

Romney Courts NRA For Presidential Campaign

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Running for the Senate in Massachusetts, Mitt Romney once assured voters in a state with strong gun-control laws: "I don't line up with the NRA." Now the likely Republican presidential nominee, Romney will headline the National Rifle Association's annual convention Friday and assure tens of thousands of gun-rights activists that he's squarely on their side.

Coming just days after rival Rick Santorum dropped out of the nomination race, the NRA convention in St. Louis provides Romney an opportunity to shore up his credentials with an important conservative constituency that badly wants to oust Democratic President Barack Obama.

Romney leads a list of prominent Republicans — including Santorum, Newt Gingrich, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker — who are scheduled to address more than 65,000 convention registrants during a session billed as a "celebration of American values." Although Obama has virtually ignored gun issues during his term, the NRA considers him a foe and plans to mount an aggressive effort against him.

The NRA has spent \$20 million to \$30 million in past presidential elections, said NRA spokesman Andrew Arulanandam. It hopes to exceed that amount this year in an effort that is likely to include mail, phone calls and TV, radio, Internet and newspaper ads, he said.

As the all-but-certain Republican presidential nominee, Romney hopes to reap the rewards of the NRA's broad network, which includes more than 4 million dues-paying members.

Syrian Opposition Promises Major Protests

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria's opposition called for widespread protests Friday to test the regime's commitment to an internationally brokered cease-fire that the U.N. chief described as so fragile it could collapse with a single gunshot.

Regime forces halted heavy shelling and other major attacks in line with the truce that began at dawn Thursday, though there were accusations of scattered violence by both sides. The government ignored demands to pull troops back to barracks, however, defying a key aspect of the plan, which aims to calm a year-old uprising that has killed 9,000 people and has pushed the country toward civil war.

"The onus is on the government of Syria to prove that their words will be matched by their deeds at this time," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told reporters in Geneva. He said the world was watching with skeptical eyes.

"This cease-fire process is very fragile. It may be broken any time," Ban added, saying "another gunshot" could doom the truce.

The presence of tanks and troops could discourage any large gatherings, but the leader of the opposition Syrian National Council, Burhan Ghalioun, urged Syrians to demonstrate peacefully on Friday. "Tomorrow, like every Friday, the Syrian people are called to demonstrate even more and put the regime in front of its responsibilities — put the international community in front of its responsibilities."

Jury Selection Begins In Trial Of John Edwards

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — After years of investigation, denials and delays, jury selection began Thursday for the criminal trial of former presidential candidate John Edwards.

Edwards sat at the defense table as about 180 potential jurors filed into a Greensboro, N.C., courtroom. U.S. District Judge Catherine C. Eagles then asked Edwards to stand and face them. He grinned and nodded as the judge introduced him.

The trial had been scheduled to begin in late January, but was delayed after Edwards' lawyers told the judge he had a serious heart problem that required treatment. Compared with the quick-smiling candidate of four years ago, the former U.S. senator, now 58, appeared slightly gaunt in the cheeks but still had no trace of gray in his carefully parted hair.

Edwards faces six criminal counts related to nearly \$1 million in secret payments made by two campaign donors to help hide the married Democrat's pregnant mistress as he sought the White House in 2008.

"This is not a case about whether Mr. Edwards was a good husband or politician," the judge said from the bench. "It's about whether he violated campaign finance laws. ... The Constitution says trial by jury, not trial by Internet or trial by gossip."

BY JEAN H. LEE

Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea — Defying international concerns, North Korea fired a long-range rocket early Friday, but it appears to have fallen into the sea, splintering moments after takeoff, South Korean and U.S. officials said.

The liftoff took place at 7:39 a.m. (2139 GMT Thursday) from the west coast launch pad in the hamlet of Tongchang-ri, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff in Seoul said, citing South Korean and U.S. intelligence.

The two countries as well as many others had warned against the launch, calling it a provocation and a cover to test missile technology. North Korea had insisted it would not back down, and said the rocket would only carry a satellite, touting it as a major technological achievement to mark the 100th birth anniversary of the country's founder, Kim Il Sung, on Sunday.

Still, if the U.S. report of a failure, backed by Japan and South Korea, is true, it would be a major embarrassment for Pyongyang, which has invited dozens of international journalists to observe the rocket launch and other celebrations.

It has staked its pride on the satellite launch

seen as a show of strength amid persistent economic hardship as Kim Il Sung's grandson, Kim Jong Un, solidifies power following the death of his father, longtime leader Kim Jong Il, four months ago.

"It blows a big hole in the birthday party," said Victor Cha, former director for Asia policy in the U.S. National Security Council, contacted in Washington. "It's terribly embarrassing for the North."

He said the next step would be to watch whether North Korea would conduct a nuclear test, as has been speculated by the South Korean intelligence community. North Korea is reportedly making preparations for such a test soon.

