

Senate Passes Bipartisan Iran Bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate muscled its way into President Barack Obama's talks to curb Iran's nuclear program, overwhelmingly backing legislation Thursday that would let Congress review and possibly reject any final deal with Tehran.

The vote was 98-1 for the bipartisan bill that would give Congress a say on what could be a historic accord that the United States and five other nations are trying to finalize with Iran. Under the agreement, Iran would roll back its nuclear program in exchange for relief from crippling economy penalties.

The lone "no" vote came from freshman Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., who wants the administration to submit any agreement to the Senate as a treaty. Under the Constitution, that would require approval of two-thirds of the Senate.

The House is expected to vote next week on the measure.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said in a statement moments after the vote that the "goal is to stop a bad agreement that could pave the way to a nuclear-armed Iran, set off a regional nuclear arms race, and strengthen and legitimize the government of Iran."

Congressman Flipped Shares In IPO

WASHINGTON (AP) — A multimillionaire, first-term Florida congressman flipped shares in a solar company the same day he acquired them in an initial public offering, despite a federal law that generally prohibits members of Congress from participating in IPOs.

Republican Rep. Curt Clawson, who gave the tea party's response to the president's State of the Union address earlier this year, earned less than \$700 profit on the sale of less than \$15,000 in shares of SolarEdge Technologies Inc. of Fremont, California, according to financial records and Clawson's spokesman, David James.

And James says the trade on March 26 was lawful. "We feel like every requirement of the law was met," he said Thursday.

Despite the small stakes, however, the trade may test a provision of a 2012 law, the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act. Known as the Stock Act, it was intended to prevent members of Congress and legislative employees from using inside information or profiting in unseemly ways. One provision bans lawmakers and staff members from buying stock during initial offerings unless the same opportunity is "available to members of the public generally."

The House Ethics Committee has twice formally reminded lawmakers that the general public is rarely allowed to participate in IPOs, and it advises members of Congress to ask its advice in advance to determine whether such a purchase by them would be permissible.

Storms Cause Damage In Midwest

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Many residents across the southern Plains were left to rifle through their rubble after violent weather struck Tornado Alley.

Wednesday's storms included more than four dozen reported tornadoes, causing damage in Oklahoma, Texas, Nebraska and Kansas. Most twisters remained in rural areas, but a pair of storms struck the Oklahoma City area three hours apart. Heavy rains accompanying the twisters swamped the region, too, and one woman drowned after a storm shelter filled with water. Several people were injured.

The storms ripped apart homes, stripped siding and roofs from buildings and overturned cars.

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin declared a state of emergency for a dozen hard-hit counties.

Forecasters say more bad weather is possible in the same area Friday and Saturday. The likelihood of another round of storms so soon left some wondering whether they should wait to start cleaning up.

NSA Phone Collection Ruled Illegal

NEW YORK (AP) — The unprecedented and unwarranted bulk collection of the entire U.S. population's phone records by the government is illegal because it wasn't authorized by Congress, a federal appeals court said Thursday as it asked legislators to balance national security and privacy interests.

A three-judge panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan permitted the National Security Agency program to continue temporarily as it exists, but it all but pleaded for Congress to better define where boundaries exist or risk "invasions of privacy unimaginable in the past."

The appeals court said if the government is correct in its legal arguments, it could also justify storing in bulk metadata associated with Americans' financial records, medical records and electronic communications, including email and social media information.

An opinion written by Circuit Judge Gerald Lynch said Congress could "profoundly alter the legal landscape" after debate.

"Congress cannot reasonably be said to have ratified a program of which many members of Congress - and all members of the public - were not aware," it said.

FBI Sent Out Bulletin About Gunman Before Texas Attack

BY ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal investigators learned several hours before a provocative cartoon contest in Texas that a man under investigation for extremist activities might show up and alerted local authorities, but had no indication that he planned to attack the event, FBI Director James Comey said Thursday.

