UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS AMARILLO DIVISION

SPECTRUM WT, BARRETT BRIGHT, and LAUREN STOVALL,

Plaintiffs,

v.

WALTER WENDLER, in his individual capacity and his official capacity as the President of West Texas A&M University,

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, in his official capacity as Vice President for Student Affairs at West Texas A&M University,

JOHN SHARP, in his official capacity as Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System,

ROBERT L. ALBRITTON, JAMES R. BROOKS, JAY GRAHAM, MICHAEL A. HERNANDEZ III, TIM LEACH, BILL MAHOMES, ELAINE MENDOZA, MICHAEL J. PLANK, CLIFF THOMAS, and DEMETRIUS L. HARRELL JR., in their official capacities as members of the Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:23-cv-00048-Z

Hon. Matthew J. Kacsmaryk

ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED

PLAINTIFFS' AMENDED MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

Plaintiffs Spectrum WT, Barrett Bright, and Lauren Stovall, through their undersigned counsel, withdraw their pending motion for a preliminary injunction [Dkt. 8] and substitute this amended motion for a preliminary injunction.

Plaintiffs move under Federal Rule Civil Procedure 65 for the following preliminary injunction against all Defendants:

1. Defendants, and their employees, agents, servants, officers, and persons

in concert with Defendants, are enjoined from enforcing President Wendler's ban on drag shows in campus facilities generally available for student group use;

2. Defendants, and their employees, agents, servants, officers, and persons in concert with Defendants, are enjoined from enforcing any of the viewpoint- and content-discriminatory prohibitions on expressive activity contained in President Walter Wendler's March 20, 2023 email titled "A Harmless Drag Show? No Such Thing," when making West Texas A&M University facilities or spaces available to Plaintiffs or other student organizations.

In support of this Motion, Plaintiffs rely on the accompanying Brief in Support, the declaration attached to that brief, and their First Amended Verified Complaint [Dkt. 28]. As Plaintiffs show in their brief, they are entitled to immediate and preliminary injunctive relief because (1) Plaintiffs are substantially likely to succeed on the merits of their claims, (2) Plaintiffs are and will continue to suffer irreparable harm in the loss of their First Amendment rights absent immediate relief from this Court, (3) the balance of equities decidedly tips in favor of protecting Plaintiffs' First Amendment rights, and (4) the public interest always supports upholding the Constitution.

Plaintiffs also request opportunity to be heard on this Motion as soon as the Court's schedule allows.

A proposed order is attached.

Dated: April 20, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE

Under Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(b)(1)(B) and Local Rule 7.1, I certify that I conferred by email with Leif Olson and Aaron Reitz, attorneys for Defendant Walter Wendler, and Amy Hilton, attorney for the remaining Defendants. Ms. Hilton indicated that Defendants oppose this motion.

/s/ JT Morris JT Morris FOUNDATION FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND EXPRESSION

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 20, 2023, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was transmitted via using the CM/ECF system, which automatically sends notice and a copy of the filing to all counsel of record.

/s/ JT Morris
JT Morris
FOUNDATION FOR INDIVIDUAL
RIGHTS AND EXPRESSION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS AMARILLO DIVISION

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Defendants.

Case No.: 2:23-cv-00048-Z

Hon. Matthew J. Kacsmaryk

ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS' AMENDED MOTION FOR A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

Having fully considered Plaintiffs' Amended Motion for a Preliminary Injunction, the Court finds that Plaintiffs have demonstrated good cause for the Court to issue a preliminary injunction, as Plaintiffs have shown both a substantial likelihood of success on the merits and that they will suffer immediate and irreparable harm from Defendants' conduct absent immediate and preliminary

injunctive relief. The Court also finds that the balance of the equities favors Plaintiffs,

and that the public interest will be served by this Order.

Thus, the Court hereby ORDERS that:

1. Defendants, and their employees, agents, servants, officers, and persons in

concert with Defendants, are enjoined from enforcing President Wendler's ban

on drag shows in campus facilities generally available for student group use.

2. Defendants, and their employees, agents, servants, officers, and persons in

concert with Defendants, are enjoined from enforcing any of the viewpoint-

and content-discriminatory prohibitions on expressive activity contained in

President Walter Wendler's March 20, 2023 email titled "A Harmless Drag

Show? No Such Thing," when making West Texas A&M University facilities

or spaces available to Plaintiffs or other student organizations.

3. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(c), Plaintiffs are not required

to post a bond for this injunction.

SO ORDERED.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2023

MATTHEW J. KACSMARYK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS AMARILLO DIVISION

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Defendants.

Case No.: 2:23-cv-00048-Z

Hon. Matthew J. Kacsmaryk

PLAINTIFFS' BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF AMENDED MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED

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INTRODUCTION

West Texas A&M University's President, Defendant Walter Wendler, has declared that he will not obey "the law of the land." Instead, he insists on banning protected expression—drag—from campus simply because he dislikes the expression's entirely lawful message. By moving for a preliminary injunction, Plaintiffs ask this Court to put a swift end to Wendler's disdain for the First Amendment and prevent ongoing irreparable harm to Plaintiffs' constitutional freedoms.

On March 20, 2023, President Wendler announced to the campus community that he was cancelling Plaintiff Spectrum WT's scheduled PG-13 charity drag show because he disagreed with the show's message, condemning it as "demeaning," "derisive," "mocking," "objectifying," and "inappropriate." Wendler did not stop there. Rather, he imposed a blanket ban: "West Texas A&M will not host a drag show on campus." (Dkt. 28, First Am. Verif. Compl. Ex. A.) That, he said, was because a "harmless drag show" was "[n]ot possible." (Id.)

Making matters worse, President Wendler has all but confessed that he is knowingly violating the Constitution: "I will not appear to condone the diminishment of any group at the expense of impertinent gestures toward another group for any reason, even when the law of the land appears to require it." (Id.) (emphasis added). In that confession, at least, President Wendler is right: The First Amendment forbids Wendler or any other university official from censoring student organizations because they don't like the organization's message.

At bottom, Wendler's ongoing contempt for the rule of law is textbook viewpoint discrimination. The Supreme Court concluded decades ago that a live performance, even if disagreeable to public officials, is protected First Amendment expression. Se. Promotions, Ltd. v. Conrad, 420 U.S. 546, 557–58 (1975). If officials in Tennessee could not block a group from presenting the provocative play Hair in a public theatre because those officials disagreed with Hair's message, then surely President Wendler and the other Defendants cannot block students from putting on a drag show in a public forum on campus simply because the show does not satisfy Wendler's worldview. Id.

The Constitution's bar against viewpoint discrimination is vital to preserving freedom of speech at public colleges and universities. "[N]o matter how offensive to good taste" some may find it, expression "on a state university campus may not be shut off in the name alone of 'conventions of decency." *Papish v. Bd. of Curators of the Univ. of Mo.*, 410 U.S. 667, 670 (1973). Whether students gather on campus to support a political candidate, talk about the Bible, or put on a drag show for charity, public college administrators cannot censor student expression just because they find it disagreeable or offensive.

Yet that is exactly what President Wendler is doing by banning drag. The result is ongoing and irreparable harm to Spectrum WT and its student officers, Plaintiffs Barrett Bright and Lauren Stovall. But for Wendler's action, these students would hold and perform in drag shows and similar events in university spaces designated for student expression. And if Spectrum WT cannot hold events on campus

featuring drag or that otherwise challenge President Wendler's views, it will suffer significant injury to its right to express views vital to the group's mission of advocating for the LGBTQ+ community at West Texas A&M. Thus, Wendler's March 20 edict continues to deprive Spectrum WT's members of their First Amendment rights, which is always an irreparable injury. *Elrod v. Burns*, 427 U.S. 347, 373 (1976).

This Court should grant Plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction to preserve the supremacy of the Constitution and First Amendment at West Texas A&M and protect Plaintiffs against President Wendler's ongoing defiance of the First Amendment.

STATEMENT OF FACTS¹

Spectrum WT, like many recognized student groups, has a message to share.

Plaintiff Spectrum WT, formed in 2009, is a recognized student organization at West Texas A&M. (First Am. Compl. Verif. ¶ 10.) As West Texas A&M's website explains, "Spectrum is a student organization for WTAMU's LGBTQIA+ students and allies." (*Id.* ¶ 12.) Spectrum WT's goals are to provide a space for "LGBT+ students and allies to come together," to "raise awareness of the LGBT+ community," and to "promote diversity, support, and acceptance on campus and in the surrounding community." (*Id.* ¶ 11.) To help spread its message, Spectrum WT hosts various events, like a prom, movie night, and discussions about LGBTQ+ history, and

¹ All facts stated are from Plaintiffs' First Amended Verified Complaint. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all the verified factual allegations from their First Amended Verified Complaint.

"regularly volunteers in the community." (*Id.* ¶¶ 12–13.) Plaintiffs Barrett "Bear" Bright and Lauren "Laur" Stovall are undergraduate students at West Texas A&M and the executive officers for Spectrum WT. (*Id.* ¶¶ 14–15.)

West Texas A&M opens facilities to students and the public for expressive activities.

As Texas law requires, West Texas A&M policy forbids administrators from "deny[ing] [a student] organization any benefit generally available to other student organizations at the university" because of "political, religious, philosophical, ideological, or academic viewpoint expressed by the organization or any expressive activities of the organization." (West Texas A&M Policy No. 08.99.99.W1 ("Expressive Activity on Campus"), Rule 1.3; Tex. Educ. Code § 51.9315(g); App.15-17). And student organizations at West Texas A&M enjoy important benefits—including the right to use university facilities for group functions and events. (App.12-13.)

These facilities include "Legacy Hall," a performance venue in the Jack B. Kelley Student Center. (First Am. Verif. Compl. ¶¶ 33–34.) The university holds out Legacy Hall as suitable for expressive activities like concerts and press conferences, and even weddings and parties. (*Id.* ¶¶ 32–34.) West Texas A&M policy guarantees students can use Legacy Hall for "any special event," including "social gatherings or functions." (App.12.) Student organizations and the public have regularly used Jack B. Kelley Student Center venue spaces for expressive activity for events—including drag shows at least in 2012 and 2019. (App.27-36.) Other events included beauty pageants for both men and women, annual singing competitions, concerts and dances, and religious and political events. (App.19-26, 37-80.)

Spectrum WT plans and organizes a PG-13 charity drag show at Legacy Hall.

In November 2022, Spectrum WT began planning a drag show called "A Fool's Drag Race," scheduled for March 31, 2023. (First Am. Verif. Compl. \P 52.) The proceeds from the March 31 drag show were earmarked from the event's inception for donation to an LGBTQ+ suicide prevention group. (Id. \P 74.)

With origins in Shakespearean-era theater, when only men could perform onstage, "drag" has since been a recurring genre of theatrical performance. Emily Hoenig, Why Can't We All Just Cher?: Drag Celebrity Impersonators Versus an Ever-Expanding Right of Publicity, 38 Cardozo Arts & Ent. L.J. 537, 550 (2020). For example, World War II military personnel staged drag shows as a form of entertainment; "This Is The Army," a 1943 film starring Ronald Reagan, prominently featured military performers in drag and raised money for the Army Emergency Relief fund.² Drag is also no stranger to college campuses—in fact, visitors to Legends Hall at the Kelley Student Center will see a photograph of "Powderpuff Football Game Cheerleaders," depicting male football players posing in cheerleader skirts. (First Am. Verif. Compl. ¶ 68.)

Drag is inherently expressive. During the 20th century, "drag matured into its present incarnation as a multivalent form of performance art and a commentary on social identity." Hoenig, 38 Cardozo Arts & Ent. L.J. at 551. Thus, drag may convey

² The National WWII Museum, *GIs as Dolls: Uncovering the Hidden Histories of Drag Entertainment During Wartime* (June 15, 2021), https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/drag-entertainment-world-war-ii [perma.cc/PA2B-YYWB].

social commentary or an ideological message. *See id.* at 551–52. And to the students of Spectrum WT, putting on a charity drag show is important to convey both messages advocating for and supporting the LGBTQ+ community. (First Am. Verif. Compl. ¶ 74.)

In planning its drag show, Spectrum WT instructed would-be performers not to engage in any "lewd" conduct. (Id. ¶ 79.) It forbade anyone under 18 from attending the on-campus event without a parent or guardian. (Id. ¶ 80.) And it made the event alcohol-free. (Id.) Spectrum WT even instructed performers not to use music containing profanity. (Id. ¶ 81.)

Following the university's regular processes, Spectrum WT reserved Legacy Hall for the event. (*Id.* ¶¶ 85–88, 90–92.) From the outset, West Texas A&M knew Spectrum WT intended to host a drag show—and that it would be PG-13. (*Id.* ¶¶ 77–78, 85, 94.) West Texas A&M's administration supported Spectrum WT's planning of the drag show throughout the facility request process, helping it navigate the necessary steps to move forward. (*Id.* ¶¶ 86–88, 91, 94, 99–100.)

Barrett Bright, Spectrum WT's President, took the lead role for Spectrum WT in organizing the drag show. (*Id.* ¶¶ 14, 87–88.) Dr. Shawn Fouts, a Senior Staff Director at the Jack B. Kelley Student Center, praised Bright's efforts in an email, writing: "I appreciate your attention to the event as you navigate everything else a college student has going on. We want to help ensure you have a great event." (*Id.* ¶ 87.) Bright, Stovall, and the rest of Spectrum WT continued their efforts to plan and promote the event, including inviting attendees. (*Id.* ¶¶ 90–92, 94–96.)

Spectrum WT received "Tentative Confirmation" for its event on February 27, 2023. (Id. ¶¶ 91, 99.) Bright kept doing everything necessary to meet the university's requirements for holding an event. (Id. ¶¶ 99–101.) But less than two weeks before the scheduled event, President Wendler thwarted Spectrum WT's efforts by banning not only the March 31 show, but all drag shows at West Texas A&M. (Id. ¶ 102.)

Instead of following the Constitution, President Wendler decides to impose his personal views.

Around lunchtime on March 20—just 11 days before the drag show—Bright received an email from Dr. Chris Thomas, West Texas A&M's Vice President for Student Affairs, asking to "meet with you and discuss your upcoming event." (*Id.* ¶ 103.) When Bright met with Vice President Thomas, he learned that West Texas A&M was canceling the charity drag show. (*Id.* ¶ 104.) When Bright asked why, Vice President Thomas said President Wendler did not like the idea of the drag show, believing it discriminated against women. (*Id.*)

Soon after, President Wendler sent a long email to West Texas A&M's students, faculty, and staff announcing that West Texas A&M "will not host a drag show on campus." (*Id.* ¶ 105 & Ex. A.) President Wendler proclaimed his personal opposition to his perceived messaging of Plaintiffs' show. (First Am. Verif. Compl. Ex. A.) For instance, he stated that drag shows stray from the "basis of Natural Law," which "declared the Creator's origin as the foundational fiber in the fabric of our nation." (*Id.*) And he claimed that drag shows are "a slapstick sideshow" that "becomes harassment" because, in his view, it is "sexism." (*Id.*)

Finally, Wendler told the campus he was openly defying the Constitution: "A harmless drag show? Not possible. I will not appear to condone the diminishment of any group at the expense of impertinent gestures toward another group for any reason, even when the law of the land appears to require it." (Id.) (emphasis added).

