley County Plaza East Building April 15, 2013 with the following members present: Dave Lewis, Chair; Robert Boyd, Vice Chair; Ron Wells, Member; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk.

8:30 Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment, Commission Comments, & Business Meeting

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/ tive Services; Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Robert Nall, Information Technology/GIS Director; Julie Winter, Public Works Office Manager; Dawn Shoffner, Assistant Director of Technology; Allen Todd, Appraisal Analyst; Norwin Palmer; and Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters, attended.

Palmer, 5884 Tuttle Creek Boulevard, expressed concern with flooding on his property. Palmer said he has underground fuel tanks, which are subject to flooding. Palmer asked the commissioners to assist him with KDOT to correct the flooding problems.

Holeman recommended the Board wait until the development plat approval process to decide whether to address the matter with KDOT.

Palmer said the State is doing a study on the drainage now.

Boyd said April 26, 2013 the Flinthills Regional Council will meet at the Riley County shops.

Boyd moved sign a Contract for Annual Registration with the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Rural Health Education and Services, Kansas Recruitment and Retention Center. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Shoffner discussed upgrades to the Riley County website.

Nall said funding for the website redesign is in the IT budget.

9:00 Bob Isaac, Planner Clancy Holeman, Counselor /Director of Administrative Services; Jason Anderson; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters, attended.

Isaac presented the final plat of the Anderson Addition.

Wells moved to approve "Resolution No. 041513-15, A Resolution approving the Anderson Estates plat and accepting the street rights of way, easements, and licenses as shown to be dedicated on said plat." Boyd seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:14 Bob Isaac, Planner

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/ Director of Administrative Services; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters, attended.

Isaac said on March 11, 2013, the Riley County Planning Board completed their statutorily mandated annual review of the Comprehensive Plan for Riley County and recommended no changes at this time. Isaac said staff recommends that the Board receive the memo submitted by the Riley County Planning Board regarding their review.

Boyd moved to accept the Annual Review of the Riley

County Comprehensive Plan. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Boyd moved to sign a letter to Vern Henricks, CEO of the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation stating the Board of Riley County Commissioners pledges \$2,000 toward the "Healthy Communities Initiative." Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Boyd moved to approve the minutes of April 11, 2013 as amended. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Teener said the Community Gardens would like an additional 15 tons of compost.

9:30 Press Conference

Cheryl Collins, Museum Director; Jennifer Wilson, County Extension Director; Linda Teener, UFM; Gregg Eyestone, County Extension Agent; Pat Collins, Emergency Management Director; Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury; and Doug Schmitt, Assistant Fire Chief, attended.

C. Collins said the Riley County Historical Society will hold its quarterly dinner meeting Monday, April 29th at Pottorf Hall, 1710 Avery Avenue, at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$12.00 and reservations must be made by calling 785-565-6490 by April 22nd. The program will feature stories of the Girl of the Gumbo, Erma Sebring, long time Manhattan humorist and newspaper columnist. The program will begin about 7:15 p.m. No reservations are necessary for the program, which is free. Everyone is welcome to attend both the dinner and the program.

Wilson reported the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site did 451 federal returns and 478 state returns for \$46,000 in tax payments and \$600,000 in tax refunds.

Wilson said the value of the VITA program is estimated at \$90,000 to the community.

Tenner discussed the progress of the UFM Community Garden at Collins Lane.

P. Collins introduced Doug Schmitt as the Assistant Fire Chief.

P. Collins discussed controlled burns.

Eyestone discussed planting warm season vegetables in May. Eyestone said he will have a Warm Season Vegetable Program Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Pottorf Hall.

Boyd reported the City of Riley will pick up debris placed by the curb April 22- April 24, 2013. Boyd said the Riley County Household Hazardous

Waste Department will be in the City of Riley on April 27, 2013 to pick up hazardous waste from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 (noon) in the parking lot of the municipal pool on Walnut Street. Boyd said materials must be sorted appropriately.

