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See below.

Thursday, August 16, 2012

www.thepampanews.com

Volume 108 • No. 112



\$1.50 weekend

Viewpoints: Chuck Norris

Where's Gayden?

A conservative mind and Kung Fu hands. | p4 | Sports Editor Gayden Hays took the day off.

Alleged arsonist arraigned and released on bail

■ Eric Lewis contends he is innocent and did not commit the crime. after Lewis is alleged to

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A 20-year-old Pampa man arrested for arson when he was spotted fleeing from the scene of at least one fire was

released on \$7,500 bond. the Gray County Jail.

reporter he is innocent declined to speak further when briefly reached at and hung up. his home by phone after

arraigned this week and he was released from Eric Lewis, 20, told a After saying that, Lewis

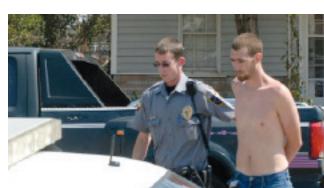
The arrest took place time frame.

afternoon have started a fire in

Monday

the 800 block of East Kingsmill.

Lewis is believed to have started two other fires during the same



Eric Lewis was arrested Monday.



Staff photo by **Ben Tinsley**

owner of Quality Cleaners, 410 South Cuyler Street, confirmed this week she will be staying in business after a recent outpouring of support from the community changed her mind about closing her store, which she has owned for 25 years. (It's been open a total of 70 years.) "I had people calling at my home," she said.

Commissioners 'abolish' election admin's job

BEN TINSLEY btinsley@thepampanews.com

PAMPA — Against her protests, Linda Lewis' position as joint elections administrator was "abolished" by Gray County Commissioners Monday, effectively firing her and reassigning her responsibilities back to the county clerk and county treasurer.

"We can do it more effectively," said Jeff Haley, Precinct 4 Commissioner.

The elimination of Lewis' position will be effective Aug. 31.

The decision came in the wake of concerns Lewis was going over her budget and forcing commissioners to absorb the financial impact.

In many past Pampa News interviews Lewis has stated she is swamped with work during election time.

But more recently, she took on more part time elections help than she had budgeted for, costing an additional \$3,030 she could not cover, said Gray County Auditor Elaine Morris.

The action to eliminate her position was taken with a 4-1 vote with County Judge Richard Peet dissenting.

Lewis, who made \$32,100 annually, started working in the position in January 2009, Morris

Standing, facing the commissioners and speaking very softly during the Monday meeting, Lewis told them her position was "built on a faulty premise that one person could do that job."

Lewis said it is more like two jobs. "I really wanted this job to work," she said. "I like this job. I'm good at it. "

But Haley said the abolishment was necessary. "This may not be your fault but it is what it is,"

Gary Willoughby, Precinct 2 Commissioner, told Lewis he was concerned that a public servant in charge of money would run over budget - something he hasn't done in ten years.

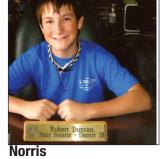
"Linda, we're in the public eye," Willoughby said. " ... The taxpayers don't need to bear that burden."

Learning leadership at Education in Action program

Thirteen-year-old has excellent summer learning about career opportunities.

MOLLIE BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com

Derek Norris, 13, is getting ready for another school year as an eighth grader at Pampa Junior High after an eventful summer. Norris spent a week in early June at the Lone Star Leadership Academy in Austin and San Antonio, hosted by Education in Action, a non-profit that works to empower young people to be leaders in their communities.



Norris was selected for the program after being nominated by a teacher, as well as having a proven academic success, a demonstrated leadership ability and involvement in school and community activities.

Norris learned about future career and internship opportunities and visited spots including the Bob Bullock Texas State History

Museum, the LBJ Library, the Alamo, the Institute of Texan Cultures and the Witte Museum State Cemetary. A visit to Aquarina Springs piqued Norris' interest in marine biology.

"We went on a glass bottom boat, and looked into the

water," he said. "It was super clear, and we could see the fish through the bottom of the boat.'

The group also checked out the State Capitol.

"It was really pretty," Norris said. "We got to walk around it, and we got to go places other people couldn't go. I saw State Representative Warren Chisum's office and where they have Supreme Court."

Sites like the Alamo also showed him how "cool" it is to see history preserved in Texas.

"Being a Texan means you can come from anywhere, and people will welcome you," Norris said. "We have a lot of different races in Texas."

The seminar also focused on building leadership skills. "They told us we don't need to follow bad influences, because you can be your own person," Norris said.

Next year, he hopes to go to Lone Star Leadership Academy's Houston program.





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IN THIS ISSUE:

Obituaries 2 Dog Talk..... 6 Local Record...... 2 Comics 8 Weather 2 Sports 9 Morning Rush..... 3 Classifieds10, 11 Viewpoints 4 Puzzles/Dear Abby.. 11



PAMPA FORECAST

Today

Friday

Saturday

High 87 Low 62

High 84 High 83 Low 63 Low 65

Today: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 87. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming northeast in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

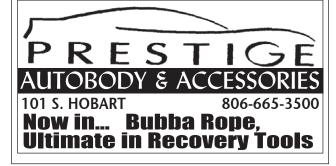
Tonight: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 83. East wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 84. South southwest wind around 10 mph becoming southeast in the afternoon. Saturday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest after midnight.

This information brought to you by...

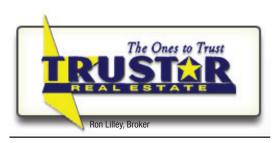


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The Pampa News (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

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Obituaries

Robert Lewis "Rob" Leitch, III

Robert Lewis "Rob" Leitch, III, 64, died August 14, 2012 in Pampa. Memorial services will be held at a later date. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Leitch was born August 12, 1948 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He attended school in Pennsylvania. He lived in Roswell, New Mexico for several years. He then lived in Odessa before moving to Pampa in 1987. Robert married Melba Tooley on June 16, 2001 in Pampa. He worked as a heating and air conditioning technician and plumber's helper for many years for Malcolm Hinkle and Larry Baker Plumbing. He later worked for Pampa In-

dependent School District, retiring in 2010. Robert will be greatly missed by his family and friends. The family would like to thank Interim Hospice for all their wonderful care.

Survivors include his wife, Melba Leitch of the home; a stepson: Charles Tooley and companion Halee Green of Pampa; a brother: Richard Leitch and wife Robin of Panama City, Florida; father-in-law and mother-in-law: Joe and Elizabeth Doyle of McLean. He was preceded in death by his parents; and a sister: Peggy Schramm.

MEMORIALS: American Heart Association, National Center, 7272 Greenville Ave., Dallas, Texas 75231

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whatley.

House members' VIP loans excluded from subpoena

WASHINGTON (AP) A Democratic committee chairman overrode his own subpoena three years ago in an investigation of former subprime mortgage lender Countrywide Financial Corp. to exclude records showing that he, other House members and congressional aides got VIP discounted loans from the company, documents show.

The procedure to keep the names secret was devised by Rep. Edolphus Towns, D-N.Y. In 2003, the 15-term congressman had two loans processed by Countrywide's VIP section, which was established to give discounts to favored borrowers.

The effort at secrecy was reversed when Towns' Republican successor as chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform California Committee, Rep. Darrell Issa, issued a second subpoena. It yielded Countrywide records identifying four current House members, a former member and five staff aides whose loans went through the VIP unit. Towns was on the list.

Issa, in a statement to The Associated Press on Wednesday, said, "It was a long fight to expose how Countrywide used its VIP program to advance its business and policy goals."

