Fighting Goes On As Assad Speech Slammed

BEIRUT (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Monday expressed disappointment with Syrian President Bashar Assad for rejecting the most important elements of an international roadmap to end the country's civil war — a political handover and establishment of a transitional governing body.

Assad in a rare speech Sunday outlined his own vision for ending the country's conflict with a plan that would keep him in power. He also dismissed any chance of dialogue with the armed opposition and called on Syrians to fight what he called "murderous criminals."

U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said Monday the secretary-general is disappointed that Assad's speech "does not contribute to a solution that could end the terrible suffering of the Syrian people. Nesirky said Ban and U.N.-Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi will continue to work for a political transition that leads to U.N.-orga-

The West, including the U.S. and Britain, denounced Assad's speech, which came amid stepped-up international efforts for a peaceful settlement to the Syrian conflict.

On Monday, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan also criticized the Syrian leader's initiative. He accused Assad of "state terrorism" and called on him to relinquish power.

Colorado: Families Of Victims Hear From Police

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP) — Police officers who arrested James Holmes after the Colorado movie theater massacre described the suspected gunman, clad in body armor, as unusually relaxed but fidgety at times.

Holmes didn't resist arrest behind the theater and volunteered that his apartment had been booby trapped, the officers testified during the opening of a hearing in which prosecutors began laying out their case against the former neuroscience graduate student.

Officer Jason Oviatt said Holmes seemed "very, very relaxed" and

didn't seem to have "normal emotional reactions" to things. He seemed very detached from it all," he said.

When Oviatt first saw Holmes in his gear standing next to his car behind the theater, he thought he was a fellow officer but then realized Holmes was standing still, and not rushing toward the theater.

Lottery Winner Died From Cyanide Poisoning

CHICAGO (AP) — With no signs of trauma and nothing to raise suspicions, the sudden death of a Chicago man just as he was about to collect nearly \$425,000 in lottery winnings was initially ruled a result of natural causes.

Nearly six months later, authorities have a mystery on their hands after medical examiners, responding to a relative's pleas, did an expanded screening and determined that Urooj Khan, 46, died shortly after ingesting a lethal dose of cyanide. The finding has triggered a homicide investigation, the Chicago Police Department said

"It's pretty unusual," said Cook County Medical Examiner Stephen Cina, commenting on the rarity of cyanide poisonings. "I've had one, maybe two cases out of 4,500 autopsies I've done.

In June, Khan, who owned a number of dry cleaners, stopped in at a 7-Eleven near his home in the West Rogers Park neighborhood on the city's North Side and bought a ticket for an instant lottery game.

He scratched off the ticket, then jumped up and down and repeatedly shouted, "I hit a million," Khan recalled days later during a ceremony in which Illinois Lottery officials presented him with an oversized check. He said he was so overjoyed he ran back into the store and tipped the clerk \$100.

Mayor: Name School In Honor Of Slain Teacher

STRATFORD, Conn. (AP) — The mayor of a city near Newtown, Conn., on Monday proposed naming a school after Victoria Soto, a teacher who was killed in last month's elementary school massacre and hailed as a hero.

Soto, a 27-year-old resident of Stratford, was killed as she tried to shield her students from the gunman inside Sandy Hook Elementary School. The shooter killed 20 children and six women at the school on Dec. 14 before committing suicide.

"In the days since the tragedy in Sandy Hook, the stories of bravery and heroism by Stratford's own Victoria Soto have been both heart-wrenching and abundant," Stratford Mayor John Harkins said. "She gave her life protecting children, and we must make sure her sacrifice is never forgotten.

Some of the children from Soto's classroom escaped harm, and there have been reports that Soto hid some of her students from the approaching gunman.

Harkins said he had met with Soto's family and discussed how the town could honor her memory.

Health Care Costs Hold Steady

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR

Associated Press

care spending in check for three years in a row, the government reported Monday, an unusual respite that could linger if the economy stays soft or fade like a mirage if job growth comes roaring back.

