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BATTLE IN BURUNDI

Political tensions rise as demonstrators oppose President Pierre Nkurunziza running for a third term. **INTERNATIONAL, 3**



Southwest Journalist

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May storms damage 12,000 trees

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIMBERLEY Landowners and arborists face a challenge of removing and replanting trees damaged when the Blanco River flooded Memorial Day weekend.

Sustainable forestry specialist Paul Johnson with the Texas A&M Forest Service said up to 12,000 trees were damaged or destroyed in the flood between Blanco and San Marcos, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Forestry experts are trying to get the word out about the proper disposal of the dead or damaged trees as homeowners work to clean up their properties.

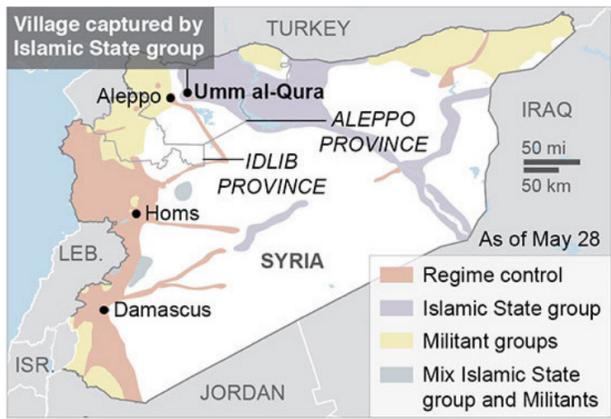
"Sometimes there's a rush to clean up too quickly," said Susan Nenny, a Hays County master naturalist. "We want people to focus on their homes and the trees right around their home — but leave the river bank below alone."

Nenny said downed trees should be left by the river where they are, because they help hold soil in place, will serve as nurseries for new plants to return and help stabilize the river.



ERIC GAY / AP PHOTO

A man walks along the Blanco River where sweeping flood waters overturned vehicles and knocked down trees, Tuesday, May 26, 2015, in Wimberley, Texas. Punishing rains have destroyed or damaged more than 12,000 trees, some hundreds of years old, that must now be tended to or left alone to prompt new growth.



Islamic State death toll released; 10,000 killed

BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT A U.S. official said Wednesday that more than 10,000 Islamic State fighters have been killed by American-led airstrikes in Iraq and Syria in nine months, offering a body count for a campaign that has yet to blunt their advance.

Deputy Secretary of State Tony Blinken's figure came after a Paris conference on how to stop the extremists ended without any new strategy to halt their campaign. It also comes months after the Pentagon dismissed such counts as "simply not a relevant figure" in the fight against the Islamic State group.

Meanwhile, the Islamic State group launched a major attack on the predominantly Kurdish city of Hassakeh in northeastern Syria, according to activists and Syrian state media.

Speaking Wednesday to France Inter Radio a day after the Paris conference, Blinken said the airstrikes have been effective.

"We have seen enormous losses for Daesh," Blinken said, using an Arabic acronym for the group. "More than 10,000 since the beginning of this campaign. That will end up having an effect."

Blinken did not offer any figure for civilian casualties.

In September, the CIA said that Islamic State group has up to 31,500 fighters, meaning that could represent a loss of a third of its forces. Despite that, the extremists continue to attract more recruits from around the world who come to fight with the group to expand its self-declared caliphate, a form of Islamic government, in Syria and Iraq.

It's not clear why Blinken offered the figure, as the U.S. mili-

■ Islamic State, Page 2

DOJ: Requests, backlog for public records grow

STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Federal agencies are struggling to keep up with the growing number of requests for public information, raising questions in Congress about the Obama administration's dedication to transparency.

The backlog of unfulfilled requests for documents has doubled since President Barack Obama took office in 2009, according to a recent report by the Justice Department. The number of requests also has spiked.

"The president has committed to creating an unprecedented level of openness in government," said Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. "But that's not the case"

in filling requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

Chaffetz cited examples of people waiting years for documents their requests denied. In other cases, federal agencies blacked out information that was public elsewhere.

His committee wrapped up two days of hearings on the FOIA on Wednesday with some Republican members chastising federal officials responsible for disclosing public information.

Officials from the departments of State, Justice, Homeland Security and Treasury testified, along with an official from the IRS.

Several Democrats came to their defense, noting that budget cuts have left fewer workers to process information requests.

"Logic tells you that when you have less people and you've got more demand, you're going to have problems," said Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the committee's top Democrat.

Governmentwide, the backlog of requests went from 77,000 in 2009 to nearly 160,000 in 2014, according to a report.

■ Records Requests, Page 2

Logic tells you that when you have less people and you've got more demand, you're going to have problems.

REP. ELIJAH CUMMINGS D-MD

REQUESTS BY YEAR: 2009: 558,000; 2014: 714,000

BACKLOG BY YEAR: 2009: 77,000; 2014: 160,000

STAFF DECREASE: 2011: 4,400; 2014: 3,800

Uber drivers can be insured

MARLEY JAY
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Allstate will start insuring drivers who pick up passengers through ride-hailing apps such as Uber and Lyft.

The insurer said Wednesday that the Ride for Hire policy will cost \$15 to \$20 a year on average and will provide coverage for drivers who get into accidents while they are on the way to pick up new fares. It said it can also help

deal with gaps in coverage between their own auto insurance and policies offered by the ride-hailing companies.

Allstate Corp. will offer Ride for Hire coverage in Colorado, Illinois, Texas and Virginia in 2015 and said it plans to offer coverage in other major markets in 2016. Companies including Farmers, Geico, and USAA started offering ride-hailing insurance in a few states earlier this year.

Apps like Uber, Lyft and Summon can be used to book a ride from a nearby driver. The drivers don't work for the companies directly, however. Some work for car services or use their personal vehicles to make extra cash.

Uber and Lyft both provide insurance for drivers while they are carrying passengers, and varying levels of coverage for drivers who have turned on their app, meaning they are available to accept rides.

■ Uber, Page 2

Health care case raises question about scope of court's scrutiny

MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The Supreme Court could wipe away health insurance for millions of Americans when it resolves the latest fight over President Barack Obama's healthcare overhaul. But would the court take away a benefit from so many people? Should the justices even consider such consequences?

By month's end, the court is expected to decide a challenge to the way subsidies, in the form of tax credits, are given to people who get their insurance through the Affordable Care Act. The legal issue is whether Congress authorized payments regardless of

where people live, or only to residents of states that established their own insurance exchanges.

The distinction is potentially momentous, since more than two-thirds of the states did not set up their own exchanges. In those states, people sign up for "Obamacare" on the federal www.healthcare.gov site. The financial benefits are substantial, covering nearly three-fourths of insurance premiums on average.

If the court rules the subsidies can't be given to people who enrolled on the site, 7 million to 9 million Americans would quickly lose their insurance, said Nicholas Bagley, a health law expert at

the University of Michigan and a supporter of the law.

