

## Obama Announces More Drought Assistance

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is directing the Agriculture Department to authorize an additional \$30 million to help crop and livestock producers in drought-stricken areas of the U.S. The spending does not require congressional approval, and the money has already been allocated to the department.

Obama held a meeting on the government's drought response at the White House Tuesday. He announced a series of additional steps to assist people and businesses hit by the drought, including a Transportation Department program to help commercial truck drivers deliver supplies to affected areas.

Obama also called on Congress to pass a farm bill languishing on Capitol Hill. He says passing the five-year, \$500 billion farm bill would give farmers much-needed certainty.

Officials say the drought is the worst in the U.S. in 25 years.

## Prosecutors Want 3 Years For Feminist Rockers

MOSCOW (AP) — Prosecutors on Tuesday called for three-year prison sentences for feminist punk rockers who gave an impromptu performance in Moscow's main cathedral to call for an end to Vladimir Putin's rule, in a case that has caused international outrage and split Russian society.

Some Russians say the three women — who have already been in jail for five months — deserve to be punished for desecrating the Russian Orthodox Church and offending believers. Others insist that they are being punished for their political beliefs. The women, all in their 20s, said their goal was to express their resentment over the church's open support for Putin's rule.

Dressed in homemade ski masks and miniskirts in garish colors, the Pussy Riot band members burst into a nearly empty Christ the Savior Cathedral and spent less than a minute belting out their "punk prayer" before being hustled out by security guards. Their February stunt was part of the protest movement that gathered strength over the winter and has come under increasing pressure since Putin won a third presidential term in March.

Prosecutors portrayed the proposed three-year sentences for the women as lenient, since the hooliganism charges they face carry a maximum sentence of seven years. Prosecutor Alexander Nikiforov said the recommendation takes into account that two of the defendants have young children and that they have good character references.

Putin said last week that the punishment should not be "too severe," triggering speculation that the Kremlin was hoping to resolve the case without appearing weak or causing further anger on either side.

## Study: Fewer Kids With High Cholesterol

ATLANTA (AP) — Finally some good news about cholesterol and kids: A big government study shows that in the past decade, the proportion of children who have high cholesterol has fallen.

The results are surprising, given that the childhood obesity rate didn't budge.

How can that be?

Some experts think that while most kids may not be eating less or exercising more, they may be getting fewer trans fats. That's because the artery-clogging ingredient has been removed or reduced in many processed or fried foods such as doughnuts, cookies and french fries. "That's my leading theory," said Dr. Sarah de Ferranti, director of preventive cardiology at Boston Children's Hospital. She wrote an editorial that accompanies the study.

## Court Rules Against State Dept. In Age Case

WASHINGTON (AP) — A divided appeals court panel has ruled that the State Department improperly dismissed a former employee solely because he turned 65.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled 2-1 Tuesday that former employee John R. Miller was protected by the Age Discrimination in Employment Act. The court rejected the State Department's claim that the law's age discrimination protections didn't apply in Miller's case. State argued for an exemption because Miller was hired in France under a contract that followed French practice of mandating retirement at 65.

The appeals court decision reverses a lower court that had accepted the department's argument and dismissed the case.

Miller is a U.S. citizen who worked in the U.S. embassy in Paris as a safety inspector. He was dismissed in 2007.

## OBITUARIES

### Charlyn Sill

NORTH NEWTON, Kan. — Charlyn Alice Adams Sill, age 93, died on Monday August 6, 2012 in North Newton Kansas, her residence of the past 10 years.

She was born to Florence and Thomas Adams, DDS in Parkersburg, West Virginia where she was raised the eldest of three children. Charlyn was preceded in death by her beloved husband Dr. Webster H. Sill Jr., parents and her brother Dr. Charles Adams.

Charlyn Alice married Lt. Webster H. Sill, Jr. USMC in 1943 during the hard days of WW II.

Charlyn began playing piano at a very early age and went on to study music graduating from Denison College with a BFA in Music and then onto Boston University where she graduated with a MFA in music and organ. As a loving wife and mother she gathered her family for travel and living abroad in the Philippines, India, Taiwan and Hawaii, as Webster's work took them to many far off lands. Charlyn made friends where ever she lived, learned the cooking of the cultures, entertained foreign guests, collected and studied primitive and exotic instruments of every country she shared with Webster and their children.

