(D-Exeter) is the favorite of liberal Democratic establishment and is expected to jump into the race quickly. As is Ovide Lamontagne, the popular conservative former U.S. Senate candidate who is expected to be the frontrunner to replace Lynch, at least in the early stages of the race." Other possible GOP candidates: Kevin Smith, Jeb Bradley, Ted Gatsas and John Stephen. The NH Journal report: http://bit.ly/rtDohj. WMUR's James Pindell offers some additional names: http://bit.ly/pyZerY.

PRAISING CHENEY - ROMNEY PLAYS FOR ESTABLISHMENT CONSERVATIVES : At an Arizona town hall, Romney responded to a question about whether he would name a "tea party person" as his vice president by praising Dick Cheney. 'I think it was last weekend I was watching C-SPAN, and I saw Vice President Dick Cheney and he was being asked questions about a whole host of issues -- following 9/11, the affairs in various countries in the world. And I listened to him speak and said whether you agree or disagree with him, this is a man of wisdom and judgment, and he could have been president of the United States,' Romney told a crowd estimated at 800, per NBC. 'That's the kind of person I'd like to have - a person of wisdom and judgment.' http://on.msnbc.com/n6p261

HPV BLOW-UP - HOW BACHMANN LOST CONTROL OF THE VACCINE STORY IN THE LAST 24 HOURS: The issue that looked like Michele Bachmann's political salvation during Monday night's debate has become an anchor that threatens to further sink her candidacy. "There's a woman that came up crying to me tonight after the debate," Bachmann told Fox News right after her masterful 'I'm offended' performance against Perry. "She said her daughter was given that vaccine. She said her daughter suffered mental retardation as a result of that vaccine."

PERRY ATTACKS: "I think that was a statement that had no truth in it, no basis in fact," Perry told reporters in Richmond midday Wednesday. http://politico.com/nL6xP5

SCIENTISTS BLAST BACHMANN: The Des Moines Register's headline is "Michele Bachmann's HPV vaccine claims rejected by medical community." http://bit.ly/qBFqvL

A University of Minnesota bioethics professor tells the Star Tribune that he'll give $1,000 if Bachmann's story about the HPV vaccine and mental retardation can be verified. The director of the University of Pennsylvania Center for Bioethics upped the offer to $10,000. http://bit.ly/nOZFRa

ROLLINS CALLS THE COMMENT A MISTAKE: 'She made a mistake. The quicker she admits she made a mistake and moves on, the better she is,' Ed Rollins, who stepped down as Bachmann's campaign manager on Sept. 5 and is now an independent advisor, told MSNBC last night. Meanwhile, as HuffPo's Jon Ward notes, a Bachmann spokeswoman has not responded to emails or phone calls. http://huff.to/rrkJdz

CONSERVATIVES TURNOFF BACHMANN-—The left already loathes Bachmann, so you can discount their outrage [evident in today's Gail Collins column: http://nyti.ms/qTY7xd]. The reason this gaffe has legs is that it seems to be the last straw for heretofore friendly conservative bloggers. Three examples:

Jonathan Adler at The Volokh Conspiracy: "Even if Gov. Perry was wrong to order the vaccinations, there's absolutely no basis for suggesting the vaccine is a threat to children." http://bit.ly/op4gkl

Steven Hayward on Power Line: "Up to now I've thought Michele Bachman was the most impressive performer in the GOP field, going toe-to-toe with the 'big boys' in the field... But her embrace of the wacko idea that the vaccine is dangerous or causes autism, mental retardation, or other risks is simply irresponsible... it has shifted the focus from Perry's use of power to Bachmann's scientific credibility-a lose-lose for everyone." http://bit.ly/roTyBq

Steve Haff at RedState: "In the past, I have written favorably about Michele Bachmann... but now I've heard...
enough. There were several ways she could have attacked Rick Perry on the Gardasil Issue without resorting to snake oil worthy of a John Edwards pick-up line." http://bit.ly/oQxqTS

"CORE OF CONVICTION" - BACHMANN MEMOIR RELEASE SET FOR NOV. 21: It will be 224 pages. See the cover art: http://amzn.to/qcJacj.

RAISING ARIZONA - BACHMANN COURTS SHERIFF JOE: In Arizona yesterday, she visited Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio in his office. From the Phoenix KTAR affiliate: "The Republican presidential candidate spoke briefly before the meeting and talked about what she thinks is the number one issue when it comes to the state of Arizona. 'What we need to do is first secure the border,' Bachmann said." Immigration is obviously being used to create a contrast with Perry. Signaling the state's newfound significance with an early primary, both Romney and Bachmann spent the day in the Copper State. http://bit.ly/qtmlV6

TALKING FAITH - PERRY VISITS LIBERTY UNIVERSITY: The Washington Post says it might have been his "most reflective and personal remarks as a Republican presidential candidate." In a 20-minute speech at the school founded by the late Jerry Falwell, Perry did not mention jobs or President Obama. "Instead, the evangelical Christian governor spoke the language of the movement with ease. He talked about the many nights in his 20s he spent pondering his purpose, 'wondering what to do with this one life among the billions that were on the planet,' but knowing that God's answers would be revealed to him in due time. Perry mused about his personal failings: not realizing his dream of becoming a veterinarian because he flunked organic chemistry, being ordered to do push-ups as a college cadet when his superiors in morning inspections discovered insufficiently shined shoes, straying from his faith and being 'lost' as a young Air Force pilot overseas." http://wapo.st/o6W3QL

WHAT THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES ARE UP TO: Perry speaks at the Green County GOP fundraiser in Jefferson, Iowa. Bachmann hosts a 9 a.m. breakfast chat in San Rafael, California. Santorum speaks at an 11:30 a.m. fundraiser for the South Carolina Republican Party in Greenville. Cain has an open forum at the Warner Robbins Civic Center in Thomaston, Georgia.

WHAT THE PRESIDENT IS UP TO: Obama awards a Medal of Honor at 2:45 p.m. Then he has two DNC fundraisers: at 7 and 8:40 p.m. Both are print pool only.

