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# The PAMPA NEWS



Friday, August 10, 2012 [www.thepampanews.com](http://www.thepampanews.com) Volume 108 • No. 107

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**Viewpoints: Chuck Norris** Movie star with a conservative POV | **p4**

**Rodeo!** It's getting close, Pampa!

## Man tries to kidnap 11-year-old in WalMart store

**■ However, after the girl began screaming, the man let her go, fled, and was later arrested.**

**MOLLIE BRYANT**  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

BORGER — A man accused of trying to kidnap an 11-year-old girl from the toy department of a Borger WalMart Wednesday was captured, arraigned and transported to the Hutchinson County Jail by Thursday morning.

The suspect, Gerardo Ham, 34, a Mexican resident who Borger police believe to be in the country illegally, is being held in lieu of \$75,000 bond.

On Wednesday afternoon, Ham is alleged to have grabbed the girl at the WalMart. But let her go and fled the store after she began screaming.

Around 1 p.m., officers with the

Borger Police Department, including an officer who happened to be on scene, searched the store before examining its surveillance footage.

As Borger PD and the Hutchinson County Sheriff's Office began investigating the whereabouts of the suspect, a Texas Highway Patrolman reported seeing a vehicle that matched the description of Ham's pickup in the Morse area, which is north of Borger.

Around 10 p.m., Borger PD located Ham, and he was transported to the City of Borger's Jail.



Ham

## TOP! O! TEXAS!



photo courtesy of Della Moyer

Shaylee Morriss and Megan Pirtle present colors during the dress rehearsal for the rodeo Wednesday night at the Top O' Texas Rodeo Arena. Along with the practice the Directors and volunteers workrd on getting everything in order.

## CHANGES! Komen founder to step down as the CEO

**FROM WIRE SERVICES**  
 editor@thepampanews.com

It may interest some Pampa residents to know that Susan Komen For the Cure founder Nancy G. Brinker is giving up her position as the organization's chief executive officer.

As she tells it, Nancy G. Brinker's sister was dying from breast cancer, and so she made a promise to her: She would do everything she could to end the disease.

Brinker fulfilled that solemn commitment by founding a breast cancer charity in 1982 that grew into the world's largest — a national fundraising powerhouse that has invested many millions of dollars in research and medical services.

Now Brinker, the public face of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, is stepping down as CEO, about six months after the organization's hotly debated decision to end funding for breast screenings through Planned Parenthood. The move was quickly reversed, but it ended up stirring anger on both sides of the abortion debate.

Brinker will move to a new role focusing on fundraising and strategic planning.

## 'Fun Day' provides variety of events for good cause Pampa youth and community center fund raiser

**GAYDEN HAYS**  
 sports@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Youth and Community Center is hosting "Pampa Fun Day."

According to Liz Campbell with new management the proceeds will all go toward updating the facility. It is targeted mainly at the equipment used by patrons.

The three main events that will be sponsored that day will be Flag Football 5 vs 5 at a cost of \$125 per team.

Also, a Volleyball tournament 3 vs 3 with an entree fee of \$85 will be played and finally a 5K Fun Run will be held.

The fun run has an entree fee of \$5 per runner over 16

years old and free for participants under 16. Registration for the run will be 7 a.m.

The registration for the Football will be 8 a.m. on Aug. 18th, followed by the Volleyball at Noon.

Deadline to register your team is Monday August 13, 2012. Waivers for all events are online at the Youth Centers website and available at the center itself.

Besides the sporting events a raffle, bake sale, kids games, bounce house and other fun events are planned.

If anymore information is needed contact the youth and community center at 806-663-1524 or 826-440-3849. The center is located at 1005 W. Harvester, and one of the staff can fill you in if any further information is needed, or if an individual or family would like to join.

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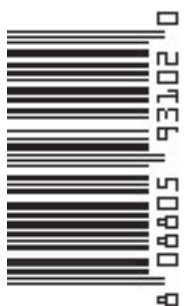
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Pampa MLS & Amarillo MLS

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Obituaries . . . . . 2A	Home How-to . . . . . 7A
Local Record . . . . . 2A	Comics . . . . . 8A
Weather . . . . . 2A	Sports . . . . . 1B
Morning Rush . . . . . 3A	Classifieds . . . . . 2B,3B
Viewpoints . . . . . 4A	Puzzles, Dear Abby. . 3B



## PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Saturday	Sunday
		
High 95 Low 68	High 101 Low 67	High 99 Low 68

Today: Sunny, with a high near 95. East south-east wind around 5 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. South southeast wind around 10 mph.

Saturday: Partly sunny and hot, with a high near 101. South southwest wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. South wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny and hot, with a high near 99. West southwest wind around 15 mph becoming north northeast in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. Northeast wind 5 to 15 mph.

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**GRAY CO.** Latchkey, Inc. welcomes old & new families to our Early Enrollment on Aug. 14, 4-8pm, at Lovett Mem. Library north entrance.

**GOSPEL SINGING,** Sunday afternoon, 2-4, Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock. Everyone welcome!

**CHARITY BINGO** Every Friday Night at Pampa Moose Lodge, 401 E. Brown, 7:30pm. #17507698110

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**ReDonn Woods**  
 Publisher  
 rwoods@thepampanews.com

**Bernie Frazier**  
 Advertising Representative  
 bfrazier@thepampanews.com

**Dana Whinery**  
 Advertising Representative  
 dwhinery@thepampanews.com

**Beverly Taylor**  
 Classified Advertising  
 classified@thepampanews.com

**Marijane Kent**  
 Composing  
 composing@thepampanews.com

**Carrie Hair**  
 Accounting  
 bookkeeper@thepampanews.com

**Tabitha Sharp**  
 Subscription Manager  
 tsharp@thepampanews.com

**Ben Tinsley**  
 Editor  
 btinsley@thepampanews.com

**Gayden Hays**  
 Sports & Religion Editor  
 ghays@thepampanews.com

**Mollie Bryant**  
 Reporter  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

**Holley Bimson**  
 Composing  
 composing2@thepampanews.com

**Marcus Elkins**  
 Press Supervisor  
 press@thepampanews.com

**Chico Ramirez**  
 Circulation Manager  
 Circulation2@thepampanews.com

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# Obituaries

## Robin Fritts

Robin Fritts, 52, died Aug. 9, 2012 in Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Fritts was born January 30, 1960 in Yuma, Colorado. She was reared in Colorado and moved to Pampa where she was a graduate of Pampa High School. She married Vance Fritts on January 12, 1988 in Pampa. She worked for Healthstar Home Health Care, Pampa Regional Medical Center, Little Chef's and National Oilwell as a machinist. Robin attended Highland Baptist Church. She was a very giving person, and if you needed something, you could have it, no questions asked. She was known and respected by many. She will be remembered as a special wife, mother, grandmother, aunt and friend. Robin enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include her husband: Vance Fritts of the home; a son: Trent Magers and wife Amanda of Pampa; a daughter: Wendy Privitt and husband D. J. of Pampa; father: Simion Turner and wife Rosetta of Bassett, Nebraska; mother: Barbara Frei and husband Clarence of Pampa; 2 sisters: Janie McPherson of Elk City, Oklahoma, and Cindy Hinds and husband Gene of Pampa; a brother: Jim Turner of Pampa; a brother-in-law: Darrell Yount of Pampa; 7 grandchildren: Gerrik Roe, Jastyn Privitt, Macen Privitt, Katlyn Magers, Abby Magers, Teagan Magers, and Logan Plindo, all of Pampa. She was preceded in death by an uncle: Tom Meade; a sister: Arla Yount; 2 stepsons: Timothy and Jonathan Fritts; and her grandparents: Alice and Mike Meade and Simion and Betsy Turner.



Fritts

Sign the on-line register at [www.carmichael-whitley.com](http://www.carmichael-whitley.com)

## James R. Flippo

James R. Flippo, 86, of Maysville, Ok. died Aug. 8, 2012 in Amarillo. Services will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, August 11, 2012, with Caprock Baptist Church, 3627 East 29th, Amarillo with his Son-In-Law, Pastor Gene Foster officiating.

Arrangements will be by Griggs-Schooler-Gordon Funeral Directors, 5400 S. Bell, Amarillo.

Burial will be at Memory Gardens Cemetery. Mr. Flippo was born July 26, 1926 in Maysville, Oklahoma to William Benjamin and Ina Little Flippo. He attended school in Maysville, and Oklahoma A & M (now OSU) and Jacksonville Baptist College. He married Helen Irene Hardin on July 8, 1950 in Cayuga, Texas. James was a Veteran of WWII. A member of the First Baptist Church of Pampa and sang in the Sunshine Choir and special music. He was preceded in death by his parents, 7 brothers, 2 sisters, and wife of 38 years, Helen.

Survivors include his daughters, Glenda LaFavers and husband Richard of Victoria, Cecilia Foster and husband Gene; and Lanetta and Novelyn Flippo, all of Amarillo.

There are four grandchildren, Ricky LaFavers and wife Kim of Missouri City, TX, Kelli Dillon and husband Nate of USAF Germany, Stephen Foster and wife Malory of Lubbock, and Elizabeth Flippo of Amarillo.

There also are four great Grandchildren, Austin, Coleson, and Ryan LaFavers, Greg and Zeyn Dillon.



Flippo

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bring close to boiling
  - 6 Inferior
  - 11 "Today" star
  - 12 Like lambs
  - 13 Small movie
  - 14 Scots and Irish
  - 15 Hole number
  - 16 Like clear nights
  - 18 Pindar poem
  - 19 Harden
  - 20 "— your loss!"
  - 21 Opposition votes
  - 23 Wear down
  - 25 Towel word
  - 27 Block
  - 28 Sides in an ongoing battle
  - 30 Compared with
  - 33 Gloss target
  - 34 Lot sight
  - 36 Valuable rock
  - 37 Montana neighbor
  - 39 Bar topic
  - 40 Brownish gray
- DOWN**
- 41 Mission man
  - 43 Wading bird
  - 44 Exemplary
  - 45 Zellweger of "Chicago"
  - 46 Forbidden acts
  - 1 Like loafers
  - 2 40% of North America
  - 3 "Sabrina" co-star
  - 4 Floral ring
  - 5 Attire
  - 6 Found
  - 7 Finished
  - 8 "Sabrina" co-star
  - 9 Being back
  - 10 Kicks
  - 17 "How I Met Your Mother" role
  - 22 Middling card
  - 24 Lynx or lion
  - 26 Hide
  - 28 Cow chow
  - 29 Plopped down
  - 31 Turkish peak
  - 32 Staircase posts
  - 33 Subsequently
  - 35 Swift
  - 38 Fencing weapon
  - 42 Flurry

P	O	L	S		B	L	A	S	T	
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Yesterday's answer

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45						46				

8-10

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# MORNINGRUSH

## Death row off table in shooting

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Obama administration has chosen not to seek the death penalty in capital cases against alleged members of the Texas Syndicate gang accused of a wave of shootings in San Antonio, some fatal.

