

NOT ST. ROCCO: Our column on other St. Rocco's festivals in Pennsylvania brought a note from Tony Lombardi of Bradford who corrects one of our assumptions.

"While it is true that many worldwide communities celebrate this Christian saint's day, it is a common fallacy that Bradford's Festa Italiana is in honor of St. Rocco. It is a mere coincidence that St. Rocco's day follows the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, which is actually the reason that our Italian Festival was conceived in the mid-1970s."

The Assumption marks the day Mary ascended into Heaven following her death, according to popular Christian belief. The assumption falls on Aug. 15; St. Rocco's, a day later. The Assumption is celebrated on Aug. 15 by many countries, particularly in parts of Europe and South America, Tony explains.

He goes on: "Beginning with the first Festa Italiana, the opening ceremony officially began with a blessing, performed by one of the St. Bernard priests, followed by a procession of the Virgin Mary from the front door of the Italian-American Club, to St. Bernard's church, up to the altar of the church and finally, she was placed at the side altar for the week. This procession of the Virgin Mary continued for the first sixteen (16) years or so of the Italian Festival."

"In the Italian town where my family is from, Pannarano (BN), the Virgin Mary is dressed in a white robe and paraded through the town. The onlookers go up to her and pin money to her robe as she is processed through the town."

"This tradition had also started to take here and the money collected would go to St. Bernard's Church. But then, some 15 years ago, the organizers forgot to include the procession of Mary in the opening ceremony and it has not been reinstated since."

"Ironically, the Italian Festival committee of that time period, had set aside funds to purchase their own statue of the Virgin Mother as the original statue that had been used belonged to my parents, John and Sadie Lombardi. Somehow, the new statue was never purchased and that is when they stopped performing the official procession."

Lotteries:

Saturday/Sunday:
Midday:
Pa. Daily (8/20): 6-5-0
Pa. Big Four: 0-3-7-5
Pa. Treasure Hunt: 05-18-19-23-24
Pa. Quinto: 1-0-4-2-6
Evening:
Pa. Daily (8/20): 6-2-3
Pa. Big Four: 1-2-7-6
Pa. Cash Five: 10-14-23-27-43
Pa. Powerball: 02-17-23-28-47,
Powerball: 36, Power Play: 2
Pa. Quinto: 3-9-6-1-7
Midday:
Pa. Daily (8/21): 7-2-7
Pa. Big Four: 5-0-0-7
Pa. Treasure Hunt: 11-12-21-24-25
Pa. Quinto: 5-0-9-8-4
Evening:
Pa. Daily (8/21): 0-0-6
Pa. Big Four: 5-1-0-9
Pa. Cash Five: 06-10-13-14-16
Pa. Quinto: 2-6-9-5-3

Midday:
N.Y. Daily (8/20): 2-5-9
N.Y. Win Four: 0-8-8-1
Evening:
N.Y. Daily (8/20): 3-3-5
N.Y. Win Four: 3-1-4-8
N.Y. Pick 10: 05-11-17-18-20-21-23-29-30-31-32-39-60-61-63-69-71-72-74-78
N.Y. Take Five: 04-07-11-14-31
N.Y. Lotto: 02-09-19-42-43-54, Bonus: 8
Midday:
N.Y. Daily (8/21): 7-9-0
N.Y. Win Four: 8-4-5-8
Evening:
N.Y. Daily (8/21): 0-0-3
N.Y. Win Four: 7-2-2-4
N.Y. Pick 10: 10-18-22-26-27-32-33-34-35-36-38-42-44-46-50-52-61-70-75-78
N.Y. Take Five: 04-12-13-17-18

Today's weather:



Partly sunny / 12

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Photo submitted
Bob and Lisa Zumstein "pit-tag" a timber rattlesnake by which they insert a microchip to identify the animal before recording the snake's location, size, gender and other information. Collecting data on the species helps to keep track of how many are left and where they are — knowledge the Zumsteins will use to help drilling companies maintain worker safety and keep the snakes safe from drilling activities.

