



HOUSE GUEST



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President Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel review the honor guard on the South Lawn of the White House during her visit on Tuesday. She said that the U.S. and Europe must assist nations undergoing rapid change. Story, A3.

ECONOMY

Lack of buyers may force Treasury to boost interest rates

Fed to end \$600B purchase of bonds

By PATRICE HILL

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The U.S. Treasury next month will go back to relying on the kindness of strangers like never before to purchase the nation's burgeoning debts — and taxpayers may have to pay higher interest rates to attract enough foreign investors, analysts say.

Though a significant rise in interest rates could be toxic for a softening U.S. economy, the Federal Reserve has said it will end its program of purchasing \$600 billion in U.S. Treasury bonds as planned on June 30. The Fed is estimated to have bought about 85 percent of Treasury's securities offerings in the past eight months.

That leaves the Treasury, which is slated to sell near-record amounts of new debt of about \$1.4 trillion this year, without its main suitor and recent source of support, and forces it back into the vagaries of global markets. Among the countries that will have to step forward to prevent a debilitating rise in interest rates are China, Japan and Saudi Arabia — and even hostile nations such as Iran and Venezuela with petrodollars to invest, according to one analysis.

The central bank launched the unusual bond-buying campaign last fall in an effort to lower interest rates and boost the sagging economy — and it was successful at drawing down long-term interest rates to record lows last winter. In particular, 30-year fixed mortgage rates fell to unprecedented

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► Bermanke optimistic about second half of the year. **A9**

Obama loses his team as the economy loses steam

By DAVID BOYER

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Obama's chief economist is departing as the administration's nearly trillion-dollar recovery is losing steam and Mr. Obama concedes that lackluster job growth could become a trend.

"Obviously, we're experiencing some headwinds," Mr. Obama said Tuesday about a rise in the unemployment rate to 9.1 percent in May. "We don't yet know whether this is a one-month episode or a longer trend."

The president added, "Our task is to not panic, not overreact, to make sure that we've got a plan."

But the advisers who helped Mr. Obama create that plan are leaving or have gone. Austan Goolsbee, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, announced Monday night that he is leaving his post soon to return to a teaching position at the University of Chicago.

Former council Chairwoman Christina Romer, former senior economic adviser Lawrence H. Summers and budget director Peter R. Orszag departed last year.

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DISTRICT

Whiting hired after lie on felony

Was evasive on job application

By JEFFREY ANDERSON

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

After months of refusals to disclose verifiable information, Mayor Vincent C. Gray last week gave a D.C. Council oversight committee documents showing he hired and gave a raise to campaign consultant Cherita Whiting after she had lied about a felony conviction on a 2010 job application to work for council member Phil Mendelson.

A more recent application — unsigned and undated — purports to show that Ms. Whiting later disclosed her 2001 felony conviction before the administration offered her a \$65,000-a-year job as a "special assistant" to the chief of staff at the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR).

That salary came into question recently when the Gray administration reported Ms.

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ROD LAMKEY JR./THE WASHINGTON TIMES

UNDER OATH: Cherita Whiting testifies at an oversight hearing before the Government Operations and the Environment Committee.

ENERGY

Lowly shrub grows in stature as biofuel

Jatropha seed oil touted for jets

By MARK KELLNER
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A plant that some have scorned as a predator might well turn out to be part of the answer to rising fuel bills for consumers.

Jatropha curcas, a poisonous, semi-evergreen shrub that can grow as high as 20 feet, produces seeds laden with oil that backers say is an ideal biofuel. One company that maintains

194,000 acres of the plant under cultivation in India is looking to expand farming, and fuel production, in the United States.

Mission NewEnergy, an Australian-based firm with operations in India and Europe and a recently opened branch in San Antonio, says it can deliver refined Jatropha oil at about \$40 to \$50 a barrel. The firm's U.S. entry also included listing its

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WIND FUELS ARIZONA BLAZE



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smoke billows skyward from the Wallow Fire near Greer, Ariz., on Tuesday. Officials say the fire has burned at least 486 square miles and winds have been driving the flames since the fire began a week ago.

