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# Manhattan Free Press

Vol. 23 Number 30

An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper

Thursday, December 25, 2014

# Merry Christmas

The Free Press: Jon and Linda Brake,  
Ben Brake and Tonya Ricklefs

## Christmas 1914: The day even WWI showed humanity

By RAF CASERT  
Associated Press

PLOEGSTEERT, Belgium (AP) — With British and German forces separated only by a no-man's land littered with fallen comrades, sounds of a German Christmas carol suddenly drifted across the frigid air: "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht" ("Silent Night, Holy Night").

Then, during that first Christmas Day in World War I, something magical happened.

Soldiers who had been killing each other by the tens of thousands for months climbed out of their soggy, muddy trenches to seek a shred of humanity amid the horrors of war.

Hands reached out across the narrow divide, presents were exchanged, and in Flanders Fields a century ago, a spontaneous Christmas truce briefly lifted the human spirit.

"Not a shot was fired," Lt. Kurt Zehmisch of the 134th Saxony regiment wrote with amazement in his diary that Christmas.

On the other side of the front line, Pvt. Henry Williamson of the London Rifle Brigade was amazed by the goodwill among his enemies. "Yes, all day Xmas Day & as I write. Marvelous, isn't it?"

Few could believe their eyes, especially on this mud-caked patch of Belgium and northern France where crimson poppies had long ago shriveled in the cold.

Peace allowed for corpses to be recovered from the fields and given a proper burial. Fighting continued in many



German and British soldiers Christmas 1914.

other places on the front line. But it was a momentary peace in a war that would last for nearly four more years.

**THE BIRDCAGE**  
Near one of the spots where British and German soldiers fraternized for the unexpected truce, a dark, dirt track veers off the road and meanders into the gloom of the woods.

There, a cleared space has the graves of British soldiers who died on Dec. 19, 1914, in a battle as gruesome as it was insignificant, their dreams of a peaceful Christmas ignored and buried in the cold mud.

It was a time when swift military movement from Germany across France to the Belgian coast was grinding to a stalemate, leaving hundreds of thousands of casualties behind. For both sides — Germany versus an alliance led by France

and Britain — this buried any hope that the war would be over by Christmas.

The result was a form of warfare across trenches where human life was expendable.

"There are a number of local attacks which never make it into the history books, but which all cause a great loss among the troops," said Piet Chielens, curator at the In Flanders' Fields Museum in Ypres, Belgium.

The Dec. 19, 1914 "Birdcage" attack occurred on a bulge of the German line about the size of a football (soccer) field. Allied soldiers also had been thinking about Christmas, but for 80 of them it turned into disaster in an area where a warren of barbed wire had given the German defenders a huge advantage.

Chielens said that during

those early days of the war both sides dug into the Flemish soil, with commanders "attacking without deep thought, without deep concern about the fate of their men." The infamous "Birdcage" was one of those battles that made them realize that strategy wouldn't work.

With offensive artillery nearly non-existent and sometimes so wayward that it also was a threat to its own troops, soldiers were thrown into action where one machine gun could mow down a whole row of approaching men.

Some of the bodies found after the attack were so mangled they could no longer be told apart, and today the headstones of several casualties stand shoulder to shoulder to mark that horror.

**"WE NO SHOOT"**  
Little wonder so many sol-

diers were pining for a glimmer of hope on Christmas Eve.

Frank and Maurice Wray of the London Rifle Brigade settled in to keep watch when they suddenly heard a German band in the trenches play songs "common to both nations," they later wrote in an article. "Quite understandably a wave of nostalgia passed over us."

At dawn, a German called out, "We good. We no shoot," and the Wrays noted: "And so was born an unofficial armistice." Men walked out, extremely apprehensive at first, many fearing some deadly trick. Then human warmth cracked the freezing cold.

Chielens said that similar scenes occurred at about 30 scattered points across many miles (kilometers) of Belgium. Others happened across the Western Front, which ran from the North Sea to the Swiss border.

Apart from talk in a shared language or merely with hands and kindred eyes, the men exchanged gifts, using everything from bully beef and barrels of beer to small mementos. Some played football.

German soldier Werner Keil scribbled his name on a piece of paper and gave a uniform button to 19-year-old British Cpl. Eric Rowden of the Queen's Westminster Rifles on Christmas Day 1914. "We laughed and joked together, having forgotten war altogether," Rowden wrote.

War, though, was never far away, including memories of the Birdcage still lingered and the burials of dead soldiers. It was hardly as if gunfire

stopped all over to make room for warm embraces.

On the Belgian stretch around Ploegsteert alone, "we still have over 250 people dying on Christmas Day itself. There was enough fighting going on," Chielens said.

Despite the uplifting moment, commanders away from the trenches abhorred the softening of posture and fighting spirit. Cpt. Robert Hamilton of Britain's 1st battalion Royal Warwickshire noted: "I am told the general and staff are furious — but powerless to stop it."

**25TH DECEMBER 1917**  
All that would change soon enough, and the 1914 truce would not be repeated.

Once British Gen. Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien had heard of it on Dec. 27, 1914, he wrote in a confidential memorandum that "this is only illustrative of the apathetic state we are gradually sinking into." He threatened disciplinary action to avoid a repeat.

"It was certainly remembered by the army commands because around Christmas in 1915, 1916, 1917, they see to it that there is no such thing as a truce possible because then the shelling will be deliberate and very intensive."