The current dispute focuses on the meaning of four words — "established by the state" — in a law of more than 900 pages.

One school of thought holds that the court should look only at what Congress wrote into the law, not what it might have intended.

"When the court is interpreting a text like it's doing in this case, then it really is not in the business of looking at consequences," said



Scalia



Breyer

Ronald Cass, the former dean of the Boston University law school. "If you have a result that seems to be a bad one, that's for the political branches to say, not for the court."

The idea that Congress never would have created a system that was essentially designed to fail, by making health insurance unaffordable to so many people the law presumably was intended to help, is irrelevant, Cass said.

Justice Antonin Scalia is the

most voluble proponent of the view that it's not his job to correct Congress' bad work. "Garbage in, garbage out," he has said.

Justice Stephen Breyer, on the other hand, has said Scalia's approach is too limiting because a law's words sometimes are not clear enough to resolve a case, especially when read in isolation. Context matters, and the real-world consequences of a law are part of that context, Breyer has said.

Since the New Deal was enacted in the 1930s, the Supreme Court has almost always upheld major new government programs and

■ Supreme Court, Page 2



FROM THE WEBSITE OF ISLAMIC STATE MILITANTS

A tank with Islamic State group fighters clashes with Syrian government forces on a road between Homs and Palmyra, Syria in this picture the Islamic State group released on its website Wednesday, May 20. Islamic State militants overran the famed archaeological site at Palmyra early Thursday, just hours after seizing the central Syrian town, activists and officials said, raising concerns that the extremists might destroy some of the priceless ruins as they have done in neighboring Iraq. American-led airstrikes have yet to blunt the rebel group's advance, despite killing a reported 10,000 militants.

ISIS death toll hits 10,000

Continued from Page 1

tary in conflicts since the Vietnam War has been either hesitant to provide such figures or has discounted them as indicators of success. Adm. John Kirby, a Pentagon spokesman, declined to offer them in January when asked by a reporter.

"The less of these guys that are out there, certainly that's the better, but the goal is to degrade and destroy their capabilities," Kirby said at the time. He added: "It's simply not a relevant figure."

White House spokesman Josh Earnest, later asked about Blinken's figure, said he had "no reason to believe" the number was inaccurate, saying 1,000 Islamic State fighters were killed in the fight for

the Syrian border town of Kobani alone.

Meanwhile Wednesday, the Islamic State group targeted Hasakeh in an apparent attempt to reverse some of the advances made recently by Kurdish fighters in the northeastern Syrian province.

Kurdish fighters have captured dozens of towns and villages there with the help of U.S.-led airstrikes and are getting close to Tel Abyad, a major Islamic State-held border town near Turkey.

The extremists launched the push on the city of Hassakeh, which is split between government forces and Kurdish defenders, on Tuesday night.

Syrian state television said extremists are battling for control of a juvenile prison still under construction on Hassakeh's southern edge and have so far attacked it with five suicide car bombs.

Heavy rainfall threatens Texas wineries

BY JOHN AUSTIN
CNHI Texas Reporter

Add the state's growing wine industry to the list of agricultural collateral damage from record rains that poured on Memorial Day weekend.

As wheat producers near Fort Worth and Austin are unable to get into their soggy fields to harvest, wineries that dot the Hill Country have their own problems.

Gary Elliott, winemaker and owner of Driftwood Estate Winery in Hays County, south of Austin, said he counts on drier, warmer weather this time of year.

Instead he counted five inches of rain over the weekend and now notices yellowing in his leaves, which makes him fear rotting roots, he said.

"When the ground gets wet, there's no oxygen in the soil," he said. "If it keeps going like this, it's going to create a lot of disease pressure. I could lose this year's crop."

A vintner with no crop shoulders the cost of buying grapes elsewhere. That can mean big problems for Texas, now the country's fifth-largest wine producer, where the in-state yield of winemaking grapes already

falls behind demand.

In 2013, more than 300 Texas wineries made a \$1.88 billion impact on the state's economy, according to a February report by the Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association.

The Hill Country alone is home to nearly five dozen wineries, said January Weise, executive director of the Texas Hill Country Wine Trail.

The area is internationally known. Wine Enthusiast Magazine last year listed the Hill Country as one of the world's top 10 wine travel regions.

But the region wasn't looking so bountiful this weekend, when Elliott closed his tasting room early and sent tourists packing due to threatened floods.

"This time of year is when next year's crop is determined, because dormant buds in the vine need lots of sunlight on them," he said. "Water is something that vines need very little of."

Raging water that coursed through Hill Country creeks and crossings also cut off a nearby winery and knocked down a pair of big oaks.

"We had the road blocked half a day," Elliott said. "Both our chainsaws wouldn't work."

Flat Creek Winery in Travis County, about an hour west of Austin, wasn't flooded, however. According to Flat Creek co-owner Madelyn Naber, 20 acres of vines were looking good going into the weekend.

But the rains didn't do them any good.

"Mold and mildew continue to be a problem," said Naber, who produced about 8,500 cases of wine last year despite the drought, thanks to irrigation and well water.

"No crop needs this much rain day after day,"

Naber said the challenge now is to control the canopy in the vineyard and focus on the health of the grapes.

Still, she said, there's plenty of time for the sun to come out before harvest in mid-July.

After 15 years in business, she's some-

what philosophical.

"If the gods give us water, we should make rosé," she said.

Those facing floodwaters couldn't manage as much equanimity.

Benjamin Calais had just opened his new winery Saturday in Hye, a town in Blanco County about 60 miles west of Austin.

Calais moved his winery from Dallas and is still clearing his land of mesquite for planting. He said torrential rains created a river on the property, which was especially problematic because

his building is underground.

"The pumps just can't keep up," he said.

That underground structure came in handy, however, when a tornado hit Tuesday.

"He built a cave," Weise said. "We're all going there during the next tornado."

Dormant buds in the vine need lots of sunlight on them. Water is something that vines need very little of.

GARY ELLIOTT,
OWNER OF DRIFTWOOD ESTATE WINERY

Court revives healthcare fight

Continued from Page 1

legislation as allowable under the Constitution. That was the case with Social Security in the 1930s, the civil rights legislation of the 1960s and, most recently, the health care law in 2012.

But the healthcare law is different. It remains a bitter partisan fight, continuing to play out in the courts after efforts to replace Obama in the White House and repeal the law in Congress failed.

Another factor that may be at work is the effect a decision could have on the court's reputation, said Thomas Keck, a political science professor at Syracuse University.

That kind of institutional concern seemed to affect Chief Justice John Roberts' decision to cast the deciding vote to uphold the health law in 2012, Keck said. Had that case gone the other way, it would have "pulled the court even further into political conflict," he said. In that scenario, five Republican-appointed justices would have struck down the Democratic president's signature domestic achievement during his re-election campaign.

