



90°/68°
Partly cloudy

HEAD STRONG

Texas doctors perform world's first skull-scalp transplant with a human donor. The patient also received a pancreas and a kidney transplant. **FEATURES, 6**



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE ■ SOUTHWESTJOURNALIST.COM ■ FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2015



US suspects Chinese hackers in data breach

KEN DILANIAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON China-based hackers are suspected of breaking into the computer networks of the U.S. government personnel office and stealing identifying information of at least 4 million federal workers, American officials said Thursday.

The Department of Homeland Security said in a statement that data from the Office of Personnel Management and the Interior Department had been compromised.

"The FBI is conducting an investigation to identify how and why this occurred," the statement said.

The hackers were believed to be based in China, said Sen. Susan Collins, a Maine Republican.

Collins, a member of the Senate intelligence committee, said the breach was "yet another indication of a foreign power probing successfully and focusing on what appears to be data that would identify people with security clearances."

A U.S. official, who declined to be named because he wasn't authorized to publicly discuss the breach, said it could potentially affect every federal agency. One key question is whether intelligence agency employee information was stolen. Former government employees are affected as well.

"This is an attack against the nation," said Ken Ammon, chief strategy officer of Xceedium. He said the attack fits the pattern of those carried out by nation states for the purpose of espionage. The information stolen could be used to impersonate or blackmail federal employees with access to sensitive information, he said.

The Office of Personnel Management is the human resources department for the federal government and conducts background checks for security clearances. The OPM conducts more than 90 percent of federal background investigations, according to its website.

The agency said it is offering credit monitoring and identity theft insurance for 18 months to individuals potentially affected. The National Treasury Employees Union, which represents workers in 31 federal agencies, said it is encouraging members to sign up for the monitoring as soon as possible.

In November, a former DHS contractor disclosed

■ BREACH, Page 2



KIN CHEUNG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A customer tries on an Apple Watch at an Apple Store in Hong Kong on April 10.

Apple Watch to hit retail stores

BRANDON BAILEY
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO Soon you'll be able to buy an Apple Watch the same way you'd buy most other watches — in a store.

Two months after Apple began taking online orders for its newest product, the company said Thursday it plans to begin selling some models in its retail stores in two weeks. Apple also said it is cutting through a backlog of online orders, with most watches ordered by end of May shipping within two weeks.

The smartwatch has been on display in Apple stores in the United States and eight other countries, where customers could examine and try them on. But they couldn't buy one and wear it out the door. Apple said that was because supplies were limited.

Just how many watches Apple has sold is up for debate. The Cupertino, California, company hasn't released any sales figures, prompting some industry analysts to speculate demand was lower than expected. Others cite reports of manufacturing problems in Asia as evidence that supplies were unexpectedly constrained.

Apple also said Thursday that it will begin selling the watch in more countries later this month, adding Italy, Mexico, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland and Taiwan.

In a statement Thursday, Apple Senior Vice President Jeff Williams said "the response to Apple Watch has surpassed our expectations in every way." He did not offer details.



TIM SHARP/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry speaks to supporters after announcing the launch of his presidential campaign for the 2016 elections, Thursday in Addison, Texas. Perry opened his second bid for the Republican presidential nomination pledging to "end an era of failed leadership" and hoping this campaign will go better than his last one.

Perry announces campaign

Former Texas governor makes 2016 presidential bid, back in the running

WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

ADDISON Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry opened his second bid for the Republican presidential nomination Thursday, pledging to "end an era of failed leadership" and hoping this campaign will go better than his last.

Perry announced his candidacy in an airport hangar in the company of fellow veterans and a hulking C-130 the cargo plane, like one he flew for the Air Force. He is one of the few veterans in a Republican field short on military experience.

With Perry in the contest and confirmation early Thursday that former Florida Jeb Bush will run, 11 major candidates now are vying for the GOP and still more are expected to join.

For Perry, it is a re-do of a 2012 effort that went poorly

as he tumbled from flavor-of-the-month front-runner after some gaffes. He's still trying to live down the "oops" he uttered in a brain-freeze moment during a debate in the 2012 race.

Perry brings a strong economic record in Texas to the contest, as he did four years ago, and his speech underscored the ability of governors past and present to point to achievements in office, not just votes and rhetoric of those in Congress.

"Leadership is not a speech on the Senate floor," he said. "It's not what you say. It's what you do."

That was an indirect swipe

at Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and other rivals with little to no executive experience.

"Let's give them real leadership," he said of Americans. He told supporters "we have the power" to project American strength again and grow the economy, and "that is exactly why today I am running for the presidency."

He's been in motion for months in the early voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, but starts from a more distant position than four years ago.

"It's going to be hard to make a first impression a second time," said Ford O'Connell, a Republican

strategist in Washington.

Perry made his announcement in front of prominent veterans, including six retired Navy SEALs. One of them, Marcus Luttrell, is a longtime Perry friend and only survivor of a four-man team attacked in Afghanistan and featured in the 2013 film "Lone Survivor." Also in the audience was Taya Kyle, widow of Chris Kyle of "American Sniper" fame.

Despite his brain freeze on a Michigan debate stage in November 2011 — when he forgot the third federal agency he promised to close if elected, then muttered, "Oops" — Perry still has the policy record that made him an early force last election.

Perry left office in January after a record 14 years as governor. Under him, the

■ PERRY, Page 2

Leadership is not a speech on the Senate floor. It's not what you say. It's what you do.

RICK PERRY

MORE ELECTION COVERAGE

HILLARY CLINTON PUSHES FOR VOTER REGISTRATION CHANGES PAGE 4
JEB BUSH SAYS HE WILL ANNOUNCE PRESIDENTIAL BID PAGE 4
KEY THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT PERRY PAGE 5

VISIT SWJOURNALIST.COM FOR MORE ELECTION CONTENT.

US may deploy missiles to counter Russia

ROBERT BURNS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The Obama administration is weighing a range of responses to Russia's alleged violation of a Cold War-era nuclear treaty, including deploying land-based missiles in Europe that could pre-emptively destroy the Russian weapons.

This "counterforce" option is among possibilities the administration is considering as it reviews its entire policy toward Russia in light of Moscow's military intervention in Ukraine, its annexation of Crimea and other actions the U.S. deems confrontational.

It all has a certain Cold War ring, even if the White House ultimately decides to continue tolerating Russia's alleged flight-testing of a ground-launched cruise missile with a range prohibited by the treaty.

Russia denies violating the treaty and has, in turn, claimed violations by the United States in erecting missile defenses.

It's unclear whether Russia has actually deployed the suspect missile or whether Washington would make any military move if the Russians stopped short of deployment. For now, administration officials said they prefer to continue trying to talk Moscow into treaty compliance.

The Obama administration is considering three options for responding militarily to Russian missile treaty viola-



ANONYMOUS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soldiers prepare to destroy a ballistic SS-19 missile in the yard of the largest former Soviet military rocket base in Vakulenchuk, Ukraine on Dec. 24, 1997. The Obama administration is weighing a range of aggressive responses to Russia's alleged violation of a Cold War-era nuclear missile treaty, including deploying land-based missiles in Europe that could pre-emptively destroy the Russian weapons.

defenses to stop a treaty-violating missile, the "counterforce" option to attack a missile preemptively and the "countervailing strike capabilities" option that implies the potential use of nuclear forces.

In public, administration officials have used terms such as "counterforce"

and "countervailing strike capabilities" to describe two of its military response options, possibly hoping to buy time for diplomacy.

The Pentagon declined to make a senior defense policy official available to

■ WORLD, Page 2

Dow Jones interns head for newsrooms

Thirteen college students and recent college graduates are headed to paid copy editing internships on daily newspapers after completing 10 days of intensive preparation at The University of Texas at Austin.

The interns are among a select group of undergraduate and graduate students placed in internships in copy editing, sports copy editing, business reporting and digital journalism.

The highly competitive national program is funded by the Dow Jones News Fund, and participating newspapers and digital media services. More than 700 students applied for the program. Applicants were required to take a test and complete an extensive application before being considered.