When Charlyn and Webster moved to Kansas in 1951 she played piano, organ, directed church choirs and was a rural school music teacher. Over the years Charlyn shared her musical talents as an organist and choir director with more than a dozen different churches.

On a trip to England in 1960 Charlyn fell in love with English handbells. Shortly after returning home she had her own set of beautiful, shiny new English handbells. With her persuasive ability to get anyone playing music, her talents were shared with many churches for more than 50 years from Kansas to South Dakota. Her handbell choirs ranged from children to seniors, with her choirs playing in many handbell events at home or around the country.

Charlyn is survived by her sister, Florence Adams of Parkersburg, WV and her three married children, Susan and Pat Moore of Hesston Kansas, Julie and Warren Sill of Boulder, CO and Diann and Web Sill of Gilpin County, CO. Char-



Sill

lyn's 12 grandchildren have given her 15 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, August 9, 2012 at 10 a.m. in the First Christian Church, 102 East First Street, Newton, KS 67114.

A graveside service will follow on Saturday, August 11, 2012 at the Bluff View Cemetery in Vermillion, SD at 11 a.m. where she will be laid to rest by her beloved Webster.

Memorials may be made in Charlyn's name to the First Christian Church of Newton, KS, or the Dr. Webster H. Sill Jr. Scholarship Fund at the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD.

Charlyn loved her husband, her friends, her family, entertaining and music.

Through her music and the dozens of close friends she made in every new home, Charlyn was an inspired ambassador for the USA and worldwide Christianity.

Condolences may be left at <http://www.broadwaycolonialfh.com/>

Arrangements are by Broadway Colonial Funeral Home, 120 E. Broadway, Newton, Ks., 67114.

**Yankton Press & Dakotan**  
August 8, 2012

### Kathryn Means

Kathryn "Kay" B Means died peacefully on July 10, 2012, at Majestic Bluffs, Yankton.

A memorial service is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at Christ Episcopal Church, Yankton.

Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, is in charge of arrangements.

Family requests memorials go to the Mead Building Restoration.

### DeAnna Klug

HARTINGTON, Neb. — DeAnna Klug, 74, of Hartington, Neb., died Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012, at her residence.

Her services are pending at Wintz Funeral Home, Hartington.

# Romney: Obama Favors 'Culture Of Dependency'

BY STEVE PEOPLES AND KEN THOMAS  
Associated Press

ELK GROVE VILLAGE, Ill. — Republican Mitt Romney accused President Barack Obama on Tuesday of ditching a long-standing work requirement for welfare recipients, accusing him of fostering a "culture of dependency" and backing up the charge with a new television commercial.

White House press secretary Jay Carney said the allegations were "blatantly dishonest ... hypocrisy knows no bounds." He added that Romney, while serving as Massachusetts governor, had once petitioned the White House to loosen employment rules for those on welfare.

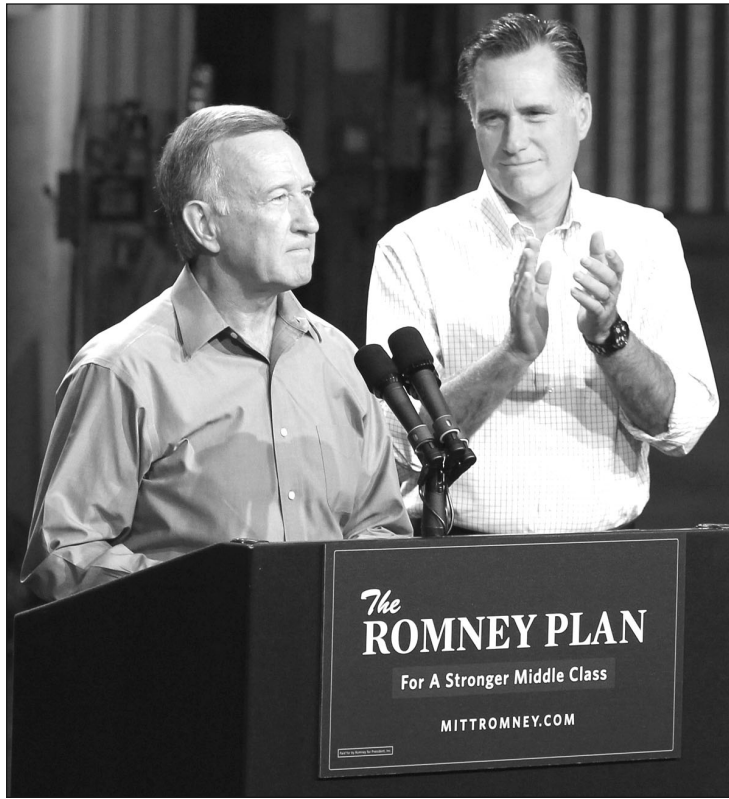
Romney made his accusation in a relatively rare occurrence in the race for the White House — an appearance before voters outside the small group of battleground states likely to settle the Nov. 6 election.

