Deadline trades give bullpen more relief SPORTSDAY, 1C

The Dallas Morning News

Texas' Leading Newspaper $1.00 Dallas, Texas, Monday, August 1, 2011 dallasnews.com

DEBT SHOWDOWN

Leaders reach deal to trim $2.4 trillion

Jewel Samad/Agence France-Presse

President Barack Obama leaves after revealing the deal to raise the debt limit, announcing it as Asian stock markets were opening.

ANALYSIS

Both sides sustained bruises in this fight

Obama diminished, Boehner battered; now, is either trusted?

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama and congressional leaders have stitched together an agreement to prevent a national default, provided their 11th-hour deal does not fracture on Monday, but the epic budget battle has failed to resolve another question: Which party can be better trusted to govern?

The president, with his reelection on the horizon, emerges from the showdown in a diminished state after giving considerable ground and struggling to rise above a deep partisan intransigence that has engulfed Washington. And Republican leaders, especially House Speaker John Boehner, are bruised after navigating the intractable

See **POLITICALLY** Page 11A

INSIDE

Economists fear that new spending cuts may damage the economy's fragile recovery. **11A**

Highlights of the deal, **11A**

Editorial: "No glory in grim march to debt-ceiling deal." **12A**

Global investors breathe a sigh of relief over Obama's announcement. **1D**

Proposal to hike ceiling, avert default needs to pass Congress

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders of both parties said Sunday evening that they had agreed to a framework for a budget deal that would cut trillions of dollars in federal spending over the next decade and clear the way for an increase in the government's borrowing limit.

The agreement still must be sold to the Senate and the House, with the House providing a particular challenge. With the health of the fragile economy hanging in the balance and financial markets watching closely, the leaders said they would present the compromise to their caucuses on Monday morning in hopes of narrowly averting a default before a Tuesday deadline.

President Barack Obama spoke from the White House on Sunday night, telling reporters that "the leaders of both parties in both chambers have reached an agreement that will reduce the deficit and avoid a default."

Just before Obama spoke on television, the two Senate leaders, Harry Reid and

See **LEADERS** Page 11A

BARNETT SHALE

Gas wells near dams worry U.S.

Corps' buffer at Joe Pool Lake can't stop fracking; possibility of structure failure is studied

By RANDY LEE LOFTIS
Environmental Writer
rloftis@dallasnews.com

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is concerned that hydraulic fracturing of natural-gas wells near its dams — such as the one at Joe Pool Lake in southwestern Dallas County — could threaten dam safety.

In most of Texas and several other states, the corps has declared a 3,000-foot buffer around its dams and water-control structures within which it will not allow new wells, drilling pads or pipelines.

The corps also has a national team studying potential risks to dam safety from minerals extraction.

"We want to feel confident that our projects are safe," said Anita Branch, regional technical specialist in geotechnical engineering for the corps' Fort Worth office. "That's always our No. 1 priority."

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in which drillers inject millions of gallons of wa-

See **FRACKING'S** Page 10A

EDUCATION

Schools weigh asking voters for tax hikes

Many districts reluctant to make pitch despite huge funding cuts

By TERRENCE STUTZ
Austin Bureau
tstutz@dallasnews.com

AUSTIN — After getting smacked with unprecedented cuts in state funding in June, school districts in North Texas and across the state face a tough decision in coming months: whether to ask their voters for help.

That would mean higher school property taxes, which can't be increased without voter approval, and asking for a tax hike is something most tax districts have nervously avoided for the past five years.

When state lawmakers in June signed off on school funding reductions of $2 billion a year — or $4 billion over the next two years — it quickly focused attention on the

See **SCHOOLS** Page 2A

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INSIDE

Lottery	2A	Reg. Roundup	2B
Texas	3A	Sports TV	2C
Nation	4, 6A	Market Week	2D
World	8A	Jumble	8D
Editorials	12A	Comics	5-7E

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SPORTSDAY

Newman says he's not upset by talk

Cowboys cornerback Terence Newman says he's not upset by an apparent attempt to replace him. **Cowboys Insider, 1C**

NATION

1 shot to death in fight after concert

A man fired several shots during a large fight near a Cleveland outdoor concert venue featuring funk music artist George Clinton, killing one person. **4A**

WORLD

Mexicans cite gun scandal as proof

Mexicans say a scandal over a U.S. undercover gunrunning sting shows how easily crime gangs obtain assault weapons from U.S. gun shops. **8A**

UNREST IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Syrian military's raids worst yet, activists say

At least 70 killed in simultaneous attacks on multiple cities

FROM WIRE REPORTS

BEIRUT — Syrian military and security forces assaulted Hama and other restive cities before dawn Sunday, killing at least 70 people in what marked the broadest and fiercest crackdown yet by the government of President Bashar Assad on the 4-month-old uprising against his rule, activists and residents said.

The simultaneous raids on several cities came a day before the holy month of Ramadan, during which activists had vowed to escalate their uprising with nightly protests. The scale of the assault and the mounting death toll underscored the government's intention to crush the uprising by force, despite international condemnations and its own tentative and mostly illusory reforms.

The scenes of bloodshed in Hama and Deir al-Zour, which had slipped beyond the government's control this summer, were certain to put more pressure on world leaders, in particular the United States, to take a harder line against Assad. President Barack Obama described the crackdown in Hama as "horrifying" events that "demonstrate the true character of the Syrian regime." But his administration has yet to demand formally that Assad

See **SYRIAN** Page 7A

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