

Obama: Seniors 'Out Of Luck' Under Romney

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Campaigning in coveted Florida, President Barack Obama warned Thursday that Republican challenger Mitt Romney would be “squeezing more money out of seniors” by turning Medicare into a voucher program. Romney, firing away near his Boston home base, accused Obama of putting his needs above those of the nation.

The daily war of words came as polling shows the presidential contest continues to be close nationally, with both men pouring most money and attention in into the collection of less than 10 states expected to decide the election. First lady Michelle Obama launched a new effort to rally supporters behind her husband, trying to light a fire by saying the whole race could “come down to just a few votes per precinct in key states.”

The president opened two days of campaigning in Florida in search of military veterans, seniors and unaligned voters in the state's crucial midsection. Florida is the largest and most coveted of the nation's Election Day toss-up states, a place where Romney could severely damage Obama's chances of winning re-election.

In Jacksonville, the president broadened his attack on Romney's support for a House Republican plan that would change Medicare from a fee-for-service program into one where future retirees buy insurance using government subsidies. Republicans argue it would introduce competition and give seniors more choices.

“He plans to turn Medicare into a voucher program,” Obama said. “So if that voucher isn't worth enough to buy the health insurance that's on the market, you're out of luck. You're on your own. ... We shouldn't be squeezing more money out of seniors who are just barely getting by right now.”

A Week Before Olympics, U.K. On Defensive

LONDON (AP) — There's nearly a week to go before the Olympics kick off in London and British officials are stuck playing defense.

On Thursday, the country's Olympics secretary said 1,200 extra troops were put on standby in case embarrassing manpower shortages get any worse, while U.K. border agents announced a strike for the day before the games begin.

The one-two punch of bad news comes with only eight days to go, unbalancing a government which might have hoped to bask in glow of pre-Olympic buildup. By far, the most embarrassing episode has been the inability of security contractor G4S PLC to deliver on its promise to supply about 10,400 guards to help keep the games safe — a last-minute admission which has forced the government to call in 3,500 soldiers to help meet the shortfall.

Speaking Thursday, Olympics Secretary Jeremy Hunt acknowledged that even that may not be enough, telling the BBC that the government put the extra 1,200 troops on standby “in the unlikely situation that G4S's performance deteriorates from where it is today.”

“We want to ensure the public against every eventuality,” he told Sky News earlier. “We don't expect to use them, but they will be there.”

Microsoft Reports First Quarterly Loss

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Microsoft said Thursday that an accounting adjustment to reflect a weak online ad business led to its first quarterly loss in its 26 years as a public company.

The software company had warned that it was taking a \$6.2 billion charge because its 2007 purchase of online ad service aQuantive hasn't yielded the returns envisioned by management. The non-cash adjustment is something companies do when the value of their assets decline. Microsoft Corp. paid \$6.3 billion for aQuantive, only to see rival Google Inc. expand its share of the online ad market.

The charge led to a \$492 million loss in the April-June quarter, or 6 cents a share. That compares with earnings of \$5.9 billion, or 69 cents, a year ago.

Revenue rose 4 percent to \$18.06 billion.

Excluding the adjustment and the deferral of some revenue into the current quarter related to its launch of Windows 8, earnings came to 73 cents per share, beating the 62 cents per share expected by analysts polled by FactSet.

Syria's Assad Appears On TV After Bombing

BY ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian President Bashar Assad made his first appearance Thursday since a bomb killed some of his top lieutenants, looking calm and composed on state TV even as his forces turned parts of Damascus into combat zones and rebels seized two of the country's border crossings.

The unprecedented attack on Assad's inner circle Wednesday, along with the government's inability to crush the rebels after five days of intense clashes in the Syrian capital, point to an unraveling of his grip on power after 16 months of violence.

“It is a war going on here, literally a war,” said a 25-year-old woman in the Muhajereen neighborhood. The sounds of battle had kept her up all night and she stayed home from work because she feared random gunfire, she added.

“It reminded me of that night when the Americans shelled Baghdad nine years ago,” said the woman, who spoke on condition of anonymity because she feared for her safety. “I was watching it on TV, but today I'm living a very similar situation.”

Even though Assad's powerful military remains mostly loyal — suggesting a total collapse may not be imminent — the rebels

appeared to be making startling gains as the civil war intensified.

