

BRIEFLY

Alabama Senate votes to allow church to form police department

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — The Alabama Senate has voted to allow a church to form its own police force.

Lawmakers on Tuesday voted 24-4 to allow Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham to establish a law enforcement department.

The church says it needs its own police officers to keep its school as well as its more than 4,000 person congregation safe.

Critics of the bill argue that a police department that reports to church officials could be used to cover up crimes.

The state has given a few private universities the authority to have a police force, but never a church or non-school entity.

Police experts have said such a police department would be unprecedented in the U.S.

Former Trump campaign chair to register as foreign agent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump’s former campaign chairman Paul Manafort will register with the Justice Department as a foreign agent for lobbying work he did on behalf of political interests in Ukraine, led at the time by a pro-Russian political party, his spokesman said Wednesday.

Manafort is the second Trump campaign adviser to have to register as a foreign agent since the election. The confirmation that he intends to register comes as the Trump administration has been facing heavy scrutiny over the foreign ties of former campaign advisers and other Trump associates.

By registering retroactively, Manafort will be acknowledging that he failed to properly disclose his work to the Justice Department as required by federal law.

The Justice Department rarely prosecutes such violations of the Foreign Agent Registration Act, but Manafort will now have to publicly and specifically detail his foreign agent work. That includes which American government agencies and officials he sought to influence, how he was paid and the details of contracts he signed as part of the work. Manafort was able to keep much of that out of public view.

Manafort began discussions with the government about his lobbying activities after Trump hired him in March 2016, Manafort spokesman Jason Maloni said, although it was unclear whether those conversations occurred before or after Trump

forced Manafort to resign in August.

Manafort’s resignation from the campaign came immediately after the AP had reported that Manafort’s consulting firm between 2012 and 2014 orchestrated a covert Washington lobbying operation on behalf of Ukraine’s ruling party without disclosing that it was working as a foreign agent.

Trump says China won’t be labeled a currency manipulator

WASHINGTON (AP) — Backing away from a campaign pledge, President Donald Trump said Wednesday that his administration won’t label China a currency manipulator in a report due this week, though he does think the U.S. dollar “is getting too strong.”

Trump also said in an interview at the White House with *The Wall Street Journal* that he would prefer that the Federal Reserve keep interest rates relatively low.

The president also left open the possibility of re-nominating Janet Yellen for a second four-year term as Fed chair. That would mark another shift from his campaign position that he would likely replace Yellen when her term as chair ends.

The decision not to label China a currency manipulator represents one of the sharpest reversals of Trump’s brief presidency. Trump began to bash China in the 2015 speech that began his campaign, saying Beijing kept its currency artificially low to give its manufacturers an unfair advantage in global trade.

As a candidate, Trump pledged to instruct his Treasury secretary to label China a currency manipulator immediately after he took office.

Trump declares U.S.-Russia relations may be at ‘all-time low’

WASHINGTON (AP) — Laying bare deep and dangerous divisions on Syria and other issues, President Donald Trump declared Wednesday that U.S. relations with Russia “may be at an all-time low.” His top diplomat offered a similarly grim assessment from the other side of the globe after meeting with Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

“Right now we’re not getting along with Russia at all,” Trump said flatly during a White House news conference. It was stark evidence that the president is moving ever further from his campaign promises to establish better ties with Moscow.

Only weeks ago, it appeared that Trump, who praised Putin throughout the U.S. election campaign, was poised for a potentially historic rapprochement with Russia.

But any such expectations have crashed into reality amid the nasty back-and-forth over Syria and ongoing U.S. investigations into Russia’s alleged interference in America’s U.S. presidential election.

“It’d be a fantastic thing if we got along with Putin and if we got along with Russia,” Trump said. But he clearly wasn’t counting on it.

“That could happen, and it may not happen,” he said. “It may be just the opposite.”

Not long before Trump spoke in Washington, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson struck a similar tone after an almost two-hour meeting with Putin, saying the two countries had reached a “low point” in relations.

Trump, who last week ordered airstrikes on a Syrian air base in retaliation for a chemical weapons attack, was asked Wednesday if Syria could have launched the attack without Russia’s knowledge. Trump said it was “certainly possible” though “probably unlikely.”

The newly hardened view of Moscow comes as the president has tried to shake suspicions about the motives behind his campaign calls for warmer relations. As the FBI and multiple congressional committees investigate possible collusion between Russia and Trump’s campaign, the president and his aides can now point to his hard-line stance on Assad as evidence he’s willing to stand up to



President Donald Trump pauses during a news conference with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at the White House on Wednesday.

Putin.

More than 80 people were killed in what the U.S. has described as a nerve gas attack that Syrian President Bashar Assad’s forces undoubtedly carried out. Russia says rebels were responsible for whatever chemical agent was used, which the Trump administration calls a disinformation campaign.

Not long before Trump spoke, Russia vetoed a Western-backed U.N. resolution that would have condemned the chemical weapons attack and demanded a speedy investigation.

The dim view of U.S.-Russian ties from both Trump and Tillerson reflected the former Cold War foes’ inability to forge better relations, as Trump until recently has advocated.