One thing did continue — the relentless killing. Next to a monument in Ploegsteert to mark football playing at Christmas is the Prowse Point Military cemetery. Amid the 225 dead, three headstones from the 27th Battalion Australian infantry stand out.

Date of death? "25th December 1917."

## Democratic Obamacare supporters: Doctors are watching

By Tori Richards  
Watchdog.org

Beleaguered members of Congress who support Obamacare and squeaked by in the recent election now have a nemesis — a PAC of doctors, surgeons and nurses demanding they change their ways because the health-care law will only wreak more havoc in 2015.

"A lot of the Democrats in Congress have gotten the message in this past election of people's unhappiness with Obamacare," said Dr. Jeffrey Singer, a co-founder of Our Patients First PAC. "The pain of the Affordable Care Act is just going to get worse, not better."

Singer, an Arizona surgeon, formed the PAC in September after watching helplessly while many of his patient's policies were canceled and others found that he wasn't in their networks. Three of them were enrolled in Medicaid by default because their policies were deemed "not ACA compliant." Access to providers in Medicaid is even worse than in the private plans available in the exchanges.

Our Patients First now has repre-

sentatives in 15 states and hopes to expand significantly next year. It has been sponsoring radio and television ads in five congressional districts where the newly elected incumbents lost by fewer than 10,000 votes and could be vulnerable in the next election.

The ads detail the fiasco surrounding Obamacare architect Jonathan Gruber, who was caught on video calling Americans who backed the reform "stupid" and saying details were hidden in the massive bill or no one would have supported it.

"Gruber is actually guilty of candor, but he said it in an offensive way," Singer said. "He was saying that the general public is too dumb to know what's good for them, so we have to disguise what we are doing because if they knew, they wouldn't want it."

The dangers of Obamacare will become even more apparent after Jan. 1, Singer said, when several mandates that were tabled will become reality. For example, the employer mandate to offer insurance in companies that

employ more than 50 people will start being enforced. Cancellations that were postponed will happen and premiums will rise.

"All these things are churning and its imperative that the subject of the ACA come up (in Congress), Singer said. "The ACA is not sustainable. We want to play a role in influencing the agenda to make sure patients are first."

## Flint Hills Discovery Center: How Sad

**To the Editor**  
I read this paper's report about Flint Hills Discovery Center finances. It's interesting, although not surprising, that the museum is losing money hand-over-fist.

Many of us believed from the get-go that the Discovery Center has a dreadfully bad theme, prairie grasses. Who in the world - outside of a few academics - cares about grass forma-

tions? Sure, we all stopped by once mostly out of curiosity. But what's the draw to return?

Rather than make a common sense decision and dedicate the museum to a children's purpose, the commission was too quick to take the financial bait. Why? Because they were lobbied and at times bullied by special interests and big money around town

into doing so.

So today, taxpayers pony-up hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to subsidize what paid consultants at the time told us could be a break-even proposition. Of course paid consultants are paid to tell us what we want to hear. And so they did.

How sad.  
**Bob Strawn, Mayor emeritus**

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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 15, 2014

Approved as Amended

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

**8:30 AM Call to Order**  
Pledge of Allegiance  
1. Public Comments  
Dillon invited the Board to the REACH Christmas Coffee which will be held all day.  
Commission Comments  
2. Commission Comments  
Wells said it was a busy week with the same few individuals opposed to the PBC. Wells discussed his frustration with inaccurate information published in the Free Press. Wells stated the Free Press has claimed the City and County have met privately about facilities and but cannot provide any proof of such meeting or facilities plans. **(Editor's Note: The Free Press stands by the published Editorials and Videos)** Wells stated he has spent a lot of time learning about the formation of the PBC as a financial tool and Riley County facilities' needs.

Lewis discussed the reality of the facilities needs and the impacts of the State's continued cuts to local units of government. Lewis stated the PBC is the most cost-effective tool in financing the facilities' needs.

Boyd said he attended the following Riley County activities with the corresponding comments:

Thursday 12.11.14  
Addressed the graduating class of the Flint Hills Leadership Course at the ATA conference room. A great group of people, young, energetic and eager to get involved in our communities. They had great questions on leadership within our community. Lyle Butler also spoke to the group.

Friday 12.12.14  
Attended the Kansas Association of Counties Executive Committee meeting in Topeka. We honored the outgoing members and installed the new member of which I am one. We then elected officers for the year; I was elected Secretary and assigned to the Finance committee. Randall Allen is in the hospital suffering with sepsis and could not attend.

Saturday 12.13.14  
I flew to Moline, IL Friday evening and because of weather had to drive back to Riley County. I arrived in the afternoon and missed the laying of the wreaths at the Veterans Cemetery. Reports were that the ceremony was quite moving.

Alison and I attended the Riley County Fire District 1 Annual Banquet and Awards. We are blessed in Riley County with such capable, energetic citizens who volunteer their time, effort and treasure to defend our community. We on the BOCC provide for them what we can in support and equipment and they are most appreciative. I cannot sing enough of their praises.