When President Wendler cancelled Spectrum WT's charity drag show, Plaintiffs had completed, or were trying to complete, all requirements necessary for the event to move forward as planned. (First Am. Verif. Compl. ¶ 113.) At no time did President Wendler—or any other Defendant or West Texas A&M staff member—give any reason other than Wendler's personal views as the reason for cancelling Spectrum WT's show and banning all drag shows on campus. (*Id.* ¶ 114.) Nor have Defendants Sharp and the Board of Regents members stopped Wendler's actions, despite having the power and duty to do so. (*Id.* ¶ 115.)

President Wendler has not rescinded his edict. (Id. ¶ 119.) Nor have the other Defendants disavowed Wendler's edict, including his ban on drag shows and the viewpoint-driven reasons for it.

Plaintiffs are suffering irreparable injury.

President Wendler's edict forced Plaintiffs to rent an off-campus venue to hold their charity drag show on March 31, 2023. (*Id.* ¶ 122.) By refusing to allow the event to move forward on campus, Wendler defied West Texas A&M policy, and the continued ban on drag shows and similar events injures Plaintiffs and deprives them of the benefits the campus expression policy confers on all student groups. (App.15-16.)

Indeed, Plaintiffs, as West Texas A&M students, pay tuition and student fees to West Texas A&M, which—as does the State of Texas—promises Plaintiffs the ability to use venues on campus for expressive activities. (App.12-13; Tex. Educ. Code § 51.9315(g).) Thus, Defendants' drag show ban is injuring Plaintiffs because they cannot use a campus venue set aside for First Amendment expressive activity—including expression vital to carrying out their organization's mission. (First Am. Verif. Compl. ¶¶ 133, 144.) Likewise, Plaintiffs are injured because they can no longer exercise their First Amendment right to engage in protected expression by holding a drag show on campus or conduct similar events in the future. (Id. ¶ 136.) Although Plaintiffs managed to secure an alternative venue for their March 31 event, exiling Plaintiffs' expressive activities off campus burdens their ability to reach their intended audience, while also forcing them and other students to guess whether their expression will offend President Wendler's views—a chilling injury by any measure. (Id. ¶ 144.)

Because of President Wendler's edict banning drag shows and stifling other events he subjectively deems "inappropriate" or "degrading" to women, there is a concrete threat that President Wendler, Vice President Thomas, and the other Defendants will censor future events Plaintiffs have planned for the upcoming school year. These events include a "Queer Movie Night," which Spectrum holds several times annually. (Id. ¶ 130.) The next Queer Movie Night is scheduled for this coming Halloween in the Legends Club of the Student Center, when Plaintiffs intend to exhibit "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." (Id.) The cult-favorite film is famous for its

audience participation in musical numbers, including men adorning corsets and fishnets. (*Id.*) Plaintiffs also intend to hold an annual drag show and have already applied to hold the "Don't Be A Drag Drag Show" in Legacy Hall on March 22, 2024. (*Id.*) Each event is in imminent peril due to President Wendler's edict.

ARGUMENT

Plaintiffs are entitled to a preliminary injunction because they satisfy their burden to demonstrate "(1) a substantial likelihood of success on the merits; (2) a substantial threat of irreparable injury if the injunction is not issued, (3) that the threatened injury [to Plaintiffs] if the injunction is denied outweighs any harm [to Defendants] that will result if the injunction is granted, and (4) that the grant of an injunction will not disserve the public interest." *Byrum v. Landreth*, 566 F.3d 442, 445 (5th Cir. 2009) (reversing and remanding for entry of preliminary injunction to protect the plaintiffs' First Amendment rights).

I. Plaintiffs Are Substantially Likely to Succeed on the Merits Against the University's Brazen Censorship of Protected Expression.

"The First Amendment is not an art critic," and drag shows, like other forms of theatrical performance, are expressive conduct that the First Amendment protects against President Wendler's subjective censorship. Norma Kristie, Inc. v. City of Okla. City, 572 F. Supp. 88, 91 (W.D. Okla. 1983) (holding drag shows are protected First Amendment expression). Indeed, the First Amendment prohibits President Wendler and the other Defendants from suppressing Plaintiffs' expression simply because they disagree with its viewpoint or find the message offensive. Papish, 410 U.S. at 670. And messaging within a broader genre—such as art, theater, and dancing—is

protected even if it does not convey a "narrow, succinctly articulable message." *Hurley* v. *Irish-Am. Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Grp.*, 515 U.S. 557, 569 (1995); see also Iota Xi Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity v. George Mason Univ., 993 F.2d 386, 390 (4th Cir. 1993) (fraternity "ugly woman contest" is protected expression); *Berger v. Battaglia*, 779 F.2d 992, 999 (4th Cir. 1985) (holding a blackface performance is protected First Amendment expression, even when it is "sheer entertainment" without a political message).

Likewise, the First Amendment bars Defendants from denying Plaintiffs and other student groups access to campus public forums like Legacy Hall because of their message's content or viewpoint. *Widmar v. Vincent*, 454 U.S. 263, 267–70 (1981). Finally, President Wendler imposing his views at the expense of free expression is an unconstitutional prior restraint because it makes "speech contingent on the will of an official." *Chiu v. Plano Indep. Sch. Dist.*, 339 F.3d 273, 280 (5th Cir. 2003).

For these reasons, the Court should stop the ongoing injury to Plaintiffs' First Amendment freedoms and restore constitutional order on West Texas A&M's campus by issuing a preliminary injunction.

A. President Wendler's Censorship of a Drag Show Based on Personal Disagreements with the Expression's Message Is Textbook Viewpoint Discrimination.

President Wendler's abuse of his powers to censor a PG-13 charity drag show because he disagrees with the show's message—real or perceived—violates the First Amendment's bar against viewpoint discrimination. "Viewpoint discrimination is [] an egregious form of content discrimination. The government must abstain from regulating speech when the specific motivating ideology or the opinion or perspective

of the speaker is the rationale for the restriction." Rosenberger v. Rector & Visitors of the Univ. of Va., 515 U.S. 819, 829 (1995). And "censorship based on a state actor's subjective judgment that the content of protected speech is offensive or inappropriate is viewpoint discrimination." Robinson v. Hunt County, 921 F.3d 440, 447 (5th Cir. 2019) (citing Matal v. Tam, 137 S. Ct. 1744, 1763 (2017)). Indeed, government officials like college administrators are "inherently" incapable of making "principled distinctions" between offensive and inoffensive speech, and the state has "no right to cleanse" public expression such that it is "palatable to the most squeamish among us." Cohen v. California, 403 U.S. 15, 25 (1971).

To that end, "state colleges and universities are not enclaves immune from the sweep of the First Amendment." *Healy v. James*, 408 U.S. 169, 180 (1972). And that includes the First Amendment's prohibition on viewpoint discrimination. *Rosenberger*, 515 U.S. at 835–36 (invalidating college's denial of funding to Christian student newspaper). No matter the on-campus venue, "it is well settled that viewpoint discrimination is a clearly established violation of the First Amendment in any forum." *Chiu v. Plano Indep. Sch. Dist.*, 260 F.3d 330, 350 (5th Cir. 2001).

By picking and choosing which performances fit his moral tastes, President Wendler is engaging in viewpoint discrimination. Indeed, "the essence of viewpoint discrimination" is "the Government's disapproval of . . . messages it finds offensive." Iancu v. Brunetti, 139 S. Ct. 2294, 2299 (2019) (quoting Matal, 582 U.S. at 248–49 (Kennedy, J., concurring)). And President Wendler's own words leave no doubt: He banned drag shows because he finds their message "derisive, divisive and

demoralizing misogyny, no matter the stated intent." (First Am. Verif. Compl., Ex. A.)

President Wendler's stance mirrors that of the censorial officials in Southeastern Promotions v. Conrad, 420 U.S. 546 (1975). There, a group asked to use a city-operated municipal auditorium to present the rock musical Hair. Id. at 547. The auditorium directors denied the application, reasoning that allowing the play "was not in the best interest of the community" and the board would only "allow those productions which are clean and healthful and culturally uplifting, or words to that effect." Id. at 549. The Supreme Court struck down the directors' censorship as an unconstitutional prior restraint. To the same end, this Court should end Defendants' ongoing viewpoint-based censorship of Plaintiffs' PG-13 charity drag show.

The Fourth Circuit's decision in *Iota Xi* also shows why the Court should enjoin Defendants' censorship. 993 F.2d 386. There, George Mason University imposed sanctions on a fraternity for hosting an "ugly woman contest" riddled with "racist and sexist" overtones, including contestants "dressed as caricatures of different types of women[]" (*i.e.*, in drag). *Id.* at 387–88. George Mason's administrators cited many of the same concerns President Wendler relies on—that the event was degrading, amounted to harassment, and conflicted with the institution's mission. *Id.* at 388; First Am. Verif. Compl. Ex. A.

The Fourth Circuit had no trouble brushing aside the administrators' excuses. As the court explained, "First Amendment principles governing live entertainment are relatively clear: short of obscenity, it is generally protected." *Iota Xi*, 993 F.2d at

389 (collecting cases). The court likewise held the fraternity's drag skit was constitutionally protected, since it intended to convey a message, both through the mode of dress and use of a theatrical medium. *Id.* at 392. The court held GMU engaged in unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination by sanctioning the fraternity as the sanction arose from the fact that "the 'ugly woman contest' . . . ran counter to the views the University sought to communicate to its students and the community." *Id.* at 393.

Even if President Wendler's opinion were shared by all but Spectrum WT's student membership, he cannot justify stifling Plaintiffs' expression on moral grounds. *Papish*, 410 U.S. at 670. That argument lost in *Southeastern Promotions*. It lost in *Iota Xi*. And it must lose here. *See also Gay Student Servs. v. Tex. A & M Univ.*, 737 F.2d 1317, 1322–27 (5th Cir. 1984) (holding Texas A&M violated the First Amendment by refusing to recognize a gay student organization when the official responsible for the denial justified the decision "based on his perception that the organization would attempt to convey ideas" he found morally repugnant).

This Court should refuse Wendler's viewpoint-driven reasons for violating the First Amendment, grant Plaintiffs' motion, and put a stop to Wendler and the other Defendants' ongoing censorship of Plaintiffs' protected expression.

B. Excluding Plaintiffs' Drag Show from Campus Public Forums Violates the First Amendment.

President Wendler's denial of use of a campus public forum to Plaintiffs also violates the First Amendment, to their ongoing injury. Legacy Hall is a designated public forum for First Amendment purposes. West Texas A&M opens its facilities,

like Legacy Hall, to West Texas A&M students and student organizations for expression like theatrical performances, music, and dancing, all before a willing audience. (First Am. Verif. Compl. ¶¶ 33–37; App. 12-13, 15-17.) Thus, because "the University has created a forum generally open for use by student groups," "the University must therefore satisfy the standard of review appropriate to content-based exclusions." Widmar, 454 U.S. at 270; see also Pro-Life Cougars v. Univ. of Hous., 259 F. Supp. 2d 575, 582 (S.D. Tex. 2003) ("When as here a University by policy and practice opens up an area for indiscriminate use . . . by some segment of the public, such as student organizations, such area may be deemed to be a designated public forum").

Under the First Amendment, "a government . . . has no power to restrict expression because of its message, its ideas, its subject matter, or its content" unless it satisfies strict scrutiny. *Reed v. Town of Gilbert*, 576 U.S. 155, 163 (2015) (cleaned up). To meet that high bar here, Defendants "must show that [their] regulation is necessary to serve a compelling state interest and that it is narrowly drawn to achieve that end." *Widmar*, 454 U.S. at 270.3 They cannot meet that burden. *See United States v. Playboy Ent. Grp., Inc.*, 529 U.S. 803, 816 (2000) ("When the Government restricts

³ Universities may also impose content-neutral "reasonable time, place, and manner regulations." *Widmar*, 454 U.S. at 276. Since West Texas A&M is prohibiting drag shows outright, and is discriminating based on content to boot, the time, place, or manner test is inapplicable. *See Ne. Women's Ctr., Inc. v. McMonagle*, 939 F.2d 57, 63 (3d Cir. 1991) (explaining that a time, place, and manner restriction "regulates when, where, and how [a citizen] may speak, but not what he may say").

speech, the Government bears the burden of proving the constitutionality of its actions.")

For starters, a ban on drag shows is content-based (if not outright viewpoint-based, as shown above). It singles out a particular type of expression—drag—for differential treatment. That is textbook content discrimination. *Reed*, 576 U.S. at 169 (content discrimination exists when the government "singles out a specific subject matter for differential treatment").

Defendants' content-based ban of campus drag shows—including canceling Plaintiffs' March 31 show—fails strict scrutiny. And Widmar shows why. In Widmar, the University of Missouri at Kansas City denied an evangelical Christian student group the use of university facilities otherwise "generally available for . . . registered student groups." Widmar, 454 U.S. at 264–65. The Supreme Court explained that such restrictions, which single out a particular subject for differential treatment, are subject to "the most exacting scrutiny." Id. at 276. The Court held that the university unlawfully "discriminated against student groups and speakers based on their desire to use a generally open forum to engage in" protected expression and that the university's stated goal, "achieving greater separation of church and State," was not sufficiently "compelling' to justify content-based discrimination against respondents' religious speech." Id. at 269, 278.

Here, advancing President Wendler's belief that drag shows promote "misogyny" is not a compelling state interest. (First Am. Verif. Compl. Ex. A.) First, banning drag shows does not prevent tangible harm to women. Any women (or men)

who might take offense from a drag show can simply not attend. Likewise, those who agree with President Wendler's distaste for the students' expression can "effectively avoid further bombardment of their sensibilities simply by averting their eyes." *Cohen*, 403 U.S. at 21.

