

## Former Florida Gov. Has New Party Label

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Former Republican Gov. Charlie Crist was poised for a political comeback Tuesday as voters select a Democratic nominee to challenge Republican Gov. Rick Scott in Florida, one of four states where voters were choosing candidates for statewide office.

Crist, running against former state Sen. Nan Rich, has won three statewide races as a Republican, and it wasn't that long ago that he called himself a Ronald Reagan/Jeb Bush Republican. He was once considered a potential running mate for 2008 Republican presidential nominee John McCain and he had the backing of GOP leaders in a 2010 bid for Senate — until Marco Rubio used an image of Crist hugging President Barack Obama to chase Crist from the primary.

After campaigning for Obama in 2012 and completing his political transition later that year, Crist, 58, now is the favorite to win the Democratic nomination to face Scott. His opponent, Rich, has been running for governor longer than Crist has been a Democrat but lacks Crist's name recognition and money.

Scott, 72, who has minor primary opposition, has already anticipated that Crist will be his opponent. He's spent millions of dollars on ads criticizing Crist and pointing out how he has changed from opposing to supporting same-sex marriage, gun control and Obama's health care plan.

A Crist vs. Scott general election matchup would be sure to feature a high-profile debate over Obama's health care overhaul. Pressured by Republican legislators, Scott abandoned an initial call to expand Medicaid under the Democratic law. Crist has blasted the decision and, unlike many Democrats on the ballot this year, is an unapologetic cheerleader for the Affordable Care Act.

## US Says Egypt, UAE Behind Libya Strikes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Egypt and the United Arab Emirates secretly carried out airstrikes against Islamist militias inside Libya, the United States publicly acknowledged Tuesday, another sharp jolt to American-led attempts over the past three years to stabilize Libya after dictator Moammar Gadhafi's overthrow.

One official said Egypt, the UAE and Saudi Arabia for months have been supporting a renegade general's campaign against Libyan militant groups, but that the Saudis don't appear to have played a role in recent strikes. The Libyan government is too weak and disorganized to fight the militants itself. Another official said the U.S. was aware that Egypt and UAE were planning strikes and warned them against it. Neither U.S. ally notified Washington before launching the strikes, officials said.

"Outside interference in Libya exacerbates current divisions and undermines Libya's democratic transition," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters. She said Libya was in a "very fragile place."

But U.S.-led international efforts to secure the country clearly are fraying as impatience in the region grows. Libya is undergoing its worst violence since rebels ousted Gadhafi in 2011. Tripoli's international airport is largely destroyed and diplomats, foreign nationals and thousands of Libyans have fled. The U.S. embassy there is closed, nearly two years after the U.S. ambassador was killed while visiting Benghazi.

Since then, powerful militias have seized power and the central government has proved unable to create a strong police force or unified military. In recent months, Islamist fighters have confronted a backlash, losing their power in parliament and facing a counteroffensive by former Gadhafi and rebel Gen. Khalifa Hifter. Washington doesn't support the general. But some of Libya's neighbors, fearful of the growing power of the Islamist extremists, are helping him.

Global warming already dangerous, risks being irreversible, says new UN global warming report.

## Report: 1,400 Children Sexually Exploited

LONDON (AP) — About 1,400 children were sexually exploited in a northern England town, a report concluded Tuesday in a damning account of "collective failures" by authorities to prevent victims as young as 11 from being beaten, raped and trafficked over a 16-year period.

Report author Alexis Jay cited appalling acts of violence between 1997 and 2013 in Rotherham, a town of some 250,000. The independent report came after a series of convictions of sexual predators in the region and ground-breaking reports in the Times of London.

Reading descriptions of the abuse make it hard to imagine that nothing was done for so long. The report described rapes by multiple perpetrators, mainly from Britain's Pakistani community, and how children were trafficked to other towns and cities in the north of England, abducted, beaten and intimidated.

## OBITUARIES

### Johanna Steffen

Johanna M. Steffen, 106, of Crofton, Nebraska died on Sunday, Aug. 24, 2014 at Park View Haven Nursing in Coleridge, Nebraska.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Friday, Aug. 29, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Crofton with the Rev. Michael Schmitz officiating. Burial will be at the St. Rose cemetery in Crofton.