TWO NEW POLLS -

• Bloomberg, out this morning, puts Obama ahead of Perry in a head-to-head matchup 49-40. In the primaries, nationally, Perry leads Romney 26-22. http://bloom.bg/naeIFt

• PPP, out yesterday afternoon: Perry leads Romney 31-18 nationally, but he's losing the surge of momentum that came with his announcement a month ago. Tea partiers are quite leery of the former Massachusetts governor. Among those who self-identify with the movement, he ties for fourth with Gingrich. Poll director Tom Jensen: "Romney doesn't need to win the Tea Party to be the Republican nominee but he has to be a lot more competitive than he is right now." http://bit.ly/nqChqI

NY-9 HYSTERIA - SPECIAL ELECTION FALLOUT CONTINUES:

DEMOCRATIC PANIC-

• Former Harry Reid spokesman Jim Manley to ABC: "I'm sure glad I'm not working for a member that's up for re-election next year because it's an ugly, ugly mood out there." http://aben.ws/oPoSda

• Former White House spokesman Bill Burton, now senior strategist at Priorities USA, to National Journal:
"Democrats should be very nervous. They need to put on their war paint and get ready for what is going to be a very difficult battle. Unless activists really engage and recognize the stakes of this fight, it's going to be impossible for the president to win.' http://bit.ly/n7s1g

- An unnamed Democratic strategist to The Hill: "I'm warning my clients - 'Don't run in 2012.' I don't want to see good candidates lose by 12 to 15 points because of the president." http://bit.ly/oS6WCz

- Rep. Elliot Engel (D-N.Y.) said Wednesday that the election should serve as a "big alarm" for Democrats who have long depended on the Jewish vote. http://politi.co/qA21mU

REPUBLICANS RISK COCKINESS-

- AS IF: "Gleeful Republican leaders said tonight that Bob Turner's stunning victory for Anthony Weiner's vacant city congressional seat shows that New York is in play in next year's presidential race," the New York Post reported from the state GOP's annual fundraising dinner at the Sheraton last night. [Reagan was the last Republican to carry the Empire State, as part of his 49-state landslide in 1984.] http://nyp.st/oF8NhT

- JUST THE BEGINNING? The sub-headline of Karl Rove's column in today's Wall Street Journal on the rise of Democratic discontent is, "After this week's election defeats, unhappiness with the president is sure to build." http://on.wsj.com/qR3fjN

- HOW TURNER'S WIN COULD HELP PERRY: "The Republican triumph...will aggravate the party's overconfidence and prevent a showdown with the Tea Party," E.J. Dionne writes in his Washington Post column today. "Yet if conservatives see New York's 9th as further evidence that Obama is a pushover, Rick Perry - if he doesn't self-destruct - will be able to tell them he is the guy who can destroy the Great Society, the New Deal and the Progressive Era with one decisive blow. And no establishment will be there to stop him." http://wapo.st/qRIbEb

THAT WAS FAST - ANGLE SPOX WARNS OF PRIMARY CHALLENGE TO AMODEI: Electoral success typically begets demands for more ideological purity. A local Nevada affiliate asked Sharron Angle's spokesman about buzz that the failed 2010 Senate candidate might take on Mark Amodei, who handily won Tuesday's special election to replace Dean Heller. He replied that "Angle's options are open, and I expect that she and others will be paying close attention to Amodei's performance. What is important now is that Amodei pays close attention to his constituents in this district and give them the representation that they want if he expects to keep this job." http://bit.ly/psWoSX

SNEAK PEEK - NRSC TO HIT WARREN FOR BEING EVEN SOFTER ON IMMIGRATION THAN OBAMA: The National Republican Senatorial Committee will seize today on Elizabeth Warren's announcement that she opposes the Department of Homeland Security's "Secure Communities Program," which is used by the Boston Police Department to identify and deport violent criminals. This puts her at odds with Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, who described the program as an essential tool earlier this week. Scott Brown supports the initiative, and the GOP is confident this can create a winning contrast with Bay State voters.

Republicans who know Massachusetts politics say immigration can help them define Warren as an out-of-touch Harvard professor un-tethered from the real world. From NRSC Communications Director Brian Walsh's coming press release: "While we recognize that Professor Warren has spent her career in the ivory tower of academia and the power corridors of Washington, as a candidate for Senate let's hope she spends some time talking to real people, and particularly our police officers who have devoted their careers to combating violent crime."

MASS. SENATE - EMILY'S LIST ENDORSES WARREN: Moving swiftly, the powerful women's group is endorsing Elizabeth Warren for Senate. "Scott Brown has pursued a corporate-backed, anti-woman Republican agenda ever since he rode the Tea Party wave into office," Stephanie Schriock, President of EMILY's List, says in a statement that will go out this morning. "When Elizabeth announced her exploratory committee, our members overwhelmingly let us know how energized they would be to support her campaign." The group notes that Warren would be the first female senator from Massachusetts.

INDIANA SENATE - MURDOUK'S PATH TO TOPPLE LUGAR BECOMES EASIER: "State Sen. Mike Delph, the Carmel Republican known for his efforts to combat illegal immigration, will not run for the U.S. Senate or a congressional seat in 2012," the Evansville Courier and Press reports. "His decision is good news for state Treasurer Richard Mourdock, the conservative Republican who has launched a primary challenge against six-term U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar. Mourdock had said if he and Delph both ran, they would risk splitting up the opposition, therefore allowing Lugar to win with a plurality if not a majority of the vote." http://bit.ly/o5uOcn

SOMETHING'S UP IN MADISON - FBI RAIDS HOME OF FORMER TOP AIDE TO WALKER: "Neither the FBI, Dane County Sheriff's Department, nor the governor are commenting tonight on a raid at the home of Cynthia Archer, a former top aide to Governor Scott Walker," according to a report last night from the WBAY ABC affiliate in Wisconsin. "Just over three weeks ago, Archer abruptly left her job as deputy secretary in the state Department of Administration. At the time, state officials would only say Archer left for personal family matters. But it's now been confirmed she had another politically-appointed job already lined up at the Department of Children and Families. At this point it's unclear why the FBI was at Archer's home Wednesday morning, but neighbors witnessing the activity said at least one box was taken from her home." http://bit.ly/o9742n

CODA - QUOTE OF THE DAY: "If you love me, you've got to help me pass this bill." - President Obama, to a supporter in the crowd at his North Carolina State University speech http://abcn.ws/pYXXkk

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From: Morning Score [morningscore@politico.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2011 5:20 AM
To: Allison Castle
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Score: Perry plays defense in Tampa—Crossroads targets McCaskill—
Election Day in NY-9, NV-2—Mass Dems targeting Romney, Perry, Brown on Social Security—
Why Pawlenty backed Romney and Jindal backed Perry—Arizona locks in February...