Rather, President Wendler, like the administrators in *Iota Xi*, seeks to suppress Plaintiffs' speech "because it r[uns] counter to the views the University s[eeks] to communicate to its students and the community." 993 F.2d at 393. That is not redressing a harm. It is big-brother government insisting it "knows what's best" for women and that it can silence dissenting expression. But "[t]he state may not ordain preferred viewpoints [about women and femininity] in this way. The Constitution forbids the state to declare one perspective right and silence opponents." *Am. Booksellers Ass'n v. Hudnut*, 771 F.2d 323, 325 (7th Cir. 1985). And when it comes to student expression at public institutions, "the mere dissemination of ideas—no matter how offensive to good taste—on a state university campus may not be shut off in the name alone of 'conventions of decency." *Papish*, 410 U.S. at 670.

Nor is Defendants' ban on drag shows narrowly tailored or the least restrictive means of furthering their goals. See Playboy Ent. Grp., 529 U.S. at 813 (content regulation permissible only if the government "chooses the least restrictive means to further the articulated interest") (cleaned up). Neither President Wendler nor the other Defendants have banned any other type of expression from campus which might tend to disparage or demean women. And a content-based law is not narrowly tailored if it leaves untouched a significant amount of expression causing the same problem.

Reed, 576 U.S. at 172. Plus, the government's objection to a speaker's message is not even a legitimate government interest, let alone a compelling one.

America's college campuses are no stranger to censorship, which is often visited upon students and faculty who find themselves among the minority viewpoint—including, in many cases, conservative and religious groups. See, e.g., Widmar, 454 U.S. at 265; Rosenberger, 515 U.S. at 830. From Central Washington University threatening to defund the College Republicans for protected speech,⁴ to Iowa State University threatening to punish the College Republicans for protected speech,⁵ to pro-life groups having to fight for recognition at the University of Arizona,⁶ censorship of expression on public campuses continues to fester. But students' expressive rights should not, and do not, turn on the whims of college administrators. The First Amendment does not play favorites.

President Wendler's censorship singles out one type of artistic expression from many—drag—for differential treatment and censorship simply because he dislikes the message he perceives. This is unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination. And

⁴ Will Creeley, *Twin Victories At Central Washington, Montclair State as First Amendment Trumps Student Government Censorship*, FIRE (Mar. 11, 2008), https://www.thefire.org/news/twin-victories-central-washington-montclair-state-first-amendment-trumps-student-government [perma.cc/2UQ3-ESPN].

⁵ Alex Morey, *Iowa State Stands Up for First Amendment After FIRE Letter, Turns Down Demands to Violate Law*, FIRE (Nov. 18, 2020), https://www.thefire.org/news/iowa-state-stands-first-amendment-after-fire-letter-turns-down-demands-violate-law [perma.cc/TG5G-7B5F].

⁶ Press Release, FIRE, Victory: Pro-Life Student Group Finally Recognized at University of Arizona (Apr. 21, 2010), https://www.thefire.org/news/victory-pro-life-student-group-finally-recognized-university-arizona [perma.cc/B689-YSQ3].

putting aside President Wendler's confessed motives, the ban is unlawful content discrimination. A preliminary injunction is necessary to secure Plaintiffs' First Amendment rights.

C. President Wendler's Edict Imposes an Unconstitutional Prior Restraint on Plaintiffs' Protected Expression.

As the Supreme Court held, when officials like President Wendler deny a speaker access to a public forum because the speaker's message does not fit a public official's moral criteria, they impose an unconstitutional prior restraint. In Southeastern Promotions, the Supreme Court concluded that city officials imposed an unconstitutional prior restraint by excluding Hair from a municipal theater because it did not meet the government's "clean and healthful and culturally uplifting" criteria. 420 U.S. at 549. In the same way, President Wendler's edict excludes Plaintiffs from campus fora because of his moral disagreement with the message of Plaintiffs' show. Just as the Supreme Court struck down the prior restraint in Southeastern Promotions, the Court should enjoin the university's prior restraint here.

The Fifth Circuit's decision in *Gay Student Services v. Texas A&M University* provides even more reason to hold that President Wendler's edict imposes a prior restraint. 737 F.2d 1317. There, the Fifth Circuit held that Texas A&M University violated the First Amendment when an administrator refused to recognize the Gay Student Services student group "clearly based on his perception that the organization would attempt to convey ideas about homosexuality," which he believed were harmful. *Id.* at 1323. Looking to a prior decision, the Fifth Circuit affirmed that when

a "restriction upon student expression takes the form of an attempt to predict in advance the content and consequences of that expression, it is tantamount to a prior restraint and carries a heavy presumption against its constitutionality." *Id.* at 1325 (quoting *Univ. of S. Miss. Chapter, Miss. C.L. Union v. Univ. of S. Miss.*, 452 F.2d 564, 566 (5th Cir. 1971)).

Here, just as in *Gay Student Services*, Wendler's edict rests on his subjective views about Plaintiffs' expression and his attempt to "predict in advance the content and consequences" of Plaintiffs' expression. *Id.* In fact, his edict leaves no doubt, accusing the messages that drag conveys of being "demeaning," "derisive," "mocking," "objectifying," and "inappropriate." (First Am. Verif. Compl. Ex. A.) The Supreme Court and Fifth Circuit both made clear that public officials cannot restrain expression based on criteria like Wendler's.

In fact, the only way public officials can justify a prior restraint on access to a public forum—if ever—is by pointing to "narrow, objective, and definite standards to guide" officials in granting or denying access. Shuttlesworth v. City of Birmingham, 394 U.S. 147, 150–51 (1969). Wendler's skewed criteria are none of those things. And even if they were, the university lacks safeguards to "obviate[s] the dangers of a censorship system" based on viewpoint-based determinations, including: (1) the state bearing the burden of proving that the speech is unprotected; (2) an adversarial proceeding and judicial determination of whether the speech is protected; and (3) ensuring that "within a specified brief period," the school "either issue[s] a license or go[es] to court to restrain" the speech. Freedman v. Maryland, 380 U.S. 51, 58–59

(1965); see also Se. Promotions, 420 U.S. at 559–60 (finding the moral standards used to censor *Hair* did not satisfy the *Freedman* safeguards).

At its core, President Wendler's edict subjects student expression to university review to figure out whether it falls within his personal view of "inappropriate." West Texas A&M makes campus spaces like Legacy Hall available to all student events (as Texas law requires⁷), provided the students first apply to campus administrators to reserve the space and submit a "full description" of the event. (First Am. Verif. Compl. ¶ 196.) But now, President Wendler has effectively compelled West Texas A&M staff and administrators to deny student groups access to these public fora if an application describes a message that might meet President Wendler's subjective views of what is "inappropriate," "divisive," "harmful," "demeaning," "objectifying," "diminishing" others, "denigrating" others, or "stereotyping" others. (First Am. Verif. Compl. Ex. A.) And if they don't deny access, President Wendler has shown that he will. (Id.)

In sum, the First Amendment forbids Defendants from imposing an impermissible content- and viewpoint-discriminatory prior restraint on Plaintiffs' expression. Thus, a preliminary injunction is necessary to restore the First Amendment to West Texas A&M.

II. Plaintiffs Will Suffer Irreparable Harm Absent Immediate Relief.

Without a preliminary injunction, Plaintiffs' protected First Amendment expression will remain banned from public fora at a state university. That is quintessential irreparable harm. *Elrod*, 427 U.S. at 373 ("The loss of First

⁷ Tex. Educ. Code § 51.9315(g)

Amendment freedoms, for even minimal periods of time, unquestionably constitutes irreparable injury"); see also Texans for Free Enter. v. Tex. Ethics Comm'n, 732 F.3d 535, 539 (5th Cir. 2013) ("We have repeatedly held . . . that the loss of First Amendment freedoms for even minimal periods of time constitutes irreparable injury justifying the grant of a preliminary injunction.").

Plaintiffs want to hold drag shows and similar expressive events in campus facilities that West Texas A&M holds open to student groups for expression. (First Am. Verif. Compl. ¶¶ 127, 130.) Yet President Wendler's ongoing edict has exiled Plaintiffs off-campus, forcing them to seek alternative venues to host a drag show or other event that does not meet Wendler's personal views—or instead dilute their message. "[O]ne is not to have the exercise of his liberty of expression in appropriate places abridged on the plea that it may be exercised in some other place." Se. Promotions, 420 U.S. at 556 (quoting Schneider v. New Jersey, 308 U.S. 147, 163 (1939)). But if Defendants continue to force Plaintiffs' expression off campus, it will injure Plaintiffs by multiplying the cost and effort for Plaintiffs to put on their events. (First Am. Verif. Compl. ¶ 144.)

The ongoing ban on campus drag shows and other events that Defendants deem "inappropriate" also injures Plaintiffs' ability to reach their intended audience. Because sharing its message on campus is vital to Spectrum WT's mission, the group's ability to express its viewpoint is harmed if it cannot hold its planned events at West Texas A&M. (*Id.*) Their intended audience and Spectrum WT's members may be less inclined to attend an event held off campus. Moreover, the ongoing drag ban

conveys that the university considers Plaintiffs' expression second-class (if that). And President Wendler's edict is causing Plaintiff Bright to second-guess his and Spectrum's protected expression. (*Id.* ¶ 145.) By any measure, forcing students to live in constant fear of administrative censorship harms their First Amendment rights.

Plaintiffs are already planning and have applied to hold events that would violate Wendler's edict. They intend to hold a showing of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"—a cult-classic film renowned for audience participation, including dressing in gender non-conforming attire—on October 31. (*Id.* ¶ 130.) And Plaintiffs have worked to hold a second iteration of the same show Wendler has banned from West Texas A&M facilities. (*Id.*) Without an injunction, Spectrum WT's ability to engage in protected expression on campus and share its message with its intended audience will continue to suffer.

III. The Balance of Harms and the Public Interest Favor Plaintiffs' First Amendment Rights.

The balance of harms favors Plaintiffs. The harm to Americans in losing their First Amendment rights "is presumptively great" because a violation of First Amendment rights "constitutes irreparable injury." Ass'n of Club Execs. of Dall., Inc. v. City of Dall., 604 F. Supp. 3d 414, 439 (N.D. Tex. 2022). By contrast, President Wendler identifies no potential harm to the university (or himself) from the drag show proceeding other than his personal offense. That's not enough. Indeed, the Supreme Court has explained the notion that public educational institutions "do not endorse

everything they fail to censor is not complicated." *Bd. of Educ. of the Westside Cmty.*Schs. v. Mergens By & Through Mergens, 496 U.S. 226, 250 (1990) (plurality opinion).

In addition, the Fifth Circuit has been clear that "injunctions protecting First Amendment freedoms are always in the public interest." Texans for Free Enter., 732 F.3d at 539 (quoting Christian Legal Soc'y v. Walker, 453 F.3d 853, 859 (7th Cir. 2006)). Even the State of Texas would seemingly agree that an injunction here would benefit the public interest, having passed a 2019 campus free speech law forbidding universities from "tak[ing] action against a student organization or deny[ing] the organization any benefit generally available to other student organizations at the institution on the basis of a political, religious, philosophical, ideological, or academic viewpoint expressed by the organization or of any expressive activities of the organization." Tex. Educ. Code § 51.9315(g). In sum, a preliminary injunction will serve the public interest. That is one more reason to grant Plaintiffs' motion.

IV. The Court Should Waive the Bond Requirement Because Plaintiffs Seek Only to Protect Their First Amendment Rights.

The amount of security for a bond under Fed. R. Civ. P. 65 is within the Court's discretion, meaning a Court may waive the bond requirement. *Kaepa, Inc. v. Achilles Corp.*, 76 F.3d 624, 628 (5th Cir. 1996). When, as here, plaintiffs seek to vindicate their constitutional rights and the potential monetary harm to the defendants is negligible, courts have rightly waived the bond requirement. Indeed, the Fifth Circuit explained that "public-interest litigation" is "an area in which the courts have recognized an exception to the Rule 65 security requirement." *City of Atlanta v. Metro. Atlanta Rapid Transit Auth.*, 636 F.2d 1084, 1094 (5th Cir. 1981). Because Plaintiffs

are engaging in public-interest litigation to vindicate First Amendment rights, the Court should waive the bond requirement. See, e.g., Gbalazeh v. City of Dall., No.: 18-cv-0076, 2019 WL 2616668, at *2 (N.D. Tex. June 25, 2019) (citing City of Atlanta and waiving bond requirement when granting preliminary injunction on First Amendment grounds); Gordon v. City of Hous., 79 F. Supp. 3d 676, 695 (S.D. Tex. 2015) (waiving bond requirement when granting preliminary injunction on First Amendment grounds).

CONCLUSION

For all these reasons, Plaintiffs ask that the Court grant their motion for a preliminary injunction.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 20, 2023, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was transmitted via using the CM/ECF system, which automatically sends notice and a copy of the filing to all counsel of record.

/s/ JT Morris
JT Morris
FOUNDATION FOR INDIVIDUAL
RIGHTS AND EXPRESSION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS AMARILLO DIVISION

SPECTRUM WT, BARRETT BRIGHT, and LAUREN STOVALL,

Plaintiffs,

v.

WALTER WENDLER, in his individual capacity and his official capacity as the President of West Texas A&M University,

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, in his official capacity as Vice President for Student Affairs at West Texas A&M University,

JOHN SHARP, in his official capacity as Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System,

ROBERT L. ALBRITTON, JAMES R. BROOKS, JAY GRAHAM, MICHAEL A. HERNANDEZ III, TIM LEACH, BILL MAHOMES, ELAINE MENDOZA, MICHAEL J. PLANK, CLIFF THOMAS, and DEMETRIUS L. HARRELL JR., in their official capacities as members of the Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:23-cv-00048-Z

Hon. Matthew J. Kacsmaryk

APPENDIX TO PLAINTIFFS' BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF AMENDED MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

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Dated: April 20, 2023

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/s/ JT Morris

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 20, 2023, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was transmitted via using the CM/ECF system, which automatically sends notice and a copy of the filing to all counsel of record.

/s/ JT Morris
JT Morris
FOUNDATION FOR INDIVIDUAL
RIGHTS AND EXPRESSION

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS AMARILLO DIVISION

SPECTRUM WT, BARRETT BRIGHT, and LAUREN STOVALL,

Plaintiffs.

v.

WALTER WENDLER, in his individual capacity and his official capacity as the President of West Texas A&M University, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:23-cv-00048

DECLARATION OF ADAM STEINBAUGH IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

Under 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I. Adam Steinbaugh, declare as follows:

- 1. I am over the age of 18 and have personal knowledge of the facts in this declaration.
- 2. I am an attorney with the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, counsel for Plaintiffs in this action. I am admitted to the bars of the State of California and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I have been granted leave to appear *pro hac vice* as co-counsel for Plaintiffs. Doc. No. 27.
- 3. The sole purpose of this declaration is to offer documentary evidence in support of Plaintiffs' amended motion for a preliminary injunction.
- 4. A true and correct copy of West Texas A&M Policy No. 24.01.01.W0.01, entitled "Facility Use Request Procedure," is attached as **Exhibit 1**. This policy document is available on the West Texas A&M University website at

https://www.wtamu.edu/webres/File/About/Administration/Rules/Procedure%20No_%2024_01_01_W0_01.pdf and archived at https://perma.cc/59ZV-7UEH.