CONGRESS

Pressure builds for sale of F-16 jets to Taiwan

Lawmakers cite jobs, air power

By BILL GERTZ
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Congress is stepping up pressure on the Obama administration to sell more F-16 jet fighters to Taiwan as the island's air defenses deteriorate and China's air power grows.

Sen. John Cornyn, a leading advocate for efforts to bolster Taiwan's defenses as well as to keep a U.S. production line open for new F-16s, said Tuesday that the shifting military

balance across the 100-mile-wide Taiwan Strait is increasing the danger of a conflict that could involve the United States.

"While the administration dithers on Taiwan's request for F-16s, evidence continues to mount that what Taiwan desperately needs to restore the cross-strait balance and regain the ability to defend its own airspace is new fighter aircraft to bolster an air force that is

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POLITICS

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Withdrawal leaves him uncertain how soon he can resume pursuit for majors. **C1**



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THOMAS

From page A14

Speculation of a closed-door meeting to address the matter mounted throughout the day at the John A. Wilson Building, while the council attended to usual business and a vote on the city's redistricting plan.

Council members said they expected "movement" on Mr. Thomas' situation during the day, although it was unclear if it would be a voluntary decision by the council member or action by his colleagues.

Shortly after the redistricting vote, Mr. Brown's staff circulated a memo announcing a closed meeting to discuss a "personnel issue."

Members of the press entered the room anyway, noting a vote had not been taken to bring the matter into closed session.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Thomas were absent from the room, but the chairman appeared and took a quick vote to close the meeting.

Surrounded by TV cameras, the council's attorney said the vote sufficed, even though it was recorded in a small meeting room and not from the council chamber.



DREW ANGERER/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Ward 5 council member Harry Thomas Jr. (left) speaks with Ward 8 council member Marion Barry after a legislative session at the John A. Wilson Building on Tuesday. Council members held a public meeting to take a vote on redistricting, then adjourned to a closed-door session to discuss allegations against Mr. Thomas.

CASE

From page A14

Archbishop of Baltimore Edwin F. O'Brien. He successfully sued the city on grounds that requiring the centers to post such a message violated their freedom of speech.

The city has since appealed the case. Both sides have begun submitting briefs in the case, but oral arguments have yet to be scheduled.

Supporters have contended the law would protect expectant mothers who are unaware that a pregnancy center is pro-life from unknowingly receiving advice that discourages or ignores abortion as a legal option.

The law would have fined offending centers \$200, plus \$50 for each day of non-compliance.

"The ordinance is a fairly straightforward truth-in-advertising measure. It offers minimal restrictions on the centers," said Stephanie Toti, an attorney for the Center for Reproductive Rights — a pro-choice group acting as co-counsel with the city.

AUL attorney Anna Franzonello said the group was coaxed into the fray by pro-

life pregnancy care centers in Maryland and throughout the nation. Baltimore is one of the nation's first cities to pass such legislation, and could be an important battleground in the debate over such laws.

A similar case is also being contested in New York City.

In the Baltimore case, Ms. Franzonello said, AUL hopes to accurately explain the role of faith-based pregnancy centers to combat what she called "false representations" given by city officials that such centers deceive clients by exaggerating abortion's risks.

"The worth of pregnancy care centers is invaluable," she said. "There is no legitimate basis for the ordinance that was enacted against them."

In the District Court case, U.S. District Judge Marvin J. Garbis called the law "unenforceable," and said it amounted to a local government overreaching in its control over counseling services.

"Whether a provider of pregnancy-related services is 'pro-life' or 'pro-choice,' it is for the provider — not the government — to decide when and how to discuss abortion and birth-control methods," he wrote in his Jan. 28 opinion.

busy future, and so you all need to make sure you're eating right," Mr. McDonnell told the students.

The students laughed as the speakers interacted with the puppets that looked like broccoli, spinach, a carrot and a pea that introduced them. "I'm surprised broccoli is here today, because I just had him for lunch," Mr. Vilsack said.

As lawmakers look for ways to cut federal spending that has grown to unsustainable levels, nutrition assistance programs aren't the place to do it, Mr. Vilsack told reporters. Every dollar that is invested in the government's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program generates \$1.80 in economic returns, he said.