Snake experts teach drillers

Zumsteins aim for safety for workers, endangered snakes

By **AMANDA NICHOLS**
Era Reporter
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A Bradford couple with a passion for snakes is working with Marcellus Shale and traditional oil and gas drilling companies to promote safety for both workers and endangered venomous reptiles.

Through presentations and meetings with various organizations and companies getting ready to frack and drill in local forests, Tandem Training and

Tracking — run by the husband and wife team of Bob and Lisa Zumstein — hopes to prepare workers for possible encounters with struggling populations of venomous snakes in the region.

Bob Zumstein, a Northwest Region field team leader, and Lisa Zumstein, a Northwest Region field team specialist for the Pennsylvania Timber Rattlesnake Site Assessment and Inventory Project, also undertake snake pit tagging, site assessments and radio telemetry (See EXPERTS, Page 12)

GOP may OK tax increase Obama scorns

By **CHARLES BABINGTON**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — News flash: Congressional Republicans want to raise your taxes.

Impossible, right? GOP lawmakers are so virulently anti-tax, surely they will fight to prevent a payroll tax increase on virtually every wage-earner starting Jan. 1, right?

Apparently not. Many of the same Republicans who fought hammer-and-tong to keep the George W. Bush-era income tax cuts from expiring on schedule are now saying a different "temporary" tax cut should end as planned. By their

own definition, that amounts to a tax increase.

The tax break extension they oppose is sought by President Barack Obama. Unlike proposed changes in the income tax, this policy helps the 46 percent of all Americans who owe no federal income taxes but who pay a "payroll tax" on practically every dime they earn.

There are other differences as well, and Republicans say their stand is consistent with their goal of long-term tax policies that will spur employment and lend greater certainty to the economy.

"It's always a net positive to let taxpayers keep more of what they earn," says Rep. Jeb Hensarling, "but not all tax relief is created equal for the purposes of helping to get the economy moving again." The Texas lawmaker is

on the House GOP leadership team.

The debate is likely to boil up in coming weeks as a special bipartisan committee seeks big deficit reductions and weighs which tax cuts are sacrosanct.

At issue is a tax that the vast majority of workers pay, but many don't recognize because they don't read, or don't understand their pay stubs. Workers normally pay 6.2 percent of their wages toward a tax designated for Social Security. Their employer pays an equal amount, for a total of 12.4 percent per worker.

As part of a bipartisan spending deal last December, Congress approved Obama's request to reduce the workers' share to 4.2 percent for one year; employers' rate did not change. Obama

wants Congress to extend the reduction for an additional year. If not, the rate will return to 6.2 percent on Jan. 1.

Obama cited the payroll tax in his weekend radio and Internet address Saturday, when he urged Congress to work together on measures that help the economy and create jobs. "There are things we can do right now that will mean more customers for businesses and more jobs across the country. We can cut payroll taxes again, so families have an extra \$1,000 to spend," he said.

Social Security payroll taxes apply only to the first \$106,800 of a worker's wages. Therefore, \$2,136 is the biggest benefit anyone can gain from the one-year reduction.

(See GOP, Page 12)

Tripoli falls to rebels

By **KARIN LAUB** and **BEN HUBBARD**
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Libyan rebels raced into Tripoli Sunday and met little resistance as Moammar Gadhafi's defenders melted away and his 42-year rule rapidly crumbled. The euphoric fighters celebrated with residents of the capital in Green Square, the symbolic heart of the fading regime.

Gadhafi's whereabouts were unknown, though state TV broadcast his bitter pleas for Libyans to defend his regime. Opposition fighters captured his son and one-time heir apparent, Seif al-Islam, who along with his father faces charges of crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands. Another son was in contact with rebels about surrendering, the opposition said.

"It's over, frizz-head," chanted hundreds of jubilant men and women massed in Green Square, using a mocking nickname of the curly-haired Gadhafi. The revelers fired shots in the air, clapped and waved the rebels' tricolor flag. Some set fire to the green flag of Gadhafi's regime and shot holes in a poster with the leader's image.

