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# Manhattan Free Press

Vol. 23 Number 29

An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper

Thursday, December 18, 2014

## City, County Officials: Question Free Press Story

**Editorial**  
**By Jon A. Brake**  
**Publisher**

Manhattan Mayor Wynn Butler and Riley County Commissioner Ron Wells think, and are saying that the Free Press makes up stories.

Butler held up a copy of the December 4th issue of the Manhattan Free Press at a meeting of the City Commission and the Park Board last Tuesday. Butler read the headline "City Plans To Keep Up With Lawrence". Butler told the meeting that it was not "true." He then quoted the Free Press saying "One of the City's projects will be a new \$30 - \$50 million Sports Complex like the one in Lawrence." Butler said that was not "true."

Butler went on to say that the newspaper said "The Riley County Commission will form a Public

Building Commission and they will be able to finance both the City and County public building projects and never take them to the Voters". Butler ask the two boards "That's not true is it? There was no response from the Commissioners or the Park Board.

Here are the facts if anyone thinks the Free Press is making all of this up.

1. and 2. A private group (with the City's Park Manager setting as a member), looked at building a \$50 million "private" Sports Complex. The group found that they could not take on such a project but turned it over to the City of Manhattan and they have been conducting meetings and plan on sending out a survey. Half of the survey is asking questions about a Sports Complex. (Yes, the headline was true and a Sports Complex is one of their projects.)

3. If you will go to manhattanfreepress.com and hit on Video Gallery and

Manhattan News and Events you will find a folder called "Riley County 2nd Building Commission Meeting. In Part 1 at 16:30 on the video Riley County Commission Chairman Bob Boyd tells the group "Your going to see other Commissions use it (PBC)." (Yes, the City of Manhattan will be using the building commission.)

4. In an e-mail to the Free Press the next day Butler said: "I tried to get those guys on record last night as not supporting the PBC or the Fieldhouse." (As we pointed out before he received no commitments from the other Commissioners.)

Riley County Commissioner Ron Wells has also been taking the Free Press to task for not telling the truth. (Mr. Wells, we have the video.)

At one meeting Wells quoted a Free Press headline saying "We Don't Want Anyone Making a Profit."

Roger Seemore had ask the ques-

tion about the county leasing a building in stead of forming a Building Commission. Wells answered by saying that if "you lease that company has to make a profit." Watch the video on the Free Press website you will see the question by Mr. Seemore and the answer by the Commission. (As a contractor Mr. Wells should know that however you get a building by leasing or building it yourself someone is going to make a profit. It is the American Way.)

**What is next?**

Monday, the Riley County Commission signed the papers forming a Building Commission. It can not be stopped.

What the voters of Riley County can do for the next two years is watch the Commissioners. If they try to use the Building Commission, voters need to put together a petition to take the project to a vote of the people and turn

it down.

In two years Commissioners Bob Boyd and Ron Wells will be up for re-election, vote them out of office and replace them with two who will kill the Building Commission.

Any two Commissioners can change anything that these Commissioner have put together but if a building is constructed using the Building Commission it can not be stopped until the Bonds have been paid off. It might be a long time coming. The County Commissioners (see the video) have been talking about a 50-year bond issue for a new Courthouse.

If this continues you will see the Building Commission become the lending agency for the City, County, School District and the State of Kansas. You will not have another vote on any new buildings projects in Manhattan or Riley County

## Bowl game schedule for 2014-15

Associated Press |

**Saturday, Dec. 20**

**New Orleans Bowl**

Nevada (7-5) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (8-4), 10 a.m. (ESPN)

**New Mexico Bowl — at Albuquerque**

UTEP (7-5) vs. Utah State (9-4), 1:20 p.m. (ESPN)

**Las Vegas Bowl**

Colorado State (10-2) vs. Utah (8-4), 2:30 p.m. (ABC)

**Famous Idaho Potato Bowl — at Boise**

Western Michigan (8-4) vs. Air Force (9-3), 4:45 p.m. (ESPN)

**Camelia Bowl — at Montgomery, Ala.**

Bowling Green (7-6) vs. South Alabama (6-6), 8:15 p.m. (ESPN)

**Monday, Dec. 22**

**Miami Beach Bowl**

BYU (8-4) vs. Memphis (9-3), 1 p.m. (ESPN)  
Tuesday, Dec. 23

**Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl**

Marshall (12-1) vs. Northern Illinois (11-2), 5 p.m. (ESPN)

**Poinsettia Bowl — at San Diego**

Navy (6-5) vs. San Diego State (7-5), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Wednesday, Dec. 24**

**Bahamas Bowl — at Nassau**

Western Kentucky (7-5) vs. Central Michigan (7-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

**Hawaii Bowl — at Honolulu**

Rice (7-5) vs. Fresno State (6-7), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

**Friday, Dec. 26**

**Heart of Dallas Bowl**

Illinois (6-6) vs. Louisiana Tech (8-4), noon (ESPN)

**Quick Lane Bowl — at Detroit**

Rutgers (7-5) vs. North Carolina (6-6), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**St. Petersburg (Fla.) Bowl**

UCF (9-3) vs. N.C. State (7-5), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