By James Hohmann (jhohmann@politico.com; Twitter: @jameshohmann)

EXCLUSIVE - CROSSROADS FLIES AGAIN WITH 'AIR CLAIRE' MCCASKILL: American Crossroads is circling back to the flap over the Missouri Democrat's private plane today, spending more than $75,000 on a new radio spot and two aviation-themed billboard ads near the St. Louis and Springfield airports. 'Sky-high airfares got you down?' the billboards say. 'Senator Claire McCaskill flies in her own jet - and you pay for it!' The radio spot dramatizes a detective asking McCaskill questions, with clips drawn from her public statements. More than a quarter-million of unpaid back taxes on her plane embarrassed McCaskill earlier this year. She eventually reimbursed the Treasury department for political trips billed to taxpayers. American Crossroads President Steven Law tells POLITICO's Dan Hirschhorn that 'McCaskill's private jet symbolizes everything that's wrong with her candidacy.' See the billboard: http://bit.ly/qadxl1i. Listen to the radio spot: http://bit.ly/mVTWQR

ELECTION DAY IN NY-9 - A REFERENDUM ON OBAMA?: Jay Carney already tried to preemptively distance the president from the results at yesterday's briefing, but press coverage increasingly suggests that the outcome of the race between Republican Bob Turner and Democrat David Weprin will be taken as a referendum on Barack Obama. Check out a sampling of election eve headlines: Associated Press: "Special election a measure of Obama's strength"; Reuters: "New York district race portends trouble for Obama"; Wall Street Journal: "Special House Elections Give View of Sagging Obama"; Washington Examiner: "Anger at Obama may cost Dems N.Y. House seat." Alex Isenstadt looks at the five things to watch as returns come in: http://politico.co/opx6EO

BRACE FOR A LATE NIGHT - AP ADVISORY TO EDITORS: Polls close at 9 p.m. ET. "New York City returns are expected to be delayed because of procedures put in place at poll sites by the Board of Elections since vote scanners replaced machines. In 2010, the first time these new procedures were in place, results provided by New York City did not come in until about 10 p.m."

As HPV enters the lexicon, the president heads for Ohio, and the 2012 primary calendar finally starts to fall into place, here's POLITICO's Morning Score: your daily guide to the permanent campaign.

LAST NIGHT IN TAMPA - PERRY FEELS THE HEAT: Rick Perry, treated as the frontrunner, took fire from all sides. Consensus across conservative and mainstream media is that the Texas governor did not perform as well in last night's CNN-Tea Party Express debate as he did in California last week.

THE THREE DEFINING ISSUES OF THE DEBATE -

* PERRY SOFTENED HIS TONE ON SOCIAL SECURITY: "Perry went to some lengths to soften some of his previous remarks," Dan Balz wrote in The Washington Post. "In his opening words on the topic, he sought to assure those who are receiving Social Security and those who are close to retirement. He promised a 'slam-dunk guarantee' that neither group would see its benefits cut. But for younger workers, he said it is essential for the country to face the program's financial problems." http://wapo.st/qrLUPj
PERRY TOOK HEAT ON IMMIGRATION: "Perry, who signed a Texas version of the DREAM Act (which allows young people in the country illegally to pay in-state tuition at public colleges and universities) drew several rounds of boos when he defended the policy," the LA Times reported. "Romney piled on Perry (a recurring theme of the evening). 'Of course we build a fence, and of course we do not give in-state tuition credits to people who have come here illegally.' And then he took the opportunity to knock Huntsman, who, while Utah governor, allowed illegal immigrants to have driver's licenses (though the documents were not to be used as a form of legal identification)." http://lat.ms/nZ9Gfs

PERRY LOST THE FIGHT ON HPV: "Bachmann took on front-runner Rick Perry with a tough attack on his attempt to mandate an STD vaccine for preteen girls in Texas - and his relationship with Merck, the drug company that manufactured it. When he tried to shut her down, Bachmann went right back at him. 'The governor's former chief of staff was the chief lobbyist for this drug company. The company gave thousands of dollars in political donations to the governor, and this is just flat-out wrong,' Bachmann said. 'If you're saying that I can be bought for $5,000, I'm offended,' Perry responded. Bachmann shot back: 'I'm offended for all the little girls and the parents that didn't have a choice. That's what I'm offended for.'" http://politi.co/nhldq8

MSM ANALYSIS - PERRY LOST, ROMNEY OR BACHMANN WON:

- POLITICO's Jonathan Martin and David Catanese - "Perry Pain Marks Romney Gain": "Mitt Romney's path to the Republican nomination became clearer Monday night - and it had little to do with his attacks on Rick Perry over Social Security. Instead it was the fire Perry took from the right at the CNN-Tea Party Express debate that suddenly seemed more threatening to the Texas governor's chances than Romney." http://politi.co/r23kd3

- The Huffington Post's Jon Ward: "If Rick Perry felt like a piñata during his first debate last week, the second debate on Monday night might have left the Texas governor and Republican presidential candidate feeling like the bashed-in fax machine in the movie 'Office Space.'" http://huff.to/o27wrN

- The Des Moines Register's Kathie Obradovich: "Rick Perry was both lucky and unlucky that tonight's debate was co-sponsored by the Tea Party Express. Lucky, because his rivals mostly soft-pedaled their criticism of Perry's 'Ponzi scheme' assessment of Social Security. Unlucky, because it gave Mitt Romney a chance to side with the tea party on the Texas decision to allow in-state tuition for the children of illegal immigrants." http://bit.ly/oYulm9

- Texas Monthly's Paul Burka: "Perry was clearly off his game during the tea party debate. He looked uncomfortable, his face was strained, his combativeness was muted. He looked to me like a man with back pain. I wondered if he were wearing a brace. I've had back surgery, and it hurt to watch him. I thought Romney won the debate." http://bit.ly/qF66AK

- ABC's Amy Walter - "Analysis: Michele Bachmann Wins Tea Party Debate": "Bachmann, the founder of the Tea Party Caucus in the House, knew her audience well and it showed...The crowd initially stood behind the Texas Governor - cheering him on during his defense of his jobs record and Social Security positioning. But as the debate wore on, Perry was clearly exhausted by having to play defense for almost two hours and the crowd seemed weary of him too." http://abcn.ws/qijjBQz

THE BUZZ ON THE RIGHT-

- The Weekly Standard's Fred Barnes on "ROMNEY'S WIN": "Romney was crisp and succinct, prepared and focused, and aggressive in going after his chief rival [Perry] ... when he needed to be. [He] showed once again that he's a far better candidate now than he was four years ago." http://bit.ly/psBbh4
• The Washington Examiner's Byron York: "When it was over, Perry had not been knocked out, but he was definitely wobbly on his feet."  

• The Iowa Republican's Craig Robinson: "Perry offered some good one-liners, but candidates pummeled him in this debate from the right. Perry needs to win the Iowa Caucuses, but Bachmann and Santorum are not going to make it easy for him."  
http://bit.ly/qU0PNH

• Power Line Blog's John Hinderaker: "Michele Bachmann clobbered Rick Perry. If Tea Party credentials are your only criterion, vote for Michele."  
http://bit.ly/rf3Tof

• National Review's Rich Lowry: "Bachmann was better than last time and showed she's not going to quietly fade away. I liked both Santorum and Gingrich and wonder if either of them can still catch a little gust in Iowa. Huntsman is becoming more confident on the stage, which means even more annoying. He's a smart ass who isn't funny."  