He also said childhood nutrition programs assist economic competitiveness.

"If these youngsters are going to compete economically and be at the top of their game, they gotta be great learners," he said. "They can't do that if they're hungry."

BOUNDARY

From page A14

Phil Mendelson, at-large Democrat and a member of the subcommittee charged with redrawing the map, said testimony out of Ward 8 was mixed and only a small, sparsely populated portion of the ward could be placed across the river, creating an odd divide.

Nevertheless, Mr. Barry said "the fight is not over" ahead of a second vote on the plan in about two weeks.

The District must reorganize its wards every 10 years, after the release of the census, to balance the population and ensure equal representation on the D.C. Council.

Residents of Ward 6 protested the initial draft plan, which significantly shifted part of the western border of Ward 7 from the Anacostia River into the Hill East neighborhood.

Council member Michael Brown, at-large independent and co-chairman of the subcommittee, noted the subcommittee's three members did the "best balancing job we can."

Jack Evans, Ward 2 Democrat, served as a co-chairman and the only ward council member on the subcommittee.

Wards 7 and 8 saw their populations decline, leaving Ward 6 geographically caught in the middle of the shifts.

Mr. Evans' ward experienced the

largest population surge, which led council member Tommy Wells to accuse him of gerrymandering. The term means to manipulate unfairly to gain an advantage.

A long line of public witnesses from Ward 6 were able to secure a compromise that traces around the contested portion of eastern Capitol Hill where people live.

Council member Mary M. Cheh, Ward 3 Democrat, unsuccessfully tried to combine all of the Woodley Park neighborhood into her ward, arguing the portion in Ward 1 leads to confusion and combining would have no negative "domino effects" on the redistricting map.

Yet other council members noted Ward 3 would move too close to the maximum deviation from the average ward population, and that there is a benefit to having two council members represent a single neighborhood.

The subcommittee also recommended that residential parking permits be divorced from the wards to eliminate any disruptions from redistricting.

The plan must receive approval from the full council and the mayor's signature by July 14.

However, the subcommittee recommended final action by July 1 to allow the advisory neighborhood commissions to start their own redistricting by Oct. 1 upon receipt of ward task force recommendations.

ESCORT

From page A14

Korean women would typically work for two months, then switch to another doumi company or move out of state.

Prosecutors say the women were initially recruited from South Korea through a website advertisement and other women learned of the business by word of mouth.

Won picked up at least four Korean women from Washington Dulles In-

ternational Airport.

They often worked at Honey and another doumi business, called A-Plus, which was run by Won and an unnamed co-conspirator.

Won and the co-conspirator also established a "sook-so" or "housing dormitory" for some of the women in the Lafayette Forest community of Annandale, charging about \$100 per week for rent.

The men typically paid \$70 an hour, with \$50 going to the women and \$20 going to the company.

HEALTHY

From page A14

Nearly 12 percent of children and teens in Virginia don't have access to proper nutrition at home, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Even though we're the eighth-most-prosperous state in the country, we still have 218,000 kids still hungry," said Mr. McDonnell, a Republican.

And of the children who ate a free or reduced-price lunch during the school year, just 18 percent participated in Virginia's summer meals program, according to the nonprofit Food Research and Action Center. If participation grew to 40 percent, 80,000 children would be added to the program and the state would receive \$5 million more from the federal government.

"Some of you are going to have a very

PLANT

From page A1

shares on Nasdaq, complementing its Australian Stock Exchange presence.

Mixed with traditional jet fuel, Jatropha oil already has been used on test flights by Continental Airlines, Air New Zealand and other carriers. Once approved for general use, Jatropha could help cut one of the aviation industry's highest costs.

Jatropha can provide "environmentally responsible fuel without compromising the food supply, so we can help the Earth while helping the public," said James Garton, president of the firm's U.S. branch. "That means we can finally reverse the skyrocketing prices at the pump and dependence on traditional sources of oil."

The race for the next big thing in bio-fuels is attracting serious investor attention. Jatropha is seen as a leading candidate along with such rivals as algae and camelina, a flowering flaxlike plant that, like Jatropha, can grow in marginal agricultural lands.