**Saturday, Dec. 27**

**Military Bowl — at Annapolis, Md.**

Virginia Tech (6-6) vs. Cincinnati (9-3), noon (ESPN)

**Sun Bowl — at El Paso, Texas**

Duke (9-3) vs. Arizona State (9-3), 1 p.m. (CBS)

**Independence Bowl — at Shreveport, La.**

Miami (6-6) vs. South Carolina (6-6), 3 p.m. (ESPN2)

**Pinstripe Bowl — at Bronx, N.Y.**

Boston College (7-5) vs. Penn State (6-6), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Holiday Bowl — at San Diego**

Nebraska (9-3) vs. Southern Cal (8-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

**Monday, Dec. 29**

**Liberty Bowl — at Memphis, Tenn.**

West Virginia (7-5) vs. Texas A&M (7-5), 1 p.m. (ESPN)

**Russell Athletic Bowl — at Orlando, Fla.**

Clemson (9-3) vs. Oklahoma (8-4), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Texas Bowl — at Houston**

Texas (6-6) vs. Arkansas (6-6), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

**Tuesday, Dec. 30**

**Music City Bowl — at Nashville, Tenn.**

Notre Dame (7-5) vs. LSU (8-4), 2 p.m. (ESPN)

**Belk Bowl — at Charlotte, N.C.**

Louisville (9-3) vs. Georgia (9-3), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Fosters Farm Bowl — at Santa Clara, Calif.**

Stanford (7-5) vs. Maryland (7-5), 9 p.m. (ESPN)

**Wednesday, Dec. 31**

**Peach Bowl — at Atlanta**

Mississippi (9-3) vs. TCU (11-1), 11:30 a.m. (ESPN)

**Fiesta Bowl — at Glendale, Ariz.**

Boise State (11-2) vs. Arizona (10-3), 3 p.m. (ESPN)

**Orange Bowl — at Miami**

Mississippi State (10-2) vs. Georgia Tech (10-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

**Thursday, Jan. 1**

**Outback Bowl — at Tampa, Fla.**

Wisconsin (10-3) vs. Auburn (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN2)

**Cotton Bowl Classic — at Arlington, Texas**

Baylor (11-1) vs. Michigan State (10-2), 11:30 a.m. (ESPN)

**Citrus Bowl — at Orlando, Fla.**

Minnesota (8-4) vs. Missouri (10-3), noon (ABC)

**Rose Bowl — at Pasadena, Calif.**

Playoff semifinal: Oregon (12-1) vs. Florida State (13-0), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

**Sugar Bowl — at New Orleans**

Playoff semifinal: Alabama (12-1) vs. Ohio State (12-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Friday, Jan. 2**

**Armed Forces Bowl — at Fort Worth, Texas**

Pittsburgh (6-6) vs. Houston (7-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

**TaxSlayer Bowl — at Jacksonville, Fla.**

Iowa (7-5) vs. Tennessee (6-6), 2:20 p.m. (ESPN)

**Alamo Bowl — at San Antonio**

UCLA (9-3) vs. Kansas State (9-3), 5:45 p.m. (ESPN)

**Cactus Bowl — at Tempe, Ariz.**

Oklahoma State (6-6) vs.

Washington (8-5), 9:15 p.m. (ESPN)

**Saturday, Jan. 3**

**Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl**

Florida (6-5) vs. East Carolina (8-4), noon (ESPN2)

**GoDaddy Bowl — at Mobile, Ala.**

Toledo (8-4) vs. Arkansas State (7-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

**Saturday, Jan. 10**

**Medal of Honor Bowl — at Charleston, S.C.**

American vs. National, 1:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12

**College Football Championship — at Arlington, Texas**

**Sugar Bowl winner vs. Rose Bowl winner, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)**

**Saturday, Jan. 17**

**East-West Shrine Classic — at St. Petersburg, Fla.**

**East vs. West, 3 p.m. (NFLN)**

**NFLPA Collegiate Bowl — at Carson, Calif.**

National vs. American, 3 p.m. (ESPN2)

**Saturday, Jan. 24**

**Senior Bowl — at Mobile, Ala.**

**North vs. South, 3 p.m. (NFLN)**

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## Riley County Minutes Cost Taxpayers \$700 Per Month

What the Riley County Clerk and the Riley County Commissioners are doing with the Commission Minutes is Deceiving.  
Look at the Minutes taken by Rich Vargo this

year (left) and the Minutes taken by Rich Vargo last year (right). The County is paying \$700 per month to produce nothing but filler (left) and last year it did not cost extra to write a complete history of the meeting.