5. A true and correct copy of West Texas A&M Policy No. 08.99.99.W1, entitled "Expressive Activity On Campus," is attached as **Exhibit 2**. This policy document is available on the West Texas A&M University website at https://www.wtamu.edu/webres/File/About/Administration/Rules/08.99.99.w1 final 200514.pdf and archived at https://perma.cc/W3SU-SCZD.

Uses of JBK Student Center Spaces

- 6. Big Man On Campus male beauty pageant
 - a) A true and correct copy of an October 17, 2022 Facebook post by "Zeta Tau Alpha at West Texas A&M" about a "Big Man on Campus male beauty pageant is attached as **Exhibit 3**. The Facebook post is also available at https://www.facebook.com/wtzta/posts/pfbid0uTHg6zWKnCEUxyTCZhBQys6DD3ogu5DXEiuXHy98AxvMoyh8vJStDQxfoZfMjV8fl.
 - b) A true and correct copy of an October 20, 2022 Facebook post "at West Texas A&M Legacy Hall" including photos of "Big Man On Campus" is attached as **Exhibit 4**. The Facebook post is also available at https://www.facebook.com/
 Wasssuuppp/posts/pfbid02eFJhfnjAzne8JJS8uBVxaGmUp24w4
 Hsi9uBKbMQnRqC1zmnEhJVxtHXr6mpySaK5l and archived at https://perma.cc/KLK8-UFK6.

7. Miss Black & Gold Scholarship Pageant

- a) A true and correct copy of a January 27, 2017 Facebook post about the "Miss Black & Gold Scholarship Pageant 2017" to be held in "Legacy Hall" is attached as **Exhibit 5**. The Facebook post is also *available at* https://www.facebook.com/
 RhoMuMBG17/photos/a.1807799329434532/1829499373931194.
- b) A true and correct copy of a January 29, 2016 Instagram post about the "2016 Miss Black & Gold Scholarship Pageant" at "Jack B. Kelley Legacy Hall" is attached as **Exhibit 6**. The Instagram post is also available at https://www.instagram.com/p/BBI934IPC6Q.

8. **Buff-A-Whoa Drag Show**

- a) A true and correct copy of a March 20, 2012 article entitled "Men in dresses work to cure cancer in style" in the West Texas A&M student newspaper, *The Prairie*, is attached as **Exhibit 7**. The March 20, 2012 edition of *The Prairie* is also *available at* https://issuu.com/theprairienews/docs/everything_march_20.
- b) A true and correct copy of a March 27, 2012 article entitled "Herdsmen Hearts hosts Buff-A-Whoa drag show" in *The Prairie* is attached as **Exhibit 8**. The March 27, 2012 edition of *The Prairie* is also available at https://issuu.com/theprairienews/docs/3.27.11.

9. Mr & Miss West Texas drag show

a) A true and correct copy of a Facebook event page about an April 18, 2019 "3rd consecutive Mr & Ms West Texas Drag Show" at "West Texas A&M Legacy Hall" hosted by Kappa Kappa Psi and

- Tau Beta Sigma is attached as **Exhibit 9**. The Facebook post is also *available at* https://www.facebook.com/ events/2194529927279411 and *archived at* https://perma.cc/D6UE-WAQX.
- b) A true and correct copy of an exemplar photo from photos posted by "Alpha Psi Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi" on April 21, 2019 is attached as **Exhibit 10**. The photos are also *available at* https://www.facebook.com/kkpsialphapsi/photos/a.136355336378 5616/1363558923785060.
- c) A true and correct copy of an April 30, 2017 Facebook post by "Alpha Psi Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi" about "Miss West Texas" is attached as **Exhibit 11**. The Facebook post is also available at https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=891036867703937&set=a.570750233065937 and archived at https://perma.cc/EW9Q-BGY9.

10. University Sing

- a) A true and correct copy of an April 27, 2020 article in West
 Texas A&M's yearbook, *Eternal Flame*, about the "University
 SING" event held in Legacy Hall is attached as **Exhibit 12**. The
 article is also available at
 https://www.wteternalflame.com/post/wt-s-university-sing and
 archived at https://perma.cc/5WVD-6QJJ.
- b) A true and correct copy of a February 19, 2018 post to Facebook by West Texas A&M's Office of Student Engagement and Leadership about "University SING . . . in Legacy Hall" is attached as **Exhibit 13**. The post is also available at

https://www.facebook.com/wtamuosel/photos/a.41257676546971 6/1666489360078444.

11. Ascension Academy's Friendly Feud Gala

a) A true and correct copy of an April 14, 2019 article from KAMR reporting that Ascension Academy "hosted its Friendly Feud Gala . . . at Legacy Hall on West Texas A&M's campus" is attached as **Exhibit 14**. The article is also available at https://www.myhighplains.com/news/ ascension-academy-hosts-friendly-feud-gala/amp and archived at https://perma.cc/5GNK-CPAD.

12. Community Night of Worship and Prayer

- a) A true and correct copy of a Facebook event page about a May 5, 2019 "Community Night of Worship and Prayer . . . at the WTAMU Legacy Hall" is attached as **Exhibit 15**. The Facebook event page is also available at https://www.facebook.com/ events/284705745550014 and archived at https://perma.cc/SZE3-TQJH.
- b) A true and correct copy of a Facebook photo posted on May 5, 2019 from "Community Night of Worship and Prayer at West Texas A&M Legacy Hall" depicting a live band on stage is attached as Exhibit 16. The Facebook photo is also available at https://www.facebook.com/janae.gadberry/posts/pfbid0aHCf1E3JC5MmXmfLmB967JNRgwgEqDG6qQ5psfg97SojjvHk3g5D7xm5
 JpeEkDv8l.

13. Congressional Candidate Forums

- a) A true and correct copy of a Facebook event page created by

 West Texas A&M University about a September 28, 2020 "forum
 in Legacy Hall" featuring Dr. Ronny Jackson is attached as

 Exhibit 17. The Facebook event page is also available at

 https://www.facebook.com/events/west-texas-am-jbk-studentcenter/congressional-candidate-forum-with-dr-ronnyjackson/4655948491096904 and archived at

 https://perma.cc/2KSF-V8WU.
- b) A true and correct copy of an event page on West Texas A&M's website promoting a September 24, 2020 "Congressional Candidate Forum" featuring "Congressional Candidate Gus Trujilo . . . in Legacy Hall" is attached as **Exhibit 18**. The event page is also available at https://www.wtamu.edu/student-life/calendar/index.html?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D148063728 and archived at https://perma.cc/XUK5-N2FP.

14. The Band Monarch

a) A true and correct copy of an August 17, 2022 Facebook post by the West Texas A&M JBK Student Center about a "FREE concert in Legacy Hall" featuring "The Band Monarch" is attached as **Exhibit 19**. The Facebook post is also available at https://www.facebook.com/WTAMUJBK/posts/
https://www.facebook.com/WTAMUJBK/posts/
pfbid084n7bgcwRwr1g9XEb6DwRjBCyt2PHPjTvJjzXECECpda
Gi5HyWCVUibwgXv8Vk3sl.

15. Ceta Canyon Camp & Retreat Center dinner

a) A true and correct copy of an October 4, 2022 Facebook post by the Ceta Canyon Camp & Retreat Center about a "special dinner" at "WTAMU – JBK Legacy Hall" is attached as Exhibit 20. The Facebook post is also available at https://www.facebook.com/cetacanyon/posts/pfbid02VLXP7Ebqd ZBi8vmvjQuVntGbch9tiHpAdMFSiAd8A1SMjvDBnnw4euKdW wNb5zMpl.

16. Metropolitan Opera singer gala and performance

a) A true and correct copy of a January 13, 2023 article by KAMR about an "upcoming fundraising gala" with "a performer with the Metropolitan Opera . . . in Legacy Hall at the Jack B. Kelley Student Center" is attached as **Exhibit 21**. The article is also available at https://www.myhighplains.com/entertainment-news/wt-opera-to-host-fundraising-gala-with-met-opera-performer and archived at https://perma.cc/98K2-DCKP.

17. Canyon High School Spring Dance 2023: Casino Night

a) A true and correct copy of a February 22, 2023 Facebook post by Canyon High School about a February 25, 2023 "Casino Night" dance at "Legacy Hall at WTAMU in the JBK" is attached as Exhibit 22. The Facebook post is also available at https://www.facebook.com/cisdcanyonhs/posts/pfbid02N4Y5x8Jg QmDQEF1qRYB83ieXxdXeszrp4qxsWqMCWbke3dkuQPJiTW WJE5tFTWGXI and archived at https://perma.cc/XY9W-WRXZ.

18. Shine for Autism gala

a) A true and correct copy of a March 3, 2023 article from KAMR about a "Shine for Autism' Sapphire Gala" to be held "at the Jack B. Kelley Legacy Hall" is attached as **Exhibit 23**. The article is also available at https://www.myhighplains.com/news/heart-of-the-high-plains/braydens-gift-set-to-host-shine-for-autism-gala and archived at https://perma.cc/DJH2-JNHK.

19. Randall County Junior Livestock Show

- a) A true and correct copy of a January 12, 2015 article from KAMR about the 67th Annual Randall County Junior Livestock Show held in "WTAMU LEGACY HALL" is attached as **Exhibit 24**. The article is also available at https://www.myhighplains.com/news/studio-4/randall-county-hosts-its-67th-annual-junior-livestock-show/161081758 and archived at https://perma.cc/3DB7-XYHW.
- b) A true and correct copy of a January 8, 2022 article from KAMR about the 74th Randall County Junior Livestock Show "with a premium sale" at "WTAMU Legacy Hall in Canyon" is attached as Exhibit 25. The article is also available at https://www.myhighplains.com/news/local-news/weeklong-randall-county-stock-show-is-underway and archived at https://perma.cc/VRR9-AMGM.

20. Jack Kelley The Magician

A true and correct copy of an event page on the West Texas
 A&M website about a March 23, 2023 appearance by "Jack Kelley the Magician" performing "jaw-dropping magic and

comedy" in Legacy Hall is attached as Exhibit 26. The event

page is also available at https://www.wtamu.edu/student-

life/calendar/index.html?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26even

tid%3D165030094 and archived at https://perma.cc/E49Z-US2M.

Events following the cancellation of Spectrum WT's drag show.

21. A true and correct copy of a March 24, 2023 article published by KAMR

is attached as **Exhibit 27**. The article is also available at

https://www.myhighplains.com/news/local-news/wtamu-police-canyon-police-said-

no-credible-threats-have-been-made-in-wake-of-drag-related-letter-from-wendler

and archived at https://perma.cc/684K-G7YD.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the

best of my personal knowledge.

Dated: April 19, 2023

/s/ Adam Steinbaugh

Adam Steinbaugh

Exhibit 1

24.01.01.W0.01 Facility Use Request Procedure

Revised: March 1, 2017 Approved: December 1, 2013

Supplements WTAMU Rule #24.02.02.W1, Visitor Safety Access Control

Procedure Statement

The purpose of this procedure is to outline the process to reserve and use West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) campus spaces, rooms, buildings and facilities. This procedure is for any special event (i.e. fundraising activity, social gatherings or functions, or advisory groups), including third party requests. WTAMU reserves the right to cancel an event and immediately remove access to campus if an event violates the policies and regulations of the Texas A&M University System, the rules and procedures of WTAMU, or if an event is deemed to be unsafe.

Responsibilities

The request for facility use must be initiated by the department and/or event requestor, with a charge account number required if necessary, using the previously approved request-for-space reservation request site found at: https://reservations.wtamu.edu/

The request form must be routed to the specific departments responsible for event activities, including but not limited to:

- a. The designated reservation coordinator for final reservation confirmation. Room and key access will be determined in coordination with the Lock Shop and the building coordinators. The following facilities have a designated reservation coordinator:
 - Academic Classroom Spaces, Activities Center, Ag Education, Amarillo Center, Athletics, Electronic Learning Center, Fine Arts, Jack B. Kelley Student Center, and Library.
- b. University Police Department (UPD) for event security charges. Event requestor(s) and campus departments are responsible for all charges associated with required security.
- c. Event Services staff for all concealed carry signage requirements (please refer to Rule #34.06.02.W1, Carrying Concealed Handguns on Campus).

Event requestor(s) and campus departments are responsible for all charges associated with required concealed carry signage, including start and end times designated on the request for timely signage removal.

- d. The Physical Plant Director for accessible utilities (i.e. heating and air) and custodial services for clean-up.
- e. The Food Services Director for approval, if the event includes food not provided by the approved campus caterer.
- f. The Risk Management Office for required insurances, programs-for-minors requirements, and event risk reviews.

Alcohol is only allowed in previously approved and designated locations on campus. If alcohol is to be served, the requestor must route the request to the University President's Office to be approved before the event. The President's Office will then return the form to the event requestor. The approval form can be found at: http://www.wtamu.edu/home/faculty-staff.aspx

Campus visitors are not allowed in the designated academic classroom lab areas unless pre-approved by Environmental Health and Safety Office: http://www.wtamu.edu/environmental_safety/academic-research-environmental_safety.aspx

PARKING

For events involving large buses, including commercial and school buses, the buses can only access parking lots interior to campus for drop-off purposes only. Parked or standing buses are only allowed at the Event Center parking lot, the Sports Complex north parking lot, or other pre-approved event site, until they are ready for passenger pickup.

Contact Office

Director of the JBK Student Center (806) 651-2394

Approval

President/CEO

elter V. Wendler

05.17.17 Date

Exhibit 2

08.99.99.W1 Expressive Activity on Campus

Approved May 14, 2020 Next Scheduled Review: May 14, 2025



Rule Summary

In 2019, the 86th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 18, addressing the protection of campus expressive activities. This new law adds Texas Education Code Section 51.935, which requires that each public institution of higher education "adopt a policy detailing student's rights and responsibilities regarding expressive activities" on its campus.

As stated in the Preamble to the bill: Freedom of expression is of critical importance and requires each public institution of higher education to ensure free, robust, and uninhibited debate and deliberations by students enrolled at the institution, regardless of whether the students are on or off campus. It is a matter of statewide concern that all public institutions of higher education officially recognize freedom of speech as a fundamental right. Freedom of speech and assembly is central to the mission of institutions of higher education and persons should be permitted to assemble peaceably on the campuses of institutions of higher education for expressive activities, including to listen to or observe the expressive activities of others.

