

Another Side Of The Story



It's Boycott Time

Forgive me for repeating what so many people already know, which is that the civil-rights movement in this country really gained traction after Dec. 1, 1955. That was the day Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white person on a Montgomery, Ala., bus and was arrested. She rightfully occupies a revered place in history, but it's what happened next that forced the unraveling of cruel Jim Crow segregation.

The next day, the city's blacks, led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., organized a boycott of city buses. It didn't take long before a lack of riders caused serious economic damage to Montgomery's transit system, and the rest, as they say, is history.

The point is that progress may be rooted in principle, but it's achieved by tightening the financial vise. The powerful aren't about to give up any privilege until they're hit right in their hearts, which is to say, their wallets. It's as true today as it was just more than 58 years ago: There's no better way to force progress than a boycott.

There are so many opportunities: For those in an uproar over the way A&E has handled "Duck Dynasty," it's as easy as can be: Don't watch the network, and maybe avoid buying from the show's sponsors. There is a huge amount of handwringing about how the infamous Koch brothers use their fortune to stymie regulation, fair taxation and labor rights. Simplicity itself: Koch Industries owns Georgia Pacific, which makes a ton of consumer products, including Brawny paper towels and Northern tissue. Need I say more?

Furthermore, who really needs to eat at Chick-fil-A? Or Cracker Barrel? The list goes on and on. And it's a tactic that those on the other side can use. Many are upset over the various positions espoused by Warren Buffett. What does he own? What doesn't he own? Berkshire Hathaway subsidiaries range from GEICO Insurance, which is so easy to reject that even a caveman can do it, to Dairy Queen to Fruit of the Loom.

The super-rich are not impervious. They may spread a teeny bit of their wealth to officeholders to bully them into creating laws to protect them from the constraints imposed on the less fortunate or dilute the ones that might rein in their corrupt activities, but they can't coerce their customers. They can try to persuade with advertising, but if the consumers can focus on their social or political priorities, and then stop buying from those whose conduct or positions they find objectionable, then you might see some better behavior.

To see how skittish they can be, look no further than A&E. First, Phil Robertson was suspended from "Duck Dynasty," which was a meaningless gesture, but it was a gesture. Obviously, executives decided they didn't want to offend those who sympathize with the gay-rights movement. But then the right went into a snit, and the powers-that-be hurriedly suspended the suspension.

The same thing happened at Cracker Barrel restaurants. It moved back and forth in a big hurry. Since government is unresponsive, the boycott might be a more effective legal way to fight cultural and financial battles. It's worked before. It can now.

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Oklahoma Economy Yields Moderated Growth in 2013

The Oklahoma economy continues to advance but backed off the accelerator a little during 2013. State Treasurer Ken Miller said today as he released the state's monthly gross receipts to the treasury report.

"All major sources of revenue finished the year in growth territory, just not as robust as during the past few years," Miller said. "National and state economic data, such as consumer and business confidence, real estate and stock prices, point to continued growth in the new year."

The growth in gross collections during 2013 was 3.2 percent, compared to 3.8 percent in 2012 and 9.6 percent in 2011. In December, a more than 10 percent drop in gross income tax collections pushed the bottom line down by almost one percent from December of last year.

Monthly gross receipts were less than prior year collections only three times during 2013. However, gross income tax numbers underperformed the prior year during five months, with corporate income taxes missing the mark eight times. Corporate collections finished the year down by 1.6 percent from the prior 12-months.

Miller said performance in the oil patch is the brightest spot in the annual numbers.

"After falling throughout 2012 and the beginning of 2013, gross production receipts have topped prior year collections for the past eight consecutive months and finished the year up by more than 9 percent over 2012," he said.

Sales tax collections indicate a Christmas shopping season marginally better than last year. December sales tax collections, reflecting sales between mid-November and mid-December, were \$3.5 million or 1 percent higher than the same period of 2012. Last December, sales taxes were up by 5.9 percent over the prior year.

Positive outlook
Miller said that while the federal government provided impediments to growth during 2013, recent developments in Washington give reason to be hopeful in future months.

"Taking the economy to the brink in the showdown over the federal budget and debt limit during the past year had a chilling effect on the nation's economy," he said. "But now that law-

makers have finally approved a budget, perhaps some stability will be restored."