The unrelenting lawsuits from Republican opponents should put the court on notice that its reputation could be at stake again in a political fight, Keck said.

No one knows how these considerations are weighing on the justices in the back-and-forth of

majority and dissenting opinions now making their way around the courthouse. But there are few comparable examples in recent history where the court has taken away a benefit from so many people.

Fifteen years ago, the Supreme Court confronted a case involving what Justice Sandra Day O'Connor called "perhaps the single most significant threat to public health in the United States."

The issue was whether the Food and Drug Administration had the authority to regulate cigarettes as a means to reduce tobacco use among children, as the Clinton administration asserted in regulations it issued in the mid-1990s.

Tobacco companies said the regulations exceeded the FDA's power. The court divided sharply, 5 to 4, and O'Connor wrote the majority opinion agreeing with the companies. Despite the seriousness of the problem, she wrote, Congress never granted the FDA the power the administration claimed.

Nine years and two presidents later, Congress gave FDA the explicit authority in 2009 that the court said was missing in 2000.

The analogy is imprecise, but the case and its consequences pose similar questions, Bagley said.

"Do you draw from that story that the democratic process worked," Bagley asked, "or that we could have saved a lot of lives in the meantime if the court had allowed the rule to go into effect?"

Uber faces insurance woes

Continued from Page 1

ing they are available to give rides, and for drivers on their way to pick up a passenger.

Drivers are also required to have personal auto insurance. But Allstate said ride-hailing app

companies' insurance sometimes has a higher deductible than a personal policy.

Last month Uber temporarily pulled out of Kansas in a dispute over insurance coverage and background checks for drivers. Uber also suspended operations in Portland, Oregon, for several months during a dispute over the same issues and has fought against similar laws in other states.

ALL IS WELL FOR RESCUED BULL



JOHN SPINK/AP

Animal rescue crews help a bull that was trapped inside a well on Wednesday in Fairburn, Ga. The 1,500-pound bull named Boy fell through rotten wood that was covering the well on his property south of Atlanta. Crews used a backhoe to dig a bigger hole so the animal could walk out.

Backlog of FOI requests continues to grow

Continued from Page 1

cording to the Justice Department report.

The increase coincided with a jump in requests. In 2009, the federal government received almost 558,000 requests for information. In 2014, the number increased to more than 714,000.

At the same time, the number of staff working full time on information requests dropped from a high of 4,400 in 2011 to about 3,800 in 2014.

Melanie Ann Pustay, director of the Justice Department's office of information policy, said the administration has improved training and made progress.

"First, the majority of agencies — 72 out of 100 — were able to maintain low backlogs of fewer than 100 requests," Pustay said. "Notably, 59 of these agencies had a backlog of less than 20 requests, including 29 that reported having no backlog at all."

Agencies with backlog of more than 1,000 requests were required to come up with a plan to reduce

them, she said.

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest chided Congress for exempting congressional records from the law.

"In the last fiscal year, the administration processed 647,000 FOIA requests that we received from the public," Earnest said. "I would note that that is 647,000 more FOIA requests than were processed by the United States Congress."

The IRS set up a special team to handle a surge in information requests in 2013 after the agency disclosed that agents had inappropriately singled out conservative political groups for extra scrutiny when they applied for tax-exempt status, said Mary Howard, director of the agency's disclosure division.

In addition to public requests, the IRS team produced more than 1 million pages of documents to investigators from four congressional committees, the IRS inspector general and the Justice Department — at a cost of about \$20 million, Howard said.

Chaffetz issued a subpoena for Howard to appear at Wednesday's hearing after IRS officials said they would rather send Commissioner John Koskinen.

Chaffetz said he wanted to hear from the agency's expert on responding to information requests.



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INTERNATIONAL

Students create art exhibit made of trash

RIO DE JANEIRO Forget pricey imported oil paints and exorbitant blocks of marble. Art students at a Brazilian university have taken advantage of one material they have in endless and free supply — trash — to create an exhibition that aims to draw attention to the fetid state of Rio de Janeiro's Guanabara Bay, where Olympic sailing events are to be held next year.

Around 30 students at the Rio de Janeiro Federal University used plastic bottles, tires, old flip flops, plastic helmets, scratched CDs, old tubes and plastic supermarket bags they plucked off a nearby shore to make sculptures of ocean fauna including an octopus and dolphins.

The campus, on Fundao Island in the filthy bay near the international airport, is at the epicenter of Rio's pollution problem.

Mexico ruling party ahead despite dissatisfaction

MEXICO CITY Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party appears poised to retain its leading position in Congress, but may lose some governor seats in Sunday's elections.

The last polls to be released before Sunday's midterm elections show surprisingly resilient support for the ruling party known as the PRI, despite Mexicans' general dissatisfaction with politics and a lackluster economy.

A poll by the GEHSA companies suggests the PRI would get about 27 percent of votes for the lower house of Congress, possibly making the race a statistical tie with its closest competitor, the conservative National Action Party, at 21 percent. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Dutch firebrand will show Muhammad cartoons

THE HAGUE, Netherlands Dutch anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders said Wednesday he plans to show cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad on Dutch television after Parliament refused to display them.

Wilders said he would show the cartoons during television airtime reserved for political parties, in a move likely to offend Muslims since Islamic tradition holds that any physical depiction of the Prophet Muhammad is blasphemous.

Political parties in the Netherlands get a small amount of airtime each year and broadcasting authorities have no say in what the parties show. Wilders said the broadcast would likely take place in the next few weeks, but an exact date has yet to be determined.

High lead noodles ordered off India's shelves

NEW DELHI Indian shopkeepers withdrew a popular brand of Nestle instant noodles from their shelves Wednesday after tests revealed the snack contained unsafe levels of lead.

India's states have either ordered the withdrawal of Maggi noodles from shops or are carrying out further tests on noodle samples before taking action in conjunction with the federal government.

Maggi sales have plunged in India since laboratory tests showed the noodles contained lead at levels far higher than the legal maximum. The tests also detected the chemical flavor enhancer monosodium glutamate, or MSG, which is not mentioned in the product's list of ingredients.

On Tuesday, the Delhi city government said it had conducted tests on 13 samples of Maggi noodles and 10 were found to be unsafe with lead exceeding the allowable level. Earlier tests showed that samples contained 17.2 parts per million of lead, many times the allowable limits which range between 0.01 and 2.5 ppm.

Bomb blast rocks northeast Nigerian city

LAGOS, Nigeria Witnesses say an explosion has rocked a busy commercial area in the city Maiduguri in Nigeria's northeast, the latest of daily attacks blamed on Boko Haram extremists.

The witnesses said soldiers fired into the air, adding to fear and confusion on the busy Baga Road at rush hour as commuters were rushing for tricycle taxis and hawkers were vending their wares.

