

Briefly

Debate foe: Facing three crucial debates with Mitt Romney this fall, President Barack Obama needed to find the perfect person to stand in as his Republican rival during mock faceoffs. He has found one. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., will pose as Romney, campaign officials said.

Anti-tax pledge: Anti-tax activist Grover Norquist is heading to Congress this week to tutor House Republicans on what they meant when they signed his pledge to oppose tax increases. Thursday's private briefing for lawmakers and staff comes as President Barack Obama and Congress gear up for battle over whether to extend trillions in tax cuts that expire in January, and whether the entire tax code should be overhauled.

Democratic governor: Democratic West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin says he won't attend the party's national convention, citing serious problems with President Barack Obama. A Tomblin spokesman, Chris Stadelman, said Monday that the governor has serious problems with Republican Mitt Romney, too. Tomblin isn't alone in sitting this one out — West Virginia's Sen. Joe Manchin and congressman Nick Rahall say they don't plan to attend the convention, either. Each of the three faces a Republican opponent in November.

'Vagina Monologues': Democratic state Rep. Lisa Brown, who says she was barred from speaking in the Michigan House because Republicans objected to her saying "vagina" during debate on anti-abortion legislation, performed "The Vagina Monologues," with help from author Eve Ensler, on the Statehouse steps Monday night.

— From wire reports

Key electoral factor: How the Midwest is won

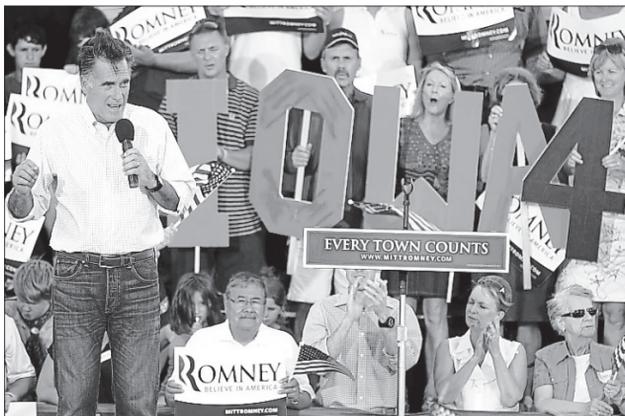
Romney looks to make up ground in states that backed Obama in 2008

By **THOMAS BEAUMONT** and **KASIE HUNT**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBUQUE, Iowa — Republican presidential challenger Mitt Romney is pushing to win a band of Midwestern states that voted for President Barack Obama four years ago and that generally have a long history of backing Democrats in White House elections.

Romney faces hurdles and advantages in each state but his approach will leave Obama no choice but to spend time and money defending states he carried in 2008. That Romney is even making a play for the arc of states from Pennsylvania to Iowa also suggests his path to the 270 electoral votes he will need to win the White House may be widening.

"It's sending a pretty clear message that the places the



Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney gestures during a campaign stop Monday at Le Claire Park and Bandshell in Davenport, Iowa.

EVAN VUCCI
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democrats have taken for granted, they can't take for granted this time," said Rich Beeson, Romney's political director.

Before arriving in Iowa on Monday, Romney stopped in Janesville, Wis., an economically struggling, one-time manufacturing hub in the southern part of the state. Unemployment there is 9 percent, well above the state average of 6.8 percent for May.

The national average is 8.2 percent.

Wisconsin, which has not backed a Republican for president since Ronald Reagan in 1984, presents a new opportunity for Romney, almost exclusively because of Gov. Scott Walker's triumph two weeks ago in a contentious recall election. Walker's win, after an 18-month fight over public employee union rights, gives Republicans hope. It also

gives Romney a corps of well-trained organizers and reams of voter data to put to use.

But he still has his work cut out for him. Voters said in exit polls after the June 5 election that they trust Obama more to address the nation's economic struggles — the chief argument for Romney, a former businessman — and the interests of the middle class.

Iowa, however, has trended Republican since Obama won

Obama wins Latino support in key states

By **PAUL WEST**
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's decision to extend administrative relief to an estimated 800,000 young illegal immigrants has won favor with Latino voters in key battleground states, according to a new poll.

The Latino Decisions survey, conducted in conjunction with America's Voice, a liberal advocacy group, found that Obama's move had wiped out an earlier "enthusiasm deficit" among Hispanic voters over the administration's deporta-

tion policies. By contrast, the poll found that Latino voters were opposed to Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's call for illegal immigrants to "self-deport."

Voters in five states with significant portions of Latino voters — Florida, Colorado, Nevada, Virginia and Arizona — were asked about Obama's new policy of halting deportations and offering temporary work permits to some illegal immigrants who came to the U.S. before they were 16, lived here for at least five years and have clean records.

Forty-nine percent of the Latino voters surveyed said Obama's move made them more enthusiastic about the president, compared with 14 percent who were less enthusiastic.

Romney criticized Obama over the weekend for taking an end run around Congress in authorizing the new policy. But the GOP contender, who has acknowledged the need for Republicans to expand their support among Latino voters, stopped short of opposing the new policy.

