

## Belgian Court Lets Pedophile's Ex-wife Go Free

BRUSSELS (AP) — A woman who let two 8-year-old girls starve in a cellar and helped her pedophile husband carry out horrific abuse of other girls went from prison to a convent Tuesday, outraging Belgians who opposed the early release of one of the country's most despised criminals.

The nation's highest court approved Michelle Martin's release after serving 16 years of a 30-year prison term for her role in the mid-1990s kidnappings, rapes and killings by her then-husband, Marc Dutroux.

Martin left prison in an unmarked vehicle late Tuesday for a Clarisse convent in Malonne, a 75-kilometer (45-mile) trip south of the capital, where her lawyer said she will seek atonement for her crimes. Over 100 people shouted insults at her as she arrived, some trying to break through police barriers.

"There is only one word for this. This is simply absurd. But I will have to accept it," said Paul Marchal, whose daughter An, was one of Dutroux's victims. "Concerning Martin, my fight is over and done. I lost."

Martin's lawyer, Thierry Moreau, insisted Tuesday that his 52-year-old client deserved a shot at a better life.

## GOP Approves Blunt Party Platform

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Republicans emphatically approved a toughly worded party platform at their national convention Tuesday that would ban all abortions and gay marriages, reshape Medicare into a voucher-like program and cut taxes to energize the economy and create jobs.

The document opens by warning that while the American Dream has long been of equal opportunity for everyone, "Today that American Dream is at risk." It pledges that the GOP will "begin anew, with profound changes in the way government operates; the way it budgets, taxes and regulates."

Both parties routinely approve platforms at their conventions every four years, meant to encapsulate their principles and goals. Much of their details are customarily ignored when it comes to actually governing.

Even so, a poll by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center found more people interested in the GOP platform than in the upcoming acceptance speeches by presidential candidate Mitt Romney and his running mate, Paul Ryan. The survey found that 52 percent said they were interested in learning about the Republican platform, compared to 44 percent interested in Romney's speech and 46 percent interested in Ryan's.

"This ambitious blueprint projects a sea change in the way that government works," said Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell, who led the party's platform committee. "It offers a solution for workers without jobs, families without savings and neighborhoods without hope."

## New Project Aims At Improving Hospital Safety

WASHINGTON (AP) — Head of the hospital bed raised? Check. Patient's teeth brushed? Check.

Those simple but often overlooked steps can help protect some of the most critically ill patients — those on ventilators — from developing deadly pneumonia. And if they knew about them, family members could ensure the steps weren't forgotten.

Hospitals are rife with infections and opportunities for medical mistakes. Now, a nearly \$9 million project at Johns Hopkins University aims to combine engineering with the power of patients and their families to prevent some of the most common threats.

The idea: Design patient safety to be more like a car's dashboard, which automatically signals drivers when the oil needs changing or if a passenger forgot to buckle up, or like the countdown systems that make sure no step is missed when a satellite is launched.

Today, safe, quality care largely depends on individual health workers remembering hundreds of steps without good ways to tell if they forget one, said Hopkins' patient safety expert Dr. Peter Pronovost. Getting it right takes what he calls "almost heroic efforts."

## OBITUARIES

### Millicent Fastrup

Millicent Fastrup, 88, of Hemet, California passed away on Friday, August 10, 2012 at her residence.

Millicent was born on Sunday, August 10, 1924 in Yankton, South Dakota. She was married to Donald Fastrup also of Yankton, South Dakota. Don and Millie moved to California in 1950 and were married for over 56 years. They spent many of those 56 years raising their children and dancing.

Millicent was survived by her children, Jerry Fastrup of Arlington Virginia, Constance Bone of Collinsville, Alabama, Catherine Wade of Pomona, California, Daniel Fastrup of LaVerne, California and Denise Fastrup of Hemet, California; 10 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

She was dearly loved and will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

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**August 29, 2012**



**Fastrup**

unteered selflessly at the Veteran's Hospital. She also selflessly saved her neighbor's life from her burning home. You never knew when you turned on KELO news when Esther would pop up — shoveling her sidewalk after a storm, working out at the gym or saving a neighbor.