Maiduguri has suffered attacks that have killed more than 50 people since the weekend. There have been bombs, rocket-propelled grenades fired into suburbs and attempts to breach the defenses of the city where Boko Haram was created. The attacks started after newly inaugurated President Muhammadu Buhari announced he is moving the command center for the war to Maiduguri.

Afghan pro-government militias running amok

KABUL Afghanistan is increasingly relying on a "cheap but dangerous" national militia of some 30,000 fighters, some of whom have committed serious abuses in the communities they are supposed to protect, an international research group said Thursday.

The International Crisis Group said members of the militia force, known as the Afghan Local Police, have killed civilians and committed fraud, theft, rape, kidnapping, drugs trafficking and extortion.

The government has come to rely on the ALP and other local militias as it struggles to fend off Taliban attacks. The insurgents launched their annual spring offensive in April — the first since U.S. and NATO forces formally concluded their combat mission at the end of last year.

The ALP is a pro-government militia which emerged from U.S. efforts to mobilize rural communities against the Taliban. Today the militiamen fight on the front lines, losing men at three to six times the rate of soldiers and police.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



HANI MOHAMMED / AP

A man shows fragments of a bomb from the rubble of houses destroyed by a Saudi-led airstrike on the outskirts of Sanaa, Yemen, Wednesday. The Saudi-led coalition launched new strikes on Houthi positions in Sanaa, rocking residential areas. The strikes have caused food, water and medicine shortages.

Top Yemen Shiite rebel welcomes UN peace talks

AHMED AL-HAJ

Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen The second-in-command of Yemen's Shiite rebels on Wednesday assailed the Saudi-led airstrikes pounding his group's positions and allied forces, insisting his group is ready to travel to Geneva for U.N.-mediated peace talks on ending the country's civil war.

Mohammed al-Houthi, who heads the Houthi rebels' powerful Revolutionary Council, also said that exiled President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi derailed negotiations by demanding the rebels withdraw from territory they captured.

The Geneva talks had been postponed; however, Yemen's ambassador to the U.N., Khaled Alyemany, said they would begin June 14 and that an official announcement was expected shortly.

"They are putting pre-conditions to obstruct any talks that could lead the Yemeni people to a solution," al-Houthi said, saying the Saudis refused to stop their air campaign to allow for peace talks.

"Dialogue is the principle to us. There are no objections to

Dialogue is the principle to us. There are no objections to talks. What is happening today is the opposite.

MOHAMMED AL-HOUTHY

talks," al-Houthi said, but added: "What is happening today is the opposite. The coalition is the one that rejects the talks and work on foiling it."

The Houthis began their advance in September, sweeping into the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, and taking over government ministries. They held top officials under house arrest. Hadi and others later fled for Saudi Arabia as the rebels advanced, backed by forces loyal to former leader President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The Saudi-led coalition began its airstrikes March 26. The airstrikes have killed more than 1,000 civilians and displaced more than a million people, the spokesman for the U.N. Secretary-General, Stephane Dujarric, said.

The offensive has failed to force the Houthis to withdraw

from any territory in Yemen.

The Saudis and Western powers accuse the Houthis of receiving military support from Shiite power Iran as part of a war between the Sunni kingdom and the Islamic Republic. Tehran and the rebels deny the allegation, though Iran openly has sent humanitarian aid.

"There is no Iranian intervention in Yemen and the Saudis can inspect the missiles (we fire) and see if these are made in Iran, Russia or America," al-Houthi said. "We say that they are purely Yemeni-made."

When asked whether Iranian or Hezbollah forces fight alongside Houthi forces, al-Houthi dismissed the claims as a means to "scare others."

"We reject any sort of foreign intervention either by the Saudis, the American, the Egyptians or the Iranians," he said.

Heavy airstrikes also targeted the northern Houthi heartland of Saada, the eastern province of Marib, the western city of Taiz and the city of Aden.

"The 69-day assault has pushed the country to disaster," al-Houthi said. "Yemen is facing a real genocide."

BURUNDI POLITICAL TENSIONS



GILDAS NINGIRO / AP

An opposition demonstrator holds a sign in French reading "No to a third term" next to a burning barricade set by protesters in the Ngagara neighborhood of the capital Bujumbura, Burundi on Wednesday. Demonstrators opposed to President Pierre Nkurunziza running for a third term tried to march but were prevented by police and soldiers firing tear gas, so erected a burning barricade in their neighborhood instead.

MORE ON BURUNDI: visit swjournalist.com for a photo gallery



GILDAS NINGIRO / AP

An opposition demonstrator points a mock gun made from wood towards soldiers and tells them it is shameful to shoot on people who cannot defend themselves, in the Ngagara neighborhood of the capital Bujumbura, in Burundi on Wednesday. Burundi's electoral commission is considering alternative dates for national elections amid growing calls for the polls to be postponed because of political unrest.

QUESTION & ANSWER

Why did Blatter resign and what now?

Q: Why did Sepp Blatter change his mind and resign, just four days after he was elected to a fifth term in a 133-73 vote over Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan?

A: Blatter's explanation was he did not "have a mandate from the entire world of football — the fans, the players, the clubs, the people who live, breathe and love football."

Blatter defiantly brushed aside any criticism when he was re-elected Friday, amid the gravest crisis in FIFA's history.

Q: What does Blatter expect to come out of the criminal investigations?

A: U.S. authorities say additional charges against soccer officials can be expected.

The New York Times and ABC News reported Blatter himself was under investigation by the FBI.

Q: Will Blatter's resignation impact the next World Cups hosts?

A: A Swiss investigation is looking into the bidding process that saw Russia awarded the 2018 World Cup and Qatar voted the 2022 host in a contentious dual decision in 2010.

The Qatari bid has attracted the most criticism, with accusations the wealthy tiny Gulf nation bribed its way to victory.



"I do not feel that I have a mandate from the entire world of football..."

SEPP BLATTER

Q: When will Blatter's successor be announced?

A: Domenico Scala, chairman of FIFA's audit and compliance committee, announced the presidential election is likely to "take place anytime from December of this year to March of next year" at an extraordinary FIFA congress.

Q: Who are the candidates likely to be?

A: The favorite will be 59-year-old Michel Platini, the former French national team captain and the president of European soccer's governing body since 2007. Platini decided not to take on former ally Blatter in last week's election. Prince Ali hinted Tuesday he may have another shot at the presidency.

Q: What will FIFA look like without Blatter?

A: It will probably be more open about the running of the sport. Scala said he will seek to make public the compensation of the president and executive committee members. Blatter called for term limits.

Q: How much input will Blatter have in reform proposals?

A: How lame a duck he will be will be determined by the executive committee, which likely will set up mechanisms to make proposals and will approve items put on the agenda for the extraordinary congress.

China escalates effort to recover missing people

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

Associated Press

JIANLI, China Authorities deployed more divers and a large crane as they escalated efforts to recover more than 410 people believed to be trapped inside an overturned river cruise ship.