By the early hours of Monday, rebels controlled large parts of the capital. They set up checkpoints alongside residents — many of them secretly armed by rebel smugglers in recent weeks. But pockets of pro-Gadhafi fighters remained: In one area, Associated Press reporters with the rebels were stopped and told

to take a different route because of regime snipers nearby.

"We were waiting for the signal and it happened," said Nour Eddin Shatouni, a 50-year-old engineer who was among the residents who flowed out of their homes to join the celebrations. "All mosques chanted 'God is great' all at once. We smelled a good scent, it is the smell of victory. We know it is the time."

The seizure of Green Square held profound symbolic value and marked a stunning turn in the tide of the 6-month-old Libyan civil war. The regime has held pro-Gadhafi rallies there nearly every night since the revolt began in February, and Gadhafi delivered speeches to his loyalists from the historic Red Fort that overlooks the square.

The sweep into the capital came after the rebel fighters advanced 20 miles from the west in a matter of hours. They took town after town and overwhelmed a major military base meant to defend Tripoli, 16 miles from the city. All the way, they met little resistance and residents poured out on the streets to welcome them.

In a series of angry and defiant audio messages broadcast on state television, Gadhafi called on his supporters to march in the streets of the capital and "purify it" of "the rats." He was not shown in the messages.

His defiance raised the possibility of a last-ditch fight over the capital, home to 2 million people. Government spokesman Moussa Ibrahim claimed the regime has "thousands

(See TRIPOLI, Page 12)



Era photo by Alan Hancock

Members of the University of Pittsburgh Varsity Marching Band practice at the soccer field near Campus Drive on Sunday evening. Celebrating its 100th anniversary, the band, comprised of roughly 250 students, marks its 23rd annual appearance at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford for its pre-season camp. Those looking to watch the band practice today can do so from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. on campus. An evening practice will be held starting at 6 p.m. at the soccer field. The band will practice in the morning on Tuesday before departing back to the main campus in Oakland. In the case of inclement weather, the band will practice inside Bromeley Family Theater on campus. Practices are open to the public.



Era photo by Amanda Jones

Rhiannon Fowler of Johnsonburg, pictured here during a parade on Saturday, was named Central District fire queen during the Central District Volunteer Firemen's Convention in Kane. The 119th annual convention was hosted by the Kane Volunteer Fire Department Thursday through Saturday. The Central District is made up of about 240 fire companies from 23 Pennsylvania counties, consisting of about 2,500 firemen. Local counties include McKean and Elk. Kane last hosted the convention in 2003.

Market feeding economic fears

By **BERNARD CONDON**
and **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market is starting to feed economic fear, not just reflect it.

Stocks have fallen four weeks in a row. Some on Wall Street worry that the resulting blow to confidence, not to mention 401(k) statements, has set off a spiral of fear that could push prices even lower, cause people and businesses to pull back and tip the economy into a new recession.

"I'm nervous that fear will lead companies to stop hiring and people to stop spending," says Jim Paulsen, chief investment strategist of Wells Capital Management, famous for his usually bullish take on the markets.

A home sales report this past week showed that more sales than usual fell apart at the last minute, which suggests plunging stocks and dismal economic news gave buyers cold feet. At least 16 percent of deals were canceled ahead of closings last month, four times the rate in May.

Beth Ann Bovino, senior economist at

Standard & Poor's, says that another big plunge in stocks could "push us closer to the brink."

The Standard & Poor's 500 stock index ended Friday at 1,123.53, down 5 percent for the week. The average is down 16 percent during the four-week losing streak. One reason for the drop is fear that another recession, if not certain, is more likely now.

The run of bad economic news started last month when the government said the economy grew much more weakly in the first half of this year than thought. Growth, at an annual rate of 0.8 percent, was the slowest since the Great Recession ended in June 2009.

The economic weakness has made investors more likely to sell stocks at the first hint that things are getting worse. And last week, they got signs aplenty.

A regional survey by the Federal Reserve said manufacturing had slowed in the mid-Atlantic states by the most in more than two years. Existing home sales fell in July for third time in four months. Another report showed that exports from Japan, the world's third-biggest economy, had slumped for the fifth straight month. Japan is still reeling from the (See MARKET, Page 12)

From Page 1

Experts

tracking in the effort to preserve the snakes.

