

## Activist Group Claims 138 Killed In Syria

BEIRUT (AP) — A Syrian activist group reported Monday that 138 people have been killed across the country, about half of them in the embattled opposition stronghold of Homs. A team from the Syrian arm of the Red Cross delivered aid to one of the city's most dangerous neighborhoods after days of trying to reach the area.

The activist group did not say whether all 138 died on Monday or were killed over the past few days. Many of the casualties were believed to be from the rebel-controlled Baba Amr neighborhood of Homs, which the Syrian Arab Red Crescent entered late Monday. Also in the neighborhood are two wounded journalists along with the bodies of two of their colleagues who were killed last week. European and American diplomats and aid workers have been trying desperately to find a way to evacuate them.

Homs has been under siege for nearly four weeks, making it impossible for rescue workers to get to the wounded and for families to bring their injured and dead to the hospital or aid stations.

The high death toll reported by activist group the Local Coordination Committees is sure to add to the already intensifying pressure on authoritarian President Bashar Assad to give up power.

Representatives of more than 60 countries met in Tunis last week trying to forge a unified strategy to push Assad from power. They began planning a civilian peacekeeping mission to deploy after the regime falls. And the European Union imposed new sanctions on Syria Monday.

## Afghanistan Strategy Targeted For Criticism

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is sticking determinedly to its stay-the-course message in Afghanistan despite a week of anti-American riots, the point-blank killing of U.S. military advisers and growing election-year demands to bring the troops home.

In an echo of the Bush administration on continuing the unpopular war in Iraq, the White House and Pentagon insisted Monday that the wave of violence against Americans will not derail the war strategy in Afghanistan or speed up the calendar for bringing American forces home.

"We work alongside thousands of Afghans every single day to ensure a better future for the Afghan people. And nothing that has happened over the past week is going to deter us from that goal," Pentagon spokesman George Little said. "We're making progress. We have put the enemy on its heels in many parts of the country."

Administration spokesmen were at pains to answer the larger question of whether to keep fighting a war that has lost support not only in the United States but also among the people the U.S. has pledged to protect. The perception that Afghans are ungrateful for U.S. sacrifice and are turning on their American advisers complicates President Barack Obama's plan to ease out of combat against Taliban extremists over the next two years.

Under current strategy, tens of thousands of U.S. forces will remain in Afghanistan at least through the end of this year and Afghan forces would have full control of the country's security by the end of 2014. Both Democrats and Republicans have said the timetable should move up.

## Obama To Governors: Boost Education Funding

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama Monday urged the nation's governors to invest more state resources in education, saying a highly skilled workforce is crucial for the U.S. to remain competitive with other countries.

Obama made his pitch at a White House meeting with governors in Washington as part of the annual winter meeting of the National Governors Association. The president and first lady Michelle Obama hosted a black tie dinner with the governors Sunday night.

Obama said at Monday's session that he sympathized with governors whose state budgets have been badly squeezed during the economic downturn. But he said that was no reason to trim resources from schools.

"The fact is that too many states are making cuts in education that I think are simply too big," Obama said. "Nothing more clearly signals what you value as a state than the decisions you make about where to invest. Budgets are about choices."

He reaffirmed his view that decisions about education should be left to states and not the federal government. "I believe education is an issue that is best addressed at the state level," the president said, "and governors are in the best position to have the biggest impact."

## Decision 2012

# Santorum Slammed As Pro-Labor

BY KEN THOMAS  
Associated Press

NASHVILLE — Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich on Monday slammed rival Rick Santorum as a "big labor Republican," accusing him of siding with unions over Memphis-based FedEx when the Senate grappled with a labor dispute in the 1990s.

Gingrich, the former Georgia congressman and House Speaker, is hoping to revive his struggling campaign in the South, and he tailored his message Monday to Republican voters in Tennessee.

Although polls show a close race between Santorum and Mitt Romney, Gingrich challenged the former Pennsylvania senator and his conservative credentials.

"I think there are profound reasons that Rick lost the Senate race by the largest margin in Pennsylvania history in 2006 and I think it's very hard for him to carry that all the way to the general," Gingrich said. "Then he comes South and you take the case right here. He voted for the unions over FedEx. I suspect most folks in the state don't know that. But in fact he was a big labor Republican in Pennsylvania and I suspect when you get to Memphis and you say to people, 'Gee, this is a guy who wanted to guarantee that FedEx give into the unions.' Santorum won't be as popular the following morning."

Gingrich was referring to a pro-



REGINA H. BOONE/DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT  
**Republican presidential candidate and former senator Rick Santorum speaks to members of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce in Livonia, Mich., Monday.**

vision in a 1996 spending bill for the Federal Aviation Administration that sought to help FedEx truck drivers in their efforts to organize. A group of Democrats held up the FAA bill to protest what they said was an attempt to help FedEx prevent its truck drivers from forming a union.

In 2006, Democrat Bob Casey soundly defeated Santorum in his re-election bid.

Gingrich said if Romney wins the Michigan primary on Tuesday, "you'll see things start to clarify. If, as people expect, you end up with a Romney victory in Michigan to-

morrow, I think you'll see Santorum getting a very different second look."

Bypassing Michigan and Arizona, the other primary on Tuesday, Gingrich said voters in Tennessee and his home state of Georgia could rejuvenate his presidential bid, which has stalled since he claimed a surprise victory in last month's South Carolina primary. The former House speaker said a handful of states voting on the mega-contest day of March 6 could propel him to wins in Mississippi and Alabama next month and delegate-rich primaries later in the

# 1 Dead, 4 Injured In Ohio High School Shooting



BY THOMAS J. SHEERAN  
Associated Press

CHARDON, Ohio — A teenager opened fire in the cafeteria at his suburban Cleveland high school Monday, killing one student and wounding four others before he was chased from the building by a teacher and captured a short distance away, authorities said.