The capsizing late Monday of the multi-decked Eastern Star in the Yangtze River is on track to become one of the country's deadliest maritime disaster. Chinese authorities have launched a high-profile response while tightly controlling media coverage.

Premier Li Keqiang, the country's No. 2 political leader, traveled to the disaster site in the Hubei province county of Jianli where he urged 24-7 efforts.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said the bodies of 26 victims were pulled from the boat. Fourteen people survived, some of them by swimming ashore and three by being pulled out of the ship by rescuers on Tuesday.

The vast majority of the 456 people on board remain missing. Many were elderly tourists taking in the scenic vistas of the Yangtze on a cruise from Nanjing to Chongqing.

Records from a maritime agency show the capsized ship was cited for safety violations two years ago. Authorities in Nanjing held the ship and five other Yangtze cruise vessels after they found them violating standards during a safety inspection campaign in 2013, according to a report on the city's Maritime Safety website.

It didn't specify the Eastern Star's violations.

The shallow-draft boat, which was not designed to withstand heavy winds as an ocean-going vessel can, overturned in what Chinese weather authorities have called a cyclone with winds up to 80 mph.

"The river ships tend to have a lower standard on wind-resistance and wave-resistance than ocean ships," Zhong Shoudao, president of the Chongqing Boat Design Institute, said. "Under the special circumstance of cyclone, the pressure on the one side of the boat went beyond the standard it was designed for, resulting in the overturning of the boat."

"The boat had lifejackets and lifeboats, but due to the sudden capsizing, there was not enough time for people to put on lifejackets or for the signals to be sent out," Zhong said.

The squad of 13 navy divers who searched the boat Tuesday was expanded Wednesday to 202, including 45 from civilian rescue services.

With 26 confirmed dead and more than 410 still missing, the Eastern Star disaster could become China's deadliest since the sinking of the SS Kiangya off Shanghai in 1948.

Voters doubt Clinton's empathy

JULIE PACE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Hillary Rodham Clinton plans to spend the summer building a case that Republicans are out of touch with the public. But polls suggest many people aren't convinced she empathizes with them, either, a potential early warning sign.

Clinton's approach to defining the Republican field echoes a strategy President Barack Obama used successfully in the 2012 campaign against GOP rival Mitt Romney, a rich man who at times struggled to connect with the public.

Yet, average Americans appear to be split on whether Clinton can relate to them, in the face of scrutiny about her family finances and the Republican argument that she and husband Bill, the former president, play by different rules and have amassed wealth in ways that are inconceivable for most people.

About 47 percent of Americans said Clinton cares about people like them in a CNN/ORC poll released Tuesday. That is down from 53 percent in the same poll last summer. An ABC News/Washington Post poll released the same day also found a slight decline in the past year on a similar question, with 49 percent saying Clinton "understands the problems of people like you" and 46 percent saying she doesn't.

The dip in Clinton's ratings on attributes like empathy coincides with a decline in her overall favorability from the time she was Obama's secretary of state. Dan Pfeiffer, a longtime Obama ad-



JIM COLE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this May 22, 2015 file photo, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks in Hampton, New Hampshire. She plans to spend the summer building a case that Republicans are out of touch with the public. But many people aren't convinced she empathizes with them, either, polls suggest, in a potential early warning sign for the Democratic front-runner as she looks ahead to the general election.

viser who left the White House this spring, said it's too early for the numbers to cause anxiety in Clinton's Brooklyn campaign headquarters. But said that "if this trend doesn't reverse itself over the next many months, it should be a cause of concern."

Clinton campaign officials say they care less about how Clinton is viewed in isolation on the question of empathy and more about how she is compared with specific

Republican challengers. No major polls have done such a comparison, but a Quinnipiac survey last week found large numbers of Americans undecided on whether Republican presidential hopefuls care about their needs.

Clinton will use a June 13 rally to argue that the GOP field as a whole is out of touch on gay rights, immigration, climate change and more. She has also been highlighting her differences with Republicans on

economic issues, financial reform and budget priorities.

Her early campaign strategy suggests Clinton and her advisers are aware of the need to present herself as relatable to Americans. While her failed 2008 White House bid emphasized her toughness and experience, the first months of this campaign have highlighted her family background and early work on women's and family issues.

Boston cops release video of shooting

DENISE LAVOIE
Associated Press

BOSTON A man killed by terror investigators who had him under surveillance was confronted because he had bought knives and talked of an imminent attack on "boys in blue," the FBI said Wednesday.



Evans Tuesday, the day Rahim was shot to death. On Wednesday, the relative, David Wright, was ordered held on a charge of conspiracy with intent to obstruct a federal investigation.

The FBI said Rahim, who had previously discussed beatings, bought three fighting knives and a sharpener on or before May 26 and he told Wright on Tuesday he would begin trying to randomly kill police officers.

An anti-terror task force of FBI agents and Boston police, faced with an imminent threat, confronted Rahim on a sidewalk and fatally shot him when he refused to drop his knife, authorities said.

On Wednesday, authorities moved to manage perceptions of the shooting by showing the video to black and Muslim community leaders.

Ibrahim Rahim, Rahim's older brother and a scholar known for preaching against violence as anti-Islamic after the Boston marathon bombings, initially posted a message on Facebook alleging police repeatedly shot his brother in the back while he was on a cellphone calling their father for help. But his version unraveled Wednesday with the police videos.

The images clearly show Usaama Rahim "was not on a cellphone and was not shot in the back," Police Commissioner William Evans said. The video, which was not made available publicly, shows Rahim menacing officers with a large military-style knife. The officers initially backed away before shooting him when he refused to drop it, police said.

Usaama Rahim was under investigation after spreading Islamic State propaganda online and communicating about it, said U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas, who chairs the House Homeland Security Committee.

Rahim's shooting is being investigated by the Suffolk district attorney's office and the FBI, routine for shootings involving police.

POLICE PICK UP THE PIECES IN THE POCONOS



DAVID KIDWELL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A charter bus taking Italian tourists to Niagara Falls collided with a tractor-trailer Wednesday on an eastern Pennsylvania highway, killing the bus driver and two others on the bus and leaving four people in critical condition, authorities said.

The crash occurred shortly after 10 a.m. on Interstate 380 in the Pocono Mountain region as the bus, which departed from the New York metro area, was about a quarter of the way to its destination.

Jenner's transition helps community

JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The handsome, muscular Bruce Jenner, whose picture appeared on the Wheaties cereal box the year after he won the Olympic gold medal, is on the cover of *Vanity Fair* this week, only now as Caitlyn Jenner, an attractive woman in a strapless, white corset.