The School of Journalism at UT Austin, one of five pre-internship training sites for print and online copy editors and designers, has been part of the News Fund program since 1998.

Newspaper professionals, visiting faculty and UT journalism faculty moderated the sessions in this 18th residency program at UT Austin.

In the latter half of the pre-internship training, participants produced three issues of a live model newspaper, the Southwest Journalist, as well as a companion online product, swjournalist.com.

The UT-News Fund interns serve internships of 10 to 14 weeks.

Participants in the UT Austin workshop, including their universities and host news organizations, are as follows:

- Daniella Abinum, Florida State University, The Sacramento Bee
- Erin Davoran, Ohio University, Journal Media Group in Corpus Christi, Texas
- Gregory Dewar, University of Oregon, Grand Forks Herald
- Emily Dreher, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, The Denver Post
- Audrey Fletcher, Kent State University, The Beaumont Enterprise
- Alexandra Graff, Washington State University, Gatehouse Media Center for News & Design in Austin
- Paighen Harkins, University of Oklahoma, Austin American-Statesman
- Jordan Huesers, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Journal Media Group in Corpus Christi, Texas
- Nicholas Ibarra, San Jose State University, Bay Area News Group
- Julian Lim, San Francisco State University, Gatehouse Media Center for News & Design in Austin
- Maggie McVey, SUNY Plattsburgh, Journal Media Group in Corpus Christi, Texas



PHOTO BY GABRIEL PEREZ

Front row: Griff Singer (faculty), Paighen Harkins, Audrey Fletcher, Daniella Abinum, Emily Dreher, Maggie McVey, Rebekah Tomlin, Beth Butler (faculty). Second row: Mark Grabowski (faculty), Bradley Wilson (faculty), Nicholas Ibarra, Julian Lim, Jordan Huesers, George Sylvie (faculty), Alexandra Graff, Erin Davoran, Nicholas Niedzwadek, Gregory Dewar.

- Nicholas Niedzwadek, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Houston Chronicle
- Rebekah Tomlin, University of Texas at Arlington, The Los Angeles Times

Grants from the News Fund and contributions from participating newspapers cover the participants' pre-internship training, including housing, meals, transportation and instruction.

Participating newspapers also pay interns a weekly wage for their internship work. Students returning to their universities after the internships are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship provided by the News Fund.

Directing the UT workshop were Beth Butler and Bradley Wilson, co-directors; George Sylvie, assistant director; and Lourdes Jones, senior administrative associate of the UT

School of Journalism.

Faculty included Griff Singer, retired senior lecturer from The University of Texas at Austin; Mark Grabowski, assistant professor at Adelphi University; and Heather Taylor, manager of digital media and programs at the News Fund, Princeton, New Jersey.

Managing Editor John Bridges and Sports Editor Jason Jarrett of the Austin American-Statesman coordinated the interns' visit to that newspaper.

Other newspaper training centers were at Temple University, the University of Missouri, Pennsylvania State University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. A digital journalism workshop was held at Arizona State, and a business reporting workshop was conducted at New York University.

Breach exposes 4 million people

Continued from Page 1

another cyberbreach that compromised the private files of more than 25,000 DHS workers and thousands of other federal employees.

Cyber-security experts also said the OPM was targeted a year ago in a cyber-attack that was suspected of originating in China. In that case, authorities reported no personal information was stolen.

One expert said it is possible that hackers could use information from government personnel files for financial gain. In a recent case disclosed by the IRS, hackers appear to have obtained tax return information by posing as taxpayers, using personal information gleaned from previous commercial breaches, said Rick Holland, an information security analyst at Forrester Research.

"Given what OPM does around security clearances and the level of detail they acquire when doing these investigations, both on the subjects of the investigations and their contacts and references, it would be a vast amount of information," Holland added.

DHS said its intrusion detection system, known as EINSTEIN, which screens federal Internet traffic to identify potential cyber threats, identified the hack of OPM's systems and the Interior Department's data center, which is shared by other federal agencies.

It was unclear why the EINSTEIN system didn't detect the breach right away.

"DHS is continuing to monitor federal networks for any suspicious activity and is working aggressively with the affected agencies to conduct investigative analysis to assess the extent of this alleged intrusion," the statement said.

Ammon said federal agencies are rushing to install two-factor authentication with smart cards, a system designed to make it harder for intruders to access networks. But implementing that technology takes time.

CHASING THE CROWN



GARRY JONES/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Exercise rider Jorge Alvarez gallops Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner American Pharoah at Belmont Park in Elmont, New York on Thursday. American Pharoah is attempting to be the first Triple Crown winner in 37 years on Saturday in the Belmont Stakes horse race.

World leaders discuss Russian aggression

Continued from Page 1

discuss the issue. A spokesman, Lt. Col. Joe Sowers, said, "All the options under consideration are designed to ensure that Russia gains no significant military advantage from their violation."

At his Senate confirmation hearing in February, Defense Secretary Ash Carter expressed his concern about Russia's alleged violation of the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces, or INF, treaty. He said disregard for treaty limitations was a "two-way street" opening the way for the U.S. to respond in kind.

The standoff speaks volumes about the depths to which U.S.-Russia relations have fallen. And that poses problems for both the Obama administration and the NATO alliance, whose members in eastern Europe are especially leery of allowing Russian provocations to go unanswered.

Western leaders are meeting Sunday and Monday for a G-7 summit — from which Russian President Vladimir Putin has been excluded — where Russian aggression will be a key topic. On Friday, Carter plans to meet in Germany with American defense and diplomatic officials to map out a counterstrategy to Russia's military intervention in Ukraine and to reassure allies worried about Moscow.

The U.S. and its Western partners have tried

to use economic and diplomatic leverage against Putin on a range of conflicts, including Ukraine. But they also recognize Moscow still plays an important role in international affairs, including the nuclear talks with Iran that are among President Barack Obama's highest foreign policy priorities.

One of Carter's nuclear policy aides, Robert Scher, testified in April that "counterforce" means "we could go about and actually attack that missile where it is in Russia."

Scher said another option would involve "not simply attacking" the Russian missile but seeing "what things we can hold at risk within Russia itself." Hans Kristensen, a nuclear weapons expert at the Federation of American Scientists, said this could mean further improving the ability of U.S. nuclear or conventional forces to destroy Russian military targets in addition to missiles deemed to violate the INF treaty.

Kristensen said the public discussion of these options amounts to "one hell of a gamble" that Putin will back down on INF.

The Obama administration has been relatively gentle in poking Moscow publicly on the INF issue. The State Department's top arms control official, Rose Gottemoeller, has called the alleged Russian violations a "very grave concern." In December she argued against declaring the treaty dead, saying America's allies

Perry fights indictment as campaign begins

Continued from Page 1

state generated more than a third of America's new private-sector jobs since 2001.

While an oil and gas boom fueled much of that economic growth, Perry credits lower taxes, restrained regulation and limits on civil litigation damages. He also pushed economic incentives to lure top employers to Texas.

His effort may be complicated this time by a felony indictment on abuse of power and coercion charges, from when he threatened — then carried out — a veto of state funding for public corruption prosecutors. That came when the unit's Democratic head rebuffed Perry's demands that she resign following a drunken driving conviction.

Perry calls the case against him a political "witch hunt," but his repeated efforts to get it tossed on constitutional grounds have so far been unsuccessful. That raises the prospect he'll have to leave the campaign trail to head to court in Texas.

Perry cited lingering pain from back surgery in the summer of 2011 for part of the reason he performed poorly in the 2012 campaign.

also are opposed to that approach.

The State Department said last July Russia had tested a missile in violation of the treaty, which bans indefinitely the possession, production and flight-testing of missiles — both nuclear and conventional — with ranges between 310 and 3,410 miles

The administration hasn't said whether it believes the Russian missile is nuclear or conventional. However, Carter said, in responses for his confirmation hearing, "Russia's INF treaty violation is consistent with its strategy of relying on nuclear weapons to offset U.S.

and NATO conventional superiority."