### Board of Riley County Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes December 08, 2014 Commission Chambers 8:30 AM

8:30 AM Call to Order  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Public Comment  
1. Public Comments  
Hobson said we have openings on the Road and Bridge Advisory Committee. Hobson said Vern Bulk and Dick Hayter have expressed interest in being reappointed to the Committee.  
Boyd stated normal appointments will be finalized at a future meeting. Nickel discussed a committee's work on a year long assessment of the Fake Patty's event.  
Commission Comments  
2. Commission Comments  
Wells said he looked at a concern on the condition of Deep Creek Road.  
Wells stated he met with Don Combs on future road plans in the Manhattan, Riley County area.  
Boyd said he attended the following Riley County activities with the corresponding comments:  
12.05.14  
Traveled to Topeka for the 9-1-1 Coordinating Committee meeting were we made progress toward a unified approach to our state's future  
9-1-1 system. The challenges are larger than simply equipment; we must find a methodology for that is effective for all communities and provides the needed service throughout the state yet offer flexibility for individual communities to tailor systems to meet their own needs.  
Attended mayor's parade from the mall to Aggieville. Great crowds.  
Attended the Flint Hills Volunteer Center's Festival of Trees at the KSU Alumni Center and contributed to a most worthy cause.  
12.7.14  
Pearl Harbor Day, a day for remembering a great loss for the United States. As our years pass, the memory of the "day which will live in infamy" diminishes, a fact of life which we can little impact. Yet on this day, my thoughts are of my Mother and Father making the commitment to serve their country and go off to war thereby altering their lives in the most profound manner.  
Business Meeting  
3. Board of Health Signature for Letter of Appreciation, Sarah Hartsig, Kansas Health Institute  
Move to approve and sign the Letter of Appreciation to be sent to Sarah Hartsig, Kansas Health Institute for her assistance with the Health Department change management process to change operating hours.  
RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Dave Lewis, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis  
4. Sign Riley County Personnel Action Form(s)  
The Board of County Commissioners signed Riley County Personnel Action Forms for the following:  
Colleen Musil, a Records Assistant II, in the County Clerk's Office, for Separation from County Service, effective December 19, 2014.  
Marsha Tannehill, a Raising Riley Child Care Facilitator, in the Health Department, for Separation from County Service, effective December 12, 2014.  
5. Sign Riley County Position Action Form(s)  
The Board of County Commissioners signed Riley County Position Action Forms for the following:  
A Raising Riley Child Care Facilitator, in the Health Department, at a grade M.  
Records Assistant II, in the County Clerk's Office, at a grade H.  
Raising Riley RIGHT Literacy Facilitator, in the Health Department, at a grade G.  
6. Sign a Tax Roll Correction for Pawnee Mental Health Services Endowment Association, Inc.  
Move to approve the Tax Roll Correction for Pawnee Mental Health Services Endowment Association, Inc. (204-18-2-80-14-002.00-0) for tax year 2014 per Board of Tax Appeals Docket #2014-7202-TX. This results in a decrease in tax dollars of \$10,567.94.  
RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Dave Lewis, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis  
Review Minutes  
7. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Dec 4,  
Move to approve the minutes.  
RESULT: ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Dave Lewis, County Commissioner SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis  
Review Tentative Agenda  
8. Tentative Agenda  
Press Conference Topics  
9. Discuss Press Conference  
RCPD - Holiday Safety & Driving and Driving Precautions  
Pat Collins - Live Christmas Tree Safety  
Shilo Heger - Property taxes due  
Rich Vargo - Riley County board positions  
9:00 AM Rich Vargo, County Clerk  
10. Year to date budget and expenditure reports  
Vargo presented year to date budget reports.  
9:15 AM Gary Stith, Flint Hills Regional Council  
11. Flint Hills Regional Council update  
Stith presented and update on Flint Hills Regional Council projects. Adams discussed the Fair Housing Study being conducted for a seven county area.  
9:30 AM  
Press Conference  
12. Flint Hills Forces exhibit lecture December 11 - Cheryl Collins (2 minutes)  
C. Collins said Thursday, December 11th Cliff Hight, co-author of "Generations of Success: A Photographic History of Kansas State University 1863-2013," will share images and stories from his book at the Flint Hills Discovery Center.  
13. Farm Bill Educational Meeting on December 17 - Greg McClure (3-5 minutes)  
McClure said the Kansas Farm Management Association will host a farm bill education meeting on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at Pottorf Hall on the Riley County Fairgrounds in Manhattan. The meeting, which will run from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 (noon), is open to the public.  
14. Flu Vaccine Available for Uninsured Adults (19 years or Older) - Gail  
Chalman (3 minutes)  
Chalman said 40 doses of flu vaccine are available for uninsured adults above the age of 19.

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

The Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners met at the Riley County Plaza East Building November 25, 2013 with the following members present: Dave Lewis, Chair; Robert Boyd, Vice Chair; Ron Wells, Member; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk.  
8:30 Pledge of Allegiance  
Public Comment, Commission Comments, & Business Meeting  
Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Joan Strickler, League of Women Voters; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Monty Wedel, Planning/Special Projects Director; Steve Higgins, Zoning Enforcement Officer; Brent Sigman, REACH Committee Chair; Lori Muir, REACH Committee Member; Janet Dean; Bob Isaac, Planner; and Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk, attended.  
Hobson said the Public Works Department was asked by a Ta Bus to remove the snow at their facility. Hobson said Public Works removed the snow.  
Hobson asked if the Board wants Public Works to remove snow for a Ta Bus and if Riley County should charge them or not.  
The Board agreed by consensus that Riley County should charge a Ta Bus for snow removal.  
Sigman presented the employee of the month award to Lisa Daily.  
Dean discussed a commissioner's comment about the public not being aware of Riley County facilities' needs. Dean stated some previous commissioners and employees are familiar with the needs. Dean stated she feels a public building commission is dangerous.  
Boyd moved to approve "Resolution No. 112513-72, A Resolution adopting revised definitions of "immediate family" for the Riley County Personnel Policies and Guidelines." Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.  
Boyd moved to approve the minutes of November 21, 2013 as amended. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.  
Boyd moved to approve the payroll vouchers in the amount of \$279,987.46 and the following warrant vouchers for November 27, 2013:

2013 Budget	
County General	\$407,809.19
Health Department	75,751.39
Teen Court Collected Fund	183.80
War Memorial	950.00
County Auction	1,112.95
Juvenile Intake Case Mgr	668.44
Riley Co Juvenile Service	4,557.98
PATF	1,287.29
Motor Vehicle Operations	3,089.45
21st Jud Dist Teen Court	1,226.16
Riley Co Adult Services	9,036.00
Capital Improvements Fund	168,628.74
Economic Development	515,490.52
Emergency 911	4,014.06
Solid Waste	162,738.58
County Building	7,671.44
Road & Bridge Cap Project	131,686.82
RCPD Levy/Op	5,807.15
Landfill Closure	2,598.59
Riley Co Fire Dist #1	16,220.54
University Park W&S	510.51
Univ Park Capital Project	6,219.81
Hunters Island Water Dist	2,038.36
Deep Creek Sewer	80.24
Moehlman Bottoms	1,126.51
Konza Water Operations	5,421.80
TOTAL	\$1,535,926.32

Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.  
9:03 Brenda Nickel, Health Department Director  
Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Joan Strickler, League of Women Voters; Kristina Johnson, Manhattan Mercury; and Kate Steves, KDHE, attended.  
Nickel presented a 2014 WIC Local Agency Contract Amendment.  
Boyd moved that Brenda Nickel, Riley County Health Department Director, be authorized to sign the Amendment to the WIC Local Agency Contract. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.  
Boyd moved to convene as the Riley County Health Board and recess as the Board of County Commissioners. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.  
Nickel discussed a Site Agreement between the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Division of Health Care Finance and the Riley County Health Department: KanCare Outreach Eligibility Specialist.  
Boyd moved to authorize Brenda Nickel, RCHD Director, to sign the contract between the Riley County Health Department and the KDHE Division of Health Care Finance for space provision for the KanCare Eligibility Outreach Specialist. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.  
Nickel discussed the Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program Agreement to Provide Primary Healthcare Services.  
Boyd moved to authorize Brenda Nickel, RCHD Director, to sign the contract between the Riley County Health Department and the KDHE Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program Agreement to provide Primary Healthcare Services. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.  
Boyd moved to recess as the Board of Health and reconvene as the Riley County Commission. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

### Electric Journeyman Lineman

The City of Oberlin, Kansas, is accepting applications for Electric Journeyman Lineman. The applicant must possess a valid Kansas Class B CDL license; HS diploma / GED and line apprentice program certification. This position is required to be on call on a rotating basis and residency within the city limits. Interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter and at least three work-related references to City Clerk, City of Oberlin, 1 Morgan Drive, Oberlin, KS 67749. EOE.

## Thank You

The family of John W. Dummermuth would like to thank everyone for all your thoughtfulness and prayers, since John's passing.

Jim & Ronda  
Norman & Betty

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Check out the Videos of the two meetings the Riley County Commission held on a Public Building Commission at our web site: [manhattan-freepress.com](http://manhattan-freepress.com)

PUBLISHED WEEKLY EXCEPT THURSDAY



"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."  
Thomas Jefferson, 1787

## Manhattan Free Press

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## Nebraska senator calls \$21,000 price on school gender documents 'ridiculous'

By Deena Winter  
Nebraska Watchdog  
LINCOLN, Neb. — Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery said it's "ridiculous" the Lincoln Public School district said it would cost \$21,000 to retrieve all public documents related to its controversial gender sensitivity training.

The school district has been embroiled in controversy since Oct. 1 when news broke that middle school teachers were advised not to call students "boys and girls," but instead less gender-specific terms like campers, scholars or class mascots like purple penguins.

Nebraska Watchdog asked for all public documents held by LPS administrative employees and school board members pertaining to the gender training, as well as all LPS policies, guidelines and training materials on gender inclusiveness. LPS responded by saying that would cost over \$21,000.

Avery, a staunch defender of open records and transparency in government, got a bill passed last session to stop government entities from charging exorbitant prices for public records. His bill was designed to end the practice of charging hundreds or thousands of dollars for public records — sometimes in an attempt to dissuade the requester from getting them.

When told of the prices LPS projected for public documents, Avery said, "Tell them they should read the law. You cannot charge \$21,000 for public records. That's ridiculous."

Asked for a detailed estimate, LPS said it would cost:

- \$360 to retrieve all LPS emails related to the training, plus \$405 to redact confidential information in them. LPS said it would have to search over 765 employee emails.

- \$360 to retrieve all emails between LPS district office employees and the school board on the issue, plus \$810 to redact confidential information.

- \$135 for all written records pertaining to the gender training at Irving, plus another \$135 to redact it.