Although not the first celebrity to transition in the public eye, Jenner lit up online media Monday when she tweeted a photo of the magazine cover along with the declaration that, at age 65, she's fi-



ANNIE LEIBOVITZ/VANITY FAIR

This file photo taken by Annie Leibovitz exclusively for Vanity Fair shows the cover of the magazine's July 2015 issue featuring Bruce Jenner debuting as a transgender woman named Caitlyn Jenner. Jenner made her public debut on the cover of Vanity Fair, but legal requirements await her before she can officially leave Bruce Jenner behind.

nally "living my true self."

Twitter accounts, ranging from the one held by the White House to those of transgender advocates, sociologists and regular folks, quickly retweeted the cover photo taken by photographer Annie Leibovitz, most often with positive comments.

Eden Lane, an anchor and producer for Denver PBS television station KBDI and a transgender woman, said Jenner's transition has had a positive impact on the transgender movement.

"When you know someone, it's easier to leave room in your heart and mind for them. To just be without fear of them or without hatred of them," she said. And pretty much everyone feels they know Jenner, Lane added.

Jenner's transition played out in public over the past several months and included a high-profile interview with ABC's Diane Sawyer last April, in which Jenner said, "Yes, for all intents and purposes, I am a woman."

Lane said even though there has been positive reaction to Jenner's transition, other transgender people are not so lucky.

"We can't forget that there are so many transgender people who don't have this environment, who are fearful just to step out of their homes or go to the grocery store or walk down the street every single day," Lane said.

Aside from violence, there's also the emotional toll. Jenner told Sawyer she had contemplated suicide during the decades she struggled with her sexual identity.

"To think she waited 65 years to come out, if you will, is a tragedy in itself," University of Southern California sociologist Julie Albright said. "Keeping a secret like that for so many years is bound to take a psychological and even a physical toll on you."

"Keeping a secret like that for so many years is bound to take a psychological and even a physical toll on you."

JULIE ALBRIGHT

NATIONAL

Encrypted communication presents threat

WASHINGTON U.S. law enforcement officials expressed concern Wednesday about the growing use of encrypted communication and private messaging by supporters of the Islamic State, saying the technology was complicating efforts to monitor terror suspects and extremists.

The officials, appearing before the House Homeland Security Committee, said even as thousands of Islamic State supporters around the world share communication in public view on Twitter, some are exploiting social media platforms that allow them to shield their messages from law enforcement.

Michael Steinbach, head of the FBI's counterterrorism division, said he was concerned evolving technologies were outpacing laws that allow law enforcement to intercept communications by suspects.

"We are striving to ensure appropriate, lawful collection remains available," Steinbach said in his prepared remarks.

USDA says bird flu vaccine not protective enough

MINNEAPOLIS A bird flu vaccine doesn't work well enough to approve it for emergency use against the current outbreak that's shaken the Midwest poultry industry, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said Wednesday.

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service said in a statement that the current vaccine is not well matched against the highly pathogenic H5N2 virus and doesn't provide enough protection.

By the USDA's count, bird flu has cost chicken and turkey producers more than 45 million birds since early March, mostly in Iowa and Minnesota.

The USDA said it will continue to support efforts to develop more effective vaccines, and will re-evaluate its decision as those become ready for use. The agency said it will carefully consider both the efficacy of any new vaccine and the potential foreign trade losses.

Missing Alaskan family found, ruled murder-suicide

ANCHORAGE, Alaska An Alaska man shot and killed his girlfriend, her two young daughters and the family dog in 2014 before turning a gun on himself in the woods near the family's home, authorities said Wednesday.

The determination came a year after the family disappeared in Kenai, a fishing community southwest of Anchorage, prompting a massive search.

The bodies were finally found on March 21 when a person spotted human remains while driving a vehicle on a trail through wooded land less than a half-mile northwest from the family home. Investigators with Kenai police, the FBI and medical examiner concluded that Brandon Jividen, 38, killed Rebecca Adams, 23, Michelle Hundley, 6, and Jaracca Hundley, 3, in late May 2014.

A motive for the shooting was not determined, police said in a prepared statement.

LA close to approving \$15 minimum wage

LOS ANGELES The City Council voted 13-1 on Wednesday to raise the minimum wage in Los Angeles to \$15 an hour by 2020, but a second vote is required for final approval because the tally was not unanimous.

Council President Herb Wesson stressed to the cheering crowd that the outcome was not certain.

Mayor Eric Garcetti also endorses the ordinance.

The increases would begin with a \$10.50 wage in July 2016, followed by annual increases to \$12, \$13.25, \$14.25 and then \$15. Small businesses and nonprofits would follow a year behind.

Los Angeles would join Seattle and San Francisco as some of the largest cities in the nation with phased-in minimum wage laws that eventually require annual pay of about \$31,200 for a full-time job.

Last year, Chicago passed a phased-in minimum wage increase to \$13 an hour.

Airline retirees angered by change in travel benefits

American Airlines' CEO Doug Parker is facing heat from retirees who are angry the company reduced their travel perks.

After merging with US Airways, American Airlines put retirees behind current employees of both carriers in claiming open seats on stand-by basis.

Some retirees are livid about the change. They have picketed company events and spoke up during Wednesday's annual shareholder meeting in New York.

Parker said the airline won't go back to the old policy because it would anger current employees.

Near-death hiker rescued in Arizona wilderness

PHOENIX A lost hiker who spent three days without food or water in the Arizona wilderness was in critical condition when rescuers found him.

Search and rescue crews found the 58-year-old hiker Tuesday morning in steep terrain about 12 miles west of the central Arizona town of Payson. The Tucson man was released from a Payson hospital Wednesday, department spokesman Bart Graves said.

A Flagstaff-based Department of Public Safety helicopter spotted the man about 45 minutes into its search.

According to the Department of Public Safety, the man started hiking less than two weeks ago from Roosevelt Lake, about 110 miles northeast of Phoenix.

TEXAS/SOUTHWEST

Ben Bradlee's archive donated to UT Austin

Late Washington Post Editor Ben Bradlee's archive has been donated to the University of Texas at Austin.

Harry Ransom Center, a top literary archive, announced Wednesday.

The archive documents Bradlee's career, who's editorial tenure at the Post ran from 1965 to 1991.

Bradlee placed his papers at the Ransom Center in 2012, pledging to donate them upon his death. He died in October 2014 at age 93.

Bradlee presided over the Post first as managing editor and then as executive editor. He led the paper through the publication of the Pentagon Papers and coverage of the Watergate scandal.

The archive will reside alongside Watergate reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein's papers.

Two suspects dead after standoff with police

ITALY Texas Police officers fatally shot an armed man who stole a police car during a traffic stop in Central Texas, and a second suspect was found dead inside the stolen vehicle, Texas Authorities said.

The Texas Department of Public Safety officials said the two suspects assaulted an officer Tuesday evening as the officer tried to arrest them in Italy, 50 miles south of Dallas. The department officials said the pair stole his patrol car and a chase ensued. The suspects stopped on Interstate 35 but refused requests to surrender.

