

**Musharraf Returns To Pakistan For Comeback**

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — Former President Pervez Musharraf returned home Sunday hoping to make a political comeback despite Taliban death threats and looming arrest warrants. But judging by the lackluster crowd at the airport to greet him, his biggest challenge could be his waning popularity.

His return comes as Pakistan is poised to transition from one democratically elected government to another — a first for a country that has experienced three coups since its 1947 inception. After years on the margins of Pakistani politics, Musharraf is seeking to rebuild his image, hoping to capitalize on an electorate frustrated with five years of rising inflation, rolling blackouts and security problems.

Musharraf, a four-star general who was chief of the army, took power in a 1999 coup and his military-led regime steered the country for nearly a decade until he was forced to step down in 2008 as president. Confronted with mounting criticism and widespread protests after he tried to dismiss a popular chief justice, he left facing impeachment by the newly elected parliament.

He later left the country and has been living between London and Dubai ever since.

The former Pakistani strongman had promised to return to his homeland many times before. He finally followed through, boarding a plane in Dubai with supporters and journalists and flying to the southern port metropolis of Karachi, the largest city in the nation.

**Rove Sees Potential Support For Gay Marriage**

WASHINGTON (AP) — GOP strategist Karl Rove says he can imagine a Republican candidate in the next presidential campaign supporting gay marriage.

The statement from the former adviser to President George W. Bush appears to acknowledge that opposition to gay marriage has waned in some conservative circles.

Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, announced last week that he now supports gay marriage after learning one of his sons was gay.

Rove's comment was part of a panel discussion on ABC's "This Week." He did not elaborate.

The Supreme Court is taking up two cases this week involving same-sex marriage. Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, told CBS' "Face the Nation" that most Republicans still oppose gay marriage and noted that 30 states have defined marriage between a man and a woman.

**More Hearts Can Be Fixed Without Surgery**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Have a heart problem? If it's fixable, there's a good chance it can be done without surgery, using tiny tools and devices that are pushed through tubes into blood vessels.

Heart care is in the midst of a transformation. Many problems that once required sawing through the breastbone and opening up the chest for open heart surgery now can be treated with a nip, twist or patch through a tube.

These minimal procedures used to be done just to unclog arteries and correct less common heart rhythm problems. Now some patients are getting such repairs for valves, irregular heartbeats, holes in the heart and other defects — without major surgery. Doctors even are testing ways to treat high blood pressure with some of these new approaches.

All rely on catheters — hollow tubes that let doctors burn away and reshape heart tissue or correct defects through small holes into blood vessels.

"This is the replacement of the surgeon's knife. Instead of opening the chest, we're able to put catheters in through the leg, sometimes through the arm," said Dr. Spencer King of St. Joseph's Heart and Vascular Institute in Atlanta. He is former president of the American College of Cardiology. Its conference earlier this month featured research on these novel devices.

**\$338M Powerball Ticket Sold In New Jersey**

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — When Teddy Jackson heard Sunday morning that the lone winning ticket for a \$338.3 million Powerball drawing was sold in New Jersey, the Toms River resident combed through his 40 tickets and hoped for the best.

About 20 minutes later, after checking each ticket at least a couple times, Jackson realized he would have to go work on Monday.

"There were a few where I had one or two numbers, but that was it," the 45-year-old electrician said Sunday. "Now, I have to watch someone else get my money, buy the powerboat I would have gotten .... it was fun to dream about those things for a few minutes while I checked everything."

Details on where and when the winning ticket was purchased and other related information were not disclosed Sunday by New Jersey Lottery officials, who also would not say if anyone claiming to hold the ticket had contacted them as of Sunday afternoon.

They said information on the ticket would be released at a news conference on Monday morning at the lottery's headquarters in Lawrenceville.

**Syria**

**Opposition In Disarray As Leader Quits**

BY BEN HUBBARD  
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syria's opposition plunged into disarray Sunday as its president quit and its military chief refused to recognize the newly elected prime minister of an interim government for rebel-held areas.