Definitions

Definitions of terms used in this rule. The definition includes both the singular and plural version of the term:

- 1. **Benefit** means recognition by or registration with the university, the use of the university's facilities for meetings or speaking purposes, the use of channels of communication controlled by the university, and funding sources made generally available to student organizations at the university.
- 2. **Campus** means all land and buildings owned or leased by the university.
- 3. **Common outdoor areas** means places located outside a building or facility that are accessible to the public, such as streets, sidewalks, plazas, lawns, and parks, unless closed by the university for a special event. This term does not include areas immediately adjacent to a private residence.
- 4. **Employee** means an individual employed by the university.
- 5. **Expressive activity** means any speech or expressive conduct protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or by Section 8, Article I, Texas Constitution, and includes assemblies, protests, speeches, the distribution of written material, the carrying of signs, and the circulation of petitions. The term does not include commercial speech.
- 6. **Faculty** means any full or part-time employee of the university holding an academic appointment.

- 7. **Materially and substantially disrupt** means interrupting a program or activity in a significant and consequential manner.
- 8. **Person** means students, faculty, staff, student organizations, and third-parties.
- 9. **Reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions** means limitations that: (1) are narrowly tailored to serve a significant institutional interest; (2) employ clear, published, content-neutral, and viewpoint-neutral criteria; (3) provide for ample alternative means of expression.
- 10. **Staff** means an employee of the university that is not a faculty member.
- 11. **Student** means an individual currently enrolled at the university, full or part-time, pursuing undergraduate, graduate, or professional studies, including students who were enrolled the previous semester and registered for a future semester.
- 12. **Student Organization** means any organization that is composed mostly of students enrolled at an institution of higher education and that receives a benefit from the institution.
- 13. **Third-party (External Client)** means an individual or entity that is not a student, student organization, or employee of the university.
- 14. **Traditional public forum** means a place, widely recognized in law, which has been intended for the use of the public, and has been used for purposes of assembly, communicating thoughts between citizens, and discussing public questions when the principal function of the location would not be disrupted by expressive activity. Examples of traditional public forums include public streets, sidewalks, plazas, lawns, and parks.

Rule

1. EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY RIGHTS

- 1.1. Any person is allowed, subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions, to engage in expressive activities on campus, including by responding to the expressive activities of others.
- 1.2. Student organizations and employees are allowed to invite speakers to speak on campus. In determining the amount of a fee to be charged for use of the university's facilities for purposes of engaging in expressive activities, the university may consider only content-neutral and viewpoint-neutral criteria related to the requirements of the event, such as the proposed venue and the expected size of the audience, any anticipated need for campus security, any necessary accommodations, and any relevant history of compliance or noncompliance by the requesting student organization or employee with this rule and other relevant rules. The university may not consider any anticipated controversy related to the event.
- 1.3. The university may not take action against a student organization or deny the organization any benefit generally available to other student organizations at the university on the basis of a political, religious, philosophical, ideological, or academic viewpoint expressed by the organization or of any expressive activities of the organization.
- 1.4. The common outdoor areas of the university's campus are deemed traditional public forums. Any person is permitted to engage in expressive activities in these areas freely, as long as the person's conduct: (a) is not unlawful; and (b) does not materially and

substantially disrupt the functioning of the institution. Members of the university community are allowed to assemble or distribute written material in common outdoor areas without a permit or other permission from the institution.

1.5. Nothing in this rule should be interpreted as prohibiting faculty members from maintaining order in the classroom.

2. COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

- 2.1. Any person who believes that their campus expressive activity rights, as recognized by this rule, have been unduly interfered with by a student, student organization, or employee has the right to file a complaint.
- 2.2 Complaints should be filed on the university's online complaint form, found at www.wtamu.edu/complaint.
- 2.3 A student, student organization, or employee who is found to have unduly interfered with another person's expressive activity rights, as recognized by this rule, is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the university's applicable rules and procedures. All complaints will be administered by the university complaint process found on the complaint website: www.wtamu.edu/complaint. If a violation of this rule was found to occur the report will be referred to the appropriate office for further action. The referral office will be determined by the status of the offending individual. Complaints concerning (a) faculty will be referred to the Office of the Provost; (b) student will be referred to the Student Conduct Office; and (c) complaints concerning staff and third-parties will be referred to Human Resources.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1. A copy of this rule will be included in any university published Code of Student Life.
- 3.2. A copy of this rule will be distributed each semester when the Code of Student Life is normally distributed electronically.
- 3.3. A copy of this rule will be posted to the university's website.

4. EXTERNAL CLIENT EVENTS

Events organized by an external party and held on campus must be sponsored by a recognized student organization, university academic or administrative unit, or an A&M System member.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

Texas Education Code § 51.9315

Contact Office

WTAMU Compliance Office

Exhibit 3

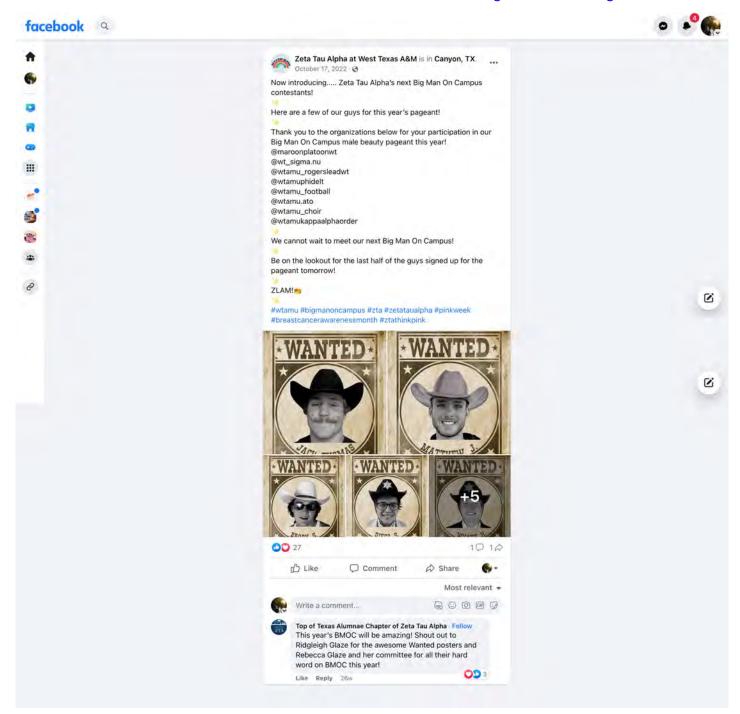


Exhibit 4

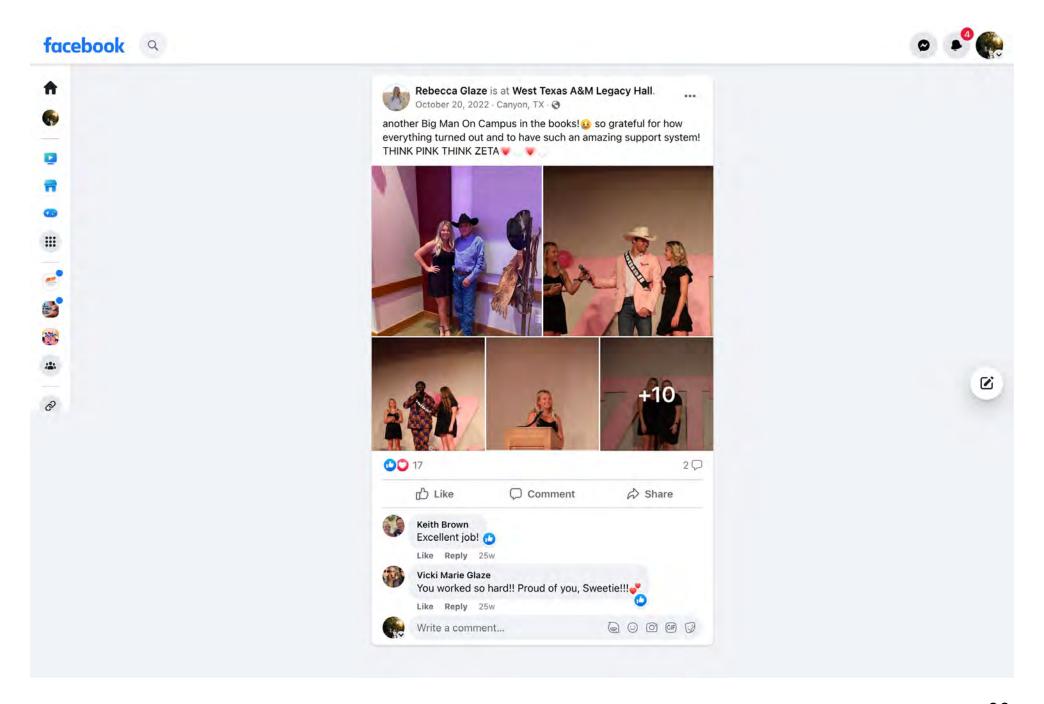
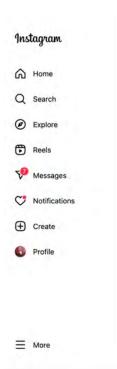


Exhibit 5



Exhibit 6

Case 2:23-cv-00048-Z Document 32 Filed 04/20/23 Page 31 of 90 PageID 366





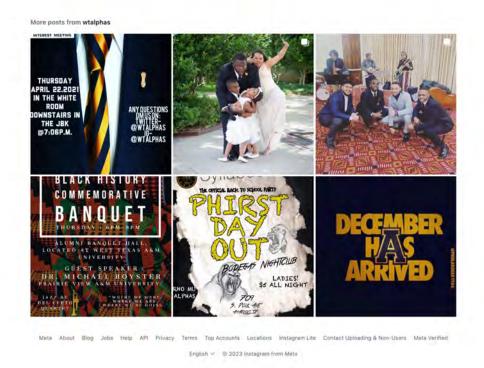


Exhibit 7

PRAIRIE

News

MARCH 20, 2012 www.theprairienews.com

Circle K helps raise money for tetanus vaccines

RYAN SCHAAP STAFF WRITER

3

Circle K will be raising money for tetanus vaccines through an event called 'The Race to Eliminate,' which will take place on March 24.

"It's a disease that is present in third world countries that kills a child every nine seconds," said Abby Walker, President of Circle K. "The vaccinations are provided for people in the United States, but those in third world countries do not have this privilege." It costs \$1.80 to provide a mother with three doses of the vaccination which will give her and her children a safe living environment. Kwanzaa International, the organization which houses Circle K, is planning to raise \$115 million by 2015.

"Circle K is trying to get the community and campus involved with the 5K run or one mile walk," said Walker. "We want students to be involved and spread awareness to which all funds will go to the Elimination project. Anybody can sign to run or walk and even give a

donation."

Another goal of the project besides raising funds is to raise awareness.

"We want to get the name of the project out there," said Logan Edigar, Department Chair of Marketing for Circle K. "The amount of money we raise will depend on how many people show up. If we have 200 people show, that could supply 1,900 mothers with the vaccinations which will protect the lives of all their children."

Getting students and the community involved is important for Circle K. 5K runners from around the area have decided to get involved to help this cause.

Will Walker, committee chair of Circle K, is involved with a group called Friends In Training [FIT].

"We have run multiple 5K's and enjoy running for a good cause. The Race to Eliminate is something our group is really interested in," said Walker.

A table will be in the JBK to sign up for the race on March 21. Prizes will be given away for groups who have the most participants and first place finishers.

SGC raises funds for UNICEF

DANIELA FIERRO STAFF WRITER

Students for Global Connections will have a booth in the JBK to raise awareness and help raise funds for UNICEF Tap Project March 19-25.

President Olivia Trabysh said they will be recruiting restaurants such as the Big Texan, Sakura, Macaroni Joe's and El Patio in Canyon and many more.

"Students will have to go to restaurants that we are recruiting and order a glass of water," said Trabysh. "The restaurants will then proceed to donate either water or money."

This is the first time Student for Global Connections is helping out UNICEF and it is the first group in the Panhandle to be associated with the organization.

"Vietnam and Cameroon will revive money for water," said Trabysh. "The panhandle is very sheltered so this is a way to raise awareness and help out."

Trabysh said UNICEF is the main premise of the event and they plan to do this project next year as well.

"We also are planning to do other projects UNICEF has every few months," she said. "And we will definitely try to do the big projects."

History major Tori Trela is part of Students for Global Connections and said something as little as a dollar can help the cause.

"We as Americans have concerns about health because we can do something about curing diseases," said Trela. "But these countries can't and something as clean water can be beneficial to them."

Trela added that she will speak to her friend who owns a restaurant to see if they would want to help out and what other restaurants could help as well.

"It's a great opportunity to help out if you're in one of the restaurants," said Trela. "It's a simple idea yet monumental."

Text "TAP" to 864-233 to make a one-time donation of \$10 or visit one of the many restaurants that will be listed when the organization's table is set up in the JBK.

Men in dresses work to cure cancer in style

JESSICA CHANDOS STAFF WRITER

he Herdsmen Hearts are putting on a cross-dressing fashion show to raise money for Relay for Life. The event will take place on March 20 at 6 p.m. in the JBK commons.

There will be a maximum of 20 male contestants in the show, each required to pay a \$10 entry fee to be donated to the cause. Each contestant is responsible for trying to get as many of his friends to support him by donating money for Relay for Life.

"[We] set it up in a way so you could eat your dinner while watching the fun," Herdsman Hearts Public Relations Official Madelyn Melchoirs said.

This is to be the Herdsmen Hearts' spring philanthropy event. "We're hoping this is going to be a lot of fun for people to wat, and want to participate in," sai Melchoirs.

There will be an evening dress, sports wear, and group dance round.

"It would be really fun to go to and watch. Plus who doesn't like helping to find a cure for cancer?" Jo Ann Ross, English, philosophy and modern languages secretary, asked.

Not many students know the event will be going on, as there was a "mix up on the flyers" with the wrong date, Melchiors said.

One of these students is JBK staffer Rochelle Parchment.

"A drag show? No, never heard of it," she said.

"We're hoping that people will read the table tents when they get back from spring break," said Melchoirs.

GREAT PAY FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES J PERSON AT 2805 W 1-40 IN AMADII

APPLY IN PERSON AT 2805 W I-40 IN AMARILLO MONDAY-THURSDAY BETWEEN 3 AND 5

TEXAS ROADFOUSE

NOW HURING SERVERS

THE PRAIRIE will be giving out free popcorn with each newspaper April 30 in the JBK starting at 11:30.

