



Priceless
Take One

Prairiewood Private Retreat Opens

After several years in development, Prairiewood Private Retreat & Preserve has announced its Grand Opening. Situated just outside Manhattan, Prairiewood offers first-class accommodations with meeting space and over 250 private acres of native tallgrass prairie. Assembled by Kail and Becky Katzenmeier of Capstone Development Group, Prairiewood began as a dream to protect some of the undisturbed prairie landscape west of Manhattan. "Then we began to envision Prairiewood as a way to showcase the unique beauty of the Flint Hills", said Kail Katzenmeier, "We wanted it to be one-of-a-kind in every way...from the abundant facility, to the premium guest service, to the magical setting." Located just two miles west of Manhattan, Prairiewood contains a private guest residence with multipurpose meeting and reception space, luxurious bed and bathroom suites, abundant amenities and stunning views. Use of the property's many trails through woods, prairie, fishing ponds and Wildcat Creek are



The Prairiewood pool.

also included with the facility. When combined with the private swimming pool, hot-tub and basketball sport-court on site, Prairiewood offers many options for the recreation-minded. By limiting its use to one guest group at a time, experiences can be custom-tailored to meet the specific wishes of each guest. Events already scheduled at Prairiewood include K-State game day accommodations, corporate retreats,

The banquet room.



wedding rehearsal dinners and receptions, family reunions, Christmas parties and board meetings. "We even have a cross-country team coming for a three-day stay. The possibilities are really endless.", said Prairiewood Director Leah Graves, "We want to be the perfect venue for those seeking a truly distinctive experience." For more information contact Prairiewood Private Retreat & Preserve at 785.537.9999 or visit www.prairiewoodretreat.com.

Linda Teener Receives Leadership Award

Linda Inlow Teener, executive director of UFM Community Learning Center in Manhattan, is the recipient of the 2010 Susan M. Scott Community Leadership Award from Kansas State University's School of Leadership Studies. "Linda Teener has an extraordinary record of service, and continues to lead change and build community," said Mary Hale Tolar, director of the School of Leadership Studies. "We are delighted to have this opportunity to recognize Linda's outstanding community leadership." "This award is named for the founding director of leadership studies at K-State, Susan Scott, and was established to honor those whose leadership is focused on bringing progressive change to communities," said Candice Hironaka, senior associate director for student, alumni and community relations at the School of Leadership Studies. The award will be presented April 19 at the School of Leadership Studies' Spring Celebration.

Teener has been president and executive director of UFM Community Learning Center for more than 19 years, and has been involved in program development for 35 years. Her specialty is creating programs to serve social service and outreach needs in the community. Teener's first program was the "Ring-a-Day" Program for the elderly, created while she was an undergraduate at K-State. The program is still available today in Manhattan through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, or RSVP. Teener was the first director of the Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center, created the alcohol and drug services program at K-State, worked in mental health outreach, and brought the Manhattan Big Brothers Big Sisters program to national accreditation status before joining UFM Community Learning Center as executive director. As executive director, Teener has directed the growth of UFM programs from about 100 classes each semester to the current 300-plus noncredit offerings and 70 classes that carry K-State credit. Participation in UFM activities has more than doubled under her leadership, with 29,000 people involved last year alone. Currently, Teener is providing leadership in establishing KONZ-FM, an independent, volunteer-run, noncommercial community radio station to be licensed to UFM Community Learning Center. The theme of the radio project is "building community through radio." UFM has received a Public Telecommunications Facilities Program grant for \$291,926 for the station and is working to match the grant by the required 25 percent. Teener also often conducts workshops and seminars on volunteer management, grant writing, fundraising and other nonprofit management topics. She has been a grant reviewer for the U.S. Department of Education. Teener earned a bachelor's in social work and a master's in counseling and education, both from K-State.

He Started His Career With Flip Of A Coin

By Tom Throne
Kansas Publisher

Where does the time go? It seems like yesterday that I accepted the gavel from outgoing president Dave Powls at the annual convention in Wichita. I want to thank the board of directors as well as the KPA staff led by Doug Anstaett for making my year a great one. The association remains on sound financial footing. Thanks to the efforts of our lobbyist Rich Gannon and Doug and the assistance of several key legislators, we were able to pass a shield law to protect reporters and their sources. That's been a long, hard fight. In addition, it appears we were able to stave off another attempt to eliminate public notices in our papers. In both instances, the active involvement of our members by making phone calls and visits to our lawmakers paid off. Thanks for that assistance. For me, the conclusion of my term as KPA president will mean a major change in the lives of my family. My wife, Pam, and I have decided to move to Arkansas to be closer to our daughter and her family, especially our 4-year-old grandson. I don't know what the future holds for me, but I will always cherish my time serving as your KPA president as well as the nearly 38 years that I have spent in newspaper business. I started in Junction City as a photojournalist fresh out of the University of Kansas in 1972. My roommate, Greg Sorber, another photojournalist, and I found two job postings. One was in Leavenworth and the other in JC. We flipped a coin to see who was



Tom Throne, 2009-10 president of the Kansas Press

going to go where. Greg won, interviewed in Leavenworth and got the job. I went to JC, interviewed and got the job. I stayed nearly nine years, eventually becoming the managing editor. I met my wife, a Kansas State student at the time, while working there and we've been married nearly 37 years. Our daughter was born in Manhattan in 1975. I've gotten to cover some great stories such as the 1982 murder of Ken Rex McElroy — the town bully who was gunned down on the streets of Skidmore, Mo., in broad daylight in front of about 60 people — when I was the managing editor at Maryville, Mo. No one saw who did it and the case remains unsolved to this day. We had the opportunity to meet journalists from around the world,

including "60 Minutes" correspondent Morley Safer, who we invited to our company picnic but he was a no-show. Every once in a while on A&E's City Confidential you can see my 20 seconds of fame on TV discussing the case. As a managing editor and later publisher or a general manager at three newspapers, one of my greatest joys is being actively involved in the community. As the recipient of the Boyd Community Service Award in 1988, I've always believed that community service is an important way to improve and support our communities. Some of the best and brightest people in a community work at our newspapers and we have an obligation to community service. One example that comes in mind is a program we started in McPherson. There was a need by the Community Resource Council, a consortium of

social agencies, for funds to help families whose needs fell through the cracks of regular funding. At The Sentinel, we started a Christmas Fund in the mid-1990s to raise funds for the council. It has grown from a modest beginning of \$1,500 to more than \$15,000 today, thanks in large measure to the leadership of Gary Mehl, who followed me as publisher at McPherson. That is the power of community involvement by our newspapers. We've all been involved in the development of employees. Nothing pleases me more than watching new employees grow in their capabilities and then take those capabilities to new endeavors. There is a certain satisfaction in knowing that I helped in some small way. Over my years, I've seen them become editors, publishers, media relations folks, great writers and in one case, a novelist. As I move to Bentonville, Ark., later next month, I will always cherish my time serving the KPA in a variety of ways from legislative director, daily director, treasurer, vice president and now president. More importantly, I will cherish the great friendships that I have made over the past 37 years. Thank you for that opportunity. Tom Throne is president of the Kansas Press Association and editor and general manager of the Junction City Daily Union. The Daily Union prints the Manhattan Free Press and the Blue Rapids Free Press for Publishers Jon and Linda Brake.

Doctor Zero: For the Love of Capitalism

Posted by Doctor Zero
on April 6, 2010

Socialism always seems to have a marketing advantage over capitalism. This is not surprising, because socialism is a deeply romantic notion: a dangerously seductive dream of prosperity as a function of justice, where the wise redistribute the profits of the wicked to care for the needy. Socialism's promises are so alluring that questions about its poor performance are dismissed as rude. It is a childish philosophy, and like any errant child, it receives a limitless supply of forgiveness and second chances. Capitalism rarely enjoys such wonderful advertising. To the academic, it seems vulgar, while the politician flatters his constituents by promising they can rise above crass materialism... by placing material concerns in the hands of politicians. In truth, capitalism is the chisel free people use to carve their dreams from the stone of history. Without it, we are "free" only to beg for the bounty of the State, and complain when it fails to deliver. Freedom is only a theory, when it lacks a practical means of expression. Freedom of speech without property leaves us

