

# The Daily Republic



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'Too early to tell' if offer will succeed

## Obama vows to explore Russia's Syria initiative



Reuters photo

U.S. President Barack Obama addresses the nation about the situation in Syria on Tuesday from the East Room at the White House in Washington.

### President says he asked Senate to put off military force vote

BY STEVE HOLLAND and JEFF MASON  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama vowed to pursue a diplomatic initiative from Russia over Syria's chemical weapons on Tuesday but voiced skepticism about it and urged Americans to support his threat to use military force.



PUTIN

Obama said in a White House speech that a Russian offer to push Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to place chemical weapons under international control offered the possibility of heading off the type of limited military strike he is considering against Syria.

Speaking from the White House's East Room, Obama said U.S. and Russian officials would keep talking about the initiative and that he would discuss it with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Meanwhile, he said, he has asked the U.S. Senate to put off a vote on his request for an authorization

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Reuters photo

A Free Syrian Army fighter rests as a fellow fighter aims his weapon behind sandbags on Monday near Damascus.

### Securing arsenal of chemical weapons presents challenges

By ZEINA KARAM  
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Russia's proposal to place Syria's chemical weapons stockpile under international control for dismantling would involve a lengthy and complicated operation made more difficult by a deep lack of trust — not to mention the

lack of an inventory.

Syria is believed by experts to have 1,000 tons of chemical warfare agents scattered over several dozen sites across the country, and just getting them transferred while fighting rages presents a logistical and security nightmare.

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Sean Ryan/Republic

Craig Guymon is escorted from the courtroom after being sentenced Tuesday in Mitchell for voter fraud he committed in June's school board election.

### Guymon gets jail time for voter fraud

Judge leaves open possibility that felony could later be erased

By ANNA JAUHOLA  
The Daily Republic

Craig Guymon, formerly of Mitchell, was sentenced Tuesday to 30 days in jail for voter fraud.

Guymon, who has since moved to Platte, voted twice in June's Mitchell school board election.

"I just wanted to express that on June 4, made one of the most foolish decisions of my life," Guymon said Tuesday during court at the Davison County Public Safety Center in Mitchell. "It all boils down to frustration. My emotions overran my brain and my rational thought process."

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#### What's inside



**Contest winner**  
Idaho woman crowned Miss Indian Nations. A2

**Big purchase**  
County commissioners buy front-end loaders. A9

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## Amount of secret agreement confirmed

### District: \$175,000 was in fact the amount paid to ex-superintendent

By CHRIS MUELLER  
The Daily Republic

HURON — The Huron School District paid ex-superintendent Ross Opsal nearly \$175,000 following his resignation in March 2011, a district official confirmed Tuesday.

The district paid Opsal \$10,916.51 per month from March 2011 to June 2012, for a total of \$174,664.16, according to Kelly Christopherson, the district's business manager. The payments were made pursuant to

an agreement that the district kept secret for more than two years.

The agreement was unsealed and read aloud Monday at a Huron Board of Education meeting. The board voted to unseal the agreement as the result of a recent court order won by The Daily Republic.

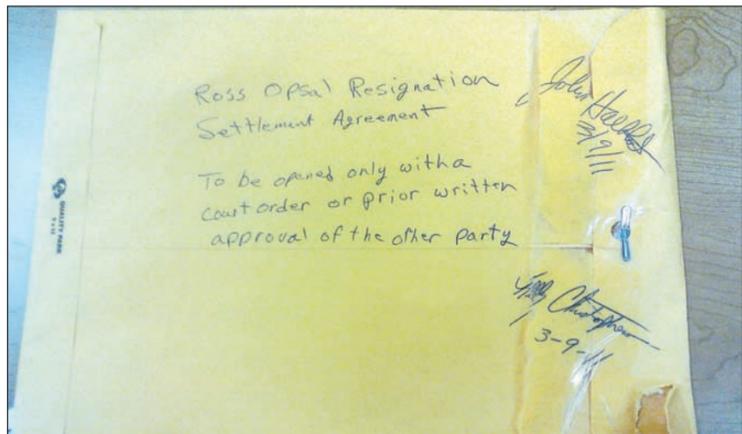
The agreement reveals that the board and Opsal agreed to part ways in March 2011 before the expiration of his contract. The board agreed to pay Opsal his base salary rate of \$110,000 plus extra amounts for retirement and health care each month until June 2012.

While the agreement itself was sealed until Monday, Christopherson did provide The Daily Republic with the amounts

of the monthly payments the district made to Opsal in emails sent March 13 and Feb. 2, 2012. The Daily Republic never knew for certain, however, whether the payment information it had was complete since the agreement remained sealed until Monday night. Officials questioned Monday night after a school board meeting did not immediately know the exact amount paid to Opsal.