Visitation will be on Thursday, at church, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. with a vigil service at 7:00 p.m. Visitation will continue at church on Friday one hour prior to services.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Wintz Funeral Home in Crofton. Pallbearers will be David Wortmann, Ray Steffen, Jason Steffen, Sherry Schrader, Sara Wright and Craig Steffen.

Johanna Sophie Maurgarite Steffen was born on Jan. 19, 1908 in Crookston, Nebraska to Jacob and Henrietta (Sauerwein) Vanderheiden. She grew up in Crookston, NE and attended school at the Old Rock School until she was nine years old. She moved with her parents to Laurel where she attended Golden Prairie

School and then high school in Laurel. During her senior year, Johanna's mother became ill and required her to care for the family and work on the farm. Johanna was 33 years old when she married Gregory W. Steffen (age 31) on Aug. 26, 1941 in Laurel, NE. They lived and farmed southwest of Fordyce. In 1947, they moved to a farm three miles north of Crofton on Hwy 121. Greg died on Dec. 26, 1972 at the age of 62 years as a result of a farm accident. Johanna died on her husband Greg's birthday.

She was a member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Christian Mothers and Catholic Daughters of America for over 50 years. She belonged to the St. Rose Quilting Club where she made many quilts through the years. Johanna was known for her "big" #2 can size sugar cookies. She gardened, bowled and was an avid card player.

Johanna is survived by her six children and spouses Francis and Carolyn Steffen of Crofton, Nancy and Richard Wortmann of Crofton, Thomas and Donna Steffen of Crofton, Kathleen and Ralph Juergens of Goodlettsville, TN, Jane and Terry Wright of Star, Idaho, Ed and Arlene Steffen of Crofton; 19 grandchildren; 44 great grandchildren; one brother Ernest Vanderheiden of Sanborn, IA; two sisters Elizabeth Dicks of Wayne, NE, Lucina Gallagher of Liberty, IL; many nieces and nephews.



Steffen

preceding her in death were her parents, husband Greg; one great grandson Justin Andresen; great granddaughter Cornelia Schrader; four brothers, Jacob, Henry, Gerhart, and John Vanderheiden; one sister Mary Kalin.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
August 27, 2014

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# Obama Addresses Vets In Trip Laden With Politics

BY JIM KUHNHENN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three months after a veterans' health care scandal rocked his administration, President Barack Obama is taking executive action to improve the mental well-being of veterans. The president was to announce his initiatives during an appearance before the American Legion National Convention that is fraught with midterm politics.

The president's address to the legionnaires Tuesday in Charlotte, North Carolina, is the latest administration response to the health care lapses that led to the resignation of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki in May.

The White House says Obama will announce administration steps to strengthen access to mental health care by members of the military, to improve the transition for those leaving the military from care administered by the Defense Department to that run by Veterans Affairs and to foster suicide prevention and better treatments for post-traumatic stress syndrome.

For Obama, however, the visit to North Carolina has a heavy political subtext as well. The state's Democratic senator, Kay Hagan, is in a difficult re-election race and Obama is not popular in the state. Hagan was scheduled to speak to the American Legion too, but her spokeswoman declined to say whether she would appear on stage with the president.

The campaign of Hagan's Republican opponent, Thom Tillis, accused Hagan of being a "rubber stamp" for



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/MCT  
**U.S. President Barack Obama arrives on the South Lawn of the White House after returning from Charlotte, N.C., yesterday where he unveiled a new plan offering better care for veterans.**

Obama and "compliant with the administration's failure to provide our veterans with the health care that they deserve."

Obama also could face a skeptical audience. In a July Associated Press-GfK poll, Obama's approval rating among veterans and veterans' households lagged behind his overall approval rating at just 33 percent, with 66 percent disapproving.

Eager to distance herself from the president, Hagan issued a statement Friday ahead of the Legion convention saying the administration "has not yet done enough to earn the lasting trust of our veterans."

Obama's address to the veterans also comes as his administration considers whether to confront Islamic State militants by taking military action against them in Syria. U.S. officials said Monday that Obama has author-

ized surveillance flights over Syria, and a third said they have already begun, a move that could pave the way for U.S. airstrikes against Islamic State militant targets in that country.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama was not likely to offer any details about his policy in the region.

Earlier this month, Obama signed a \$16.3 billion law aimed at easing the long waits that tens of thousands of military veterans had endured to get medical care.