The San Antonio Express-News reports court documents reflect Attorney General Eric Holder's decision in cases against 13 people accused of being members of the prison-based gang. They've been indicted on racketeering-related charges.

The indictment includes charges of murder, attempted murder, conspiracy to commit murder and drug trafficking. Authorities say four slayings since 2008 have been linked to the gang members.

The investigation began in 2010 with a traffic stop in Bexar (bayr) County that led to the seizure of an undisclosed amount of drugs.

## Texas traffic fatalities down

AUSTIN (AP) — A state audit indicates traffic fatalities in Texas have declined nearly 15 percent since 2006.

Details of the audit of the Texas Department of Transportation were released Wednesday.

Transportation officials say increased seat belt usage and "Click It or Ticket" traffic campaigns have led to safer travel.

The Austin American-Statesman reports Texas in 2010, the most recent year in the report, had 3,028 traffic deaths and about 234 billion miles of driving.

That works out to 1.29 deaths per 100 million miles driven. The formula is used by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for evaluating road safety. Texas in 2006 had a rate of 1.5 deaths per 100 million miles traveled.

The nationwide rate in 2010 was 1.11 deaths per 100 miles million traveled.

## Deal reached with janitors

HOUSTON (AP) — Union officials say a tentative four-year agreement has been reached with hundreds of striking janitors in Houston.

Authorities say the janitors will vote Saturday on the deal that would increase wages 12 percent, to about \$9.35 an hour.

Nearly 500 janitors went on strike July 10 for better wages and increased benefits. Their contract expired May 31.

The agreement was announced in a statement Wednesday night on behalf of the unions, including the Service Employees International Union Local 1.

President Tom Balanoff says the agreement with janitors brings hope to security officers, airport workers and others trapped by what he calls "poverty wages."

The SEIU represents about 3,200 hundred Houston-area janitors.

## Three accused of kidnap, killing

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Investigators say two brothers and a juvenile have been arrested in the killing of a man abducted from a South Texas restaurant.

Brownsville police say the brothers were being held on murder charges and faced arraignment Thursday. Authorities say a 15-year-old boy was taken into custody Aug. 1 in Zapata.

Police have said they believe the July 18 midday kidnapping and shooting death of 22-year-old Reyes Bocanegra was drug related. His body was found about an hour later in his vehicle, located 10 miles north of Brownsville.

Police say the brothers were arrested Tuesday with help from federal law officers.

Two other suspects were arrested last week. Brownsville police say more arrests are expected.

## Man sentenced in baby death

AUSTIN (AP) — A Central Texas man has been sentenced to 50 years in prison for the beating and shaking death of his infant daughter.

A judge in Austin on Wednesday sentenced 23-year-old Nathan Hogan. Hogan pleaded guilty to murder in the 2011 death of his 7-week-old daughter, Serenity, in a plea agreement.

The Austin man was originally charged with capital murder in the attack that investigators say happened when the baby would not stop crying.

Authorities believe the child was violently shaken and beaten while the girl's mother was at work. An autopsy found the baby had multiple fractures.

Hogan will be eligible for parole after serving 25 years.

# Terrapins getting attention in Texas

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — The first two traps yielded three blue crabs and one stone crab. The diamondback terrapins living around the Nueces River mouth hadn't taken the bait.

Because of Nueces Bay's salt concentration and distance from the ocean, terrapins are the only turtles in the bay, said Aaron Baxter, a research specialist for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Center for Coastal Studies.

And the only species of brackish water turtle in North America.

Seven subspecies of terrapins live in marshes and deltas from New England to Texas, but only one subspecies lives along the Texas coast. Researchers at the center are trapping and tagging terrapins to construct a population estimate and identifying threats to their survival.

The species is known for its polka-dot skin, upper lip mustache and bumps along the top of the shell. Once on the rebound from extreme hunting in the early 1900s, terrapin numbers are dropping nationally again because of habitat loss, accidental trapping and being run over on roads.

At least that is researchers' consensus, Baxter said.

Large gaps exist in researchers' knowledge and almost no research has been published on the Texas subspecies.

Several Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

graduate students theses and a three-month project to trap and tag terrapins funded by the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program are the only data Baxter has on terrapins

living in Coastal Bend.

Since the grant money ran out, the university has been using traps and left over tags to continue the project when they can.

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Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 10:00  
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30  
Mon/Thurs 7:30

**The Bourne Legacy (PG-13)**  
Fri 7:00 10:00  
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 10:00  
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00  
Mon/Thurs 7:00

**Diary Of A Wimpy Kid:  
Dog Days (PG)**  
Fri 7:00 9:30  
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30  
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00  
Mon/Thurs 7:00

**The Campaign (R)**  
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# Bulldog Day 2012

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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

TODAY, AUG. 10, 2012,  
IS SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION DAY

The famous Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. was established on this day in 1846 by the United States Congress as an institute of learning.

An Englishman, James Smithson, made it possible to create the institute with his generous monetary gift of \$500,000; hence, the name, Smithsonian.

The Smithsonian Institution supports a wide variety of research projects and publications. It also houses the national museums of natural history, technology, art and history. One of the most popular is the National Air Museum which contains the Wright Brothers original biplane and Charles Lindbergh's plane, The Spirit of St. Louis.

Often referred to as America's attic, the Smithsonian has a little something for everyone from every era and pertaining to all subject matter. You'll even find Archie Bunker's chair at the Smithsonian Institution.

### EVENTS

1821 - Missouri or 'muddy water' was the name of the river and the Indian tribe that lived in the area ... long before Missouri became the 24th state of the USA on this day. Missouri, the gateway to the West, calls the hawthorn its state flower and the bluebird, its state bird. St. Louis (1820) and St. Charles (1821-1826) were both capital cities of Missouri before Jefferson City. Missouri is also known as the Show Me State. In 1899, Missouri Congressman Willard Duncan Vandiver said, "... frothy eloquence neither convinces nor satisfies me. I am from Missouri. You have got to show me." The phrase stuck.

1869 - O.B. Brown of Malden, MA patented the motion-picture projector. Unfortunately, there were no films yet available. Popcorn was around, however.

1885 - The nation's first electric streetcar railway opened in Baltimore, MD.

**1929 - Grover Cleveland Alexander of the St. Louis Cardinals got his final major-league baseball win as he defeated Philadelphia 19-16. Alexander tied Christy Mathewson for the National League record of career victories with a total of 373. Alexander got his first major-league win in 1911. He played for three National League teams: Philadelphia, Chicago and St. Louis.**

1954 - Workers at the Studebaker auto plant in South Bend, IN agreed to take pay cuts of from \$12 to \$20 weekly in an attempt to help the faltering automaker. The plan didn't help. Studebaker was soon out of business because of increased competition from Ford, General Motors and Chrysler.

1954 - Sir Gordon Richards announced his retirement as a racing jockey to become a trainer. Sir Gordon rode 4,870 winners into the winner's circle in his 34-year racing career.

**1965 - Karen Muir of Kimberley, South Africa, age 12 (and 328 days), set a women's world record this day. Young Karen did the 110-yard backstroke in 1:08.7 at Blackpool, England.** If you're wondering, since 1969, world records have been recognized using metric distances only.

1973 - For the first time in his golfing career, Arnold Palmer failed to make the cut for the final two rounds of the PGA Golf Championship. This one was in Cleveland, OH.

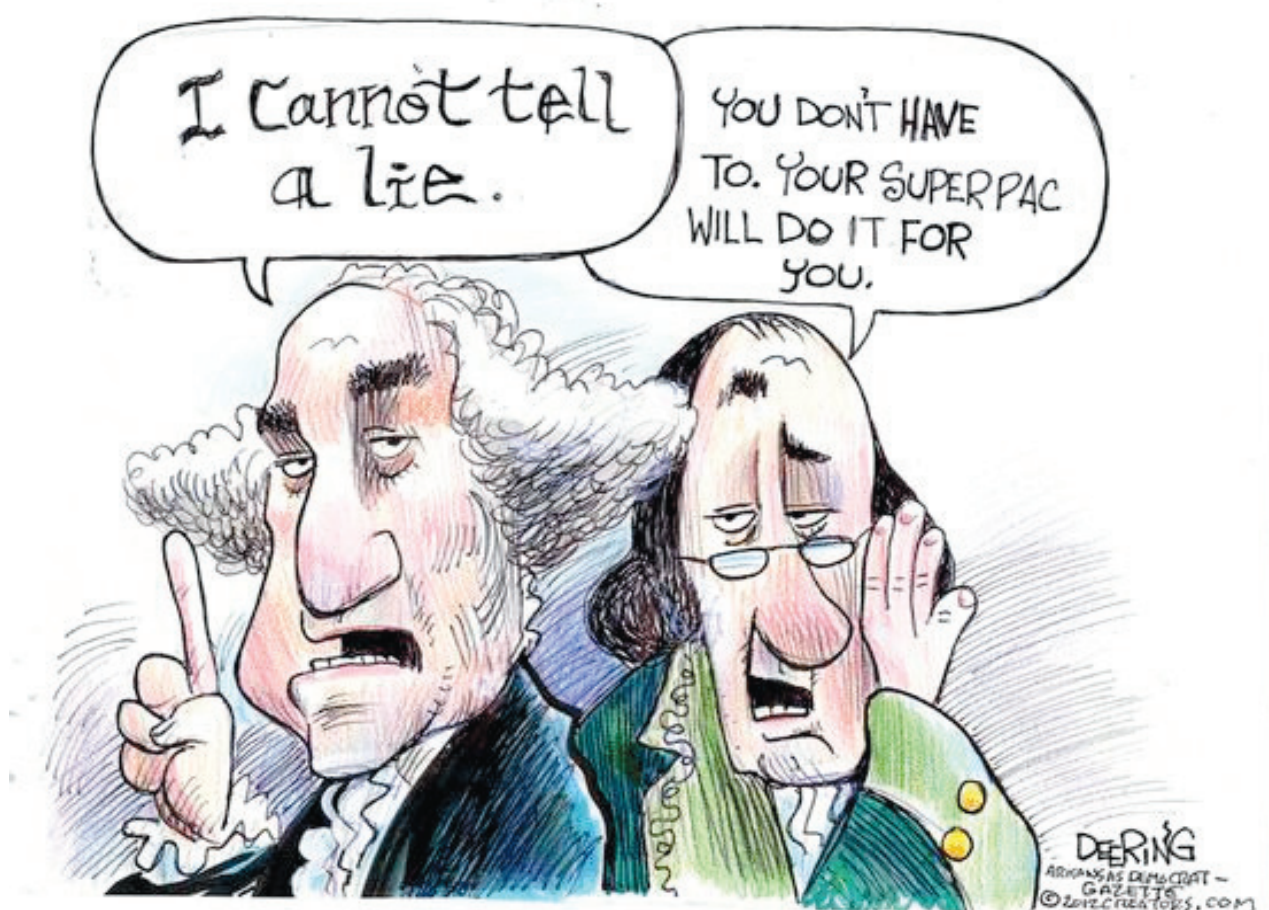
1981 - Pete Rose of the Philadelphia Phillies connected for career hit number 3,631, becoming the National League leader for hits, breaking the record set by Stan 'The Man' Musial. Rose had been one hit away from that record before a 50-day players' strike kept the mark at bay. At the time, Rose was third on the all-time hit list -- behind Ty Cobb and Hank Aaron.