On Monday, Romney crit-

icized Obama's record on illegal immigration, saying to a crowd in Davenport, Iowa: "Obama was going to deal with immigration, he said, in his first year. He was going to focus on that. Did he do anything on immigration while he had a Democratic House and Senate?"

"No," Romney said.

Both Obama and Romney are scheduled to speak this week at the annual meeting of a major Hispanic organization, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

Sandusky defense opens case with six character witnesses

By **MARK SCOLFORO** and **GENARO C. ARMAS**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELLEFONTE, Pa. — Jerry Sandusky opened his defense in his molestation trial Monday with character witnesses who defended his reputation, including a former Penn State coach who said he knew Sandusky brought boys into showers but never saw him do anything wrong.

The six witnesses, one who called Sandusky a "local hero," did little to directly counter the testimony last week by eight young men who accused the former Penn State assistant football coach of sexually abusing them when they were children.

Judge John Cleland told jurors Sandusky's defense has about a day and a half left of testimony and that they could begin deliberations on the case as early as Thursday — a quicker schedule than had been expected.

Sandusky said nothing when a reporter asked if he planned to testify. Other possible defense witnesses to come include his wife, Dottie, and an expert who could discuss whether Sandusky has "histrionic personality disorder," which experts have called a personality disorder char-

Experts cast doubt on disorder defense

The defense in Jerry Sandusky's child sexual abuse trial is suggesting that a personality disorder explains some of the charges against the former Penn State assistant football coach, but one expert says that may be a stretch.

Sandusky's lawyers are arguing that he suffers from histrionic personality disorder. It's defined by the American Psychiatric Association as a pattern of excessive emotionality and attention seeking. It's often characterized by inappropriate sexually seductive or provocative behavior and rapidly shifting emotions.

According to the National Institutes of Health, histrionic personality disorder occurs more often in women than in men.

At least one expert wonders if it is a separate personality disorder or just an aspect of broader personality defects.

— The Associated Press

acterized by inappropriate sexual behavior and erratic emotions.

Dick Anderson, a longtime Penn State assistant and Sandusky friend who retired in January, testified that he and other members of the football staff were present when Sandusky brought young boys into the team's showers.

He said he never witnessed anything inappropriate.

"If Jerry would bring someone in with The Second Mile, they had been working out, for whatever reason they came in, it was not uncommon ... with the other coaches in the shower as well," Anderson

said, referring to the charity for at-risk children Sandusky founded in 1977.

Earlier in the day, prosecutors told Cleland they were dropping one of the 52 counts, that of felony unlawful contact with the accuser known as Victim 7. Prosecutor Frank Fina said the statute he was charged under did not cover the time frame when the alleged act occurred.

Cleland ruled against defense motions Monday that charges were too vague or nonspecific to defend, and that there isn't solid evidence of the ages of two alleged victims.

QUICKREAD

A story offered by a hitchhiker who claimed to be the victim of a drive-by shooting in Montana unraveled when no gun could be found in the pickup of the supposed perpetrator, officials said.

Valley County Sheriff Glen Meier said Monday that deputies found a pistol in a field near the scene and traced it to Ray Dolin.

The 39-year-old Dolin had claimed he was shot in the arm without provocation along U.S. 2. Authorities now say he shot himself and made up the rest of the story, apparently to promote a memoir he is writing about kindness.

Dolin is being treated at a hospital. Charges are pending.

Authorities initially charged Lloyd Christopher Danielson III of Tumwater, Wash., in the June 9 shooting. He was cleared four days later.

— The Associated Press

Historic truss bridge split in 2 for widening project

By **WILSON RING**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHMOND, Vt. — After more than a year of planning using computers, laser levels and measuring devices accurate to a fraction of a millimeter, it took engineers with tape measures and construction workers with sledgehammers to finally bring the 83-year-old Checkered House Bridge into the 21st century.

On Monday, workers cut the historic 350-foot U.S. Route 2 bridge in two lengthwise by unbolting the braces holding the trusses together and began the process of pushing the sides apart to widen the span by 12½ feet.

As far as anyone involved in the project has been able to determine, it's the first time such a technique has been tried on such a large bridge. Officials say the wider bridge is needed to accommodate modern traf-

fic that frequently includes bicyclists, pedestrians and farm equipment. The span is scheduled to reopen a year from now.

Despite the preparations, the hardest push was the first. After workers moved one 300,000-pound truss about 2 inches downstream on the Winooski River on Monday, crews spent hours trying to free a single spot at the base of the bridge where, despite the specialized rollers it was laid on and pressure from hydraulic jacks, it remained stuck.

The original Pennsylvania truss bridge was built in 1929, two years after a flood washed out a bridge in the same spot.

The total project cost for the bridge and the approaches on both sides is about \$16 million. A new open bridge could have been built for about \$7 million. But the federal law required that the historic bridge be preserved, if possible.

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