doodling in the sand, instead of carving our will into stone. We should be more forceful in declaring our love for capitalism. It should be a mature love, born of respect for its power and virtue, not a starry-eyed romance. For example, we should be thankful that capitalism is merciless. That might seem like a strange thing to celebrate, but it's the reason we haven't been subsidizing buggy-whip and vacuum tube production for decades. Left to its own devices, the free market doesn't waste energy propping up the production of unwanted goods for sentimental reasons... or because the manufacturers of those goods are politically powerful enough to extract subsidies from the public. We should also be grateful that capitalism is heartless. Sentimentality is expensive, especially when other people are taxed to pay for it. The lawful governance of a vast nation requires cold logic, and iron obedience to Constitutional discipline. The unsustainable programs bleeding us into fiscal ruin were sold to voters with emotional appeals. The architects of the entitlement state do not use children as props because they want you

to think carefully about their proposals. Emotion is a terrible basis for allocating resources. The essential tool for addressing disaster and poverty is wealth, which is created by transactions between citizens. Money is the tool that makes our time valuable to one another. A rich nation can afford to provide for the unfortunate, and develop goods that make everyone's life better. The "heartless" efficiency of capitalism is the best way to coordinate our skills and resources, producing the fountain of value that nourishes us all. Capitalism deserves praise for being ruthless. One of the fundamental delusions of the Left is that wealth creation is easy. Many politicians have never run a private-sector business. They don't appreciate how much savage effort it takes to build a profitable enterprise, or how many tough decisions must be made along the way. The ability to insulate themselves from accountability is one of the primary skills of the political class. The ability to strip away such insulation is a key attribute of successful business management. The difficult battles of enterprise leave some broken competi-

tors on the field, but they produce countless victories for consumers. Capitalism should be honored for its chaos. The markets are illuminated with the random genius of competitors free to gamble on thousands of solutions. The stale ideology of the statist is no match for this wild power. A politicized economy cannot be brilliant, because it finds too many alternatives unthinkable. It cannot inspire progress, because it works backward from the conclusions of ideology. When the State nationalizes an industry, it declares a product to be "above" the petty business of trade... and something which cannot be traded loses its value. The socialist destroys value by declaring something to be "free." There's no reason to expect growth amid the fiery destruction of value. Finally, capitalism should be appreciated for its ambition, which the socialist falsely classifies as "greed." Greed involves taking wealth from others. That's what socialists do... and it should not escape your notice that the top dogs in a socialist government live extremely rich lifestyles, even when they preside over nations trapped in desperate poverty.

Ambition is the electric hunger for possibility, shared by entry-level workers and titans of industry alike. We are rich when a banquet of possibility is placed before us. The total State represents the dissolution of possibility. It is defined by what it tells the populace they must do, or cannot do. Compulsory taxes, extracted to fund mandatory benefits, reduce your options for investing the profit of your labor. The all-consuming government that forced ObamaCare upon you is destroying the value of your time. Our children will find little possibility in a future of crushing debt and decaying entitlements, where they are told what they must purchase... and what they must settle for. The spirit of freedom inhabits the tough, messy, glorious body of capitalism. We never should have allowed ourselves to be tricked into feeling guilty about it, apologizing for it, or measuring it against the dashing illusion cast over the shabby reality of socialism. Prosperity is a destination reached only by free men and women, acting in concert. The only thing we can compeleach other to be is poor.

Obituaries

Polly William

Polly Williams, nee Olie Louise Carley, 88, passed away Friday, April 2, 2010 in the Stoneybrook Health Care Center, Manhattan, with her family at her side.

She was born August 26, 1921 in St. George, Kansas, the youngest of five daughters of Cecil Denney Carley and Richard Carley. She attended school in St. George. On November 27, 1938, she was united in marriage to Phillip M. Williams, in Manhattan.

Polly led an active life, giving tirelessly to her family and friends. She served as business manager for the family business of Williams Appliances from the early 1950's until 1986, when Phillip retired. She lent her sense of fun to the Girl Scouts as a troop leader for several years, and could be seen riding her bicycle to work when she was in her fifties. She

turned a cartwheel every year on her birthday, up to the age of 75.

She was a member of Ashland Community Church and the Fort Knightly Club of Ashland for her entire adult life. She was a member of the Riley County Historical Society.

The family lived near Sunset Park, and as a member of Sunset Zoo, Polly was a frequent visitor for many years. She loved to host dinners with Phillip, and their home was always a welcoming destination for family and friends. Polly loved to keep moving, and guests were usually persuaded into a long walk after dinner. She and Phil enjoyed many trips abroad. Later, in their retirement years, they were members of the Man-Kan Campers and traveled closer to home.

Polly is survived by a son, Garry Williams and his wife, Shirley, of Ballwin MO; a daughter, Linda Williams of Greensboro NC; two sis-

ters, Dorteia Niemoeller, of Manhattan, and May Spear of Lyons, KS; five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Phillip, in 2004, her parents and two sisters, Edna Nelson and Loretta Abt.

Memorial services will be at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 8, 2010 in the Ashland Community Church. Inurnment will follow in the Ashland Cemetery. The Irvin-Parkview Funeral Home, Manhattan, is in charge of arrangements.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Friends of the Sunset Zoo, or to the Konza Prairie Research Excellence Fund (F53200) and left in care of the funeral home.

Online condolences can be sent to www.irvinparkview.com.

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Victoria M. George

Victoria "Vickie" M. George, 78, Manhattan, KS passed away Friday, April 2, 2010 in her home.

She was born September 29, 1931 at Minneapolis, MN, the daughter of Joseph Sumbs and Marie J. Jockum Sumbs. She grew up in the Crosby and Irontown, MN areas and attended the local schools. She was a 1951 graduate of the St. Mary's Vocational School of Nursing, Rochester, MN.

She was united in marriage to Dennis J. George on August 25, 1951 in Crosby. He preceded her in death on April 2, 2009.

Mrs. George had worked as a LPN for many years. She lived in Killeen, TX from 1958 until moving to Manhattan in 1974. Since living in Manhattan, she had worked at the Wharton Manor Nursing Home, the College Hill Nursing Home and the St.

Mary's Hospital. She retired in 1987.

She was a member of the Seven Dolors Catholic Church, Altar Society, Seven Dolors Women's Circle #4, Budget Shop, Breakfast for the Homeless, Meals On Wheels, Seven Dolors Food Pantry and was a lifetime member of the Pearce-Keller American Legion Post No. 17 Auxiliary., all of Manhattan.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. George was preceded in death by a son, Dennis J. George, Jr. on July 31, 2005; a daughter, Donna M. George, on November 2, 2008; her parents; step father, Emil Beireis; a brother, Daniel J. Sumbs; and five sisters, Rita Hanson, Josephine Halverson, Hildagarde Corey, Hycenthea Neopotino and her twin sister, Veronica Sipper Hanson.

Survivors include two sons, Dale R. George, and his wife, Brenda, Lathrop, MO and Douglas E. George,

and his wife, Tina, San Antonio, TX; two daughters, Deborah A. Price and Doreen M. Ray, and her husband, Charles, all of Manhattan; two sisters, Clara Hilden, Crosby, MN and Sophia Doig, Sun Lakes, AZ; 17 grandchildren; 22 great grandchildren; and 1 great great grandchild.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 6, 2010 in the Seven Dolors Catholic Church with Father Joseph Popelka as celebrant. Burial will follow in St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery, in the Elbo community, east of Manhattan.

A Rosary and Vigil Service was held at 7:00 p.m., Monday, April 5, 2010 in the Irvin-Parkview Funeral Home, Manhattan.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Seven Dolors Catholic Church and left in care of the funeral home. Online condolences for the family can be sent to www.irvinparkview.com.

Inez Marie Kistner

Inez Marie Kistner, 97, Manhattan, KS passed away Thursday, April 1, 2010 in the Mercy Regional Health Center, Manhattan surrounded by people who loved her.

She was born May 26, 1912 in Manhattan, the daughter of Charlie Willyard and Ada Chalmers Willyard. She spent most of her life in Manhattan with the exception of a short time in Nebraska City, NE and several years in Wichita. She attended the Manhattan schools and the Dague Business University in Wichita in

the early 1930's.

She was united in marriage to Ray Kistner on August 7, 1937 in Manhattan. He preceded her in death on October 2, 1984.

Mrs. Kistner and her husband owned and operated the Kistner's Flowers in Manhattan for many years before retiring in 1974. She was a member of the First Baptist Church.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Kistner was preceded in death by her parents; and three brothers, Arthur, Johnnie and Elmer Willyard.

Survivors include a very good friend and companion, Lee

Hoffman, Manhattan; a daughter, Doris Felix, and her husband, Manny, Tucson, AZ; a step son, Garland Kistner, Vancouver, WA; several grandchildren; a step granddaughter; a great grandson; and two nieces.