1984 - Mary Decker's chances for a medal in the 3,000-meter run at the Summer Olympics fell to the ground in Los Angeles. Zola Budd, representing Great Britain, collided with Decker. The U.S. runner, and the favorite to win, fell, sprawling off the track.

1985 - Madonna's album Like a Virgin became the first solo album by a female artist to be certified for sales of five million copies.

1986 - Billy Martin's uniform number 1 was retired by the New York Yankees. He was the 13th Yankee great to receive the honor.

1987 - A Chorus Line celebrated its 5,000th performance. It was estimated that 25 million theatre goers had seen the musical since it opened in 1975. An estimated 16.7 million people had seen the show on Broadway, with another 8.3 million taking in the touring production. A Chorus Line became the longest-running show on The Great White Way on September 29, 1983 and ended its Broadway run in 1990.



## Chuck Norris: President Bill Clinton vs. Gov. Scott Walker and me

**CHUCK NORRIS**  
Columnist/Actor

Wisconsin Democrats, Washington elite and insiders, and liberal special interests have joined together to fight for the recall of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker in Tuesday's election. But this past Friday, when I saw them also send in the big gun -- former President Bill Clinton himself -- against Gov. Walker, I knew I had to enter the ring, too.

The Los Angeles Times reported last Thursday: "Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz announced Thursday that Clinton would be campaigning with Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett as he looks to unseat Gov. Scott Walker in next week's recall. The former president will take part in a rally with Barrett, according to the Barrett's website."

There's one primary reason that Clinton came out to Wisconsin to engage in the battle to recall Gov. Walker, and I will tell you it in one moment. But first, the facts.

In the short 18 months in which Walker has held his gubernatorial position, his bold reforms have helped eliminate Wisconsin's \$3.6 billion deficit without raising taxes -- there are lower property taxes for a median-valued home -- and create more than 23,000 jobs. (Before Walker took office, Wisconsin lost more than 150,000 jobs between 2008 and 2010.)

The Associated Press reported that 23,300 jobs were created in 2011 in Wisconsin, based upon figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development spokesman John Dipko said it was exactly 23,608. More than good news for Walker, that's good news for his state.

Wisconsin's economy is stronger and more fiscally solvent because of Walker's leadership. In fact, a new Marquette University Law School poll revealed that citizens -- by a 50-43 percent margin -- believe that Walker would do a better job with the economy than his opponent, Barrett.

On day one in office, Walker began to implement a comprehensive emergency jobs plan. As his website explains, he and the Wisconsin Legislature passed measures that included but were not limited to these things:

-- Cutting taxes on small businesses.

-- Curbing frivolous lawsuits that drove costs up.

-- Eliminating the state tax on health savings accounts.

-- Reforming the state's Department of Commerce into a true economic development agency.

-- Immediately convening a Waste, Fraud and Abuse Commission, which was intent on curbing wasteful spending at all levels of state government.

Walker is not a RINO, or Republican in name only. He walks his conservative talk. He refuses special interests. He opposes accumulating debt and raising deficits. He cuts excess spending. And he stands for issues that are important to every conservative, Constitution- and freedom-loving patriot.

Walker is standing against the assault on conservative values, which includes helping people bear their own responsibilities. As Front Line Strategies consultant Matt Langston explained this past week, "Walker is on the front lines of the fight for free markets instead of free lunches." He is a GOP leader and model in his stand for fiscal frugality, jobs, fair labor policy

and the core beliefs and practices of Reagan conservatives.

So why, then, are big-name Democratic elites, such as Bill Clinton and other liberals, seeking to recall Walker? For the exact reasons I mentioned above. Simply put, Walker has consistently and adamantly opposed big government and special interest solutions to fix Wisconsin.

But there's a bigger reason that Clinton came out to Wisconsin to engage in the battle to recall Walker: Democrats, liberals and progressives know that as Wisconsin goes Tuesday, so possibly goes the nation in November. They fear that a win for Walker would contribute to conservative momentum that ultimately would lead to President Barack Obama's defeat in his campaign for re-election. And they're right.

Though the fight for conservatives doesn't start and stop in Wisconsin, it's an O.K. Corral of sorts for Democrats and liberals. When their groundless recall of Walker is shot down, a potent statement will be sent across our land about the type of government we the people want.

Walker's recall is not just about Wisconsin; it is about national reform. It's about living within our means. It's about taking back our republic. It is about saving our nation and posterity, one election and state at a time.

That is why Walker himself recently appealed to patriots across his state and our country. He wrote this:

"For more than a generation in Wisconsin, the power of special interests and the liberal elite have gone largely unchecked. My Administration finally stood up to them, and we changed the way we do things in government in Wisconsin.

"That's why my opponents are so desperate to defeat me in this Recall. They want to roll back the clock and take us back to the days of skyrocketing taxes, bloated budgets, and unchecked and unaccountable spending. We cannot let that happen."

Gov. Walker, I agree, and so do multitudes of other patriots across your state and this nation.

The last thing Wisconsin and our republic need is another tax-and-spend liberal in charge of the state. And if the far left is able to recall Gov. Walker, it could open the floodgates, causing more such recalls to sweep the country.

That is why my wife, Gena, and I are encouraging everyone to vote for the incumbent, Scott Walker, for governor of Wisconsin.

If you know people in Wisconsin, call them today and give them reasons they should vote for Walker. Also, please immediately post Walker's social networks on your Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts by going to <http://www.scottwalker.org/content/social-networks-0>. We have no time to lose.

Ronald Reagan was right: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. The only way they can inherit the freedom we have known is if we fight for it, protect it, defend it and then hand it to them with the well-taught lessons of how they, in their lifetime, must do the same."

Follow Chuck Norris through his official social media sites, on Twitter @chucknorris and Facebook's "Official Chuck Norris Page." He blogs at <http://chucknorrisnews.blogspot.com>. To find out more about Chuck Norris and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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- All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.
- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.
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# Stocks waver, with hard-to-read signs on economy

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market has the summer doldrums.

U.S. stocks dawdled between small gains and losses Thursday as investors were unable to decide what to focus on: incremental encouraging news about the U.S. economy, or incremental worrisome news about China and elsewhere.

At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 30 points. It has barely budged for most of the week, rising each day but only by the tiniest fractions of a percent. Part of the reason is the dearth of major developments in the European debt crisis or decisive news on the U.S. economy. And part of the reason for the relative quiet is that traders like to clear out for vacation in August.

"I think there are more active managers in the Hamptons than there are in Manhattan," said Hugh Johnson, chairman and chief investment officer of Hugh Johnson Advisors in Albany, N.Y.

The Dow was trading at 13,146, down about 0.2 percent from the day before. The other major stock indexes were equally stagnant. The Standard & Poor's

500 was down one point at 1,401. The Nasdaq edged up a point to 3,012.

The market, trendless and mercurial, had to digest conflicting news about the economy.

In the U.S., the government reported that the trade deficit fell to the lowest level in 18 months. The trade deficit is the gap between how much the U.S. imports and the amount that it exports. A lower deficit is generally considered good for the economy. In June, the U.S. paid less for the oil it brought in and enjoyed higher sales overseas of its autos, pharmaceuticals and industrial machinery.

But a troubling trend was buried in the report: Exports to China dropped more than 4 percent. That's a concern because China, the world's second-largest economy, has been a major driver of the global economy throughout the recession and its aftermath, even as other countries stumbled. U.S. exports weren't the only sign that China can't grease the world economy's skids forever. Separately, China reported that growth slowed in

auto sales and factory output.

China's government has shown that it's worried about the situation. It has cut interest rates twice since the start of June to try to spur lending and borrowing, and it is pumping money into the economy through more spending on public works.

Another emerging market, India, also reported lower industrial output.

The U.S. also reported weekly jobless claims, but the results weren't much to hang onto. The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits fell slightly last week. However the average for the past four weeks, generally a more reliable indicator, rose slightly.

The second-quarter corporate earnings season, when U.S. companies report how much money they lost or made, is winding down. Tim Hortons, the Canadian coffee-and-doughnut chain, fell despite reporting higher revenue and net income. In the morning, it was down \$1.39 to \$51.19.

Advance Auto Parts fell after reporting lower revenue and net income, losing 3

percent, or \$2.05, to \$68.52. Hillshire Brands, maker of Ball Park Hot Dogs and Sara Lee frozen pies, popped 6 percent, gaining \$1.60 to \$26.76. The company said it is preparing to introduce new ads and new products that will support profits.

Online brokerage E-Trade jumped 6 percent, rising 52 cents to \$8.54, after the company unexpectedly fired its CEO. The reasons for the dismissal weren't immediately clear.

Ominous signs out of Europe continued to hang over the market: The chairman of Cyprus's Laiki Bank, which the government has propped up, stepped down after the country's central bank governor asked him to.

Germany's Commerzbank predicted lower profits for the rest of the year, saying its customers are too nervous to invest or take out loans. And Greece reported that unemployment soared to 23 percent in May from 17 percent in the same month a year ago. Among people under 25 years old, 55 percent are out of work.

