

# Track backers donated heavily to Kitzhaber's 2014 campaign

By SAUL HUBBARD  
*The Register-Guard*

EUGENE — When Vin Lananna, president of TrackTown USA, and Paul Weinholt, president of the University of Oregon Foundation, first contacted then-Gov. John Kitzhaber in mid-2014 to request a \$40 million state subsidy for TrackTown's bid to hold the 2019 track world championships in Eugene, they were met with coolness and skepticism, newly released emails show.

After Lananna gave an in-person pitch to Kitzhaber on July 7, Kitzhaber economic policy adviser Vince Porter sent a scathing assessment of the request to the governor and his top advisers.

Talks should continue, Porter wrote, but "there are a lot of hurdles to get over before it becomes much more than a pipe dream."

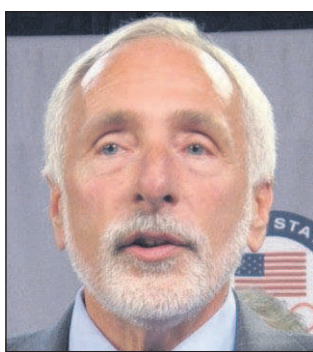
Nonprofit TrackTown's request contained "probably as much as \$20 million that we would never want to consider subsidizing," he added. "I don't think the state should be even considering something larger than \$20 million" to help fund the event in Eugene, he wrote.

The subsidy request — which would require three-fifth votes in both chambers of the Legislature — also was met coolly by Salem's two most powerful legislators, Senate President Peter Courtney and House Speaker Tina Kotek, both Democrats, Porter's emails indicate.

Yet, only five months later, Kitzhaber publicly pledged to "use all the means at my disposal to deliver the financial support needed for the championships" in a video message he sent — along with then-Secretary of State Kate Brown — with TrackTown's team to the International Association of Athletics Federations bid meeting in Monaco in late November.

For the first time in that video, Kitzhaber endorsed a specific amount: the full \$40 million. Getting the governor to publicly state the \$40 million was a priority for TrackTown, Porter's emails show.

What happened between Kitzhaber's initial resistance and his endorsement?



Jonathan J. Cooper/AP Photo  
**Vin Lananna, president of TrackTown USA, speaks to reporters at the state Capitol in Salem, April 11, 2013.**

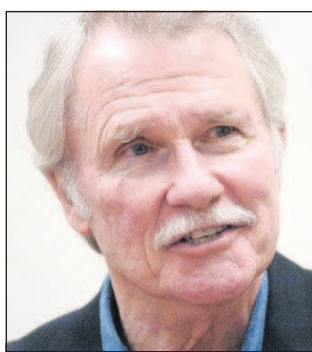
His campaign coffers were swamped with donations from people who want the track world championships held at the UO's Hayward Field.

The emails show that Kitzhaber's apparent reversal coincided with almost \$400,000 in campaign contributions he received during a 42-day period in September and October 2014 from athletic apparel giant Nike, its co-founder Phil Knight and its CEO Mark Parker, as well as four members of the UO Board of Trustees.

The donations came at a busy time in Kitzhaber's 2014 re-election bid: Other money was pouring in as the November election approached. But the donations were unusual in their size and concentration, and because many of the donors had not given to Kitzhaber in at least the past decade for which Oregon keeps disclosures online.

Knight, who donated \$250,000, had not personally given to Kitzhaber in that time. A registered Republican, he backed Kitzhaber's GOP opponent, Chris Dudley, in 2010 with \$400,000. Parker's \$50,000 donation was his first to a state politician. Nike's \$65,000 to Kitzhaber during those 42 days dwarfed the \$22,500 it gave to him during the entire 2010 election cycle.

Among the UO trustees, Chuck Lillis, the board chairman and an infrequent political donor, gave \$10,000 to Kitzhaber. He and his wife contributed \$1,000 to Kitzhaber in 2010. Connie Ballmer gave \$5,000, her first political donation in Oregon. Allyn Ford gave \$5,000 and Joe Gonyea III gave \$2,500, though both trustees are much



**John Kitzhaber**

more frequent political donors.

The donations came at a crucial time for Kitzhaber. Polling showed that he had a big lead over his GOP challenger, Dennis Richardson, when the donations started, but his campaign was rocked in early October by allegations of ethics violations related to his fiancée, Cylvia Hayes, which ultimately led to his February 2015 resignation.

Kitzhaber on Tuesday didn't respond to requests through his attorney for comment.

In a prepared statement, Nike spokeswoman Sabrina Oei said: "As part of the 2014 gubernatorial campaign, Nike was asked to support Gov. Kitzhaber's campaign."