A student who saw the attack up close said it appeared that the gunman targeted a group of students sitting together and that the one who was killed was gunned down while trying to duck under the cafeteria table.

FBI officials would not comment on a motive. And Police Chief Tim McKenna said authorities "have a lot of homework to do yet" in their investigation of the shooting, which sent students screaming through the halls at the start of the school day at 1,100-student Chardon High.

Teachers locked down their classrooms as they had been trained to do during drills, and students took cover as they waited for the all-clear in this town of 5,100 people 30 miles from Cleveland. One teacher was said to have dragged a wounded student into his classroom for protection. Another chased the gunman out of the building, police said.

The suspect, whose name was not released because he is a juvenile, was arrested near his car a half-mile away, the FBI said. He was not immediately charged.

Fifteen-year-old Danny Komertz, who witnessed the shooting, said the gunman was known as an outcast who had apparently been bullied. But other students disputed that.

"Even though he was quiet, he still had friends," said Tyler Lillash, 16. "He was not bullied."

Long before official word came of the attack, parents learned of the bloodshed from students via text

message and cellphone and thronged the streets around the school, anxiously awaiting word on their children.

Two of the wounded were listed in critical condition, and another was in serious condition.

"I looked up and this kid was pointing a gun about 10 feet away from me to a group of four kids sitting at a table," Komertz said. He said the gunman fired two shots quickly, and students scrambled for safety. One of them was "trying to get underneath the table, trying to hide, protecting his face."

The slain student, Daniel Parmertor, was an aspiring computer repairman who was waiting in the cafeteria for the bus for his daily 15-minute ride to a vocational school. His teacher at the Auburn Career School had no idea why Parmertor, "a very good young man, very quiet," had been targeted, said Auburn superintendent Maggie Lynch.

## Obama Welcomes TransCanada Plan For New Pipeline Project

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House on Monday welcomed a Canadian company's plan to build an oil pipeline from Oklahoma to Texas after President Barack Obama blocked the larger Keystone XL pipeline from Canada.

The new proposal by Calgary-based TransCanada does not require presidential approval because it does not cross a U.S. border. The 485-mile pipeline is expected to cost about \$2.3 billion and be completed next year, pending approval by federal, state and local governments.

The Obama administration had suggested development of an Okla-

homa-to-Texas line to alleviate an oil bottleneck at a Cushing, Okla., storage hub.

Obama rejected the Keystone XL pipeline last month, citing uncertainty over a route that avoids the environmentally sensitive Sandhills region in Nebraska. He said there was not enough time for a fair review before a looming deadline forced on him by Republicans. The action did not kill the project but, for the second time in three months, put off a tough choice on the pipeline project, which has become the focus of a heated political fight.

Rev. Dr. Paul M. Opsahl  
After Care Counselor

# Healthy Healing Begins Here...

Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory announces a program for those who have lost a loved one and are dealing with grief. Our goal is to assist people through this difficult time. Leading this after care program will be the Rev. Dr. Paul M. Opsahl.

<b><u>Dates:</u></b>	
March 5th	March 26th
March 12th	April 9th
March 19th	April 16th

**Topics to be covered:**

- The Meaning of Grief
- The Normal Experience & Features of Grief
- Constructive Ways of Handling Grief
- The Need To Reach Out and Set Goals
- Coping with Special Days
- Grief, the Latter Stages
- What does the Future Hold?

Paul Opsahl is not new to the community as he attended Yankton College and the School of Theology where he earned the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Theology. He earned a Master of Divinity Degree from Hartford Seminary, Hartford, Conn. His doctoral studies were with McCormick Seminary, Chicago, Ill. He was awarded an honorary degree from Yankton College, where he has served on the Board of Trustees for over 20 years. Rev. Opsahl has over 40 years of pastoral experience, which reflects his concern and compassion for people.

Anyone who has suffered a loss is welcome to join in this program, which will meet on Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory in Yankton.

**PSAHL-KOSTEL**  
 FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.

Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton  
 Memorial Resource Center, Tyndall • Memorial Chapels, Tabor, Menno & Tyndall  
 665-9679 • 1-800-495-9679 • www.opsahlkostelfuneralhome.com

## OBITUARIES

**Gary Bauder**

SCOTLAND — Funeral arrangements for Gary Bauder, 67, of Scotland are pending with Goglin Funeral Home of Scotland.

Gary died on Monday, February 27, 2012 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

Online condolences may be sent at [www.goglinfh.com](http://www.goglinfh.com).

**Goglin Funeral Home**

Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp

[www.goglinfh.com](http://www.goglinfh.com)

**Alfred Clark**

VERMILLION — Alfred R. "Bob" Clark, 86, of Vermillion died Sunday, Feb. 26, 2012, at

Sanford Vermillion Hospital. Funeral arrangements are pending with Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion.

View Our Video Tributes on-line at...

[www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com)

**WINTZ & RAY**  
 FUNERAL HOME  
 and Cremation Service, Inc.  
 605-665-3644

**WINTZ**  
 FUNERAL HOME INC.  
 Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton  
 402-254-6547

# Athletic Safety Shoes

For Women & Men

**NOW IN STOCK**

By Red Wing

# Boston Shoes to Boots

312 W. 3rd, Yankton • 665-9092

Yesterday's Cafe

23rd & Broadway

**Tonight's Special**  
 5-9pm

Includes Soup & Salad Bar

**All-You-Can-Eat**

# Chicken

**\$8.95**

# Book Fair

**Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**  
 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

**Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Pavilion Atrium**

**Avera**

Sacred Heart Hospital