The moves reflected deep splits in the body the U.S. and its allies hope will emerge as the united face of the opposition and advance the fight to topple President Bashar Assad's regime.

The missteps of the opposition's mostly exile political leadership drew little notice inside Syria, where rebel fighters dismissed it as ineffective and pushed ahead with their offensive to gain ground near the country's southern border with Jordan. Nearby, the Israeli military in the Golan Heights responded to fire by shooting back at targets inside Syria.

The first blow to the opposition Syrian National Coalition was the surprise resignation of its president, who said he was quitting in frustration over what he called lack of international support and constraints imposed by the body itself.

Mouaz al-Khatib, who rose to prominence as a preacher in Damascus' most famous mosque, said in a statement posted on his Facebook page that he was making good on an earlier vow to quit if undefined "red lines" were crossed.

"I am keeping my promise today and announcing my resignation from the National Coalition so that I can work with freedom that is not available inside the official institutions," he said.

He also blamed world powers for not offering Syria's rebels the support they demand and complained that "international and regional parties" tried to push the Coalition toward negotiations with the Assad regime — something most members refuse.

"All that has happened to the Syrian peo-



DAVID ENDERS/MCT

Anti-government demonstrators rally in Raqqa, Syria, on Friday. In early March, Raqqa became the largest Syrian city to fall under rebel control.

ple — from destruction of infrastructure, to the arrest of tens of thousands, to the displacement of hundreds of thousands, to other tragedies — is not enough for an international decision to allow the Syrian people to defend themselves," the statement said.

Despite electing a new, U.S.-educated prime minister last week to head a planned interim government, the Coalition has failed to make much of a mark inside Syria, where hundreds of independent rebel brigades are fighting a civil war against Assad's forces.

Reflecting the growing dissension over that move, the head of the Coalition's military branch, Gen. Salim Idris, said his group refused to recognize the new prime minister,

a little-known IT professional from Texas, because he lacked broad support among the opposition.

"For the purpose of giving power to a prime minister to unite the revolutionary forces and lead the Syrian revolution toward certain victory, we unequivocally declare that the Free Syrian Army ... conditions its support and cooperation on the achievement of a political agreement on the name of a prime minister," Idris said in an online video.

An aide to Idris, Louay Almkoddad, said many prominent Syrian opposition figures opposed the election of Ghassan Hitto, who received 35 out of 48 votes cast by the Coalition's 63 active members.

**Both Sides Of Gun Debate Make Public Appeals**

BY MICHELE SALCEDO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two of the loudest voices in the gun debate say it's up to voters now to make their position known to Congress.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and National Rifle Association Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre claim their opposing views on guns have the support of the overwhelming number of Americans. They are looking at the next two weeks as critical to the debate, when lawmakers head home to hear from constituents ahead of next month's anticipated Senate vote on gun control.

Bloomberg, a former Republican-turned-independent, has just sunk \$12 million for Mayors Against Illegal Guns to run television ads and phone banks in 13 states urging voters to tell their senators to pass legislation requiring universal background checks for gun buyers.

"We demanded a plan and then we demanded a vote. We've got the plan, we're going to get the vote. And now it's incumbent on us to make our voices heard," said Bloomberg.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said Thursday that legislation would likely be debated in his chamber next month that will include expanded federal background checks, tougher laws and stiffer sentences for gun trafficking and increased school safety grants. A ban on assault-style weapons was dropped from the bill, fearing it would sink the broader bill. But Reid has said that he would allow the ban to be voted on separately as an amendment. President Barack Obama called for a vote on the assault weapons ban in his radio and Internet address Saturday.

Recalling the horrific shooting three months ago at a Newtown, Conn., elementary school that left 20 first graders and six school administrators dead, Bloomberg said it would be a great tragedy if Congress, through inaction, lost the moment to make the country safer

from gun violence. Bloomberg said that 90 percent of Americans and 80 percent of NRA members support universal background checks for gun purchases.

"I don't think there's ever been an issue where the public has spoken so clearly, where Congress hasn't eventually understood and done the right thing," Bloomberg said.

