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REGION & STATE | A3

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SPORTS | A8

OUT AGAIN

GCCC men's soccer suffers 5-1 loss to Barton

Holcomb Council OKs MOU

By Mark Minton
 Staff writer

The Holcomb City Council approved a draft of a memo of understanding that, if agreed upon, would annex a portion of Jones Avenue leading from Holcomb High School to the Love's Travel Stop into the city limits of Holcomb.

The prospective agreement between Holcomb and Finney County officials has been in discussion for quite some time now, according to agenda materials provided by Holcomb Administrator Robin Lujan, and the move would make contiguous the western city limits leading from the high school in the 600 block of North Jones Avenue to the Love's convenience store in the 1500 block of North Jones Avenue. The Love's location and the high school are both already within Holcomb city limits.

In the materials provided to

council members, it was argued that Holcomb police already travel on the county road leading to the Love's location for law enforcement purposes.

Should the annexation happen, the city of Holcomb would become responsible for maintenance of traffic signals located at the three-way intersection of Jones Avenue, Big Lowe Road and IBP Road. According to Lujan, there are four traffic signal poles valued between approximately \$15,000 and \$20,000 each, and eight traffic signals valued at approximately \$500 each.

The agenda materials suggested that funds from Holcomb's Capital Improvement Reserve could be used to finance any needed maintenance.

Under the agreement, Finney County would continue to assist Holcomb with road maintenance of incorporated portions of Jones Avenue

and Main Street, including snow removal, street sealing, pavement markings and centerline striping. Finney County receives state funds for the maintenance of Jones Avenue and Main Street because both roads are classified as FAS Routes (Federal-aid secondary highway system.)

Conversely, the City of Holcomb would assume responsibility for necessary maintenance of the added width to Main Street in Holcomb for parking purposes; maintenance of sidewalks, curbs and gutters, including street signage and other necessary pavement markings; mowing along Jones Avenue and Main Street; as well as the aforementioned traffic signals.

Major projects amounting to more than routine maintenance of Jones Avenue and Main Street within Holcomb City Limits would be covered by both Holcomb and Finney

County under provisions outlined in a separate memorandum of understanding.

Councilman Ron Schebvogel said he does not see the need for annexation and foresees the possibility of little revenue being generated by added control of the three-way intersection of Jones Avenue, and the addition of another at the Holcomb Police Department with an added vehicle to monitor the intersection.

Councilman Scott Homer says he sees drivers routinely run the red light at that intersection, potentially creating a revenue source. However, he added, he does not support the annexation, either.

For Councilman Jerry Quint, full annexation of the intersection could be a significant source of revenue.

"Between stoplights, cattle trucks spilling s--- all over

See MOU, A5

Data: More Kansans insured

By Morgan Chilson
 The Capital-Journal

The number of Kansans without health insurance continued to drop in 2016, but the decrease was small compared to states in which Medicaid expansion occurred, a state health expert said.

Robert St. Peter, president and CEO of the Kansas Health Institute, said numbers released early Thursday morning by the U.S. Census Department as part of the American Community Survey showed Kansas has lost ground as compared to other states with regard to the number of people without health insurance.

"For many years, Kansas did better than the rest of the country in terms of insurance coverage," he said. "All those advantages to various groups of Kansans really have disappeared since 2014 with the insurance expansions of the ACA. The rest of the country has decreased their uninsured rate faster than Kansas, and now Kansas is basically indistinguishable from the rest of the country. In a few cases, we're actually now doing worse than the country as a whole.

"This is the first time ever that the uninsured rate in Kansas has been statistically the same as the U.S.," St. Peter added.

Overall, though, more Kansans have health insurance. The 2016 data showed 8.7 percent of Kansans don't have insurance, down from 12.3 percent in 2013.

A soft sunset



A hazy smoke from western states wildfires softens the sunlight of a sunset as the Windsor Hotel is silhouetted in the foreground Sunday.
 [BRAD NADING/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER]

Kansas presses on to overhaul driver's license records

Computer system is 5 years late arriving

By Tim Carpenter
 The Capital-Journal

Kansas lawmakers and auditors share anxiety about potential technical problems with the Kansas Department of Revenue's planned launch in January of a

multimillion-dollar computer system for issuing and tracking 2 million driver's license records that is five years behind schedule.

Avoiding performance problems that plagued introduction in 2012 of the Department of Revenue's vehicle registration system — replete with computer malfunctions and long lines for customers getting license tags — is the challenge,

officials said.

A spokeswoman for Sam Williams, secretary of the revenue department, said the agency's current leadership would make certain the project was managed "so that key milestones are met."

"Implementation will occur at the appropriate time to ensure the new system works for Kansans," said spokeswoman Rachel Whitten.

Anxiety among some state officials was reflected in an exchange between Rep. Kyle Hoffman, a Coldwater Republican and a member of the Legislature's joint information technology committee, and Katrin Osterhaus, an IT audit manager with the Legislative Division of Post Audit. Osterhaus recently

See RECORDS, A5

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Milo.....	2.72
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Low	105.40	110.57	113.00
Stand	107.67	113.00	116.35