# Livestock farmers seek pause in ethanol production

WASHINGTON (AP) — Livestock farmers and ranchers seeing their feed costs rise because of the worst drought in a quarter-century are demanding that the Environmental Protection Agency waive production requirements for corn-based ethanol.

One-third of House members have also signed onto a letter urging EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to relax ethanol production targets in light of corn supply concerns and spiking prices.

The EPA says it is working with the Agriculture Department and is keeping a close eye on crop estimates and how they might relate to the biofuel program. But so far, the Obama administration, citing ample ethanol supplies, sees no need for a waiver. That's an opinion shared by corn growers — many of them in the presidential election battleground states of Iowa and Ohio — who continue to support the mandate.

"If not now, when?" Randy Spronk, a Minnesota pork farmer, said of the EPA's authority to defer the ethanol production requirement when it threatens to severely harm the economy of a state or region. "Everyone should feel the pain

of rationing."

Spronk, who is president-elect of the National Pork Producers Council, said livestock producers will have to reduce their herds and flocks because feed is becoming scarce and too expensive. Cattlemen and chicken farmers have the same concern.

"We do support the American ethanol industry," said Kristina Butts, executive director of legislative affairs at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. "All we are asking for is that competition for that bushel of corn be on a level playing field."

The government, she said, "is picking the ethanol industry to be the winner to get that bushel of corn."

The Renewable Fuel Standard, enacted in 2005 and then significantly expanded in 2007, requires that 13.2 billion gallons of corn starch-derived biofuel be produced in 2012. The intent was to reduce both greenhouse gas emissions blamed for climate change and dependence on foreign oil.

One consequence is that 40 percent of the nation's corn crop now goes to ethanol producers, compared with 36 percent for feed. The rest is divided between

processed food and exports. Critics say ethanol also is a big factor in the price of a bushel of corn going from an average \$2.15 a bushel in the 1997-2006 period to more than \$8 today.

With half the nation's corn crop now in poor condition, "relief from the Renewable Fuel Standard is extremely urgent because another short corn crop would be devastating to the animal agriculture industry, food manufacturers, food service providers, as well as consumers," 156 House members wrote EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson in urging her to issue a waiver. Twenty-five senators, about evenly divided between the two parties, wrote a similar letter to Jackson this week.

The House letter was signed mainly by Republicans, who are outspoken in their opposition to EPA regulations. But as with the Senate, the majority of signees were from the South, where the poultry industry is strong, with others coming from Western cattle states and Northern dairy states. Midwestern corn states like Iowa and Ohio were largely unrepresented.

It's more complicated for people like Kevin Ross, who raises corn and soy-

beans in southwest Iowa and heads the Iowa Corn Growers Association. Losing the ethanol market, he said, would definitely hurt his business. Having another major market for corn, he said, "has had an effect on the rural economy that's not been seen in decades. ... I really hope we don't make any rash decisions about it."

Ross and others pointed to a study by Iowa State economist Bruce Babcock concluding that because of the flexibility built into the current mandate system, removing the ethanol requirement would only decrease corn prices by about 28 cents a bushel, or 4.6 percent.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Babcock cautioned that at this point no one knows what the final corn yield will be. But if it drops dramatically from current projections, his estimate for the impact of suspending the mandate would go up. "The worse the corn crop, the bigger will be the effect on corn prices."

The ethanol industry, backed by the Obama administration, says it's unfair to blame it for turmoil in the corn market. Tom Buis, CEO of Growth Energy, which represents producers and supporters of ethanol, said.

# Romney says Obama, allies perpetuating lies in ads

NEW YORK (AP) — Mitt Romney on Thursday accused President Barack Obama and his allies of launching personal attacks and perpetuating lies about him in TV ads. The Republican also rolled out a new commercial of his own that questioned Obama's values and accused the president of waging war on religious freedom.

Obama's campaign disputed that charge.

"I am seeing some of the ads out there. I don't know whatever happened to a campaign of hope and change," Romney said, alluding to Obama's previous campaign slogan, during an interview on Bill Bennett's radio program, "Morning in America." "I thought he was a new kind of politician. But instead, his campaign and the people working with him have focused almost exclusively on personal attacks ... It's really disappointing."

In the interview, Romney argued that Obama "keeps on just running" ads that various fact-checking organizations have called inaccurate. "They just blast ahead," he said, instead of pulling the ads off the air. But the candidate ignored the fact that he has kept his own ads assailing Obama on the air after these groups have found their claims to be

false.

Romney talked generally about ads in the interview but didn't directly refer to a commercial by a Democratic outside group that has dominated the campaign in the last two days.

His campaign has called "despicable" an ad by Priorities USA Action that features a man whose wife died of cancer after he lost his health insurance when he was laid off from a company that was bought by the private equity firm Romney once ran. "I do not think Mitt Romney realizes what he's done to anyone, and furthermore I do not think Mitt Romney is concerned," the man, Joe Soptic, says in the ad.

Obama's campaign has refused to ask the group to pull the spot, and a co-founder of the group has defended the ad. The back and forth over the commercial underscored the degree to which the White House campaign has become intensely negative and personal as polls show the race close three months before the Nov. 6 election. Negative commercials from both the candidates and their backers are flooding the roughly nine states that are the most competitive in the hunt to win the 270 Electoral College votes needed for victory.

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# US applications aid for unemployment fall by 6,000

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits fell by 6,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 361,000, a level consistent with modest gains in hiring.

The Labor Department said Thursday that the less volatile four-week average rose by 2,250 to 368,250 in the week that ended Aug. 4.

Weekly applications bounced around in July, skewed by the difficulty of accounting for temporary summertime layoffs in the auto industry. The seasonal distortions had faded by last week.

Applications measure the pace of layoffs. When they consistently fall below 375,000, it typically suggests hiring is strong enough to lower the unemployment rate.

Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said fewer unemployment applications suggest that job market is fairly stable.

"The pick-up in jobs growth in July may therefore be sustained in August," Dales said.

The economy added 163,000 jobs in July, the biggest increase since February. From April through June, employers had created a lackluster 73,000 jobs a month, not enough to keep up with a rising population.

"The improvement in jobless claims has been a most welcome development," said Dan Greenhaus, chief global

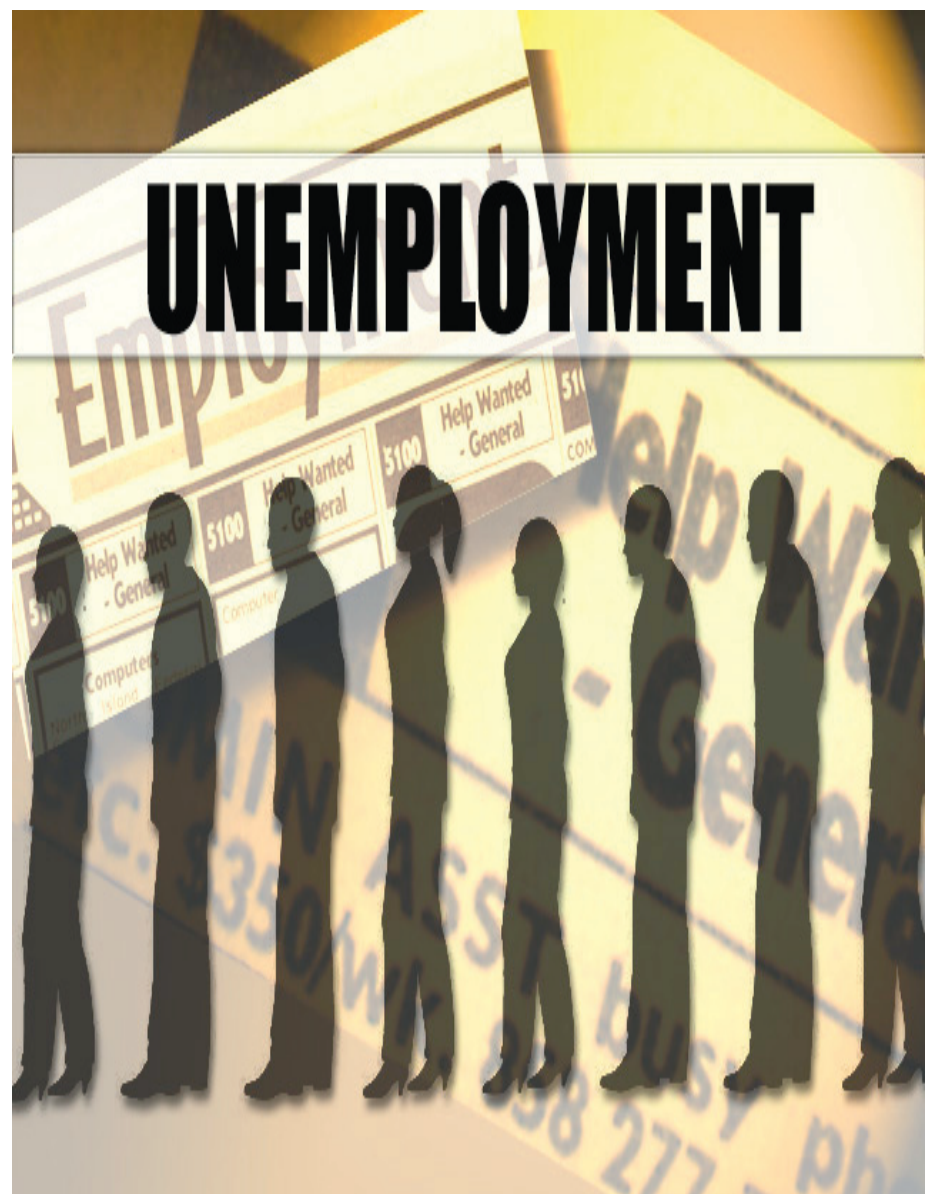
strategist at BTIG. But he noted that unemployment claims were still high considering the recession ended more than three years ago. Claims averaged 328,000 in November 2004, three years after the 2001 recession: "So clearly more work needs to be done," he says.

The total number of people receiving some kind of benefits also fell. Nearly 5.8 million received aid in the week that ended July 21, the most recent data available. That's 200,000 less than a week earlier.

Despite the improvement in hiring in July, the unemployment rate ticked up to 8.3 percent from 8.2 percent in June.

Most economists say growth must be stronger to generate enough jobs to lower unemployment. The economy grew at an annual rate of 1.5 percent from April through June, down from 2 percent in the first quarter and 4.1 percent in the fourth quarter of 2011.

In a hopeful sign, U.S. employers posted the most job openings in four years in June. The Labor Department said this week that job openings rose to a seasonally adjusted 3.8 million in June from 3.7 million in May. That's the most since July 2008. Layoffs fell. A rise in openings could signal better hiring in the coming months. It typically takes one to three months to fill a job.