"Based on his record of leadership on issues important to Nike, the business community and the state — including our decision to significantly expand in the state of Oregon — we provided support to the campaign. This is consistent with our general practice of supporting candidates."

Angela Wilhelms, secretary to the UO board, said on behalf of the four trustees: "There is absolutely no correlation between personal political contributions by trustees and any decisions by Gov. Kitzhaber."

"Any insinuation of quid pro quo or any other connection is just flat wrong," the statement said.

## 2021 bid under scrutiny

In recent weeks, TrackTown and Lananna have found themselves defending the IAAF's April 2015 decision to award the 2021 championships to Eugene without a formal bidding process, after the IAAF awarded the 2019 event to Doha. French police are investigating alleged bribery in the IAAF, and the Eugene award itself. The revelation

that Sebastian Coe, the new IAAF president, had been for years receiving undisclosed annual payments of \$150,000 from Nike, a potential conflict of interest, have sent shockwaves through the sport.

TrackTown and Lananna say they've done nothing wrong. They continue to pursue from the state essentially the same funding package they sought for the 2019 event: a permanent doubling of the statewide lodging tax, which would provide \$25 million to the world championships as well as money for other tourism-related projects; \$15 million for renovations to Hayward Field; and \$3 million from the state general fund to pay for security at the 2016 world indoor track championships in Portland and 2016 Olympic Trials in Eugene.

Support from the executive branch remains strong, despite Kitzhaber's resignation.

Less than a month after Brown took office as governor, she signed a letter of support for the 2021 championships, the emails show. Unlike Kitzhaber, Brown hasn't publicly committed to a dollar figure.

Emails show Brown was scheduled to meet with Coe in Salem on Jan. 13. But the meeting was canceled by TrackTown shortly after Coe gave up his Nike payments.

Asked Tuesday whether she supports a specific dollar allocation for the 2021 event, Brown's office sent a statement saying the event is an excellent economic development opportunity that builds on Oregon's strength in track and field.

"The governor's office is currently working with state officials on legislation for a funding strategy in advance of the February 2016 session," the statement adds.

But the request will face at least one powerful opponent in Salem: Senate President Courtney.

"I have been clear with the organizers of this event since before they made their bid," Courtney said Tuesday. "My position has not changed. I do not support spending our limited state resources for this event."

Speaker Kotek's office said Kitzhaber has yet to take a position because she hasn't seen a formal proposal.



J. Scott Applewhite/AP Photo  
**Steaks and other beef products are displayed for sale at a grocery store in McLean, Va.**

# New dietary guidelines: lean meat OK, cut the added sugars

By MARY CLARE JALONICK  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Some Americans may not have to cut back on eggs and salt as much as they once thought and eating lean meat is still OK. But watch the added sugars, especially the sugary drinks.

The Obama administration's new dietary guidelines, released today, back off the strictest sodium rules included in the last version, while still asserting that Americans consume too much salt. The guidelines reverse previous guidance on the dangers of dietary cholesterol and add strict new advice on sugars.

After a backlash from the meat industry and Congress, the administration ignored several suggestions from a February report by an advisory committee of doctors and nutrition experts. That panel suggested calling for an environmentally friendly diet lower in red and processed meats and de-emphasized lean meats in its list of proteins that are part of a healthy diet.

But, as in the previous years, the government still says lean meats are part of a healthy eating pattern.

Released every five years, the guidelines are intended to help Americans prevent disease and obesity. They inform everything from food package labels to subsidized school lunches to your doctor's advice. And the main message hasn't changed much over the years: Eat your fruits and vegetables. Whole grains and seafood, too. And keep sugar, fats

and salt in moderation.

This year, one message the government wants to send is that people should figure out what type of healthy eating style works for them, while still hewing to the main recommendations. The Agriculture Department, which released the guidelines along with the Department of Health and Human Services, is also releasing a tweaked version of its healthy "My Plate" icon to include a new slogan: "My Wins."

"Small changes can add up to big differences," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

One new recommendation is that added sugar should be 10 percent of daily calories. That's about 200 calories a day, or about the amount in one 16-ounce sugary drink. The recommendation is part of a larger push to help consumers isolate added sugars from naturally occurring ones like those in fruit and milk. Added sugars generally add empty calories to the diet.

Sugar-sweetened beverages make up a large portion of those empty calories. According to the guidelines, sugary drinks comprise 47 percent of the added sugars that Americans eat every day.

Americans also need to lower salt intake, the government says. New figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that around 90 percent of people eat too much. The average person eats 3,400 milligrams of sodium a day, and the guidelines say everyone should lower that amount to 2,300, or about a teaspoon.