While their presentations are customized to each company's needs, in general they include information on identifying venomous species and where they are found, safety precautions, what to do if bitten and teach about state laws protecting threatened and endangered species.

According to Lisa Zumstein, the type of expertise she and her husband offer will likely increase as drilling activities — and encounters — increase in the region with greater numbers of people entering the forest, disturbing venomous species' habitat.

"Most people know that there are a lot more folks out in remote areas with drilling (on the rise) and more potential for interaction (between snakes and people) as that takes place," Lisa Zumstein said.

"Most of the field workers are younger men and they are the ones that most often get into trouble," she continued. "They are bigger risk-takers and they're more likely to try and interact with the snake rather than leave it alone."

Zumstein said they started Tandem Tracking and Training to help to ensure worker safety as well as safety of the snakes.

"A lot of folks don't know it's illegal to kill a rattlesnake in Pennsylvania," she said. "There's a hunting season and you only get one 'take'. I see an increased danger, not just for snakes, but for all wildlife. All animals are feeling an impact from increased drilling."

"Neither Bob nor I are 'anti-drilling,'" Zumstein noted. "We are very interested in the fact that there is an effort to identify domestic energy sources, but we think a lot about how to balance that with wildlife issues. We are really passionate about rattlesnakes, but we're also passionate about shoring up our economy."

When asked whether drilling activities have harmed snake populations, she responded: "I can only guess that there's been more snakes killed because people generally don't like them and sometimes people hate them."

"We've all heard the sentiment: 'A good snake is a dead snake' — it doesn't matter if they're venomous or not, that attitude is still out there. But, I hope these companies are letting their folks know about the laws protecting the species and taking precautions either through us or on their own."

The three venomous snake species in Pennsylvania include the Timber Rattlesnake, the Northern Copperhead and the Eastern Massasauga — all under protected status.

Tandem Tracking and Training will meet with the Pennsylvania Independent Oil and Gas Association (PIOGA) next month and have been in talks with Range Resources and other large Marcellus Shale drilling operations, according to Zumstein.

"We've had drillers say it's a terrific niche market and we've had others tell us they're big and do their own training internally, it just depends," Zumstein said.

In addition to safety presentations, the Zumsteins provide

educational and conservation programs to community, environmental, wildlife and education groups and facilities.

More information about the growing business or Pennsylvania's venomous snake species can be obtained at the website www.tandem-trainingandtracking.com

Tripoli

and thousands of fighters" and vowed: "We will fight. We have whole cities on our sides. They are coming en masse to protect Tripoli to join the fight."

But it appeared that Gadhafi's military was abandoning him quickly.

The rebels' way into Tripoli was opened when the military unit in charge of protecting Gadhafi and the capital surrendered, ordering his troops to drop their weapons, the rebel information minister Mahmoud Shammam said.

In a sign of the coordination among rebels, as the main force moved into the city from the west, a second force of 200 opposition fighters from the city of Misrata further east landed by boat in the capital. They brought weapons and ammunition for Tripoli residents who join the rebellion, said Munir Ramzi of the rebels' military council in Misrata.

NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said Gadhafi's regime was "clearly crumbling" and that the time to create a new democratic Libya has arrived.

The sooner Gadhafi "realizes that he cannot win the battle against his own people, the better," he said in a statement, adding that NATO will continue to strike his troops if they make "any threatening moves toward the Libyan people."

In a statement early Monday, President Barack Obama said the way to prevent more bloodshed was for Gadhafi "to relinquish power once and for all." Obama said the rebel leaders must pursue a peaceful transition to democracy.

It was a stunning reversal for Gadhafi, who earlier this month had seemed to have a firm grip on his stronghold in the western part of Libya, despite months of NATO airstrikes on his military. Rebels had been unable to make any advances for weeks, bogged down on the main fronts with regime troops in the east and center of the country.

