

Super Saturday support for welcome home party

On behalf of the Wahpeton Breckenridge Chamber of Commerce, we would like to say a big thanks to the community, businesses and organizations in the Twin Towns for showing your support at the welcome home celebration held Saturday. Thank you again.

Sarah Abel



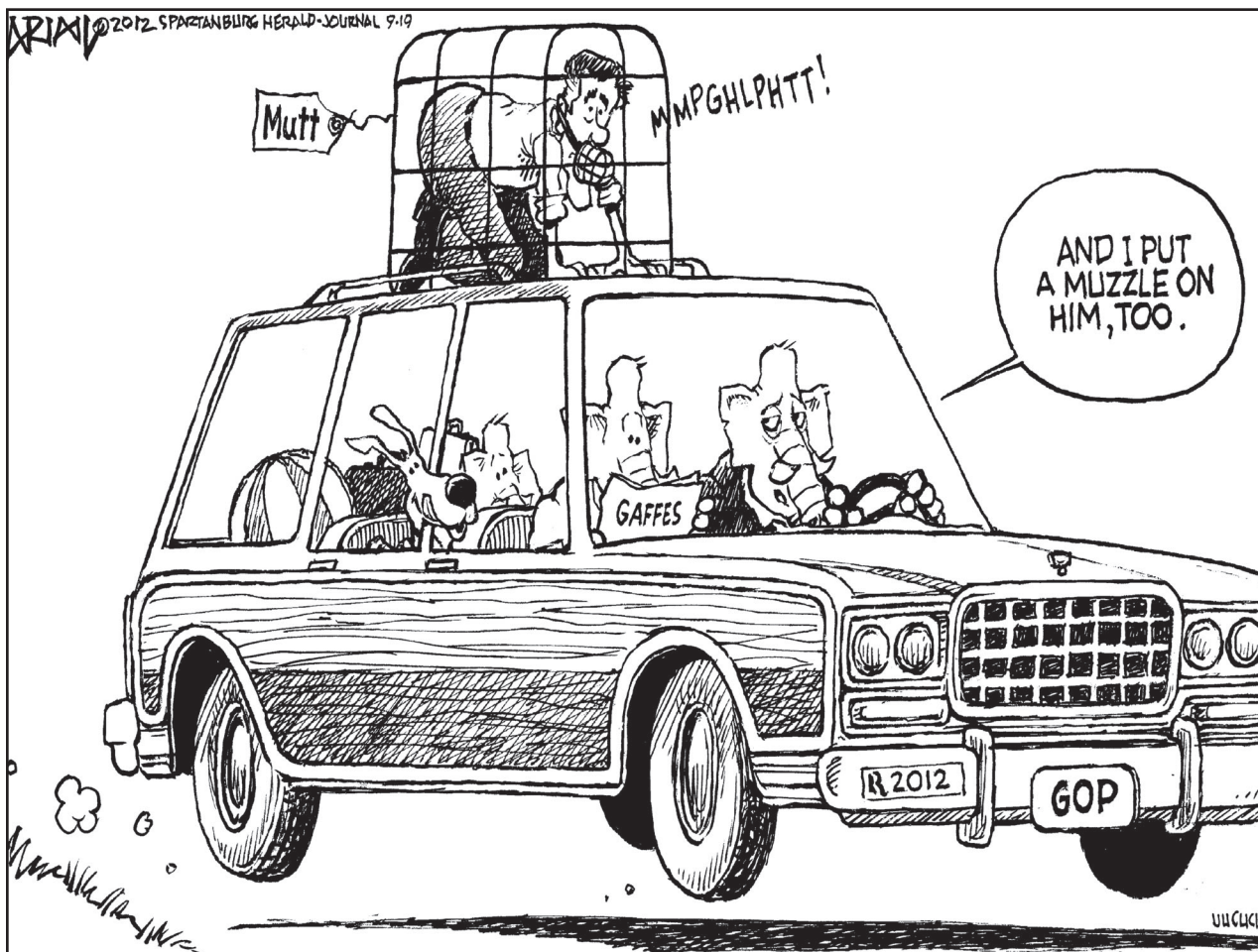
The 2012 N D S C S homecoming is this week, from Sept. 24 - 29. Check out www.ndscs.edu/homecoming.com for more information and to register for events.

Can you toss a bean bag? Well, you will have your chance Thursday, Oct. 4.

The Twin Town Ambassadors invite you to attend the Fall Business After Hours at the Wahpeton Eagles Club from 5-7:30 pm. Oct. 4. Stop by the Ambassador's booth to toss a bean bag for a chance to win a prize. We will be Twin Town Tailgating, so wear your favorite sports jersey.

Burgers, brats, beverages, chips and chili will all be served. Your corporate sponsors are Dakota Chrysler Center and Bremer Bank. This event is open to the public. Call the Chamber office at 701-642-8744 to purchase a ticket.

Please visit www.rrvcc.net to see what is going on in the Twin Towns and surrounding communities. If you have an event to put on our events calendar, call the Chamber office at 701-642-8744.



Romney's members-only words say a lot

Letter to the Editor

Counties have elected commissioners who hold their best interests at heart

The people of Richland and Wilkin counties have done well in electing county commissioners who represent their interests. The Richland-Wilkin Joint Powers Authority is a prime example of that representation. Their effective opposition to the Fargo Dam is appreciated by a large group of people, not only in Richland and Wilkin counties, but also other areas. Since I live in Cass County, outside of Fargo, I don't have any elected representation at the county level. Therefore, I would like to thank the citizens of Richland County and Wilkin County for their good decisions in recent elections. I would also like to thank the Richland-Wilkin Joint Powers Authority for their work on behalf of citizens who would be impacted by the Fargo Dam.

