NEWSROOM: News@yankton.net

Documents: Chicago Archdiocese Hid Decades Of Child Sex Abuse

BY TAMMY WEBBER AND RACHEL ZOLL Associated Press

CHICAGO — Top leaders at the Archdiocese of Chicago helped hide the sexual abuse of children as they struggled to contain a growing crisis, according to thousands of pages of internal documents that raise new questions about how Cardinal Francis George handled the allegations even after the church adopted reforms.

The documents, released through settlements between attorneys for the archdiocese and victims, describe how priests for decades were moved from parish to parish while the archdiocese hid the clerics' histories from the public, often with the approval of the late Cardinals John Cody and Joseph

Although the abuse documented in the files occurred before George became archbishop in 1997, many victims did not come forward until after he was appointed and after U.S. bishops pledged in 2002 to keep all accused priests out of ministry.

George delayed removing the Rev. Joseph R. Bennett, despite learning that the priest had been accused of sexually abusing girls and boys decades earlier. Even the board the cardinal appointed to help him evaluate abuse claims advised George that Bennett should be removed.

"I realize this creates a rather awkward situation, but I believe I need to reflect on this matter further," George wrote in a Nov. 7, 2005, letter to an archdiocese child protection official. Also against the advice of his board, George had Bennett monitored by another priest who was a friend and who vacationed with Bennett.

Allegations against Bennett continued well after 2002. He has denied any wrongdoing in his communications with the archdiocese, but was forced out of ministry on Feb.



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

Victims of abuse by priests attend a press conference Tuesday at the Allerton Hotel in Chicago about documents released by the Archdiocese of Chicago detailing sex abuse

3, 2006, according to the newly public docu-

George tried to get another priest, Norbert Maday, released early from a Wisconsin prison, where he was serving time after a 1994 conviction for molesting two boys, documents show.

He also has apologized for how he handled allegations against former priest Daniel McCormack, who pleaded guilty in 2007 to abusing five children and whose case prompted an internal investigation of how the archdiocese responds to abuse claims.

"The issue is not when the abuse happened; the issue is what they did once it was reported," said Chicago attorney Marc Pearlman, who has represented about 200

victims of clergy abuse in the Chicago area.

While disturbing stories of clergy sexual abuse have wrenched the Roman Catholic Church across the globe, the newly released documents offer the broadest look yet into how one of its largest and most prominent American dioceses responded to the scandal, even years after the abuse occurred.

The documents, posted online Tuesday by victims' attorneys, cover only 30 of the at least 65 clergy for whom the archdiocese says it has substantiated claims of child abuse. Vatican documents related to the 30 cases were not included, under the negotiated terms of the disclosure. Victims' attorneys say they're working to get files on the other 35 priests.

Former Va. Gov. Indicted For Corruption

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell and his wife were indicted Tuesday on corruption charges after a monthslong federal investigation into thousands of dollars in gifts the Republican received from a businessman and political donor.

A bond hearing and arraignment is set for both defendants Friday in U.S. District Court in Richmond.

"Today's charges represent the Justice Department's continued commitment to rooting out public corruption at all levels of government," Acting Assistant Attorney General Raman said in a news release. "Ensuring that elected officials uphold the public's trust is one of our most critical responsibilities.'

McDonnell left office earlier this month after four years in the governor's office. Virginia law limits governors to a single

A federal investigation overshadowed the final months in office for the once-rising star of the Republican Party, with authorities looking into gifts he and his family received from Jonnie Williams, the former CEO of dietary supplements maker Star Scientific.

Obama, Pope Francis To Meet In March

WASHINGTON (AP) — When President Barack Obama meets Pope Francis in the Vatican in March, both men will speak a common economic language rooted in similar views about poverty and income inequality, giving prominence to an issue that the U.S. president wants to be a central theme of his second

In the complicated relationship between the Obama administration and the Catholic Church, the White House sees the popular new pontiff and his emphasis on the plight of the poor as a form of moral validation of the president's economic agenda. When Obama delivered a major address on the economy last month, he cited the growth of inequality across the developed world and made sure to note that "the pope himself spoke about this at eloquent length."

The White House and the Vatican announced Tuesday that Obama will meet with the pope on March 27 during a four-day European trip that includes a nuclear security summit in the Netherlands and a U.S.-European Union summit in Brussels. The meeting is the first between the president and Pope Francis.

Obama had an audience with the previous pope, Benedict XVI, in July 2009. At the time, the Vatican underscored the deep disagreement between them on abortion. Benedict gave the president a copy of a Vatican document on bioethics that asserted the church's opposition to using embryos for stem cell research, cloning and in-vitro fertilization. Obama supports stem cell research.

sexuality, same-sex marriage and abortion haven't changed.



Francis

Francis has made it clear that Catholic positions on homo-

Christie Sworn In Amid Scandal

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Gov. Chris Christie sought to turn back the clock as he was sworn into a second term Tuesday, saying voters gave him a mandate in November to "stay the course" and put aside partisan differences, even as Democrats ramped up an investigation into whether his administration abused its power.

Christie, considered a likely Republican presidential candidate in 2016, was inaugurated amid a snowstorm that forced him to cancel an evening celebration on Ellis Island, and then gave an 18-minute address that dwelled on his 22-point election victory in the fall. He did not mention the investigations that have already led to the firing or departure of four top aides or associates

The people making up a broad coalition that returned him to office, he said, "have demanded that we stay the course

"It was the largest and loudest voice of affirmation that the people of our state have given to any direction in three decades," Christie said, noting priorities including the economy, education and improving access to jobs for recovering drug addicts. "We have no moral option but to heed the voice of the voters, and that is exactly what I intend to do.