10:10 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

Administrative Work Session Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

10:10 Boyd moved that the County Commission recess into executive session on potential litigation for the purpose of consultation with an attorney for the County Commission which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 10:25 a.m. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

10:25 Boyd moved to go out of executive session. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

Boyd moved to implement the counsel's recommendation. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

10:27 Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/ Director of Administrative Services; Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

Shepek presented Health Department March financials.

10:45 Pat Collins, Emergency Management Director

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/ Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

P. Collins discussed the renew/upgrade of the ProQA software.

P. Collins said the premium service will provide additional training needed by the dispatchers to maintain their certification. The invoice for \$9,745 includes a breakdown of the services and the resources.

Holeman said if the purchase is approved he would like it to be contingent on it being a statutorily allowable expenditure of 911 funds.

Boyd moved to approve the

See Minutes page 6

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Kansas State Holds On For A 3-2 Victory Over OSU

KSU Sports Information
STILLWATER, Okla. — Freshmen pitchers Blake McFadden and Jake Matthys kept Oklahoma State at bay and Jared King blasted a tie-breaking home run in the sixth inning as Kansas State held on to defeat the Cowboys, 3-2, Sunday at Allie P. Reynolds Stadium.

K-State, which salvaged the final game of the series, improved to 28-13 and 7-5 in Big 12 play. It marked the first regular-season win over Oklahoma State since 2010 and the first victory in Stillwater since 2009. OSU dropped to 27-11 and 7-7 in league action.

McFadden allowed only two runs over the first four innings, but the right-hander ran into trouble in the fifth as he surrendered a leadoff triple to Gage Green. After Green was thrown out at the plate on a one-out fielder's choice, McFadden issued a walk to put two runners on base in a 2-2 ballgame.

With two outs, K-State brought in Matthys (6-0) and the Spring Lake Park, Minn., native ended the threat with a ground ball out. Matthys worked around a leadoff double in the sixth inning and a leadoff infield single in the ninth while tossing a season-high 4.1 scoreless innings with no walks and three strikeouts.

"Two freshmen went out and showed great composure today," head coach Brad Hill said. "They made pitches and hit their spots. Those two guys really set the tone for us. We just let Jake ride. He kept throwing good stuff. He did what they did to us — he was able to throw changeups and breaking pitches in hitter's counts. You could see they were out front and confused, which made it a lot easier for us."

Matthys, who retired nine-straight batters until the ninth-inning single, now has the most wins in a season by a Wildcat relief pitcher in the Big 12 era. Matthys is one win away from tying the record for victories by a K-State freshman.

McFadden worked a solid 4.2 innings, allowing a first-inning run on a fielder's choice and a one-out solo home run in the fourth inning by Robbie Rea, his third of the series. McFadden finished his stint giving up four hits with a walk and three strikeouts.

"Blake made one mistake," Hill said, "but he came right back with strikes. He competed, and that's what it was all about today."

King, who saw a steady diet of changeups and curve balls in his first two at-bats which resulted in a foul out and a walk, crushed a 0-1 off-speed

pitch over the wall in left field to open the sixth and give the Cats a one-run lead. It was King's sixth home run of the season, including his third in the last five games.

"He got a mistake that stayed up," Hill said of the pitch. "He was a little more timed on that one. They made a mistake and he got it."

King's 21st career home run put him within one of reaching the top-10 list at Kansas State.