Besides the fighting in Damascus, about a half-dozen rebels took over a Syrian border crossing near the Iraqi town of Qaim, said Iraqi army Brig. General Qassim al-Dulaimi. There are four major border posts with Iraq.

Rebels overtook a Syrian army outpost near the Syrian-Iraq border after clashes that killed 21 Syrian soldiers, he added.

In addition, amateur video posted online showed rebels taking over the Bab al-Hawa border crossing with Turkey, where they stomped on portraits of Assad. The Associated Press could not independently verify the video because the government bars most media from working independently in the country.

A diplomatic solution to ending the bloodshed seemed even more remote after Russia and China again vetoed a Western-backed U.N. resolution aimed at pressuring Assad's government to end the escalating conflict.

Analysts said the regime was clearly shaken by the violence in the heart of its power base of Damascus, but the next step was not clear yet.

“We should not get carried away with speculating about the impending fall of the regime,” said Salman Shaikh, director of the Brookings Doha Center and an analyst on re-

gional politics. He said the regime's forces “are still showing a certain amount of cohesiveness in battle.”

Citing a network of sources on the ground, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported intense clashes in a string of neighborhoods along the southern edge of Damascus, the northeastern neighborhood of Qaboun, and in number of western suburbs.

Gunfire and booms from shelling could be heard throughout the capital, and streets in the hard-hit areas were largely empty, save for government troops or rebels.

On Thursday, many Syrians said they were not waiting around to see if the violence would end any time soon. Thousands streamed across the Syrian border into Lebanon at the Masnaa crossing point — about 25 miles (40 kilometers) from Damascus.

Hundreds of private cars as well as taxis and buses ferried people across.

Even if Assad did leave power, the opposition is widely perceived to be far too disorganized to take over. There is no clear candidate to lead the country in Assad's absence, and the grim sectarian tint to much of the violence suggests any power vacuum will usher in a bloodbath.

Police Seek Bomber Identity, Israel Blames Iran

BY NICK DUMITRACHE
AND VESELIN TOSHKOV

Associated Press

BURGAS, Bulgaria — He looked like any other impatient tourist checking the big board at airport arrivals: a lanky, long-haired man in a baseball cap with his hands in the pockets of his plaid Bermuda shorts, a bulky backpack hanging from his shoulders.

Minutes later, authorities say, the man, filmed by security cameras at the Burgas airport, would board a bus filled with young Israeli tourists and blow himself up, killing six others as well. Authorities looked Thursday for clues as to who he was, using his fingerprints, his DNA and his fake Michigan driver's license.

Despite the uncertainty, Israel was quick to blame Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah for the attack Wednesday. The victims included the Bulgarian bus driver and five Israelis, including a pregnant woman.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the bombing “was carried out by Hezbollah, the long arm of Iran.” Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast called the accusation



“baseless,” saying it was aimed at diverting world attention from Israel's role in the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists.

Israel has attributed a series of attacks on its citizens around the world in recent months to Iran and its Shiite proxies, threatening to escalate a shadow war between the two arch-enemies that has escalated over Israeli allegations that the Iranians are trying to build nuclear weapons.

The attack occurred shortly after the Israelis boarded a bus outside the airport in the Black Sea resort town of Burgas, a popular destination for Israeli tourists

— particularly for high school graduates before they are drafted into military service. Burgas is about 400 kilometers (250 miles) east of the capital, Sofia.

On Thursday, Bulgarian television aired security camera footage showing the suspected bomber wandering in and out of the terminal shortly before the blast. He was dressed as a tourist himself, wearing a baseball cap, T-shirt, plaid shorts and sneakers with short white socks. He carried a large backpack with wheels.

Interior Minister Tsvetan Tsvetanov said the backpack contained the bomb, which detonated in the luggage compartment of the bus. The bomber was believed to have been about 36 years old and had been in the country between four and seven days, Tsvetanov said without elaborating.

“We cannot exclude the possibility that he had logistical support on Bulgarian territory,” the minister said.

Officials were using DNA samples to try to establish his identity. Bulgarian Prime Minister Boiko Borisov told reporters that a Michigan driver's license was retrieved, but U.S. officials said

there was “no such person in their database.” Michigan is home to one of the largest Arab communities in the U.S.

Bulgarian television aired footage of the license showing the name of Jacques Felipe Martin with an address in Baton Rouge, La. Michigan officials said they told the FBI that no one by that name had a valid Michigan license and that out-of-state residents cannot be issued one anyway.