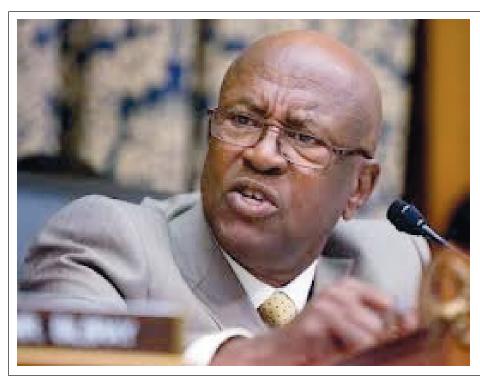
Most of the names had dribbled out to the media by the time Issa issued the committee's final report last month on Countrywide's use of loan discounts to buy influence with government officials. But there was no official confirmation until Issa made his report public.

Towns' effort to keep the loans secret was at odds with statements by Republicans and Democrats alike that full disclosure of lawmakers' financial dealings was the best means for keeping the public aware of congressional perks, unethical conduct and fund-

Countrywide had been the nation's largest home loan originator before the housing market collapse. Many of its borrowers were left unable to repay mortgages that, in many cases, required no proof of income or a down payment. The company was purchased in 2008 by Bank of America, which now holds the VIP loan files.

The original Towns subpoena had asked for all files that went through the Countrywide VIP and specifically mentioned House members and aides. Bank of America sent a spreadsheet that identified 18,000 files that listed a borrower's employer, but without names to maintain privacy.

The spreadsheet identified several files listing the House or Congress as the employer. Since the vast majority of the employers in the spreadsheet were of no interest to the committee, committee Republicans — then in the minority and majority Democrats each drew up a separate



In this July 8, 2009 file photo, Rep. Edolphus Towns, D-N.Y. speaks during a committee hearing on Capitol Hill, in Washington.

list of loan files to be

turned over by the bank. The Republican list totaled 3,000 files and included borrowers listing the House as an employer. Towns narrowed the files to about 300 and excluded references to the House. It was Towns' truncated list that went to Bank of America.

Bank of America confirmed in a statement to The Associated Press that the original subpoena terms were changed by Towns.

"The committee provided the bank with specific instructions and modifications regarding the scope of the subpoena, and the bank followed and fulfilled all instructions and fully complied with the subpoena as modified by the committee," the bank said.

The AP reviewed the original bank spreadsheet of 18.000 and confirmed there were references to the House or Congress. The AP also obtained a copy of the subsequent instructions from Towns to the bank that excluded the House or Congress as

an employer. Some borrowers on the VIP list became known as "Friends of Angelo" because they received discounts on orders from then-Countrywide chief executive Angelo Mozi-

The foremost benefit of being a Countrywide VIP was access to discounted loans in which borrowers received a reduction in points and fees. Usually between \$350 and \$400 was waived.

For several months in 2009, Towns refused to issue a subpoena for VIP loan documents to Bank of America, a position that became politically untenable after it was revealed in the media in August that year that he himself had two Countrywide loans.

The Issa committee report confirmed that the VIP section processed a 30-year, \$182,972 loan to Towns for a vacation home in Lutz, Fla., and a \$194,540, 30-year mortgage for his Brooklyn residence. Towns still defended

his approach when the Committee Oversight met for the first time under Republican control in January 2011. "This is not a super ethics committee and I want to make that very clear," he said at the public meeting. The Issa report named:

1. Towns, who has consistently denied that he received any special treatment from Countrywide.

2. Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., now chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. A spokeswoman said McKeon was never aware of any Friends of Angelo designation and shares an interest with Issa in determining whether there was any wrongdoing by Country-

3. Rep. Elton Gallegly, R-Calif. His spokesman said his Countrywide loan carried an interest rate of 5.75 percent, which was comparable to rates at that time. Gallegly never asked for preferential treatment, the spokesman said.

4. Former Rep. Tom Campbell, a California Republican. He said he never received any preference from Countrywide and did not even recall getting a Countrywide loan.

The report also said Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Texas, the current House GOP campaign chairman, had a loan processed by the VIP section. Sessions' spokeswoman said he requested that he not be extended any special benefits or treatment from Countrywide, and Issa's report confirmed the request was granted.

Towns' spokesman said the report does not alter the congressman's assertion that he did not receive any preferential treatment.

As for Towns' actions in 2009, spokesman Charles Lewis said: "He's done talking about it. He said everything he's going to say about it.'

Back in October 2009 the Democratic-controlled Oversight Comspokeswoman mittee's at the time, Jenny Rosenberg, said Towns was the victim of a smear campaign.

She said Towns resisted the subpoena initially because there were other government investigations of Countrywide already under way, and he wanted to focus on investigating companies that received federal bailout

Issa on Wednesday rejected any assertion of a smear campaign against Towns.

"This a cautionary tale about how opponents of government accountability use terms like smear, partisan, and unnecessary to attack an investigation when what they really want is to continue a cov-

er up," he said. Two Democrats publicly broke with Towns on the issue in 2009. One of them, Rep. Mike Quigley of Illinois, said in a recent interview: "A majority of members of the committee wanted disclosure. The committee chairman needed our encouragement to send a subpoena. It looks bad if we redact names."

The second lawmaker, former Rep. Paul Hodes of New Hampshire, said in a recent interview, "I thought we had a mandate to drain the swamp, and I took it seriously.

Two House members said Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., who is close to Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi, privately conveyed to Towns that it was a bad idea to resist an investigation of member and staff discount loans. The members would not be quoted by name because they said the matter was too politically sensi-

Only one House member file — that of McKeon — was produced under the Towns subpoena and it was by accident. Instead of listing House of Representatives as his employer on his loan documents, McKeon listed "U.S. government" which was among the employer categories sought in the Towns request for loan files. That file, however, was sent under the subpoena's instructions to the secretive House Ethics Committee.

Towns' own loan files were not provided under his own subpoena because he listed U.S. Capital (sic) as his employer.

Towns normally would have become the committee's top-ranking Democrat in January 2011 when control of the House switched to Republicans and Issa became the panel's chairman. Instead, the leadership supported Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, who took over the position.

Towns announced in April that he was retiring after 30 years of representing his Brooklyn district.

Drew Peterson withdraws request for mistrial

JOLIET, Ill. (AP) Drew Peterson told a judge Wednesday that he wanted to withdraw a request for a mistrial, and his lawyers explained that former suburban Chicago police officer wants the current jury to decide if he killed his third wife.

Defense attorneys also asked Judge Edward Burmila to declare all hearsay evidence in the trial inadmissible — a motion the judge again denied. Testimony resumed soon after.

Prosecutors are trying to prove that Peterson, 58, killed his third wife, Kathleen Savio, in 2004. He was charged after his fourth wife, Stacy Peterson, disappeared in

Before the judge agreed to take the mistrial motion off the table, he asked Peterson to confirm that was his wish.

"Yes, your honor," Peterson said, standing at the defense table.

Defense attorneys asked for a mistrial Tuesday after Burmila admonished prosecutors for violating his order not to mention whether Savio asked for an order of protection against Peterson. The prosecutor who mentioned the order apologized to the judge, but Peterson's attorneys called the prosecution's actions unfair.

But on Wednesday, as a hushed courtroom waited to hear the judge's decision on the mistrial motion, defense attorney Joe Lopez said his team was withdrawing the request.

"We are not giving the state a practice run,' Lopez said, referring to how the state could seek to adjust their strategy at any retrial. "This is a real race and Mr. Peterson wants the world to know that he's not afraid. He wants to keep this jury in its place.

Some of the jurors exasperated looked Wednesday, grimac-



ing as they were taken in and out of court half a dozen times in the morning while attorneys argued over evidence.

The case has been by beset problems since Savio was found dead in her bathroom at her suburban home. Investigators collected no physical evidence, and authorities initially ruled that Savio accidentally drowned. After Stacy Peterson vanished three years later, Savio's body was re-examined and her death was reclassified as a homicide.

Peterson is also a suspect in Stacy Peterson's disappearance, although he has never been charged in her case. Authorities presume she is dead, though a body has never been found.

prosecution's The blunder Tuesday was the third in as many weeks to prompt Burmila to give serious consideration to declaring a mistrial. However, the judge in recent days had made several rulings in prosecutors' favor, granting them permission to present hearsay evidence central to their case.