Exhibit 8

12

PRAIRIE

MARCH 27, 2012 www.theprairienews.com

Herdsmen Hearts hosts Buff-A-Whoa drag show

JESSICA CHANDOS STAFF WRITER

On March 20 the
Herdsmen Hearts put on
a drag show event, Buff-AWhoa to raise money for
Relay for Life. There were
four categories for judging:
evening gown, sports event,
talent, and group dance.
The winner of Buff-A-Whoa
was Calamity Suzie Cutesy.



Calamity Suzie Cutesy sings "Friday."



In their dance wear, the contestants show their talents dancing to the Wobble.



Calamity Suzie Cutesy wins the Buff-A-Whoa drag show.



Spunky Sandy in her purple gown.



Sassy Pants Cassandra shows off for the cameras.



Calamity Suzie Cutesy in her boa slinky dress.



Allota Virginia during the evening gown event.

Exhibit 9

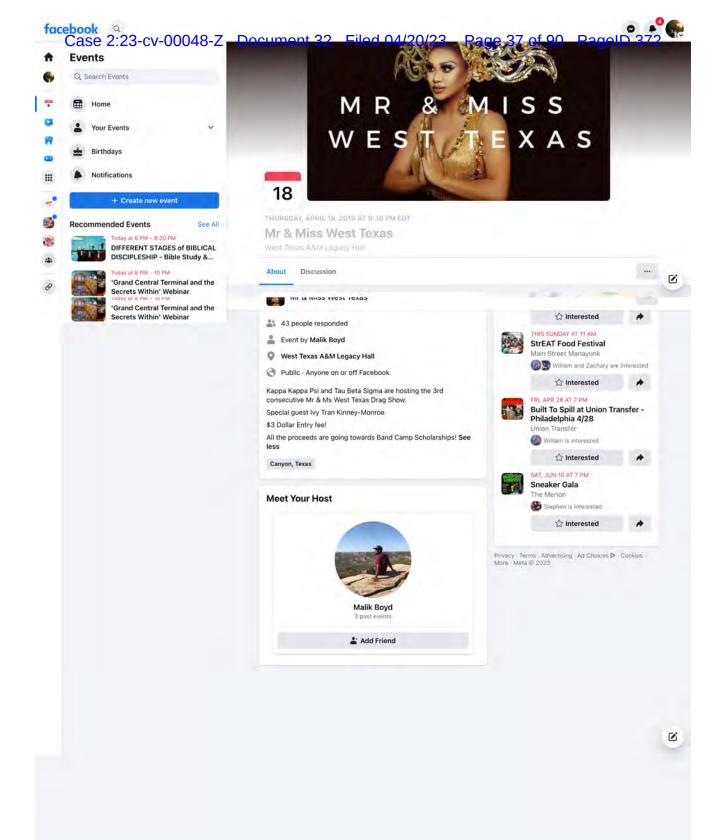


Exhibit 10



Exhibit 11



Exhibit 12



Eternal Flame 🛥 Apr 27, 2020 5 min read

WT's University Sing

Once upon a time, in a land not so far away, there stood a little university in the middle of nowhere, otherwise knows as the Panhandle of Texas. This university was called West Texas A&M and was a wonderous place of community, learning and most of all: competition. Our story takes place minutes after the annual "University Sing". This epic event is hosted by the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership on Saturday, March 7 from in Legacy Hall. Although University Sing has been a typical university event for years and years now, WTAMU has been putting theirs on since 1980. The theme this year; Fairytales with a twist.



"It's not your normal fairy tale of what you've always grown up with, like a classic story with [...] a mythical or magical element [to] it," says Sabrina Pugh, this year's event planner for Sing, "but then with [...] a unique creation to a fairytale, whether that be completely rewriting a brand new story or taking a normal story and adding something unique to it."

This year 6 groups competed with a total of 11 organizations, meaning some organizations team up with others to strengthen their odds of winning. After all, the motivation is high when the team to place first wins a total of \$300. Sabrina Pugh, top event planner this year, actually participated in Sing the last two years and had this to say about her experience:

"I love being in Sing. It was actually one of my favorite things to do. Just being able to be a part of something so big and

something so involving was amazing. I loved seeing S.A.G.E. interactwith other organizations. Something that we're all doing together and healthy competition."

This year I participated in Sing with the on-campus organization S.A.G.E. as well, which stands for Students Assisting in Good Endeavors. This is the groups 3 rd year to enter in Sing. So far S.A.G.E. has managed to place second every year. In 2020 however, our goal was to win the \$300, despite some members wanting second just for the fun of it. When asked, Nathan Solomon, the head of the Sing committee for S.A.G.E said:

"I think S.A.G.E. is definitely ready. We have practiced three to four times a week for the past two weeks, of course we have some stuff to work on, but we're getting really close to tying it up. And we're all having a lot of fun"



This year the judges are looking for several different aspects. One being the "singing, because that's the main point of it; Can you hear them? Are they sounding somewhat musical? Then another aspect [are] their dances creative and fun? Projection and creativity, and overall just involvement of their organization [is very important. And finally,] did they stick with the theme?" said Pugh.

But it is not all fun and games. There is a lot more to it than just coming up with choreography to popular songs, and a fun script. There are plenty of rules and guidelines that must be followed closely. It is important that each organization keeps the normal student conduct. As well as being "present at rehearsal and meetings, so that [they] know the information and that we can be able to practice and rehearse with you as an office." - The OSEL office that is.

"Major offenses could mean an organization is up for disqualification, but if it is a minor offense, it could be up to a five-point deduction" said Pugh. One of these main rules "is that we don't have any food or drink available to come in from

outside. That just being that we've had problems in years past of maybe alcohol consumption"

This may seem strict, but it is certainly justifiable when you consider the shenanigans that went down the last years, with organizations bringing alcoholic drinks to the event and getting on stage buzzed and even drunk. In fact, this is not the only drama that goes down during Sing. Since the prize for first place and even second, which is \$200, and third, \$100, the level of competition is extremely high. Organizations have to keep their ideas, scripts, choreography and even their chosen songs secret. Sing even just as a conversation topic is kept off limits, and the OSEL office makes sure everything related to the subject is kept in the shadows until the day of. This makes for a fun month of secretive meetings and talking in code. However, it is also the cause of, yet again, more drama. Organizations try incredibly hard to find loopholes in the rules and policies, and even try to get

other organizations in trouble in order to bring their competition down. If you put this aside though, you are left with a fun event that not only brings individual organizations members together as they rehearse for weeks straight, but also brings organizations together as they experience this healthy competition with each other. It even brings the campus together as it is an event that is looked forward to by many. In fact, this is how I got to know S.A.G.E. and decided to join a

"The day of the performance was similar to previous years. Nerves start to settle in right before the performance and it is



important to remember we are here to have fun. While on stage adrenaline kicks in and time flies by," said Solomon, "but after the performance we were all so proud of each other and the work we put in. That night is so fun for the audience and every performer. It's an awesome event to be a part of. I was so proud of S.A.G.E. and their accomplishments. We practiced for so many hours and it definitely paid off. We had our best performance the night of and couldn't have done better. Everyone did their part and we all had so much fun."



After every group had finished performing it was time for the award ceremony. This might have been the tensest few minutes of the entire night.

"I thought that it was really close between Kappa Kappa psi and S.A.G.E., it could have gone either way," Said audience member Jairo Vazquez, "but S.A.G.E. in my opinion edged them out with their performance, flow and comedic timing."

That's right! S.A.G.E. received first place for the first time ever. The whole group went wild on stage when we heard our name. Some audience members even decided to give us a standing ovation, and our night ended with a traditional celebration at IHop.

"Winning was very rewarding to everyone in S.A.G.E." Solomon said "All our members

deserved recognition for the time they each put in and how

much effort they gave in order for our performance to be great. Plus, it was our first time winning! It was a great accomplishment "

- And everyone lived happily ever after.

Ashlyn Dietz Staff Writer



Exhibit 13

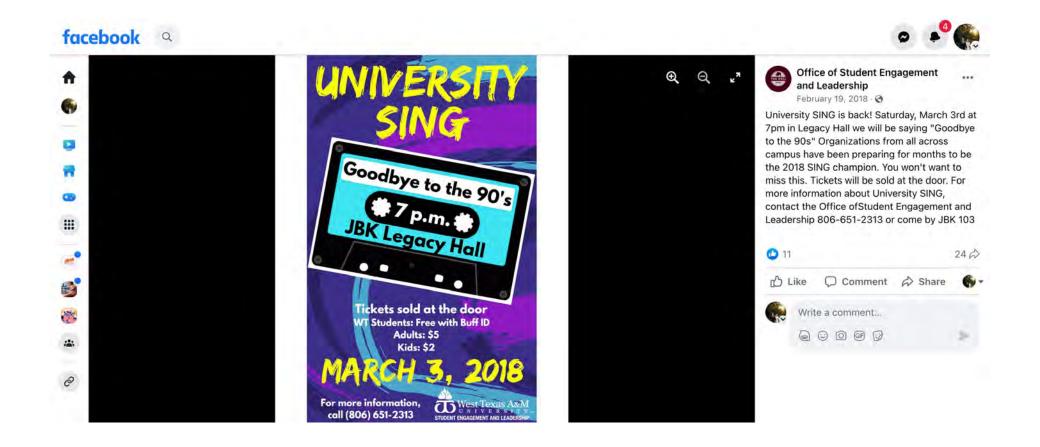


Exhibit 14

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Ascension Academy hosts Friendly Feud Gala

Kylee Douglass 4 years ago



Ascension Academy hosted its Friendly Feud Gala on Saturday, April 13 at Legacy Hall on West Texas A&M's campus.

This fundraising event was hosted by Amarillo Little Theater's Jason Crespin.

Six teams competed to raise money for different school programs at Ascension Academy.

The teams that competed and what they were playing for:

- Happy State Bank playing for the Student Leadership Programs.
- AIG playing for the STEM programs.
- Ascension Alumni, sponsored by Amarillo Pathology Group & Texas Breast Specialists, playing for the Fine Arts Program.
- Ascension Teachers, sponsored by Amarillo Heart Group, playing for the Humanities Programs.
- DataFlow & Susan's Embroidery playing for the Athletic Programs.
- Austin Hose playing for the Scholarship Programs.

Voting was made through donations and the willing team will receive 50% of the voting income that will go towards what they were playing for. The other remaining 50% will go be split between the other teams.

The Gala included a cocktail reception sponsored by Mission Dairy, dinner, coffee bar, photo booth and a silent and live auction.

Categories: Local News, News, Top Stories

Tags: Aig, Amarillo Little Theater, Ascension Academy, Ascension Alumni, Ascension Teachers, Austin Hose, Datallow & Susan's Embroidery, Friendly Feud Gals, Happy State Bank, Jason Crespin, Legacy Hall, Mission Dairy, West Texas A&m

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Exhibit 15



Exhibit 16

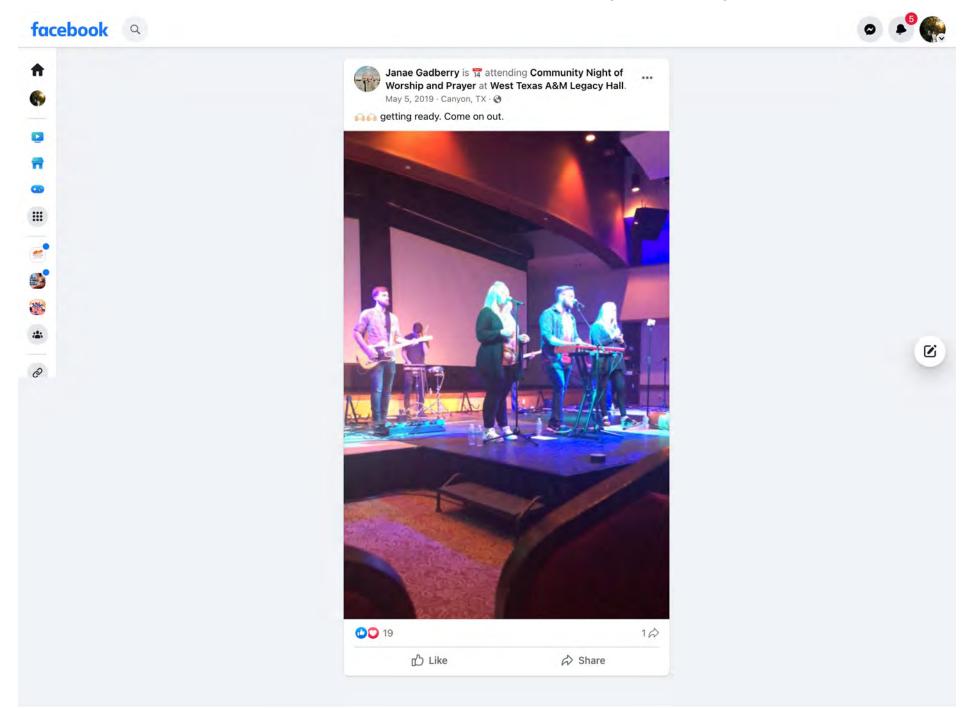


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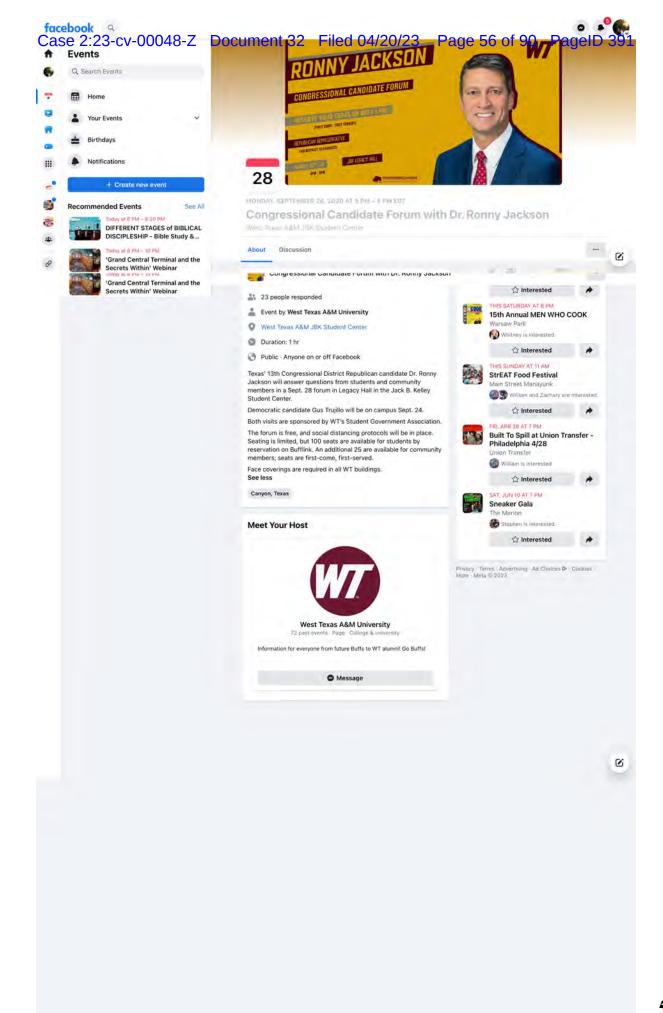