Allegations of collusion between Russian officials and Trump campaign associates also have weakened Trump’s ability to make concessions to Russia in any agreement, lest he be accused of rewarding bad behavior. Russia wants the U.S. to eliminate sanctions on Moscow related to its 2014 annexation of Ukraine’s Crimea region and support for pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Until the chemical attack, the Trump administration had sought to step back from the U.S. position that Assad should leave power. But Tillerson repeated the administration’s new belief that “the reign of the Assad

family is coming to an end.”

Beyond Syria, Russia’s alleged meddling in the U.S. presidential election also hovered over what was the first face-to-face encounter between Putin and any Trump administration Cabinet member.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov blasted U.S. claims that it has “irrefutable evidence” of election interference.

“We have not seen a single fact, or even a hint of facts,” he said. “I do not know who saw them. No one showed us anything, no one said anything, although we repeatedly asked to produce the details on which these unfounded accusations lie.”

He also rejected American claims of certain evidence that Assad ordered the chemical attack.

Still, Tillerson sought to stress the positives from his meetings. He said working groups would be established to improve U.S.-Russian ties and identify problems. He said the two sides would also discuss disagreements on Syria and how to end the country’s six-year civil war.

But such hopes appeared optimistic as the diplomats outlined their sharply diverging views on Syria. Tillerson said Syria’s government had committed more than 50 attacks using chlorine or other chemical weapons over the duration of the conflict.

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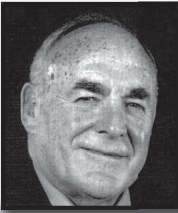
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Becky Fletcher Waggoner of Pilot Rock, is a fourth generation Happy Canyon Show participant and Round-Up volunteer and a fifth generation resident of Umatilla County. Besides cattle ranching Becky works part-time for Mautz & O’Hanlon, LLP. Becky began volunteering in the Happy Canyon show at the age of three, coming out of the trunk. She has played several roles in the show over the years including an emigrant and for the last 17 years, she has been honored to play the part of the nurse in the Doctor Act. Becky currently serves as the Show Director for Happy Canyon in its 103rd year. Out of her love of the show and its colorful history, Becky began a quest to see Happy Canyon’s story preserved and to honor a century of people who have volunteered. After many years of research, document and photo collection, Becky recently authored Happy Canyon: A History of the World’s Most Unique Indian Pageant and Wild West Show. Becky and her husband, Allen, former Happy Canyon Show Director and President, have three children, Kyle, Kaleigh and Riley—all fifth generation Happy Canyon volunteers and actors. On with the show!



Bobbie Conner is the director of Tamástslikt (Tah-mahst-slickt) Cultural Institute, the 45,000 square foot tribally-owned museum on the Umatilla Reservation. The Institute has three goals: to preserve the Tribes’ culture, to accurately present the Tribes’ history, and, to contribute to the tribal economy. The homelands of the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla have long been an intersection for trade, adventure and migration. Three historic trails traverse the Tribes aboriginal lands – the Oregon Trail, the Lewis & Clark Trail, and the Whitman Mission route – while a fourth, the nearby Nez Perce National Trail, signals the shared histories of Cayuse and Nez Perce. This crossroads provides a great location for a new migration – tourists – who visit Tamástslikt and Wildhorse Resort & Casino. Prior to moving home, Bobbie worked 13 years for the U. S. Small Business Administration. She began her federal career as a Presidential Management Intern. Before that she provided technical assistance to federal Indian education programs in the Northwest for United Indians of All Tribes Foundation. She currently serves on the Boards of Directors for the Umatilla Tribal Community Foundation and the American Association of Museums and on the Board of Trustees for the National Museum of the American Indian. Bobbie served as Vice President of the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Board of Directors and as a leader of its Circle of Tribal Advisors. Bobbie is Cayuse, Umatilla and Nez Perce and a member of the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla. She is a graduate of Pendleton High School, the University of Oregon, and Willamette University’s Atkinson Graduate School of Management.

Emile Holeman was born, raised, and lived his entire life in Pendleton, Oregon, with the exception of his college years at the University of Oregon in the late 1940’s and early 50’s. As a young boy, Emile was in the Happy Canyon Show, playing the son of an Indian Chief who was shot and fell into the waterfall, and one of the Chinese laundry men, who also fell into the water! Emile spent 8 years in the 1960’s on the Happy Canyon board as the Ticket Director. He was Happy Canyon President in 1970-71 when Pendleton District Attorney Joe Smith called for a gambling ban at Happy Canyon. The ban lasted one year, during which time the Happy Canyon board took the issue before the Oregon legislature who ruled “social gambling” at Happy Canyon allowable by law. Emile owned Doug and Emile’s Texaco for 33 years in Pendleton, and served 4 terms as Umatilla County Commissioner from 1991 to 2006. He was married for 60 years to Betty Lou Holeman, who loved Native American history, and they had four children. Emile is the oldest living past Happy Canyon President.



For more information about the EO Forum, please contact: Karen Parker at 541-966-3177.
The EO Forum is a collaborative effort among leaders from Blue Mountain Community College, InterMountain Education Service District; the East Oregonian; American Association of University Women; and Harriet Isom; a former United States ambassador who also serves on the committee. This EO Forum program is offered as part of Blue Mountain Community College’s annual Arts and Culture Festival. For more information on the festival go to www.bluecc.edu.