Gadhafi is the Arab world's longest-ruling, most erratic, most grimly fascinating leader — presiding for 42 years over this North African desert republic with vast oil reserves and just 6 million people. For years, he was an international pariah blamed for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people. After years of denial, Gadhafi's Libya acknowledged responsibility, agreed to pay up to \$10 million to relatives of each victim, and declared he would dismantle all weapons of mass destruction.

That eased him back into the international community.

But on February 22, days after the uprising against him began, Gadhafi gave a televised speech amid violent social unrest against his autocratic rule. In the speech, he vowed to hunt down protesters "inch by inch, room by room, home by home, alleyway by alleyway." The speech caused a furor that fueled the armed rebellion against him and it has been since mocked in songs and spoofs across the Arab world.

As the rebel force advanced on Tripoli, taking town after town, thousands of jubilant civilians rushed out of their homes to cheer the long convoys of pickup trucks packed with fighters shooting in the air. One man grabbed a rebel flag that had been draped over the hood of a slow-moving car and kissed it, overcome with emotion.

WEATHER

National forecast

Forecast highs for Monday, Aug. 22

Sunny
 Pt. Cloudy
 Cloudy

Fronts

 Cold
 Warm
 Stationary

Pressure

 Low
 High

-10s
-0s
0s
10s
20s
30s
40s
50s
60s
70s
80s
90s
100s
110s

Some of the fighters were hoarse, shouting: "We are coming for you, frizz-head." In villages, mosque loudspeakers blared "Allahu Akbar," or "God is great."

"We are going to sacrifice our lives for freedom," said Nabil al-Ghawal, a 30-year-old dentist holding a rifle in the streets of Janzour, a suburb just six miles west of Tripoli. Heavy gunfire erupted nearby.

As rebels moved in Tripoli, thousands celebrated in the streets of Benghazi, the rebels' de facto capital hundreds of miles to the east. Firing guns into the air and shooting fireworks, they cheered and waved the rebel tricolor flags, dancing and singing in the city's main square.

Rebel chief Mustafa Abdel-Jalil in Benghazi confirmed to the AP that the rebels arrested Gadhafi's son Seif al-Islam but refused to give the details of the capture.

"We have captured Seif al-Islam and he is in safe hands," he said.

In the Netherlands, the prosecutor at the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, said his office would talk to the rebels on Monday about Seif al-Islam's transfer for trial. "It is time for justice, not revenge," Moreno-Ocampo told the AP.

Seif al-Islam, his father and Libya's intelligence chief were indicted earlier this year for allegedly ordering, planning and participating in illegal attacks on civilians in the early days of the violent crackdown on anti-regime protesters.

Another son, Mohammed, was in contact with the rebels and was asking for guarantees for his safety, said rebel spokesman Sadiq al-Kibir. Mohammed, who is in charge of Libyan telecommunications, appeared on the Arabic satellite channel Al-Jazeera, saying his house was surrounded by armed rebels.

"They have guaranteed my safety. I have always wanted good for all Libyans and was always on the side of God," he said. Close to the end of the interview, there was the sound of heavy gunfire and Mohammed said rebels had entered his house before the phone line cut off.

A rebel spokesman based in London said Gadhafi's prime minister, Al-Baghdadi Al-Mahmoudi, was in a Tunisian hotel, indicating he had joined a growing list of defecting officials.

The day's first breakthrough came when hundreds of rebels fought their way into a major symbol of the Gadhafi regime — the base of the elite 32nd Brigade commanded by Gadhafi's son, Khamis. Fighters said they met with little resistance. They were 16 miles from the big prize, Tripoli.

Hundreds of rebels cheered wildly and danced as they took over the compound filled with eucalyptus trees, raising their tricolor from the front gate and tearing down a large billboard

of Gadhafi. From a huge warehouse, they loaded their trucks with hundreds of crates of rockets, artillery shells and large-caliber ammunition.

One group started up a tank, drove it out of the gate, crushing the median of the main highway and driving off toward Tripoli.

"This is the wealth of the Libyan people that he was using against us," said Ahmed al-Ajdal, 27, pointing to his haul. "Now we will use it against him and any other dictator who goes against the Libyan people."