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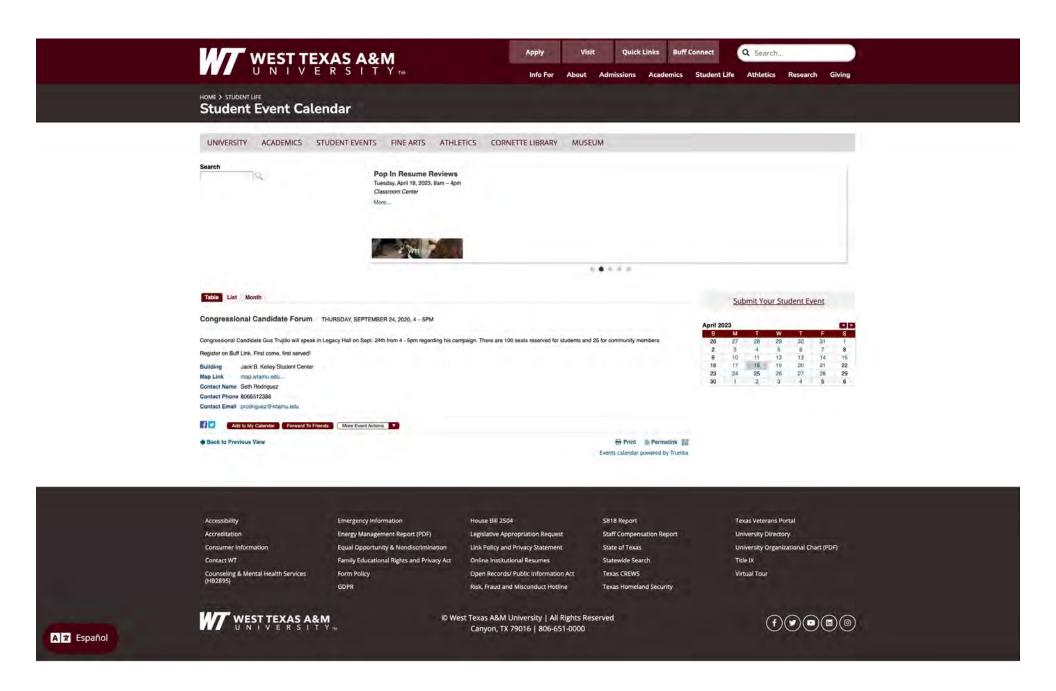


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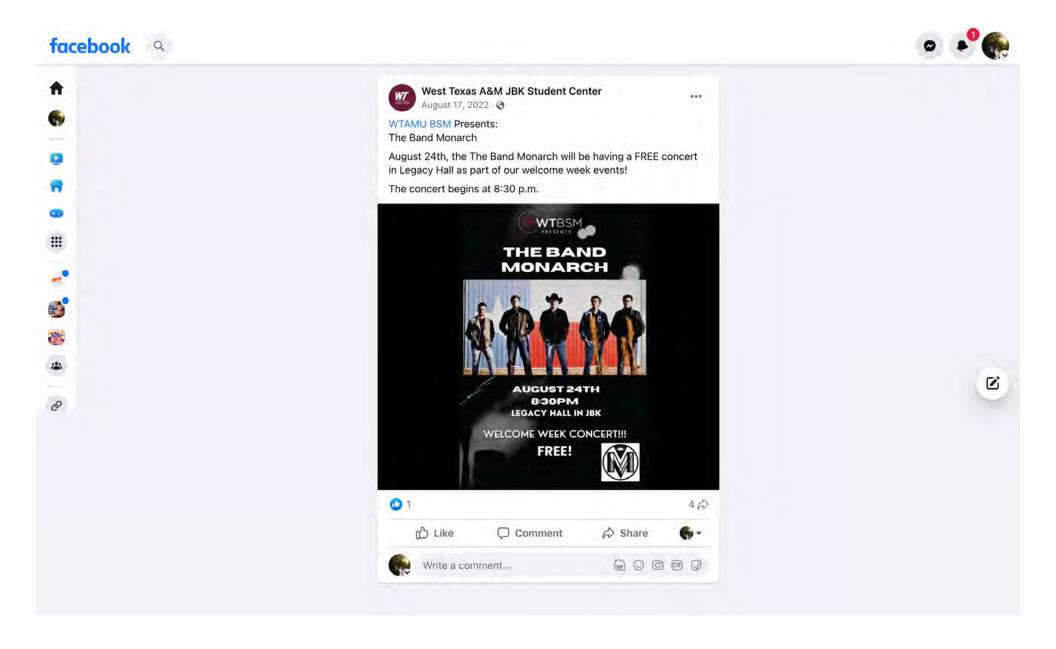


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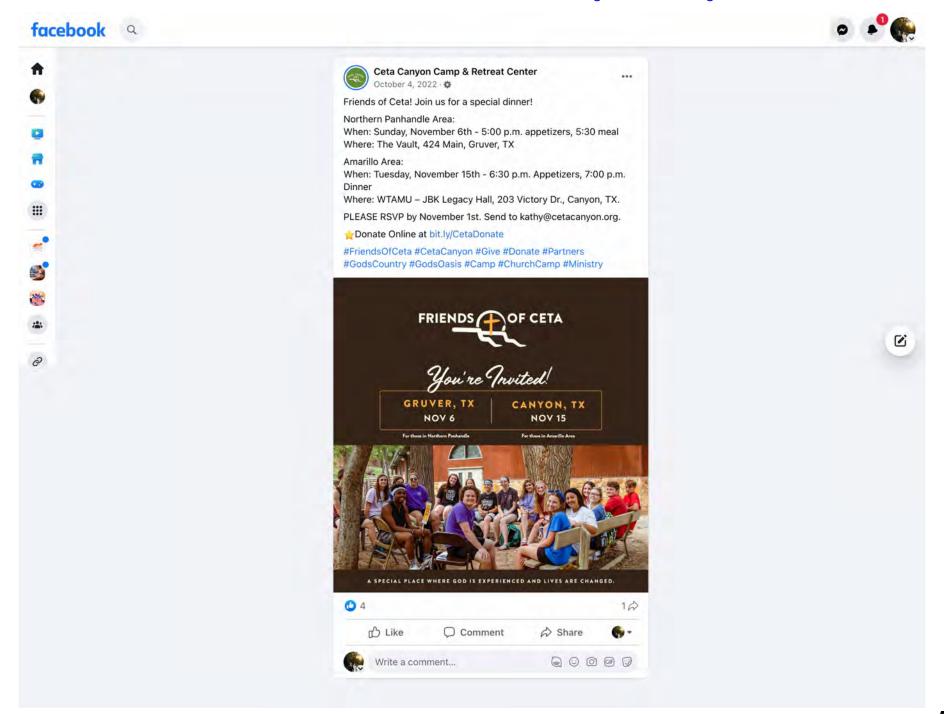


Exhibit 21





CANYON, Texas (KAMR/KCIT) — As part of an upcoming fundraising gala for West Texas A&M University's Opera program, Hugo Vera, a performer with the Metropolitan Opera, will headline the gala, along with providing a masterclass for West Texas A&M students.

According to a news release from the university, Vera is expected to perform alongside WT Opera students and School of Music faculty at the gala, scheduled for 6 p.m. on Jan. 28 in Legacy Hall at the Jack B. Kelley Student Center on the university's Canyon campus.

Amarillo Police provides more info on Thursday afternoon incident >

"We are beyond thrilled that Hugo will join us for our first-ever WT Opera Gala," Sarah Beckham-Turner, an assistant professor of music and WT Opera director, said in the release. "We wanted an artist from Texas who had extensive operatic experience and someone who has a passion for working with the next generation of opera professionals. Hugo fit the bill perfectly. This gala is all about supporting our students and giving them the opportunity to realize their dreams."

According to the release, Vera has also performed with the New York City Opera, the Nashville Opera, the Minnesota Opera and the Aspen Music Festival. Vera has been described as having a "truly heroic voice" that is both "beautiful and brilliant."

Tickets for the event are \$100, the release said, and tables of eight are available for \$1.000, \$2,500 and \$5.000.



AMARILLO WEATHER

| Current | Tonight | Tomorrow |
|------------|----------------------------|---|
| 87° | 50° | 86° |
| * | 4 | * |
| Sunny/Wind | Mostly Clear Precip: 0% | Mostly Sunny & Breezy Precip: 0% |

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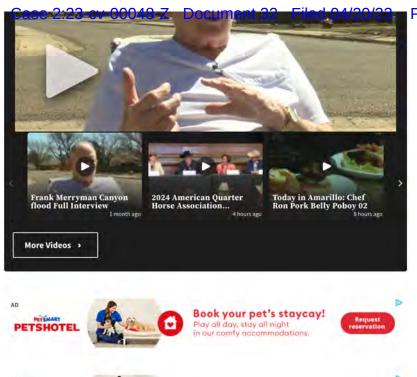
How much responsibility do you personally believe Rupert Murdoch and Fox News, in general, bears for the spread of the conspiracy theory that the 2020 presidential election was rigged?

| 0 | A | lot | of | responsibility |
|---|---|-----|----|----------------|
| | | | | |

Some responsibility

Not much responsibility at all

Other / No opinion



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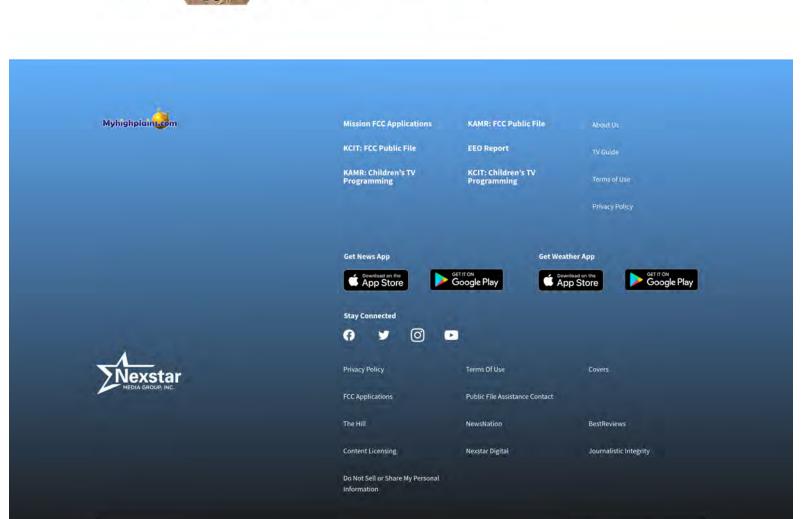


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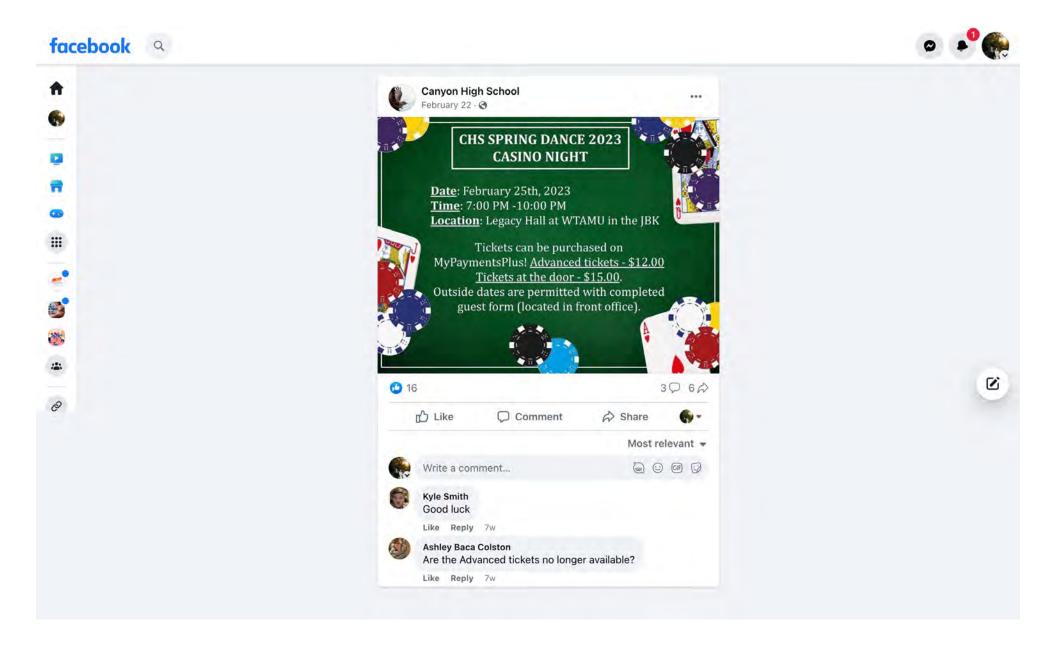


Exhibit 23





AMARILLO, Texas (KAMR/KCIT) —The local non-profit organization, Brayden's Gift and Barnes Jewelry are hosting the "Shine for Autism" Sapphire Gala. This one of a kind event is making a difference in the community.

Here is the information for the "Shine for Autism" Sapphire Gala:

- Saturday, March 18 at the Jack B. Kelley Legacy Hall at West Texas A&M University;
- · VIP Cocktail Party at 6:00 p.m.;
- · Sapphire Gala following at 6:30 p.m.;
- · Tickets: \$125 per person, Table: \$1,250;
- · RSVP by March 13.

The event will include an open bar, elegant dinner, live entertainment, and the chance to hear amazing stories on how lives have been changed due to Brayden's Gift.

| Heart of the High Plains: Girl Scouts >

President and Founder of Brayden's Gift Shay Morath says the inspiration behind the organization was her son, Brayden. Brayden was diagnosed with autism at the age of three and the Morath's tried different therapies for their son but none seemed to work, until they met with Amarillo ABA Executive Director Amy Simpson.

"We moved from Perryton to Amarillo, just for her clinic," said Morath. "This life changing therapy, it blew us away, it changed his whole life."

Amarillo ABA is an outpatient therapy facility which does applied behavior analysis therapy. Simpson said, "We take and design individualized programs for each individual create goals, we monitor their goals very closely, whether we're working on behavioral, like reducing maladaptive behaviors and increasing language skills, play skills, social skills."

