Amid harsh criticism, Trump tries a tougher tone on Russia
WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump spent a second day managing the political fallout from his widely criticized meeting
with Russia's Vladimir Putin, shifting stances and mopping up what the White House said were misstatements.
Hith the longtime His toughness with the longtime
American foe in question, Trump said Wednesday he told the Russian president face-to-face during Monday's summit to stay out of America's elections "and that's the way it's going to be."
That rhetoric marked a turnabout from Trump's first, upbeat description of his sit-
down with Putin. Still, Trump backtracked down with Putin. Still, Trump backtracked
on whether Russia is currently targeting U.S. elections. When asked the question Wednesday, he answered "no," a reply that put him sharply at odds with recent public warnings from his own intelligence chief.
Hours later, the White House stepped in to say Trump's answer wasn't what it ${ }^{\text {appeared. }}$
search for a path laid bare the White House's the administration's discussions of Russia from the start, but spiraled after Trump's trip to Helsinki. After days of criticism from both Democrats and Republicans, Trump - a politician who celebrates his brash political inco-
rectness - has appeared more sensitive than rectness - has appeared mo

## After rescue, Thai

 soccer boys pray for fortune at templeCHIANG RAI, Thailand - The Thai soccer boys and their coach began their first day
back home with their families since they wer rescued from a flooded cave with a trip to a Buddhist temple to pray for protection from misfortunes.
The 11 boys and the coach kneeled and
pressed their hands in pressed their hands in prayer to the tune of chanting monks. They were joined by relatemple, overlooking Myanmar on Thailand's temple,
northern border. The remaining member of the Wild Boars
soccer team - Adul Sargon - is not a Buddhist and did not attend the ceremony, meant to extend one's life and protect it from dangers.


AP PhotolPablo Martinez Monsivais
Interpreter Marina Gross, left, takes notes when President Donald Trump talks to Russian President Vladimir Putin at the beginning of their one-on-one-meeting at Russian President Vadimir Putin at the beginning of

## US intelligence chief is tough on Russia, at odds with Trump

ASPEN, Colo. - National Intelligence Director Dan Coats' drumbeat of criticism against Russia is clashing loudly with President Donald Trump's pro-Kremlin remarks, leaving the soft-spoken spy chief in an uncomfortable - and perhaps perilous - place in the
administration.
Trump's remarks after Wednesday's Cabinet meeting, where he appeared to deny the longtime U.S. foe was still targeting American elections, are just the latest in a growing list of statements that conflict with Coats'. His job is to share the work of the 17 intelligence agencies he oversees with the president.
Coats is a former Republican lawmaker. He was banned from traveling to Russia in 2014 for calling out its annexation of Crimea, and he has continued to raise the alarm on Russia since his appointment by Trump as intelligence chief in March 2017.

That's left Coats in a tight spot. Trump has been determined to forge closer ties with RusThe disconnect with Coats was laid bare after Trump sparked outrage back home in Helsinki. dence to Russia's denial of interference in the 2016 U.S. election as he stood alongside Putin.
Back in Washington, Coats was quick to issue a statement Monday to rebut that position. He restated the U.S. intelligence assessment about Russian meddling and "their ongoing, pervasive efforts to undermine our democracy."

The team has already said they would coach faced the media for the first time since ordain as Buddhist novices to honor a their ordeal, describing their surprise at seeing the cave while making preparations for their rescue.
On $\qquad$
coach faced the media for the first time since
their ordeal, describing their surprise at seeing two British divers rising from muddy waters
in the recesses of the cave. It would be another week before they were pulled out of the Tham Luang cave.

Israeli parliament passes contentious Jewish nation bill

JERUSALEM - Israel's parliament approved a controversial piece of legislation that defines the country as the nation-state of the Jewish people but which critics warn sidelines minorities. The government says the bill, passed in the law Israel's existing character. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called its passage a "historic moment in the history of Zionism and the history of the state of Israel.
"Israel is the nation state of the Jewish people, which honors the individual rights of all its citizens," he said. "I repeat this is our state. The Jewsh state."
"Lately, there are people who are trying to destabilize this and therefore destabilize the foun-
dations of our existence and our rights," he added dations of our existence and our rights," he added.
"So today we have made a law in stone. This is our country. This is our language. This is our anthem and this is our flag. Long live the state of Israel." Israel's 1948 declaration of independence defined its nature as a Jewish and democratic state, a delicate balance the country has grappled

LGBT advocates fear Kavanaugh's votes on gay-rights issues
WASHINGTON - Gay-rights supporters who thronged the Supreme Court plaza after jusright expect to have little to celebrate if Brett Kavanaugh replaces Justice Anthony Kennedy, the author of all the court's major gay-rights rulings.
None of Kavanaugh's roughly 300 opinions as an appellate judge deals directly with LGBT issues, but his approach to judging leads some echo Kennedy's yotes
Still, they said Kavanaugh might be relucfant to overrule the landmark 2015 same-sex marriage decision, even if he might have voted against it in the first instance.
While LGBT advocates sound alarms about Kavanaugh, opponents of same-sex marriage are applauding his nomination, though not necessarily focusing on its potential impact on gay rights.
The Family Research Council, a major Christian conservative advocacy group, lauded Kavanaugh's rulings on religious freedom and "long and praiseworthy history of judging as an orignalist," a term that means interpreting the Constitution as it was understood when written.

Warrenton: School district hopes to have location selected by August
Continued from Page 1A ter campus, and a 2032 bond to Dolphin Avenue, the North is the most conducive site for on a bond," Jeffery said. "The a 2016 bond, in the hills east district east of the Skipanon River and out of the tsunami inundation zone. A district facilities committee has also
recommended a 2022 bond to build a high school on the mas-
ter campus, and a 2032 bond to
move the elementary school. The school district looked and 70 acres outside of the 50 and 70 acres outside of the tsulands. The choices have been narrowed to three sites near

Coast Business Park and along U.S. Highway 101 Business near Trails End Recovery. The property near Dolphin
Avenue, a mix of Avenue, a mix of high-density
residential and industrial land owned by Warrenton Fiber,
is the most conducive site for on a bond," Jeffery said. "The
a campus, Jeffery said. The property is the cornerstone of school district hopes to have what we're doing." a location selected before the bond text is due to the county August. challenging to move forward
$\qquad$ master campus comes for a Seaside School District pepares to build a new $\$ 100$ million K-12 campus, financed by
of the city on land donated by Weyerhaeuser. The Astoria School Board will decide Monday whether to go out
for a bond to modernize and improve security at the school district's five campuses.