Graveside services were at 1:00 p.m., Monday, April 5, 2010 in the Sunset Cemetery, Manhattan with Pastor Rick Neubauer officiating. Memorial contributions can be made to the KSU Gardens and left in care of the Irvin-Parkview Funeral Home, 1317 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan, KS 66502. Online condolences can be sent to www.irvinparkview.com.

Neil Dwane Beckenhauer

Colonel, retired, Neil Dwane Beckenhauer, DVM, 94, of Manhattan, Kansas, died Friday, April 2, 2010 after a protracted battle with cancer.

Dr. Beckenhauer was born November 8, 1915, in Alpena, South Dakota, the 7th child of Herman and LoDema Kesterson Beckenhauer. The family moved to Delavan, Kansas in 1932, where he graduated from Delavan High School in 1935. He attended Kansas State University starting in 1938, graduating from the College of Veterinary Medicine in January 1943.

He had been commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1942, inactive status.

He started his veterinary practice in Wahoo, Nebraska, shortly after graduation. He was called into active service in 1943, and as frequently happened during the war years, married his college sweetheart, Dorris Kastner of Manhattan, Kansas, on April 18, 1943 before reporting to active duty at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

He and his wife moved frequently during his first year of Army service, eventually settling in Grand Island, Nebraska. They moved to Wahoo, Nebraska in 1946, after his discharge

from the Army, to resume his veterinary practice.

He re-entered into the Army Air Corps in 1947 and was initially stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. The Army Air Corps became the U.S. Air Force, where he remained until his retirement in December 1968. He received a Masters degree in Public Health from Tulane University in 1952. He had served in World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam War. He received the Bronze Star in 1953 and the Legion of Merit in 1968, as well as the American Campaign Medal, the service medals for WWII, Korea, and the United Nations.

Following his retirement from the U.S. Air Force, he re-settled in Manhattan, Kansas, and worked briefly at the Dykstra Veterinary Clinic at Kansas State University. He was a Public Health Officer and State Inspector for the State of North Carolina until his second retirement in 1979. He has resided in Manhattan until his death.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings: Charles, George, Harold, Mary Purcell, Leah Wiggins, Rolland, Ardith Johnson, and William, DVM. He is survived by his wife, Dorris M. Beckenhauer; one sister-in-law, Yvonne Beckenhauer in

California; one brother-in-law, Denzil (Ilene) Kastner of Leesburg, Florida; a son, Dwane (Rita) Beckenhauer, M.D. of Pittsburg, Kansas; a daughter, Sharron (Gary) Klingel of Princeton, Illinois; five grandchildren: Gregory (Christine) Klingel, DDS of East Wenatchee, WA, Shawn (Julie) Klingel of Highlands Ranch, CO, Sara, Dana and David Beckenhauer of Pittsburg, KS; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 P.M. Wednesday at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Chapel with Reverend R. Cam McConnell officiating. Interment will followed in the Sunset Cemetery in Manhattan.

The family of Dr. Beckenhauer will receive friends from 1:00 until the service time on Wednesday at the funeral home.

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

Memorial contributions may be made to the Terry C. Johnson Center for Basic Cancer Research. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

Redevelopment: Redesigned and Running

By Adam Reichenberger

With the South Downtown Redevelopment Project getting under way, there are still a few odds and ends to clear up. Director of Public Works, Dale L. Houdeshell, P.E., explained before the City Commission on Tuesday, "The City of Manhattan is responsible for the design and construction of public improvements related to the [redevelopment]. After receiving guidance at the February 24, 2009, work session, the public infrastructure projects in the Redevelopment District were scheduled for design and construction in phases so as to maintain reasonable access to the area. On January 5, 2010, the Commission approved an amended design contract with HWS Consulting Group for the design of 3rd Street and Pierre Street Project (ST0910). This is the third phase of a series of projects needed in order to serve the opening of the Conference Center and Hotel for South Redevelopment project.

"HWS Consulting Group, in conjunction with BBN, Inc., has prepared

final plans and bid documents for public bid of this project. The project will be advertised in the [Manhattan Mercury] and through the City's In-Touch."

The project includes modified plans for bicycle paths including widening of pavement and the introduction of retaining walls; new pavements, side-walks, curbs, gutters and storm sewers; and a new traffic signal at the intersection of 3rd Street and Pierre Street.

Out of concern for commuters, Houdeshell observed, "It is important to note that the construction of this improvement will shut off access from the K-177 bridge to 4th Street. Vehicle traffic will be forced to utilize the off-ramp as they enter Manhattan, then utilizing either Fort Riley Boulevard or Tuttle Creek Boulevard."

Stressing the importance of maintaining their tentative timeline, Houdeshell requested the City Commissions authorize the public bidding of the aforementioned construction as quickly as possible.

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Kansas Profile - Now That's Rural: Debra Nelson - Garden of Eden

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

Imagine a grocery store that has a full service meat counter, music playing in the background, cut-fresh deli sandwiches, homemade sausage, fresh vegetables, and a pleasant dining area out front. Doesn't that sound like paradise? Like the Garden of Eden? Well, it is. In this week's Kansas Profile we'll learn about an innovative small town grocery store which goes by the name Garden of Eden.

Debra and David Nelson are the owners of the Garden of Eden grocery store in Little River, Kan. Debra grew up in nearby McPherson. She says with a smile, "I didn't know Little River existed."

After attending Hutchinson Community College, Debra worked in the corporate world in southern California. While visiting family back in Kansas, she met a guy who had joined her brother's country music band - and the rest is history.

Debra married David and moved back to his hometown of Little River. They went on to have four daughters. David was working for a pipeline company but as the girls grew and their activities increased, he wanted more flexibility.

In 2005, David and Debra bought the grocery store in Little River. They renamed it Garden of Eden.

"This was a big leap of faith, to take on this store," Debra said. "I'm a strong Christian, and I believe that God gave us everything we needed in the Garden of Eden." So they renamed and changed the image of the store, and took off for the promised land.

The Nelsons made several changes to attract young families and others



Ron Wilson

back into the store. Debra said, "We bought the store in the fall so we used an autumn theme to highlight our lower prices, with phrases like, 'Prices are falling, come rake in the savings.'"

The Nelsons asked customers, "What would you like us to stock on your shelves?" They worked with their suppliers to assure fresh bread. They started buying fresh, local produce as it came available. They added a cappuccino and coffee bar. They expanded balloons and other gift selections. They display high school artwork in the store.

They also made changes to make the shopping experience more relaxing and enjoyable. David installed a speaker system and a CD player for musical background. They installed a green-and-white awning on the front, as downtown stores used to have in the community. They stopped selling cigarettes. They added a dining area out front, with tables and chairs.

Debra said, "People can eat out there, and kids will come get a

Popsicle after school. People will be walking their dogs and tie them up to the chairs while they shop. I love to see it. I tell people, there's no stress allowed here."

These changes to the store were important, because the store faces significant competition from city discount stores just 10 to 20 miles away. Little River is a rural community of 528 people. Now, that's rural. How can a store survive in a town that size?

Debra says, "We can create a different experience from Super Center stores by emphasizing value, fresh foods, and customer service."

She is active in the community, serving on the Lions Club, school board, library board, and county arts council. David is in Lions and is a Mutual Telephone Company board member. The Garden of Eden partners with Fat Boyz, the local bar and grill, to provide them fresh steaks.

In June 2008, K-State's Center for Engagement and Community Development hosted a summit for rural grocers. After attending the summit, the Nelsons decided to extend their store hours so as to be more convenient for their customers. Debra said, "It was definitely a worthwhile change."

Another summit will be held in June 2010. See www.ruralgrocery.org for details.

Imagine a grocery store with a full service meat counter, fresh fruit and produce, organic and gluten free items, and much more. If it sounds like the Garden of Eden, it is indeed. We commend Debra and David Nelson for making a difference by enhancing their store to meet customer needs, thus maintaining this vital service in a rural community. To me, it sounds heavenly.

\$1 Billion AT&T Headache is Just Obamacare's First Side Effect

The Heritage Foundation

AT&T's \$1 billion charge

In the closing days of the Congressional health care debate, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) told the National Association of Counties: "We have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it." Today marks the end of just the first week of life under Obamacare and Speaker Pelosi has been proven right: we are just now finding out what is in it. This past Friday, AT&T, the biggest U.S. telephone company, announced that it would take a \$1 billion charge against earnings thanks to tax changes buried in the 2,300+ page bill. \$1 billion. That is a full third of AT&T's \$3 billion earnings for the fourth quarter of 2009.