The district did not have a superintendent from March 2011 to June 2011, according to Christopherson. Instead, an executive committee made up of Christopherson, then-high school principal Terry Nebelsick and middle school principal Mike Taplett, performed the superin-

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Luke Hagen/Republic

This sealed envelope that held a secret agreement between the Huron School District and former superintendent Ross Opsal was opened Monday by the Huron Board of Education, pursuant to a court order won by The Daily Republic.



Today's forecast: Partly sunny and pleasant. North-northwest winds at 6-12 mph. Details, A2.



High 84° Low 52°

Delivery questions?  
Circulation: 996-5514  
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Comics .....B4 TV guide .....B8  
Sports .....B1 Obituaries .....A6  
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**OBITUARIES**

**Erlin Juntunen**



Erlin Paul Juntunen, 42, of Plankinton, SD passed away Friday, September 6, 2013 as the result of an automobile accident near Plankinton. Memorial Services are 10:30 A.M. Saturday, September 14, 2013 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Plankinton. A Committal Service will follow at Mizpah Cemetery. Visitation will be held at the church Friday, September 13, 2013 from 6:00 – 7:00 P.M. with a 7:00 P.M. Prayer Service. Memorials in honor of Erlin may be directed to: Aurora County Cancer Fund (ACCF, Inc.), C/O Rose Bosworth, 25250 385th Ave., Plankinton, SD 57368. Mount Funeral Home of Plankinton is assisting with arrangements. Expressions of sympathy may be extended to the family through www.mountfuneralhome.com.

Erlin Paul Juntunen was born on October 24, 1970 to Eldon and Joan (Jacobs) Juntunen in Mitchell, SD. He attended Plankinton grade school and graduated high school as valedictorian of his class. He continued his education at SDSU in Brookings over the next three years; earning an AS degree while majoring in both Engineering and Engineering Physics.

Erlin worked previously for National Foods and was currently employed for the past seven years with Aurora Plains Academy near Plankinton and also for Technical Project Systems as an Integrated Technician.

He was a talented free lance artist and enjoyed pool, darts and collecting memorabilia. Erlin was an avid participant in the annual Poker Run for Cancer for which he donated his hair to Locks of Love twice.

Grateful for having shared in Erlin's life: his mother, Joan Juntunen of Plankinton, SD; a sister, Jean Kelley and husband, Bruce of Mansfield, MO; three brothers: Roger Juntunen of Carlisle, PA, Byron Juntunen of Atlanta, GA and Brian Juntunen and wife, Ada of Navarre, FL; three nephews; three nieces; a grand nephew; along with numerous relatives and friends.

Erlin was preceded in death by: his father, Eldon (1972); a brother, Robert (2005); and his grandparents.



**Donald Duane Tecklenburg**

Corsica - Donald Duane Tecklenburg, 85, died at his home near Corsica on Sunday, September 8, 2013. Funeral service will be Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 10:30 AM at St. John's Church near Dimock, SD with burial following in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery. Visitation will be Tuesday, September 10, 2013 from 6 - 8 PM at Koehn Bros. Funeral Home in Stickney with a prayer service at 7:00 PM.

Donald Duane Tecklenburg was born to Alvin and Bertha (Boettcher) Tecklenburg on October 5, 1927 in Armour, SD.

He was baptized and confirmed by his grandfather, the Rev. Peter Tecklenburg. He attended school in Armour and Alexandria.

He then graduated from Corsica High School in 1945.

Don was engaged in Farming until he was drafted into the United States Army. He served his country from 1951 to 1953 as a field wire man while stationed in Germany. Upon his return home he resumed farming in the Corsica area. On January 16, 1955 he married Marjean Herbst. They were blessed with a son, Kent and daughter, Renee.

Don was a life-long member of St. John's (Hillside) Church near Dimock where he served on the church council. Don served on the Garfield #24 School Board. He was a member of the Stickney American Legion. Don died at his home near Corsica on Sunday, September 8, 2013 at the age of 85.

He is survived by his wife, Marjean Tecklenburg of Corsica, son, Kent Tecklenburg of Corsica, daughter, Pastor Renee Tecklenburg of Worthington, MN, sister, Mardell, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Alvin Jr., and sister, Marion Houser.

**GUYMON**

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Guymon also apologized for his case's use of court resources.

Judge Tim Bjorkman imposed a 180-day jail sentence but suspended 150 days on the condition that Guymon successfully complete a two-year probation period. Guymon will serve his jail time in 10-day increments at the Davison County Jail. He'll serve 10 days immediately, followed by 10 days in September 2014 and the final 10 days in September 2015.

After his sentencing, Guymon was taken to the Davison County Jail and was booked to serve the first 10 days.

Guymon's attorney, Ron Volesky, asked Judge Bjorkman for a suspended imposition of sentence, which would give Guymon the chance to wipe the felony conviction from his record if he successfully completes his probation. The request was denied.