Business Meeting  
3. Riley County Emergency Operations Plan Promulgation  
Move to adopt the Riley County Emergency Operations Plan.  
RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Dave Lewis, County Commissioner  
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner  
AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

4. Retail Dealer's 2015 Cereal Malt Beverages Licenses for Possie's  
Place; Dara's Fast Lane, 5321 Tuttle Creek Blvd.; & Dara's Fast Lane, 1132 Pillsbury Drive  
Move to sign Retail Dealer's 2015 License and Application for Possie's Place; Dara's Fast Lane, 5321 Tuttle Creek Blvd.; & Dara's Fast Lane, 1132 Pillsbury Drive.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Dave Lewis, County Commissioner  
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner  
AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

5. 2015 Courier Agreement Move to approve and sign agreement with We Deliver, for 2015 Courier Service.  
**(Editor's Note: Who is the agreement with and how much will it cost the County?)**

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Dave Lewis, County Commissioner  
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner  
AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

6. Equipment Lease/Rental Contracts with K-State Bank  
**(Editor's Note: What equipment and what did it cost the County?)**

Move to approve and sign contracts with Kansas State Bank of Manhattan for the equipment lease/rentals approved on October 30, 2014.  
RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Dave Lewis, County Commissioner  
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner  
AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

7. Grant of Permanent Easement for R & B Schwab Trust  
**(Editor's Note: Where is the easement?)**

Move to approve and sign a Grant of Permanent Easement with Ronald L. and Beverly A. Schwab, Trustees of the R & B Schwab Trust for the sole purpose of constructing and maintaining a sanitary sewer.  
RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Dave Lewis, County Commissioner  
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner  
AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

8. Sign a Tax Roll Correction for the David S. Dundurand Trust  
Move to approve the Tax Roll Correction for the David S. Dundurand Trust (212-03-0-10-05-002.00-0) for tax year 2014. This results in a decrease in tax dollars of \$377.10.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Dave Lewis, County Commissioner  
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner  
AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

9. A Resolution of Riley County, Kansas, Creating the Riley County Public Building Commission, specifying the Membership of the Governing Body of the Public Building Commission and Stating its Purpose, Functions and Powers  
Move to approve "Resolution No. 121514-52, A Resolution of Riley County, Kansas, creating the Riley County Public Building Commission, specifying the Membership of the Governing Body of the Public Building Commission and stating its purpose, functions and powers."

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Dave Lewis, County Commissioner  
SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner  
AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

The Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners met at the Riley County Plaza East Building December 9, 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; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; and Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk, attended.

Boyd moved to approve "Resolution No. 120913-80, A Resolution authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Temporary Notes of Riley County, Kansas, in the total principal amount of \$90,000 to provide funds for the temporary financing of the costs of certain projects as authorized by the county; and setting forth terms, details, form and conditions of the General Obligation Temporary Notes." Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

Boyd moved to approve "Resolution No. 120913-81, a Resolution of Riley County, Kansas, authorizing the county to issue General Obligation Bonds of the county in the principal amount of \$90,000 to pay preliminary costs of determining the extent of sewer deficiencies in the University Park Sewer District created by and located in the county." Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Personnel Action Form for Jodie Grimes, a new hire, as an Account Clerk-License and Elections, in the Clerk's Department, at a grade H step 2, at \$15.44 per hour.

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for a Records Assistant I, in the IT/GIS Department, at a grade F.

Boyd moved to sign the Real Estate Tax Roll Correction for John Gregory Berglund Et Al (137-35-0-00-08-001.00-0) for tax year 2008. This results in a decrease in tax dollars of \$.72. This is a result of the Riley County tax sale held October 2, 2013. Wells seconded. Carried 3-0.

**(Editor's Note: 44 other Real Estate Tax Roll Corrections were listed but removed because of space in the newspaper.)**

9:00 Rich Vargo, County Clerk  
Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; and Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk, attended.

Vargo presented year to date budget and expenditure reports.  
9:11 Shelly Williams, Community Corrections Director  
Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Laura Monsanto, KMAN; and Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk, attended.

Williams said in 2012 they had an Intensive Supervision Officer Assistant position. After the person resigned to relocate to Wichita, Kansas, and the position became vacant, they held the position open for the 2013 budget year.

Williams said given that they did not see an increase in their state budgets, it was decided to remove the position from the 2014 Riley County budget (they had already eliminated it from their 2013 state budgets).

Williams said on September 26, 2013, the commission reviewed and approved their FY14 Carryover Reimbursement Plan that included \$6,860.44 for an as-needed drug testing officer. To-date they have only spent \$1,771.09.

Williams said on November 27th, she was notified that they would be receiving an additional \$6,936.00 in DUI fine and fee money generated as a result of 2011 SB60 establishing the Community Corrections Supervision Fund K.S.A.

75-52,113. On Tuesday of this week (December 3rd), she was notified that they are receiving an additional \$3,404.48 that the Secretary of Corrections is making available. So, the grand total of additional funding that they will be receiving from the Kansas Department of Corrections to spend by June 30, 2014, is \$10,341.00, hence this out of the ordinary request.

Williams said they have to adjust their FY14 current budget to match the new award amount. This budget detail and summary will need to be reviewed by the Joint Corrections Advisory Board with signatory approval by the Board of County Commissioners by January 31st.

Williams said they filled an emergency need in September with the absence of one of our male Intensive Supervision Officer's medical leave, with a drug testing monitor. This absence illuminated an on-going need for drug testing coverage, as well as gaps within existing supervision services.

Williams said she is requesting that they be allowed to put an ISO Assistant position back into their Riley County budget. This would be a regular, part-time, benefits-eligible position with 30 hours per week anticipated through June 30,

2014. In the event the individual selected for the position needed insurance (single

\$612.73/month, family \$1,000/month) this money would come from our Carryover Reimbursement dollars. These dollars have to be expended by June 30th, or will be returned to the state. This will not impact the Riley County budget directly.