"We have to watch very carefully what they are doing now at the nuclear test site and how they explain this with all those foreign journalists in the country," Cha said.

In Pyongyang, there was no word about a launch, and at the time, state television was broadcasting video of popular folk tunes. North Korean officials said they would make an announcement about the launch "soon."

It had earlier said that the rocket would be fired any day between April 12 and April 16. The daily window was supposed to be 9 a.m. to noon.

Prosecutors:

Zimmerman Ignored Warning To Back Off

BY TAMARA LUSH
AND GREG BLUESTEIN

Associated Press

SANFORD, Fla. — After weeks in hiding, George Zimmerman made his first courtroom appearance Thursday in the shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, and prosecutors outlined their murder case in court papers, saying the neighborhood watch volunteer followed and confronted the black teenager after a police dispatcher told him to back off.

The brief outline, contained in an affidavit filed in support of the second-degree murder charges, appeared to contradict Zimmerman's claim that Martin attacked him after he had turned away and was returning to his vehicle.

In the affidavit, prosecutors also said that Martin's mother identified cries for help heard in the background of a 911 call as her son's. There had been some question as to whether Martin or Zimmerman was the one crying out.

The account of the shooting was released as Zimmerman, 28, appeared at a four-minute hearing



GARY W. GREEN/ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT
Accompanied by his attorney Mark O'Mara, left, George Zimmerman appears before Judge Mark E. Herr in Courtroom J2 at the John E. Polk Correctional Facility in Sanford, Florida, Thursday, April 12, 2012.

in a jailhouse courtroom, setting in motion what could be a long, drawn-out process, or an abrupt and disappointingly short one for the Martin family because of the strong legal protections contained in Florida's "stand your ground"

law on self-defense.

During the hearing, Zimmerman stood up straight, held his head high and wore a gray jail jumpsuit. He spoke only to answer "Yes, sir" twice after he was asked basic questions from the

judge, who was not in the courtroom but on closed-circuit TV. The defendant's hair was shaved down to stubble and he had a thin goatee. His hands were shackled in front of him.

He did not enter a plea; that will happen at his arraignment, which was set for May 29. Zimmerman's attorney, Mark O'Mara, has said his client will plead not guilty. A bond hearing for Zimmerman likely will be held April 20, O'Mara said late Thursday.

To prove second-degree murder, prosecutors must show that Zimmerman committed an "imminently dangerous" act that showed a "depraved" lack of regard for human life. The charge carries a mandatory sentence of 25 years in prison and a maximum of life.

The special prosecutor in the case, Angela Corey, has refused to explain exactly how she arrived at the charge. But in the affidavit, prosecutors said Zimmerman spotted Martin while patrolling his gated community, got out of his vehicle and followed the young man.

OBITUARIES

Grace Hoelsing

FORDYCE, Neb. — Grace J. Hoelsing, age 92, of Fordyce, NE died Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at the Golden Living Center, Hartington, NE.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 14, 2012, at St. Boniface Catholic Church, Menominee, NE, with Rev. Paul Hoelsing celebrating and Rev. David Fulton concelebrating. Burial will be in St. Boniface Cemetery, Menominee, NE.

Visitations will begin at 5 p.m. Friday, April 13, 2012, at St. Boniface Catholic Church with a Wake Service at 7 p.m.. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton is in charge of the arrangements.

Pallbearers will be Matthew and Jonathan Hoelsing, Michael and Patrick Magorian, and Nicholas and Jerod Hoelsing.

Grace (Schaefer) Hoelsing was born to Ted and Anna (Haverman) Schaefer on February 21, 1920 on a farm near Menominee, NE. She grew up on the farm southwest of Menominee that was homesteaded by her great grandfather, Theodore Schaefer in 1872. Grace was baptized, made her First Communion and was confirmed in St. Boniface Catholic Church, Menominee. She attended grade school there but did not attend high school and worked for different people in neighborhood. She also worked as a maid in Omaha and later at St. Joseph's Hospital in Sioux City, IA.

On May 5, 1943, she married Francis Hoelsing at St. Boniface Catholic Church. Together they farmed her home place and lived there the rest of their life.



Hoelsing

Mothers, and the Ladies Guild. She was also Past President of N.C.C.W. of Hartington Deanery and a board member of Cedar Catholic High School, past member of Catholic Daughters, and the Cursillo group. Grace belonged to the Birthday Club for many years.

Her hobbies were quilting, crocheting, and she loved baking, cooking, and gardening and everyone enjoyed her homemade jellies.