POST-GAME - PALIN SLAMS PERRY ON HPV, "CRONY CAPITALISM ": Sarah Palin, on Fox News right after the debate, sounded more like a surrogate for Bachmann than a potential candidate herself. She called out Perry by name for mandating the HPV vaccine after his chief of staff went to work for the drug company that manufactured it. "That's crony capitalism," she told Greta Van Susteren. "That's part of the problem that we have in this country is that people are afraid, even in our own party, to call one another out on that...Michele Bachmann tried to make that point tonight and she's going to get potentially crucified." The former governor, who said she is still deciding whether to get into the race, also noted that she fought against requiring the HPV vaccine in Alaska at the same time Perry pushed it in Texas.  
http://politi.co/qDurZQ

MORE ON PALIN - FRED MALEK SAYS IT'S TOO LATE FOR HER TO RUN: Republican power broker Fred Malek, an occasional Palin adviser, told ABC's "Top Line" yesterday that it would be a bad move for Palin to jump in at this point. "She could pick up a lot of support going in. But I think it is too late," he said. "She's doing a very, very good job on the circuit...I don't think she should get in, and I don't think she will." Malek, a major RGA fundraiser, says he's "very happy" Perry got in the race and said the Texas governor has "a very big lead right now, and it's going to be difficult [for anyone] to surmount that."  
http://abcn.ws/qN3bT1

SNEAK PEAK- MASS DEMS WILL USE SOCIAL SECURITY TO INTENSIFY ATTACKS ON SCOTT BROWN: FDR grandson James Roosevelt, a former Social Security Administration official and member of the Democratic National Committee, will ding Perry and Romney during a 9:30 a.m. conference call for the Massachusetts Democratic Party. [The peg is that Perry is speaking in Boston at a 6 p.m. dinner.] But Roosevelt will also hit Scott Brown for endorsing a candidate [Romney] who once backed private accounts and for supporting the cut, cap and balance pledge. Watch for more Democratic efforts to link the freshman senator to the Republican presidential candidates. A Massachusetts Democratic Party official tells Score: 'Even Scott Brown's awe-shucks smile and high-end suede barn coat won't change the fact that voting to give him a full term will give more power - and possibly control of the U.S. Senate - to the Republican Party.'

PAWLenty ENDorses Romney-

• THE BACK STORY: "They held a series of telephone conversations following Pawlenty's exit from the race, but the decision culminated with a dinner the two men had with their wives, Ann Romney and Mary Pawlenty, at the Romneys' lakefront home in New Hampshire, during which all four of them hit it off," according to the Washington Post. "The Pawlentys were overnight guests at the lakefront home [on Sept. 2]."  
http://wapo.st/nfXJa7

• RETIRING CAMPAIGN DEBT? Two Republican sources told Maggie Haberman that there were discussions about Romney helping Pawlenty retire his six-figure campaign debt. 'If Tim Pawlenty wants our
Pawlenty himself denies that debt motivated his endorsement. "That wasn't a factor in my endorsement and obviously if he's willing to help with that, we'd love to have his help," he told NBC News. "But I anticipate I'll probably end up raising more money for him than he would in terms of anything he might do to help with our campaign debt." http://on.msnbc.com/nJmoS

• HOW MUCH DOES TPAW HELP? The New York Times uses the Pawlenty announcement as the peg for a front-page story about the GOP elite turning toward Romney. Jeff Zeleny and Mike Shear say it "signals the beginning of an effort by some party leaders to try to slow the ascent of Mr. Perry- or to push him to explain positions that are considered provocative." Vin Weber, a Pawlenty backer who had already gotten behind Romney, describes "a deep concern inside the Republican Party about nominating someone like Mr. Perry, who has had limited experience appealing to independents and moderate voters who often decide elections." http://nyti.ms/rcudv5

WMUR's James Pindell says the impact in New Hampshire is "unclear" (http://bit.ly/mZhJiW). Kendra Marr found many surprised former staffers and fundraisers caught off guard by the sudden endorsement. None of the Floridians expected to follow Pawlenty immediately stepped forward: "Pawlenty didn't try to get any of his former staffers jobs on the Romney campaign, or make his endorsement part of a greater movement of supporters to Romney." http://bit.ly/nVbGxI.

• PAWLENTY BECOMES A SURROGATE: From The State's write-up of the pair's visit to the Boeing plant in South Carolina: "Electable was the key word. As Pawlenty touted Romney during a press conference at North Charleston City Hall, he repeatedly used the word, saying Romney was the 'most electable candidate by far.'" http://bit.ly/pvVUMb

Pawlenty insists he's "not even going to consider" being Romney's running mate. And he explained his past criticisms of Obamneycare by stressing that the former Massachusetts governor is committed to repealing the federal law. http://mi.tt/qOuZ6I

A FLURRY OF ENDORSEMENTS-

• JINDAL BACKS PERRY-SAYS HE'S NOT INTERESTED IN AN ADMINISTRATION JOB: Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, facing no credible Democrat challenger in his reelection this year, endorsed Perry yesterday. He stressed the Texan's record of job creation in his announcement. In the spin room after the debate, Jindal shied away from attacking Romney harshly and was also adamant that he did not endorse Perry early for political advantage: "I don't want a job from Rick," he said. "No, I will not be his VP." This does not mean he will not be talked about as a potential running mate next year, should Perry win the nomination. The short Times-Picayune write-up of the endorsement: http://bit.ly/ryeNqo. What else Jindal said after the debate: http://politico.co/o5e2Zy.

• SUNSHINE TALENT - ROMNEY SIGNS DOSTER: Brett Doster, the consultant who ran President Bush's Florida reelection campaign in 2004, will head Romney's Florida effort. This is significant because many insiders believed he would sign on with Perry. http://politico.co/rioHWN

• SNUBBING TEA PARTIERS - ROMNEY ENDORSES ORRIN HATCH IN UTAH: The same day as a tea party-sponsored debate, Romney endorsed an incumbent that many tea partiers would love to topple. The endorsement is safer after Jason Chaffetz decided not to run. Conservatives like Palin and Steve Forbes backed Hatch's reelection also makes it politically easier. It was a major thumbing of Romney's nose, though, at FreedomWorks, the powerful conservative grassroots group that has launched an anti-Hatch campaign and
recently accused Romney of "pandering" for tea party support. http://bit.ly/nwAtNO

WHAT THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES ARE UP TO: Perry attends an 8:30 a.m. fundraising breakfast at the InterContinental in Tampa and a 12:30 p.m. lunch in Miami. He finishes the day with a 6 p.m. speech to the Pioneer Institute's 20th annual Better Government Competition Awards Dinner in Boston. Gingrich attends a screening of his 'A City Upon A Hill' movie in Tampa.