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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)**

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"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

## The Reasons Behind Obama's Failures

In early October, President Obama warned his supporters to "make no mistake: these policies [of mine] are on the ballot. Every single one of them." After the November elections, he probably wishes he hadn't said that. The scale of the liberal defeat is remarkable, as are its causes.

In 2008, Obama had long coattails: When he took office in 2009, the House of Representatives had 256 Democrats. In 2015, it probably will have 188.

But the underlying reasons for Obama's failure run deeper than the normal swings of the political pendulum. Four of them are vital. The first is that a good part of Obama's appeal in 2008 was that he was supposedly above politics. He was compared to Abraham Lincoln, a canny politician we now misremember as being above the partisan fray.

This was nonsense. If you want to get anywhere in politics, you have to be a politician. And the essence of politics has not changed since Aristotle's time. That doesn't mean that politicians are all liars. But it does mean that anyone who looks for salvation in a politician is going to be disappointed. Obama was hyped so high in 2008 that he had nowhere to go but down.

Another reason for Obama's failure was that he sought, in his words, to begin "the work of remaking America." The entire American political system was designed by the Founding Fathers to frustrate his plans. The Constitution, with its checks and balances and its separation of powers, was intended to limit the government and prevent transient majorities from having their way.

Within those limits, Obama has actually – and from a conservative perspective, regrettably – done a lot: Obamacare itself is proof of that. But inevitably, having set out to, as

he claimed, fundamentally transform the United States, Obama has come up short. He has increasingly resorted to unilateral executive actions precisely because he resents the system's constraints, but that just feeds the narrative that he's more emperor than president.

The third reason for Obama's failure is that most of his ideas were wrong. There were no shovel-ready jobs waiting for the stimulus spending. Fixing health care did not require ripping apart the insurance market. The answer to a weak economy was not expensive green energy.

Iran was not waiting for an outstretched hand of friendship. Russia wanted a reset for malicious reasons of its own, not because it wanted to be our friend. Al-Qaida was not on the run. The Arab Spring was not a new democratic dawn. The European Union was not a force for prosperity. Israel was not the reason the Middle East is so troubled.

Everyone makes mistakes. But it's hard to bounce back from so many fundamental errors, especially when – and this was Obama's fourth error – the administration has been terrible at the boring business of being competent.

The fiasco of Obamacare was bad enough. But then there was the Veterans Administration scandal, the Secret Service's prostitute parties, the Internal Revenue Service targeting of conservative groups, Ebola and the Justice Department's gun-running into Mexico, to name only a few of the screw-ups that have tainted the administration.

We should never attribute to malice what can plausibly be explained by incompetence. And conservatives aren't shocked when governments

## The Conservative Side...



make mistakes: It's what we expect them to do. But incompetence wears more heavily on liberals, because they are the ones who always want government to do more. The evidence is overwhelming that government can't do it well.

Obama came into office

wanting, in his words, to make government cool again. But as respected U.S. political analyst Michael Barone points out, since Watergate and with the exception of the 9/11 aftermath, trust in government peaked under Ronald Reagan, precisely because Reagan

sought to limit government. Under Obama, it has fallen to near-historic lows.

The conservative triumphs in 2010 and 2014 have not irrevocably set America's destiny: there are no permanent victories in politics. But there was a fundamental contradiction

between the apolitical fantasy that Obama embodied and the real-world desire of the American people to support liberal policies, especially when incompetently administered.



### Manhattan Free Press

Telling The Truth, As We See It.

— King Crossword —  
Answers  
Solution time: 21 mins.

A	M	A	G	U	S	F	O	A	M		
L	O	G	S	A	S	H	I	D	L	E	
B	O	O	M	L	E	O	R	E	I	N	
A	R	G	O	N	D	O	P	E			
	K	I	N	K	A	H	U	N	A		
J	E	W	E	L	E	R	C	Y	N	I	C
A	X	I	S	T	O	T	D	I	N	E	
M	A	N	I	A	C	H	A	R	T	E	D
S	M	O	G	G	Y	E	R	A			
	N	O	U	N	E	N	T	R	Y		
J	A	V	A	M	A	O	T	H	E	A	
O	P	A	L	M	P	H	S	E	E	N	
G	E	T	S	Y	A	M	E	L	K		