Hearsay, or statements not based on the direct knowledge of a witness, is usually not admissible in court, but Illinois passed a law in the wake of the Peterson case that allows it in certain circumstances.

Prosecutor Kathleen Patton was questioning one of the state's most compelling witnesses

Tuesday when she made her mistake.

Former police officer Teresa Kernc had just told jurors about interviewing Savio in 2002 after Peterson allegedly broke into Savio's home in a SWAT uniform and repeatedly pushed her to the ground.

At one point, Savio allegedly told Peterson, "Go ahead and do what you came to do: Kill me," Kernc testified.

"He said, 'Where do you want it?' And she said, 'In the head.'" Kernc testified.

Peterson then allegedly told Savio to turn her head, which Savio did, Kernc said, based on what Savio told her.

"And then he said, 'I can't kill you," she told jurors. Peterson then threw a garage opener to the ground and left.

Shortly after Kernc finished telling that story, Patton turned and asked, "Did she tell you she wanted to get an order of protection?"

When jurors arrived Wednesday, Burmila told them Patton had "violated an order of the court" by mentioning an order of protection and that they shouldn't disregard it. He also told jurors that both sides agree Savio did not seek an order of protection in July 2002.

"You are not to consider, infer or ponder for any purpose an order of protection," he told the jury.











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Viewpoints

Today in History

August 16 is the 228th day of the year (229th in leap years) in the Gregorian calendar. There are 137 days remaining until the end of the year.

EVENTS

1328 – The House of Gonzaga seizes power in the Duchy of Mantua, and will rule until 1708.

1513 - Battle of Guinegate (Battle of the Spurs) - King Henry VIII of England and his Imperial allies defeat French Forces who are then forced to retreat.

1777 - American Revolutionary War: The Americans led by General John Stark rout British and Brunswick troops under Friedrich Baum at the Battle of Bennington in Walloomsac, New York.

1780 – American Revolutionary War: Battle of Camden – The British defeat the Americans near Camden, South Carolina.

1792 – Maximilien Robespierre presents the petition of the Commune of Paris to the Legislative Assembly, which demanded the formation of a revolutionary tribunal.

1793 – French Revolution: a levée en masse is decreed by the National Convention.

1812 - War of 1812: American General William Hull surrenders Fort Detroit without a fight to the British Army.

1819 – Seventeen people die and over 600 are injured in cavalry charges at a public meeting at St. Peter's Field, Manchester, England.

1841 – U.S. President John Tyler vetoes a bill which called for the re-establishment of the Second Bank of the United States. Enraged Whig Party members riot outside the White House in the most violent demonstration on White House grounds in U.S. history.

1858 - U.S. President James Buchanan inaugurates the new transatlantic telegraph cable by exchanging greetings with Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom. However, a weak signal forces a shutdown of the service in a few weeks.

1859 - The Tuscan National Assembly formally deposes the House of Habsburg-Lorraine.

1863 – The Dominican Restoration War begins when Gregorio Luperón raises the Dominican flag in Santo Domingo after Spain had recolonized the country.

1869 – Battle of Acosta Ñu: A Paraguayan battalion made up of children is massacred by the Brazilian Army during the Paraguayan War.

1870 - Franco-Prussian War: The Battle of Mars-La-Tour is fought, resulting in a Prussian

victory 1891 - The Basilica of San Sebastian in Manila, the first all-steel church in Asia, is offi-

cially inaugurated and blessed. 1896 – Skookum Jim Mason, George Carmack and Dawson Charlie discover gold in a tributary of the Klondike River in Canada, setting off the

Klondike Gold Rush. 1900 – the Battle of Elands River during the Second Boer War ends after a 13-day siege is lifted by the British. The battle had begun when a force of between 2,000 and 3,000 Boers had surrounded a force of 500 Australians, Rhodesians, Canadians and British soldiers at a supply dump at Brakfontein Drift.

1906 – An estimated 8.2 MW earthquake hits Valparaíso, Chile, killing 3,886 people.

1913 - Tōhoku Imperial University of Japan (modern day Tōhoku University) becomes the first

university in Japan to admit female students. 1913 – Completion of the Royal Navy battlec-

ruiser HMS Queen Mary.

1914 – World War I: Battle of Cer begins. 1920 – Ray Chapman of the Cleveland Indians

is hit on the head by a fastball thrown by Carl Mays of the New York Yankees, and dies early the next day. Chapman was the second player to die from injuries sustained in a Major League Baseball game, the first being Doc Powers in 1909.

1920 – The congress of the Communist Party of Bukhara opens. The congress would call for armed revolution.

1927 – The Dole Air Race begins from Oakland, California, to Honolulu, Hawaii, during which six out of the eight participating planes crash

1929 – The 1929 Palestine riots break out in the British Mandate of Palestine between Arabs and Jews and continue until the end of the month. In total, 133 Jews and 116 Arabs are killed.

1930 – The first color sound cartoon, called Fiddlesticks, is made by Ub Iwerks.

1942 - World War II: The two-person crew of the U.S. naval blimp L-8 disappears without a trace on a routine anti-submarine patrol over the Pacific Ocean. The blimp drifts without her crew and crash-lands in Daly City, California.

1944 – First flight of the Junkers Ju 287.

1945 – An assassination attempt is made on Japan's prime minister, Kantaro Suzuki.

1945 - Puyi, the last Chinese emperor and ruler of Manchukuo, is captured by Soviet troops. 1946 - Mass riots in Kolkata begin, in which

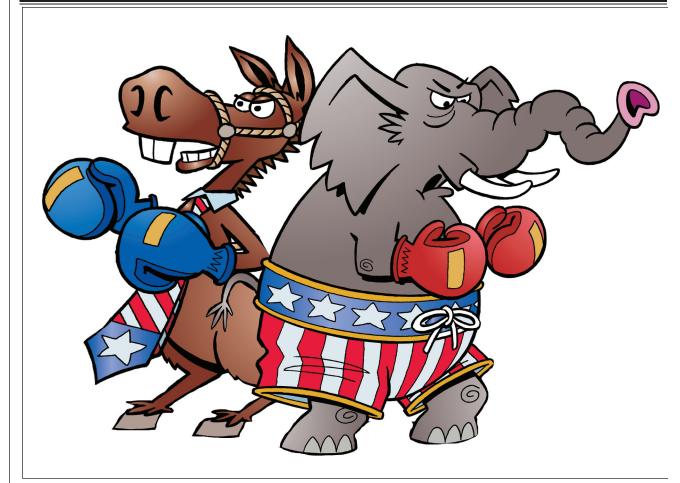
1960 – Cyprus gains its independence from the

more than 4,000 would be killed in 72 hours.

United Kingdom.

1960 - Joseph Kittinger parachutes from a balloon over New Mexico at 102,800 feet (31,300 m), setting three records that still stand today: High-altitude jump, free-fall, and highest speed by a human without an aircraft.

1962 – Eight years after the remaining French India territories were handed to India, the ratifications of the treaty are exchanged to make the transfer official.



DECISION PAMPA: 2012

CHUCK NORRIS: Obama: Anti-Founders debt-accumulating spendthrift



CHUCK NORRIS Columnist/Actor

In 2007, when I began writing my New York Times best-seller "Black Belt Patriotism," unemployment was less than 5 percent; the annual federal budget was about \$2.9 trillion; the federal deficit was \$161 billion; and the national debt was \$9 trillion.

Today unemployment is stuck at 8.2 percent; the federal budget is \$3.8 trillion; the national deficit is \$1.3 trillion; and the national debt quickly is approaching a staggering \$16 trillion.