Illinois and its 20 electoral votes are politically safe territory for Obama in the fall. Romney was there for a fundraiser as well as a stop at a manufacturing company, part of the intense competition between the two candidates to stockpile cash for the stretch run to Election Day.

The president had a pair of fundraisers on his campaign schedule for the day, both within a few blocks of the White House.

In a race as close as this one, the taunts were getting personal.

Romney, interviewed on Fox



Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, right, and Acme Industries CEO Warren Young speak at Acme Industries in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, during a campaign stop on Tuesday, August 7, 2012. Acme Industries is a manufacturing company that employs 200 machinists, engineers and manufacturing professionals in its 200,000 square foot facility.

STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

News, said Obama was "saying things that are not accurate" when it comes to taxes. He referred to a crack the president made on Monday night as "Obama-loney," rhyming it with baloney.

At a fundraiser, Obama called Romney's tax plan Robin Hood in reverse — "Romney Hood" — and repeated his accusation that it would mean tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans while forcing the middle class to pay the

IRS as much as \$2,000 more a year.

The president wants to extend tax breaks due to expire at all income levels, except above \$200,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for a couple. He has made his proposal central to a pitch to middle- and working-class voters as he seeks a second term with unemployment at 8.3 percent.

Romney wants to keep the tax cuts in place at all income levels, and has proposed an additional 20 percent reduction in rates.

Romney's decision to introduce the welfare issue into the campaign seemed aimed at blue-collar, white working-class voters in a weak economy, and suggested that Obama might be gaining ground politically with his position on taxes.

It also marked an attempt to take the gloss off the recent announcement that former President Bill Clinton will have a prime-time speaking slot at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. early next month.

Appearing before hundreds of supporters at a manufacturing plant near Chicago, Obama's hometown, the Republican challenger said bipartisan legislation signed into law by Clinton in 1996 "reformed welfare to encourage people to work. They did not want a culture of dependency to continue to grow in our country," he said of the then-president and Congress, which was under Republican control at the time.

# Syria's Assad Returns To Public Eye With Ally Iran

BY BRIAN MURPHY  
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian President Bashar Assad made his first appearance on state TV in nearly three weeks Tuesday in a show of solidarity with a senior Iranian envoy, even as the U.S. urged stepped up international planning for the regime's collapse.

The visit to Damascus by the highest-ranking Iranian official since the uprising began coincided with a warning by an increasingly agitated Tehran that it holds the U.S. responsible for the fate of 48 Iranians seized by Syrian rebels.

Appearing together on state TV, Assad and Iran's Saeed Jalili vowed to defeat the rebels and their backers, while U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton predicted Assad's regime was quickly unraveling, with high-level defections such as his prime minister's switch to the rebel side.

Jalili's visit highlighted Assad's deepening reliance on a

shrinking list of allies, led by Tehran. Assad — seen on state TV for the first time since a July 18 bombing in Damascus killed four of his top security officials — used Jalili's visit to portray a sense of command and vowed to fight his opponents "relentlessly."

Jalili, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, promised Iran would stand by Syria against its international "enemies" — a clear reference to the rebels' Western backers and others such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

While there were no public pledges of greater military assistance to Assad, the mission appeared to reflect Iran's efforts to reassure Syria of its backing and ease speculation that Tehran also could be making contingencies for Assad's possible fall.

On a visit to South Africa, Clinton described Assad's regime as splintering from Monday's defection of Syria's prime minister, Riad Hijab, and other military and political figures breaking away in recent months. She urged inter-

national leaders to begin work on a "good transition plan" to try to keep Syria from collapsing into more chaos after Assad.

"I am not going to put a timeline on it. I can't possibly predict it, but I know it's going to happen as do most observers around the world," Clinton told reporters.

A post-Assad Syria presents a host of worrisome scenarios, including a bloody cycle of revenge and power grabs by the country's patchwork of factions, including the Sunni-led rebels and Assad's minority Alawites, an offshoot of Shiite Islam allied with Shiite Iran.