WHAT THE PRESIDENT IS UP TO - Obama heads for Columbus, Ohio, this afternoon. He will tour a newly modernized graphic design classroom at Fort Hayes Arts and Academic High School to promote his American Jobs Act bill. The proposal includes $25 billion to modernize at least 35,000 public schools. He is scheduled to land in Columbus at 1:15 ET and depart at 3:05 p.m. ET.

BRACKETING OBAMA - BOEHNER WEBSITE LETS OHIANS "VOICE OFF": Speaker John Boehner sent an e-mail to Ohio lists last Friday inviting folks to "speak out" about the president's economic plan and to share stories about how the lethargic recovery is hurting them. Check out the five pages of featured comments on JohnBoehner.com: http://bit.ly/rjxajY.

NEVADA-2 SPECIAL - EARLY VOTING LOOKING SOLID FOR REPUBLICANS: Republican Mark Amodei is expected to handily beat Democrat Kate Marshall in tonight's largely-forgotten special election. "More than 40,000 Republicans cast ballots during the two-week early voting period that ended Friday," according to the AP, in a story posted on the Las Vegas Sun home page. "That's a large swath of the 75,000 votes cast for the 2nd Congressional District seat. Democrats made up 25,600 of those votes... Republicans hold a 32,000-vote registration edge in the district that includes Reno." http://bit.ly/p8Toax

2012 IMPLICATIONS - WHAT TO WATCH IN NV-2 RESULTS: Tonight's results will offer a window into the mood of a state that Obama almost certainly needs to win as part of his reelection. Dan Hirschhorn says that "a weak showing in Washoe County, the district's most populous, could be a devastating precursor for Democrats. Obama is counting on Nevada as part of his path to reelection, and Washoe County, which includes Reno, is key to that strategy. Though Obama lost the 2nd District in 2008 and Sen. Harry Reid lost it in 2010, they both won Washoe County. A Marshall loss there could be evidence that Obama is doomed in Nevada next year." http://politico.com/nxj33Y

2012 CALENDAR - ARIZONA LOCKS IN FEBRUARY 28 PRIMARY DATE: Gov. Jan Brewer announced yesterday that she will not move the Republican primary up after all. The Arizona Republic: "Instead, the governor has secured preliminary approval to host the leading GOP candidates in an officially sanctioned debate later this year. A date and place have not been set." http://bit.ly/oMu6so

HOW THIS AFFECTS IOWA- MOVE FROM FEBRUARY 6 LIKELY: State GOP chair Matt Strawn said last night that it's too early to assess the impact. "The question remains whether [Arizona] will force other states to move up and that would then bump us forward," he said. Republican National Committeeman Steve Scheffler told The Des Moines Register that Iowa's caucuses will probably be moved from their currently scheduled date of Feb. 6. "We're going to be first regardless," he said. http://bit.ly/pgYCSE

STATE OF PLAY - GAMING OUT THE LIKELY SCHEDULE: All the other early states will fall into place after Iowa. South Carolina, for example, will move up its Feb. 28 primary to avoid voting on the same day as Arizona. On his blog Frontloading HQ, Josh Putnam looks at where things stand: "With Arizona locked in, though, the picture gets quite a bit clearer: January 30: Iowa; February 7: New Hampshire; February 11: Nevada; February 18: South Carolina; February 21: Florida, Georgia; February 28: Arizona, Michigan... The RNC is pretty close to getting something very close to its ideal calendar out of this." He includes a bunch of caveats: http://bit.ly/qs0koG.
SOLYNDRA UPDATE - CEO IS REGISTERED REPUBLICAN: As the Republican National Committee steps up attacks on the administration over the bankruptcy of the green energy firm Solyndra, which received federal loans and had been touted as a success story by both the president and vice president, Democrats note that the company's CEO is a registered Republican and that one of the major investors is a partnership affiliated with a family that leans toward the GOP. http://bit.ly/pQvRBd

MICHIGAN SENATE - HOEKSTRA GETS SOME AMWAY MONEY AFTER ALL: Many in Washington considered former Michigan GOP state chair Betsy DeVos' endorsement a really big get for Republican Clark Durant in the Republican Senate primary, assuming that her family fortune (i.e. Amway money) would come with her endorsement and that this would help Durant compete with frontrunner Pete Hoekstra on fundraising. In the last few days, though, other members of the DeVos family have gotten behind Hoekstra and brought their checkbooks with them. Amway President Doug DeVos and Amway Chairman Steve Van Andel hosted a fundraiser last night for Hoekstra: http://bit.ly/rrO0f2.

Morning Score has also obtained a fundraising invitation to a lunch fundraiser next Monday that will be held for Hoekstra at the Amway townhouse in DC. Special guests include Fred Upton, Mike Rogers, Dan Benishek, Candice Miller and Tim Walberg. Durant not capturing the DeVos funds he was assumed to get with Betsy's endorsement gives some comfort to Washington Republicans hoping for as bloodless a primary fight as possible. http://politico.com/osg46N

RUH-ROH - PERRY ONCE DISPARAGED N.H. PRIMARY: "In February 1992, after President George H.W. Bush beat Pat Buchanan by a less-than-expected margin in the New Hampshire presidential primary, the Texas agriculture commissioner had some unflattering things to say about the Granite State's nominating process," according to The Boston Globe. "New Hampshire is so small up there..." Perry told the Houston Rotary Club. "So I haven't figured out why that's so important." American Bridge, which has video, also gave The Globe talking points from Perry's speech that downplayed the importance of the state and noted that some small Texas counties gave Bush more votes in 1988 than Buchanan received statewide in 1992. Perry is staffing up in New Hampshire, where his strategist Dave Carney is from. His campaign insists - obviously - that the governor values the state's role in the process. http://bo.st/qzi1hM

CODA - QUOTE OF THE DAY: "If you're dealt four aces, that doesn't make you, necessarily, a great poker player." - Mitt Romney, chalking up the so-called Texas Miracle to factors beyond Rick Perry's control, in last night's debate.