The Israelis had just arrived on a charter flight from Tel Aviv carrying 154 people, including eight children. Some of them told Israeli television that they were just boarding the white bus in the airport parking lot for a ride to their hotel when the blast occurred.

Officials reported overnight that an eighth person had died, but later said that was incorrect.

On Thursday, Bulgarian authorities rushed 200 police to hotels where about 1,000 Israelis were staying just north of Burgas. A representative of the Ortanna tour company, which books tours from Israel, said about 10,000 Israelis had scheduled vacations in Bulgaria through the firm this summer and about half had canceled after the attack.

OBITUARIES

Bobbie Christopherson

Bobbie M. Christopherson, age 87, of Rosamond, CA and formerly of Yankton, SD, passed away early Monday morning, July 16, 2012 at her daughter's residence in Rosamond, CA.

Graveside services will be 10 a.m. Saturday, July 21, 2012 at the Gayville Cemetery, Gayville, SD, with Rev. Paul M. Opsahl officiating.

Visitations will be 4 to 6 p.m. Friday evening at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, SD.

Bobbie was born June 30, 1925 in Inglewood, CA to Robert and Gladys (Branston) Peterson. Bobbie was one of four children (Alex, Robert, Bobbie and Patti). Bobbie was very tiny at birth and had some serious health issues, but she turned out to be quite a fighter, even at an early age. She attended the school system in Burbank, CA, even graduated one full semester ahead of her class. Bobbie met Ralph Christopherson (her Marine) and they were married April 25, 1943 on Easter Sunday in North Hollywood, CA. Bobbie was born and raised only in a large city, so she had quite an adjustment when she and her husband moved to the country. Bobbie had a gift of somehow always making things work out, so she took on the challenges with her usual positive attitude. In 1951, Ralph and Bobbie bought their farm in Volin and lived there until they sold their home place in 2004 and moved to Yankton. Bobbie's husband, Ralph passed away July 4, 2010. Bobbie then moved to California with her daughter, Michelle.

Bobbie worked at Sears for many years. She became Service Manager and held this position



Christopherson

until she retired. Her position was very demanding, but somehow she always had a cheerful outlook and a friendly smile for everyone she met. She worked at Sears for more than 30 years, receiving many awards for service, dedication and excellence. She was a member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, and women's auxiliary at church. Bobbie was always very active. Besides her family and career, she had many hobbies such as: Cross stitching, crocheting, macramé, knitting, loved making ceramics, a beautiful seamstress, great cook, and her favorite pastime was definitely shopping. She always had time for her children and was ready to help in any way possible. She had a gift of making you feel you were always very special.

She is survived by the following family members: Michelle of California; Chad (Deanna) of Idaho; Jason (Sandra) of North Dakota; Amber (Dustin) of Idaho; and five great-grandchildren: James, Paige, Kyle, Dylan, and Gavin.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph, son, Bob, her parents, brothers and a sister.

Mom, you have left an empty place in our hearts which will never be filled. We will love and miss you forever.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
July 20, 2012

OPSAHL-KOSTEL
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.
Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Lloyd Schweinforth

Lloyd L. Schweinforth, age 86, formerly of Tyndall and more recently of Scotland, SD passed away Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at the Scotland Good Samaritan Center, Scotland, SD.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Saturday, July 21, 2012 at Peace Christian Reformed Church, Menno, SD with Rev. Dan Flyger and Rev. Joe Brinks officiating. Burial will be in the Our Saviors (West) Cemetery, rural Menno, SD at approximately 12:30 p.m..

Friend & family visitations will be held beginning at 5 p.m. Friday evening, July 20, 2012 at the Aisenbrey-Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, SD and then one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday, July 21.

Pallbearers are Joshua Schaeffer, Joseph Schaeffer, Jeremiah Schaeffer, Matthew Bosworth, Benjamin Bosworth, Chris Buchmann, Clint Starwalt and Gregory Krech.



Schweinforth

Lloyd was born January 2, 1926 on the family farm near Tyndall, SD to Albert and Johanna (Bauder) Schweinforth. He was baptized on February 28, 1926 at Newberg Congregational Church, Scotland, SD and confirmed in the same church by Rev. Boumann. He married Esther Lillian Hagge on February 26, 1954. Lloyd could be heard saying that “Esther was the best thing that ever happened to me”. Esther passed away on December 24, 2003.