Despite a ferocious government crackdown, the Syrian rebels have grown more confident and are using increasingly bolder tactics. They seized the 48 Iranians in a bold daylight attack near Damascus on Saturday, claiming they were members of Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards sent on a "reconnaissance mission" to assist in Assad's crackdown.

Iran says the Iranians, who were captured when their bus

was commandeered near the airport, were pilgrims visiting a Shiite shrine on the outskirts of Damascus.

Iran issued a flurry of appeals for their release on Tuesday, with Jalili saying that Iran would spare no effort to secure their freedom.

"We believe that the abduction of innocent people could not be accepted by any rational person. We believe that the parties that support those terrorist groups to commit such disgraceful acts, are their partners," he said.

In a pointed message to the Obama administration, Iran's Foreign Ministry said that it holds the U.S. responsible for the fate of the abducted Iranians.

Iran's state IRNA news agency said the ministry summoned the Swiss envoy in Tehran late Monday to stress that Iran expects Washington to use its influence to secure the Iranians' release. The Swiss look after U.S. interests in Iran since Tehran and Washington have no diplomatic relations.

## Drugs

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in South Dakota is uneven," he said. "There are strong court systems and law enforcement, but some are not taking advantage of it. I tell them, 'You don't have the law enforcement in your community that others have. You need licensed attorneys for your defense, prosecution and judges.'"

Some tribal courts have few, if any, personnel with legal training, Johnson said.

"There are still (tribal) councils that treat their court system like a jobs program," he said. "You can't have a court system when you continue to treat it that way."

The Sisseton, Standing Rock, Rosebud and Lower Brule reservations are seeing major strides in their courts, Johnson said.

"But Crow Creek, Yankton — I'm not seeing it. Pine Ridge, I'm not seeing it," he said. "If you don't hold people accountable in tribal court, your problems are going to increase in magnitude. Then, you'll have the federal types of offenses."

Johnson sees promising signs in some areas, particularly the public's outcry against crime — notably drugs.

"We are seeing more reporting of crime on the reservation, more turning in of the perpetrators of these crimes," he said.

In the RielLee Lovell case, demonstrators have stood outside the Charles Mix County courthouse dur-

ing proceedings to protest what they consider lax enforcement of drug laws. And about 100 people conducted a memory walk last week in Wagner to commemorate what would have been RielLee's third birthday.

Recent reports have also found the Yankton Sioux Tribe has not used a federal grant of nearly \$160,000 to hire a drug detective to battle meth. The Department of Justice (DOJ) grant would fund the hiring of a tribal officer to investigate drug cases.

During Tuesday's visit to Yankton, Johnson noted the meth supply in South Dakota has shifted mainly from home-based labs to importing of the drug. He also spoke extensively about the rising problem of synthetic drugs and human trafficking.

The solution against such crimes lies in educating the public and a crackdown of offenses under state and federal laws, he said.

Whether in Indian Country or other areas, more coordination of resources is needed among all levels of law enforcement and prosecution, Johnson said.

"We need to keep doing what we are doing in prosecuting at the federal level," he said. "But the federal government can't solve things by itself."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at [twitter.com/RDockendorf](http://twitter.com/RDockendorf)

## Oil

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California was \$3.86 on Tuesday.

Nationally, the average gasoline price rose 1.5 cents to \$3.634 per gallon, according to AAA, Wright Express and OPIS. That's about a quarter more than it was a month ago and just 4 cents less than a year ago.

In New York, benchmark U.S. crude increased \$1.47 to finish at \$93.67 per barrel. It rose as high as \$94.42 earlier. Brent crude, which is used to price international varieties of oil, rose \$2.45, or 2.2 percent, to end at \$112 per barrel, in London.

Authorities say Tropical Storm Ernesto could intensify into a hurricane and has the potential of moving into the Bay of Campeche, which houses two of Mexico's oil production areas. Mexico was the seventh-largest oil producer in the world in 2010 and the third-largest exporter to the U.S. last year, according to the Energy Information Administration.

Other tropical storms also are beginning to form that could affect oil tankers delivering supplies to the U.S.



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IN LOVING MEMORY OF

*Elaine Barkl*  
August 8, 1931—March 8, 2010

Your memory is always with us, we loved you dearly and still miss you beyond words, you will never be forgotten, you are always in our hearts, your love and sacrifice will never leave us.

William Barkl & Family