Much about the subject is classified, including a Pentagon assessment of the threat posed by Russian violations.

The Associated Press was given an unclassified portion of a report written by the office of Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that examines weapons the U.S. could develop and deploy if freed from INF treaty constraints.

It identified four such weapons that "could assist in closing ... a capability gap."

Among the four are ground-launched cruise missiles deployed in Europe or Asia, and ground-launched intermediate-range ballistic missiles equipped with technology that adjusts the trajectory of a warhead after it reenters Earth's atmosphere and heads for its target.

All the options under consideration are designed to ensure that Russia gains no significant military advantage from their violation.

LT. COL. JOE SOWERS



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INTERNATIONAL

Britain willing to host World Cup if Qatar out

The British government says England is ready to step in and host the 2022 World Cup if the tournament is stripped from Qatar amid the corruption scandal engulfing FIFA.

"Obviously if FIFA came forward and asked us to consider hosting it, we have the facilities in this country and of course we did mount a very impressive, if unsuccessful bid to host the 2018 World Cup," culture secretary John Whittingdale told the House of Commons.

However, Whittingdale acknowledged that "it does seem very unlikely that another European country would host it in 2022" because Russia is due to stage the World Cup in 2018.

Swiss authorities are investigating the bidding contests for the 2018 and 2022 World Cup tournaments, and have seized documents at FIFA headquarters as part of their corruption probe.

G-7 leaders expected to admonish Russia

A summit of President Obama and other Western leaders this weekend in Germany is expected to produce new condemnation — but not more punishment — of Russia for its suspected role in the escalating violence in Ukraine.

Ukraine is pleading for a response from the Group of 7 leaders meeting Sunday and Monday in the Bavarian Alps, a year after the world's largest industrialized democracies booted Russian President Vladimir Putin from their ranks in protest over the crisis that has now killed more than 6,400 people. Yet Ukraine and pro-Russian separatists are engaging in their most violent battle in months, despite economic sanctions against Moscow and a four-month-old cease-fire agreement.

"I don't think we can kid ourselves that the policy, and right now the actions on the ground, are producing the results we want," said Heather Conley, director of the Europe Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. She said European leaders will be assessing Obama's next steps as they deliberate later this summer about prolonging their sanctions.

"Russia has not changed its behavior," she said. "If anything, President Putin, I think, is doubling down on multiple fronts, and the cohesiveness feels like it's not there. People don't know what's next."

Richard Fontaine, president of the Center for a New American Security, said there's been less unity in the G-7 now than last year when the member nations came to the summit trying to isolate Russia.

Muslims, Catholics eager for impending Pope Francis visit

For centuries, Sarajevo was known as "Europe's Jerusalem," where Christianity, Islam and Judaism lived in harmony. In the 1990s, the city became synonymous with religious enmity, as its Christian Orthodox Serbs and Muslim Bosniaks plunged into a calamitous cycle of warfare.

Pope Francis hopes to restore some of the earlier legacy Saturday during his visit to this city that, two decades ago, seared itself on the world's imagination with images of Serbian sniper fire and bombs killing innocent civilians.

The majority-Muslim city is gearing up to give the pontiff an ecstatic embrace. Francis teacups are being sold at souvenir stands next to a statue of St. John Paul II on the main square. Muslim carpenters have crafted a wooden throne for the pope to sit on and Catholic craftsmen made an altar for the Mass he will perform. In Srebrenica, the scene of Europe's worst carnage since World War II, a mixed choir of Muslim and Christian Orthodox children is practicing a song of love they will sing to the pope.

The city's mosque, synagogue, Roman Catholic cathedral and Eastern Orthodox Church stand less than 100 meters (yards) away from one another. But that interfaith harmony was blown apart by the Bosnian War fought between the country's ethnic Serbs, Croats and Bosniaks from 1992 to 1995. The conflict left 100,000 dead and displaced half of the population.

Two decades later, the wounds still fester, and the problems remain unsolved. Bosnia's Christian Orthodox Serbs want a breakaway state; Muslim Bosniaks want a unified country; and Roman Catholic Croats want their own autonomous region.

North Korea developing second observation satellite

North Korean space agency officials say the country is developing a more advanced Earth observation satellite and are defending their right to conduct rocket launches whenever they see fit, despite protests by the United States and others that the launches are aimed primarily at honing military-use technologies.

The North launched its first and only satellite in 2012. The claim that it is working on another, made in an interview last week with an AP Television crew in Pyongyang, comes amid a flurry of attention to the country's fledgling space agency, including a visit by leader Kim Jong Un to a new satellite control center that was repeatedly broadcast on North Korean TV early month.

"We are developing a more advanced Earth observation satellite and when it's complete, before launching it, we will inform international organizations and other countries," Paek Chang Ho, vice director of the scientific research and development department of the North's space agency, said in the interview.

Paek did not provide further details about what the satellite will do, when development began or when the next launch might be.

Speculation the North may be planning a rocket launch to mark the 70th anniversary this October of the ruling Korean Workers Party heated up after the release of recent satellite imagery at North Korea's Sohae rocket launch site. Analysts at the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies say the images show significant new construction.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dehydration as a weapon

Islamic State uses dams and locks in war of attrition

SAMEER N. YACOUB

Associated Press

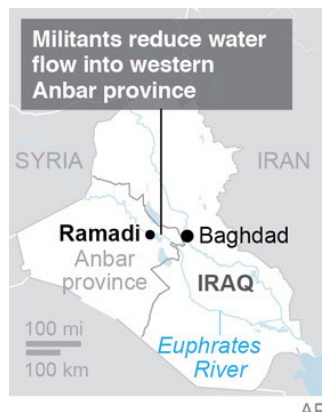
BAGHDAD Islamic State militants have reduced the amount of water flowing to government-held areas in Iraq's western Anbar province, officials said Thursday, a move that highlights the use of water as a weapon of war and puts more pressure on Iraqi forces struggling to reclaim the Sunni heartland.

The development is not the first time that water has been used as a weapon in Mideast conflicts and in Iraq. On Wednesday, IS militants closed the locks on a militant-held dam on the Euphrates River near Ramadi, Anbar's provincial capital west of Baghdad, reducing the flow downstream and threatening irri-

gation systems and water treatment plants in nearby areas controlled by troops and tribes opposed to the extremist group. Earlier this year, the Islamic State group reduced the flow through a lock outside the militant-held town of Fallujah, also in Anbar province, but reopened it after criticism from residents.

Last summer, IS militants took control of the Mosul Dam, the largest in Iraq, and threatened to flood Baghdad and other major cities, but Iraqi and Kurdish forces, backed by U.S. airstrikes, later recaptured the facility.

The battle for the dam followed the Islamic State's blitz across much of western and northern



Iraq earlier last year, an advance that captured key Anbar cities and also Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city that lies to the north of Baghdad. The Islamic State group also gained large swaths of land in neighboring Syria and proclaimed a self-

styled caliphate on the territory it controls, imposing its harsh interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia.

Last month, the IS captured Ramadi, marking its most significant victory since a U.S.-led coalition began an air campaign against the extremists last August.

Anbar councilman, Taha Abdul-Ghani, said the move could pose a threat to the security forces

fighting to recapture Ramadi. If water levels drop significantly, he said, the extremists could cross the Euphrates River on foot and attack the nearby Habbaniya military base—used for Iraqi troops and allied Shiite militias.

Thousands of people in government-held towns of Khalidiya and Habbaniya are already suffering from shortages of drinking water because purification plants along the Euphrates have all but shut down due to low water levels due to summer weather. The residents of the towns get only two hours a day of water through their pipes, he said.

"With the summer heat and lack of water, the lives of these people are in danger and some are thinking of leaving their homes," added Abdul-Ghani, and urged the government to use the air force to bomb some of the gates of al-Warar dam and release the water.

RELATIVES, NEIGHBORS JOIN IN PRAYER FOR DEAD AND MISSING IN SHIP DISASTER



Prayers and a candle light vigil are conducted by residents of Jianli County and relatives of the missing and dead passengers aboard the capsized Eastern Star.