# Cancer now No. 1 killer in 22 states, ahead of heart disease

By MIKE STOBBE  
*AP Medical Writer*

NEW YORK — Cancer is becoming the No. 1 killer in more and more states as deaths from heart disease have declined, new health statistics show.

Nationwide, heart disease is still the leading cause of death, just ahead of cancer. While death rates for both have been falling for nearly 25 years, heart disease has dropped at a steeper rate.

As a result, cancer moved up to the top slot in 22 states

in 2014, according to the latest government figures.

It's also the leading cause of death in certain groups of people, including Hispanics, Asians, and adults ages 40 to 79.

The trend is noted in the American Cancer Society's lat-

est annual report released today.

The cancer death rate has fallen 23 percent since its peak in 1991. The decrease is attributed to declining smoking rates and advances in cancer detection, treatment and prevention.

The heart disease death rate

fell 46 percent in that time.

The cancer society predicts there will be nearly 1.7 million new cancer cases this year, and nearly 600,000 deaths.

Government figures for 2014 show cancer was the leading cause of death in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Dela-

ware, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Online: *Cancer society report: <http://bit.ly/1Phfaav>*

# DHS: Give Us This Day shut down in September under settlement

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problems at the program much earlier than previously reported. The records also show Give Us This Day operated outside the state's licensing rules, and went over the heads of licensing staff to deal directly with the director of the agency, Dr. Bruce Goldberg. The agency released the emails in response to a public records request from state Sen. Sara Gelsler, D-Corvallis.

"Our staff have been working with them to try and help them obtain a license to provide residential care (they already are providing such care without a license)," child welfare administrator Erin Kelley-Siel wrote in a February 2009 email. At the time, Kelley-Siel was director of the agency's Child Welfare, Self Sufficiency and Vocational Rehabilitation programs. She was promoted to the position of director in 2011, when Goldberg left.

Kelley-Siel had other concerns about the program, which she listed in the email to Goldberg.

"At a site visit last week, numerous concerns arose (on top of the fact they aren't li-



Department of Human Services  
**Dr. Bruce Goldberg presents a talk in 2010.**

censed) — the most serious of which is that every single staff person has a criminal record and their program design does not address the issues that come with that," Kelley-Siel wrote.

Goldberg did not appear to have replied to Kelley-Siel's email, based on the records released by the department.

At the time, Give Us This Day had a state license to operate as an academic boarding school. Mary Holden, executive director of the program, told Human Services licensing

staff that she and the board of Give Us This Day had already gone to the top to negotiate the issue, and was discussing it with Goldberg. Holden refused even to apply for the correct residential license and was still operating without one in May 2009, when department employees learned that someone was suing Give Us This Day and had filed a public records request for the program's licensing file.

On June 1, 2009, Kelley-Siel asked Goldberg in an email whether she should

personally inform Holden and then-state Sen. Margaret Carter, a board member at Give Us This Day and Portland Democrat, about the lawsuit and public records request.

Goldberg responded, "seems to me you should give them a heads up."

Goldberg was director of the Department of Human Services from 2005 through February 2011, when then-Gov. John Kitzhaber tapped Goldberg to lead the Oregon Health Authority. Goldberg resigned in 2014 following the state's health insurance exchange fiasco, and now works for Oregon Health & Science University's Center for Health Systems Effectiveness. Goldberg could not be reached for comment Wednesday afternoon.

Carter said although she was a Give Us This Day board member at the time, "in terms of being an active board member, where I actually knew what was going on in terms of day-to-day operations, not at all." She also did not recall department employees calling her about the lawsuit or records request. "I don't recall

that conversation about public records," Carter said.

Holden also complained that DHS was enforcing stricter rules than she previously experienced regarding prohibitions against child-abusers working with children.

"As far as I know, the old rules allowed individuals to work with kids in residential, if they were supervised and had a lower level child abuse record," Holden wrote in a March 2009 email to the department.

Even when Give Us This Day obtained a residential license, Human Services sent children to the program who were not allowed to be there under the license. In August 2010, Holden complained in an email to DHS that while the program's license only covered children ages 6 to 17, the state has sending younger children to the



**Sen. Margaret Carter**



**Erin Kelley-Siel**

program and then abruptly removing them. In one case, a child as young as 18 months and a 3-year-old sibling were briefly placed at Give Us This Day, according to emails between the department's licensing employees. DHS employee Meg Hopkins wrote in an email that Give Us This Day employees had been visiting Human Services branches to promote their program and "from what I can tell all kids are going to (Give Us This Day) ..."

Give Us This Day shut down in September, under a settlement agreement with the Oregon Department of Justice.

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