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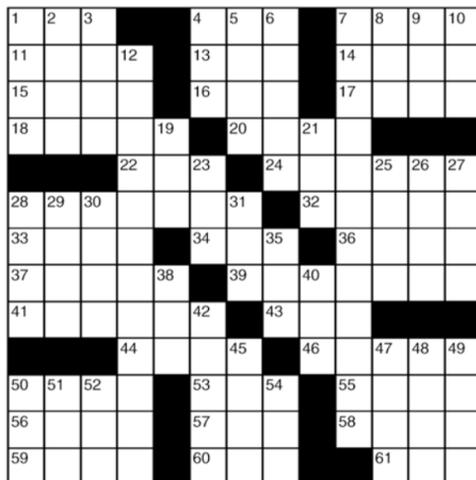
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### King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 "I — Camera"
  - 4 Film direc- tor Van Sant
  - 7 Lather
  - 11 Cabin makeup
  - 13 Fire residue
  - 14 Not work- ing
  - 15 Time of prosper- ity
  - 16 Writer Buscaglia
  - 17 Bride strap
  - 18 Inert gas
  - 20 Nitwit
  - 22 Family
  - 24 Preeminent person
  - 28 Diamond merchant
  - 32 Skeptical sort
  - 33 Line of symmetry
  - 34 Child
  - 36 Eat
  - 37 Craze
  - 39 Made a map of
  - 41 Like urban air, maybe
  - 43 Historic
- DOWN**
- 12 Old West commu- nica- tions
  - 19 Zero
  - 21 Atl. coun- ter- part
  - 23 Badminton barrier
  - 25 One
  - 26 Baseball team
  - 27 Scored 100 on
  - 28 Jellies' mates
  - 29 Physical
  - 30 Drunkard
  - 31 Sinbad's bird
  - 35 Definite article
  - 38 Past
  - 40 Exist
  - 42 Delicious
  - 45 California grape valley
  - 47 You, old- style
  - 48 Rod's partner
  - 49 Tug
  - 50 Trot
  - 51 Gorilla
  - 52 Cistern
  - 54 Resistance measure
- DOWN**
- 1 Actress Jessica
  - 2 Heath
  - 3 Wide-eyed
  - 4 Cowboy's sweetie
  - 5 Secondhand
  - 6 Trembled
  - 7 Hoses are hooked up to them
  - 8 Praise in verse
  - 9 Clay, today
  - 10 Fellows



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## Apple Crostata with Caramel Sauce

### Ingredients

- Crust**
- 1 cup Gold Medal™ all-purpose flour
  - 1/2 teaspoon salt
  - 1/3 cup cold shortening
  - 1 tablespoon cold butter
  - 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
  - 3-4 tablespoons buttermilk

### Filling and Topping

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons Gold Medal™ all-purpose flour
- 4 cups chopped peeled apples (4 medium)
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 cup caramel topping

### Directions

1 Heat oven to 400°F. In medium bowl, mix 1 cup flour and the salt. Cut in shortening and butter, using pastry blender (or pulling 2 table knives through ingredients in opposite directions), until particles are size of small peas. Sprinkle oil and buttermilk, 1 tablespoon at a time) sprinkle over flour mixture, tossing with fork until all flour is moistened and dough almost cleans side of bowl.

2 Gather dough into a ball; shape into flattened 5-inch round on lightly floured ungreased large cookie sheet. With floured rolling pin, roll pastry into 12-inch round.

3 In large bowl, mix 1/2 cup sugar and 3 tablespoons flour. Stir in apples until coated. Mound apple mixture on center of dough round to within 2 inches of edge. Fold edge of dough over apple mixture; crimp edge of dough slightly. In small bowl, mix 1 table- spoon sugar and the cinnamon; sprinkle over apples and dough.

4 Bake 42 to 47 minutes or until crust is golden brown and apples are fork tender. (If apples begin to brown too quickly, cover the apples loosely with aluminum foil.) Cut into wedges. Serve warm drizzled with caramel topping.

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# How Obama used his executive powers in 2014

HONOLULU (AP) — President Barack Obama set out in 2014 to use his executive powers to advance priorities resisted by Congress.

He was successful in some areas, enacting sweeping changes to U.S. policy all on his own. Other initiatives fell flat or had only modest impact, a reminder of the limits of presidential power.

A look at the key areas where Obama sought to use executive authority in 2014:

## CLIMATE CHANGE

— Proposed unprecedented carbon dioxide limits on U.S.

power plants in a bid to reduce the emissions of heat-trapping gases blamed for global warming.

— Tasked the Environmental Protection Agency and the Transportation Department with developing new fuel efficiency standards for heavy-duty trucks.

— Expanded the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument and withdrew Alaska's Bristol Bay from consideration for oil and gas exploration or drilling.

— Pledged \$3 billion to the Green Climate Fund, a U.N.-established fund to help poorer

countries prepare for a changing climate. It's unclear where Obama will find the money.

— Reached agreement with China to reduce or limit carbon dioxide emissions in future years.

## ECONOMY

— Asked Congress to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour. Congress didn't take that step, but 14 states increased their minimum wage in 2014.

— Ordered regulations requiring federal contract workers to be paid at least \$10.10 per hour.

— Tasked Treasury Department with creating myRA retirement savings program for low-income individuals.

— Cracked down on certain overseas corporate mergers and acquisitions, aiming to stop companies from shirking U.S. taxes.

— Launched four regional manufacturing hubs.

## IMMIGRATION

— Moved to shield roughly 4 million immigrants in the U.S. illegally from fear of deportation and grant them

work permits.

— Reordered law enforcement priorities and expanded an existing deportation deferral program for immigrants brought illegally as kids.

— Loosen eligibility requirements for a waiver program for people seeking green cards.

## EDUCATION

— Enabled student loan borrowers with some federal loans to cap monthly payments at one-tenth of their income.

— Secured private-sector commitments of \$2 billion to

get classrooms connected to high-speed Internet.

— Secured commitments from 60 U.S. school districts to offer basic computer science to all middle or high school students.

## FOREIGN POLICY

— Extended the validity of visas for Chinese visitors to ten years for tourists and business travelers and five years for students.

— Restored diplomatic relations with Cuba and eased some sanctions and travel restrictions.

# Q&A on Obama's Policy Changes Toward Cuba

## Heritage Foundation

Last week President Obama announced a series of drastic policy changes toward Cuba. What many may now view as concessions to the Castro regime following a prisoner swap was in fact the White House ending the U.S.'s long tradition of supporting human rights and democratic reforms on the island.