# McCain, Haley among first announced for GOP confab

WASHINGTON (AP) — A trio of female firsts and three former GOP presidential contenders were among the first speakers disclosed Monday for the Republican National Convention at the end of the month in Tampa, Fla.

The convention schedule is packed with high-profile names to fire up divergent wings of the Republican Party, from social conservatives to fiscal hawks. They will speak before Mitt Romney accepts the presidential nomination.

Convention leaders were not ready to announce the keynote speaker, a prime speaking slot that has the potential to catapult a rising member of the party to national prominence.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, the first female governors of their states, are among party leaders slated to address the gathering that begins Aug. 27. Martinez has the additional distinction of being the country's first female Hispanic governor.

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the first black female to hold that job, is also scheduled to speak.

Sen. John McCain of Arizona was set to speak, as well as a one-time rival, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. The two, along with Romney, vied for the 2008 presidential nomination. McCain outlasted Romney and the former Baptist pastor in the primary campaign.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who briefly ran for the GOP nomination in 2000, also was to speak at the convention along with Florida Gov. Rick Scott, whose state is playing host. Both are tea party favorites and are set to speak to fiscal issues many Republicans hold dear.

"They are some of our party's brightest stars, who have governed and led effec-

tively and admirably in their respective roles," Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said in a statement. "These speakers — and those that will be announced later — will help make it a truly memorable and momentous event."

Republicans are holding back on announcing other speakers, including the keynote speaker.

In 2004, a little-known state senator from Illinois named Barack Obama used his turn at the Democratic National Convention in Boston to gain national prominence and — four years later — the White House.

When someone is announced as a speaker — keynote or otherwise — it could indicate that Romney has decided against that person as a running mate.

Martinez nodded to that dynamic.

"The veep rumor is over. I've said it over and over and over and over, I don't have any interest in being the vice president," she said.

Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida and Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin are both big names in the party believed to be among those Romney is weighing for the vice presidential slot or for the keynote address. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Sen. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire and Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio also were noticeably absent from the slate of announced speakers and may be contenders for running mate.

If passed over for the vice presidential pick, there is a very good chance they would earn speaking slots — if not the keynote.

The speakers already announced suggest where Romney is looking to make progress as voters start to pay attention to the fall campaign.

The all-important female vote clearly is a priority — evidenced by the choic-

es of Haley, Martinez and Rice. Polls through the spring showed President Barack Obama outpacing Romney among female voters, although strategists from both parties say that gender gap is narrowing. A strong play for female voters at the convention should be expected.

Haley, who backed Romney in her state's first-in-the-South primary, is the youngest sitting governor and her husband will deploy to Afghanistan next year. She probably will have a strong message for military families, and for younger voters.

Martinez, who made history in her state and nationally when she was elected, could appeal to Hispanic women, a sizable demographic that broke for Obama four years ago. She can also address voters who feel securing the nation's Southern border is a top concern.

And Rice, an academic who served President George W. Bush as national security adviser and as secretary of state, could appeal to working women and those who put the United States' security as a top concern.

Some suggested she would be an excellent choice for Romney's running mate but Republican conservatives led a revolt, citing her support for abortion rights.

Romney, with limited foreign policy credentials, needs leading foreign policy figures like Rice to vouch for him.

Another prominent voice on foreign policy, McCain, will speak up for Romney.

The Senate veteran, who was a prisoner of war during Vietnam, remains among his party's most visible figures. His dislike for Romney has apparently faded since their primary fight four years ago.

"In these challenging times, America needs Mitt Romney in the White House," McCain said in a statement Republicans planned to release Monday. "The Republican National Convention in Tampa will help give us the momentum to get him there."

Another GOP rival from 2008, former Arkansas Gov. Huckabee, also will try to help Romney.

Huckabee's appeal among social conservatives has not shrunk and his backing is likely to help evangelicals who have been slow to warm to Romney and his Mormon faith.

Among tea party supporters, Romney will get a boost from Kasich. His home state of Ohio is a linchpin in Romney's strategy and no Republican has won the White House without carrying the perennial Midwestern battleground. No Democrat has won without winning Ohio since John F. Kennedy won the presidency in 1960.

Florida is another key state for both campaigns. Florida's Gov. Scott will address the convention, customary when the incumbent governor's party hosts the convention.

Democrats have started rolling out their convention schedule. Marking a first for Hispanics, San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro will deliver the high-profile, prime-time keynote address on the convention's opening night, Sept. 4, in Charlotte, N.C. First lady Michelle Obama will also address convention delegates that night.

Former President Bill Clinton and Elizabeth Warren, the party's popular Senate candidate in Massachusetts, will have prime speaking roles at the convention on Sept. 5.

Vice President Joe Biden and Obama will speak in prime time on Thursday, Sept. 6, the convention's final night.

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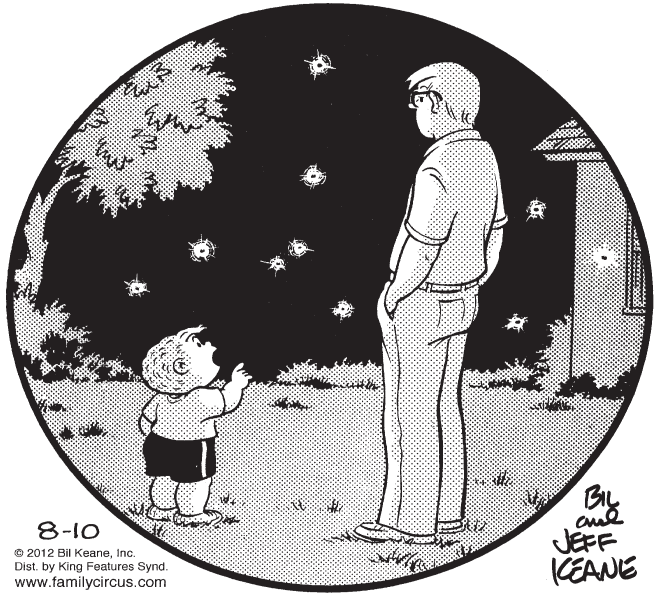
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# comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



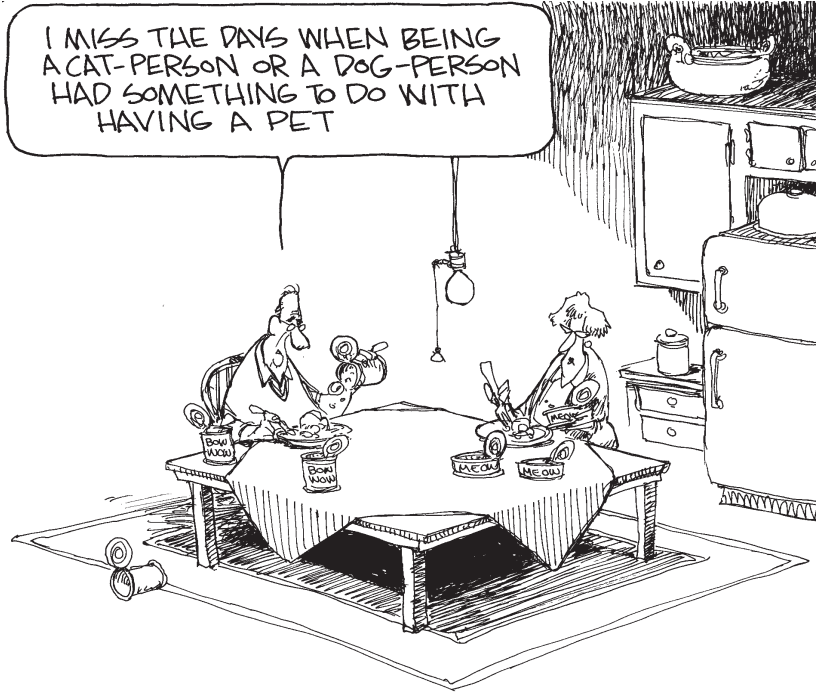
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BIL KEANE  
JEFF KEANE

“How often do lightning bugs have to change their batteries?”

Non Sequitur



8-10

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Nest Heads



8/10

ALLEN

# daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, Aug. 11, 2012:

This year you open up to new possibilities. Your fiery side emerges when dealing with others, especially when it comes to your joint interests. Meetings seem to be a powerful vehicle for feedback and support. Use these events to the max if you want to succeed. You sometimes come off as too serious and demanding. In general, you are one of the more diplomatic signs. If you are single, you meet available like-minded people through your circle of friends. You might enjoy the process so much that you might hesitate to commit. If you are attached, socialize more with your friends. You will like opening up more as a couple. GEMINI points to the right path.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Once more, you do the unexpected and surprise others. You have the ability to start conversations, which makes others feel more open. A new opportunity emerges out of the blue. Do not ask too many questions; just jump on it. Tonight: Visit with friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Stay open to different possibilities. You gain insight about someone you deal with financially. A new purchase might be OK once you do some price comparison; otherwise, you might pay more than you had intended to. Tonight: Indulge not only yourself, but also others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ The unexpected occurs within your circle of friends. You will enjoy the excitement if you do not get too engaged. A fun offer just might be too enticing to say “no” to. You’ll feel more positive than you have in a long time. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Listen to news that is forthcoming that not only enlightens you, but also increases your security. The unexpected develops out of the blue, and you will seize the moment. Say very little to others, unlike before. Tonight: Not to be found.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Zero in on what is important and necessary. You will enjoy being together with friends more than anything. You also sense that others want to catch up on news. Whether playing softball or chat-

ting over a meal, you’ll enjoy yourself. Tonight: Where the gang is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Others acknowledge what you are doing, as you assume a leadership position. Know that what is happening behind the scenes does not need to be communicated to others. Make it OK. A partner or associate acts in the most unexpected manner. Tonight: In the limelight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ You could be pushed to the max by a situation that forces your hand. Once you open up to new ways of thinking, you could be surprised by what happens. Laughter comes more easily. Reach out for someone at a distance. Tonight: Try a new spot.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Deal with a partner openly, and you’ll find out how easy it is to get to the bottom of a problem. Good news comes from this person; still, don’t trust him or her with your checkbook, as he or she appears to be in the mood to spend. Tonight: Dinner and talks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Defer to others and understand where they are coming from. Go along with a friend’s or loved one’s suggestion. You might find that expressing an interest in this person’s favorite pastimes is rewarding. He or she appreciates your efforts. Tonight: The only answer is “yes.”