JIANLI, China Disaster teams that have recovered 77 bodies from a capsized cruise ship in the Yangtze River, moved late Thursday to pull it upright to quicken the search for more than 360 other victims who could be trapped inside.

The operation to right the Eastern Star shifted from finding survivors more than 72 hours after it overturned to salvaging the vessel and retrieving bodies.

Transport Ministry spokesman Xu Chengguang said divers would put steel bars underneath the ship, which would then be lifted by two 500-ton cranes. A huge net was placed near the cranes and another one a few yards downstream to catch any bodies.

Chinese authorities said 14 people survived Monday night's capsizing in a severe storm, some by jumping from the ship during the early moments and swimming or drifting ashore. Three were pulled by divers from air pockets inside the overturned hull Tuesday after rescuers heard yells for help coming from inside.

Xu said no further signs of life had been found and the chance of finding anyone else alive was "very slim." Earlier Thursday, rescuers cut three holes into the overturned hull in unsuccessful attempts to find more survivors.

More than 200 divers have worked to search the ship's cabins one by one.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former FIFA VP: Hero or villain?

TIM REYNOLDS

AP Sports Writer

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad Contradictions are a constant for Jack Warner, who grew up with almost nothing in Trinidad and Tobago, and became a rich and powerful vice president of FIFA, world soccer's governing body before being forced out in an ethics scandal four years ago.

Now, his empire seems on the verge of crumbling.

Indicted last week by the U.S. on charges of racketeering, wire fraud and money-laundering, Warner insists he's done nothing wrong.

In Trinidad, many residents say if Warner amassed riches without taking it from them, they're fine with the arrangement.

The 72-year-old Warner is now a member of Parliament, known for getting what he wants, but also for personally arranging whatever help — doctors, food, anything — his constituents need.

"If he didn't live so long, he would have died a hero," said Sunity Maharaj, a journalist who has long followed Warner. "He would have been the story of the little boy who grew up to be FIFA vice president."

He acknowledges that his future is uncertain. The charges that revolve around allegations of bribery are the most serious he has faced. He insists they are trumped up.

Warner maintains Americans are still upset that FIFA, which he left in disgrace in 2011 after being implicated in an earlier bribery scandal, awarded the 2022 World Cup to Qatar and not the U.S.

"Nobody, no contractor, alive or dead, can say he gave me a kickback," Warner said. "Everything I have now, I had before politics. But there are some guys in politics now who had nothing before. How come nobody is concerned with that?"

U.S. prosecutors allege South Africa paid \$10 million in 2008 to Warner and two other FIFA executive committee members for supporting the nation's successful bid to host the 2010 World Cup. Warner's supporters say the charges are meant to embarrass him ahead of elections this year,

with Liberal Independent Party Chairman Rekha Ramjith calling them "political manipulation to the highest extent."

Simply saying the name "Jack" to hotel workers, waiters, lawmakers and others elicits a reaction, often accompanied by an eye roll. Some, including top soccer officials, refused to talk about him.

"I take no pleasure in Mr. Warner's sufferings and his family's pain," said opposition party leader Keith Rowley. "I trust that he will be the subject of free and fair judicial processes in Trinidad and Tobago and outside. Let the law take its course."

If he didn't live so long, he would have died a hero. He would have been the story of the little boy who grew up to be FIFA vice president.

SUNITY MAHARAJ

Dutch Muslims 'no longer easy to offend'

MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands Moderate Dutch Muslims on Thursday called lawmaker Geert Wilders' plan to broadcast cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad on national television a provocation.

There were no signs of outrage or unrest, the day after Wilders announced his plan to use airtime granted to political parties to show cartoons from a contest in Garland, Texas, last month that

was targeted by two armed attackers. Wilders spoke at the contest, but left before the foiled attack that left both gunmen dead.

Islamic tradition holds that any physical depiction of the Prophet Muhammad is blasphemous. It appears that Muslims in the Netherlands may be growing accustomed to Wilders' fierce criticism of their faith.

Muslims in the Netherlands "are no longer easy to offend," said lawyer Ejder Kose, who once



Little remains of a gas station after it exploded in Accra Thursday. Flooding in Ghana's capital swept stored fuel in the station into a nearby fire, setting off a huge explosion that killed dozens and set alight neighboring buildings.

Gas station explodes in Ghana, killing 150

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ACCRA, Ghana The death toll from a huge gas station explosion and flooding in Ghana's capital has more than doubled to 150 people, the president said Thursday.

Dozens of people sought shelter at the gas station and in nearby shops in central Accra to escape the torrential rains at the time of Wednesday night's blast. Flooding swept fuel being stored at the station into a nearby fire, triggering the explosion that also set ablaze neighboring buildings, officials said.

The West African nation will observe three days of mourning and the government will allocate about \$12 million for relief operations and to repair damaged infrastructure, President John Dramani Mahama told journalists.

Before Mahama's announcement, the death toll stood at 73. The president didn't give a breakdown, but the new figure appears

to include people killed in the explosion, others who drowned at the blast site trying to escape the flames and still more who drowned elsewhere in the city.

TV footage showed corpses piled into the back of a pickup truck and other charred bodies trapped amid the debris. Floodwaters hampered rescue and recovery efforts.

Officials at a nearby military hospital said its morgue was full.

"Steps will be taken to ensure that disastrous floods and their attendant deaths do not occur again," Mahama said.

A witness said many people had taken shelter under a shed at the station from the rain and were hit by the explosion.

Heavy rains in June are not unusual — yet drainage systems in Accra remain inadequate.

The city also is grappling with a continuing energy crisis resulting in blackouts lasting as long as 48 hours.

represented a Muslim organization that tried unsuccessfully to ban a short film made by Wilders.

Wilders established and leads the Freedom Party that holds 12 of the 150 seats in parliament's lower house.

Wilders' anti-Islam rhetoric has sparked outrage and prompted death threats that have led to him living under round-the-clock protection.

"It is provocation from Mr. Wilders that we have been used

to for years," said Yassin Elforkani, spokesman of the Contact Group for Muslims and Government, in a telephone interview.

Wilders denied he was being provocative for the sake of it and said in an emailed reaction that he wants to show the cartoons to support freedom of expressions and demonstrate to extremists that their violence won't silence him.

A date has not been set for Wilders' broadcast.

Study shows steady rate of warming

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

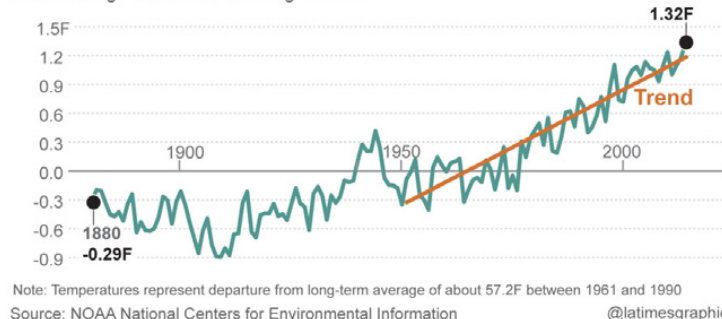
WASHINGTON Global warming has not stopped or even slowed in the past 18 years, according to a new federal study that rebuts doubters who've claimed that that heating trends have paused.

Scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration readjusted thousands of weather data points to account for different measuring techniques through the decades. Their calculations show that since 1998, the rate of warming is about the same as it has been since 1950: about two-tenths of a degree Fahrenheit a decade.

"The reality is that there is no hiatus," said Tom Karl, director of the National Centers for Environ-

Study sees no pause in global warming

A new analysis of temperature data from around the world shows no sign of a recent warming "hiatus."



Note: Temperatures represent departure from long-term average of about 57.2°F between 1961 and 1990
Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

mental Information in Asheville, North Carolina. He is the lead author of a study published Thursday in the peer-reviewed journal Science.