The law, a product of rare bipartisanship in the House and Senate, followed reports of veterans dying while awaiting appointments to see VA doctors and of a widespread practice of employees covering up months-long wait times for appointments. In some cases, employees received bonuses based on falsified records.

The VA says investigators have found no proof that delays in care caused any deaths at a VA hospital in Phoenix.

Moving beyond the steps included in the law, the White House said Obama intended to take executive actions that:

— Automatically enroll military personnel who are receiving care for mental health conditions and are leaving the service in a program that transfers them to a new care team in the VA.

— Undertake a study designed to detect whether people show signs of being vulnerable to suicide or post-traumatic stress syndrome.

— Spends \$34.4 million in a VA suicide prevention study and about \$80 million on a program to treat diseases, including post-traumatic stress syndrome.

# No Sign Of Quick End To Ukraine Conflict

BY NATALIYA VASILYEVA AND  
PETER LEONARD  
Associated Press

MINSK, Belarus — Ukraine's president said Wednesday that Vladimir Putin accepts the principles of a peace plan for Ukraine but the Russian leader insisted that only Kiev can reach a cease-fire deal with the pro-Moscow separatists.

Following meetings between Putin and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko that included a one-on-one session that stretched into the night, there was no indication of a quick end to the

fighting that has engulfed eastern Ukraine.

"This is not our business," Putin said of any cease-fire plan. "This is Ukraine's business."

Russia "can only help to create an atmosphere of trust for this important and necessary process," Putin said. "We in Russia cannot talk about any conditions for the cease-fire, about any agreements between Kiev, Donetsk, Luhansk," the two rebel regions.

Although Poroshenko told reporters that he had secured support for a peace plan from leaders who

attended the summit and Putin called the sessions "overall positive," the first substantial encounter between the two leaders did not produce a breakthrough in efforts to end the fighting.

If anything, there were signs of spreading violence. For the past two days, heavy shelling hit an area of southeast Ukraine that had escaped the intense fighting of recent weeks, and Ukrainian officials said the pro-Russia separatists it has been battling were aiming to open a new front.

The meeting in the Belarusian capital, Minsk, also came on the same day that Ukraine said it captured 10 Russian soldiers who had come over the border.

Putin did not directly address the allegation but appeared to tacitly recognize it and suggested that the soldiers simply had become lost.

"I haven't received a report from the defense ministry and the general staff yet, but the first thing I have heard is that that they were patrolling the border and may have found themselves

on the Ukrainian territory," Putin said.

Shortly after becoming president in June, Poroshenko put forth a peace plan that included an amnesty for those not accused of serious crimes and called for some decentralization of power to the region.

Early Wednesday, he said "I can say that the logic of this peaceful plan was finally supported by all, without exclusion, of the heads of state," according to the Interfax news agency.

However, Putin said there was no specific talk about implementing a cease-fire because Russia is not a party to the conflict. Moscow is accused by Kiev and the West of arming and supporting the rebels — a charge the Kremlin denies — and it is not clear how much it is willing or able to try to pressure them into ending the fighting.

Besides their face-to-face talks, Putin and Poroshenko also met Tuesday with the presidents of Kazakhstan and Belarus and top European Union officials.

## IN REMEMBRANCE

### Johanna Steffen

10:30 AM, Friday  
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## Labor Day Deadlines

**The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan will be closed Monday, September 1, for the Labor Day holiday.**

The following deadlines will apply:

Out On The Town..... Noon, Wednesday, August 27  
Tuesday, September 2 newspaper..... 5 p.m., Wednesday, August 27  
Wednesday, September 3 newspaper..... 5 p.m., Thursday, August 28  
Thursday, September 4 newspaper..... 5 p.m., Friday, August 29

**There will be no newspaper on Monday, September 1, 2014**

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**Are pleased to announce that  
Thomas P. Reynolds has joined  
the firm as an associate.**



Thomas graduated with honors from the University of South Dakota School of Law. He also has a Master's Degree in business from the University of South Dakota and a Bachelor's Degree in business from the University of North Dakota. After law school, Thomas served as law clerk for the First Judicial Circuit of South Dakota. He practices in the areas of business law, family law, and personal injury and is licensed to practice in South Dakota and Nebraska.

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