"I don't think Craig has to be rehabilitated," Volesky said. "His punishment is the question. He has received a great amount of punishment already by the public ridicule, the stories in the paper, embarrassment to himself and his family. He's suffered a great deal already for this unwise event in his life."

Volesky said Guymon has no prior record and is a loving husband, caring father and successful businessman, and honorably served his country in the military for 17 years.

"He's proven to be a hard-working, honest, square-shootin' individual. He simply got caught up in a foolish situation," Volesky said.

Volesky's statement about Guymon's lack of a prior record doesn't reflect Guymon's colorful past.

In 2008, Guymon was accused of intentionally causing "a serious public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm to another person by engaging in violent or threatening behavior ... or by making unreasonable



**BJORKMAN**



**VOLESKY**

noise" at a football game at Joe Quintal Field in Mitchell. Guymon denied making a public disturbance, but said he did accost Tom Starr, head coach of the sophomore team.

Judge Bjorkman stopped Volesky during his suspended imposition argument to address the 2008 incident. Guymon told Bjorkman he appeared on a disorderly conduct charge regarding the discussion between him and the coach. Guymon said the charge was dismissed and he signed an agreement to not attend any more football games.

Guymon is known for other strange behavior, too. His past escapades include sending mass mailers to Mitchell residents in which he claimed a Catholic conspiracy ring was manipulating the city; calling his opponents in a local election "spineless jellyfish," and maintaining a website called the Book of Guymon where he wrote long criticisms of public officials.

Despite denying the suspended imposition request for now, Bjorkman said he'll allow Guymon to make another request for a suspended imposition toward the end of the probation period, assuming Guymon's probation has been successful to that point.

Guymon has operated an insurance agency and could have his insurance license suspended or revoked because of the felony conviction.

"I understand your comments here today and I believe you are remorseful," Bjorkman said during sentencing. "Whether you intended it or not, you gave the impression that your voice is twice as important as any other vote."

Bjorkman also ordered Guymon to pay a \$1,000 fine, \$104 in court costs and \$91.84 in restitution, all within 30 days of Tuesday's sentencing. The restitution is to be made to Aurora Security Products LLC, of Letcher, for retrieving security footage from both the Davison County Courthouse and the Mitchell Career and Technical Education Academy building.

Guymon voted by absentee ballot at the courthouse on Election Day — which by law was allowed until 3 p.m. — and again by regular ballot at the MCTEA polling place.

Guymon supported school board candidate Rod Hall and also candidate Tara Volesky — wife of Guymon's attorney, Ron Volesky. The winning candidates in the race for two seats were Deb Olson and Rick Johnson.

**Leonard August Schlepuezt**

March 1, 1931 - Sept. 8, 2013

MINNEAPOLIS - Leonard August Schlepuezt, 82, Kimball, S.D., died Sunday in the University of Minnesota Medical Center from complications of West Nile Virus.

A rosary service will be 7 p.m. Sunday at St. Margaret's Catholic Church in Kimball. The funeral mass will be 10:30 a.m. Monday at the church. The committal service will be in St. Margaret's Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations in Leonard's memory to: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID Gift Fund) at www.niaid.nih.gov or The University of Minnesota Foundation at give.mmf.umn.edu/giveonline. All monetary gifts to the family will be donated to these organizations.

Arrangements by Mount Funeral Home in Kimball.

**Helen Svoboda**

April 12, 1951 - Sept. 8, 2013  
STEEN, Minn. - Helen Svoboda, 62, Steen, died Sunday in her home.

A memorial service will be 1 p.m. Saturday at Kotrba-Smith Funeral Home in Gregory, S.D. Inurnment will be in the Bohemian Cemetery near Gregory.

Arrangements by Kotrba-Smith Funeral Home.

**Helen A Bates**

Feb. 8, 1915 - Sept. 8, 2013  
MITCHELL, S.D. - Helen A Bates, 98, Mitchell, died Sunday in Firesteel Healthcare Center.

Private services were held. Arrangements by Bittner Funeral Chapel in Mitchell.



**Frieda Weiger**

Frieda Weiger, 95, Mitchell, died Monday, September 9, 2013 at Firesteel Healthcare Center. Funeral services will be 1:30 pm Thursday, September 12 at the Bittner Funeral Chapel. Burial will be in Graceland Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6-8:00 pm Wednesday at the Bittner Funeral Chapel.

Frieda Weiger was born on March 25, 1918 to Jacob and Marie (Winter) Lippert at rural Tripp. She grew up on a farm east of Tripp. On February 12, 1935 she married Gabriel Weiger. They farmed in the Parkston area until 1957 and then moved into Parkston. In 1966 she moved to Mitchell. Frieda was an avid gardener and quilter. She was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church.