The tax charges stem from changes Obamacare makes to the tax treatment of prescription-drug benefits for retirees. Companies used to be able to deduct part of their costs for providing drug benefits to their retirees, but Obamacare cancels that deduction. Roland McDevitt, director of health care research at Towers Watson, tells the Wall Street Journal, they "have a stream of tax benefits they are losing way out in the future." Since companies had counted on these deductions for current and future retirees as an existing asset under the old law, accounting rules require firms to take the full loss for the change in the same quarter in which the tax law is changed. Hence Friday's announcement to inform shareholders that AT&T's bottom line was about to take a \$1 billion hit.

AT&T's billion-dollar Obamacare headache is so large due to the size (281,000 employees) of the company. Piper Jaffray & Co. analyst Chris Larsen tells Bloomberg: "Companies like AT&T, that have large employee bases, are going to have higher health-care costs and, therefore, lower earnings unless they can negotiate something or offer less to their employees." And changes to current and future retirees' health care seem to be exactly what will AT&T will do as a side effect of Obamacare. AT&T wrote in their Friday filing: "As a result of this legislation, including the additional tax burden, AT&T will be evaluating prospective changes to the active and retiree health-care benefits offered by the company."

And AT&T is not alone. Towers Watson estimates that just this tax change alone will eliminate \$14 billion in U.S. corporate profits. That's \$14 billion less American employers have to spend creating new jobs when our unemployment rate is still 9.7%. And AT&T is not the only company informing

employees that Obamacare is going to mean worse care for them. Verizon Communications, the second biggest U.S. phone company, told employees last week that Obamacare "may have significant implications for both retirees and employers."

The Heritage Foundation will be keeping you apprised of all of the consequences of Obamacare as they are learned with our new Foundry feature "Side Effects." Already our health care experts have identified negative intended and unintended consequences from the legislation to children's health insurance and health insurance taxes.

The American people already do not like this law. But to repeal it, we must keep Americans educated about all of Obamacare's failures and offer our "Second Opinion" on what conservative idea would fix it.

Quick Hits:

* Yesterday on NBC's Today show, President Barack Obama admitted his health care law did not adequately reduce costs: "We are still going to have adjustments that have to be made to further reduce costs."

* After a dead cat bounce, Gallup's latest poll shows a majority of Americans believe the passage of Obamacare is "a bad thing" and nearly two-thirds of Americans say the health care overhaul costs too much and expands the government's role in health care too far.

* According to an analysis by the Associated Press, young adults seeking coverage on the individual market will see insurance premi-

ums rise 17% on average thanks to Obamacare.

* The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) spent \$683,371 lobbying the federal government in the fourth quarter, compared to the \$353,531 they spent in the same quarter last year.

* The Environmental Protection Agency said Monday that it would not require power plants and other industrial sites to obtain federal pollution permits for emitting greenhouse gases before next January.

* According to a new report by the Office of Government Ethics, two dozen of President Obama's political appointees worked as registered lobbyists during the two years prior to joining the administration, and 22 appointees received waivers that allowed them to participate in matters in which their former employers or clients had an interest.

* The owner and majority shareholder of General Motors - the Obama administration - announced they would fine rival Toyota the maximum penalty allowed by law for the non-unionized automaker's gas-pedal safety problems.

* Energy and anti-tax groups are collecting signatures to put a repeal of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's (R) cap and trade law on the California ballot this fall.

* According to Gallup, for the first time in the question's 10-year history, more Americans say the United States should prioritize development of energy supplies over protecting the environment.



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Thoughts From The Prairie

Bullies on the Playground

White Oak Graded School was a wonderful place to go to school during the 1940's. The schoolhouse was one small room for all eight grades. We had a large playground with a river running through it. Ok, so it was just a small river. Actually it was White Oak Creek that sometimes looked like a river. But the best part of going to school there was recess. We didn't have Little League, just all of us agreeing upon the game of the day and choosing up sides. We might argue a bit, but it never turned into a fight. That is until the bully moved in.

Billy the Bully was a big kid that came to live with his grandparents because he was always in trouble over in some town in northern Illinois and was two grades behind. He was always running over anyone smaller than he was and taking other kids stuff. Then he began to give Joy, she was my girlfriend, pretty things likely stolen from his grandmother. One day he took my red handled Barlow knife away from me and gave it to her, but she gave it back to me. That evening he waited for me after school along the road. I put up a good fight but he beat me up until my older sister came to the rescue.

My friend Jack and I trapped for muskrats along White Oak Creek. After Billy the Bully came we noticed our muskrat traps were often sprung with evidence that a muskrat had been in the trap but was gone. So one morning before dawn Jack and I hid in the bushes near a trap that had a muskrat in it. Sure enough, here came Billy. He took the muskrat out of the trap and headed on to the other traps. We are not sure how Billy the Bully got untied from the tree, but he was very docile from then on and our playground was once again a pleasant place to play whatever the game of the day was.

Whenever we think of bullies a few names may come to mind, such as Napoleon, Pol Pot, Hitler, or Genghis Kahn. True, these are the more notable bullies, but the world survived them. It is more likely that the common, everyday bullies have the greater impact on our lives because they seem to be on every playground. Bertrand Russell was a renowned English mathematician, philosopher and pacifist who would find little agreement with my worldview, but on the subject of bullies, his observation is noteworthy: "I found one day in school a boy of medium size ill-treating a smaller boy. I expostulated, but he replied: 'The bigs hit me, so I hit the babies, that's fair.' In these words he epitomized the history of the human race."

Although Russell's observation was logically correct, being a pacifist, his solution to the problem could not contain confrontation, only education. To this end he started a school. Even though his ideas about education spread, he didn't solve the problem because we still have bullies. President Calvin Coolidge made this observation about solving problems: "Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."

President Coolidge's observation that a combination of talent, genius, and education will not solve the problems of the human race has certainly been confirmed in America during the past few months. The present administration and the leaders in both Houses of Congress are a collec-



Dick Miller

tion of talented, highly educated derelicts that are also persistent bullies. With bribes, threats and blatant disregard for our Constitution and the values of our Founders, they have rammed through healthcare and before the ink was dry were conjuring up more ways to destroy our Constitutional Republic in favor of some ideological morass of proven failures. They are looking at neither the successes nor the failures of the past and yet are babbling about making our future better?

Margaret F. Barber, 1869-1901, an English author whose book of meditations, *The Roadmender*, achieved huge popularity suggested that, "To look backward for a while is to refresh the eye, to restore it, and to render it more fit for its prime function of looking forward." And looking back is the thrust of the Flint Hills Tea Party to rediscover the truth and values our Founders built into the foundation documents of our Republic to guide us in restoring our hope for the future.

We have caught the bullies in the act of taking what is not theirs, but I suppose the DC police would frown upon us tying them to trees along the Mall. So we will find another way realizing that time is of the essence as it was for England in the 1940s. Upon confronting the bully from Germany, Winston Churchill admonished the British, and all of us for that matter, "If you will not fight for right when you can easily win without blood shed; if you will not fight when your victory is sure and not too costly; you may come to the moment when you will have to fight with all the odds against you and only a precarious chance of survival. There may even be a worse case. You may have to fight when there is no hope of victory, because it is better to perish than to live as slaves."

Churchill was instrumental in convincing the British to stand up to the bully from Germany declaring, "Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth lasts for a thousand years, men will still say, 'This was their finest hour!'"

To the dismay and surprise of the Progressives, the Sleeping Giant in America has again been awakened. We have looked into the past and found the truth. We are now prepared to "Brace ourselves to our duties" and "Fight for right" to secure our future! Stand with us April 15th in Wamego City Park at 9 AM and in Manhattan at 5 PM on the Court House Square. Our battle cry is, "We will Remember in November!"

"Conscience of Kansas"

Techno-Politics: The War for Downloadable Supremacy

By Paul A. Ibbetson

It used to be that the world was a place of "hands." Every important exchange came slowly and directly through face-to-face conversations sealed with a handshake or a newspaper placed in the palm and digested by the slow and deliberate hand turning of the page. Today's modern world offers a plethora of almost mindboggling opportunities to reach vast numbers of people with the mere extension of a fingertip. When it comes to the ideological battle continually being waged between political forces, there has never been a better opportunity for conservatives to dominate by sheer majority of numbers than now, but that is not happening.

Most struggle to some degree to answer the question of why a nation with an overwhelming majority of conservatives finds itself with the most liberal congress in modern times and a socialist president who tells the American people in his primary campaign speeches that the most prosperous nation on earth is in need a "fundamental transformation," and he wins!