One key to claims of a hiatus

is the start date: 1998. That year there was a big temperature spike; some of the following years were not as hot, though even hotter years followed in 2005, 2010 and 2014, according to NOAA,

NASA and temperature records kept in England and Japan. This year is on pace to break last year's global heat record.

Scientists keep updating the way they measure Earth's temperatures. This study focuses on the effects of the way ocean temperatures are taken. The old way, going back generations, is with ships. Sometimes people would dip a bucket in the water; other times they'd measure water that came into the engine. They also did it at various times of day.

A few years ago NOAA made similar adjustments to make land temperatures more comparable decade-to-decade.

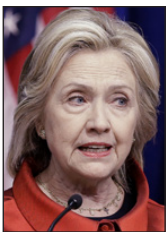
Several outside scientists contacted by The Associated Press said the adjustments are sound.

More candidates step up

Clinton no fan of new voting law

KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

HOUSTON Hillary Rodham Clinton is calling for an expansion of early voting and pushing back against Republican-led efforts to restrict voting access, laying down a marker on voting rights at the start of her presidential campaign.



Clinton

The Democratic presidential candidate used a Thursday speech at historically black Texas Southern University to denounce voting restrictions and to encourage

states to adopt a new national standard of no fewer than 20 days of early in-person voting, including weekend and evening voting.

Clinton is plunging into a partisan debate in many states, which have pitted Democrats who contend restricting voter registration aims to suppress turnout among minority and low-income voters against Republicans, who say the steps are needed to prevent voter fraud.

The issue is closely watched by black voters, who supported President Barack Obama in large numbers and will be an important constituency as Clinton seeks to rebuild Obama's coalition.

Clinton will also urge Congress to take steps to address a 2013 Supreme Court ruling striking down a portion of the Voting Rights Act.

Clinton said at the time of the decision that the court had "struck at the heart" of the landmark law and warned that it would make it difficult for the poor, elderly, minorities and working people to vote.

Raising the voting issues allow Clinton to draw sharp distinctions with the potential Republican presidential field.

The former secretary of state has been actively raising money for her campaign and the speech is part of a two-day trip.

Jeb Bush announcing campaign

STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

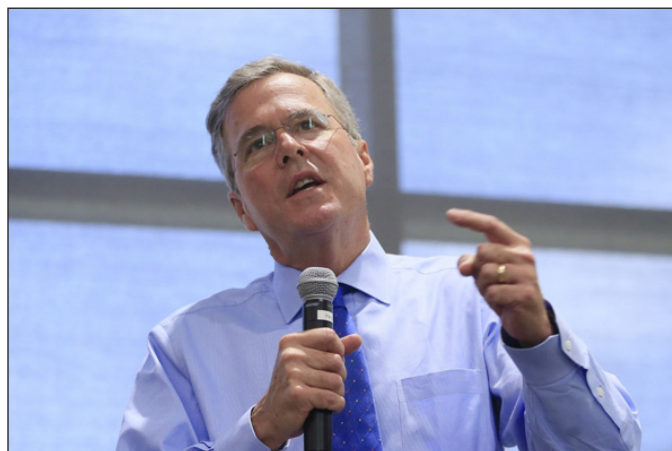
WASHINGTON Jeb Bush stepped into the Republican race for president Thursday, finally taking his place — after months of hints and relentless fundraising — amid an unwieldy field of GOP candidates unlike any in recent memory.

The former Florida governor has the rank of front-runner and the donors to match. He now has eight months before the first votes are cast in the Iowa caucuses to prove he's worthy of both.

The son of George H.W. Bush and younger brother of George W. Bush, he is a favorite of the Republican establishment, the experienced and well-connected party, who have showered the 62-year-old with money, staffing talent and encouragement in recent months.

Senior aides confirmed that Bush, who left the Florida governor's mansion in 2007, will enter the race June 15.

"I want to be the guy to beat," Bush said while campaigning in Florida earlier this week.



CARLOS OSORIO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush speaks in Lansing, Michigan, in this file photo. Bush steps into the Republican race for president, cementing his place at the head of an unwieldy GOP field. Bush has the name of a front-runner and donors to match.

The GOP contest now features candidates of different generations, races and genders, whose policy prescriptions are far from monolithic and whose personalities often clash. There are more to come: four sitting governors — Wisconsin's Scott Walker and New Jersey's Chris Christie, among them — are likely to join the race before the GOP's first presidential debate in August.

Eight current and former

governors could ultimately be in the race, along with five current and former senators, a former neurosurgeon and two business executives.

The only woman in the Republican field, Carly Fiorina, has never held elected office, yet the former technology executive appears to be gaining momentum as she campaigns across early voting states including New Hampshire and South Carolina.

KEY JEB BUSH CAMPAIGN ISSUES

■ IMMIGRATION

Bush supports a system that would allow immigrants in the country illegally to stay, if they plead guilty to illegal entry, pay penalties and past-due taxes, learn English and perform community service.

■ FOREIGN POLICY

Bush says the U.S. "needs to regain its position militarily in Iraq to bring some order to the Iraqi military." He hasn't said whether he thinks the U.S. should add more troops. Bush opposed removing Cuba from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism.

■ BUDGET & ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS

As a White House contender, Bush says he would support raising the age to qualify for full Social Security benefits for future retirees, over time.

■ EDUCATION

Bush stands out as a supporter of Common Core education standards. Bush con-

tinues to urge states to adopt higher reading, math and language arts standards than they have, assessed with regular testing. But he doesn't support additional testing or federal intervention in creation of the standards.

■ SOCIAL ISSUES

As governor, Bush signed legislation requiring parental consent for abortions for minors and opposes abortion rights except when women are victims of rape or incest or when the woman's life is endangered by continued pregnancy. He says he opposes gay marriage yet same-sex couples "making lifetime commitments to each other" deserve respect.

■ CLIMATE CHANGE

Bush accepts the scientific premise that the climate is changing and calls examining the causes a priority. He also supports carbon energy production by hydraulic fracking.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

YELLOW PAINT ROAD



ASSOCIATED PRESS

In a Maryland State Highway Administration-provided photo, gallons of white and yellow paint coat parts of Interstate 68 near Hancock, Maryland, Wednesday after a tractor-trailer overturned. Police have charged the driver with using a handheld cellphone while driving. Officials say cleanup will take several days, and areas of the highway will be blocked off.

Being self-employed means bigger payday

JOSEPH PISANI
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK If you want an income, or you're an employer looking for help, it may be time to scrap the idea of the traditional 9-to-5 arrangement.

For workers, it's become easier and less risky to go solo. Affordable health insurance plans, which kept many workers shackled to traditional jobs, are more accessible because of the Affordable Care Act, and companies are increasingly open to hiring freelancers and independent contractors.

Many say independent workers bring fresh ideas without the commitment.

In 2013, 23 million people were self-employed, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That's up 1.2 percent from the year before and up about 24 percent from 2003. That number doesn't count self-employed people who may also hire employees.

"This isn't going away," says Brooke Borgen, co-owner of

Canopy Advisory Group, a hiring company for freelancers in Denver. She started the business five years ago with co-owner Griffen O'Shaughnessy. They observed that companies needed a way to access independent workers while friends and colleagues were telling them they wanted to find ways to balance their work and personal lives. ☞

"More and more people want to have ownership over their career," Borgen says.

Most have a master's degree and at least 10 years working experience, she says.

Companies weren't always so thrilled about hiring freelancers, says Allison Hemming, CEO of staffing company The Hired Guns. When she started the company 15 years ago, companies would say, "if they were that good, they would have a job," said Hemming.

That has changed. "The concept of freelancers as slackers is completely over," Hemming says.

NATIONAL

Charter bus crashes, killing driver, 2 others

TOBYHANNA, Pa. A charter bus taking Italian tourists to Niagara Falls collided with a tractor-trailer that had crossed into oncoming traffic on a highway on Wednesday, killing the bus driver and two other people on the bus, police said. Four people were critically injured.

The crash occurred on Interstate 380 in the Pocono Mountains region in eastern Pennsylvania as the bus, which departed from New York, was about a quarter of the way to its first destination.