The new policy approach follows the release of Alan Gross, a U.S. aid contractor who was kept hostage for more than five years by the Cuban government. In exchange, the Obama administration freed three convicted Cuban spies who were sent to the U.S. more than 20 years ago to infiltrate U.S. military facilities. Their spying led to the deaths of Americans after their aircraft was shot down by Cuban mili-

tary jets. There are three questions the Obama administration needs to answer about its recent policy changes toward Cuba.

Does this mean the trade embargo is over?

No, according to the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act, also known as the Helms-Burton Act of 1996, congressional authorization is required to lift the trade embargo. Seeing as all the Cuban-American congressmen on both sides of the aisle support the embargo, it is unlikely the policy will be overturned anytime soon.

How has U.S. policy changed?

For the first time since 1961, diplomatic relations will now be established. For decades, the U.S. and Cuba have not had

embassies in each other's countries but rather "Interests Sections." Caps on remittances have been lifted from \$500 to \$2,000 quarterly. Commercial sales of certain exports from the U.S. will now be allowed. Limited commercial transactions with "private entrepreneurs" on the island are now allowed. Also, the U.S. will assist in increasing "Cubans' access to communications and their ability to communicate freely."

These reforms highlight the administration's ignorance of the Castro regime. Providing the regime with additional sources of income seriously undermines the probability of democratic reforms. The Cuban government charges 20 percent of all remittances sent to the island, and these new reforms have now increased their

potential revenue fourfold. Commercial transactions with these private entrepreneurs mainly will benefit the regime's military and political leadership. The vast majority of state businesses are in the hands of the military, including tourism.

How will this affect the United States?

Following the Obama administration's feckless policy with Russia and concessions to Iran and now Cuba, the president's foreign policy calls into question his understanding of world affairs. The Cuban embargo is not based solely on what happened in 1961 but what continues to happen today. It was only last year that the regime was caught trafficking weapons onto a North Korean vessel, in clear violation of a UN Security Council

resolution. Despite the Cuban government's history of sponsoring terrorism directly and now via its proxy Venezuela, the president has instructed the State Department to review Cuba's designation as a state sponsor of terror.

Expanding commercial exchanges also will expand the danger to U.S. businesses foolish enough to believe they are protected. Just three years ago, Cy Tokmakjian, a Canadian businessman, was arrested and sentenced to 15 years in prison and more than \$100 million of his company's assets were confiscated. Despite the fact that Canada and Cuba have enjoyed warm relations, the Canadian government has been unable to help. Unfortunately, Tokmakjian is not the only one. Seeing as the Castros' still-uncompensated seizure of U.S.

property is considered to be the "largest uncompensated taking of American property by a foreign government in history," what protections can the president guarantee Americans?

Normalizing relations with a country whose prime export has been an aggressive anti-American foreign policy does not advance U.S. interests. Rapprochement with the Cuban government has always ended badly for the U.S. In 1996, when President Bill Clinton tried extending an olive branch, the Castros responded by shooting down U.S. aircraft and killing four Americans in international waters. Like Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., said, "I would love for there to be normal relations with Cuba. But for that to happen, Cuba has to be normal, and it's not. It is a brutal dictatorship."

# Don't count out Tom Steyer yet

By **Tori Richards**  
**Watchdog.org**

Billionaire green energy activist Tom Steyer may have been shut down in his bid to elect a slate of hand-picked governors and U.S. senators, but don't count him out just yet.

The PAC he founded is stacked with officers who have Hillary Clinton on speed dial, a California Supreme Court justice as a spouse and former colleagues in the White House.

And a Nov. 24 Federal Election Commission report showed that NextGen Climate Action Committee still has \$4.7 million cash on hand after spending \$72.9 million in a failed attempt to elect Democratic governors in Florida and Maine and senators in Colorado, Michigan and Iowa. Steyer donated \$67 million of that amount.

So what's next? NextGen didn't respond to an interview request to answer that question.

A mainstay in the press during the months before the election, Steyer and his PAC have been mum. The homepage of NextGen proclaims, "This is a fight we will win," seemingly a rallying cry to its troops until you click on the link and see that the message is before Nov. 4.

The fawning media attention before the election turned brutal afterward with headlines like: "How Do You Waste \$67 Mil? Tom Steyer, Call Your Office" by the Investor's Business Daily and "Memo to Tom Steyer: It takes more than money to win elections" by the Washington Post.

He has been silent on Twitter since Nov. 21, a platform he had used to push a green energy agenda and his group of candidates. Still, the San Francisco tycoon was recently mentioned by Politico as a possible successor to the likely retiring Sen. Barbara Boxer and numerous media reports speculate that Hillary Clinton has avoided taking a strong stance on the Keystone XL project to avoid alienating voters — and wealthy donor Steyer — in case of a presidential bid.

But one thing is clear — anyone seeking access to President Obama or the Clinton family need not look any further than NextGen.

Steyer's numerous White House visits and friendship with Obama's counsel and Bill Clinton Chief of Staff John Podesta have been well documented. But his staff has access as well.

NextGen's parent company, Next Generation, lists the following officers:

Ann O'Leary, vice presi-

dent/Children & Families. Former legislative director to Sen. Hillary Clinton and on the Obama/Biden transition team

Matt James, president. Former senior congressional aide (New York, Arizona, Arkansas)

Kate Gordon, vice president/Energy & Climate. Former vice president at the Center for American Progress, founded by Podesta, who left the organization in January 2014, when he assumed his job at the White House.