- \$17,888 to retrieve all written and electronic records of district office employees and board members, plus \$810 to redact information.

LPS estimated it would take 530 hours to get all records of district office and school board members on the gender training. Watchdog's records request was narrowed repeatedly until it only sought emails between LPS administrators and board members, at a cost of \$275. Those emails were the subject of a Tuesday story showing LPS encouraged the training.

Lincoln attorney J.L. Spray also requested any document Superintendent Steve Joel sent or received using the words transgender, gender inclusive, gender inclusiveness, gender neutrality, equity liaison or LGBT. LPS projected his documents would cost \$888. In the end, they only cost \$240.

Avery's new law bans government entities from charging anything for the first four hours of gathering documents, or charging an attorney's time to comb through the documents looking for confidential information to redact. LPS didn't charge for the first four hours, but charged \$33.75 per hour to redact information. Staff members said an attorney wasn't doing the work, but an employee would consult with legal counsel to ensure their redactions were legal.

"They are not abiding by the intent of the law and the spirit of the law, they are simply playing games," Avery said. "This is the kind of stuff that infuriates lawmakers. They know what the intent is, but deliberately mislead. They hire expensive lawyers and pore over documents... and look for things to hang their hat on."

## The Conservative Side...



Middle school just following orders in gender sensitivity training.

He said the city of Lincoln did something similar recently, despite his best efforts last session. His bill was softened after it ran into opposition from rural county assessors.

"Everybody knew what we were trying to achieve," Avery said. "A lot of public entities

were saying 'We don't want the public to have access to this stuff.' These are not records that belong to the city, county... they belong to the people."

Avery is being term-limited out of office, but said if he were

returning next session, he'd "go back with another law."

"They don't want to comply with the law," he said of LPS. "They, of all people, ought to be setting an example."

While some records requests are so broad they would exact huge costs, Avery said that just

goes with the territory in government work.

"My argument is you have to tolerate that as a risk," he said. "For every one of those (there) are a dozen that aren't. ... Every entity has something they'd rather not discuss in press."



## Manhattan Free Press

Telling The Truth, As We See It.

— King Crossword —  
Answers  
Solution time: 24 mins.

S	C	O	T	T	D	U	K	A	S		
C	L	O	C	H	E	E	R	I	C	A	S
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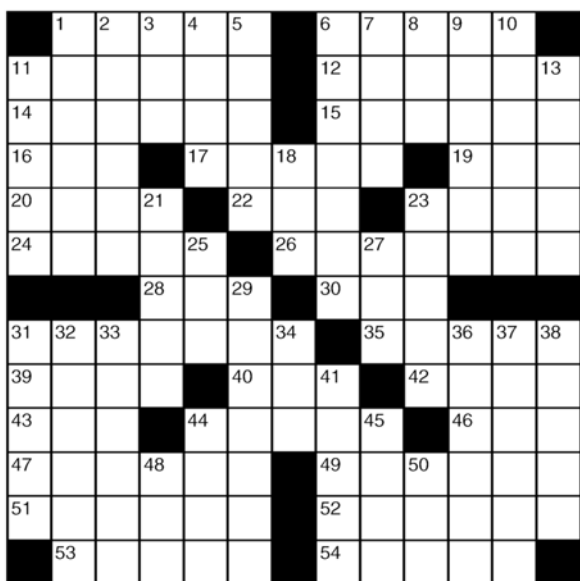
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### King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Great —!"
  - 6 "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" composer
  - 11 Woman's snug hat
  - 12 Jong and Kane
  - 14 Steve of the WWE
  - 15 Steve of "The Jerk"
  - 16 Edge
  - 17 Bessemer material
  - 19 U.N. workers' org.
  - 20 Screen image
  - 22 Day divs.
  - 23 Acknowledge
  - 24 Muddle with liquor
  - 26 Fishermen
  - 28 However
  - 30 Moray, e.g.
  - 31 Combination
  - 35 Trunks
  - 39 Unrivaled
  - 40 Fond du —, Wis.
  - 42 Garden intruder
  - 43 Third degree?
  - 44 Frank — Wright
  - 46 Aye undoer
  - 47 Steve of "Family Feud"
  - 49 Steve of "Evan Almighty"
  - 51 Just off the ocean's floor
  - 52 Feudal lords
  - 53 Buzzing instrument
  - 54 Perfumery compound
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Floodgate
  - 2 Carl Sagan topic
  - 3 Autumn mo.
  - 4 Not that
  - 5 First extra inning
  - 6 Legal possession of land
  - 7 Kazakh river
  - 8 Creme de cassis cocktail
  - 9 Hardly idle
  - 10 Tar
  - 11 Antillean tribe member
  - 13 "The — of Kilimanjaro"
  - 18 Historic time
  - 21 Aristocratic
  - 23 Let
  - 25 Yank
  - 27 Understand
  - 29 Fox hunt cry
  - 31 Socially dominant
  - 32 Punk rocker's coif, maybe
  - 33 Tenor Bocelli
  - 34 Long March leader
  - 36 Break a promise
  - 37 Caulking matter
  - 38 Pastoral pieces
  - 41 Washer phase
  - 44 Toy block name
  - 45 Speaker's spot
  - 48 Namely (Abbr.)
  - 50 Pensioned (Abbr.)