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Touch base with a close friend, and you’ll discover how very fun and enjoyable this person can be. Open up to changes in your relationship. Invite this person to join you on a picnic or for some other fun moment. Tonight: Don’t push too hard.

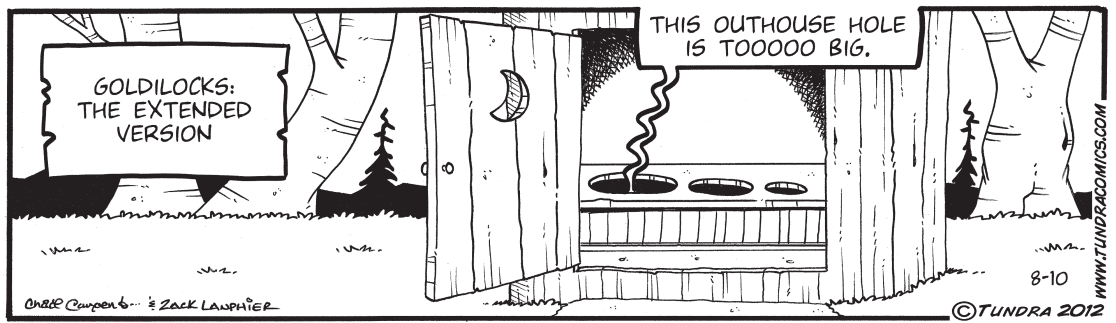
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You have zip and get-up-and-go. There is a lot of fun ahead of you if you can just let your impulsive, childlike side come forward. There is a potential romance in your future, whether you are single or attached. Tonight: Let the good times rock and roll.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Invite others over for a fun day with the family. As a result, you help people relax. Optimism and good times surround your home and family. A new addition to the family or your home adds to the moment. Tonight: Keep it easy and fun.

Tundra



8-10

Shoe



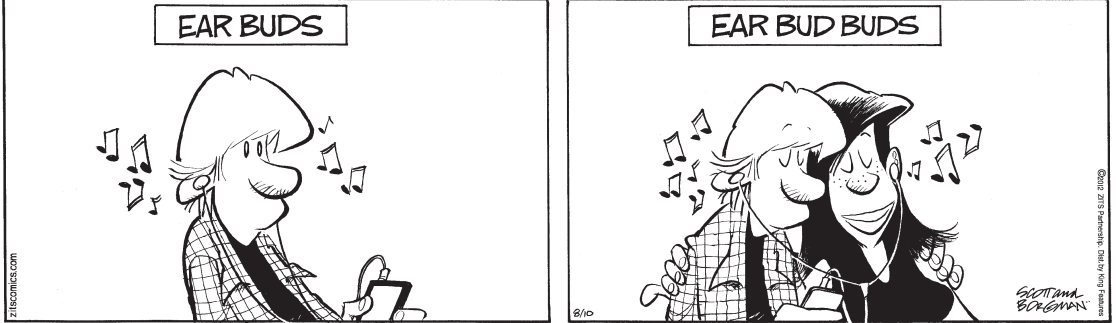
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Mother Goose and Grim



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Zits



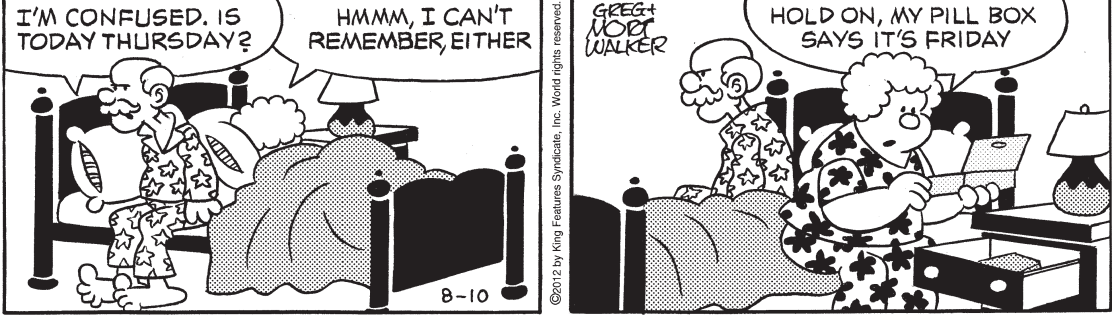
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Garfield



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Beetle Bailey



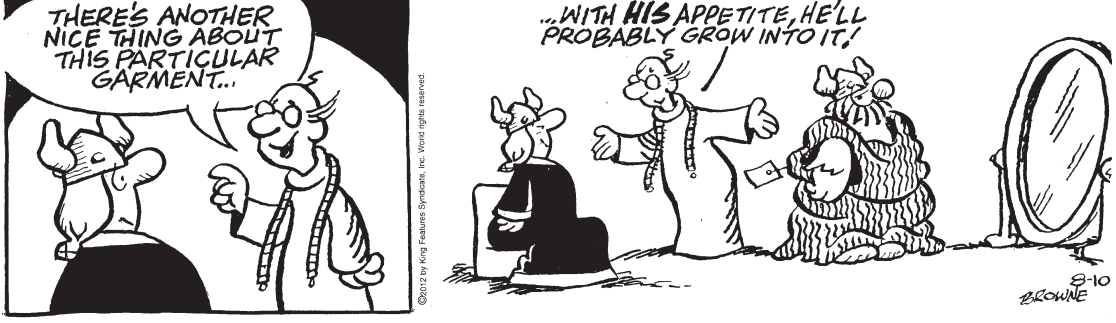
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Marvin



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Hagar The Horrible



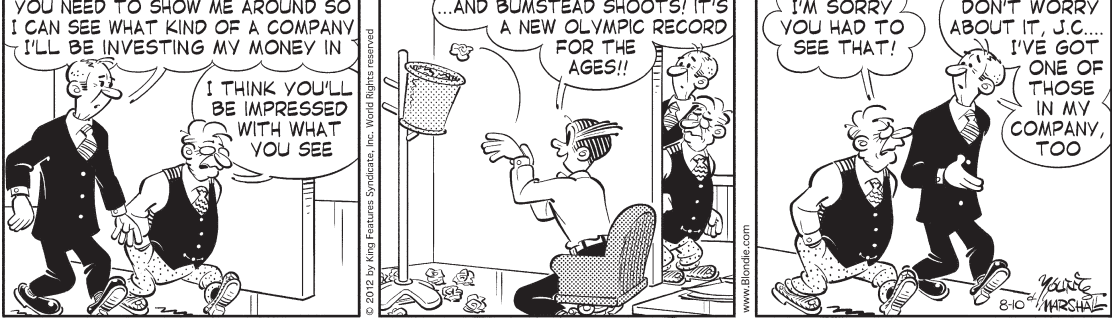
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Peanuts



8-10

Blondie



8-10



# Romney: CEO rankled Mass. lawmakers

BOSTON (AP) — What worked for Mitt Romney in the corporate boardroom didn't fly in the more raucous corridors of the Massachusetts Legislature.

Now the Republican candidate for president, Romney took over as governor in 2003 after a long, successful career as CEO at the private equity firm Bain Capital.

But his top-down, corporate management style soon rankled Democrats who overwhelmingly controlled the state House and Senate and saw themselves as an equal partner in the government. His approach jolted a clubby political culture where schmoozing over after-hours drinks and cutting backroom deals are well-worn pathways to success.

Unlike his three GOP gubernatorial predecessors, the politically inexperienced Romney was never at ease in the chummy world of trading favors for votes. He bypassed rank-and-file Democrats and dealt mostly with the party's legislative leaders during his four-year term, though he did work with Democrats to pass the state's health care overhaul.

Romney's mostly fraught relations with state lawmakers could provide insight into how he'd handle a Congress that might still be politically divided if he becomes president.

He so far has embraced his party's conservative leadership in Congress — a break with recent GOP nominees, who had kept some distance. That plays to the conservative GOP base, but many independent voters view the congressional GOP with suspicion.

These days, Romney the candidate puts a positive spin on his Massachusetts record, holding it up as proof that he can bridge Washington's bitter partisan divides.

"I began a relationship with the speaker of the House and the Senate president that was personal," he said of his governorship in a recent NBC News interview. "We respected each other. We often disagreed. But we found common ground from time to time."

Some Democratic lawmakers accused Romney of being aloof, unapproachable and not much interested in working with them to build the kind of friendships and alliances that are needed to help pass legislation. They say Romney's legislative agenda on big issues like transportation and higher education fizzled as a result.

"He didn't get that government was not a business," said state Rep. Cory Atkins, a Democrat elected in 1999.

A notable exception

was Romney's work with Democratic leaders to craft a landmark health care bill, which then launched his 2008 presidential bid. Romney's signature legislative success got a big boost from Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, then the state's most powerful Democrat and a passionate advocate for universal health care.

Romney spokesman Eric Fehrstrom stressed Romney's ability to work with Democrats to solve the state's economic woes.

"Working on a bipartisan basis, Mitt Romney balanced the budget without raising taxes, created tens of thousands of new jobs and lowered the unemployment rate to 4.7 percent," Fehrstrom said by email. "Working together with Democrats in the Legislature, Mitt Romney left Massachusetts in better shape than he found it."

While he did not raise state income or sales taxes, Romney and Democratic lawmakers raised hundreds of millions of dollars in new and higher fees on everything from marriage licenses to real estate transactions.

Former House Speaker Tom Finneran, a Democrat, recalled being "summoned" along with fellow legislative leaders by Romney for a meeting on the state's fiscal crisis early in Romney's term. Romney delivered a PowerPoint presentation brimming with numbers and charts on his plan for fixing the budget. Finneran said it quickly became apparent that Romney was issuing marching orders, not seeking their advice.

"Initially his sense was, 'I have been elected governor, I am the CEO here and you guys are the board of directors and you monitor the implementation of what I say,'" Finneran said. "That ruffled the feathers of legislators who see themselves as an equal branch (of government)."

Finneran said that, while he grew to respect Romney, "you have to work to have a conversation with him."

Romney supporters say he ran for governor as an outsider vowing to "clean up the mess" on Beacon Hill, and governed accordingly. They say Democratic leaders ruled with such an iron hand that there was no need for Romney to cultivate rank-and-file lawmakers who rarely strayed from their party's line.

Democrats portrayed Romney as being out of touch.

"He made no effort to get acquainted with lawmakers," said Tom Birmingham, a former state Senate president who left just before Romney took office. "To call him disengaged would be charitable."

