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Iverson Has High Hopes At NBA Draft Combine

Obama Ousts IRS Director Amid Scandal

President Hopes To Diffuse Growing Controversy With Move

BY STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hurrying to check a growing controversy, President Barack Obama ousted the acting commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service late Wednesday amid an outcry over revelations that the agency had improperly targeted tea party groups for scrutiny when they filed for tax-exempt status.

Obama said Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew had asked for and accepted Steven T. Miller's resignation. Obama made no public criticism of Miller but spoke of inexcusable "misconduct" by IRS employees and said new leadership at the agency was critical.

"Americans are right to be angry about it, and I am angry about it," Obama said in a televised statement from the White House. "I will not tolerate this kind of behavior in any agency but especially in the IRS, given the power that it has and the reach that it has into all of our lives."

Meanwhile, the FBI is investigating potential civil rights violations at the IRS, Attorney General Eric Holder said earlier Wednesday. Other potential crimes include making false statements to authorities and violating the Hatch Act, which prohibits federal employees from engaging in some partisan political activities, Holder said.

Miller, a 25-year IRS veteran, took over the agency in November, when the five-year term of Commissioner Douglas Shulman ended.

In an email to employees, Miller said, "This has been an incredibly difficult time for the IRS given the events of the past few days, and there is a strong and immediate need to restore public trust in the nation's tax agency. I believe the Service will benefit from having a new acting commissioner in place during this challenging period."



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/MCT
President Barack Obama delivers a statement on the case surrounding the Internal Revenue Service's targeting of political groups after meeting with U.S. Treasury officials Wednesday White House in Washington.

At the time when tea party groups were targeted, Miller was a deputy commissioner who oversaw the division that dealt with tax-exempt organizations.

An inspector general's report does not indicate that Miller knew conservative groups were being targeted until after the practice ended. But documents show that Miller repeatedly failed to tell Congress that tea party groups were being targeted, even after he had been briefed on the matter.

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Yankton County Emergency Management Director Paul Scherschligt (left) interacts with Tim Engle during Wednesday's full-scale emergency operations center exercise in Yankton County.

Planning For Action

Yankton County Responders Learn From Emergency Exercise

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Emergency responders from Yankton County dealt with a scenario Wednesday that was all too familiar to area residents this year: A late winter/early spring storm dropped 12-14 inches of snow along with up to an inch of rain.

It was part of a full-scale emergency operations center (EOC) exercise aimed at helping responders train for potential disasters.

The scenario was created by Clark County emergency responders, who also observed and evaluated the performance of Yankton County officials. Local responders did the same for Clark County earlier this week. Among the nearly two dozen participants Wednesday were firefighters, law enforcement and EMS responders.

Unlike the exercise organized at the Yankton Federal Prison Camp a couple weeks ago, Wednesday's activities did not include

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State Taking Over Freeman Police Chief's Case

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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FREEMAN — The South Dakota Attorney General's office will prosecute the case involving a Freeman police chief facing three misdemeanor drug charges.

Eric Seitz has been indicted on three counts of obtaining controlled substances concurrently from different medical practitioners, a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Each charge carries a maximum punishment of one year imprisonment in a county jail and a \$2,000 fine, along with any restitution ordered by the court.

The Yankton County state's attorney's office had been prosecuting the case, but it has been turned over to state officials.

The attorney general's office generally takes on such cases when

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Senate OKs Measure Blocking Fees For Mo. River Water

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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South Dakota's senators are hailing what they see as the first step in stopping the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from charging for water storage.

The U.S. Senate amendment, passed Wednesday, seeks to block the Corps from charging residents and businesses a surplus water fee for access to Missouri River reservoirs.

The legislation, known as the States' Water Rights Act, was adopted into the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

The amendment was sponsored by Sens. John Thune and Tim Johnson of South Dakota, Sens. John Hoeven and Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Sen. Max Baucus of Montana.

The legislation must now pass the U.S. House and then receive President Obama's signature, Thune told the *Press & Dakotan*.

"We believe (the Corps proposal) would be a violation of state's rights and federalism, and there would be no legal basis

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PHOTO: PHOTOGRAPHY BY JERRY
After volunteering for Riverboat Days for decades, Gary and Velma Kuchta will be serving as this year's Captain and Belle. As part of the honor, they will promote Yankton and the festival at numerous events throughout the summer. The Kuchtas said they were shocked when they found out about the honor.

Gary, Velma Kuchta Set To Serve As Captain And Belle

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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After volunteering during Riverboat Days weekend in Yankton for decades, Gary and Velma Kuchta are now taking on their biggest duties of all, serving as this year's Captain and Belle.

Velma Kuchta had served on the Riverboat Days board for nearly a decade as a secretary, while also helping out with behind-the-scenes aspects at the event.

Gary has volunteered driving the courtesy cart at the festival and has also helped out with behind-the-scenes work, as well.

"After I had retired from the Riverboat Days board, we just kept on volunteering for various Riverboat Days shifts," Velma said. "It's hard not to be involved with Riverboat Days after you've been involved for so many years."

Katie Greene, Riverboat Days board secretary, said board members all thought it would be a good idea to ask the Kuchtas to represent the event as Captain and Belle.

"They have always been very active in Riverboat Days," she said. "They're always willing to do everything and anything people ask them to do to help out."

The Riverboat Days board typically asks for nominations for Captain and Belle from the public beginning at the start of the year.

"The whole idea is for people to be nominated who have impacted Yankton and done things to promote Riverboat Days," she said. "The Captain and Belle will go to various events throughout the summer and promote the festival, so we typically look for people who already do that."

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