The nation's health care tab stood at \$2.7 trillion in 2011, the latest year available, said nonpartisan number crunchers with the Department of Health and Human Services. That's 17.9 percent of the economy, which averages out to \$8,680 for every man, woman and child, far more than any other economically advanced country spends.

Still, it was the third straight year of historically low increases in the United States. The 3.9 percent increase meant that health care costs grew in line with the overall economy in 2011 instead of surging ahead as they normally have during a recovery. A health care bill that grows at about the same rate as the economy is affordable; one that surges ahead is not.

The respite means President Barack Obama and lawmakers in Congress have a window to ease in tighter cost controls this year, if they can manage to reach a broader agreement on taxes and spending. Health care spending is projected to spike up again in 2014, as Obama's law covering the uninsured takes full effect, before settling down to a new normal.

"Economic, income and job growth in 2011 was modest and less than might normally be expected during an economic recovery," said the report from the government's National Health Expenditure Accounts Team. "This fact raises questions about whether the near future will hold the type of rebound in health care spending typically seen a few years after a downturn.'

The report noted signals in both direc-

Medicare spending grew faster in 2011, but Medicaid spending slowed down. Spending on hospital care slowed.

Spending on prescription drugs and doctors' services accelerated, but spending for private health insurance grew modestly.

Tuesday, 1.8.13

More people gained health insurance as a result of the health law's requirement that young adults can stay on a parent's plan until age 26. But employers increasingly steered workers and families into high-deductible health plans, which come with lower monthly premiums but require patients to pay a greater share of their bills out of their own pockets. That's a disincentive to go to the doctor.

Although some insurers are currently seeking big premium increases for certain plans, it's not clear that's a widespread trend.

The slowdown in health care spending has been widely debated. Some experts see it as an echo-chamber effect of a weak economy. Others say cost controls by government and employers are starting to have an effect. Many believe costs need to be squeezed

Hagel

From Page 1

ambassador nominee whom he called "openly, aggressively gay" a comment for which he recently apologized.

Brennan, a 25-year CIA veteran, was under consideration to run the agency after Obama won the 2008 election but withdrew his name amid criticism from liberal activists who questioned his connection to the harsh interrogation techniques used by the CIA during the George W. Bush administration.

One of Hagel's toughest critics, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., called his former colleague's foreign policy views "outside the mainstream" and said he would be "the most antagonistic secretary of defense toward the state of Israel in our nation's history."

Perhaps even more concerning for Hagel's prospects has been the tepid response from some Democrats. Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York said Hagel had earned the

right to a full and fair confirmation hearing, but he reserved judgment on whether he would back him. And Maryland's Democratic Sen. Ben Cardin said he and other lawmakers "have questions that have to be answered" specifically on Hagel's views on Iran and Israel.

Obama called Hagel "the leader our troops deserve" and someone who could make "tough fiscal choices" in a time of increasing austerity. The Pentagon is facing the potential of deep budget cuts in the coming months.

The 66-year-old former senator has defended his record on Israel and Iran. In an interview Monday with the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal Star newspaper, Hagel accused his opponents of having "completely distorted" his views.

Hagel has criticized discussion of a military strike by either the U.S. or Israel against Iran. During his tenure in the Senate, he voted against unilateral economic sanctions on Tehran, though he supports the joint international penalties Obama also prefers. Hagel also irritated some Israel backers with his reference to the "Jewish lobby" in the United States.

The White House focused instead Monday on the military record of Hagel, who was awarded two Purple Hearts.

"Chuck knows that war is not an abstraction," Obama said. "He understands that sending young Americans to fight and bleed in the dirt and mud, that's something we only do when it's absolutely necessary." The president, who prefers to

keep a tight inner circle, has close ties to both Hagel and Brennan. Obama and Hagel served together in the Senate and made several trips overseas. Brennan has become one of the president's most trusted advisers, working with him during the planning of the raid that led to the death of Sept. 11 mastermind Osama bin Laden and holding broad authority over the administration's counterterrorism operations.