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## Cheesy Tater-Topped Chicken Casserole

Go easy on yourself with this quick one-dish meal, topped in potato nuggets. With chicken, cheese and veggies, too, it's both delicious and well-rounded.

### Ingredients

- 1 bag (24 oz) Green Giant™ frozen broccoli, carrots, cauliflower and cheese-flavored sauce
- 2 cups diced cooked chicken
- 4 medium green onions, chopped (1/4 cup)
- 4 cups frozen potato nuggets (from 2-lb bag)
- 1/2 cup finely shredded Cheddar cheese (2 oz)

### Directions

1 Heat oven to 375°F. In ungreased 11x7-inch (2-quart) glass baking dish, place broccoli, carrots, cauliflower and cheese sauce. Microwave uncovered on High 3 to 5 minutes, stirring once, until thawed. Stir well until cheese sauce is melted.

2 Stir chicken and 3 tablespoons of the onions into vegetable-cheese mixture. Top with frozen potato nuggets.

3 Bake uncovered 40 to 45 minutes or until bubbly around edges and potato nuggets are golden brown. Sprinkle with cheese and remaining 1 tablespoon onion. Bake 5 to 10 minutes longer or until cheese is melted.

### Expert Tips

For a cheesy boost, try this recipe with Green Giant® frozen broccoli in three-cheese sauce instead of the mixed vegetables.

Try this recipe with diced cooked turkey instead of the chicken and mozzarella cheese in place of the Cheddar.

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BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



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# Pay-to-play scandal involves UT dean, Texas Exes

By Jon Cassidy | Watchdog.org

Supporters of University of Texas President Bill Powers have for months worked mightily to deny or to marginalize evidence lawmakers were pulling strings to get unqualified students admitted to the university.

A new trove of public records obtained by Watchdog.org demonstrates that many of Powers' most vocal defenders — key alumni association members, an education coalition, politicians and witnesses involved in a series of impeachment hearings — have been involved in subverting UT's admissions process.

The records also show the Texas Exes alumni association and the Texas Coalition for Excellence in Higher Education were, in effect, two more arms of Powers' public relations team.

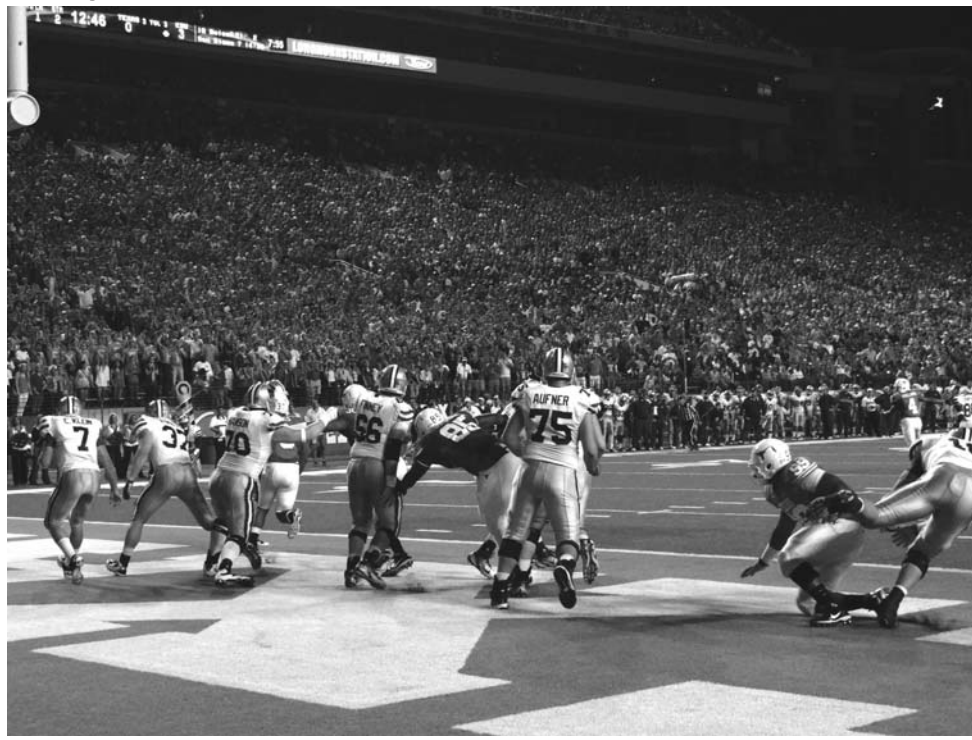
The emails were first obtained but not published by Tony McDonald, legal counsel for the conservative advocacy nonprofit Empower Texans.

On Jan. 31, 2013, Leslie Cedar, CEO of the Texas Exes, wrote to Tom Gilligan, dean of the McCombs School of Business, suggesting Gilligan admit a student who had been rejected in exchange for a \$25,000 donation, according to one of the emails.

The applicant's father, apparently, "hasn't done much giving but was about to cut you a 25k check," Cedar wrote. The original request came from Richard Leshin, former president of the Texas Exes, who is close to Powers and to South Texas power brokers Carlos Zaffirini and his wife, state Sen. Judith Zaffirini.