With seeing Brayden's progress, the Morath's wanted to help raise autism awareness in the community along with help alleviate the financial burdens on families dealing with therapy for their autistic child.

"It varies because the child has different needs. But for Brayden, this ABA therapy is \$60,000 a year out of pocket, if you don't have insurance, and insurance is a hit or miss with a lot of these families,"said Morath. "[That's] depending on the severity of the child. Braden is severe, he's nonverbal, and so some of those needs are a little higher."

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- 2 WT faculty take no-confidence vote on President Wendler
- 3 \$250,000 winning Texas Lottery ticket sold in Canyon
- 4 Sherman County celebrates

Case 2:23-cv-00048-Z Document 32 Filed 04/20/23 Simpson said ABA therapy is the most evidence-based treatment for children with autism adding,

"We get to spend a lot more time with our kids than other therapies. Our kids are usually in clinic about anywhere from like two hours to six hours a day."

Amarillo ABA has been helping families for over ten years. Morath said Amarillo ABA has helped Brayden eat a variety of foods he didn't before and to communicate. "To communicate on this tablet was pretty phenomenal", said Morath. "Because we couldn't, we didn't know how we were going to communicate with our son for a long time. And even still, it's quite a barrier."

"We need more professionals like to be able to give a diagnosis," added Simpson. "So that our parents aren't waiting years to get you know, a diagnosis and to start treatment, because they do have to have that diagnostic in order to receive you know, ABA therapy."

This leads to the hassle of traveling over a few hours to bigger cities, such as Dallas or Houston, to get a diagnostic from specialists.

Amarillo ABA has been a small local business helping the community of Amarillo. Simpson said, "We've been here for over 10 years, still supporting children with autism." She continued to say the City of Amarillo has done a better job at diagnosing. "We would get eight year old's, nine year old's, 10 year old's, and now we're getting kids at 18 months, or two years old," said Simpson.

Morath said one-hundred percent of funds go back to the community to help children with autism.

Interested individuals can donate or gain information on any upcoming events by visiting Brayden's Gift website or Brayden's Gift Facebook page. For more information on ABA therapy, visit Amarillo ABA's website.

For the latest Amarillo news and regional updates, check with MyHighPlains.com and tune in to KAMR Local 4 News at 5:00, 6:00, and 10:00 p.m. and Fox 14 News at 9:00 p.m. CST.

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

:

To what extent do you support or oppose the expansion of federal funding for child care and home care services?

| 0 | Strongly | support |
|---|-----------|---------|
| 1 | Olloligly | Support |

| Son | newha | t sun | no |
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| - | | |
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| -) | Somewhat | oppose |

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| Other | 1 | No | opinion |
|-------|---|-----|---------|
| Oute | 8 | 110 | opinion |

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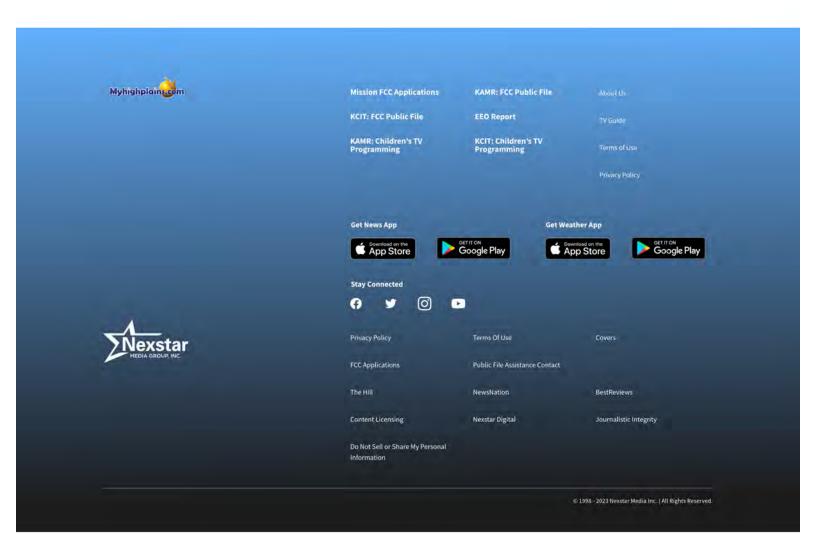
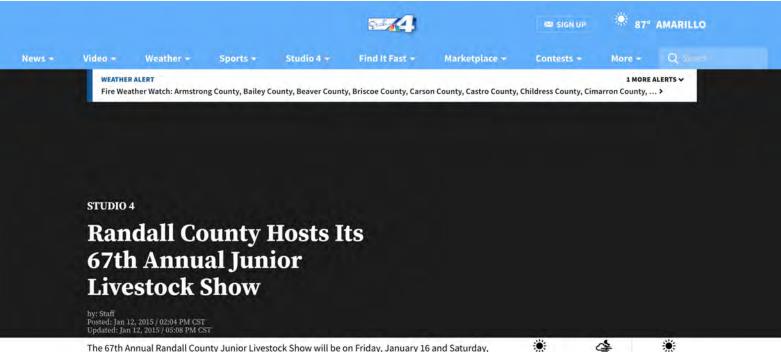


Exhibit 24





The 67th Annual Randall County Junior Livestock Show will be on Friday, January 16 and Saturday, January 17. It will be in a new facility- Randall County's Happy

State Bank Event Center located at 1111 Loop 335 (the former Courts of Amarillo building). There have been a record number of entries and a record number of new exhibitors.

Organizers are hosting a peanut butter drive for Canyon Snack Pak 4 Kids at the show. They encourage everyone to bring a jar of peanut butter to support the organization.

The Ford pickup raffle winner will be announced after the dedication ceremony at noon on Saturday. There are still a few tickets available. All proceeds go toward furnishing the new facility with show rings, animal pens and bleachers. For info, contact the Extension Office at 468-5543.

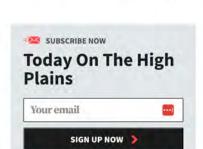
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- JANUARY 16TH AT 5 P.M.
- JANUARY 17TH AT 8 A.M.
- HAPPY STATE BANK EVENT CENTER

-WWW.RANDALL.AGRILIFE.ORG

PREMIUM SALE

-MONDAY, JANUARY 19TH - WTAMU LEGACY HALL -5:30 P.M. -WWW.RANDALL.AGRILIFE.ORG



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How concerned are you, if at all, about the insolvency of the Federal Reserve?

| 0 | Very | concerned |
|---|------|-----------|
| | | |

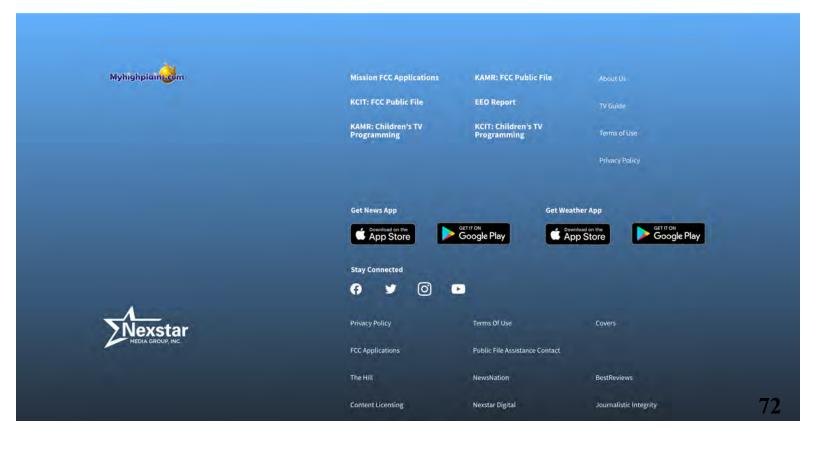
Somewhat concerned Not at all concerned

| - | | | |
|---|-------|----|---------|
| 0 | Other | No | opinion |

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Exhibit 25



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LOCAL NEWS

Weeklong Randall County Stock Show is underway

by: Maya Nascimento Posted: Jan 8, 2022 / 01:02 PM CST 9, 2022 / 01:06 PM CST

AMARILLO, Texas (KAMR/KCIT) - The 74th Randall County Junior Livestock Show announced the event will now last a whole week. The show kicked off on the morning of Saturday, Jan. 8, and will run until Thursday, Jan. 13. Most activities will happen at the Happy State Bank Event Center at 1111 Loop 335, except for the cattle show on Jan. 10, which will be held at the WT Ag Complex.

A release stated that on each day of the show, kids will prepare or exhibit their animal projects raised for competition. There are 207 students participating in the show, which accounts for more than 500 animal entries.

Wildorado High School student athlete makes school history >





The event is open to the public and admission is free. Here's a list of days and activities, according to the release:

- · Saturday, Jan. 8, 10 a.m. rabbits
- . Monday, Jan. 10, 12 p.m. (at WT) cattle
- Tuesday, Jan. 11, 12 p.m. goats and sheep
- · Wednesday, Jan. 12, 12 p.m. broilers
- . Thursday, Jan. 13, 9 a.m. gilts, then all-day barrow show
- Saturday, Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m. (at WTAMU Legacy Hall in Canyon) activities will end with a premium sale.

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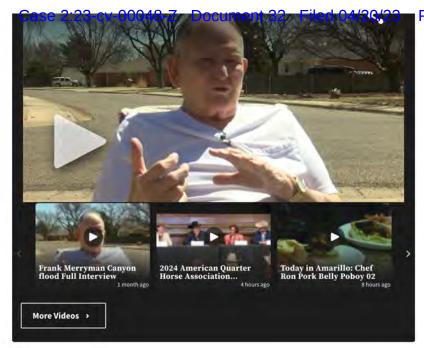
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76 WHAT DO YOU THINK?







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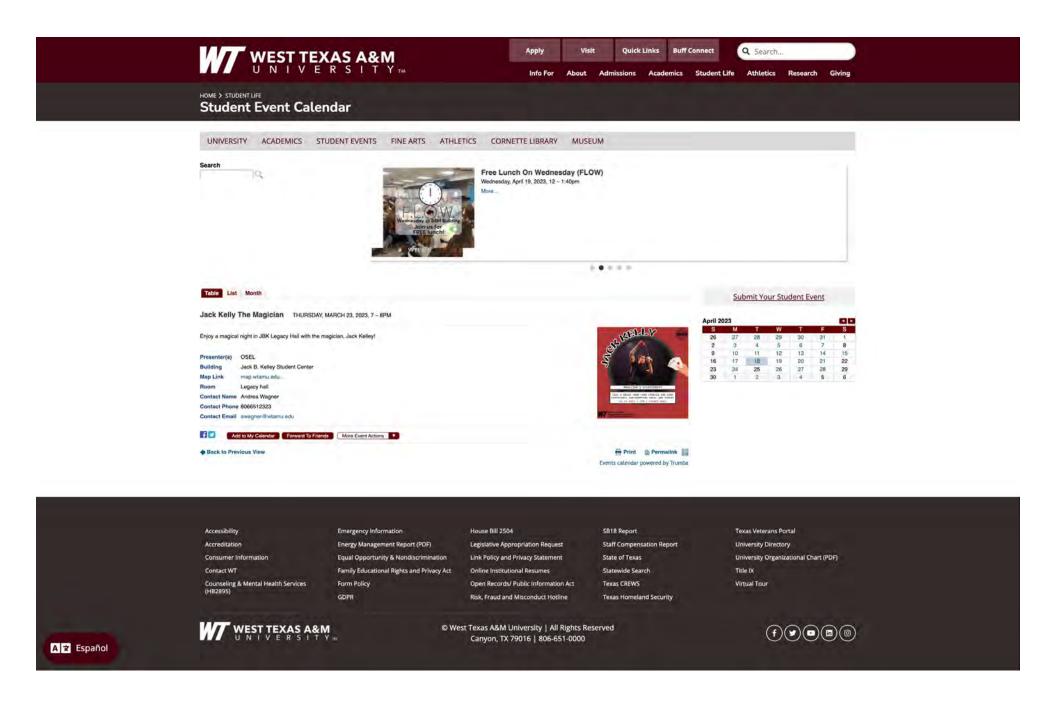


Exhibit 27





CANYON, Texas (KAMR/KCIT) — Officials with the West Texas A&M University Police Department said that out of the messages related to WTAMU President Walter Wendler's cancellation of the drag show, no "credible" threats have been made.

This comes after Wendler published a letter explaining his reasons for canceling a planned drag show fundraiser for March 31. Since that letter was published on Monday, protests have occurred on campus, a number of WTAMU alumni have withdrawn financial support, petitions have been published and a lawsuit has been filed in Amarillo Federal Court.

West Texas A&M University student group files lawsuit against WT, Texas A&M University System officials over drag show cancellation

According to a statement from the department, the university's President's Office has received more than 600 messages in relation to the cancellation of the event, some of which "have been inflammatory in nature."

"There have been no credible threats to the President, or anyone affiliated with the University, at this time," the statement read. "We continue to monitor messages and social media posts and will take necessary action if needed."

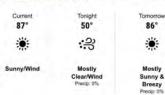
Officials with the Canyon Police Department said that the department has not been made aware of any threats made towards staff at the university.

Amarillo police report possible child abduction investigation in east

Canyon Police went on to say that the protests in relation to Wendler's letter have "been contained to campus" and that the department has been working with the West Texas A&M University Police Department on campus during the "peaceful protests... to ensure everyone's safety."

Regarding the protests, officials with the West Texas A&M University Police Department said:

"Regardless (of) how you feel about the issue at hand, the group of students that organized the protest have exercised their First Amendment rights the proper way," the statement read. "The University Police Department is available for any group who wishes to exercise their First Amendment rights and wants guidance on how to do it properly. So far, we have not had to take any police action this week and the protestors have shown that you can exercise your rights with decorum."





VIDEO FORECAST



TRENDING STORIES

- 1 \$250,000 winning Texas Lottery ticket sold in Canyon
- 3 arrested after recent Amarillo Police sting operation

Case 2:23-cv-00048-Z Document 32 Filed 04/20/23 Pagev88acfr9@ke Regeribente 3 vote on President Wendler

The Canyon Police Department stressed that any WT staff member who has received threats should call the department at 806-655-5005.

For the latest Amarillo news and regional updates, check with MyHighPlains.com and tune in to KAMR Local 4 News at 5:00, 6:00, and 10:00 p.m. and Fox 14 News at 9:00 p.m. CST.

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| - | | |
|---|----------|---------|
| | Strongly | approve |

| 10 | 0 | 4 | |
|----|---|---|--|

| 0 | Somewhat | disapprove |
|---|----------|------------|

| 1 | Strongly | disapprove |
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| Other | 1 | No | opinio | |
|-------|------|---------|------------|-------------------|
| | ther | Other / | Other / No | Other / No opinio |

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