While the near term looks positive, Miller said long term economic challenges still remain with the Affordable Care Act, federal deficit spending and public pension problems across the nation, including in Oklahoma.

"More must be done to bring Washington's appetite for spending under control," he said. "Plus, the implementation problems with Obamacare continue to prolong the uncertainty of its costs to individuals and businesses."

Other measurements
During the past 12 months, figures from the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission show the number of those unemployed increased by 5,310, while the number of jobs dropped by 2,350. During that time, the unemployment rate increased from 5.1 percent to 5.4 percent.

Oklahoma Business Conditions Index anticipates economic expansion in Oklahoma's economy during at least the first half of 2014. The index rate jumped to 60.2 in December from November's rate of 49.3. Numbers above 50 indicate anticipated economic growth in the coming months.

December collections
The revenue report for December shows gross collections at \$965.61 million, down \$9.16 million or 0.9 percent from December 2012.

Gross income tax collections, a combination of personal and corporate income taxes, generated \$340.64 million, a decrease of \$38.19 million or 10.1 percent from the previous December.

Personal income tax collections for the month are \$284.73 million, down \$6.88 million or 2.4 percent from the prior year. Corporate collections are \$55.9 million, a decrease of \$31.31 million or 35.9 percent.

Sales tax collections, including remittances on behalf of cities and counties, total \$368.49 million in December. That is \$3.51 million or 1 percent above December 2012.

Gross production taxes on oil and natural gas generated \$69.84 million in December, an increase of \$9.67 million or 16.1 percent from last December. Compared to November reports, gross pro-

duction collections are down by \$41,000 or 0.1 percent.

Motor vehicle taxes produced \$55.64 million, up by \$3.46 million or 6.6 percent from the prior year.

Other collections, consisting of about 60 different sources including taxes on fuel, tobacco, horse race gambling and alcoholic beverages, produced \$131.01 million during the month. That is \$12.39 million or 10.4 percent more than last December.

2013 collections

During 2013, gross revenue totals \$11.446 billion. That is \$359.17 million or 3.2 percent higher than collections in 2012.

Gross income taxes generated \$4.11 billion for the year, reflecting an increase of \$148.06 million or 3.7 percent from the prior calendar year.

Personal income tax collections total \$3.528 billion, up by

\$157.42 million or 4.7 percent from 2012. Corporate collections are \$579.62 million for the period, a decrease of \$9.36 million or 1.6 percent over the previous year.

Sales taxes for the period generated \$4.267 billion, an increase of \$91.84 million or 2.2 percent from the prior 12-months.

Oil and gas gross production tax collections brought in \$795.5 million during the 12 months, up by \$67.46 million or 9.3 percent from the previous period.

Motor vehicle collections total \$723.93 million for the period. This is an increase of \$22.04 million or 3.1 percent from the trailing 12 months.

Other sources generated \$1.552 billion, up \$29.78 million or 2 percent from the previous calendar year.

Gross Receipts to Treasury

PRELIMINARY	12 Month Period Ending		Summary	
	Jan 2013 - Dec 2013	Current Year	Variance From Prior Year	%
(In \$ millions)	Jan 2012 - Dec 2012	Jan 2013 - Dec 2013	\$	%
Income Tax	3,959.62	4,107.68	148.06	3.7%
Gross Production	728.04	795.50	67.46	9.3%
Sales Tax (1)	4,175.37	4,267.21	91.84	2.2%
Motor Vehicle	701.89	723.93	22.04	3.1%
Other Sources (2)	1,521.89	1,551.67	29.78	2.0%
TOTAL REVENUE	11,086.81	11,445.98	359.17	3.2%

(1) Includes Collections for Counties and Municipalities
(2) Gross Collections from OTC
Details may not sum due to rounding.

OHS Receives Donation of Pre-Statehood Newspapers

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., -- The Oklahoma Historical Society's Research Center has received 20,000 pages of Oklahoma newspapers previously thought to have been lost to history. The unique donation of historic Oklahoma newspapers was a gift from the Kansas Historical Society after a recent inventory discovered the newspapers in its collections.