The most intelligent conservative thinkers usually surmise that the Republican losses in 2006 and 2008 were hinged on the following: fiscal irresponsibility, political correctness, poorly articulated values, and too many wishy-washy politicians under the Republican tent. The analysis usually starts and ends there. It's not a bad list as all are true, but it lacks one critical addition, which without acknowledgment makes future conservative victories doubtful. This lacking component, which plagued the 2008 election as badly as John McCain's inability to be the rock-solid conservative when one was needed, was the GOP's total failure to harness modern technology to disseminate their message.

Jason Mattera's book *Obama Zombies* lays out in a detailed fashion how the Barack Obama campaign machine used technology to not only lift a Democratic presidential candidate to a cult-like persona, but also to maximize social networks that got people to the polls in numbers, outworking and outperforming John McCain. Mattera's book is a remarkable read once you absorb the mental impact of Facebook and Youtube in electing a presidential candidate with no qualifications to govern and no vision for the future that cannot be referenced from Karl Marx's Communist Manifesto and Saul Alinsky's Rules for Radicals.

Mattera's book focuses on the youth and how Obama's campaign machine used social networks to bring in new voters and coordinate rallies and events like free rock concerts for the purpose of creating future Obama Zombies. They were more than successful in this endeavor, and the fundamental reality that elections have consequences has never been more forcefully shown to the American people.

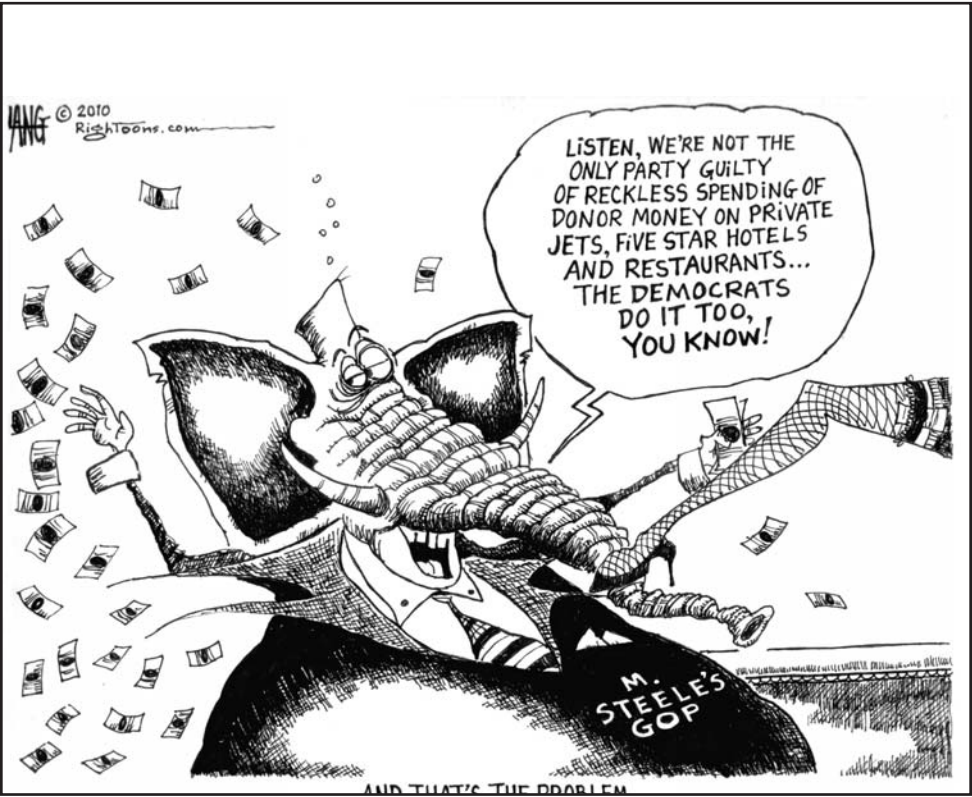
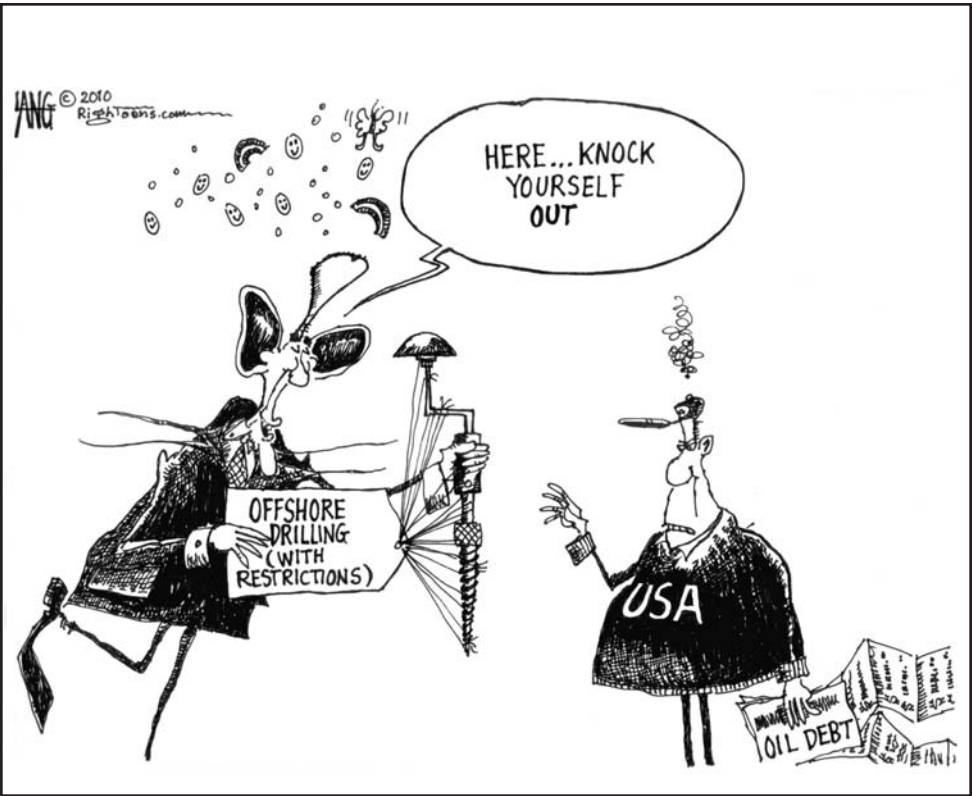
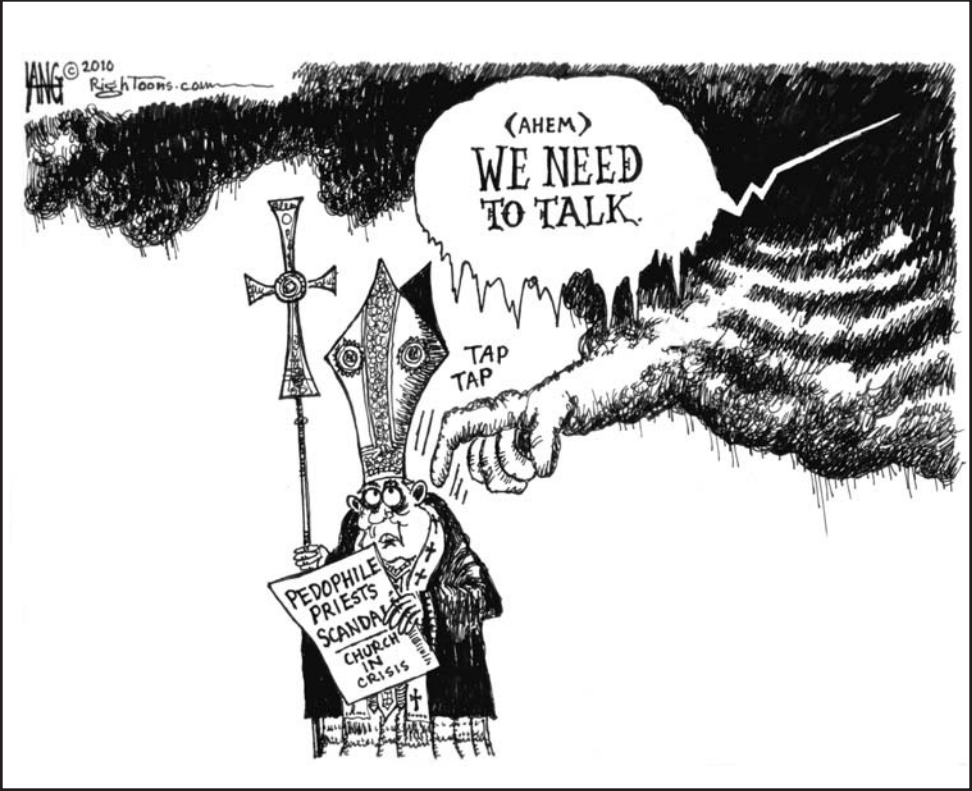
So while Barack Obama and his surrogates



Paul A. Ibbetson

in the Democratic Party continue to inflame the majority of this nation, don't count them out. Why? Because right now on some computer, somewhere, they are live streaming and excuse, they are downloading some spin, they are twittering a tantalizing tall tale of twisted half-truths or its equivalent without an adequate conservative challenge. Conservatives must engage in the war of techno-politics that is raging. Liberals today use their mastery and organization of technology and the "power of the download" to tell the young and old to hate and fear conservatives such as Sarah Palin for using the term "reload." The rebuttal to such attacks by the liberal left must be felt in endless volleys of terabytes that shake the world's information systems to their foundations. Any efforts less than this are the same as tossing messages in corked bottles into the ocean. For those of you with slow downloading capability, here it is one more time: America needs a president that adheres to traditional conservative values and can articulate that clear message to the American people, but if that message is not allowed to resonate fully through modern technologies, it's four more years of Barack Obama.