The information about Elton Simpson was developed about three hours before the contest, which the FBI had already identified as a potential target for violence because it involved cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad. Simpson and his roommate, both from Phoenix, opened fire outside the Garland, Texas, event center but were shot dead before they were able to kill anyone.

Simpson, previously convicted in a terrorism-related investigation, had come under new federal scrutiny in recent months related to online posts expressing interest in jihad. When the FBI learned that he could be heading toward the event, the agency sent an intelligence bulletin to police in Garland, including a picture and other information, "even though we didn't have reason to believe that he was going to attack the event. In fact, we didn't have reason to believe that he had left Phoenix," Comey said.

The FBI had been monitoring the event, even establishing a command post at its Dallas field office, based on concerns about the potential for violence. Drawings such as the ones featured at the event are deemed insulting to many followers of Islam and have sparked violence around the world. Mainstream Islamic tradition holds that

any physical depiction of the Prophet Muhammad, even a respectful one, is blasphemous.

Comey, making his first public comments on the Sunday shooting, did not disclose steps he said the FBI could have taken to prevent the attack and said those questions were still being evaluated.

But, "what I've seen so far looks like we did it the way we were supposed to do it," Comey said.

The FBI director said the attempted attack highlights the difficulties the FBI faces, at a time when social media has helped facilitate communication between potential homegrown extremists, in differentiating between those who merely make inflammatory comments online and those prepared to act on them. The Islamic State has many thousand English-language followers around the world on Twitter, including many in the United States, he said.

Simpson himself was apparently an active Twitter user. An account linked to him included a tweet posted shortly before the shooting that said, "May Allah accept us as mujahideen," or holy warriors.

"I know there are other Elton Simpsons out there," he said.

The shooting is part of what authorities have long considered an alarming trend involving would-be recruits for whom technology makes it easier to be exposed to Islamic State propaganda. Beyond the communications that occur in the open, the Islamic State group increasingly makes contact with followers and steers them into forums that allow for encrypted communications that can be harder for law enforcement officials to access.

The terror group has been encour-

aging its followers to travel to Syria to join the self-created caliphate there, but if they can't do that, to "kill where you are," Comey said.

"The siren song sits in the pockets, on the mobile phones, of the people who are followers on Twitter," Comey said. "It's almost as if there's a devil sitting on the shoulder, saying 'Kill! Kill! Kill! Kill!' all day long."

Simpson came under FBI investigation in 2006 and was convicted five years later following a terrorism-related investigation stemming from what prosecutors said were his plans to travel to Somalia to fight alongside militants there. He was sentenced to three years of probation for making false statements to a federal agent.

The FBI continued to track him for several years after that, but closed the investigation last year. In March authorities opened a new investigation into his activities after suspecting a "renewed interest in jihad" in connection with the Islamic State group, Comey said.

He said that investigation was "open, but far from complete" at the time of the shooting.

Ahead of the Texas cartoon contest, the FBI was flagging for local authorities individuals who it thought were interested in the event and might potentially go, including Simpson. The FBI routinely supplies local law enforcement with bulletins when there is important security information it wants to convey.

Garland police department spokesman Joe Harn would not confirm that the department received an intelligence bulletin about Simpson. Messages left with the Texas Department of Public Safety were not immediately returned.

Exit Poll: Conservatives Surprisingly Strong In UK

BY JILL LAWLESS
AND DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON — The Conservative Party fared much better than expected in British parliamentary elections Thursday, an exit poll projected, suggesting that Prime Minister David Cameron is within touching distance of forming a new government.

The opposition Labour Party of Ed Miliband took a beating, according to the poll, much of it due to the rise of the separatist Scottish National Party. The poll said the SNP would take all but one of the 59 seats in Scotland, most of them from Labour.

Cameron's coalition partner, the Liberal Democrat Party, was expected to lose most of its seats on a night that shook the grip of Britain's three biggest parties.