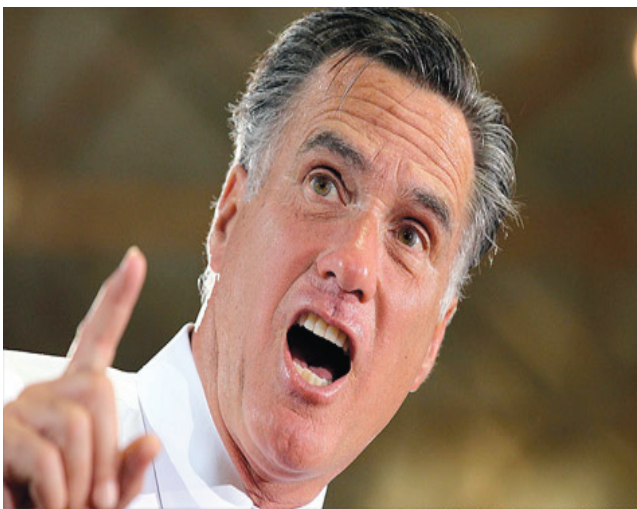


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# Obama team sees promise in 3rd party candidacies

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans have never heard of Virgil Goode, a former party-switching congressman with a distinctive Virginia drawl who conceivably could decide the presidential election. But he is well known to President Barack Obama's team of political advisers.

Goode served six terms in Congress from Virginia and is gathering signatures to appear on the ballot in his home state as the presidential candidate from the Constitution Party. He's already on the ballot in more than a dozen other states with an anti-immigration, pro-term limit platform he hopes makes a dent with the electorate. It's not likely to be much of a dent, but enough in Virginia for Obama campaign officials to take close notice of his potentially helpful candidacy.

Goode is one of several third-party presidential candidates who will appear on ballots across the country this fall. But within the Obama camp he is considered one of two who could tilt the race by pulling votes away from Republican challenger Mitt Romney. The other is Libertarian Party candidate Gary Johnson, a former two-term Republican governor of New Mexico whose presence on the ballot could make a difference in the presidential contest in states such as New Mexico and Colorado.

Neither candidate is considered enough of a national threat to draw comparisons to Ross Perot, whose independent campaign in 1992 attracted nearly 19 percent of the vote and whom President George H.W. Bush still blames for costing him his re-election. But Democrats see Goode and Johnson as this year's Ralph Nader, whom they still blame for Al Gore's loss to George W. Bush in 2000. Nader's liberal Green Party can-

didacy only attracted 2.7 percent of the national vote, but in decisive Florida, his total was greater than the 537 votes that separated Bush from Gore.

Despite that history, in most modern elections, third-party candidates haven't swayed the results, and even those who poll strongly early eventually fizzle in the end.

Still, in a national contest like this year's where Obama holds slight leads or is running virtually even with Romney in key battleground states, even a sliver of the vote in a crucial state could determine the outcome. Obama's team has scenarios whereby Obama can win states like Virginia and Colorado with less than 50 percent vote with an assist from Goode and Johnson, respectively.

That third-party candidates have become a consideration in Obama's camp illustrates one of the president's persistent challenges and his potential weakness: his inability to get above 50 percent in states he carried with some comfort in 2008.

Of all the states in play, Virginia looms among the most important. Campaigning there recently, Obama repeatedly declared that if he won Virginia he would win the election.

Virginia is even more of a keystone in Romney's strategy — one of three formerly reliable Republican presidential states that went for Obama in 2008.

Goode, who served in Congress as a conservative Democrat and then as a Republican, is running a campaign based on stopping illegal immigration and on imposing a moratorium on nearly all green cards for legal immigrants until the U.S. economy improves and unemployment falls below 5 percent. It's a stance that could either erode some of Romney's support or attract a small number of conservatives who would

otherwise vote for Romney.

"If Virgil Goode gets on the ballot in Virginia that is going to make it very tough on Romney," said Democratic strategist Joe Trippi, a veteran of presidential campaigns. It's difficult to imagine Romney getting the 270 electoral votes he needs to win if he doesn't carry Virginia, Trippi said, adding that Goode "would be potentially crippling to Romney."

Romney's team downplays any damage Goode or Johnson could cause to their Republican challenger. They argue that the passion to defeat Obama among Romney supporters will outweigh any desire to vote for someone else.

"People on the right side of the spectrum are so intent on beating this president that they will see a vote for a Gary Johnson or a Virgil Goode as nothing more than a vote to re-elect Barack Obama," said Romney political director Rich Beeson.

Moreover, Beeson said, Obama might be vulnerable among disgruntled liberals who might be attracted to Johnson's libertarian social views.

"I think he's going to lose some on the left and at the end of the day you assume that that's a wash and its back to being a one-to-one race," Beeson said. "Right now it is an interesting story line, but as we get closer to the election I think these things tend to sort of fall away and you have the bulk of the electorate focused on the two primary party candidates."

A senior Obama campaign official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss campaign thinking, pointed to polls that show Obama voters having greater enthusiasm for their candidate than do Romney voters. That means Romney voters could switch allegiance to a third-party candidate more easily. A recent Pew Research Center poll

showed that 34 percent of Romney voters support him strongly whereas 64 percent of Obama supporters say they back him strongly.

Obama advisers say they are not doing anything to help either Goode or Johnson secure positions on the ballots of key states and that they don't plan to help their candidacies.

Johnson has encountered a challenge in Michigan from the state's Republican attorney general, who has declared him ineligible to appear on that ballot. Johnson has an innovative "Plan B": Using another Gary E. Johnson who has volunteered to have his name placed on the Libertarian Party ticket in Michigan.

Goode needs 10,000 signatures to qualify for the Virginia ballot. He has collected 14,000 signatures and is gathering more to pad his number by the state's Aug. 24 deadline. He says no Republican officials have talked to him about the race, let alone sought to discourage his presence on the ballot.

Goode and Johnson believe that in the end they will pull votes from both sides and attract independent voters who have no interest in voting for either major party candidate.

Indeed, a Pew Research Center poll in June found that majorities of independent voters view both parties unfavorably.

"We hope to get votes from people who are dissatisfied with both," Goode said, noting that he has received encouragement from conservative Democrats as well as Republicans.

Johnson says his effect on the race depends on the state. "When you look at the polling, in New Mexico, for example, I take more votes away from Obama," he said. "In North Carolina I take more votes away from Romney. I think that's a mixed bag."



A recent poll by Public Policy Polling, a Democratic firm, said that if Virgil Goode (mentioned in story above) qualifies for the ballot in Virginia, he could draw 9 percent of the vote, nearly all of it coming from Romney supporters.

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**9:00 - Diamond Ice Melt** at Rheams Diamond Shop

**11:00 - Festivities Begin...End at 4:00**  
Food & Craft Booths  
Exhibits by Local Artists  
Vintage & Trendy Booths  
Volleyball, Bounce & Water Games & Frustration Car

**1:00 - Elvis** (yes he is back)

**2:00 - Little Cowboy and Little Cowgirl Pageant.**  
Corner of Kingsmill & Cuyler. (\$15.00 entry fee, sponsored by Shepherds Helping Hands)

**1:00 - 3:00 Western Photos** at Shutterbug Photography.

**3:00 - Drawing for \$250 in Downtown Business Bucks** at Rheams Diamond Shop (must be present to win)

**Las Pampas Square (Hobart St.)**

**2:00 - Festivities Begin... End at 6:00**  
Food Vendors  
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Craft Booths

**BBQ Cook-Off.** (check in for cooks on Friday)

**2:30 - Pie Eating Contest**

**4:00 - 6:00 - FREE BBQ**

**7:00 - TCRA Top O' Texas Rodeo**

**9:00 - Dance...** Featuring - Gray County Line (\$10.00 per person or \$15 per couple)

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# USA Women's track

(LONDON)-AP — Allyson Felix grinned as she waited for the official results to pop up on the scoreboard. She knew what was coming, and she was going to enjoy this moment.

Olympic champion, at last. The American sprinter won the 200 meters at the London Games on Wednesday, sparking a strong performance for the United States at Olympic Stadium.

Felix clocked 21.88 seconds to top Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, who won the 100 four nights earlier. American Carmelita Jeter added bronze to go with her silver in the 100 meters.

Jamaica's Veronica Campbell-Brown was fourth after defeating Felix in the Athens and Beijing Games. She was trying to become the first woman to win the same individual track and field event in three consecutive Olympics, but she couldn't keep up as Felix pulled away down the stretch.

Aries Merritt then won the 110 hurdles for the U.S., and Brittney Reese claimed the long jump title. Team USA had two of the top three finishers in three of the four medal events at Olympic Stadium. World champion Lashinda Demus was second in the women's 400 hurdles, losing to Russia's Natalya Antyukh.

Usain Bolt and Jamaican teammate Yohan Blake each won their 200 semifinal heats. Bolt is trying to become the first man with two Olympic golds in the 200 meters.

The United States also had a big night at Horse Guards Parade, with Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh Jennings becoming the first three-time gold medalists in Olympic beach volleyball history.

The duo beat Jennifer Kessy and April Ross 21-16, 21-16 in the all-American final, extending their Olympic winning streak to 21 matches.

May-Treanor and Walsh Jennings fell to their knees and hugged as Ross' serve went long on match point, then took the celebration to the stands.

The Athens, Beijing and now London gold medalists remained unbeaten through three Olympics, losing just one of 43 sets. It was the Olympic farewell for May-Treanor, who has said she would like to have children.

There was more history at Olympic Stadium during the day.

The crowd roared when Sarah Attar was introduced during the morning session, and she responded with a wave, a wide smile and a bit of a chuckle.

This was one extraordinary 800-meter heat.

Covered from head to toe, except for her smiling face poking out from her headscarf, Attar became the first woman from Saudi Arabia to compete in track and field at the Olympics when she clocked 2 minutes, 44.95 seconds in her

preliminary race.

"This is such a huge honor and an amazing experience, just to be representing the women," Attar said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I know that this can make a huge difference."

The 19-year-old Attar finished last in her heat. To her, the time wasn't the point.

Her mother is American and her father is Saudi. She has dual citizenship, was born in California and runs track at Pepperdine University near Los Angeles.

Attar wanted to represent Saudi Arabia at the Olympics as a way of inspiring women.

"For women in Saudi Arabia, I think this can really spark something to get more involved in sports, to become more athletic," she said. "Maybe in the next Olympics, we can have a very strong team to come."

Making her Olympic debut three years after being forced to undergo gender tests, Caster Semenya of South Africa finished second in her 800 heat.