And to add insult to injury, our vassalage to other countries deepens as they bankroll increasing amounts of U.S. debt, and more than 50 percent of our public debt is held by private investors in foreign lands.

week, Last International Business Times reported: "China overtook Japan as the largest holder of U.S. national debt in 2009. As of December (the most recent data available), it held about 23.1 percent, or \$1.15 trillion, of all foreign investment in U.S. privately held federal debt, according to a newly released report by the Congressional Budget Office, or CBO. ... Without monetary policy

change, the CBO warned in its 2012 Long-Term Budget Outlook on June 5, the U.S. federal debt could be twice the size of the U.S. gross domestic product by 2037.

The national debt is not merely the result of excessive spending; it is also the result of revenues not being high enough to pay for government outlays. In other words, while the feds have spent trillions of dollars bailing out everyone from automotive businesses to zebra-loving environmental companies, they have done virtually nothing to build up Main Street business productivity. (Disturbingly, just a few days ago, Vice President Joe Biden again called for more government spending.)

When the receipts don't cover the outlays, it should be a sign that the U.S. government is in trouble, but that's just another typical day of federal government operation. When the federal government wastes more than \$100 million a year on minting pennies, which cost 2.41 cents each to make, and nickels, which cost 11.18 cents each, it should be the first to recognize that it runs the worst business in the world; but it is the last to admit it. (Between 2006 and 2011, the government's production of pennies and nickels is estimated to have generated losses of nearly \$360 million.)

In 2008, the country elected Barack Obama to clean up Washington and lead the economic restoration of our country based upon his following campaign promises:

"Today I'm pledging to

cut the deficit we inherited in half by the end of my first term in office." (Spoken at the opening of the fiscal responsibility summit on Feb. 23, 2009.)

"We will launch a sweeping effort to root out waste, inefficiency and unnecessary spending in our government, and every American will be able to see how and where we spend taxpayer dollars by going to a new website called recovery.gov." (Spoken in a speech Jan. 28, 2009.)

"There is no doubt that we've been living beyond our means, and we're going to have to make some adjustments. Now, what I've done throughout this campaign is to propose a net spending cut." (Spoken during a presidential debate Oct. 15, 2008.)

"Under my plan, no family making less than \$250,000 a year will see any form of tax increase -- not your income tax, not your payroll tax, not your capital gains taxes, not any of your taxes.' (Spoken in September 2008 at a town hall meeting in Dover, N.H.)

Last week, The Fact Checker, a service by The Washington Post, quoted Crossroads GPS' itemization of the Obama administration's fiscal debt record:

"January 20, 2009: The National Debt Was \$10,626,877,048,913.08 (Obama Takes Office). (Treasury Department, accessed 5/23/12)

"May 22, 2012: The National Debt Was \$15,721,218,607,447.09 (Most Recent). (Treasury Department, accessed 5/23/12)

"Obama Has Been In Office For 1,219 Days (1/20/09-5/22/12). (Convert Units, accessed 5/17/12)

"\$5,094,341,558,534.01

(divided by) 1,219 Days (equals) \$4,179,115,306/ Day."

And people want to reelect President Obama? Why?

It's tragically unfortunate that President Obama turned a deaf ear to the recommendations of the Bowles-Simpson deficit commission. Instead. while serially blaming his presidential predecessor for excessive spending, he skyrocketed the national budget, deficits and debt by trillions and trillions of dollars and, to boot, strapped upon our backs and those of our posterity trillions more for yet another socialized medicine program, called Obamacare.

Is the White House even listening anymore to anyone or just running amok its own way?

The actions of this White House remind me of an ancient proverb that says, "The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice."

Next week, I will discuss how the first eight presidents handled national debt and what I know they would say to Obama, whether he wants to hear it or not.

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.

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- tion. Only your name and city will be published. Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.
- The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of *The Pampa News* or its staff.

Security guard for conservative group shot in DC

WASHINGTON (AP) — An armed man walked into the Washington headquarters of a conservative Christian lobbying group Wednesday morning and was confronted by a security guard, whom he shot in the arm before the guard and others wrestled him to the ground, authorities said.

The man was taken into custody by the FBI and was being interviewed. Authorities did not identify the man or disclose where he was being inter-

Police and FBI officials said it's too early to know the circumstances of the shooting, which occurred around 10:45 a.m. at the headquarters of the Family Research Council, or whether it was connected to the group's activities.

"We don't know enough yet about him ... or mentally what he's thinking, said James McJunkin, assistant director in charge of the FBI's Washington field

The Family Research Council confirmed in a statement that the security guard was employed by the group.

"Our first concern is with our colleague who was shot today," the group's president, Tony Perkins, said in a state-The Family Research Council advo-

cates conservative positions on social issues and strongly opposes gay marriage and abortion.

Perkins was an outspoken defender of Chick-fil-A President Dan Cathy's public stand against same-sex marriage, which made the fast-food chain a flash-



point in the nation's culture wars. The Cathy family foundation has funded the Family Research Council.

"He's taking a bold stand," Perkins said after Cathy's comments were reported. "Chick-fil-A is a Bible-based,

Christian-based business who treats their employees well. They have been attacked in the past about their stand. But they refuse to budge on this matter, and I commend them for what they are

Miss America's mother gets a \$2,000 bill? What?

TALES OF THE WEIRD

(Editor's *Note:* Following is a group of samples of "Tales Of The Weird," a long-running featire that exhibits the oddball side of reality.)

1. A woman flying first class to New York in a redesigned Boeing 747 complained to British Airways that the lavatory had a window. She demanded that it be covered by a blind.

2. An Italian court ordered a divorced father to continue to keep his estranged son until he finds a job. The son, aged 30, who has a law degree, receives \$500 a month.

3. Police told a Cardiff court that a boy of 11 had stolen hundreds of cars since the age of nine almost one a day. In some cars he drove standing up to see over the steering wheel.

priest near 4. A Barcelona has put a jamming device in his church to stop worshippers using mobile phones during

5. A classic car collector in San Francisco paid

\$9,000 for a 1950's Buick. reward for help in catch-He gave the money to a tramp who had been living in the car.

6. Japanese delegates going to a conference on the state of railways travelled by taxi from London to Cardiff when their train was cancelled.

7. The US Supreme Court ordered Kenneth Curtis, of SOuth Carolina, to find a different line of work when he sold his urine over the internet to people facing drug tests at work.

8. A firm is selling software to make computers talk with an Australian accent.

9. An executive at Sony Pictures was suspended after he made up a quote by a non-existent critic on a local paper in Connecticut to advertise a film. His job title was director of creative advertising.

10. An actor who poses with a sword as a gladiator for tourists at the Colosseum in Rome faces jail after being charged with bearing arms illegally.

11. A Norfolk chip

ing two armed robbers who attacked his staff: two portions of fish and chips a week for life.

12. Thieves stole a gold Rolex watch worth \$40,000 and had it encrusted with diamonds for resale. When it was seized in a police raid, and returned to its owner, it was worth \$200,000.

13. A thief Blackwood, Caerphilly, stole a bus and drove it for two hours, picking up passengers, before disappearing with about \$150 in takings.

14. A toymaker in Kent has produced a scale model of a white Ford Transit van honouring the new social stereotype, "White Van Man". The replica includes fake grime with the legend, "I wish my bird was as dirty as this van".

15. After years of turning a blind eye, Tennessee University closed down a house where students gambled on cockfighting and hired homeless men to box. The authorities suddenly discovered that the students were hiring shop owner is offering a a stripper at least once a

16. Rats and mice are among a group of animals to be given full European citizenship, complete with passports to allow them to travel abroad without going into quarantine. Ferrets were refused citizenship.

17. Firemen had to rescue a 25-year-old man from a rubbish chute in a block of flats in Stockholm, Sweden. He had climbed in to retrieve a favourite old sweater thrown away by his wife.

18. The Latvian government spends more on food for its guard dogs (\$1,576 a year each) than it does on its soldiers (\$924). An official said: "No one makes dog food in Latvia so we have to import it."

19. Ninety members of the St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, the oldest in Russia, were removed from a flight to Los Angeles because they were rowdy and refused to sit down.