Paul A. Ibbetson is a former Chief of Police of Cherryvale, Kansas, and member of the Montgomery County Drug Task Force. Paul received his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Criminal Justice at Wichita State University, and is currently completing his PhD. in sociology at Kansas State University. Paul is the author of the books "Living Under The Patriot Act: Educating A Society" and "Feeding Lions: Sharing The Conservative Philosophy In A Politically Hostile World." Paul is also the radio host of the Kansas Broadcasting Association's 2008, 2009 and 2010 Entertainment Program of the Year, Conscience of Kansas airing on KSDB Manhattan 91.9 f.m. www.ibbetsonusa.com. For interviews or questions, please contact ibbetson91.9@gmail.com



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- Thomas Jefferson, 1787

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Last Week:
*From Loyal Subjects To
Traitorous Rebels - A Royal
Proclamation*

This Week:
**A More Perfect Union:
The Creation of
the U.S. Constitution**
U.S. National Archives and
Records Administration

May 25, 1787, Freshly spread dirt covered the cobblestone street in front of the Pennsylvania State House, protecting the men inside from the sound of passing carriages and carts. Guards stood at the entrances to ensure that the curious were kept at a distance. Robert Morris of Pennsylvania, the "financier" of the Revolution, opened the proceedings with a nomination--Gen. George Washington for the presidency of the Constitutional Convention. The vote was unanimous. With characteristic ceremonial modesty, the general expressed his embarrassment at his lack of qualifications to preside over such an august body and apologized for any errors into which he might fall in the course of its deliberations.

To many of those assembled, especially to the small, boyish-looking, 36-year-old delegate from Virginia, James Madison, the general's mere presence boded well for the convention, for the illustrious Washington gave to the gathering an air of importance and legitimacy. But his decision to attend the convention had been an agonizing one. The Father of the Country had almost remained at home.

Suffering from rheumatism, despondent over the loss of a brother, absorbed in the manage-



General George Washington was unanimously elected president of the Philadelphia convention.

ment of Mount Vernon, and doubting that the convention would accomplish very much or that many men of stature would attend, Washington delayed accepting the invitation to attend for several months. Torn between the hazards of lending his reputation to a gathering perhaps doomed to failure and the chance that the public would view his reluctance to attend with a critical eye, the general finally agreed to make the trip. James Madison was pleased.

The Articles of Confederation
The determined Madison had for several years insatiably studied history and political theory searching for a solution to the political and economic dilemmas he saw plaguing America. The Virginian's labors convinced him of the futility and weakness of confederacies of independent states. America's own

government under the Articles of Confederation, Madison was convinced, had to be replaced. In force since 1781, established as a "league of friendship" and a constitution for the 13 sovereign and independent states after the Revolution, the articles seemed to Madison woefully inadequate. With the states retaining considerable power, the central government, he believed, had insufficient power to regulate commerce. It could not tax and was generally impotent in setting commercial policy. It could not effectively support a war effort. It had little power to settle quarrels between states. Saddled with this weak government, the states were on the brink of economic disaster. The evidence was overwhelming. Congress was attempting to function with a depleted treasury; paper money was flooding the country, creating extraordinary inflation--a pound of tea in some areas could be purchased for a tidy \$100; and the depressed condition of business was taking its toll on many small farmers. Some of them were being thrown in jail for debt, and numerous farms were being confiscated and sold for taxes.

In 1786 some of the farmers had fought back. Led by Daniel Shays, a former captain in the Continental army, a group of armed men, sporting evergreen twigs in their hats, prevented the circuit court from sitting at Northampton, MA, and threatened to seize muskets stored in the arsenal at Springfield. Although the insurrection was put down by state troops, the incident confirmed the fears of many wealthy men that anarchy was just around the corner. Embellished day after day in the press, the uprising made upper-class Americans shudder as they imagined hordes of vicious outlaws descending upon innocent citizens. From his idyllic Mount Vernon setting, Washington wrote to Madison: "Wisdom and good examples are necessary at this time to rescue the political machine from the impending storm."

Madison thought he had the answer. He wanted a strong central government to provide order and stability. "Let it be tried then," he wrote, "whether any middle ground can be taken which will at once support a due supremacy of the national authority," while maintaining state power only when "subordinately useful." The resolute Virginian looked to the Constitutional Convention to forge a new government in this mold.

The convention had its specific origins in a proposal offered by Madison and John Tyler in the Virginia assembly that the Continental Congress be given power to regulate commerce throughout the Confederation. Through their efforts in the assembly a plan was devised inviting the several states to attend a convention at Annapolis, MD, in September 1786 to discuss commercial problems. Madison and a young lawyer from New York named Alexander Hamilton issued a report on the meeting in Annapolis, calling upon Congress to summon delegates of all of the states to meet for the purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation. Although the report was widely viewed as a usurpation of congressional authority, the Congress did issue a formal call to the states for a convention. To Madison it represented the supreme chance to reverse the country's trend. And as the delegations gathered in Philadelphia, its importance was not lost to others. The squire of Gunston Hall, George Mason, wrote to his son, "The Eyes of the United States are turned upon this Assembly and their Expectations raised to a very anxious Degree. May God Grant that we may be able to gratify them, by establishing a wise and just Government."

The Delegates
Seventy-four delegates were appointed to the convention, of which 55 actually attended sessions. Rhode Island was the only state that refused to send delegates. Dominated by men wedded to paper currency, low taxes, and popular government, Rhode Island's leaders refused to participate in what they saw as a conspiracy to overthrow the established government. Other Americans also had their suspicions. Patrick Henry, of the flowing red Glasgow cloak and the magnetic oratory, refused to attend, declaring he "smelt a rat." He suspected, correctly, that Madison had in mind the creation of a powerful central government and the subversion of the authority of the state legislatures. Henry along with many other political leaders, believed that the state governments offered the chief protection for personal liberties. He was determined not to lend a hand to any proceeding that seemed to pose a threat to that protection.

With Henry absent, with such towering figures as Jefferson and Adams abroad on foreign missions, and with John Jay in New York at the Foreign Office, the convention was without some of the country's major political leaders. It was, nevertheless, an impressive assemblage. In addition to Madison and Washington, there

were Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania--crippled by gout, the 81-year-old Franklin was a man of many dimensions printer, store-keeper, publisher, scientist, public official, philosopher, diplomat, and ladies' man; James Wilson of Pennsylvania--a distinguished lawyer with a penchant for ill-advised land-jobbing schemes, which would force him late in life to flee from state to state avoiding prosecution for debt, the Scotsman brought a profound mind steeped in constitutional theory and law; Alexander Hamilton of New York--a brilliant, ambitious former aide-de-camp and secretary to Washington during the Revolution who had, after his marriage into the Schuyler family of New York, become a powerful political figure; George Mason of Virginia--the author of the Virginia Bill of Rights whom Jefferson later called "the Cato of his country without the avarice of the Roman"; John Dickinson of Delaware--the quiet, reserved author of the "Farmers' Letters" and chairman of the congressional committee that framed the articles; and Gouverneur Morris of Pennsylvania--well versed in French literature and language, with a flair and bravado to match his keen intellect, who had helped draft the New York State Constitution and had worked with Robert Morris in the Finance Office.