"These titles are all from before Oklahoma statehood and are a wonderful addition to the OHS newspaper archives," said Director of Research Chad Williams. New titles and issues include: Cherokee Sentinel (1894-95), Daily Optic (1889), Hennessey Courier (1890), West and South (1891) and the Yukon Weekly Courier (1891-92). Williams said, "The collection is in remarkable condition and will be digitized and added to the OHS online website 'The Gateway to Oklahoma History' where each page will be word searchable and freely available to researchers."

"The Gateway to Oklahoma History" is an online repository sponsored by the OHS and the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation. Visiting the site allows you to browse more than 800,000 Oklahoma newspaper pages dating from the 1840s-1920s. To search the Gateway, visit <http://gateway.okhistory.org/>. For more information, contact the OHS Research Center at 405-522-5207 or newspaper@okhistory.org.

Super Crossword

Answers to this Week's puzzle in next issue.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

TEACHING THE TABBY METHOD

Answers to this Week's puzzle in next issue.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 Composer Bartok
5 Does' mates
10 Cellar, in ads. for apt. for ads.
14 Clean
19 Vigorously
19 Neeson of film
20 — a time (item by)
21 San — (Riviera resort)
22 Stop for a bit
23 Aunt's beast
24 Aunt's husband, in France
25 Coerced
27 Start of a riddle
30 "— be great if ..."
31 Filly's feed
32 Pitching star
33 Perceived to be
37 Riddle, part 2
43 Imitate a supermodel
44 Toe the mark
45 Dickens' villain Uriah
46 That girl's
47 "Horton Hears —"

50 Mr. Capote, to his friends
51 "La Cage —" Folies
52 Cogito-sum connector
53 Riddle, part 3
61 Part of a PA system
62 Maim's
63 Ely or Paul
64 Ida, neighbor
65 Point a pistol
66 Port city in Florida
67 Eatery bill
68 Quarterback
69 From Tehran
71 "What's the —?" (Same thing, right?)
72 Gillis of an old sitcom
73 El Capitan's national park
75 Riddle, part 4
80 Time of Christmas
81 Poetic time after dusk
82 Tonic go-with
83 Cash splitter-outers
84 River in Switzerland
85 Big name in PCs
87 Long drink

89 Counterpart of "Sir"
92 End of the riddle
99 Bible book before Job
100 Veiled
101 Be sore
102 Metal source
103 Riddle's answer
109 Cities plus their suburbs
112 Oldsmobile of 1999-
113 Like most cupcakes
114 From Tehran or Tabriz
115 Post-C run
116 More critical
117 Suit option
118 Was gutsy enough
119 Apt name for a herding dog
120 Simplified
121 Pablo's "his"

DOWN

1 Totally fail
2 Fraction equal to .125
3 Texas border city
4 "Right on!"
5 Big to-dos
6 Funicello of "Zorro"

7 Form anew, as a sentence
8 Perfumed
9 Editor's "put this back in"
10 Overgrown with limbs
11 Filmmaker Eisenstein
12 Nero's 3,100
13 Dorothy's dog
14 Add zest to
15 Redeemed, as a check
16 Make public
17 Profit from
18 With 48-Down, Burgundy or Chianti
26 Filter away
28 Not "for here," in a restaurant
29 "— it up and spit it out" ("My Way" lyric)
34 India's Jawaharlal
35 Lay — (fail miserably)
36 Old Detroit beer brewer
38 Winning by a single point
39 Honked thing

40 United Arab Emirates' capital
41 Closes
42 Volupulous
47 Tennis situation
48 See 18-Down
49 Many a flat-screen
50 Eliot's Rum — Tugger
51 "— boy!"
52 Vast span
54 Hiker's path
55 ET tales, say
56 —pah band
57 Herb in curry powder
58 Broken chord
59 Rub off
60 Prize won by Obama
66 Tattered
67 Singer
68 Color lightly
69 Tabloid
70 Disarray
71 Vina — Mar
72 John of farm equipment
73 "Round — virgin ..."
74 Port city in Florida
75 Stupified
76 — Ark

77 Rid of some rodents
78 Fork (off)
79 Virgo, e.g.
85 Mass near a tonsil
86 Around, in a date
87 Instigates
88 Extensive
89 "Mother —" (old Irish song)
90 Olympic track star
91 1940s film critic James
93 Actress Courtney — Smith
94 Perot running mate
95 Puts H2O on
96 Utters
97 Writer
98 Really must
104 Is incorrect
105 Netting
106 Walk across a stream
107 Kulik of figure skating
108 In the flesh
109 —cap stock
110 Eventful time
111 Roofers' goo

Oklahoma City Counselor Sentenced to Prison for Medicaid Fraud

OKLAHOMA CITY – Laurel Mitchell-Hunt of Oklahoma City has been sentenced to 21 months in prison for Medicaid fraud, Attorney General Scott Pruitt announced Thursday.