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Allison Castle

From: morningscore@politico.com on behalf of Morning Score [morningscore@politic.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 01, 2011 4:39 AM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Score: Debate drama resolved - Bachmann AWOL from NH - Another Palin flap - Perry: I won’t embarrass you - Connecticut Gov. on Ron Paul: “He’s an idiot”

POLITICO’s Morning Score

By Charles Mahtesian (cmahtesia~olitico.com; Twitter: @charliepolitico)

DEBATE DRAMA RESOLVED -- ‘ANOTHER PARTISAN PIE FIGHT’ -- A remarkable day of political gamesmanship and finger-pointing between President Obama and House Speaker John Boehner culminated in a late Wednesday evening White House statement ending the standoff surrounding the president’s request to address a joint session on the same evening as the Sept. 7 GOP presidential debate. RESOLVED: The president will speak on Sept. 8, avoiding a conflict with the debate (but running up against the first game of the NFL season). “A presidential address to a joint session of Congress is usually one of Washington’s more dignified and predictable events — but President Barack Obama’s request to deliver a Sept. 7 speech quickly devolved into just another partisan pie fight...But this is 2012 Washington, where the comforting little courtesies and old-shoe rituals that once kept bickering Democrats and Republicans from immobilizing the republic have been chucked in the constant quest for news-cycle leverage,” reports POLITICO’s Glenn Thrush and Jonathan Allen. http://politi.co/qwLwty

HOW THEY PLAYED IT:

AP: Obama yields to Boehner’s Sept. 8 speech timing
Los Angeles Times: Obama, Boehner clash over timing of president’s jobs speech
Washington Post: Obama jobs speech creates conflict with GOP
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: Obama jobs speech up against Packers

EXCLUSIVE – HAHN GETS L.A. MAYOR’S ENDORSEMENT: Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa will endorse recent special election winner Rep. Janice Hahn today in her primary against fellow California Democratic Rep. Laura Richardson, providing a boost to the former L.A. city councilwoman in the incumbent vs. incumbent match-up. “Janice Hahn believes that the government can play a key role in helping to get our economy moving again,” Villaraigosa says in a statement that will go out later. “That’s why it was a no-brainer for me to endorse Janice, because I know she’ll fight for more jobs and Los Angeles, in Congress.”

***As President Obama takes on the NFL season opener, Rick Perry promises social conservatives he won’t embarrass them, and Jon Huntsman offers his jobs plan, here’s POLITICO’s Morning Score: your daily guide to the permanent campaign.

2012 TALKER – BACHMANN AWOL FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE – POLITICO’s Molly Ball reports: “Michele Bachmann’s campaign all but confirmed Wednesday what New Hampshire Republicans have suspected for weeks: the Minnesota congresswoman’s political calculus no longer includes the first-in-the-nation-primary state. She hasn’t been back to New Hampshire since her campaign kickoff two months ago. She canceled a planned visit to the Granite State after her Ames straw poll win — and began spending her time in South Carolina, Florida and Iowa instead. In fact, in the two-and-a-half weeks since the straw poll, Bachmann is the only 2012 GOP contender not to visit the Granite State... ‘Iowa is our main focus right now, secondly is South Carolina,’ Bachmann spokeswoman Alice Stewart said in an email. ‘We do plan to build on our efforts in New Hampshire in due time.’” http://politi.co/rosoz8t
ANOTHER PALIN EVENT, ANOTHER SCHEDULING FIASCO – After hours of conflicting reports, sourced to Sarah Palin’s camp, about whether she was preparing to back out of a weekend Iowa tea party rally, Tuesday concluded with confirmation from rally organizers that Palin would be there. “A day of frenzied confusion over Sarah Palin’s upcoming trip to Iowa appeared to end where it began Wednesday: with Palin on the schedule as the keynote of Saturday’s tea party rally near Des Moines...Consultants acting on Palin’s behalf had threatened to cancel her appearance if Christine O’Donnell, the former Delaware Senate candidate, was also allowed to speak, according to another source involved in the event.” http://political.com/pyFuji

PERRY TO SOCIAL CONSERVATIVES: I WON’T EMBARRASS YOU – The Texas Tribune, continuing its bid to become one of the most important media outlets in the GOP primary, reports on a gathering of uncommitted social and evangelical conservatives at the Hill Country spread of mega-donor James Leininger. “During one exchange, Perry was asked — politely but directly — to assure the group that nothing embarrassing in his personal life would emerge during the 2012 presidential campaign...I can assure you that there is nothing in my life that will embarrass you if you decide to support me for president,” Perry said.” http://trib.it/nSsgMU

CONNECTICUT GOVERNOR ON RON PAUL: “HE’S AN IDIOT” – On CNN’s American Morning, Connecticut Democratic Gov. Dannel Malloy let it rip when asked to comment on Ron Paul's remark that FEMA gets in the way and wastes money. “I think he's an idiot... This is a ridiculous conversation. I really don't understand what he is talking about and I'm not sure he does... For someone in Texas to be talking about FEMA being defunded really does rise to idiocy and hypocrisy. This is pure politics playing out across individuals' misery.” See the interview here: http://bit.ly/o92xWc

HUNTSMAN ROLLS OUT JOBS PLAN – 1 WEEK BEFORE OBAMA, ROMNEY – From the AP report: “Jon Huntsman called Wednesday for sweeping tax changes and new trade agreements to help revitalize the nation's manufacturing sector and create jobs... Huntsman called for eliminating taxes on capital gains and reducing the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 25 percent...His plan also drastically lowers personal income tax rates, while ending popular tax credits and deductions that affect the middle class, such as the mortgage interest deduction and child tax credit... He also pushed for new trade deals with Japan, India and Taiwan, in addition to those proposed by the Obama administration with Colombia, Panama and South Korea. And he called for repealing Obama's health care overhaul, "dramatically" reining in the Environmental Protection Agency and reforming the Food and Drug Administration's "ridiculous approval process." http://apne.ws/nwMnCe

BACHMANN ON JOBS -- In Des Moines Wednesday, "presidential hopeful Michele Bachmann pivoted her focus to jobs and the economy Wednesday during her first campaign appearance in Iowa since winning the leadoff caucus state's Republican straw poll earlier this month...Bachmann urged the federal government to allow companies with cash holdings overseas to reinvest the money at home without paying taxes on those profits. She claims the change could quickly inject billions in investment into the U.S. economy,” writes Tom Beaumont for the AP.

EXPLAINING AMERICA TO TEXAS – “Perry’s rugged Texan image can send conflicting message” – “Today’s Texas has a 61-year-old face, set with long, Marlboro Man wrinkles snaking south from the eyes and north from the jawline. Up top is a full head of impossibly dark hair – Ronald Reagan dark – salted ever so slightly with gray. In many ways, Gov. Rick Perry is the iconic Texan, a self-made man whose rugged individualism has come to define his public life, for better or worse... A man with one foot propped on a hay bale, for example, may read self-sufficiency and independence to some and right-wing hick to others. One image can be endowed with different, even contradictory, meanings,” writes the Houston Chronicle. http://bit.ly/nIAAn5p
INSIDE HUNTSMAN’S HORIZON PAC FILING – The Salt Lake Tribune looks at Jon Huntsman’s pre-presidential PAC and finds that supporters were raising money as early as January to lay the groundwork for a possible bid, months before Huntsman officially resigned from his job as U.S. ambassador to China. The Utah-based PAC “took in more than $2 million from January through July and spent all but $20,000 on research, raising money and consultants, many of whom went on to work for Huntsman’s White House campaign... [John] Weaver, the strategist, took in $216,575 for his Network Companies. South Carolina strategist Richard Quinn pocketed $100,000.” http://bit.ly/oVUEAp

THE FOX PRIMARY – Fox News antagonist Media Matters tallies the stats on GOP presidential candidate appearances on Fox since June 1. The numbers for announced candidates: Paul (33); Cain (28); Bachmann (21); Santorum (20); Gingrich (19); Johnson (15); McCotter (12); Romney (7); Huntsman (7); Perry (4).