Earlier this year, Leshin, a Corpus Christi lawyer, wrote an op-ed in the San Antonio Express-News denouncing as "outlandish propaganda" reports that UT was admitting sub par students because of political influence.

Gilligan got back to Cedar and Leshin within a half hour, offering a deal in which the applicant "will be admitted into



Collin Klein (7) finishes a pass in a 2011 game in Texas Stadium. (Photo by Jon Brake)

McCombs upon completing several of the prerequisites (e.g. Calculus, Statistics, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics) with good grades (around a 3.5 GPA). Will that work?"

Gilligan declined to comment.

Leshin is a founding member of the Texas Coalition for Excellence in Higher Education, a group of Longhorn insiders established to maintain the status quo at UT. Members of the coalition and the alumni association have been quoted in dozens of news articles, creating the appearance of broad support for Powers.

Far from being independent voices, the email records obtained by Watchdog.org find the coalition and the alumni association often looped in on message coordination emails from Powers' PR staff.

Founding members, in discussion among themselves, are quite open about the fact their group was formed for the express purpose of supporting Powers while blocking reform proposals from the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and

that their talk of "excellence" is euphemistic "messaging" in defense of the status quo, the records show.

Cedar insists the Texas Exes' "purpose is truly to be an independent and formidable network of supporters to champion the university."

Yet in February 2013, when Powers' hold on his job began to look tenuous, the Office of the President began paying the Texas Exes \$100,000 every six months to support email blasts and other communications. The "game plan" for that campaign was coordinated with Powers' deputy.

That was on top of the \$158,600 that Powers had already approved in annual support for traditional alumni association activities, such as networking events, awards and scholarships.

Red McCombs, for whom the business school is named, wrote an email Feb. 6, 2013, to John Beckworth, then the president of the Texas Exes, challenging the first piece sent out as part of the new campaign — an email with the subject line: "A University of the First Class Deserves First-Class Regents."

"By using Texas Exes letterhead, you indicated that fine organization is supportive," McCombs wrote in an email to Beckworth. "I doubt that is true. I have been contacted by many today and everyone is contrary and upset by your comments. Please indicate to me how your views became the views of the Texas Exes."

Beckworth and the Texas Exes continued to send out pro-Powers emails. Powers rewarded Beckworth by appointing him associate dean of the law school.

The emails also demonstrate this network of influence extended itself into the impeachment of Wallace Hall, a university regent who has challenged insider influence-peddling.

State Rep. Ferdinand "Trey" Fischer, a vocal member of the legislative impeachment committee, met at least three times between 2009 and 2011 with the former dean of UT Law, Larry Sager.

The express purpose of one of those meetings, held in 2009 at the office of Houston trial lawyer and Democratic megapolitical donor Steve Mostyn,

was "to discuss the law school's commitment to building a stronger relationship with all (Mexican-American Legislative Caucus) members, and particularly, those who are UT graduates."

This close relationship with MALC includes admitting state Reps. Richard Peña Raymond and Eddie Rodriguez to the law school, although neither has been able to pass the bar despite repeated attempts.

Fischer has also written directly to Powers on behalf of applicants, although he never disclosed any of this during the impeachment hearings.

In response to a public records request, the director for admissions programs at the law school in August 2013 reported contacts from Zaffirini's office, and from Machree Gibson, who was president of the Texas Exes in 2012.

The emails also show in early 2013 state Rep. Eric Johnson, another member of the legislative committee who voted against Hall, was also interested in attending a graduate program at UT Law.

Johnson approached Powers assistant Carlos Martinez in December 2012. Martinez arranged a meeting with Dean Ward Farnsworth and an associate dean in February. Johnson, however, is not listed on UT's student database.

A month after that meeting, the impeachment committee heard testimony from Farnsworth.

This batch of email records includes new lawmaker recommendation letters, but there's also a 2010 letter from state Rep. Jim Pitts to Powers recommending someone for a job that ultimately went to Martinez.

Powers' defenders have argued that letters of recommendation sent directly to the president are common, and even regents have sent them. The email records include recommendations from two Powers allies who've served on the board, although not during their time on the board.

Steve Hicks wrote a recommendation letter to Powers in January 2009, a month before he was appointed to the board.

Scott Caven, a regent from 2003 to 2009 critical in testimony against Hall, tried to pull strings with Gilligan, the dean of the business school, in 2010 and 2013.

Caven's 2010 email refers to an MBA candidate and is mostly redacted. His 2013 email, however, regards a freshman for whom Caven urges Gilligan to "consider her under the more holistic review urged by Justice O'Connor," because of her unimpressive qualifications.

Caven wrote Gilligan a month later after her admission thanking him for "ensuring that her application got a full review."

Fischer, Johnson, and Caven all played active roles in a quasi-judicial proceeding against Hall. Yet nobody in the Austin press reported their involvement in the influence scandal and the conflicts it might create.