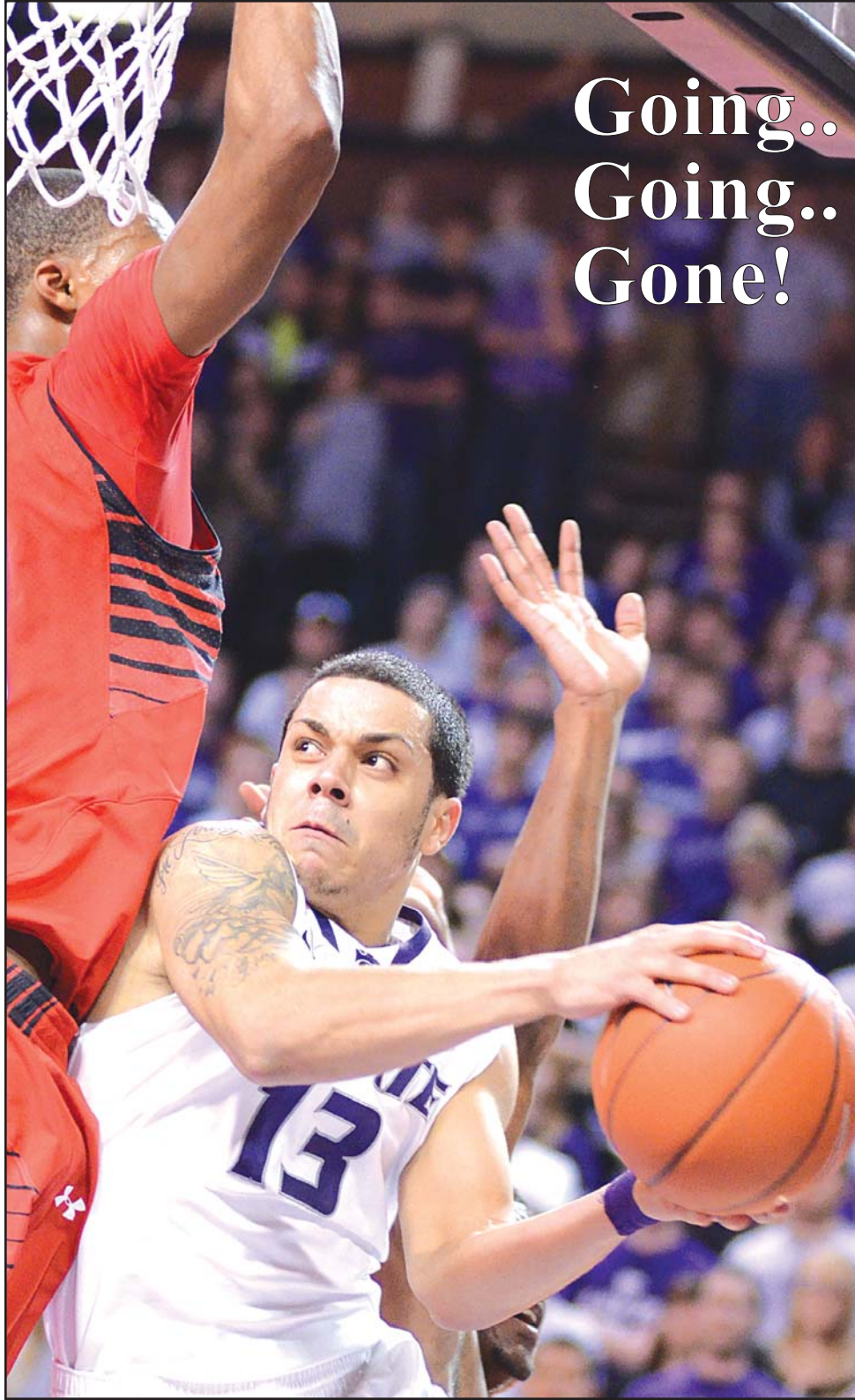
Blair DeBord began the scoring for K-State in the first inning with a two-out RBI single to right field. Austin Fisher then laced a run-scoring single up the middle to make the score 2-0. It was the first of three hits for Fisher, matching his career-high.

Tanner Witt also recorded two hits, his team-leading 19th multi-hit game of the year. Witt now has a career-best 60 hits this season, while his 153 career singles are 10th in school history.