But the NRA's LaPierre counters that universal background checks are "a dishonest premise." For example, mental health records are exempt from databases and criminals won't submit to the checks. Background checks, he said, are a "speed bump" in the system that "slows down the law-abiding and does nothing for anybody else."

"The shooters in Tucson, in Aurora, in Newtown, they're not going to be checked. They're unrecognizable," LaPierre said. He was referring to the 2011 shooting in a Tucson shopping center that killed six and wounded 13, including former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, and the July assault in a suburban Denver movie theater that killed 12 and injured 70. In both instances, as well as in the Newtown killings, the alleged shooters used military-style assault rifles with high-capacity ammunition magazines.

LaPierre slammed Bloomberg for the ad buy.

"He's going to find out this is a country of the people, by the people, and for the people. And he can't spend enough of his \$27 billion to try to impose his will on the American public," LaPierre said, adding, "He can't buy America."

**Cyprus, Creditors Secure Agreement Toward Bailout**

BRUSSELS (AP) — Tense negotiations between Cyprus and its international creditors yielded a preliminary agreement early Monday that paves the way for the cash-strapped island nation to receive a 10 billion euro (\$13 billion) bailout, a diplomat said.

The agreement between Cyprus, the International Monetary Fund and the European Commission still needs approval by the 17-nation eurozone's finance ministers, who were also meeting in the same building in Brussels.

Without a deal by Monday night, the tiny Mediterranean island nation of about 1 million would face the prospect of bankruptcy, which could force it to abandon the euro currency and spur turmoil in the eurozone of 300 million people.

Under the last-ditch agreement, Cyprus' second-largest bank, Laiki, will be restructured and holders of bank deposits of

more than 100,000 euros will have to take losses. It was not immediately clear whether the holders of large deposits in the remaining Cypriot banks would also be forced to take losses.

The diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity pending the official announcement, did not elaborate on how much large deposit holders would lose. Making them take a hit is expected to net several billion euros, thus reducing the amount of rescue loans the country needs.

To secure a rescue loan package, Nicosia had to find ways to raise 5.8 billion euros so it could qualify for the 10 billion euro bailout package. The bulk of that money is now being raised by forcing losses on large deposit holders as well as bond holders in Laiki bank, which will be split into a bad bank of toxic assets and a remaining viable core business.

**OBITUARIES**

**Leonard Hajek**

Funeral services for Leonard L. Hajek, 86, of Tyndall will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 26 at the United Methodist Church in Tyndall with Rev. Duane Coates officiating.

Visitation will be held on Monday from 3:00 p.m. until a 7:00 p.m. prayer service at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tyndall. Inurnment will be held in the Czech National Cemetery in Tyndall at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 27.

Leonard passed away on Sat-

urday, March 23, 2013 at the Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls.

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

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**HONORING THEIR MEMORY**  
*Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them*  
Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

**Rhonda Kay Wubben**  
who passed away on  
March 25, 2012

**Lillian A. Rous**  
who passed away on  
March 29, 2012

**Rita R. Kubal**  
who passed away on  
March 30, 2012

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory. Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.

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**Enter the Journey**

Are you struggling with grief or loss or helping someone through dark times? Learn more about the grief process during this 4 session educational program.

**Everyone Welcome!**

No cost to attend.  
Presented as a community service by:  
Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton  
Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington,  
Coleridge and Crofton, NE.

Sessions will be held at:  
**7:00pm**

**Wintz Funeral Home**  
203 W. Franklin St.  
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Sessions will be held in Yankton in the fall.

**Monday Session Topics:**

- April 1 Expectations on the Journey
- April 8 Embracing the Uniqueness of Your Grief
- April 15 Exploring the Grief
- April 22 Experiencing Life Beyond

Presenter: Sheila Kramer, Aftercare Coordinator  
Sheila is the aftercare coordinator for the Wintz Funeral Homes. She received her Master's Degree in School Counseling with an emphasis in Community Counseling and has over 22 years of counseling experience.



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