20. The mother of Miss America complained that contest organisers sent her daughter a \$2,000 bill for the celebration party after her crowning.



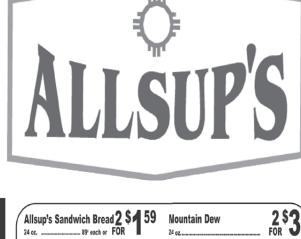






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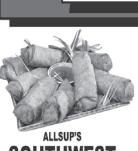
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Stocks zig-zag on signs of slow economic growth

YORK (AP) Stocks are bouncing between small gains and losses on Wall Street following more signs that the U.S. economic recovery is advancing, albeit at a slow

The Dow Jones industrial average was down two points at 13,170 just after noon on Wednesday. The broader S&P 500 index rose two points to 1,406, while the Nasdaq composite rose 12 points to 3,029.

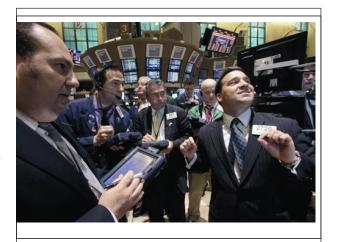
U.S. industrial production increased last month as factories made more cars, computers and airplanes, according to the Federal Reserve.

It was a sign that manufacturing is recovering after a weak spring. Also, consumer prices were unchanged in July from June, as a small drop in energy costs offset slightly higher food prices. The consumer price index hasn't changed since March, which means that inflation is in check.

Lower inflation gives the Federal Reserve more leeway to launch new programs intended to rekindle the economy. The Fed signaled at a meeting in late July that it is ready to act if growth and hiring stays

Recent signs point to some economic improvement in July. Employers created the most jobs in five months, while consumers spent a little more at stores after three months of declines. Though they were better, the economic data showed a very weak recovery and that the U.S. economy is just trudging

"We're in a period of very slow growth, though interest rates are low, and very little inflation, said David Kotok, chief investment



Cumberland Advisors.

It's left many investors wondering if the economy is fragile enough to create a sense of urgency among fiscal policy makers to act proactively. The slightly better outlook for the economy could prompt the Fed to hold off on taking action when its policy committee next meets in September.

The bond market is betting that the Fed is not likely to act. Investors have been selling lowrisk U.S. government bonds, sending the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note up to 1.81 percent Wednesday. That's up from 1.73 percent Tuesday and 1.66 percent late Monday.

"Unless the U.S. economy goes into a swoon and there is no pick up in retail sales and deterioration in jobs growth or major shocks from Europe and China, the Fed will not take any action for now," Kotok said.

In the last few weeks of the summer, trading volumes in the stock market have been low. Investors may also be holding off on taking aggressive positions ahead of a meeting of the U.S. Federal Reserve in Wyoming at the end of this month.

Wednesday, the

Dow traded within a range of just 53 points.

Ú.S. earnings mixed.

Target rose \$1.56 to \$64.95 after the retailer increased its profit outlook for the year. Target is preparing its first expansion out of the U.S., into

Deere plummeted \$5.51 to \$74.62 after the agriculture machinery maker reported results that were well below Wall Street's expectations. The company attributed its poor results to a slowing global economy and the effects of a prolonged U.S. drought. Deere also cut its revenue forecast for the year.

Staples dropped \$2.43 to \$11.03 after the office and school supplies store said its income dropped 32 percent following weak sales in North America and Europe. The results fell short of analysts' expectations and the company cut its full-year earnings forecast.

Abercrombie & Fitch struggled to sell its preppy jeans and T-shirts in the previous quarter, but its results weren't as bad as analysts had forecast. The teen fashion leader also laid out plans for updating its fashions. The stock soared 9 percent, or \$2.80, to \$35.13.

Hot enough to kill your dog



Where I sit, it's a crime to leave a dog alone in a car on a hot day. And I don't just mean that metaphorically; it's against actual state law.

In California, leaving an animal unattended in a vehicle coupled with dangerous conditions such as weather, insufficient ventilation or lack of food and water is a crime punishable by up to six months in jail or \$500 in fines — or both if the animal is injured or dies.

While I'm glad there's a law, the corresponding punishment feels somehow lack-

That said, most people don't want to kill their pets. Most people would be devastated knowing they're responsible for their dog's death due to heatstroke. Most people simply think it will never happen to them. And some people just don't know any better.

But some people should know better. People like vets.

Last week, a Coachella Valley veterinarian left his 8-year-old German shepherd, Perro, locked in his SUV, which was parked outside his clinic. By the time police responded to the scene, the dog was in extreme heat distress. And by the time officers broke the windows in an effort to rescue the dog, it was too late. Perro died at the scene. Animal services estimated the temperature in the vehicle to be between 140 degrees and 150 degrees.

Every year, thousands of dogs die alone in hot cars. Everyday pet owners do it. Police officers do it; three police K-9s have died

this summer after being left in hot cruisers by their handlers. Even veterinarians do it. Regardless of who does it, these are 100 percent preventable deaths.

Know this: Cracking the windows does nothing.

Even if it is "only" 80 degrees outside, within 10 to 15 minutes, the interior temperature of the car could be upward of 110 degrees even with the windows partially open.

If you or I were sitting in a 110-degree box, we'd simply get out. A dog is not so equipped. Another difference between a dog and a human in this scenario — and one that further exacerbates the dog's plight - is that dogs don't sweat. Not like we do. Sweating is our built-in air-conditioning system. It's much harder for a dog to cool himself down — which is why it's so dangerous to leave him alone in a car on

If we are honest with ourselves, our dogs almost always are in our cars because we want them there, not because they want to be there. Bringing the pooch along for the ride is fine if you're going to the vet, if you're going to the dog-friendly pet store, if he's welcome at the restaurant where you'll be dining, if you're going to the drive-in movie. But if you are headed anywhere that he is not welcome, leave him home, inside, with the AC cranked, where he'll be safe and happy.

And if you see a dog locked in a car on a hot day, call the police. Don't hesitate. Don't worry about being perceived as 'overreacting." Don't just keep walking. That phone call could save a life.

Woof!

Dog trainer Matthew "Uncle Matty" Margolis is co-author of 18 books about dogs, a behaviorist, a popular radio and television guest, and host of the PBS series "WOOF! It's a Dog's



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Untold stories in the Rio Grande Valley

The Rio Grande Valley brims with numberless untold stories.

Rene Rhi, a 34-year-old filmmaker with ties to the United States and Mexico, wants to tell some of them.

A Matamoros, Mexico, native who went to high school in Brownsville and film school at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, Rhi is getting some attention.

His 27-minute film "Bordando la Frontera," "Embroidering the Border," won the Audience Choice-Best Short award at New York's 2012 Stony Brook Film Festival in

The movie, in Spanish with English subtitles, is based on an actual event that took place in Arizona in 2007 when a 9-year-old boy wandered the desert for hours after his mother crashed in a van, pinning her in the wreckage.

A Mexican national who had crossed the border illegally found the boy, followed him to the wreck and — though it meant deportation — stayed with the pair through the night and the next day until help arrived.

"It was a really touching story," Rhi said. "Him knowing that he was going to get arrested and deported, he stayed with the kid. That's the inspiration of the film.'

For the film, Rhi fictionalized the back story of the Mexican character, Miguel, who is told by a doctor that his young daughter will die without costly surgery. To get the money, Miguel crosses the border for a job his cousin has for him in Chicago.

Rhi, who wrote and directed the film, used a girl in the child's role

because he wasn't able to find a blond, blue-eyed boy in the Valley who was the right age and not camera shy.

"It was going to cost me \$7,000 just to bring a kid from California," Rhi said. "You have to pay for a studio teacher and you have to pay for his mom and you have to pay for the flight, hotel, food and that's not even paying the actor. I found a girl in McAllen who had some film experience. She was great. It worked out real well.'