The exit poll, based on interviews with 22,000 voters, differed strongly from opinion polls conducted during the month-long election campaign, which had put the Conservatives and Labour neck-and-neck with about a third of the vote share each.

London Mayor Boris Johnson, who is running for a seat in Parliament as a Conservative, said that if the poll is accurate, "then obviously it's a very, very clear victory for the Conservatives and a very bad night for Labour."

Political leaders warned against jumping to conclusions before full results are

in, and some expressed skepticism about the poll.

"I have to say it just doesn't feel right," said long-time Labour adviser Alistair Campbell.

Former Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown was equally skeptical, telling the BBC: "I'll bet you my hat, eaten on your program, that it is wrong."

But early results backed the poll's general trend: In the first constituencies announced, Labour gained some votes from the Conservatives but picked up fewer than needed from the collapse in Liberal Democrat support, and lost votes in some areas to the U.K. Independence Party.

The exit poll projected that the Conservatives would get 316 seats — up from 302 and far more than had been predicted — and Labour 239, down from 256. The Liberal Democrats would shrink from 56 seats to 10, while the Scottish nationalists would grow from six to 58, all but one of Scotland's seats.

If the exit poll is accurate, the Conservative Party would be in a commanding position to form the next government by seeking partners from smaller parties.

There could be a re-run of the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition that has governed since 2010. The poll put the two parties' total at 326 — just over half the 650 seats in the House of Commons.

Cameron could also seek support from the right-of-center Democratic Unionists in Northern Ireland, who had eight seats before the election, or the anti-European, anti-immigration U.K. Independence Party.

SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon tweeted that supporters should "treat the exit poll with HUGE caution. I'm hoping for a good night but I think 58 seats is unlikely!"

The chief exit pollster, John Curtice of Strathclyde University, said the methodology was the same as in 2010, when the poll turned out to be very accurate. He said it looked as if Conservative and Labour gains had canceled each other out across England and Wales, and that Labour had lost much of its support in Scotland to the SNP.

Curtice said the early results were "in line with the exit poll," adding that a Conservative majority couldn't be ruled out.

The survey was conducted by pollsters GfK and Ipsos MORI for Britain's broadcasters and released as polling stations closed and the counting began.

The seat of Houghton and Sunderland South in north-east England was the first to complete the traditional election-night ritual: Votes in each of the 650 constituencies are counted by hand and the candidates — each wearing a bright rosette in the color of their party — line up onstage

as a returning officer reads out the results. Houghton and Sunderland South went to Labour, as expected.

UKIP ran third in opinion polls, but the exit poll predicted it would win just two seats because its support isn't concentrated in specific areas.

Leader Nigel Farage has said he will resign if he does not win the seat of Thanet South — an outcome that looked a distinct possibility as the votes were counted.

All day across the nation of 64 million people, voters streamed to schools, churches and even pubs for a say in their country's future. About 50 million people were registered to vote, and turnout appeared to be high.

The carefully stage-managed campaign had lacked impromptu drama, but many voters felt that the stakes were high in an election that shattered the dominance of the major parties.

"This is the most exciting election I can remember," said Lesley Milne, a 48-year-old from Glasgow. "It's time to shake up the politicians in London and the SNP are the people to do it."

Television debate appearances in which the public put questions directly to the politicians made plain that many distrust promises to safeguard the economy, protect the National Health Service from severe cutbacks and control the number of immigrants from eastern Europe.

Drought

From Page 1A

However, the current rainfall becomes a small amount when measured against the overall needs, according to figures from South Dakota assistant state climatologist Colin McKellar. "The current year-to-date moisture deficit for Yankton is measured at 3.82 inches," he told the *Press & Dakotan*. "Also, the general area of Yankton County has common precipitation deficits of 3-4 inches."

The region came out of winter with very low snowpack, Todey said.

The situation worsened with parts of South Dakota and Montana receiving even less than 25 percent of normal precipitation during the last 30 days, he said. The U.S. Drought Monitor moved southeast South Dakota and northeast Nebraska from abnormally dry into the moderate drought category. The report, issued Tuesday morning, doesn't include the recent rainfall.