The mangled front end of the bus was upright on the highway but wedged into the side of the tractor-trailer, which was sheared in half. The cab of the truck came to rest on its side in the woods next to the road, one of its axles torn off.

Italian tour operator Viaggidea said there were 16 people on the bus: 14 passengers, a tour guide and the driver. Police said the driver, Alfredo Telemaco, of New York City, died at the scene along with two passengers.

Deliberations near in ex-BP exec's oil spill trial

NEW ORLEANS Closing arguments have been scheduled in the case of David Rainey, the former BP executive charged with lying to federal investigators about the 2010 BP oil spill.

Attorneys will make their final statements to jurors Friday morning and the jury is expected to begin deliberations by noon.

The trial centers on calculations Rainey made about the rate at which oil was flowing from BP's Macondo well following the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon offshore rig.

Prosecutors say Rainey manipulated early estimates to match low government estimates. He's charged with lying about it to federal agents a year later. Rainey denies it. His attorneys say he had no reason to lie.

California advancing right-to-die legislation

SACRAMENTO, Calif. California lawmakers advanced a right-to-die bill Thursday, giving hope to those who want the nation's most populous state to allow terminally ill patients to end their lives under doctor's care.

The state Senate passed the measure on a 23-14 vote ahead of a legislative deadline.

Opponents of such legislation in California and elsewhere say suicide is against God's will and that some patients may feel pressured to kill themselves so they don't burden family members.

The year's bill, SB128, from Democratic Sens. Bill Monning of Carmel and Lois Wolk of Davis, would protect physicians from prosecution if they give terminally ill adults the option of medical aid in their deaths.

State Farm CEO stepping down after 30 years

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. State Farm Insurance Cos. announced Thursday that Chief Operating Officer Michael Tipsord will become its next chief executive, succeeding Ed Rust Jr., who has led the private company since the mid-1980s.

The Bloomington-based insurance and financial company said in a news release that Tipsord will take over in September from Rust, who has held the post since 1985. Rust, 64, will remain chairman of the company's board.

Tipsord joined the company in 1988. He became a vice president in 2002 and chief financial officer in 2004 before taking his current job in 2011.

Rust credited Tipsord for working with him as a partner leading the company. Tipsord, the release said, called the time he's spent working with Rust "a privilege."

Former LA police officer charged with killing man

LOS ANGELES Henry Solis, a former Los Angeles police officer charged with killing a man while off-duty, was returned Thursday to California from Texas and was escorted by detectives and booked into Pomona's jail, authorities said.

Henry Solis was arrested last week in Mexico after evading authorities for more than two months. He was sought in the shooting death of 23-year-old Salome Rodriguez following a dispute at a nightclub in March.

In an FBI interview, Victor Manuel Solis said his son said he had five vacation days and wanted to go to El Paso. When he arrived in El Paso, the elder Solis said, he dropped his son off at a bus station and his son did not tell him where he was going.

Victor Manuel Solis told the agent he later crossed a pedestrian border bridge alone into Mexico and returned to El Paso in the evening.

Surveillance video captured him crossing with his son, according to the affidavit.

Man shot in Boston was planning to kill woman

BOSTON Usama Rahim, a Boston man shot to death by the terror investigators who were surveilling him, had talked about beheading blogger Pamela Geller before deciding to target police officers, Boston police said Thursday.

"There was some mention of that name," said Police Commissioner William Evans, who dismissed it as "wistful thinking" while speaking on the "Today" show.

Geller said she wasn't surprised that she may have been a target. She's a combative personality known for provoking Muslims by campaigning against a mosque near the World Trade Center site in New York, sponsoring inflammatory advertisements.

The FBI said Rahim plotted to commit some kind of attack, and ordered three large knives on Amazon.com a week before his death.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXAS/SOUTHWEST

Texas brothers get probation in dolphin's death

BEAUMONT Two Southeast Texas brothers who admitted they killed a bottlenose dolphin with an arrow have each been sentenced to a year of probation, including a ban on hunting and fishing.

The Beaumont Enterprise reports that 23-year-old Cory James Moseley and 18-year-old Cade Ryan Moseley were sentenced in federal court Wednesday. The brothers also must pay about \$7,300 in restitution and perform community service.

The brothers pleaded guilty in February to taking a marine mammal from U.S. waters. Federal law defines "taking" in this case as anything from harassment to killing.

Evidence presented at court showed the brothers were fishing on Cow Bayou, near Bridge City, in 2014, when they shot at two dolphins with a compound bow, fatally striking one.

Woman charged with killing spouse gets life

LLANO A Central Texas woman accused of killing her husband after texting her plans to a friend hours before the shooting has been sentenced to life in prison.

Austin media outlets report 44-year-old Karra Trichele Allen of Bertram was convicted and sentenced Tuesday.

The Burnet County Sheriff's Office says the body of Brian Allen was found at the couple's home after his wife called authorities to say she shot her spouse on July 1, 2013.

A transcript indicates Allen told a dispatcher she fired in self-defense during an argument.

Court records indicate Allen sent text messages to a friend threatening to shoot and dismember her husband.

Texas man accused in lottery scheme due in court

DES MOINES, Iowa A Texas man accused of helping a lottery security official try to claim a rigged \$14 million jackpot is scheduled to appear in court Thursday.

Robert Rhodes is expected to contest his extradition to Iowa during the hearing in Texas.

The Sugar Land businessman was arrested in March and is free on bond. Prosecutors say he worked with an Iowa friend, Eddie Tipton, and others in an attempt to claim the Hot Lotto jackpot that Tipton had rigged.

Prosecutors allege that Tipton inserted a software program into the random number generator for Hot Lotto that allowed him to manipulate the winning combination. They say Tipton purchased the winning ticket and later passed it on to Rhodes and others.

Man fatally shot by police suspected in burglaries

DALLAS Houston police say a man fatally shot by officers after leading them on a chase was pursued because he was suspected in car burglaries.

Police said Thursday that the 15-minute pursuit Wednesday morning ended when the suspect's vehicle struck a curb and became disabled.

Police say the suspect was then uncooperative and kept getting into and out of his vehicle.

A police dog then grabbed the suspect's leg and the officer handling the dog confronted the suspect. Two officers then saw the suspect pull a large knife from behind his back and raise it up. Police say that fearing for the K-9 officer's life, the two officers fired. The suspect was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police say numerous stolen items were found in the suspect's vehicle.

Failed pumps leave small Texas town without water

BARTLETT The mayor of a small Central Texas town says the city will be without water for up to three days after two water pumps failed.

The Temple Daily Telegram reports that Bartlett Mayor Norris Ivy made the announcement Wednesday. Meanwhile, Bell County Commissioners Court Judge Jon Burrows declared the town of 2,000 people located about 50 miles northeast of Austin to be in a local state of emergency.

Both the main pump for the ground storage tank and the city's backup water well failed.

The city was making bottled water and non-potable water available.

3 bodies recovered after minivan swept off road

LEON JUNCTION Authorities have recovered the bodies of an 11-year-old girl, her grandmother and great-grandmother after their minivan was swept off a flooded road.

Coryell County Sheriff Johnny Burks says the bodies of the relatives from Gatesville were found Wednesday as receding water revealed the vehicle swept away Sunday about 30 miles southwest of Waco.

Additionally, Wichita Falls police said Wednesday that a man whose body was found Sunday in floodwaters near the Wichita River has been identified as 44-year-old Brent Allen of Wichita Falls. He'd been reported missing from a nearby motel on May 25.

The number of storm-related deaths in Texas since Memorial Day weekend is now at 32.

Those found in the minivan were 11-year-old Hollie Elizabeth Morgan; 63-year-old Lynn McLaughlin Grubb; and 84-year-old Bobbie Correne McLaughlin.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Perry's 30 years in politics

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry is entering the 2016 race for the Republican presidential nomination Thursday—here's a look at where he's been

BACKGROUND

The longest-serving governor in Texas history, Perry was a Democrat who became a Republican and an early adopter of tea party conservatism. He donned his signature cowboy boots, and strode into the 2012 presidential race late, bragging about his state's strong job-creation record.