For the other actors he used Brownsville and Matamoros natives with theater experience and his friends as extras. Appearing briefly in the movie is Peter Goodman, Brownsville film commissioner, whom the credits also list as co-producer.

"Peter Goodman, he really helped me with the whole film," Rhi said. "If it wasn't for him the film couldn't have been done. He got me uniforms and police cars. He's actually the sheriff in the film. He's got two lines."
"Bordando"

filmed in Matamoros and Brownsville about two years ago. It cost a mere \$35,000 to make thanks to donations - including half the Super 16 film stock courtesy of Kodak.

Spanish composer Oscar Navarro, whom Rhi befriended at USC, created the instrumental film score. Nelson Teran contributed songs to the score, which also includes music from Mexican rock pioneers El Tri. Postproduction took awhile because Rhi had to rely on the generosity of friends, whom he couldn't afford to pay and who all had full-time jobs.

Before film school Rhi

studied journalism and Spanish at the University of Texas at Austin. Upon graduating he went to work for Univision's news division and eventually got a job in marketing.

"They asked me to do some videos for them, so I started getting more into cinematography and editing and web design and all that stuff," Rhi said. "I just really started liking it and I got into film school and moved to California. I've been there five years now."

He graduated from USC in December with "Bordando" as his master's thesis and, now, his calling card in the industry. The film has had multiple screenings, though Stony Brook marks its first award. Several more screenings are scheduled for festivals in Chicago, Mexico, Cuba and Argentina, as well as at the South Texas Underground Film Festival in Corpus Christi and Cine Sol in McAllen

"It's slowly taking on a life of its own," Rhi said. "We're maybe going to screen it here in Brownsville sometime soon, and we have a few screenings in Matamoros for the people who haven't seen it.'

He said that when it comes to filmmaking it's hard to get taken seriously at first, and that winning the Stony Brook award was "a major step" for his team.

"Now you can show people: This is what I did with this amount of money," Rhi said. "It's won this award. It's screening here and there.'

Alan Inkles, director of the Stony Brook Film Festival, described Rhi's film as "touching and beautiful."

"Bordando" was one of only two short films — out of more than 450 submissions — honored at the festival's closing night ceremony on July 28, marking the film's East Coast premiere. Rhi missed the ceremony because of his work on a Robert Duvall movie being shot in and around Brownsville this summer.

But Rhi is already writing his next project, a feature-length movie in English and Spanish based on a friend's experiences as a U.S. soldier in Iraq.

Don't expect big-budget pyrotechnics. Rhi will explore the same general themes he visited in "Bordando," as he puts it: "the universal values of love, compassion and sympathy.'

"Those are the films that I really like, that just leave you with a good feeling after you watch them, even if it's tragic," he said.

Rhi said he'll probably use digital cameras this time around and hopes to shoot exclusively in Texas, if the locations work out. He said he doesn't care about fame but just wants to be able to work in movies and make a good living at it. While that line of work requires him to be on the West Coast, the Valley exerts a strong pull, Rhi said.

"I love being Brownsville," he said. "My family's here. All my friends are here. Don't get me wrong, I love California and Austin, but you reach a certain age where you want to be close to family and stuff like that. So I'm thinking about maybe doing some projects down here, spending some time here. But you've got to be where the work is. I've got to be in L.A."



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Nest Heads



8-16



HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Aug. 17, 2012:

This year marks a new beginning in your life, and you feel as if nothing can stop you. Use this powerful time to manifest a key desire or long-term goal. Your ability to focus defines your success. If you are single, you certainly will be noticed. Sometimes you overspend in an effort to impress others. Be your authentic self, and you could meet someone significant to your life history. If you are attached, the two of you might your goals. You'll learn not only to respect, but also to help each other achieve what he or she wants. VIRGO can be intrusive about your finances.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Your spunk comes out no mat- time. ter what you do right now. Your humor and grace appeal to many people; however, use these traits with care. If you're out culty -- to your way of thinking. You might and about, complete errands first in order to have some free time later. Tonight: Out ultimately this, too, will pass. Bring others with pals you see often.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Your focus is on home and perhaps an emotional or financial investment in a property or domestic matter. You might be too serious as you look at the pluses and minuses of this situation. Lighten up by choosing a fun activity or spending time with a child. Tonight: Get loosened up for the weekend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Keep communication flowing, and know what is necessary to accomplish what you want. It would be easier with more support. A child or particular situation rains on your parade and throws some heaviness into the moment. Tonight: Home is where the action is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Balance your budget before you make any decisions to spend more money. You need to tame the wild-spending child within that sometimes comes out. A lateafternoon discussion brings new information forward. Tonight: Let the discussion lating takes you down a new path. Tonight: continue.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Make the extra effort to understand an unhappy friend or somber situation. You can say everything you want, but you cannot change the prevailing mood. At this point, resolutions have momentum. Do not hesitate to verbalize more of your de-

sires. Tonight: Know when to call it a night. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Enjoy a short period of being in the background, where you can ponder and observe what is happening. Before you know it, you must take a proactive stance. Make sure that you are very clear as to the ramifications of heading in a certain direction. Tonight: The world is your oyster ... finally.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

*** You get through a situation have very different approaches to reaching quickly with certainty and direction. You also have style and determination. Just the same, you see a matter differently from and perhaps even a bit more negatively than others. Open up to new possibilities. Tonight: Take some much-needed personal

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Others bend -- with some diffifeel some resistance from someone, but together toward the end of the day. You just might be able to celebrate. Tonight: The more, the merrier.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ An overview helps you gain understanding. You might not be ready to take the lead just yet. Realize the opportunities that lie in the near future. Make a call to someone at a distance to discuss plans for the short term. Tonight: You might be more visible than you would like.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Reach out for someone you care about, and do more listening. You could be challenged by someone who considers him- or herself to be your supervisor. Sometimes you are overwhelmed by all the demands that surround you. Tonight: Loosen up to good music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Others come toward you. Clearly they know what they want and will ask you for exactly that. Honor who you are, and ask for more feedback. One-on-one re-Go for togetherness.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might be overwhelmed by what remains on your plate. Dig in, and get as much done as possible. You will show the results of a hard day's work, and you will be even happier to greet the evening. Tonight: Go with someone's suggestion.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim





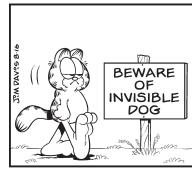
Zits







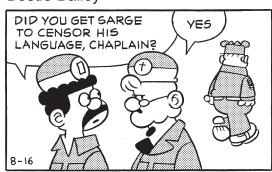
Garfield







Beetle Bailey





Marvin



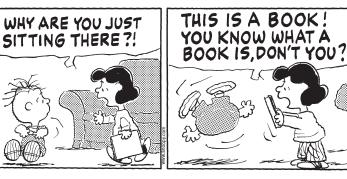


Hagar The Horrible





Peanuts





Blondie





Sports

Game

Kuroda pitches 2-hitter, Yankees beat Rangers 3-0

utes.

"He's

that took 2 hours, 35 min-

really big for us and he

could have a number of

more wins. He's been the

hard-luck guy for us this

year," Girardi said. "That

was his 11th win for us.

Realistically, he could

have 15 or 16 at this junc-

Kuroda has six score-

less outings of at least

seven innings, most in the

majors. He became the first

Yankees pitcher with two

shutouts in a season since Mike Mussina in 2005.

league win, Kuroda passed

Tomo Ohka for sole possession of second place

among pitchers born in

Japan. Hideo Nomo is first

"I was doing everything

Featuring a sharp slider,

Kuroda worked around

two walks in the first three innings and handcuffed

the hard-hitting Rangers,

who began the night lead-

ing the majors in batting

average (.278) and runs

(580). They were shut out

for only the third time all

A no-hit buzz began to

build in the sixth, when

second baseman Robinson

Cano made a backhand

play on Mitch Moreland's

one-out grounder. Kuroda

then struck out Ian Kinsler

and had retired 10 straight

grounder toward the

middle, forcing shortstop

Jayson Nix to make a div-

ing stop near the edge of

the outfield grass. With lit-

tle chance to get the speedy

runner, Nix struggled to

get the ball out of his glove

and tried a desperation

throw that was late and

Base hit, no question, and

Kuroda received a warm

round of applause from the

crowd of 44,533. Andrus

was stranded at third when

Nelson Cruz grounded out.

a little bit, but I (said), a complete game or a shut-

out is not really important

here," Kuroda explained.