She is survived by three children: Bonnie (Ron) Sogn, Scottsdale, AZ; Wally (Mona) Weiger, Pierre and David (Anne) Wieger, Mitchell; daughter-in-law, Charlotte Weiger, Piedmont; 11 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren and 7 great great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by sons: Darvin in November 2006, and an infant son at birth, one brother and eight sisters.

**Crop-damaging fruit pest found in South Dakota**

PIERRE (AP) — A pest that lays its eggs in fresh fruit has been found in South Dakota for the first time.

South Dakota State University entomologist Buyung Hadi caught the spotted-wing drosophila in a trap in southeastern South Dakota late last month, the Capital Journal reported.

The insect is about 3 millimeters long, yellowish brown in color with prominent red eyes. Males have dark spots on their wing tips. The pest native to Asia was first found in the U.S. in 2008 in California and has since spread to other parts of the country. It was first detected in Minnesota last summer and in North Dakota earlier this summer in cherries from the Carrington Research Extension Center.

**High school crews install trail posts at Wind Cave**

WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK (AP) — The hard work of about two dozen high school-aged volunteers will help hikers find their way through the backcountry at Wind Cave National Park.

The Black Hills park says the two 11-person Student Conservation Association crews each spent three weeks working and camping there. They installed 116 wooden posts marking around 4 1/2 miles of the Highland Creek and Centennial trails. There are now more than 30 miles of hiking trails available in the park.

**Walmart contests Sioux Falls opposition petitions**

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Walmart Stores Inc. is challenging petitions that seek a public vote on the zoning of land to accommodate a new supercenter in Sioux Falls.

Company officials believes as many as one-third of the signatures on the petitions are invalid, a claim the opposition group Save Our Neighborhood disputes.

"It is clear that the petitioners fell short of the minimum number of valid signatures required," Walmart spokeswoman Delia Garcia said in a statement. "As we continue to work on behalf of our thousands of Sioux Falls customers to realize a new store to meet their needs, we appreciate that the city's democratic process provides affected parties an opportunity to do their own due diligence and raise valid concerns if necessary."

The opposition group recently submitted 6,300 petition signatures seeking to refer a City Council decision to rezone about 40 acres of land from agricultural use to commercial use. The group needs 5,100 valid signatures to force a public vote next April.

**AGREEMENT**

Continued from Page A1

tendent's duties for no additional pay.

At the time, the only additional cost to the district was compensation paid to a former high school principal who helped out at the high school, Christopherson said.

Nebelsick, the district's current superintendent, took over in July 2011.

That means the district paid two superintendents — one who was working and one who wasn't — for 11 months, from July 2011 to June 2012.

The agreement did not explain why Opsal's employment ended, which is what The Daily Republic sought to know. Scott Swier, Opsal's attorney, did not return a call for comment Tuesday.

Opsal cited "personal health issues" in a public letter released by the school district at

the time of his March 2011 resignation. He was hired June 28, 2010, and had a three-year contract.

The unsealed agreement says Opsal would actively seek employment as a school administrator and would demonstrate his efforts to the district each month. If Opsal would have found employment as a school administrator elsewhere, it would have reduced or eliminated the payments from the Huron School District.

If he found employment at a salary less than \$110,000 per year, the district would have continued to pay Opsal the difference between his new employer's salary and \$110,000, but not beyond June 30, 2012.

After Monday's board meeting, Tim VanBerkum, a board member, said that Opsal was never hired as a school administrator elsewhere and was paid through the length of the agreement.

**SD court dismisses second appeal in 1975 AIM slaying**

By CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — The South Dakota Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a Canadian man's secondary appeal of his murder conviction and life sentence in the 1975 slaying of a fellow American Indian Movement activist.

In a direct appeal last year, the Supreme Court upheld John Graham's conviction for taking part in the killing of Annie Mae Aquash in South Dakota.

Graham then filed a secondary appeal that was denied by a circuit judge. Acting as his own lawyer, Graham asked the Supreme Court to consider the second appeal, but the high court dismissed it for procedural reasons, saying he failed to serve his appeal motion on state officials.

Graham was convicted of murder in December 2010 after prosecutors said Graham and two other AIM activists, Arlo Looking Cloud and Theda Clarke, killed Aquash because they suspected she was a

government informant.

Graham, a member of the Southern Tutchone tribe in Canada's Yukon Territory, could not be contacted in prison for comment Tuesday.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said the Supreme Court ruling ended Graham's challenges to his conviction in state courts.

"I am grateful for the cooperative efforts of tribal, state and federal law enforcement officers in bringing John Graham to justice," Jackley said in a statement. "Today's ruling is an important step toward final justice for Annie Mae and her family."

Aquash's body was found in a remote area in southwest South Dakota in February 1976. She was a member of the Mi'kmaq tribe of Nova Scotia. Federal agents investigated the case for years but didn't bring an indictment until March 2003, when Denver police arrested Looking Cloud.

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