He became a front-runner nearly overnight then saw his campaign collapse almost as quickly, thanks to gaffes that he blamed on hubris and lingering pain from back surgery.

Will voters give him a second chance? "It's easier to judge someone by how they get up from a failure," he told The Associated Press last year. He's 65.



CAROLYN KASTER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry speaks during the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in National Harbor, Md., Friday, Feb. 27, 2015.

PERSONAL STORY

The son of tenant cotton farmers, Perry was born in a cabin without running water in Paint Creek, a West Texas town with no stoplights. He was part of a 13-student high school graduating class and met his wife, Anita Thigpen, at a piano recital when he was 8 and she 6. At Texas A&M, Perry was elected yell leader, a coveted male cheerleader position.

He worked as a door-to-door Bible reference book salesman in the summers before flying Air Force C-130 cargo planes. He returned to the farm but was recruited to run for the state Legislature at 33. Perry further solidified his cowboy cred in 2010, when he used a laser-sighted .380 Ruger to kill a coyote while jogging in a rural corner of Austin.

13 Students in Perry's high school graduating class

1989

Perry switches parties from Democrat to Republican

1 Number of elections Perry has lost in three decades of politics

Cruz apologizes for Biden jab

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz apologized for cracking a joke at Vice President Joe Biden's expense even as Biden mourns the death of his son.

During an appearance Wednesday in Howell, Michigan, Cruz rattled off a Biden line he's been using in speeches on the stump.

"Vice President Joe Biden. You know the nice thing? You don't need a punchline," Cruz said, prompting laughter from the audience.

By Thursday morning, Cruz used his Facebook account to say he was sorry.

In his post, the Texas senator says, "It was a mistake to use an old joke about Joe Biden during his time of grief, and I sincerely apologize."

Questioned about the remark when he arrived for a Senate vote on Thursday, Cruz declined to answer a reporter's question.

A funeral Mass will be held in Delaware Saturday for 46-year-old Beau Biden.



PATRICK SEMANSKY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vice President Joe Biden, center, pauses alongside his family as they prepare to enter a visitation for his son, former Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden, on Thursday at Legislative Hall in Dover, Del. Standing with Biden are his granddaughter Natalie, daughter-in-law Hallie, grandson Hunter and wife Jill. Beau Biden died of brain cancer Saturday at age 46.

Flood flushes out snakes

ROBERT CADWALLADER
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH Buster Tuggle was atop his house, reaching into the long branches of a cottonwood with a trimmer, unaware of a water moccasin wrapped around a nearby branch.

Tuggle, 61, owner of Hare's Nursery in Arlington, also didn't see the snake when he sawed it in two, along with an armful of tree limbs.

The almost 17 inches of rain last month have caused a lot of people to find an array of critters in their yards, garages and homes that have never visited before.

Summer could bring its own menacing, pesky problems as North Texas dries out. No rain is in the Dallas-Fort Worth forecast for the next week or so, and temperatures are expected to climb into the 90s.

Turtles, frogs, earthworms, rabbits and many others, along with the predators that follow them, snakes, bobcats, coyotes, have been unusually close to homeowners.

Experts say the appearance of snakes and other wildlife will be temporary. Of course, be cautious, they say, but it's not a Planet of the Snakes invasion due to deep-sea atomic testing.

"When floodwaters rise, you're going to see a lot of animals," Misty Wellner, a former naturalist with the River Legacy Living Science Center, said. "When you have a disaster like this, they're going to move to dry land, just like we are."



ASSOCIATED PRESS/JOYCE MARSHALL

Dr. Keto Trivedi shows some of the snake bite venom available from unwanted visitors encroaching on human habitats after recent rain.

Residential areas are typically well drained with modern storm sewer systems, and animals may look for temporary homes in those areas while their usual habitat is under water, said Derek Broman, biologist, based at Joe Pool Lake.

"This is a 500-year flood, so none of the current generation of animals is used to this," he said. "As things start to recede, a lot of the animals should go back into hiding."

The animal services department "is answering about four snake calls a day in the three-city area," Colleyville spokeswoman Mona Gandy said. "Typically they would get two a day."

Even if bitten by a harmless snake, go to an emergency room to have the wound cleaned and to get antibiotics, as well as a tetanus shot. The snake's teeth and your skin have bacteria that can cause infection.

Southwest's sales overwhelm site

DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS Heavy traffic spurred by a fare sale has swamped Southwest Airlines' website for a second day, leaving many customers unable to book flights.

The airline is extending the sale by one day, through Friday, to give frustrated customers more time to buy tickets.

The website problems started Wednesday, a day after Southwest announced a fall-travel fare sale.

On Thursday morning, some customers trying to book flights online are getting a message telling them that part of the website "is undergoing maintenance and is currently unavailable." The message directs people to call Southwest's toll-free number, but a reporter who did that got a busy signal.

Southwest spokeswoman Brandy King said that the 800 number was working, but call volume was high.

The airline boosted the website's capacity before announcing a three-day sale on Tuesday, but demand was greater than expected, King said. Technicians were trying to restore full function to the website, and Southwest extended the end of the sale — it was scheduled to end at midnight Thursday — through Friday, she said.

The sale features prices as low as \$49 one-way on some short trips between Aug. 25 and Dec. 16, with blackout dates on Fridays and Sundays and around Labor Day and Thanksgiving. Southwest didn't say how many seats were available at the sale fares. Other airlines said they matched Southwest prices on routes where they compete.

EPA: Fracking not widespread threat to water

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Hydraulic fracturing to drill for oil and natural gas has not caused widespread harm to drinking water in the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday in a report that also warned of potential contamination of water supplies if safeguards are not maintained.

A draft study issued by the agency found specific instances where poorly constructed drilling wells or improper wastewater management affected drinking water, but said the number of cases was small compared to

the large number of wells that use hydraulic fracturing, better known as fracking.

The EPA assessment tracked water used throughout the fracking process, from acquiring the water to mixing chemicals at the well site and injecting so-called "fracking fluids" into wells, to collection of wastewater, wastewater treatment and disposal.

The report identified several vulnerabilities to drinking water resources, including fracking's effect on drought-stricken areas; inadequately cased or cemented wells resulting in below-ground migration of gases and liquids; inadequately treated wastewater

and discharged into drinking water resources; and spills of hydraulic fluids and wastewater.

Congress ordered the long-awaited report in 2010, as a surge in fracking fueled a nationwide boom in production of oil and natural gas. Fracking rigs have sprouted up in recent years in states from California to Pennsylvania, as energy companies take advantage of improved technology to gain access to vast stores of oil and natural gas underneath much of the continental U.S.

Fracking involves pumping huge volumes of water, sand and chemicals underground to split open rock formations so oil

and gas will flow. The practice has spurred an ongoing energy boom but has raised widespread concerns that it might lead to groundwater contamination and increased air pollution.

An estimated 25,000 to 30,000 new wells were drilled annually from 2011 to 2014, the report said. While fracking took place in at least 25 states, most of the activity occurred in four states: Texas, Colorado, Pennsylvania and North Dakota.

About 6,800 public drinking water sources serving more than 8.6 million people were located within 1 mile of a fracked well.

Head Strong

Texas doctors perform world's first skull-scalp transplant

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer



Opening a new frontier in transplant surgery, Texas doctors have done the world's first partial skull and scalp transplant to help a man who suffered a large head wound from cancer treatment.

Doctors from Houston Methodist Hospital and MD Anderson Cancer Center did the operation two weeks ago.

The recipient — Jim Boysen, a 55-year-old software developer from Austin — was expected to leave the hospital Thursday with a new kidney and pancreas along with the scalp and skull grafts. He said he was stunned at how well doctors matched him to a donor with similar skin and hair coloring.

"It's kind of shocking, really, how good they got it. I will have way more hair than when I was 21," Boysen joked.