At the base, the rebels also freed more than 300 prisoners from a regime lockup, most of them arrested during the heavy crackdown on the uprising in towns west of Tripoli. The fighters and the prisoners — many looking weak and dazed and showing scars and bruises from beatings — embraced and wept with joy.

"We were sitting in our cells when all of a sudden we heard lots of gunfire and people yelling 'God is great.' We didn't know what was happening, and then we saw rebels running in and saying 'We're on your side.' And they let us out," said 23-year-old Majid al-Hodeiri. He said he was captured four months ago by Gadhafi's forces crushing the uprising in his home city of Zawiyah. He said he was beaten and tortured while under detention.

From the military base, the convoy sped toward the capital. Mahmoud al-Ghwei, 20 and unarmed, said he had just come along with a friend for the ride

"It's a great feeling. For all these years, we wanted freedom and Gadhafi kept it from us. Now we're going to get rid of Gadhafi and get our freedom," he said.

The uprising against Gadhafi broke out in mid-February, and anti-regime protests quickly spread. A brutal regime crackdown quickly transformed the protests into an armed rebellion. Rebels seized Libya's east, setting up an internationally recognized transitional government there, and two pockets in the west, the port city of Misrata and the Nafusa mountain range.

Gadhafi clung to the remaining territory, and for months neither side has been able to break the other.

In early August, however, rebels launched an offensive from the Nafusa mountains, intending to open a new, western front to break the deadlock. They fought their way down to the Mediterranean coastal plain, backed by NATO airstrikes, and captured the strategic city of Zawiyah.

On Saturday, they consolidated control of Zawiyah, then launched their furious rush on the capital.

At the same time, rebel "sleepers" inside Tripoli rose up and clashed with Gadhafi loyalists. Rebel fighters who spoke to relatives in Tripoli by phone said hundreds rushed into the streets in anti-regime protests in several neighborhoods on Sunday.

"We received weapons by sea from Benghazi. They sent us weapons in boats," said Ibrahim Turki, a rebel in the Tripoli neighborhood of Tajoura, which saw heavy fighting the past two days. "Without their weapons, we would not have been able to stand in the face of the mighty power of Gadhafi forces."

Hadeel Al-Shalchi in Cairo contributed to this report.

GOP

The great majority of Americans make less than \$106,800 a year. Millions of workers pay more in payroll taxes than in federal income taxes.

The 12-month tax reduction will cost the government about \$120 billion this year, and a similar amount next year if it's renewed.

That worries Rep. David Camp, R-Mich., chairman of

the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee, and a member of the House-Senate supercommittee tasked with finding new deficit cuts. Tax reductions, "no matter how well-intended," will push the deficit higher, making the panel's task that much harder, Camp's office said.

But Republican lawmakers haven't always worried about tax cuts increasing the deficit. They led the fight to extend the life of a much bigger tax break: the major 2001 income tax reduction enacted under Bush. It was scheduled to expire at the start of this year. Obama campaigned on a pledge to end the tax break only for the richest Americans, but solid GOP opposition forced him to back down.

Many Republicans are adamant about not raising taxes but largely silent on what it would mean to let the payroll tax break expire.

Republicans cite key differences between the two "temporary" taxes, starting with the fact that the Bush measure had a 10-year life from the start. To stimulate job growth, these lawmakers say, it's better to reduce income tax rates for people and for companies than to extend the payroll tax break.

"We don't need short-term gestures. We need long-term fundamental changes in our tax structure and our regulatory structure that people who create jobs can rely on," said Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., when asked about the payroll tax matter.

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., "has never believed that this type of temporary tax relief is the best way to grow the economy," said spokesman Brad Dayspring. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says payroll tax reductions give the economy a short-term boost. But it says the benefit is bigger if employers get the tax break instead of, or along with, workers.

Some top Republicans have taken a wait-and-see approach, expecting the payroll tax issue to be a bargaining chip in the upcoming debt reduction talks.

Neither House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, nor Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has taken a firm stand on whether to extend the one-year tax cut.