Oklahoma State starting pitcher Tyler Nurdin (0-2) suffered the loss in a five-inning outing with four walks and two strikeouts. Rea was the only Oklahoma State hitter with a multi-hit game as he went 2-for-4.

The Wildcats conclude their eight-game road trip Tuesday night as they travel to Lincoln, Neb., to take on Nebraska. First

Going.. Going.. Gone!



Miami has quickly emerged as the front-runner for Kansas State Second Team All Big 12 player Angel Rodriguez. The 5-foot-11 point guard's family lives in Puerto Rico. He elected to leave Kansas State on Monday and stated he wanted to be closer to his family. (Photo by Ben Brake)

Matthys Named Big 12 Newcomer Of The Week

MANHATTAN, Kan. — On the heels of a career-long 4.1 scoreless inning effort Sunday at No. 27 Oklahoma State, Kansas State freshman right-hander Jake Matthys has been named the Big 12 Newcomer of the Week, the conference office announced Monday.

The designation marks the first of Matthys' career, while he is the third Wildcat to pick up weekly conference honors this season. Tanner Witt was named the player of the week on March 25 and Jon Davis earned the same accolade on April 8. Matthys is the first K-State player to earn newcomer honors since Joe Flattery on

May 21, 2012.

Matthys began his week by tossing a perfect ninth inning with a strikeout Tuesday night at Wichita State to register his third save of the year. On Sunday in Stillwater, Okla., the right-hander was called upon in the fifth inning of a 2-2 ballgame with the go-ahead run on base. After inducing a ground ball to get out of the inning, Matthys worked around a lead-off double in the sixth and a leadoff infield single in the ninth to shut down the Cowboys over the final four innings.

Matthys, who at one point retired nine-straight batters,

allowed only the two hits with no walks and three strikeouts as he bettered his previous long outing of 2.1 innings against George Mason on February 21. The Spring Lake Park, Minn., native also threw 58 pitches in the contest, 22 more than his previous career high.

Matthys' performance Sunday gave him his sixth victory of the year, the most by a Wildcat relief pitcher in the Big 12 era, and he is now one win away from tying the K-State freshman record. Matthys, who holds a 6-0 record, yielded only a .111 opponent batting average over his 5.1 scoreless innings last week.



Jared King takes a good cut at a fast ball. (Photo by Ben Brake)

Minutes

from page 5

annual service payment for ProQA for \$9,745 and would be paid from Riley County 911 fund contingent on statutory review of the expenditure. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

11:00 Chris Darrah, Dara's Fast Lane

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Trent Armbrust, Chamber of Commerce; Charlie Bush; and Maura Wery, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

Darrah discussed local businesses concerned with where property taxes are going and where it ends.

Bush discussed concerns with valuation increases.

McHenry discussed the commercial property valuation process.

12:00 Law Enforcement Agency Meeting

1:30 Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk

1:30 Boyd moved that the

Riley County Commission recess into executive session pursuant to the non-elected personnel matters exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act in order to discuss a performance matter involving a county employee and to protect the privacy of the employee, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 2:30 p.m. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

2:30 Wells moved to go out of executive session. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

2:50 Boyd moved that the Riley County Commission recess into executive session pursuant to the non-elected personnel matters exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act in order to discuss a performance matter involving a county employee and to protect the privacy of the employee, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 3:50 p.m. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

3:50 Boyd moved to go out of executive session. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

Vargo said the Health Department has asked to participate in "Denim Day" by allowing Riley County staff to wear jeans on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 in support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The Board of County Commissioners by consensus agreed Riley County staff can wear jeans on April 24, 2013 to participate in "Denim Day" in support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Volanti asked if the Board will grant 2.5 hours of administrative leave for Riley County staff to attend Larry George's funeral services.

The Board by consensus agreed Riley County staff will be granted up to 2.5 hours of administrative leave to attend Larry George's funeral services.

4:16 Boyd moved to adjourn. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.



Damion Lovato take a turn at the plate. (Photo by Ben Brake)

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