WHAT THE CANDIDATES ARE UP TO – Jon Huntsman speaks to the "Politics and Eggs" breakfast in Bedford, NH, Rick Perry holds several Texas fundraisers and Ron Paul holds a town hall meeting at New England College. Buddy Roemer plans to roll out his jobs plan--in front of the embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Washington.

PRO-BACHMANN SUPER PAC WHACKS PERRY – It’s unclear if there’s a real buy behind this, but "Keep Conservatives United" says it’s airing an anti-Rick Perry ad in South Carolina that takes aim at the Texas governor's spending record and hits him with this: "He's supposed to be the Tea Party guy?" See the ad here: http://bit.ly/pXn4jd

HANDBICAPPING THE SENATE – The University of Virginia’s Larry Sabato and Kyle Kondik: “[T]here are 23 Democratic-held Senate seats up for grabs this year, versus only 10 Republican-held seats. Realistically, only two of those 10 Republicans seats will be competitive next year: Nevada...and Massachusetts...From the perspective of Labor Day 2011, the GOP has a strong chance to win the Senate next year. Indeed, given the volume of ripe pickup opportunities, it appears that the Senate is the Republicans' to lose. But with some bad decisions by GOP primary voters, and a revival of Democratic fortunes in 2012 if the economy takes a significant upturn, they could still forfeit this opportunity.” http://bit.ly/qlPl6Z

MORE SENATE HANDBICAPPING – POLITICO’s Dave Catanese writes his new Senate Monthly 10, ranking the most competitive contests in the country. Number 1 in the August rankings? The Virginia open Senate race: “Allen has thus far navigated a potential primary challenge with relative ease -- something that was an open question at the year’s outset.” http://politico.com/pMAK5h

OUT THIS MORNING – DCCC PUSHES TOWNHALL “BACKLASH”: The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is releasing a web video this morning that highlights video footage and news reports from town halls and protests this recess to support their message that Republicans are facing unruly town halls that compare to the ones their members faced two summers ago. The video, “Backlash,” is part of a project called “Accountability August” that links vulnerable Republican incumbents to controversial plans to reform Medicare. Watch the two-minute video: http://bit.ly/nGgG0

SHORT MEMORY: GOP GLOCK GIVEAWAY IN GABRIELLE GIFFORDS’ DISTRICT –Fundraiser for Arizona’s Pima County GOP: “For just $10, readers can purchase a raffle ticket (out of 125 offered) for a chance to win a brand new handgun. Not just any handgun, but a Glock 23.” http://huff.to/q0thyn

CODA – The remarks “aren’t directed towards any individual” -- an unconvincing Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, after delivering sharp criticism Wednesday about labor policy and education in Texas. http://politico.com/nVSxe8
POLITICO's Morning Score

By Charles Mahtesian (cmahtesian@politico.com; Twitter: @charliepolitico)

EXCLUSIVE – PAUL CONFIRMS FOR CPAC-FL: The American Conservative Union will announce Tuesday that Ron Paul has confirmed that he will speak at CPAC Florida. That makes 10 presidential candidates slated to come to the Sept. 23 event in Orlando, including Mitt Romney and Rick Perry.

SNEAK PEEK – CWA TARGETS TWO DOZEN REPUBLICANS OVER FAA SHUTDOWN: The Communications Workers of America will target 24 potentially vulnerable House Republicans for supporting the House version of the multi-year Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill. Direct mail pieces will go to more than 600,000 voters in these districts—mostly occupied by freshmen—as part of a $500,000-plus voter education effort. The GOP targets: Paul Gosar and David Schweikert (AZ); Dan Lungren and Mary Bono Mack (CA); Tom Latham (IA); Randy Hultgren and Bobby Schilling (IL); Andy Harris (MD); Erik Paulsen and Chip Cravaack (MN); Frank Guinta and Charlie Bass (NH); Leonard Lance (NJ); Joe Heck (NV); Nan Hayworth, Richard Hanna and Tom Reed (NY); Jim Gerlach and Mike Fitzpatrick; Lou Barletta and Charlie Dent (PA); Blake Farenthold (TX); Jaime Herrera-Beutler (WA) and Sean Duffy (WI). Special Florida bonus: Democratic and independent households in House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman John Mica’s district will get a mailer highlighting his lead role, accompanying CWA’s existing “MicaWatch” website.

***As Michele Bachmann tours Miami, Gary Johnson outpaces Jon Huntsman and Chris Christie tells state workers to toughen up, here’s POLITICO’s Morning Score: your daily guide to the permanent campaign.

HURRICANE IRENE’S AFTERMATH – IN THE NORTHEAST – New York Times: Storm’s Push North Leaves Punishing Inland Floods -- “As blue skies and temperate breezes returned on Monday, a clearer picture of the storm’s devastation emerged, with the gravest consequences stemming from river flooding in Vermont and upstate New York. http://nyti.ms/gZPMaD

HURRICANE IRENE’S AFTERMATH – IN THE SOUTH – The News and Observer: “Gov. Bev Perdue warned today that flooding is still a dangerous risk in parts of Eastern North Carolina in the wake of Hurricane Irene, and she said the state would work quickly to reopen N.C. 12 on Hatteras Island... Steve Troxler, the state agriculture commissioner, said Hurricane Irene caused hundreds of millions of dollars in crop damage and left some farms devastated.” http://bit.ly/nNnPrF

THE POLITICAL AFTERMATH: On the eve of the 6th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, pols appeared to have learned some valuable executive lessons—especially those with an interest in higher office. POLITICO’s Maggie Haberman: “If this was a test, the collection of East Coast governors known for their national ambitions passed. With the memory of Hurricane Katrina forever serving as an object lesson in crisis management gone awry, the group of potential 2016 contenders whose states stud the coastline—Republicans Bob McDonnell and Chris Christie and Democrats Andrew Cuomo and Martin O’Malley—appear to have endured Hurricane Irene.
with burnished reputations after an uncommonly ferocious storm where executive missteps could have cost even more lives.” Read it here: http://politi.co/pTBxc6