His speech came less than an hour after Democratic lawmakers announced they were consolidating twin probes into allegations that aides engineered traffic jams in September in the community of Fort Lee as political retribution, apparently against the town's mayor for not endorsing his re-election bid.

Another Snowstorm Hits The Northeast jacket and huddling beneath

BY KATHY MATHESON AND MICHAEL RUBINKAM Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A swirling snowstorm clobbered parts of the mid-Atlantic and the urban Northeast on Tuesday, grounding thousands of flights, closing government offices in the nation's capital and making a mess of the evening commute.

The storm stretched 1,000 miles between Kentucky and Massachusetts but hit especially hard along the heavily populated Interstate 95 corridor between Philadelphia and Boston, creating perilous rides home for millions of motorists.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said 10 inches of snow had fallen just outside Philadelphia in Drexel Hill by Tuesday evening and there was about 6 inches in Philadelphia. The National Weather Service said parts of New York City also had about 6 inches.

The snow came down harder and faster than many



ALGERINA PERNA/BALTIMORE SUN/MCT Two plows clear the sidewalk on the northwest side of Pratt and Calvert Streets in Baltimore on Tuesday.

people expected. Forecasters said some places could get 1 to 2 inches an hour, with wind gusts up to 50 mph. A blizzard warning was posted for parts of Massachusetts, including

Highways in the New York City metropolitan area were

jammed, and blowing snow tripled or even quadrupled drive times.

"I just want to get to the Bronx," motorist Peter Neuwens lamented. "It's a big

place. Why can't I get there?" In Jersey City, N.J., Stanley Gaines, wearing just a thin

face, said he had been stuck for more than an hour waiting for a ride home from his appointment at a Veterans Affairs "I'm waiting on anything I

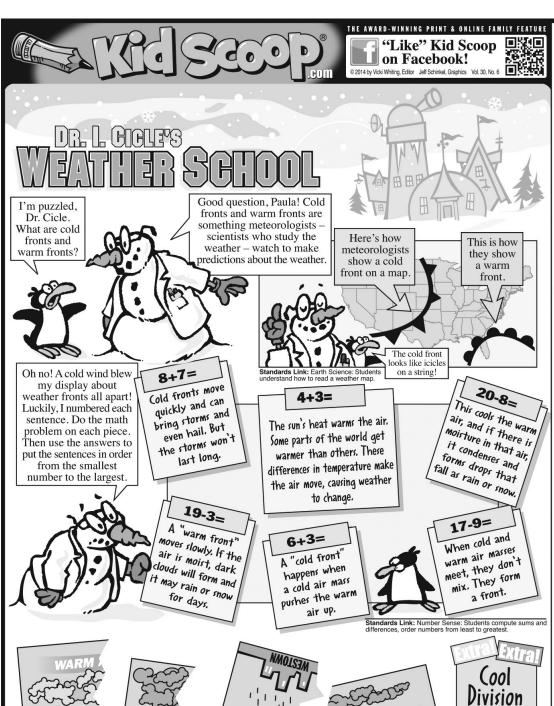
an overhang as snow stung his

can get: a taxi, a shuttle, a bus," Gaines said, squinting to read the destination on an approaching bus in near white-out conditions. "I didn't really pay attention to the weather this morning because there was no snow on the ground,

In White Plains, N.Y., Anthony Schirrone pulled over his car to scrape snow from the windshield.

"I just did this five minutes ago," he said. "But it's coming down too fast.'

Forecasters said the storm could bring up to 14 inches of snow to Philadelphia and southern New England and up to a foot in New York City, to be followed by bitter cold as arctic air from Canada streams in. Washington was expecting 4 to 8 inche

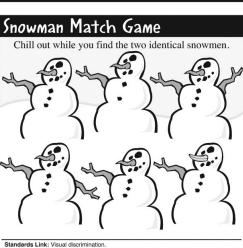


Help Paula Predict the Weather

cold front and warm front symbols to help you predict.

Look at the two weather puzzles. Which town is most likely to have stormy weather? Use the

Standards Link: Earth Science: Students understand that weather can be observed and predicted; different conditions affect different results.



Find the words in the puzzle, **WEATHER** then in this week's Kid Scoop **FRONTS** stories and activities. **SYMBOLS** ERUTSIOMSP **CONDENSES** SNOSDCFRER **STORMS SNOWMEN** TLALMORFSE WARM OMORLEOGND WATCH RCABHDNWEI **MOISTURE** MWTTMOTADC **CHILL** SPAMLYSTNT COLD MASS NEMWONSCON LAST WTSALLIHCS LONG

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognizing identical

Weather Watchers

PREDICT

Search through

he newspaper for the following

Numbers

Numbers

divisible by 2 Numbers

divisible by 3

divisible by 5

tandards Link: Numb

Look through the newspaper for three people and/or companies who need to watch the weather to make decisions. For example, outdoor games can be canceled if the weather is bad. Tell how the weather can affect each of the weather watchers you selected.

It was so cold that...

Finish this story.



1. Mix together:

- One 8-oz package of cream cheese. softened at room temperature
- 1 cup shredded Italian cheese blend

2. Divide

Divide the mixture into two parts and mold each into a small ball.

3. Roll & Chill

Roll each ball in grated Parmesan cheese and refrigerate until firm, at least four

4. Stack 'em Up!

Stack the two "snowballs" and decorate like a snowman. Ideas:

- nose: carrot
- eyes and buttons: raisins or nuts
- · hat: stack some crackers (use cheese as glue)
- scarf: green onion, carrot or radish shavings
- · mouth: red pepper

Standards Link: Reading Compre Follow simple written directions.