In addition, O'Leary is married to Goodwin Liu, who was just 39 in 2010 when he was nominated by Obama for a seat on the ultra-liberal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. He had no trial or judicial experience but rather worked as a professor. Liu couldn't get past the Republicans in the U.S. Senate and a year later withdrew his name from consideration. He was appointed as a California Supreme Court justice only two months later, in July 2011.

Liu's ultra-liberal stance and criticism of other Supreme Court justices didn't endear him to senators.

"Before becoming a judge, (Chief Justice John Roberts) belonged to the Republican National Lawyers Association and the National Legal Center for the Public Interest, whose mission is to

promote 'free enterprise,' 'private ownership of property,' and 'limited government.' These are code words for an ideological agenda hostile to environmental, workplace, and consumer protections," Liu once said.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, stopped short of calling Liu a danger, saying he would make rulings based on his activist viewpoints rather than the law, giving the court more power than what the Constitution intended.

NextGen's influence in California cannot be underestimated. The state views itself as the barometer for progressive environmental issue, a standard by which other states should aspire to be measured. In 2012 Steyer led the charge to enact a law that was passed increasing taxes for out-of-state businesses, with the proceeds going to grow green businesses.

Over in Florida, where NextGen narrowly missed unseating Gov. Rick Scott on an environmental platform that included rising ocean waters, its Twitter feed promised that their 113,310 voters would grow in size and "make sure politicians (sic) can not ignore climate change."

To that end, its coffers have \$3 million in cash — of which \$783,890 came in after the election to continue the fight.

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# Sports

Manhattan Free Press - Thursday, December 25, 2014

6A

## Williams scores 17 in K-State's 71-64 win over Texas A&M

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Texas A&M owned the stat sheet, but Kansas State owned the scoreboard.

The Aggies (7-3) had more rebounds, assists, points in the paint, and points off turnovers, and had half as many turnovers as the Wildcats (7-4), but the only stat that mattered was the final score, which showed Kansas State as a 71-64 winner in the Wildcat Classic at the Sprint Center on Saturday night.

"We won every stat," Texas A&M coach Billy Kennedy said following the game, "but we didn't make enough tough plays when we needed to."

Kansas State was in a de facto home game a little more than 100 miles from their Manhattan, Kansas campus, and the Wildcats used the partisan crowd to their advantage.

"Playing here is a special opportunity for our kids," Kansas State coach Bruce Weber said. "I kept telling them that we had to take advantage of that. To have that crowd

(14,884) was great, but we told them that they had to feed the crowd."

Never was the crowd more a factor than when Wesley Iwundu grabbed a rebound on the defensive end and went end-to-end for a thunderous dunk. On the next play, he raced to get a pass that was too far in front of him and threw it over his head to teammate Nino Williams for an easy layup.

"I told him that's the craziest dunk I've ever seen, in a game or watching a game," Williams said. "He just took off."

Williams was key for the Wildcats. He led the team with 17 points, and Weber called his game "efficient."

"Nino was very efficient, like he's been," Weber said. "He knows his role. He's a junkyard dog."

Along with Williams, Thomas Gipson added 14 points, and Marcus Foster and Iwundu had 10 each. Texas A&M was led by Kourtney Roberson and Danuel House



Wesley Iwundu (25) gets a shot off. (Photo by KSU Sports)

with 13 points each. Jordan Green had 11 and Alex Caruso 10.

"We fought at a high level," Kennedy said. "Kansas State threw a lot of punches at us

early. We responded too late.

"We've got pretty good character. We didn't fold, and that was the best thing."

The Wildcats saw their seven-point halftime lead trimmed to five points before an 11-2 run allowed them to put the game on cruise control. A 6-0 run by Texas A&M with just over four minutes remaining cut the lead to 61-54. The Wildcats missed six straight free throws to see the lead reduced to four points a couple of times, but held off the Aggies down the stretch.

Kansas State went inside early and often. After an opening 3-point basket by Justin Edwards, the Wildcats' next nine field goals were inside the paint. It wasn't until 6:16 remained in the first half that the Wildcats scored again from beyond 5 feet. Foster's 3-point-er gave the Wildcats a 31-20 lead, the largest of the half.

"That's what they were giving us," Weber said. "They

stayed with Marcus because they weren't going to let him beat them."

Even the first six free throws during the opening run were generated by fouls on inside play. In all, 10 of Kansas State's 14 first-half field goals were in the paint. The Wildcats shot a sizzling 82 percent from the field in the first half.

### TIP-INS

Texas A&M: Saturday's game was the fifth of the Aggies' six nonconference contests against teams that played in the NCAA tournament last season. The Aggies are 2-3 in those games. ... Texas A&M is 7-18 against Kansas State, with most of those games coming when the Aggies were part of the Big 12 Conference. It was the first matchup between the two schools since Texas A&M left the Big 12 following the 2011-12 season.

## Temple stuns No. 10 Kansas with 77-52 blowout

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — As he tried to recall some of the game's most pivotal plays, Fran Dunphy called one shot "impossible" and shook his head in disbelief when recalling two others that somehow banked in.

Temple's coach was as surprised as anyone by just how thoroughly his team dominated No. 10 Kansas.

Led by 19 points from Will Cummings and 18 from Quenton DeCosey, the Owls stunned Kansas with a 77-52 rout Monday night that snapped the Jayhawks' eight-game winning streak.