"The prediction as of the end of April called for no large-scale change in the drought for the upper part of the basin," Todey said on the conference call. "Even with the expected precipitation, the deficits are quite large."

The region currently finds

itself in the El Nino weather pattern, which looks to continue through next February, Todey said.

"We are seeing the strengthening of El Nino recently. We are seeing a 70 percent chance that El Nino will stick with us this summer and likely for the rest of the year," he said. "We will likely see the persisting of the drought, and the El Nino will continue all summer and get stronger."

At the same time, the Corps has adjusted its Gavins Point Dam releases to reflect both upstream and downstream conditions, Farhat said. The Corps increased the Gavins Point releases to 25,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) at noon Thursday and plans more increases to meet navigation targets in the Sioux City to Omaha reach, she said.

Gavins Point Dam releases averaged 24,900 cubic feet per second (cfs) during

April. Releases are expected to reach 28,000 to 30,000 cfs around mid-May to meet the downstream flow targets and to prevent endangered least terns and threatened piping plovers from nesting on low sandbars. These sandbars could be inundated later in the summer when higher releases are needed to meet downstream navigation flow targets. The nesting season runs from May to late August.

Fort Randall Dam releases at Picketstown averaged 22,900 cfs during April. Fort Randall releases are currently at 23,000 cfs and will be adjusted, as necessary, to maintain the desired pool elevation at Gavins Point.

The mountain snowpack accumulation peaked earlier than usual, adding to the adjustments, Farhat said.

"Mountain snowpack typically peaks in mid-April," she said. "This year's mountain snowpack was tracking near normal through late Febru-

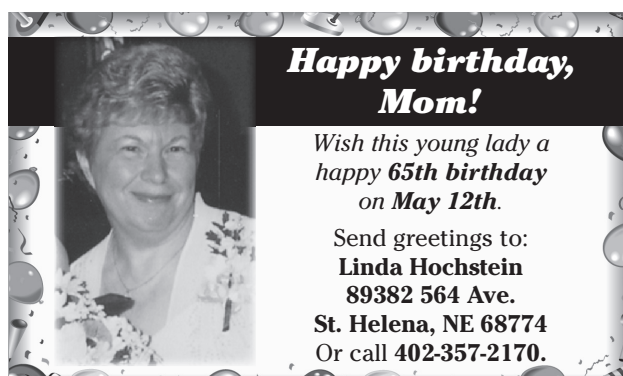
ary, but leveled off in mid-March, and is now declining."

The Corps reports April runoff in the Missouri River Basin above Sioux City, Iowa, was 1.5 million acre feet (MAF), 52 percent of normal.

As a result, the 2015 runoff forecast in the Missouri River Basin above Sioux City has decreased 1 MAF from last month to 19.3 MAF, 76 percent of normal. Average annual runoff is 25.2 MAF.

The May 21 forecast for runoff above Sioux City calls for 19.3 million acre feet (MAF), or 76 percent of normal. Above Gavins Point Dam, the May runoff forecast calls for 17.8 MAF, or 77 percent of normal.

"The Corps will continue to conserve water while still serving all authorized



Happy birthday, Mom!
Wish this young lady a happy 65th birthday on May 12th.
Send greetings to:
Linda Hochstein
89382 564 Ave.
St. Helena, NE 68774
Or call 402-357-2170.



Thank You
Thanks to everyone who attended my retirement party. Thanks for all the cards, gifts, and phone calls. Special thanks to my friends and family who organized the party.
Galen Kleinschmit



Thank You!
Thank you so much to our children for hosting the delicious meal at our home in honor of our 60th anniversary. Also, for the plants, gifts and cards. It was a very good day. Many thanks to our relatives, friends, and neighbors for the lovely cards that were sent to us. It was a very memorable day and made our hearts full. Thanks and may God bless you.
Love Bill & Cleopha Uhing