"The most important thing

is for the team to win and

that's what we accom-

plished today, and that's

why I'm happy."
NOTES: Yankees 3B

hand. Girardi said the

hand is "definitely better"

and the brace will come

off, but Rodriguez isn't

quite ready to swing a bat

yet. He will begin doing

strengthening exercises.

Napoli on the disabled

list, Texas signed C Koyie

Hill to a minor league con-

tract. He was assigned to Triple-A Round Rock. ...

Luis Martinez went 0 for

3 in his first start behind

the plate for the Rangers.

He was recalled from the

minors Saturday when Napoli went on the DL.

... Jeter extended his hit-

ting streak to 10 games.

He started at DH, with Nix

at shortstop. ... New York

has eight shutouts, match-

ing its total from last sea-

son. ... Kuroda has four career complete games, all

With slugger Mike

Rodriguez had X-rays on his broken left

"I had to regroup myself

wide.

Alex

heading into the seventh. Andrus led off with a

I could to match him,

with 123.

season.

Harrison said.

With his 52nd major

been really,

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Yankees are in need of a reliable ace right now. Hiroki Kuroda has been the man for the

Kuroda pitched a twohitter and the Yankees got consecutive homers from Nick Swisher and Mark Teixeira in a 3-0 victory over the Texas Rangers on Tuesday night.

In his first season with New York, the 37-year-old Kuroda gave a depleted rotation yet another boost with ace CC Sabathia and veteran Andy Pettitte on the disabled list.

This is a very good lineup that he just shut down," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "Probably our best pitching performance of the year.'

Kuroda allowed only four balls out of the infield and just one runner past first base. He held Texas hitless until Elvis Andrus' infield single leading off the seventh, outpitching All-Star lefty Matt Harrison in a crisp duel at Yankee Stadium.

The right-hander walked two and struck out five in his fourth career shutout and second this season. He threw 74 of 109 pitches for strikes.

"When you've got a great lineup like that," Kuroda said through a translator, "you can't lose your focus until the end."

The surging Yankees won for the sixth time in seven games. They've taken the first two in a four-game set between the AL's top two teams

"Man, these games are a lot of fun to play in," Swisher said.

Derek Jeter singled off Harrison (13-7) with one out in the seventh to start the New York rally. Alexi Ogando came in to face Swisher, who cracked a go-ahead grand slam off Ryan Dempster in the series opener Monday night for his first homer since July 19 — a drought of 61 at-bats.

This time, Swisher fought his way back from an 0-2 count and drove a payoff pitch to the back of the Yankees' bullpen in right-center for his 16th home run.

"I was hitting on sound at that point. I mean, he's throwing 100 mph," Swisher said. "That 3-2 count, I was just hoping he would throw another fastball."

The bubbly switch-hitter rounded the bases with a big grin, and New York was on its way to a seventh straight regular-season victory over the Rangers at home.

"I wanted to put velocity on Swisher and he didn't beat him with it," Texas manager Ron Washington

Teixeira then lined a shot into the right-field stands for his 23rd home run.

Slowed by a lack of run support lately, Kuroda (11-8) won for the first time in four starts and lowered his ERA to 3.06. He gave up a clean single in the eighth to Michael Young, who was immediately erased on David Murphy's doubleplay grounder.

Kuroda then worked a 1-2-3 ninth to finish a gem REBUILDING ASTROS

HOUSTON — The Houston Astros weren't going to win this season. so with an eye toward the future they cast off their few remaining high-priced veterans before the trade deadline to slash the payroll and continue restocking a depleted farm system. The Astros shed almost \$40 million from their opening day roster and now have a payroll of just \$21.3 million. An already terrible season has gotten even uglier since the

trades began, and Houston is 6-36 since their first deal on July 4.

And here's the sports digest for discerning fans

RANGERS AND YANKEES

NEW YORK — Matt Harrison pitches for the Texas Rangers against Hiroki Kuroda and the New York Yankees in the second game of a fourgame series between the top two teams in the American League.

ASTROS AND **C**UBS

CHICAGO — Lucas

win as Houston faces winless right-hander Chris Volstad and the Chicago Cubs. Cowboys

Harrell looks for his 10th

OXNARD, Calif. — The Dallas Cowboys have three more weeks to get ready for their regular-season opener. Based on their preseason opener, they've got a lot of work to do after winning 3-0 at Oakland. The Cowboys were back at their California training camp complex Tuesday with a day off. Their next

game is Saturday night at San Diego, where they will then stay for a couple of days of workouts with the Chargers.

TEXAN HOLIDAY

HOUSTON — Trindon Holliday thought about trying out for the U.S. Olympic track team in the summer. That dream didn't last long, because the London games overlapped with the start of Houston Texans training camp, and Holliday would much rather make this team.

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BANANAGRAMS!

Each of the words below can be turned into another word on the list by changing one letter and then rearranging them all to form a new word. For example, REGIMENT can be turned into STEERING by changing the M to an S.

1. CALICO

2. ATONED

3. SEANCE

4. DEACON

5. SOCIAL

6. CHANGE

7. UNEASE 8. AGENCY

> Yesterday's Answer: HEAVEN, BAITED, RABBIT, ACCORD

nyopns

	5	2	8	4	1	6	9	7	3
	9	7	4	8	3	2	5	1	6
	6	3	1	9	5	7	4	2	8
	8	1	6	2	7	5	3	4	9
	2	4	9	3	8	1	6	5	7
	3	5	7	6	9	4	2	8	1
	7	6	5	1	4	3	8	9	2
	4	9	3	7	2	8	1	6	5
	1	8	2	5	6	9	7	3	4
_									$\overline{}$
		~ I							

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

				8		5		
				2		6		
7	5		4		9			
					8			
		8	5	7	3	2		
							8	4
	6	9				3		
	3		2				7	
1								6
Level: Intermediate								

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR it make have time! Wouldn't sense if grade school teachers set aside time, I couldn't help but fectly. My wife said, weekly or monthly, wonder whose chilto go over some very dren you are describ- furniture generic information ing. All of the topthat kids need to learn? I'm talking about are things children Why can't our kids things like how important it is to have pets their parents. Where our house if our other neutered and why, how are those parents? houseguests are using to manage money, and AWOL? show them what the average dad earns and what it costs to run a kids to grow up underpast the "gimmes."

sters at an early age IN -- how to groom themselves properly, be to be aware of their have sex. surroundings, to realbe pleasant.

CONN., READER

ics you mentioned DEAR

have just started back sheets, and they sleep into the dating scene on the sofa beds in the household and support after my divorce and hotels we stay in. My a family. It might help being single for five wife will sleep in a years. I had a vasec- hotel bed that 100 perstanding that money tomy when I was marisn't free and get them ried, and I'm wondering at what point There are so many I should tell prospectopics that ought to be tive dates this inforintroduced to young- mation. -- SNIPPED have used in our home **CANADA**

exposed to a variety Raise the subject of music genres, teach as soon as a woman SLEEPING IN MY them how grandpar- mentions the idea of BED? ents can use help even wanting children. It from small children. should certainly be BEEN SLEEPING: They could be taught discussed before you

ize that foul language tomies have been cheap. But your wife isn't an attribute and known to fail, and why it's important to won't prevent someone from picking up There are so many an STD, you should and selling it is big topics. Ten minutes a always make sure business. The sofa week on different top- you and your partics would suffice. Why ner are protected by CHAPLIN, using a condom. DEAR ABBY:

DEAR READER: Several years ago we any furniture store Why not? Because bought a used sofa at that sells sofa beds.) teachers are so over- a garage sale. It is now whelmed trying to falling apart. A friend get their students to of mine in the hotel learn enough basic business offered me an winds up sleeping on curriculum to pass almost new sofa bed it could be you. the state mandated from a room that was

ABBY: tests that they don't being redecorated. It matches the colors in Reading your letter our game room per-"You can't bring hotel into house. Yuck!"