Jesse Morgan added 17 points and keyed a dominant second-half performance from the Owls, who were swallowed up after the game by a sea of Temple fans rushing the court at the Wells Fargo Center, home of the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers.



Perry Ellis (34) gets a shot from the inside for Kansas in a 96-69 win over Lafayette Saturday.

"I think we played about as well as we possibly could have," Dunphy said. "It was our night."

Frank Mason III scored 20 points for Kansas (9-2), which

shot 32.1 percent from the field and committed 17 turnovers.

No one else on the Jayhawks hit double figures, and leading scorer Perry Ellis was held to five points on 1-for-10 shoot-

ing.

"We played tired," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "And we played like we were a half-step slow or even a full step slow in my eyes."

The win marked Temple's first over Kansas since 1995 but continued an impressive streak for the Owls under Dunphy. Temple has beaten a Top 25 team in each of the last eight seasons, and has knocked off a top-10 team in six of the last seven seasons.

Temple's last win over a top-10 team came against Syracuse at Madison Square Garden — two years ago to the day. Three seasons ago, when Cummings was as freshman, the Owls stunned Duke at the Wells Fargo Center.

"I really wanted it to happen again," Cummings said. "I didn't think the fans would rush the court again. It's a great feeling for our fans to celebrate with us. It was a great crowd tonight and we just wanted to give them something to celebrate."

The Owls (8-4), who have won four of their last five, shot

a blistering 58.3 percent from the field, including 69.2 percent in the second half.

Plagued by turnovers and poor shot selection, the Jayhawks never led. They cut a 10-point deficit to six after halftime, but the Owls went on a 26-9 run to build a 61-38 lead midway through the second half.

The stunning spurt was capped by back-to-back 3-pointers and a three-point play from Morgan, who made his second appearance for the Owls after transferring from UMass and sitting out the first semester due to NCAA eligibility rules.

The Owls have won two straight and outscored their opponents by an average of 22.5 points since Morgan and fellow transfer Devin Coleman (Clemson) made their Temple debuts.

## First Half Surge Sends K-State Women to 61 - 38 Win

MANHATTAN, Kan. — A 13-3 run to close out the first half, including a buzzer-beating three-pointer from Deborah Meeks, propelled K-State to its seventh straight home win by a score of 61-38 over Grambling State on Saturday afternoon at Bramlage Coliseum.

**The Basics**  
 • Score: Kansas State 61, Grambling State 38  
 • Records: Kansas State (8-1), Grambling State (3-7)  
 • Quick Hitter: K-State held Grambling State to 14 second half points to extend its non-conference home win streak to nine games.

• Leaders: Meeks registered a career-high 16 points, a career-best 4 three-point field goals and pulled in a career-high six rebounds on Saturday. Joining Meeks with a career-high was freshman Shaelyn Martin with 11 points.

**First Half**  
 • K-State's interior defense was solid in the early stages, as the Wildcats held Grambling State to 0-of-4 shooting on 2-point field goals. The Lady Tigers were 4-of-6 from



Deborah Meeks (3) drives for the basket against Grambling State. (KSU Sports photo)

beyond the arc in the first eight minutes to keep the score tied at 12 with 11:24 remaining.

• After Grambling State built a two-point lead, 21-19, with 6:46 to play, K-State closed out the half on an 13-3 run and held

the Lady Tigers scoreless for the final 4:07 of the half, to secure a 32-24 lead at the half.

• Meeks drained a pair of threes at the end of the stanza, including a buzzer beater to push the Wildcats into the

eight-point lead. Meeks tallied 3 three-pointers in the first half, setting a new K-State career-high.

• The Wildcats forced the Lady Tigers into 16 turnovers and scored 14 points off those

turnovers in the opening frame.

• K-State was 13-of-33 from the field in the opening half, while Grambling State was 9-of-18 including 5-of-8 from beyond the arc.

**Second Half**  
 • K-State continued its solid offensive flow into the second half, outscoring Grambling State 16-7 over the first nine minutes to increase its lead to 48-31 with 11:22 to play.

• The Wildcats built its lead to 20, 53-33, as Meeks connected on her fourth 3 and Jessica Sheble outran the defense for a fast break layup.

• Kansas State shot .333 in the second half, but held Grambling State to .152 (5-of-33) shooting.

**Game Totals**  
 • Kansas State outrebounded Grambling State, 46-33.

• The Wildcats shot .367 for the game, including 8-of-27 from beyond the arc. This marked the most made three-point field goals made for the Wildcats since Nov. 25 against UTEP in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico when K-State made nine.

### Noteworthy

• The Wildcats used a new starting lineup on Sunday, with an opening five of Antoinette Taylor, Haley Texada, Shaelyn Martin, Ashia Woods and Breanna Lewis.

• Kansas State made eight 3-point field goals on Saturday afternoon. K-State has now made a 3 in 250 consecutive games dating to Feb. 7, 2007.

• This was the ninth straight game K-State has held the advantage in points in the paint (28-12).

• This was the eighth game K-State has held the advantage in points off turnovers (21-5).

• Breanna Lewis finished with a career-high six blocks. She now has 77 in her career and ranks sixth in school history for blocks in a career. Lewis has four career games with five blocks and is third in school history for games with five or more blocks.

• Ashia Woods recorded four steals on Saturday. This was her 31st career game with two or more steals, including her sixth this season.

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