As late as November, the Houston Chronicle was still reporting unsubstantiated claims that Hall "bullied staff" at UT. Evidence in Hall's impeachment report consists of a single incident: Hall arguing in an email that an administrator named Kevin Hegarty ought to be punished for inventing and testifying to an incorrect figure that was at the crux of one of the accusations against Hall.

Bullying had been a talking point all along, though. It was one of the points provided to the media and the Powers coalition in an Aug. 8, 2012, email by one of its leading members, Gordon Appleman.

Another member of the coalition using only the initials JS, challenged in an email comment Appleman's assertion that board members were engaged in the "harassment of employees."

"Seems like a strong claim," JS wrote, "to make with no public evidence."

## Newcomers Shine at Winter Invitational

MANHATTAN, Kan. — K-State Track and Field capped off a solid weekend of action with an outstanding showing at the K-State Winter Invitational in Ahearn Field House. Competing against Oklahoma State and Nebraska-Omaha among others, the Wildcats racked up four school records, four meet records as well as saw freshman Rhizlane Siba set a new Morocco National Indoor Record in the women's high jump.

Head coach Cliff Rovelto was impressed with the Wildcats' overall performance.

"From a team perspective, overall, it was very good," Rovelto said. "I think there were some great individual performances."

The newcomers for K-State, in particular, made impressive debuts. Among the several highlight performances were A'keyla Mitchell, Akela Jones and Keiteyana Parks all setting school records in the 60-meter,

60-meter hurdles and 300 meter dash, respectively, while the aforementioned Siba in the high jump and freshman Janee' Kassaravoid in the weight throw recorded personal bests.

Records and PRs Galore

- The foursome of Sonia Gaskin, Tia' Gamble, A'keyla Mitchell and Erica Twiss shattered the 4x400 relay school record, clocking in at a time of 3:37.98 — nearly two-and-a-half seconds better than the previous fastest time of 3:40.38 set in 2012. It was a dominant performance that saw each runner record splits of well under 56 seconds or better en route to defeating the field of six by more than 13 seconds overall.

- "The women's relay was phenomenal," Rovelto said. "In a way, it was almost anti-climatic because we all, kind of, saw that coming. We all knew what was there. But you still have to go out and do it, and they did so that was pretty neat."

Along with setting the school record, the first-place finish was also a new Winter invitational meet record.

- Prior to helping break the 4x400 record, Mitchell set both a school and meet record of her own in the women's 60-meter dash, finishing in a time of 7.40. The Corpus Christi, Texas native defeated the field of 17 by nearly a half-second, while besting the school record previously held by Jasmine Gibbs of 7.41 set at the 2012 KSU All-Comers meet.

- "A'keyla Mitchell is a very gifted young athlete, obviously," Rovelto said. "It was her first time she has ever run a 60 in her life. To go out and run 7.40 the first time you are ever running that event is pretty good. She also scored a 52.9 [split] in the relay too, so she's going to do some special things."

- Junior-transfer Akela Jones followed Mitchell's perform-

ance by setting the school and meet record in the 60-meter hurdles. Clocking in at 8.17 seconds, Jones' time bested the record set by Lisi Maurer in 2006, and most recently tied by Twiss last season, of 8.24. A native of St. Michael, Barbados, Jones entered this season as the reigning NAIA indoor champion in the event, while her previous best in the 60H was 8.30 seconds.

Rovelto said Jones has the potential to be even better.

"There's no denying it, people have seen it for years," Rovelto said. "She's shown glimmers and some of it hasn't come out yet, but it's our job to help her get there. I'm not at all surprised by what she ran, she's just that good."

- Also making her debut in K-State purple was Keiteyana Parks, who competed in the 60-meter and 300-meter dashes. Her performance in the latter event was particularly notable, as Parks set a school and meet

record with a time of 39.40 seconds. The record-setting time marked the fourth-straight year a Wildcat sprinter had set the record in the event — Parks bested Gamble's time of 39.44. "The record she broke was set by an athlete that was second in the conference in the 600 [yard run] last year and was on a relay in the NCAA finals too," Rovelto said. "So for a freshman to do that, when you compare that time with what she ran in high school — there's no comparison — it was very good."

- In the high jump, Rhizlane Siba cleared the bar at 1.81m/5-11.25 en route to a first-place finish and new Morocco National Indoor Record. Already the national outdoor record holder with a mark of 1.80m/5-10.75, Siba was a perfect five-for-five in bars cleared until missing her final three tries at 1.85m/6-00.75. The personal best effort also placed the Rabat native in the K-State top-

10, tying her for ninth with Terresha DeRossett and DeDe Henderson.

- After spending this past season with Johnson County Community College, sophomore transfer Janee' Kassaravoid kicked off her K-State career with a personal best chuck in the weight throw. Kassaravoid recorded her PR mark of 17.08m/56-00.50 on her second throw of the morning, besting her previous PR of 16.59m/54-05.00 en route to a second-place finish overall.

The Rest in First-Place Finishes...

- Freshman Thilina Karunaratne leapt his way to a first-place finish in the high jump. A native of Nugegoda, Sri Lanka, Karunaratne finished the afternoon with a final height cleared of 2.10m/6-10.75. Joining Karunaratne were Nate Gipson, who tied for second in his K-State debut, and Miles Bearden, who finished in fourth.

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