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'This Is Not A Game'

Kerry Talks Tough In Syria Encounter With Russia

BY MATTHEW LEE AND NANCY BENAC
Associated Press

GENEVA — Striking a tough tone, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry opened swiftly convened talks with Russia on Syria's chemical weapons Thursday by bluntly rejecting a Syrian pledge to begin a "standard process" by turning over information rather than weapons — and nothing immediately.

That won't do, Kerry declared at an opening news conference, a stone-faced Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov at his side. "The words of the Syrian regime in our judgment are simply not enough."



Kerry

"This is not a game," Kerry said of the latest developments in a series that has rapidly gone from deadly chemical attacks to threats of retaliatory U.S. air strikes to Syrian agreement with a Russian plan to turn over the weapons and, finally, to the crucial matter of working out the difficult details.

"We believe there is nothing standard about this process at this moment because of the way the regime has behaved," Kerry declared. And he kept alive the threat of U.S. military action, saying the turnover of weapons must be complete, verifiable and timely — "and finally, there ought to be consequences if it doesn't take place."

Adding to the drama, Russian President Vladimir Putin weighed in from afar, raising eyebrows with an opinion piece in The New York Times that chided Americans for seeing themselves as "exceptional." That was an apparent reference to a comment President Barack Obama made in his Syria speech Tuesday night, explaining why he felt the U.S. needed to take action. Congress has shown little inclination to authorize military action, and a vote on that has been put off.

Putin also warned that a U.S. strike against Syria because of chemical weapons use could unleash new terrorist attacks. And he still maintained there is "every reason to believe" the weapons were used by rebels and not by Assad's military. In Washington, Obama's spokesman said Russia was "isolated and alone" in that view.

Obama, for his part, said simply that he was

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A Call For Care



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Sister Simone Campbell holds up a photo of a woman named Margaret, who died from cancer and who had no health care after she lost her job, during Thursday night's fall Benedictine Lecture at Mount Marty College's Marian Auditorium. Campbell spoke about health care and the poor, and the impact of the Affordable Care Act.

Catholic Nun States Case For Medicaid Expansion

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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A Catholic nun who has gained national attention for her support of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) called upon South Dakotans to demand the expansion of Medicaid during her lecture at Mount Marty College Thursday night.

Sister Simone Campbell questioned why Gov. Dennis Daugaard, a Republican, or anyone else would want to turn down money that she says will assist low-income individuals, as well as hospitals such as Avera Sacred Heart that provide charity care.

"It's straight party politics," she told a large audience in Marian Auditorium. "Everyone is positioning for the 2014 election. We people of faith have got to stand up."

Lt. Gov. Matt Michels was in the audience Thursday and declined to comment to the Press & Dakotan about Campbell's allegations directed at the Daugaard administration.

Campbell is executive director of NETWORK, a Catholic social justice organization that educates, lobbies and organizes in support of economic and social transformation.

Her lecture, titled "Health Care and the Poor," was sponsored by Mount Marty College's Benedictine Institute of Leadership, Ethics and Social Justice. Campbell noted it was her first visit to South Dakota.

The state has so far declined to expand Medicaid eligibility to an estimated 48,500 people, mostly adults without children.

According to The Associated Press, people earning up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level — \$15,451 for a single person or \$31,809 for a family of four — would be covered by an expansion. The federal government would fully cover spending on the extra people through 2016, and the state's contribution would rise in stages to 10 percent of the medical costs by 2020.

Campbell said it is easy to think of being pro-life in terms of the issue of abortion, which amounts to only a pro-birth stance. Americans must look beyond that issue to be truly pro-life, she argued.

"I think we need to look at what Jesus did in

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USA Weekend

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Neuharth Award Ceremony Postponed

BY ROB NIELSEN
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VERMILLION — The Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in Media, which was set to be awarded Oct. 3 at the University of South Dakota, has been postponed, most likely until next year it was announced Thursday.

The name of this year's recipient has not been released.

Jack Marsh, President and COO of the Freedom Forum Diversity Institute at the Al Neuharth Media Center, said a scheduling conflict led to the postponement.