Mitchell-Hunt, 59, pled guilty to one count of Medicaid fraud in October in federal court and was sentenced to prison on Monday. Mitchell-Hunt, a licensed drug and alcohol counselor, billed the Oklahoma Health Care Authority for counseling sessions that were never provided.

A cooperative investigation involving the FBI and the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit uncovered instances where Mitchell-Hunt conducted personal business, including receiving hair and nail treatments and visiting her son in prison, during the time she was billing the state for performing counseling services.

Mitchell-Hunt also was ordered to pay more than \$140,000 in restitution.

The AG's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit is the only Oklahoma law enforcement agency dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of Medicaid fraud. The Unit helps raise awareness as well as investigates and prosecutes provider fraud and abuse of residents in Medicaid-funded nursing homes.



Mr. Sellers,

My wife and I have just moved back to Oklahoma City after leaving in 1968. Today I picked up a copy of the "Beacon" your Dec 26 paper. Low and behold as I read your "Looking Back" I saw where you mention my wife's aunt and uncle, K. C. and Flora VanWinkle. K. C. Cleaners was just a block west of where my parents, Carl & Ione Goddard has a cafe, "Sooner Grill" 126 S. W. 44th where they had the best Bar-b-q in town. At least I thought so! I was raised in Capitol Hill [226 S. E. 44th], I went to Shields Heights, Capitol Hill Jr and Sr High. I worked one summer at the "Yale", washed dishes at the cafe. My wife came from Phoenix to live with K. C. and Flora after her mother passed. This is how I met my future wife. I always said that she took me to the cleaners. It was a thrill after all these years to have such wonderful memories bought back. Just thought I would let you know how much I enjoyed your paper.

My wife and I now live at Southwest Mansions, 9900 S. Western, so I've made a round trip, I'm home again.

Have a great day and keep bringing back the memories!
Sincerely,
Bill Goddard

Stepping Up to the Chairmanship

On January 2, my fellow members of the Board of Oklahoma County Commissioners chose me to chair the board for 2014. I am honored by this action and I look forward to a year of service beyond that of my normal role as District Two County Commissioner.

The chairman presides at all commissioner meetings and also chairs the County Budget Board, which is made up of all of the elected officials of Oklahoma County. In addition, the chairman represents Oklahoma County government on a dozen boards and commissions, such as those that govern the library system and our drug courts.

The chairman is also an official spokesman for county government in its relations to such organizations as the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. So it's a challenging job, and one I am eager to undertake.

County government is somewhat unique under Oklahoma's constitutional system. Where state government has its distinctive legislative, executive and judicial branches, and cities often have a mayor, city council members and a city manager, county government is something of a hybrid.

The three elected county commissioners oversee roads in their respective districts as executives, but they also comprise the three-member Board of County Commissioners, which meets

and votes much like a legislative body to appropriate funds and set policies.

The Budget Board, which includes the three commissioners and the other elected county officials like the treasurer and assessor, is a separate institution that votes on budget matters. Individually, each of those elected officials also manages his or her spate office, acting in an executive capacity.

So the chairman is part member of the board, part leader and part executive. That requires careful attention to detail and frequent consultation with other officials to assure that county government is running as it should.

Since I was first elected in 2008 and re-elected in 2012, I have emphasized the central mission of our local elected officials, which is to serve the taxpayers with honest, efficient government. That goal will not change as I assume the chairmanship. In fact, it will become even more important as I will have more input into how the various agencies and departments of county government are operating.

Of course I will continue to manage the activities of District Two, including the further growth of our successful SHINE community service program.

I am grateful for this opportunity to be of additional service to the people of Oklahoma County!



County Commissioner Brian Maughan