Semenya was sidelined for nearly a year while track and field's governing body decided whether to allow her to compete after she won the 2009 world title at age 18. She was tested and eventually cleared to return to action in 2010, then was the runner-up at last year's world championships.

Semenya carried South Africa's flag at the opening ceremony in London and is a leading medal contender. She ran her heat in 2:00.71, behind the 2:00.47 run by Alysia Johnson Montano of the United States.

Also Wednesday, LeBron James and his U.S. teammates took on Australia in the basketball quarterfinals.

The rest of the Olympic action: VOLLEYBALL

The U.S. men's volleyball team got off to a strong start at the London Olympics, but it's headed home without a medal.

The defending Olympic champions lost 28-26, 25-20, 25-20 to Italy in the quarterfinals.

U.S. setter Donald Suxho bent over with his hands on his knees and shook his head as Italy celebrated the win at Earls Court. And after shaking hands with the Italians, the Americans turned to applaud the many U.S. fans in the crowd.

Dragan Travica and captain Cristian Savani each had four aces for Italy, which will face Brazil in Friday's semifinals. Savani finished with 19 points.

Russia takes on Bulgaria in the other semi.

CYCLING - BMX

Two spectacular crashes marred the start of the BMX competition, and time trial world champion Caroline Buchanan of Australia and Raymon van der Biezen of the Netherlands posted the best times of the seeding runs.

# CHILDREN'S RODEO

First Baptist Church CDC School Age Children - Mrs. Tanya & Miss Hannah made their own stick horses. They are having their own rodeo on Friday.



Photo provided by **Shayley Morriss**

**Back row:** Malachi Williams, Ally Bowers, Cassie Estrada, Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas Shayley Morriss, Levi Ledford, Taylor Henson, Tucker Bruce **Front row:** Samantha Pierce, Hannah Davis, Drake Pierce, and Ben Woodward

# Volunteers prepare Top O' Texas and Bowers Arena for rodeo.



Photo provided by **Gayden Hays**

Jessie Cruz and Robert Douglas prepare the stands for upcoming Rodeo.

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**Crown Royal**  
750ml **\$25.99**  
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**Jack Daniels**  
750ml **\$20.99**  
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**Pendleton**  
750ml **\$22.99**  
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**Premium Cigars**  
**15% OFF** with Purchase of 3

Prices Effective 8/8-8/12

**Mikey's Liquor Store**  
1222 Price Rd. 806-665-9662  
M-S 10am - 9pm

Drive-Up window  
Marlboro Special Blend \$449 pk with purchase of 3 pks.  
Copenhagen Long Cut Wintergreen \$3.70 can  
32oz Fountain Drink 92¢

**RODEO PARADE Sale**

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**Saturday, August 11**  
Guess what time the ring will melt out a **\$250<sup>00</sup>** horseshoe ring

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Register For **\$250<sup>00</sup>** downtown bucks

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2009 "BUSINESS OF THE YEAR"





# Friend: Ex-wife said Peterson grabbed her by neck



Drew Peterson (above)



JOLIET, Ill. (AP) — Drew Peterson's third wife told a friend a year before she was found dead that the former suburban Chicago police officer grabbed her by the neck and demanded to know why she was still alive, the friend testified Thursday.

Peterson, 58, has pleaded not guilty to murder in the 2004 death of Kathleen Savio. He was only charged after his fourth wife, Stacy Peterson, vanished in 2007, Peterson is a suspect in Stacy Peterson's disappearance but has never been charged in that case.

Mary Parks, who studied nursing with Peterson's third wife, told jurors that around Thanksgiving of 2003, Savio told her that Peterson had entered her suburban Chicago home, grabbed her neck as she came down stairs and pinned her down.

"She said that her husband said, 'Why don't you just die?'" Parks told jurors, her voice quivering.

The hearsay testimony, which is not based on a witness' direct knowledge, is critical because police who investigated when

Savio was found dead in a dry bathtub quickly decided it was an accident and did not collect any physical evidence. Illinois has adopted a law — dubbed "Drew's Law" — that allows hearsay evidence in rare circumstances.

Parks said she and Savio spoke again a month later.

"Kathy told me that her husband ... had told her that he could kill her and make her disappear," she said.

During cross-examination, defense attorney Steve Greenberg suggested Savio may have been paranoid, and that her descriptions of clashes with Peterson may have been exaggerated to elicit sympathy from Parks.

But Savio's friend stood her ground.

"Everything that she told me, I had no reason to doubt," Parks said.

Before the trial began last week, Judge James Burmila left open the possibility he could prohibit most or even all of the hearsay statements at the very heart of the state's case against Peterson. But in recent days, he has per-

mitted several such statements, potentially boosting the state's chances of a conviction. On Thursday he refused a defense request to bar Parks' testimony.

In frequently contentious exchanges Thursday, Greenberg also said Parks' accounts of what Savio told her have been inconsistent. He even asked why she kept looking to her left at jurors as she answered questions.

Parks shot back, "Is it inappropriate for me to do that?" After Parks asked the attorney another question, Burmila admonished her, saying "Don't fence with counsel, ma'am."

Legal arguments surrounding the use of hearsay have slowed the trial. Jurors are frequently asked to leave the courtroom so attorneys can argue over the admissibility of hearsay statements.

If Peterson is convicted, defense attorneys have said they could appeal all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court on grounds that the hearsay should have been barred.

## Mom goes bald to raise awareness, funds for cancer research

WEATHERFORD (AP) — Jessica Reeves is a one woman show when it comes to cancer information.

She is a relative newcomer to the dreaded disease after her son Lucas, now 5, was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a very aggressive form of cancer that attacks the nervous system, two 1/2 years ago. Her most outward symbol of how cancer has changed her is her recently shaved head, which she had done July 29 in Hollywood as part of a national campaign called "Shave for the Brave."

She even has a button that reads "Ask me why I'm bald" as another way of demonstrating her support.

She remembered the day Lucas was diagnosed.

"February 25, 2010," Reeves said without blinking an eye or flinching when asked the date. "I was very scared at that point."

Lucas had seen three different doctors and was told he was suffering from allergies, despite bruising above his eyelid, a marble size piece of skin on the side of the head and his eyeball being pushed out. The cancer reached stage 4 in just three weeks time, had worked its way around the optic nerve and was pushing the eyeball so far it was protruding outward, Reeves said. The bruising had

doctors asking and believing it may have been a case of child abuse.

With Reeves denying child abuse, she went back home twice, getting more frustrated by the day. Reeves said she had asked the doctors to draw some blood but was told it was rare to draw blood for such a young person. She still refused to push the issue, thinking the doctors knew what they were talking about.

"I was too scared to speak up," Reeves said. "I knew it wasn't child abuse but they just kept asking."

As things began to get progressively worse, Reeves took her son to seek medical help a third time, this time going to Weatherford Regional Medical Center. It was Dr. Ness Kahn who may have saved the boy's life.

"He took one look at Lucas and sent him to Cook (Children's Medical Center)," Reeves said. "As we were on our way there, ambulance personnel said he had lost half of his blood volume and probably wouldn't have made it another few days at home."

At Cook, Reeves said she was still dealing with doctors and nurses trying to trick her into admitting it was a case of child abuse.

"They were asking me about exact dates of when things started," Reeves

said. "I was so distraught about my son I couldn't remember exact dates. I was scared they were going to take me to jail."

While at Cook, Reeves said for the first time she was able to focus and look at her son.

"I just sat there and stared at him and I didn't realize how bad he looked, Reeves said. "I just felt scared."

After running some tests, doctors and nurses finally had the idea that something was wrong. One of the surgeons eventually came in and told Reeves her son had cancer.

"It was very difficult hearing that from a surgeon," Reeves said.

He immediately began chemotherapy treatments, Reeves said, with the knowledge that only 15 percent of patients with

that form of cancer survive for five years.

Over the next four months, he underwent six rounds of chemo. The cancer had progressed throughout his body to the point where he had five brain tumors and tumors had wrapped around his carotid artery. The therapy, combined with some experimental medication still in a clinical trial, helped beat the cancer.

Doctors were still reluctant to say he was out of the woods but conceded earlier this year that the cancer had gone into remission. Reeves said the experimental medication, which didn't even have a name, simply a number, caused him a lot of pain.

"Many children that start it don't finish it because of the pain," Reeves said. "I got through it."

### 2012 Property Tax Rates in City of Pampa

This notice concerns the 2012 property tax rates for City of Pampa. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual tax rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers start rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:	
Last year's operating taxes	\$2,608,079
Last year's debt taxes	\$457,299
Last year's total taxes	\$3,065,378
Last year's tax base	\$493,598,185
Last year's total tax rate	\$0.621027/\$100
This year's effective tax rate:	
Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$2,937,461
+ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$514,920,588
= This year's effective tax rate (Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)	\$0.570468/\$100
This year's rollback tax rate:	
Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent healthcare expenditures)	\$3,835,251
+ This year's adjusted tax base	\$514,920,588
= This year's effective operating rate	\$0.744824/\$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	\$0.804409/\$100
+ This year's debt rate	\$0.100548/\$100
= This year's total rollback rate	\$0.904957/\$100
- Sales tax adjustment rate	-\$0.257129/\$100
= Rollback tax rate	\$0.647828/\$100

### Statement of Increase/Decrease

If City of Pampa adopts a 2012 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.570468 per \$100 of value, taxes would decrease compared to 2011 taxes by \$-101,321.

### Schedule A - Unencumbered Fund Balance

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
	0

### Schedule B - 2012 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
2005 Certificate of Obligation Refunding	141,000	58,727	0	199,727
2005 Certificate of Obligation	49,536	16,533	0	66,069
2008 Certificate of Obligation	7,848	15,376	0	23,224
2009 Certificate of Obligation	2,610	10,365	0	12,975
2012 General Obligation	110,000	110,438	0	220,438
Total required for 2012 debt service				\$522,433
- Amount (if any) paid from Schedule A				\$0
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources				\$0
- Excess collections last year				\$0
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2012				\$522,433
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100.00% of its taxes in 2012				\$0
= Total debt levy				\$522,433

### Schedule C - Expected Revenue from Additional Sales Tax

In calculating its effective and rollback tax rates, the unit estimated that it will receive \$1,335,999 in additional sales and use tax revenues.

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 205 N Russell, Pampa TX 79065.

Name of person preparing this notice: Gaye Whitehead  
Title: Tax Assessor Collector  
Date Prepared: 08/06/2012

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