The department said in a news release that officers heard a gunshot inside the police vehicle, then shot the driver who emerged carrying a firearm. The second suspect was found dead inside the patrol car.

The assaulted officer is being treated at a hospital.

5 relatives arrested after teen beaten to abort baby

DALLAS A teenage girl who says she was raped and impregnated by a relative three years ago also was beaten by four other family members to induce an abortion, Dallas police said Wednesday.

Four relatives were arrested Tuesday on charges of engaging in organized criminal activity and a fifth was arrested on a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child, police said. Deputy Chief Gil Garza said more charges are possible.

The teenager, now 16, is in Texas Child Protective Services custody.

At about eight months pregnant, the girl was given multiple doses of birth control pills, emergency contraception pills and cinnamon tablets to abort the baby. Because that didn't work, she said the suspects beat her for six hours to abort the baby. She ended up giving birth to a stillborn child.

The affidavit says the relatives tried to burn the baby's body in a charcoal grill, but the remains were not destroyed. Two days later, one of the beating suspects paid another \$25 to "take care of the rest of it," documents say.

Man gets prison for shining laser at DPS helicopter

DALLAS A federal judge has sentenced a 23-year-old former suburban Dallas man to eight months in prison for aiming a laser pointer at a Texas Department of Public Safety helicopter.

A U.S. attorney's statement said Steven Alexander Chavez, who now lives in Lubbock, was sentenced Wednesday in Dallas for his February guilty plea to aiming a laser pointer at an aircraft. He could have been sentenced to up to five years in federal prison and fined up to \$250,000.

FBI agents arrested Chavez in August 2013.

Still no word from Hardy, but teammates impressed

IRVING After missing practice for an illness, there's still no word from Dallas Cowboys' player Greg Hardy, who is facing a 10-game suspension to start the season for his role in a domestic violence case.

It's the second time in less than a week that Hardy has missed an offseason workout. He was in Washington last week for the hearing on his suspension appeal.

Hardy first declined to speak with reporters during the team's annual golf tournament last month. He was a smiling presence in the locker room after the first workout that was open to the media last week, but a member of the public relations staff kept reporters away.

New UT president supports beer sale at football games

Longhorns fan may soon have beer at football games after University of Texas President Greg Fennes vouched his support for sales.

Fennes said he is in favor of allowing beer sales at football games to enhance the fan experience.

Texas began selling beer at other athletic events at the urging of athletic director Steve Patterson in 2014, but it was not allowed at football games.

Fennes took over the presidency Wednesday. In his first news conference, Fennes said school officials have studied beer sales and found no security problems at other events.

The plan would still need approval by University of Texas System Chancellor William McRaven, and it would likely be voted on by the board of regents. McRaven's predecessor, Francisco Cigarroa, had opposed beer sales.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abbott also recruiting business

New governor keeping Rick Perry's world-tour plan

PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, who spent his first months on the job dismantling legacies of Rick Perry, revealed Wednesday he is reviving a famous hallmark of his predecessor: traveling the U.S. and world to recruit businesses to Texas.

Doing so Abbott could raise his national political profile after taking office in January and immediately presiding over the Legislature, which adjourned this week until 2017, after delivering on his orders to cut taxes and boost border security spending.

Abbott would not reveal his first destinations, but he said he would go only where there's a deal to make.

"We are not going to go wandering around just hoping that we find gold," Abbott said.

In a wide-ranging interview with reporters outside his office in the Texas Capitol, Abbott defended legalizing guns on college campuses and withheld judgment on whether oil and gas wells are to blame for earthquakes in North Texas.

Perry, who is expected to formally announce a second run for the White House today, spent years using economic development trips to promote the Texas economy and his own political

ambitions. He cast himself as a boardroom deal-closer who kept the "Texas Miracle" economy humming by poaching frustrated companies from overbearing states.

Critics question how much credit Perry's trips deserve.

One of Perry's last deals was giving Toyota \$40 million in taxpayer funds to leave California in 2014, but executives of the automaker have cited being closer to their manufacturing base in the South as a primary factor for moving.

Abbott will continue to use hundreds of millions of state dollars in the Texas Enterprise Fund — started by Perry — as bait for businesses. But other economic programs founded under Perry haven't survived, such as a program Abbott scratched that gave \$200 million to risky startups.

Abbott's post-session takes also included:

Campus Carry — Abbott said academic leaders who urged the Legislature not to let guns in college classrooms have nothing to worry about.

"The hand-wringing (by school administrators) going on about this right now is identical to the hand-wringing that went on when concealed carry passed," he said.

Earthquakes — As small earthquakes rumble North Texas, Ab-



ERIC GAY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gov. Greg Abbott, right, told news reporters during a Wednesday round table in his Capitol office that he will continue Rick Perry's business recruitment program.

bott said he is waiting on research from state officials before making pronouncements about the impact of oil and gas wells.

Oklahoma officials embraced research showing wastewater wells likely caused earthquakes there. "I think it's important that we make our decision based upon science," he said, noting he wants the Railroad Commission and the state to determine if there is a scientific cause-and-effect.

Medicaid Expansion — Abbott said he has met with federal health officials to discuss Medicaid expansion but gave no indication that a breakthrough was

ahead in the long standoff Texas and the Obama administration.

"They would like to find a way that Texas would be able to expand Medicaid, and I made clear where Texas stood with regard to expansion of Obamacare," Abbott said.

Agency changes — Abbott would not discuss the future of Health and Human Services Commissioner Kyle Janek, whose agency has spent months embroiled in a contracting scandal that is the target of criminal investigations. He said he would evaluate leadership at all agencies this summer.

Who's it going to be, GOP?

Meet the Republicans who are vying for the 2016 nomination

ALMOST IN:

RICK PERRY
The former Texas governor is expected to announce his presidential bid today at an airfield outside Dallas, surrounded by prominent veterans — including the widow of Chris Kyle of "American Sniper" fame.



PHILAN M. EBENHACK/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry speaks during Rick Scott's Economic Growth Summit in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., on Tuesday. Perry is expected to announce his presidential bid today.

WAITING FOR THEIR MOMENT:



Jeb Bush
The former Florida governor created a political action committee and super PAC and raised millions for the groups expected to support his likely candidacy.



Donald Trump
The real estate mogul and reality TV star launched a presidential exploratory committee, but hasn't yet decided to join the race.



Chris Christie
The New Jersey governor hasn't decided if he's running but has made many trips to early-voting states to deliver policy speeches and raise money.



John Kasich
The Ohio governor hinted his candidacy to voters. His political organization, New Day for America, announced Monday his plans to travel to Iowa later this month.



Scott Walker
The Wisconsin governor says he will announce his decision after signing the state budget. He already created a nonprofit group to help promote his expected candidacy.

