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## FINANCES RAISE RED FLAGS IN SOLON

State Auditor's Office finds questionable spending by the city's fire department

**JOSH O'LEARY**  
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A review by the State Auditor's Office has found thousands of dollars in questionable spend-

ing by the Solon Fire Department and its charity affiliate, including money spent on "stag parties" and alcohol.

State Auditor Mary Mosiman on Tuesday released a report —

prompted by citizen concerns in Solon regarding bank accounts and financial transactions — detailing the finances of the Solon Volunteer Fire Department, the Tri-Township Fire Department and the Solon Firefighters Benevolent Association from January 2011 through May 2014.

The report identified \$67,558 of improper and unsupported dis-

bursements, along with \$1,167 of collections that were not deposited to the bank. The review also highlighted an additional \$69,741 in payments — including donations, flower purchases, food and member appreciation events — that did not have proper documentation justifying their public benefit.

Mosiman said in the report

that there was insufficient documentation to determine the propriety of \$66,183 in payments from the fire department and charity's checking accounts. The disbursement included payments to convenience stores and various retailers like Best Buy.

According to the report, the

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### POPE FRANCIS VISITS THE U.S.

# Obama greets pope at start of historic trip



Pope Francis talks to President Barack Obama after arriving Tuesday at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

SUSAN WALSH/AP

## 50 UI students to visit pope

They will join throng of Iowans heading east for papal trip

**KEVIN HARDY**  
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Caitlyn Hagarty says her mother loves retelling the story of Pope John Paul II's visit to Iowa in 1979.

She talks about how the family left Cedar Falls at midnight, walked along Interstate Highway 80 and encountered hundreds of thousands of people gathered at Living History Farms to see the pope.

Now Hagarty, a senior at the University of Iowa, will have her own pope story. She's among 50 Hawkeye students heading to Philadelphia on Thursday to see Pope Francis.

Hagarty, a self-described "cradle Catholic" from Colfax, said she expects this to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"My mom is beside herself," she said. "It's going to be a story that I tell my kids."

The UI students will join a couple hundred Iowa faithful heading to Washington, D.C. or Philadelphia to see Pope Francis on his first trip to the United States. The pope arrived in Washington Tuesday and has more than two dozen events scheduled through his departure on Sunday.

Hagarty says she admires Francis' "unwavering love" and healing touch. She said this pope is popular even among her non-religious friends.

"He is a conversation starter," she said. "He is exactly what the Catholic Church needs now."

UI students will board their Pennsylvania-bound bus Thursday evening and will head back following Sunday afternoon's papal mass in Philadelphia.

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## Francis plans ambitious schedule, including U.N. address

**GREGORY KORTE**  
USA TODAY

**W**ASHINGTON — Pope Francis' gleaming white Alitalia plane — colloquially known as "Shepherd One" — touched down at Andrews Air Force Base Tuesday, beginning a historic six-day, three-city visit that will have political, diplomatic and spiritual ramifications.

Breaking from the usual protocol for a state visit,

"We in the West tend to see everything through a political prism, and he tends to annoy both the left and the right at different times."

**BISHOP CHRISTOPHER COYNE OF BURLINGTON, VT.**  
SPEAKING ABOUT THE POPE'S APPROACH TO ISSUES

President Barack Obama chose to greet the papal plane at the Air Force base outside Washington with a delegation that included the extended families of Obama and Vice

President Joe Biden, an Air Force major general, the State Department's chief of protocol, an ambassador, 10 bishops and five monsignors. Hundreds of faithful

chanted "We love Francis, yes we do" in English and "Holy Father, bless your children" in Spanish as the pope arrived.

The plane had circled over North Carolina several times — apparently for scheduling reasons — but was still 10 minutes early for his tightly scheduled, carefully choreographed and highly anticipated visit to the United States.

It's an ambitious schedule: The pontiff will visit the White House, meet with U.S.

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