If confirmed, Hagel and Brennan will join Secretary of State nominee John Kerry as Obama's key national security advisers in his second term. Kerry, a longtime Democratic senator from Massachusetts, is expected to be easily

confirmed by his Capitol colleagues.

At the top of Obama's national security agenda will be winding down the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan by the end of 2014. Key decisions on troop withdrawals are looming, and Hagel is expected to favor a more rapid drawdown than some generals have suggested. Brennan, having served as Obama's top counterterrorism aide for the past four years, would bring to the CIA a deep understanding of al-Qaida in the re-

For Brennan, Monday's nomination represents a second chance at the spy agency's top job after his withdrawal from consideration in

In a letter to Obama at that time, Brennan said he was "a strong opponent of many of the policies of the Bush administration, such as the pre-emptive war in Iraq and coercive interrogation tactics, to include waterboarding.

White House officials say they don't expect Brennan to face similar trouble this time around given his four years of service in the Obama administration.

Moser

From Page 1

gained respect mostly because I worked hard and treated people

Moser decided not to run for reelection in 2012, and instead opted to go back to school on a full-time basis. He just completed his first semester and is on track to wrap up his degrees in 2015.

When reflecting upon the past four years, Moser said he is proud of many accomplishments.

"From a policy perspective, I am most proud to have served as a

member of the Behavioral Health Work Group chaired by Lt. Gov. Matt Michels (of Yankton)," he stated. "We made positive changes that will benefit individuals and families for decades to come."

It was working on policy issues with experts in the field that Moser said he enjoyed the most. Those actions rarely attracted attention because there were no politics involved, he noted.

"I also really enjoyed getting to meet so many people in Yankton County that I would not have met," Moser added. "I have gotten to hear a lot of really great stories over the last four years."

The least enjoyable part of being a legislator was the misinformation and distortions that come

during election time, he stated. "Not so much in Yankton, but in

politics in general," Moser said. The biggest challenges in the Legislature, he continued, were always related to the budget.

"We experienced unprecedented revenue decreases (during my tenure)." Moser stated. "It was challenging, because so much of our revenue goes to education and healthcare, which you never want to make cuts to, so when revenue decreases as it did, there are really no great options. Then you throw 105 different legislators with 105 different ideas into the mix — it is

very difficult.' It was a belief that humans have an obligation to serve one another that helped drive Moser to

Mass of Christian Burial is at

10:30 a.m. **Monday, Jan. 21,** at St.

Boniface Catholic Church,

Menominee, Neb., with Rev.

David Fulton officiating. Burial

will be in the parish cemetery.

day, Jan. 20, at Opsahl-Kostel

Visitations are at 5 p.m. Sun-

run for office.

"But I am just as happy doing that as a volunteer," he said. "I do not enjoy politics very much, but I really enjoyed helping to shape public policy. I may run for something again someday, but I definitely do not have any plans to run for anything in the foreseeable fu-

When asked for advice about running for the Legislature, Moser stressed that a candidate needs to make sure his or her family understands the substantial commitment of time the office will

"If they are on board, then go for it," he said. "We need good people to serve."

Moser made a point of saying how appreciative he is that Yankton County voters chose him to serve two terms in the House.

'It is a great honor and one that I will never forget," he said. "I am proud to have grown up in Yankton and am privileged to have represented our community."

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInland-Voyage

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OBITUARIES

Alvin Weber

Alvin A. Weber, 73, of Menno died unexpectedly early Saturday morning, Jan. 5, 2013, at the Chandler Regional Medical Center, Chandler, Ariz.

Funeral services are at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 11, at Grace Lutheran Church, Menno, with the Rev. Theresa Jacobson officiating. Burial will be in the Unity Cemetery, rural Freeman, at approximately 1:15 p.m. Friday afternoon.