She is survived by her children: Linda (Gary) Vejvoda of Grand Island, NE; Gary (Kate) Hoelsing of Boise, ID; Duane (Judy) Hoelsing of Menominee, NE; Don (Karen) Hoelsing of Hartington, NE; Diane (Bob) Lerch of Lincoln, NE; Glen (Donna) Hoelsing of Norfolk, NE; Kathy (Jay) Magorian of Gayville, SD, and Lisa Krug of Parmalee, SD; 23 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Grace was preceded in death by her husband, Francis, infant daughter, Karen, her parents, sister, Hilda and a grandson, Kurt.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
April 13, 2012



OPSAHL-KOSTEL
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.

Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

They raised 8 children-4 boys and 4 girls and lost an infant girl.

Grace was active in church and school work and belonged to and held offices in Christian

Daniel Ruppelt

Funeral services for Daniel L. Ruppelt, 49 of Springfield will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 14, 2012 at the Emmanuel Reformed Church in Springfield. Dan's body will be donated to the USD School of Medicine following the service.

Visitation will be at the church with the family present, Friday from 5 to 7 p.m., followed by a 7 p.m. Prayer Service.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Springfield is in charge of arrangements.

Daniel Lee Ruppelt, son of Thomas William and Violet Esther (Boese) Ruppelt, was born November 28, 1962 at Tyndall. He passed away quietly at his home Wednesday, April 11, 2012, after a valiant year long battle with cancer.

Dan attended Equal Rights Country School, Quinn Country School, Springfield Elementary and was a 1981 graduate of Springfield High School. He received three associate degrees from the University of South Dakota at Springfield in 1984.

Dan married Nancy Joan Boersma on July 12, 1985 at the Emmanuel Reformed Church in Springfield. Two sons were blessed to their union.

Dan became a Christian at a



Ruppelt

young age and became a member of the Emmanuel Reformed Church as a young adult.

Dan was a farmer, gunsmith and a correctional officer at the Mike Durfee State Prison, where he was a member of several specialty teams. He also was a hunter safety instructor. Dan was a lifetime member of the NRA, Pheasants Forever, Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association and Isaak Walton League. He was proud of the many awards he earned at shooting competitions.

Dan was an avid hunter, fisherman, and restored vintage vehicles. He also earned his Advanced Open Water Scuba Diving Certification.

Thankful for having shared his life are his wife Nancy, Springfield; sons: Alexander Thomas Ruppelt, Rapid City and Peter Casey Ruppelt, Sioux Falls; three sisters: Shirley (Dennis) Miles, Sioux Falls; Catherine (Keith) Mercer, Blunt; and Ruth (Pat) Hemen, Huron; 21 nieces and nephews; mother-in-law, Jessie Boersma, Springfield; his in-laws: Drs. David (Jan Marie Hardwick) Boersma, Baltimore, MD; Carl (Amy) Boersma, Brookings; Jerry (Betty) Boersma, Eagan, MN; Arden (Mary) Boersma, Lindenhurst, IL; and Donna (Cal) Ratzlaff, Avon; and many friends.

Dan was preceded in death by his father; his mother; father-in-law, Cornelius Boersma; and brother-in-law, Barry Boersma.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
April 13, 2012

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James Dangel

James A. Dangel, 87, of Yankton died Thursday, April 12, 2012, at the Avera Yankton Care Center, Yankton.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton. Burial will be in the Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Visitations begin at 5 p.m. Sunday at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, with a 7 p.m. rosary followed by a 7:30 p.m. Scripture service. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Arletta Tisher

Arletta L. Tisher, 101, of Yankton died Wednesday, April 11, 2012, at her home in Yankton.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. April 20 at First United

Methodist Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Ron Johnson officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery, Yankton.

Visitation is 4-8 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at Wintz & Ray Funeral Home, Yankton, with the family present from 6-8 p.m. A prayer service and an Order of the Eastern Star service will be held at 7 p.m. Visitation will resume one hour prior to the funeral at the church on Friday.

To post an online sympathy message, visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Timothy Pedersen

Timothy Alan Pedersen died peacefully at his home on Thursday, April 12, 2012, in Sioux Falls at the age of 42.

Arrangements are pending with Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Yankton.

YANKTON DAILY PRESS&DAKOTAN

Fill the puzzle so that every row, every column, and every section contain the numbers 1-9 without repeating a number.

		7	6					
				3				8
	1	2						9
			4					6
	9	8	2		7	4	1	
3					9			
7						2	3	
4				7				
					4	1		

INTERMEDIATE

INT BOOK 31 #8

Yesterday's Solution

9	3	5	2	4	7	1	6	8
1	4	7	8	6	9	5	3	2
2	8	6	5	3	1	9	4	7
3	2	9	7	5	4	8	1	6
6	5	8	9	1	3	7	2	4
4	7	1	6	8	2	3	9	5
8	6	2	1	9	5	4	7	3
5	9	4	3	7	6	2	8	1
7	1	3	4	2	8	6	5	9

su|do|ku

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Check tomorrow's paper for the solution to today's puzzle.

EA BOOK 31 #8



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