Lloyd farmed all his life on the same farm on which he was born. He was known for his ability to fix farm equipment, farm buildings, and making or repairing bikes and toys for his children and grandchildren. He was also a recycler of old things, making them into something new. In his later years he made toys for his great-grandchildren,

bird houses, and made wagons for his great-grandchildren.

Lloyd is survived by one son, David Allen Schweinforth of Tyndall, SD; three daughters, Linda Marie (Doug) Schaeffer of Lesterville, SD, Marlene Kay (Mike) Bosworth of Sabeth, KS, and Julie Ann Hartmann of Woodbury, MN; eight grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; and sisters, Elnora (Willard) Zander of Scotland, SD, and Dorothy (Lonn) Sweet of Sun City, AZ.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Esther and parents, Albert and Johanna.

Memorials can be directed to Gideons International, P.O. Box 334, Yankton, SD 57078.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
July 20, 2012

**AISENBREY
OPSAHL-KOSTEL**
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.
Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

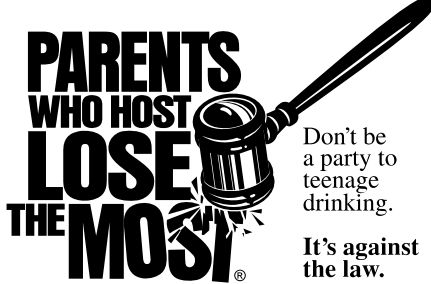
Reduce the Chances Your Child will Develop a Drug or Alcohol Problem

- Build a Warm & Supportive Relationship with Your Child
- Be a Good Role Model When It Comes To Drinking, Taking Medicine & Handling Stress
- Know Your Child's Risk Level

- Know Your Child's Friends
- Monitor, Supervise & Set Boundaries
- Have Ongoing Conversations & Provide Information About Drugs & Alcohol

Source: Treatment Research Institute & The Partnership at Drugfree.org. "6 Parenting Practices: Help Reduce the Chances Your Child will Develop a Drug or Alcohol Problem"

Brought to you by...



For more information call 605-665-4606 or find us on Facebook at The Coalition For a Drug Free Yankton

OUR CLASSIFIEDS WORK FOR YOU! CALL THE P&D AT (605) 665-7811

1st. Annual Charity Poker Run Benefitting

Yankton Sack Pack Program
Saturday July 21, 2012
Upper Deck Bar & Grill

Yankton Sack Pack Program Mission Statement:
To Provide Weekend Food to School Children, no child should go hungry!!!

Registration time: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Upper Deck.
All Bikes and Vehicles Welcome.

Entry Fee: \$15.00

Free T-shirt (first 100 registries) Donated by JJ Benji
10% of Entry fees for best hand

\$25.00 for worst hand.

Auction-Gun Raffle- 50/50-Food provided after the run at the Upper Deck

AUCTION STARTS AT 8:30 P.M.

Poker Run and Auction Open to Everyone.

Ipad 2 (16GB Black), Craftsman 22" Electric start snow thrower, Motorcycle helmet, \$100 gift card, Harley Davidson Flame Poker Chip set, Jolene Steffen print, 4 bag chairs, 2 t-shirts & 2 hats, \$20 gift certificate, Milwaukee cordless 1/2" compact drill, 2 large pizzas, 4 - movie passes (good M-TH), 18 holes of golf for 4 people with carts, 3 mo. Fitness Membership, 1 family sitting & 11x14 print, Viking helmet, Nebraska Cornhusker helmet, Nebraska Cornhusker helmet Autographed by Grant Wistrom, Green Bay Packers helmet, \$50 gift card, Car wash system, Crossman airsoft rifle, Case of hams, \$75 Upper Deck gift cert., 6 t-shirts & motorcycle related item, 2 tickets to Cinderella concert 7/28/2012 at Tyson Center Sioux City Iowa & Harley knife, Danze faucet & ceiling light fixture, \$50 gift cert., 32" flat screen TV, John Green Prints, Movie night bucket, Gift pack bike cleaning supplies, U.S. Marshals Motorcycle patch.

Please Call 605-665-3137 for more information.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Elaine C. Cooper
10:30 AM, Friday
Trinity Lutheran Church
Hartington

Daniel P. Cook
2:00 PM, Saturday
Pilgrim Congregational UCC
Coleridge

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



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

www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com