There were others who played major roles - Oliver Ellsworth of Connecticut; Edmund Randolph of Virginia; William Paterson of New Jersey; John Rutledge of South Carolina; Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts; Roger Sherman of Connecticut; Luther Martin of Maryland; and the Pinckneys, Charles and Charles Cotesworth, of South Carolina. Franklin was the oldest member and Jonathan Dayton, the 27-year-old delegate from New Jersey was the youngest. The average age was 42. Most of the delegates had studied law, had served in colonial or state legislatures, or had been in the Congress. Well versed in philosophical theories of government advanced by such philosophers as James Harrington, John Locke, and Montesquieu, profiting from experience gained in state politics, the delegates composed an exceptional body, one that left a remarkably learned record of debate. Fortunately we have a relatively complete record of the proceedings, thanks to the indefatigable James Madison. Day after day, the Virginian sat in front of the presiding officer, compiling notes of the debates, not missing a single day or a single major speech. He later remarked that his self-confinement in the hall, which was often oppressively hot in the Philadelphia summer, almost killed him.

The sessions of the convention were held in secret--no reporters or visitors were permitted. Although many of the naturally loquacious members were prodded in the pubs and on the streets, most remained surprisingly discreet. To those suspicious of the convention, the curtain of secrecy only served to confirm their anxieties. Luther Martin of Maryland later charged that the conspiracy in Philadelphia needed a quiet breeding ground. Thomas Jefferson wrote John Adams from Paris, "I am sorry they began their deliberations by so abominable a precedent as that of tying up the tongues of their members."

The History of the U. S. Constitution will continue next week in the Free Press.

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Government Grants to Benefit Low to Moderate Income Households

By Adam Reichenberger

In May of 2009 the City of Manhattan was selected to receive the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) as an Entitlement Community from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). To fully participate in the program and continue to receive funds annually the City is required to submit a Consolidated Plan to HUD by May 15, 2010 and again it must be updated every five years.

Speaking before the City Commission on April 6, Director of Community Development, Karen Davis, AICP explained, "The Consolidated Plan contains several components, including a Citizen Participation Plan, Five-Year Strategic Plan, Annual Action Plan, as well as a number of certifications and supporting documents as required by HUD..."

"The Citizen Participation Plan provides a description of the citizen participation process that will be followed to ensure citizens are given adequate access to the Consolidated Plan, and reasonable opportunity to comment on its contents. To accomplish this, the Citizen Participation plan requires that public comment periods and formal public hearings be held during each program year in order to review the relevant Consolidated Plan documents. Additionally, a public comment period and formal public hearing must be held to review and approve any substantial amendments to the Consolidated Plan.

"The Strategic Plan is a comprehensive document that illustrates the City's housing, homeless, community development and other community needs. The Strategic Plan also describes available community resources and develops priorities for the City of Manhattan over years 2010-2014. The priorities and objectives set forth in the Strategic Plan must satisfy three statutory program goals, which are Provide Decent Housing, a Suitable Living Environment, and Expanded Economic Opportunities, with primary benefit to low- and moderate-income residents.

"The Annual Action Plan specifies the activities and projects the City will implement with the estimated CDBG allotment for the First Program Year to address the priority needs and objectives identified by the Strategic Plan.

"Other items which must be adopted by the City and submitted with the Consolidated Plan include an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, which provides demographic data, income data, housing profiles and an evaluation of impediments to fair housing choice. That document will be prepared in April. In addition, the City will be required to provide various certifications that comply with federal laws and requirements.

"After the First Program Year has concluded on June 30, 2011, a Comprehensive Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) will be prepared to describe the activities, projects and accomplishments of the preceding program year to provide a comparison of proposed versus actual outcomes. A public comment period and public hearing will be held to provide an opportunity for public review and comment on the CAPER."

While the CDBG program allows for a variety of ways to meet the community's needs, all actions to be considered must be congruent with HUD

national objectives.

"The City," Davis reported to the Commission, "must demonstrate low and moderate income benefit for all projects and activities undertaken and that at least 70% of total expended CDBG funds (excluding program administration) will benefit low and moderate income persons pursuant to HUD criteria... Projects can also provide benefit to persons identified as 'limited clientele,' which are presumed to be low and moderate-income due to their life circumstances... A map has been developed by City Administration, using 2000 Census data that identifies areas in which at least 51% of residents are considered low and moderate income. Within these identified areas, projects or activities may be presumed to benefit low and moderate income persons, depending on the identified beneficiaries."

Davis laid out the five main objectives identified as first priority community development needs for the next five years:

"1) Sustain affordable housing opportunities by preserving the existing housing stock and supporting the creation of affordable permanent housing in standard condition.

2) Improve the livability and safety of neighborhoods through infrastructure improvements.

3) Support community facilities that improve the quality of life for low and moderate income residents.

4) Support public services that meet the needs of low and moderate income persons and families.

5) Support activities that create and sustain quality jobs and employment."

In compliance with HUD regulation and the proposed priorities for community development the City Administration proposed a variety of projects to utilize the confirmed \$565,734 the City will receive for the first year.

The Administration proposed \$85,000 go to comprehensive rehabilitation of five owner-occupied homes; \$30,000 toward emergency and accessibility repairs to approximately eight owner-occupied homes; \$25,000 toward sidewalk repairs for approximately ten owner-occupied homes; and \$41,200 toward Housing Rehabilitation Program Administration. These proposed costs fall under the cities Housing improvements outlined above.

For infrastructure improvements the Administration recommends \$118,000 be used to construct sidewalks to fill in the pavement gaps on the west and north borders of City Park.

\$100,000 has been requested for the replacement of the heating and air conditioning system at the Riley County Seniors' Center. That system is 18 years old and well past its better days.

City Administration recommended no funds be used for Public Services in the first year, but that \$99,800 be used for Administration purposes including portions of salaries, Fair Housing activities and Citizen Participation activities.

"Shortly after the beginning of the First Program Year," said Davis, "City Administration will start the process to identify community needs for the Second Year Funding, which will begin on July 1, 2011..."

"The final Consolidated Plan documents and required certifications will be presented to the City Commission at its May 4, 2010 meeting at which time the Governing Body will consider approval of the City of Manhattan Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Plan and authorizing its submission to HUD."

The City Administration recommended the City Commission conduct a Public Hearing once more to receive public comments on the proposed plans.

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Read the constitution of the United States on page 5

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Letter To The Editor:

Editor

"I have reviewed selected sections of the bill and find it unbelievable that our Congress, led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, could come up with a bill loaded with so many wrong-headed elements. We do need to reform the health insurance system in America in order to make coverage affordable and available to everyone. But, how many of us believe our federal government can manage a new program any better than the bankrupt Medicare program or the underfunded Social Security program? Both Republicans and Democrats are equally responsible for the financial mess of those two programs.

I am opposed to HB 3200 for a number of reasons. To start with, it is estimated that a federal bureaucracy of more than 150,000 new employees will be required to administer HB3200.

That is an unacceptable expansion of a government that is already too intrusive in our lives. If we are going to hire 150,000 new employees, let's put them to work protecting our borders, fighting the massive drug problem and putting more law enforcement/firefighters out there."

NOW, here comes the good stuff: "Other problems I have with this bill include:

Page 50/section 152: The bill will provide insurance to all non-U.S. residents, even if they are here illegally.

Page 58 and 59: The government will have real-time access to an individual's bank account and will have the authority to make electronic fund transfers from those accounts.

Page 65/section 164: The plan

will be subsidized (by the government) for all union members, union retirees and for community organizations (such as the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now - ACORN).

Page 203/line 14-15: The tax imposed under this section will not be treated as a tax. (How could anybody in their right mind come up with that?)

Page 241 and 253: Doctors will all be paid the same regardless of specialty, and the government will set all doctors' fees.

Page 272, section 1145: Cancer hospital will ration care according to the patient's age.

Page 317 and 321: The government will impose a prohibition on hospital expansion; however, communities may petition for an exception.

Page 425, line 4-12: The government mandates advance-care planning consultations. Those on Social Security will be required to attend an "end-of-life planning" seminar every five years.

Page 429, line 13-25: The government will specify which doctors can write an end-of-life order."

Finally, it is specifically stated this bill will not apply to members of Congress.

Members of Congress are already exempt from the Social Security system and have a well-funded private plan that covers their retirement needs. If they were on our Social Security plan, I believe they would find a very quick "fix" to make the plan financially sound for the future."