Esther and Rich enjoyed dancing, playing cards and traveling, which included a trip to Denmark. She remained in their home where she enjoyed her grandchildren and her yard and flowers until her health began to fail.

Esther is survived by her daughter, Belva Gulbrandson of Renner, SD; sons, Richard Jr. (Mary) Muecke of Vermillion, and Roger Muecke also of Renner, SD; sister Janice (Freelan) Aune of Mission Hill and Leona Sparks of Yankton; and sister-in-law Dorothy Holman of Yankton; 12 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband Richard, her parents Soren S. and Inger Marie Thomsen, son-in-law Roy Gulbrandson, grandsons: Tim Gulbrandson and Jonathon James Muecke, five brothers: Henry, Aage, Einer, Gerhardt and Virgil, and four sisters: Gerda, Lily, Ellen and Judith (Judy).

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### Rudolph Bohlmann

MENNO — Rudolph (Rudy) Gustav Bohlmann, 85 of Menno, died Monday, Aug. 27, 2012, at the Menno-Olivet Care Center, Menno.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Immanuel Lutheran Church with Rev. David Ellis officiating. Burial will be in the Menno Cemetery with military graveside rites by the Rames-Bender American Legion Post No. 152, Menno.

Visitations begin at 4 p.m. Thursday at Aisenbrey-Opahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, with the family present at 7 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

### Harry Losing

Harry Losing, 92, of Yankton and formerly of Tyndall, died Monday, Aug. 27, 2012, at Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

Funeral services are at 2 p.m. Friday at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Dave Wildermuth officiating. Burial will be at the Yankton Municipal Cemetery, Yankton.

Visitations are 5-8 p.m. Thursday evening, with the family present at 7 p.m., at Opahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, and then one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday.



**Muecke**

### Esther Muecke

Esther Muecke went to be with her Lord on August 24, 2012 at the Good Samaritan Village in Sioux Falls, SD where she had resided for several years.

Funeral services are set for 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday the 29th at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, with burial at Hills of Rest Memorial Park.

Esther was born on a farm 1/2-mile south of the Mayfield Store (famously known as Dr. Bell's house) to Soren Stenberg and Inger Marie (Mary) Thomsen on May 31, 1918, the sixth of twelve children. She was baptized at the Turkey Valley Church, Irene and confirmed on May 7, 1933 at Vangen Lutheran Church in Mission Hill, SD. She attended the McFarland and Irene Consolidated schools.

She married Richard Muecke on April 27, 1936, and three children were born to this union. Richard and Esther farmed in the Mayfield community before moving to Sioux Falls in 1953. There, Esther's most recent employment before retirement was at Manchester Biscuit Co. Richard passed away in August of 1986.

Esther loved life and was an active member of the VFW Auxiliary, Disabled American Veteran's Auxiliary, Women of the Moose, and vol-

# Romney Sweeps To GOP Nomination

**BY DAVID ESPO**

AP Special Correspondent

TAMPA, Fla. — Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney swept to the Republican presidential nomination Tuesday night at a storm-delayed national convention, every mention of his name cheered by delegates eager to propel him into a campaign to oust President Barack Obama in tough economic times.

Romney watched on television with his wife, Ann, at a hotel suite across the street from the hall as the convention sealed his hard-won victories in the primaries and caucuses of last winter.

"I read somewhere that Mitt and I have a 'storybook marriage,'" she said in excerpts released in advance of a primetime speech meant to cast her multimillionaire-businessman-turned-politician husband in a soft and likable light. "Well, in the storybooks I read, there were never long, long, rainy winter afternoons in a house with five boys screaming at once."

"A storybook marriage? No, not at all. What Mitt Romney and I have is a real marriage," she said.

Aides said her husband of 43 years would be in the hall when she spoke.

A parade of convention speakers mocked Democratic incumbent Obama mercilessly from a made-for-television podium, as if to make up for lost time at an event postponed once and dogged still by Hurricane Isaac.

The Democratic president has "never run a company. He hasn't even run a garage sale or seen the inside of a lemonade stand," declared Reince Priebus, chairman of the Republican Party.