> My logic is this: **should learn from** sleep on a hotel bed in the kids' rooms? We ABBY: I would use our clean cent of the guests sleep in, but she doesn't want a bug-free sofa bed that about 5 percent of hotel guests ONTARIO, for occasional use. Am I cheap, or am I mar-**DEAR SNIPPED:** ried to a clean freak? WHO'S BEEN

DEAR Not knowing you better, I can't say P.S. Because vasec- whether or not you're should know that many people buy used hotel furniture, bed could be cleaned and sanitized and the mattress replaced. (Inquire about it at But don't push your wife into taking it or the person who

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By THOMAS JOSEPH

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or auk

9 Platter

player

11 Annulled

areas

17 Hosp.

5 Ump's

call

4 Shoe

ACROSS 1 Somewhat 45 Office

5 Grounds

10 Kenya

neighbor

12 Deal

maker

13 "Sophie's Choice"

14 Head out **15** Freud

costar

topic **16** Ingot's

big brother 18 Place for

mixing at home **20** — de la

Cité **21** "— girl!" **23** 2016

Olympics setting

24 Ocean

motion 26 Elmer of cartoons

28 Ship record

29 Skilled **31** Hold 32 Cufflinks'

kin 36 Prying aid 39 Spanish

cheer 40 Seoul

setting 41 Stable mothers

43 Foils' cousins

I | L | A | G | E | |O|B|E|Y E|R|O|D|E|D| NAVE CAPONE CLAN BENGAL L O B E |A|L|P|H|A I | N | A | B | A | L | L | O | O | N ENE | I |N|N B|A|L|L|E|T|S| NE0 T|R|U|T| | | T | S | Y O|N|S|E|T|S A G O G R|O|L|L|U|PATEASE ROME MOSS SETTER

Yesterday's answer 30 Seventh

letter

33 Carried

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34 Guinness

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19 Auction action

22 Validates 24 What a

6 Like some waterskier

to 8 Spurious 25 Overlooks

27 Salt Lake 37 Calendar City

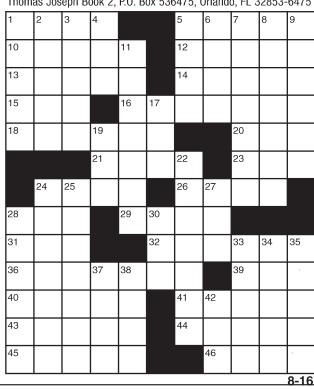
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Romney says Obama just trying to 'hang onto power'

WASHINGTON (AP)— Republican Mitt Romney dug in Wednesday on his charge that President Barack Obama's campaign is driven by "division and attack and hatred," criticism aimed at cutting into Obama's likeability and personal appeal with vot-

In some of his harshest words yet against the president, Romney said Obama was "running just to hang onto power, and I think he would do anything in his power" to remain in office.

Romney's comments escalated an already acrimonious campaign fueled by negative and sometimes false advertisements, as well as personal insults from the candidates and their surrogates.

Obama's campaign said Romney's fresh assertions seemed "unhinged."

Romney replied: "I think unhinged would have to characterize what we've seen from the president's campaign."

"These personal attacks, I think, are just demeaning to the office of the White

House," he added.
The latest rhetorical scuffle erupted Tuesday after Vice President Joe Biden told a largely black audience in Danville, Va., that Republicans would seek to "unchain Wall Street" and "put y'all back in chains" by loosening Wall Street regulations.

Biden later said he had meant to use the term "unshackled." But he did not apologize, and he mocked the Romney campaign for showing outrage. his interview In

Wednesday on "CBS This Morning," Romney said: "I can't speak for anybody else, but I can say that I think the comments of the vice president were one more example of a divisive effort to keep from talking about the issues."

Romney's onslaught comes as polls show Obama with a narrow lead over his Republican rival less than three months before the Nov. 6 election. On Saturday, Romney named Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan as his running mate, a pick aimed at energizing his party's conser vative base.

Now Romney, straying from his campaign's efforts to stay singularly focused on jobs and the economy, is targeting Obama's greatest strength — his likeability.

Every major poll in the past two months has found Obama's favorability rating in positive territory, while Romney's languishes at about even or worse and has deteriorated in some recent surveys.

Some of Romney's efforts to chip away at Obama's likeability have focused on negative ads run by the president's campaign and a super political action committee support-

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Action ran a commercial suggesting Romney was personally responsible for the death from cancer of the wife of a man who worked at a steel plant that was bought and subsequently shut down by Romney's venture capital firm, Bain Capital.

"If you look at the ads that have been described and the divisiveness based upon income, age, ethnicity and so forth, it's designed to bring a sense of enmity and jealousy and anger," Romney said Wednesday.

has run its own negative ads, including one widely discredited by independent fact-checkers that accuses Obama of gutting welfare reform.

Romney's team is also running an ad that criticizes Obama for raiding the Medicare trust fund, a charge the president's team labeled dishonest and hypocritical.

Romney was holdprivate fundraisers Wednesday in North Carolina and Alabama. The president was campaigning in Iowa on Wednesday, the final day of his three-day bus trip through the Midwestern swing state. First lady Michelle Obama was joining the president for their first joint campaign appearance since May.

Before Romney unleashed his striking criticism of the president's campaign, much of the White House race this week had focused on Ryan's austere budget proposals.

Obama's campaign was launching state-specific efforts to target lesserknown elements of Ryan's budget, expanding beyond its opposition to the Republican vice presidential candidate's Medicare overhaul.

The developing Obama strategy comes as Romney and Ryan make clear they plan to campaign aggressively on Medicare, not run away from it. In person and in a television ad, the Republicans argued Tuesday that Obama is the one who cut spending for Medicare to put money toward his divisive health care overhaul.

In states with large military and veteran populations — Florida, Ohio and Virginia among them the Obama campaign plans to attack Ryan's proposed cuts for veterans' benefits and care, a campaign official said. The official was not authorized to discuss the campaign strategy publicly and requested anonymity.

In Colorado, Ohio and Iowa, the campaign sees opportunities to capitalize on Ryan's proposed cuts to clean energy industries that are taking hold in those states. The Obama

essentially cede new ener- game in some states. gy technologies — and the China, the official said.

a year from Head Start, an early education program, and reduce Pell grants for 10 million college students.

The campaign launched an ad Tuesday in five states -Colorado, Iowa, Nevada, The Romney campaign Ohio and Virginia — that links Romney directly to in November. the Ryan budget's impact on college grants.

launch other paid advertising on elements of Ryan's budget soon.

its message out in local Medicare, to protect media and directly to vot-ers through its ample grass- Medicare," he said. ers through its ample grass-

ing him. Priorities USA team will argue that cutting roots network, which still those investments would trumps Romney's ground

> Despite ramping up new jobs that could come with areas of attack, Obama's them — to countries like campaign is still eager to link Romney to Ryan's In Nevada and several Medicare proposals, both other states, the campaign on the national level and plans to push the impact of in battleground states with Ryan's budget on educa- a significant number of tion, citing estimates that it voters over the age of 65, would cut 200,000 children including Florida, Ohio, Iowa and Pennsylvania.

> > The president's pollsters wrote in a campaign memo that Ryan's Medicare proposals are a "game changer" in Florida, the battleground state with the most electoral votes up for grabs

Ryan, interviewed on Fox News Channel, said he and Obama's team may Romney believe Medicare can be a winning issue for Republicans in the fall.

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