"We were locked into a certain date and the recipient wasn't able to come to South Dakota on that date," Marsh said. "Rather than trying to move it away from Dakota Days, we just decided to postpone it and we'll try to reschedule it."

Marsh said he is unsure of a timeline for when a decision will be made on when to reschedule the ceremony, but he believes it will most likely fall during Dakota Days 2014. He also added there have been no discussions on whether a second recipient will be added to next year's ceremony or not.

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Centerville

Facility Celebrates New Era

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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CENTERVILLE — Saturday's supper and auction will serve as more than a fundraiser for the local long-term care facility.

The event, in effect, also celebrates a new era for the Centerville Care and Rehab Center.

The facility's operation was transferred earlier this year to the Centerville Development Corporation (CDC) when the Good Samaritan Society said it would close the doors if someone didn't take over, according to CDC coordinator Bill Hansen.

Good Samaritan's decision to end its ownership was based on a history of uncertain census numbers and the immediate need of installing a fire sprinkler system, Hansen said in a report posted on the city's website. The installation of the fire sprinkler system — which was subsequently completed earlier this year — faced an Aug. 13 deadline to meet federal regulations.

Centerville, a Turner County community of about 900 residents, couldn't find interested parties willing to take over the center and couldn't afford to allow the facility to close, Hansen said.

"The ripple effect of losing this important business would have too great of a detrimental impact on Centerville," Hansen said in a news release.

In his reports to the city, Hansen



PHOTO COURTESY SHELLEY FOX

The newly-renamed Centerville Care and Rehab Center offers long-term care at both its nursing and assisted living facilities. The Centerville Development Corporation has taken over operation of the site, formerly run by the Good Samaritan Society. The center is sponsoring a fundraiser this Saturday at the Centerville Legion Hall.

outlined the importance of maintaining the long-term care facility.

The center remains one of Centerville's largest employers, he said. If the facility had closed, approximately 40 residents would have lost a home and the community would have lost around 50 jobs. In addition, the local economy would have taken a hit to the pharmacy, retail stores and other local businesses.

The Centerville Care and Rehab Center — the new name given to the site — provides a 50-bed, skilled nursing and assisted-living facility. The cen-

ter offers outpatient occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy and adult daycare services.

The center is staffed by 54 full- and part-time nurses, certified nursing assistants and dietary specialists.

Besides his role as CDC coordinator, Hansen chairs the fundraising committee for the Centerville Care and Rehab Center. The committee is using Saturday's fundraiser as an important springboard for meeting initial expenses.

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USDA Raises S.D. Corn Yield, Drops Soy Yield

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has raised its yield forecast for South Dakota's corn crop while dropping its soybean yield estimate.

Both crops got off to a late start this spring as many farmers were forced to delay planting because of the cool, dry weather.

But Thursday's report from the department's National Agricultural Statistics Service shows that South Dakota's soybeans are lagging further behind than corn.

The average yield for the state's corn crop is forecast at 145 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels from the August estimate and the second highest of record. The state's corn crop is forecast at a record high 769 million bushels, up 44 percent from last year, according to the USDA.

Corn at the dough stage is 98 percent, ahead of the five-year average of 94 percent, and plants reaching the dent stage hit 67 percent, just behind the 70 percent five-year average.

But just 5 percent of plants have reached the mature stage, well behind last year's 41 percent and the 13 percent five-year average.

The state's soybean yield is forecast at 35 bushels per acre, down a bushel from the August forecast but up 5 bushels from last year. South Dakota soybean farmers are expected to produce 163 million bushels in 2013, down 3 percent from the August forecast but still the second highest of record.

By this time last year, three-quarters of South Dakota's soybean crop had dropped its leaves. This year, just 28 percent had dropped leaves as of Monday, well behind the five-year average of 41 percent.

Commodity Weather Group in a recent bulletin said a pattern of dry weather over the past weeks has taken a toll on the pod set and fill for soybeans in nearly half of the Midwest soybean belt.

The firm, which tracks weather relevant to the agriculture and energy industries, had already lowered its estimate to 34.9 bushel in its Aug. 30 bulletin.