"Mitt Romney will preserve this exceptional American legacy. Barack Obama will destroy it," said Janine Turner, an actress and radio host.



DANIEL WALLACE/TAMPA BAY TIMES/MCT  
**Larry Averill, a delegate from Kihei, Hawaii, cheers at the Republican National Convention at the Tampa Bay Times Forum in Tampa, Florida, Tuesday, August 28, 2012.**

To send Romney and ticketmate Paul Ryan into the fall campaign, delegates approved a conservative platform that calls for tax cuts — not government spending — to stimulate the economy at a time of sluggish growth and 8.3 percent unemployment.

Polls make the race a close one, to be settled in a string of battleground states where neither Romney nor the president holds a secure advantage. More than \$500 million has already been spent on television commercials by the two candidates, their parties and allied outside groups, with millions more to come.

Romney's convention victory was more than five years in the making. He was defeated in his first try for the nomination, in 2008, when he was assailed as a false conservative after a term as governor of Massachusetts.

This time, he had the most money, the largest organization and allies with the deepest pockets, all the better to bludgeon Newt Gingrich, Rick Santorum and other rivals in television ads across a string of hard-fought primaries and caucuses. Even so, conservatives were slow to warm to him, and it took longer than many anticipated for him to lock up the nomination.

# Goal Of United Syrian Opposition Still Elusive

**BY BEN HUBBARD  
 AND ROBERT H. REID**

Associated Press

AZAZ, Syria — In the foreign halls of power, the strategy is clear: Syria's opposition should unite to present an alternative to Bashar Assad's rule — a step France's president says would lead to diplomatic recognition.

As a move toward unity, Syrian exiles from the main opposition Syrian National Council and other groups unveiled a blueprint Tuesday in the German capital of Berlin for transition to a democratic, transparent society free of religious and ethnic favoritism.

But rebels and civilians in the bomb-shattered Syrian town of Azaz near the Turkish border view such talk as hollow. They are deeply skeptical of all exiled leaders and believe what really matters is their fight on the ground to overthrow the regime.

"They have never come up with

a united position that will save the people," said Fadi Hajji, 25, who had been camped out along the Syrian border with Turkey with his wife and two infant daughters for five days. "All they are good at is arguing. They don't represent anyone here and they don't help."

There was more bloodshed Tuesday as a car bomb ripped through a Damascus suburb, killing 12 people, according to the state news agency. Activists also said an airstrike in the town of Kfar Nabl killed at least 13 people as fighting raged nationwide.

With no end to the carnage in sight, French President Francois Hollande called on the Syrian opposition Monday to form a provisional government, saying France would recognize and support it.

Hollande's statement, believed to be the first of its kind, was quickly shot down by U.S. officials who said talk of a provisional government was premature given the deep divisions within the opposi-

tion movement.

The head of the main Syrian opposition group, the Syrian National Council, criticized the U.S. stand, saying that efforts were under way to forge a united front but that the process takes time — especially in the midst of a raging civil war.

"It seems to me as if the international community is not prepared to take decisive decisions and blames the Syrian opposition for its own shortcomings," Abdelbaset Sieda told The Associated Press by telephone Tuesday from Switzerland.

"Yes, there are differences within the Syrian opposition, and this is normal in any country. But as long as we are agreed on a common vision, these differences can be overcome," he added. "The international community must make a move before it's too late."

Those comments were echoed in Berlin by opposition exiles who drafted the 122-page transition blueprint during six months of

consultations funded by governments of the United States, Germany, Switzerland and private groups in Norway and the Netherlands.

"It is quite easy to say the opposition is fragmented and the opposition has not done enough," said Murhaf Jouejati, a U.S.-based professor and SNC member. "But we really should start facing realities ... to get the international community behind this national uprising against a totalitarian, authoritarian, brutal regime."

Although neither expressed a concrete demand, many in the SNC have been hoping the world community would impose a safe zone along the Turkish border, possibly extending to a no-fly zone over at least some areas, and would more openly supply weapons and ammunition to rebels. The disparate groups are also each hoping for support in any power struggle that might follow a collapse of the Assad regime.