I am confident that, in the end, common sense will prevail and the Fargo Dam won't be constructed. I don't plan to move out of our house any time soon, and in fact, we are renovating the kitchen in our home. All of the new appliances were purchased from Nielsen Electric TV & Appliance Center in Wahpeton, and we are looking forward to doing more business in Richland and Wilkin counties.

JOE TALLEY, Oxbow, N.D.

Send us your letters

Letters to the Editor to the Daily News are encouraged and welcomed. The opinion page is intended to be a public forum for debate, commentary and as an exchange for ideas.

When Mitt Romney visited Little Rock a while back for one of those \$50,000 per couple fundraisers where he pretends to tell plutocrats what he really thinks, he acted more like somebody in the Federal Witness Protection Program than a presidential candidate.

Gene Lyons



Columnist

Arriving in a limo directly from the airport, Romney came and went through the back entrance of the city's most expensive hotel - avoiding supporters and protesters clustered outside. I was amazed at the time. Given the state's fiercely egalitarian mindset, no Arkansas politician would have risked appearing so disdainful of ordinary voters.

The Queen of England, for heaven's sake, would have walked a rope line and chatted up her subjects. Not Mitt. The GOP nominee took no questions from local reporters, shook no hands and kissed no babies. He only kissed - we now learn, courtesy of a leaked videotape of him speaking to a similarly well-heeled gathering in Florida - the posteriors of his fellow swells.

To Mitt Romney, see, your human worth is directly proportional to the size of your bank account - regardless of where that account is

located. Boston, Manhattan, Bermuda, Switzerland, the Cayman Islands; Mitt's easy like that. It's why he feels so comfortable running around the country ignoring peasants and begging wealthy people for cash to finance his ambitions.

So anyway, there he was at the Boca Raton estate of an equity fund tycoon otherwise known for being part-owner of the Philadelphia 76ers, and for throwing bacchanalian parties with scantily clad Russian dancing girls. (Immigrants work cheap.) Responding to a question about how he planned to win in November, Romney momentarily lost confidence.

"I had the most absurd nightmare," he admitted. "I was poor and no one liked me. I lost my job, I lost my house, Penelope hated me and it was all because of this terrible, awful Negro."

Oops! My bad. That was actually Louis Winthorpe III, the stuffed shirt with a trust fund played by Dan Aykroyd in the comedy "Trading Places." The terrible Negro was Eddie Murphy, not Barack Obama.

But seriously, confident that nobody in Florida could hear but his fellow swells and the kitchen help, Romney described Democratic voters with disdain bordering upon contempt. Because so many media outlets have resorted to paraphrasing to spare your tender feelings, it's worth quoting at length:

"There are 47 percent of the people who will vote for the president

no matter what," Romney said. "There are 47 percent who are with him, who are dependent upon government, who believe that they are victims, who believe the government has a responsibility to care for them, who believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you-name-it. That that's an entitlement. And the government should give it to them."

"These are people who pay no income tax," he added. "My job is not to worry about those people. I'll never convince them they should take personal responsibility and care for their lives."

Coming from a guy who probably couldn't change a flat tire, this is rich. Never mind that President George W. Bush used to make a big deal out of relieving the income tax burden of low-income Americans. Romney's contemptuous view of upwards of half the working people in the United States as deadbeats, layabouts and moochers should get your attention.

Because the odds are that either you or somebody you love fits the description. Dependent on government? If you're retired and collecting Social Security and Medicare, that means you. Such individuals account for roughly one-fourth of those who don't pay income taxes.

Another 60 percent, according to the Tax Policy Foundation, are working people who simply don't earn enough to pay federal income taxes. But they

do remit Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes amounting to 15.3 percent of their salaries - more than the 13.9 percent paid by Romney himself, on the one tax return he's condescended to release.

Ezra Klein summarizes on his Washington Post blog: "So 83 percent of those not paying federal income taxes are either working and paying payroll taxes or they're elderly and Romney is promising to protect their benefits because they've earned them. The remainder, by and large, aren't paying federal income or payroll taxes because they're unemployed."

In the New York Times, Paul Krugman links to data showing that more than 80 percent of Americans do pay federal income and payroll taxes for the majority of their working lives.

Got that? The vast majority of working Americans - including many enlisted military personnel - pay a higher federal tax rate than Mitt Romney, and have done for most of their lives. Republicans and Democrats alike; black, white and everybody else.

It's hard to say what's more astonishing: the arrogance, the hypocrisy, the petulance or the naked, unashamed greed.

But this is exactly how they talk, guys like Mitt Romney, when they think that only members of the club can hear.

Arkansas Times columnist **GENE LYONS** is a National Magazine Award winner and co-author of "The Hunting of the President."

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History

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 25, the 269th day of 2012. There are 97 days left in the year. The Jewish Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, begins at sunset.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Sept. 25, 1789, the first United States Congress adopted 12 amendments to the Constitution and sent them to the states for ratification. (Ten of the amendments became the Bill of Rights.)

On this date:
In 1513, Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa crossed the Isthmus of Panama and sighted the Pacific Ocean.

In 1690, one of the earliest American newspapers, Publick Occurrences, published its first - and last - issue in Boston.

In 1775, American Revolutionary War hero Ethan Allen was captured by the British as he led an attack on Montreal. (Allen was released by the British in 1778.)

In 1904, a New York City police officer ordered a female automobile passenger on Fifth Avenue to stop smoking a cigarette. (A male companion was arrested and later fined \$2 for "abusing" the officer.)

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson collapsed after a speech in Pueblo, Colo., during a national speaking tour in support of the Treaty of Versailles.

In 1957, nine black students who'd been forced to withdraw from Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., because of unruly white crowds were escorted to class by members of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division.