Jatropha has been touted as among the most promising biofuel sources, but it is not without problems.

In a study released last month, a team of researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology looked at the efficiency of Jatropha and more than a dozen other proposed biofuel sources. Jatropha scored well as a fuel source and because the plant's husks, shells and meal could be used as fertilizer and other industrial purposes. Some of that gain, however, is offset by production and



PHOTOGRAPH PROVIDED BY MISSION NEW ENERGY

Jatropha seeds yield as much as 40 percent oil that has been touted for use in diesel applications and refined into aviation-quality jet fuel.

refining costs and the need for land to cultivate the plant.

"You can't say a biofuel is good or bad — it depends on how it is produced and processed, and that's part of the debate that hasn't been brought forward," James Hileman, who teaches in MIT's Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, said in a statement accompanying the survey, which was published in the journal Environmental Science and Technology.

Mission NewEnergy said it is linked to its producers via contract farming agreements in more than 15,000 villages across five Indian states. Those operations, the firm said, are providing sustained employment for more than 140,000 previously impoverished farmers. It takes three to four years to get maximum yield from a Jatropha plant, with a 20-year productive life estimated for

most plants.

Using a biofuel such as Jatropha in an industry such as aviation has its appeals.

At the end of May, two industry executives briefed congressional staffers on a report about the use of biofuels in the U.S. aviation industry. Speaking with The Washington Times by phone after the event, the executives noted the need for biofuels as a way to help meet the rising cost of jet fuel. A 1-cent increase in the price of jet fuel rings up an extra \$175 million in costs for U.S. airlines, reports indicate.

"Fuel is our single biggest cost. Today, fuel costs 47 percent more than it did last year. That's a pretty big spike for your single largest cost," said Keith Loveless, vice president of corporate and legal affairs for Seattle-based Alaska Airlines. "We are looking for all sorts of alternatives," he added.

BRIEFLY

THE METRO AREA

MARYLAND

ANNAPOLIS

Dream Act opponents reach first milestone

Organizers of a petition to repeal Maryland's Dream Act notched an important victory Tuesday as they received an official go-ahead to continue their signature drive through the end of June.

The state Board of Elections confirmed Tuesday morning it has validated more than 21,000 signatures on the petition to block the law allowing in-state tuition for some illegal immigrants.

Petitioners were required to turn in at least 18,579 valid signatures from registered voters by May 31 in order to continue working toward a final goal of 55,736 signatures by June 30.

If the petitioners satisfy both requirements, the Dream Act would be suspended and decided by a statewide vote in November 2012.

The Dream Act was passed in April by the General Assembly and would allow in-state tuition rates for many college-age illegal immigrants who come from taxpaying families. It is scheduled to go into effect July 1.

Petitioners turned in more than 58,000 signatures to election officials on May 31, less than half of which had been reviewed as of Tuesday morning. A count posted shortly after 10 a.m. on the state Board of Elections' website showed 21,919 signatures had been validated, while 3,723 had been rejected.

— David Hill

BROOKVILLE

Missing swimmer's body recovered

The body of a swimmer who went missing in the Triadelphia Reservoir in Brookville was recovered on Tuesday, Montgomery County police said.

Bruce Orlando Yansen, 21, of the 18200 block of Bowie Mill Road in Olney, went under while swimming Friday afternoon and was found by fire and rescue personnel at about 9:42 a.m., officials said.

Mr. Yansen and two others were swimming in an area of the reservoir where the water level suddenly dropped off. Mr. Yansen panicked and went under the water, officials said.

Another of the swimmers tried to rescue him but was unsuccessful.

— Matthew Cella

DEATH NOTICE



Green, Robert W. MG MC USA (Ret.)

On Sunday, June 5, 2011 of Alexandria, VA. Beloved husband of the late Alicia M. Green. Loving father of Joanne M. G. Janssen, Barbara M. Romy, Douglas W. Green and Sandra S. McCorkle. Grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of eleven. Relatives and friends may call at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewella Dr. Alexandria, VA on Thursday 2-4 & 7-9pm and 1 hour before service at church. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday 11am at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mt. Vernon Highway Alexandria, VA. Interment Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to: Capital Caring.

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place those pups

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