# Bosch

**From Page 1**

In one way, Bosch sees his life as coming full circle.

"I started my education at a Catholic grade school and secondary school," he said. "Now, I assume that I'm ending my career at a Catholic grade school."

Bosch is now making the transition between Yankton High School — with about 1,000 students in one of the largest districts in South Dakota — and St. Rose with 72 students in grades 1-8 and another 33 students in its pre-school.

"As former high school activities director and now as an elementary building principal, you are an administrator for both positions," he said. "But I have noticed the two jobs are vastly different."

"It's not only because St. Rose is a Catholic school but also because it's elementary education and a substantially smaller school. It's a lot different supervising 350 to 400 students at lunch time in Yankton, then supervising your first lunch line at St. Rose with 30 students."

Bosch is also adjusting to a much younger group of students at Crofton than at Yankton.

"I'll enjoy the exuberance of the early grades," he said. "I loved the high school, and I worked it for a lot of years, but

the change will be new and refreshing."

Bosch faces other transitions in his new role.

He will supervise four buildings on the site, which he considers a large number of structures for a small school. He will also return to the classroom — or more accurately, the gym and playground.

"I will teach physical education for grades 1-6, which is also a change. But I'll enjoy that," he said. "I had a minor in physical education when I was in college."

And as a Catholic school principal, Bosch also takes on spiritual leadership. The faculty opens each day with prayer, and the school celebrates two Masses each week and ends each Friday by reciting the Rosary.

Bosch has received assistance from St. Rose's pastor, the Rev. Mike Schmitz.

"Father Mike Schmitz is a very nice man. I enjoy working with him," the principal said. "He lets me run the school, but I consult with him and talk with him."

St. Rose also receives assistance from the Archdiocese of Omaha and fellow Catholic schools, Bosch said.

"Marilyn Wiebelhaus is the archdiocese's rural superintendent, and (Principal) Terry Kathol at Cedar Catholic (in Hartington) has also been a big help," he said. "I can contact them with questions, and they have been very open."

In his role, Bosch will also assist with fundraising for the

Catholic school.

"It's not new to me, because I did fundraising at Yankton for the athletic boosters and Y-Club," he said. "But at St. Rose, it's mostly the supporters who do a lot of the fundraising. We will have a golf tournament Sept. 16, and our Unity Supper (in February) is our big fundraiser."

Upon arriving in Crofton, Bosch said he has been warmly welcomed not only by the staff, parents and students, but also by the parish and the greater Crofton community. He works with the Crofton Public Schools, and he has even transferred his church membership from St. Benedict Church in Yankton to St. Rose in Crofton.

"I believe it's important to be visible and to be part of the church and community," he said. "There is a strong community feeling in Crofton, and the families are so close knit. I have gained that feeling in a very short time, and I appreciate it. I feel right at home."

Bosch found the transition was made even easier by spending time learning from his predecessor, Scott Becker.

Becker joined the St. Rose staff in 2007, serving as head teacher, physical education instructor, classroom instructor and main administrator for the school.

He is now teaching at St. Boni-

face elementary school in Elgin, Neb. His wife, Rachel, is teaching music in the Catholic school system.

"Scott was extremely well liked and respected. What he did at St. Rose was much appreciated," Bosch said.

As he settles into his new job, Bosch finds himself at a crossroads.

"After 25 years, I miss my friends and colleagues at Yankton High School. But I'm so busy that I don't dwell on it," he said. "I'm fortunate to have the opportunity to do something that I love to do, and that's to be an educator. It's been really fun up to this point."

However, Bosch doesn't let his job define him as a person.

"I like what I do, but it's not what I am," he said. "I have just been blessed to have this happen the way it happened. I am excited about the opportunities at St. Rose."

*You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at [twitter.com/RDockendorf](https://twitter.com/RDockendorf)*

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**"My real estate agent for the sale of my home was Dean Thomsen. Dean was always timely with his work and explained everything very thoroughly. I would definitely hire him again."**

**E.S. (Seller)**