Honorable
David Kithil Marble
Falls, Texas

UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

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Kansas Relays

April 14-17, Lawrence
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Apollo 13 40th Anniversary Celebration

April 16-17, Hutchinson
Relive the Apollo 13 mission with us as we honor the Mission controllers and the crew of Apollo 13 at the Kansas CosmoSphere. (800) 397-0330, Cosmo.org

Railroad Heritage Days

April 17-18, Arkansas City
Model Train Show, Family Fun Day. Food, games, arts and crafts. Train bounce and train ride for kids. (620) 442-0236, arkcity.org

29th Annual William Inge Theatre Festival

April 21-24, Independence
The Official State Theatre Festival. Professional shows each night. Expected: Anika Noni Rose, Yvette Freeman, Tom Jones (800) 842-6063 x5491, ingefestival.org

Safari Days Festival

April 23-24, Chanute
Film Festival, Business Expo, Family Fun Day. Pony rides, entertainment, world-renowned films and speakers, petting zoo, health fair. (620) 431-3350, chanutechamber.com

The Science of SuperCroc

March 13-August 15, Hays
Sternberg Museum of Natural History hosts this blockbuster exhibit which tells the story of *Sarcosuchus*, the largest crocodile to walk the earth. (877) 332-1165, Sternberg.fhsu.edu/

Wichita River Festival

May 7-15, Wichita
Nine days of food, fun and entertainment! Over 50 events including a parade, concerts, river events, kids' activities, fireworks and more. (316) 267-2817, wichitariverfestival.com

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A message from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

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One of my many friends, Pam Bulson, came straight from work to the coffee.

That’s The Brakes

by Jon A. Brake

I like the old story about the guy who ran for sheriff and was beaten badly. The next morning he showed up at the local coffee house packin’ a Colt 45 on his hip.

“Harry I thought you lost the election,” someone yelled out. I did, Harry said, “but anyone with as few friends as I have, had better carry a gun.”

Well, after Saturday and a 70th Birthday Coffee, I think I can put my Colt 45 away. Thank you for the great turnout and a very good time.

I must admit, I was wondering if anyone would show up and Linda was worried that the cookies and cake for 200 would not cover the hoards. At 1:15 my worries were kicking in

because even my family were not all there. But five minutes later my worries started to fade and Linda’s worries started to kick in. Lots of people took the time to stop, talk and cut cake.

Each was greeted by our eight year-old granddaughter “Gabbie” filling out name tags for everyone.

I want to thank the friends who drove the 90 miles round trip from Manhattan to attend. That was nice. Thank you.

...

On to another subject. Our country is now getting what the City of Manhattan has been getting from our Progressive City Commission and our Progressive City Staff, over spending

and high taxes. For the past fifteen years the City of Manhattan has been going deeper into debt and we are going to be paying for a long time.

It got to be so bad that the Company who rates Manhattan’s bonds started telling investors that “they have more debt than other cities of the same size.” Did that stop Manhattan? “No.” They just ask another Company to rate the bonds. Now, I see they have added a third Company.

What will it take, not to turn this city around, but to just stop the spending? It will take good conservatives people running for office and being elected.

JAB

Straight Shooters Participate in Kansas State Rifle Association

Nine youth from the RL/PT 4-H Straight Shooters participated in the Kansas State Rifle Association BB Gun Championship Match March 13, 2010 in Alma. Fourteen teams from across Kansas participated in the match. The team of Blake Crowell, Daniel Dietrich, Barnabas Hawkinson, Matthew Plummer, Morgan Swisher and alternate Christopher Becker placed 6th in the contest.

Youth participating in this match take a 50 question true/false test over shooting safety, gun knowledge and the NRA BB Gun Rule book and shoot the four competition positions: prone, standing, sitting and kneeling.

There were 70 youth in the team member portion of the match. Matthew Plummer tied for 4th standing with 91 points, tied for 18th sitting with 92 points, tied for 15th kneeling with 92 points and tied for 11th with 368 points aggregate. Daniel Dietrich tied for 13th in prone with 95 points, tied for 6th sitting with 95 points, tied for 15th kneeling with 92 points and tied for 13th aggregate with 367 points. Morgan Swisher tied for 19th standing with 86 points, tied for 8th kneeling with 94 points and tied for 17th aggregate with 362 points. Barnabas Hawkinson tied for 17th prone with 94 points.

There were 22 youth participating in the team alternate portion of the match. Wade Stroda tied for 4th prone with 96 points, placed 1st standing with 94 points, placed 1st sitting with 99 points, tied for 3rd kneeling with 93 points and placed 1st aggregate with 382 points. Naomi Hawkinson placed 2nd prone with 98 points, 2nd standing with 93 points, tied for 4th sitting with 93 points, placed 1st kneeling with 95 points, and placed 3rd aggregate with a personal best 379 points. Austin Becker placed 3rd prone with 96 points, tied for 9th standing with 84 points, placed 3rd sitting with 98 points, placed 6th kneeling with 91 points and placed 4th aggregate with a personal best 369 points.

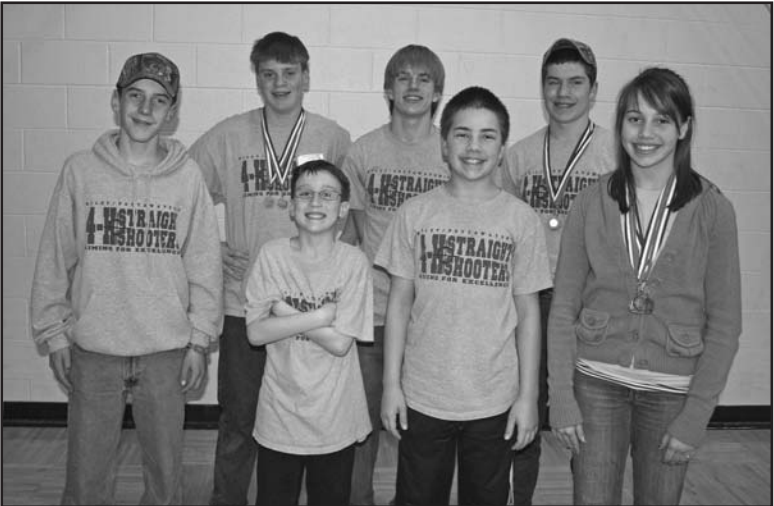
RL/PT 4-H Straight Shooters had ten youth participate in the Jackson/Nemaha 4-H Invitational Match.

Luke Hull placed 1st in the senior Air Pistol competition with 174 points shot one handed. Austin Becker placed 2nd in the junior Air Pistol competition with 162 points shot two handed. There was a possible aggregate of 200 points.

Austin Becker placed 5th kneeling with 148 points of 200 possible in the kneeling position and 7th aggregate with 414 points of 600 possible in the junior division of Air Rifle.

The BB Gun Team of John Allen, Blake Crowell, Matthew Plummer, Cade Shanks and Mattie Swisher placed 3rd at the match.

In the 7-8 year old division of BB Gun, John Allen placed 2nd aggregate with 286 points, 3rd prone with 74 points, 2nd standing



Riley/Pottawatomie 4-H Straight Shooters BB Gun shooters who participated in the Kansas State Rifle Association BB Gun Championship Match: front row L-R, Daniel Dietrich, Christopher Becker, Barnabas Hawkinson, Naomi Hawkinson; back row L-R, Austin Becker, Morgan Swisher and Wade Stroda. Not pictured: Blake Crowell and Matthew Plummer. Photo by Richard Becker

with 65 points, 3rd sitting with 73 points, and 2nd kneeling with 74 points 1X. Brendan Becker placed 3rd aggregate with 282 points, 2nd prone with 75 points, 3rd standing with 53 points, 2nd sitting with 80 points, and 3rd kneeling with 74 points 0X. Cameron Minihan placed 4th in prone with 66 points, 4th standing with 49 points, 4th sitting with 65 points, and 4th kneeling with 73 points.

Blake Crowell placed 8th kneeling with 83 points in the 9-11 year division of BB Gun.

The 12-14 division saw Austin Becker place 4th aggregate with 367 points, 4th prone with 96 4X, 7th standing with 87 points, and 3rd kneeling with 93 points. Matthew Plummer placed 6th aggregate with 365 points, tied for

6th prone with 95 points, tied for 4th sitting with 95 points and placed 11th kneeling with 87 points. Mattie Swisher placed 9th aggregate with 354 points, placed 12th standing with 85 points and tied for 9th kneeling with 89 points.

The RL/PT 4-H Straight Shooters are supported by Daisy Outdoor Products, Kansas State Rifle Association, Kansas Muzzleloaders Association, Riley and Pottawatomie County Extension Councils, Riley County Fish and Game, Kansas State University Military Science Department, Kaw Valley Archery, Flint Hills Pheasants Forever, Justin Corbet Foundation, Friends of NRA and 4-H Shooting Sports parents, families and instructors.



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