IN THE RACE:

TED CRUZ
Texas senator

RAND PAUL
Kentucky senator

MARCO RUBIO
Florida senator

CARLY FIORINA
Former tech executive

BEN CARSON
Retired pediatric neurosurgeon

MIKE HUCKABEE
Former Arkansas governor

RICK SANTORUM
Former Pennsylvania senator

GEORGE PATAKI
Former New York governor

LINDSEY GRAHAM
South Carolina senator

Houston man files lawsuit after flood washes away wife's casket

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON A Houston-area man has filed a lawsuit after his wife's casket was unearthed and carried away by recent floodwaters and deposited along a trail where it was discovered by people on a morning walk.

Richard Lee, of Richmond, said in his lawsuit that his late wife's casket floated away because of "improper burial" and caused him emotional and physical stress.

Carolyn Lee's casket floated from Riceville Cemetery last week after 11 inches of rain fell in some parts of the Houston area, resulting in flooding that damaged thousands of homes and other structures.

The rains swelled Keegans Bayou, which consumed the adjacent cemetery that's owned by Riceville Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

"Bodies aren't supposed to come out of the ground," Richard Lee's lawyer Annie McAdams said.

It's not uncommon for floods and hurricanes to wash away caskets. After Hurricane Rita struck the Gulf Coast in 2005,

more than 300 bodies were missing from cemeteries in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. Flood waters carried some caskets about 20 miles from where they were buried.

Days after Hurricane Irene came ashore in 2011, floodwaters coursed through a Vermont cemetery, pulled coffins from the ground and scattered remains for miles.

Lucy McCann, the director of the Louisiana Cemetery Board, said past hurricanes haven't resulted in any regulatory changes for burials.

Above-ground burial sites are occasionally breached by rising water but seldom are underground ones, McCann said. Carolyn Lee's casket was in a concrete vault.

Neither the Robinson Funeral Home, which is named as the defendant in the case, nor the Riceville Mt. Olive Baptist Church, which owns and operates the cemetery, responded to calls seeking comment about the lawsuit.

Carolyn Lee's body is being kept at another Houston funeral home that offered a new casket, vault and services for reburial, McAdams said.

32 years on death row comes to end; murderer executed

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HUNTSVILLE A 67-year-old man convicted of killing four men more than three decades ago was executed Wednesday, making him the oldest of the 526 Texas prisoners put to death since the state resumed carrying out capital punishment in 1982.



Bower

Lester Bower Jr. was convicted of the 1983 fatal shootings at an airplane hangar

on a ranch near Sherman, about 60 miles north of Dallas. Prosecutors say he killed the four after stealing an airplane he tried to buy from one of his victims.

"Much has been said about this case. Much has been written about this case. Not all of it has been the truth," said Bower, on the death chamber floor. "But the time for discerning truth is over, and it's time to move on." The execution was carried out after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected a last-ditch appeal.



Rethink the drink

1 in 12 adults suffers from alcohol abuse or dependence

LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO Alcohol problems affect almost 33 million adults and most have never sought treatment, according to a government survey that suggests rates have increased in recent years.

The study is the first national estimate based on a new term, “alcohol use disorder,” in a widely used psychiatric handbook that was updated in 2013.

Five things about the recent research by the Journal of the American Medical Association Psychiatry:

1

DEFINING ALCOHOL PROBLEMS

The revised handbook, the DSM-5, defines problem drinkers or those with the disorder as people with at least two of 11 symptoms, including drinking that harms performance at work, school or home; frequent hangovers; and failed attempts to limit drinking. Mild problems involve two to three symptoms; severe involve at least six symptoms. The new handbook combined alcohol abuse and dependence, which had been separate disorders, added craving as one symptom and eliminated alcohol-related legal problems as another.

THE NUMBERS

Researchers from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism asked 36,000 adults during 2012 and 2013 about lifetime drinking habits. About 14 percent of adults were current or recent problem drinkers, or nearly 33 million nationally, and 30 percent — almost 69 million — had been at some point in their lives. Mild drinking problems were the most common, while 14 percent had experienced severe drinking problems.

Using the old definition, the rates were 13 percent for current or recent problem drinking and 44 percent for lifetime prevalence — up from 9 percent and 30 percent in the agency’s 2001-02 survey.

3

HEAVY DRINKING

Nearly 40 percent of adults surveyed said they had engaged in binge drinking — having at least five drinks in a day — at least once in the past year, up from 31 percent in the earlier survey. Even heavier drinking also increased but was less common.

4

WHO’S DRINKING

Drinking problems were most prevalent among men, whites and Native Americans. Low-income adults, those younger than 30 and those who never married also had relatively high rates. Problem drinking also was more common among city dwellers than those in rural areas, while the West and Midwest had higher rates than other regions.

5

STIGMA & DENIAL

George Koob, director of the federal agency that did the survey, said it’s unclear why problem drinking has increased but that many people underestimate the dangers of excessive alcohol. Many won’t seek help because of “stigma and denial,” and many don’t realize that medications and behavior treatments can help.

“There’s a lore that there’s only Alcoholics Anonymous out there and that’s not true,” he said.

Symptoms of alcohol abuse

- Drinking more or longer than intended.
- Failure to limit or eliminate drinking.
- Long time spent drinking or becoming ill from aftereffects.
- Craving or having a strong need to drink.
- Interference with performance at work, home or school.
- Continuing to drink, despite trouble with family or friends.
- Giving up other (important) activities to drink.
- Engaging in risky activities, such as driving or having unsafe sex, while or after drinking.
- Continuing to drink despite feeling depressed or anxious or after blacking out.
- Finding that the usual number of drinks had much less effect than before.
- Having withdrawal symptoms, such as trouble sleeping, anxiety, depression or nausea, while effects of alcohol were wearing off.

SOURCE: NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ALCOHOL ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM

LOCAL RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITH ALCOHOL PROBLEMS

KEY

- HOTLINE AVAILABLE
- MEETINGS AVAILABLE
- SPANISH-SPEAKING



Hill Country Intergroup
 ■ 24-hour hotline: 512-444-0071
 ■ Business: 512-448-9017
 ■ Site: www.austinaa.org



Oficina Intergupal Hispana Alcoholics Anonymous
 ■ Hotline: 512-619-2458
 ■ Main: 512-832-6767
 ■ Site: www.aaaustinhispano.org



Austin Travis County Integral Care
 ■ Crisis hotline: 512-472-4357
 ■ Toll-free: 844-398-8252
 ■ Site: www.integralcare.org



Central Service Office, San Antonio
 ■ Helpline: 210-828-6235
 ■ Main: 210-821-6325
 ■ Spanish hotline: 210-409-8524
 ■ Site: www.aasanantonio.org



Oficina Intergupal Hispana, San Antonio
 ■ Main: 210-533-9770



Christian Farms-Treehouse residential treatment facility, Temple
 ■ Main: 254-933-9400
 ■ Site: www.cfth.org