Visitations are 5-8 p.m. Thursday at Aisenbrey-Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, and then one hour prior to the service at the church.

Gene Miley

Gene A. Miley, 73, of Hinsdale, Ill., beloved husband of Christine Rusnak, loving father of David and Daniel Miley; devoted grandfather of Connor and Violet Grace; dear brother of the late Judy (John) Bakker, died Sept. 7, 2012.

Gene was an avid bridge player and a member of the

A.C.B.L. He was preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Marguerite Miley and sister Judy

(Miley) Bakker. Visitation was Sunday Sept.



(Christy Hauer) 8:20 am LifeServeBlood (Christine Hayes) 8:45 am Dakota Museum (Crystal Nelson) Wednesday, January 9 :40 am ABS Winter Wonderland

(Rich Wright, Jill Wermers)

8:20 am Hy-Vee Foods

(Chef Staci)

Mary Miley House

Mary Miley House, passed away on Sunday, December 2, 2012, at her home in Valencia,

Mary was born on April 21, 1919 in Rolla, MO to Alfred and Mandy Miley. She received an Associated Degree from Mount Marty College in Yankton and enjoyed a career as a bookkeeper. She was a member of the XI NU ZETA Sorority, the Questers, the Red Hatters (Vintage Beauty) and Bible Study Group affiliated with Women's Connection. A resident of Valencia, CA for 51 years, she was also a member of the Grace Baptist Church.

Mary is survived by her loving daughter Lynda Lines of Va-

23, 2012 in Countryside, Ill., and a

Mass was held at 11 a.m. on Mon-

Entombment was in Resurrec-

day, Sept. 24, 2012 at St. John of

the Cross Church in Western

tion Cemetery in Justice, Ill.

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Springs, Illinois.

lencia, CA; granddaughter Shelly (Nick) Blinoff and great grandchildren, Madeleine and Warren Blinoff of Camarillo, CA; step-daughters, Pamela Desvernine and Debra Meisner; several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Warren House; parents, Alfred and Mandy Miley; sister, Fern Paulson; brothers, Elmer Miley, Oscar Miley, and Elva Alfred Miley; and devoted companion, Bill Juden. Mary was a young 93 years

old until this past year. She had a passion for life and lived it to the fullest extent possible. She will be remembered for her cheerfulness, sweet spirit, laughter, and delightful sense of

humor, loyalty to family and friends; as well as, her wonderful parties and open house to everyone. She will be greatly missed! Visitation was Monday, De-

cember 10, 2012 in Newhall, CA and funeral services were at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11, 2012, in California. Yankton Press & Dakotan

January 8, 2013



Online condolences at: www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Frederick Pohlman

Frederick Pohlman, 61, of Yankton died Friday, Nov. 23, 2012, at Prairie Homes Assisted Living, Yankton.

Visitations are 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2013, at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, with a Memorial Service

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402-254-654

beginning at 7 p.m. with the Rev. Jeremy Mulder officiating.

Josephine Kast

Josephine A. Kast, 97, of Yankton died Friday, Jan. 4, 2013, at the Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

AMBER LARSON

Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a Wake service at 7 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the

church.

dence.

Judith Knodel Judith K. Knodel, 67, of Lenexa, Kan., died unexpectedly Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013, at her resi-

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 11, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Dave Gunderson officiating. Burial will be in the Gayville Cemetery, Gayville.

Visitations begin at 5 p.m. Thursday at the Öpsahl-Rostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a Scripture service at 7 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.



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806 Belfast, Yankton • brianjs711@gmail.com IN REMEMBRANCE Sister Rachel Brossart 10:30 AM, Wednesday Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel Yankton /intz & 🞾 INTZ

www.wintzravfuneralhome.com

Shreves

Law Office

Brian J. Shreves, Attorney at Law