Most GOP presidential candidates also are treading lightly. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney did not flatly rule out an extra year for the payroll tax cut, but he "would prefer to see the payroll tax cut on the employer side" to spur job growth, his campaign said.

Former House speaker Newt Gingrich said Republicans will fall under increasing pressure to extend the payroll tax cut. If

they refuse, he said in a recent speech, "we're going to end up in a position where we're going to raise taxes on the lowest-income Americans the day they go to work."

Many Democrats also are ambivalent about Obama's proposed tax cut extension. They are more focused on protecting social programs from deep spending cuts. Some worry that a multiyear reduction in the tax designated for Social Security could undermine that program's health and stature.

For decades the payroll tax generated more revenue than the Social Security paid out in benefits. The excess was used to fund other government operations. Last year, however, Social Security benefits began outstripping revenue from its designated sources, forcing the program to start tapping its "trust fund" of government obligations.

Market

effects of an earthquake and tsunami in March.

The housing market, which usually helps lead an economic recovery, keeps getting worse. The plunging stock market and scary economic news won't make it any better.

"What you're seeing with the economy, on the job front — it's scaring a lot of people," says Brian Fine, a loan manager at Mortgage Master in Rockville, Md. He says the housing market will languish until buyers and sellers feel more secure about the economy.

"People are really motivated by larger economic trends. It's all about if you feel confident enough to buy a home right now," he says.

The news from Europe got worse, too. Its economy has slowed considerably — even in Germany, which has been its greatest source of strength. Fear spread that European banks, already ailing because they hold bonds of countries that are struggling with debt, were having trouble getting short-term loans to pay for day-to-day activities.

Some Wall Street analysts say reports of trouble were exaggerated, but that didn't seem to matter. For investors, the prospect of banks scrambling for cash dredged up bad memories of the global credit freeze that hit in the fall of 2008 — and they sold stocks.

"A negative feedback loop ... appears to be in the making," two economists at Morgan Stanley wrote Thursday in a widely cited report that itself seemed to beget more fear and selling. It warned that the U.S. was "dangerously close" to recession.

Hospitals

<p>BRADFORD REGIONAL</p> <p>Admissions</p> <p>Lewis Cornelius, Bradford George Leonard, Bradford Harry Knight, Rixford Dale Woodruff, Eldred Cara Webster, Bradford Marguerite Srock, Lewis Run</p> <p>Discharges</p> <p>Karen Fuller and daughter, Bradford Kyle Nortum, Bradford Carol Dickinson, Bradford Jeanette Tassone, Bradford</p> <p>OLEAN GENERAL</p> <p>Admissions</p> <p>Not available</p> <p>Discharges</p> <p>Not available</p> <p>KANE COMMUNITY</p> <p>Admissions</p> <p>Donna Wolfe, Kane Michael Bundy, Kane John Milliron, Kane Thelma Clark, Smethport Vicky Punk, James City Moriah Blauser, Kane</p>	<p>Andy Conner, Cyclone</p> <p>Discharges</p> <p>Tonya McMahon, Kane Ethel Chappo, Kane Margaret Osti, Sheffield</p> <p>ELK REGIONAL</p> <p>Admissions</p> <p>Lois Bryndel, Ridgway</p> <p>Discharges</p> <p>Nedra Blauser, Johnsonburg</p>
<p>Births</p>	
<p>BRADFORD REGIONAL</p> <p>None</p> <p>OLEAN GENERAL</p> <p>Daughter, Aug. 19, to Elizabeth Inman and Sean Tucker, Portville</p> <p>Daughter, Aug. 19, to Tarin Skowronski and Timothy Dowiasz, Kill Buck</p> <p>Daughter, Aug. 19 to Freedom and Blaire Burgoon Christjohn, Bradford, Pa.</p> <p>ELK REGIONAL</p> <p>None</p>	



Era photo by Wade Aiken
Elizabeth Learn and her children, Jonathon Westfall, 6, and Alyssa Westfall, 7, are joined by her boyfriend, Jamie Timblin, on a merry-go-round at Jan Hamilton Park along Campus Drive on Sunday. A chance of showers is forecast for the region today, with a high near 70.