Last year, doctors in the Netherlands said they replaced most of a woman's skull with a 3-D printed plastic one. The Texas operation is thought to be the first skull-scalp transplant from a human donor, as opposed to an artificial implant or a simple bone graft.

A RARE CANCER

Boysen had a kidney-pancreas transplant in 1992 to treat diabetes he has had since age 5 and has been on medication to prevent organ rejection. The immune-suppression drugs raise the risk of cancer, and he developed a rare type — leiomyosarcoma.

It can affect many types of smooth muscles, but in his case, it was the ones under the scalp that make your hair stand on end when something gives you the creeps.

Radiation therapy for the cancer destroyed part of his head, immune suppression drugs kept his body from repairing the damage, and his transplanted organs were starting to fail — "a perfect storm that made the wound not heal," Boysen said.

Yet doctors could not perform a new kidney-pancreas transplant as long as he had an open wound. That's when Dr. Jesse Selber, a reconstructive plastic surgeon at MD Anderson, thought of giving him a new partial skull and scalp at the same time as new organs as a solution to all of his problems.

THE OPERATION

Houston Methodist, which has transplant expertise, partnered on the venture. It took 18 months for the organ-procurement organization, LifeGift, to find the right donor, who provided all organs for Boysen and was not identified.

Boysen's wound extended through his skull to his brain, Selber said.

In a 15-hour operation by about a dozen doctors and 40 other health workers, Boysen was given a cap-shaped, 10-by-10-inch skull graft, and a 15-inch-wide scalp graft starting above his forehead, extending across the top of his head and over its crown.

Any surgery around the brain is difficult, and this one required delicate work to remove and replace a large part of the skull and re-establish a blood supply to keep the transplant viable.

"We had to connect small blood vessels about one-sixteenth of an inch thick. It's done under an operating microscope with little stitches about half the thickness of



PAT SULLIVAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas man Jim Boysen received the world's first skull and scalp transplant from a human donor at Houston Methodist Hospital on Thursday. Boysen underwent the transplant to help heal a large head wound from cancer.

a human hair, using tools like a jeweler would use to make a fine Swiss watch," said Dr. Michael Klebuc, who led the Houston Methodist plastic surgery team.

The pancreas and kidney were transplanted after the head surgery was done.

"It's a very ingenious solution" to the patient's problems, said one independent expert, Dr. Bohdan Pomahac, a reconstructive surgeon at Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. His hospital has done seven face transplants and three double-hand transplants and has plans to do arm and leg ones in the future.

IN WORKING ORDER

Boysen said he already has sensation in the new scalp.

"That kind of shocked the doctor. He was doing a test yesterday and I said, 'Ouch, I feel that.' He kind of jumped back," Boysen said.

The new scalp also was sweating in the hot room — another surprise so soon after the operation, he said.

"I'm still kind of in awe of it," Boysen said Thursday at a news conference at Houston Methodist. He will remain in Houston for two to three weeks for follow-up. He will need to keep his head covered because sunlight increases the chance of rejection, his doctors said.

"I'm glad the donor family had the generosity and insight to approve us doing this ... to get through their grief and approve the donation of this tissue besides the organs," said Dr. A. Osama Gaber, transplant chief at Houston Methodist.

Over the last decade, transplants once considered impossible have become a reality. More than two dozen face transplants have been done since the first one

in France in 2005; the first one in the U.S. was done in Cleveland in 2008.

More than 70 hand transplants have been done around the world.

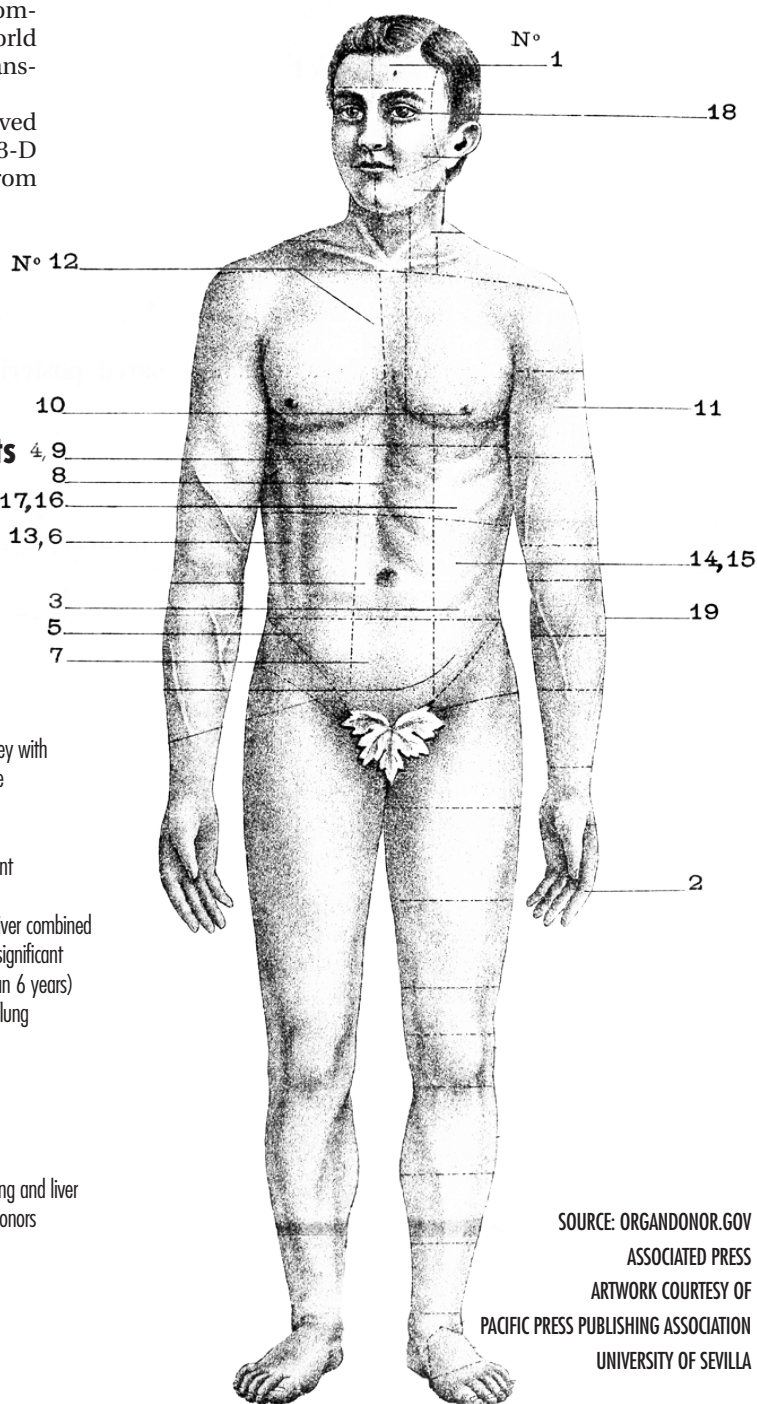
Last October, a Swedish woman became the first in the world to give birth after a womb transplant.

A host of patients have received transplants or implants of 3-D printed body parts, ranging from blood vessels to windpipes.

Timeline of Historical Firsts in Organ Transplants

Doctors in Houston have done the world's first scalp-skull transplant. The May 22 operation was to help a cancer patient with a large head wound. Here's a look at some other dates for first successful transplants:

- 2015 — Skull/scalp
- 1998 — Hand
- 1995 — Living donor kidney with improved surgical technique
- 1990 — Living donor lung
- 1989 — Small intestine
- 1988 — Split-liver transplant
- 1987 — Intestine
- 1986 — Lung, heart and liver combined
- 1983 — Single lung with significant recipient survival (more than 6 years)
- 1981 — Combined heart/lung
- 1968 — Bone marrow
- 1967 — Heart
- 1967 — Liver
- 1966 — Kidney/pancreas
- 1966 — Pancreas
- 1962/1963 — Kidney, lung and liver recovered from deceased donors
- 1954 — Kidney
- 1906 — Cornea
- 1869 — Skin transplant



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