LABOR VS. CHRISTIE, HURRICANE EDITION – The Star-Ledger reports: “Even in a hurricane, Gov. Chris Christie and the state’s largest public employee union can find something to disagree about. After encouraging private employees to stay home today, he called on all state workers, except those who found it impossible to get to work, to show up… Christie had little sympathy for his fellow public employees who had to sit in bumper-to-bumper traffic for hours trying to navigate around closed roads…” Hetty Rosenstein, regional director for the Communications Workers of America, which represents most of the state’s employees: “For people in many cases, it took hours, hours and hours to get into Trenton. It was not safe and it didn’t make any sense that you would say to every worker except for state workers: ‘If you can stay home, stay home,’ then say but to state workers: ‘It’s important for you to be at your desk.’” http://bit.ly/p7n71C

PERRY TOPS ROMNEY IN LATEST POLL – CNN reports: “A new national survey is further proof that Texas Gov. Rick Perry’s entrance earlier this month into the race for the White House has dramatically altered the battle for the Republican presidential nomination. According to a CNN/ORC International Poll of Republicans and independent voters who lean towards the GOP, Perry now sits atop the list of Republican presidential candidates, with strong support from most demographic groups.” http://bit.ly/qlRsKx

THE NUMBERS: Perry 27%; Romney 14%; Palin 10%; Bachmann 9%; Giuliani 9%; Gingrich 6%; Paul 6%; Cain 2%. See the results here: http://bit.ly/qPesTa
NOTED: Gary Johnson 2% (up from asterisk in Aug. 5-7 survey), Jon Huntsman 1% (down from 4%).
THAT GINGRICH SURGE: 6% (Aug. 24-25); 5% (Aug. 5-7); 4% (July 18-20).

FLORIDA STRAW POLL FLAGGING – “What if you threw a big mock election and nobody bothered to campaign?” writes Adam Smith of the St. Petersburg Times, noting that the GOP campaigns are decidedly unenthusiastic about the state’s Sept. 24 Presidency 5 straw poll. “In a campaign cycle where the GOP field is trying to marshal resources, though, Florida’s mock election has most of the top-tier candidates steering clear. Romney and Michele Bachmann already have announced they won’t participate, while Texas Gov. Rick Perry hasn’t decided.” Herman Cain, Jon Huntsman and Ron Paul are the only hopefuls committed so far to participate. http://bit.ly/n8ZKUT

BACHMANN STEPS IN EVERGLADES TRAP – There’s a reason Sen. Bill Nelson has lasted so long in Florida politics—he knows political gold when he sees it. From Monday’s most-read story on West Palm Beach’s WPBF-TV 25 website: “Nelson To Bachmann: Everglades Drilling ‘Not a Wise Thing To Do.’” http://bit.ly/mUvKiO

“Michele Bachmann became the first major Republican presidential candidate to barnstorm the state this year, capping a six-city tour Monday in Miami where she sipped cafecitos, paid homage to Cuban Americans and kicked off a month of intensive GOP politicking in the state... Later, Bachmann had a private appointment with former Gov. Jeb Bush and she spoke to Spanish-language radio host Ninoska Pérez-Castellón on WAQI-AM (710), better known as Radio Mambi... ‘The first place I visited in Miami was the Bay of Pigs museum. I did that because the Cuban-Americans represent fighters for liberty,’ Bachmann said. http://bit.ly/qd41XP

SPOT THE ADVANCE #FAIL --“If you know me, you know that I am a person who loves humor. I have a great sense of humor. And I think it’s important to exhibit that humor sometimes when you’re talking to a person as well,” Bachmann said at Versailles after sipping Cuban coffee with her House colleague, Miami Rep. David Rivera.
THIS WEEK IN PRIMARY CALENDAR ANTICS – FrontloadingHQ blog notes that a new Georgia law, recently precleared by the Justice Dept., shifts primary date-setting authority from the legislature to the secretary of state. “That allows the Peach state more leeway in setting its date than in the past when a decision had to be made before the legislature adjourned in late April/early May. The secretary of state can now assess the lay of the land with other states on the primary calendar before having to set a date before December 1 in the year preceding a presidential election.” http://bit.ly/oNxHaT

MEANWHILE, IN OTHER LEAPFROGGING NEWS– From the AP: “Gov. Jan Brewer is exploring ways to put a spotlight on Arizona concerns as she considers alternatives that include moving up Arizona’s presidential primary, an idea that would likely reshuffle the calendar for picking a Republican presidential nominee. Brewer is still leaning towards moving up the state’s [Feb. 28] primary to Jan. 31 to give Arizonans a louder voice nationally but is considering her options, spokesman Matthew Benson said Monday...He declined to elaborate other than to acknowledge that Brewer hasn’t indicated an interest in holding the primary before Jan. 31...Benson said aides and party officials advising Brewer on the issue have been contacted by national figures attempting to head off a date change.” http://bit.ly/pv3px3

2012 VEEPWATCH – From the CNN report: “White House hopeful Michele Bachmann said she wants to campaign for 2012 Senate candidates who embody the politics of Sen. Marco Rubio. “I want to elect 13 more like-minded Republican senators, and I’m thinking on the order of a Marco Rubio,” the Minnesota congresswoman said Monday at a campaign stop in Miami. She also brought up Sen. Jim DeMint of South Carolina as a model Republican senator.” http://bit.ly/qWyyWL

MORE VEEPWATCH – The New York Times looks westward in “New Mexico Governor Rushes to Undo the Agenda of Her Predecessor”: “When Gov. Susana Martinez of New Mexico handed over the keys of a state-owned jet to a wealthy businessman and his wife for $2.5 million last week, she was eliminating one more remnant of her predecessor, Bill Richardson... In her first eight months in office, Ms. Martinez, a Republican, has rarely wasted a chance to differentiate herself from Mr. Richardson, the once-popular Democrat who wound up two terms as governor last year with an approval rating in the weeds.” http://nyti.ms/pdMgKV


WHAT THE CANDIDATES ARE UP TO – Rick Perry holds a Dallas fundraiser, one of nine scheduled over the next four days in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. Mitt Romney speaks to the VRW National Convention in San Antonio while Rick Santorum returns home to Pennsylvania where he’ll visit the state GOP headquarters in Harrisburg and later stop by the GOP booth at the Centre County Grange Encampment and Fair.

RANKING THE GOVERNORS RACES -- POLITICO’s Dave Catanese issues his August rankings of the top 10 most competitive gubernatorial races for the 2011-2012 cycle.
http://politico.com/n3JVCJ

DEMIN T INSISTS HE WON’T RUN FOR REELECTION– South Carolina Sen. Jim DeMint repeated that he will not seek reelection in 2016 and also said he has no desire to run for president. “I limited myself to six years in the House, and I’m going to limit myself, pending some unforeseen circumstances, to 12 in the Senate,” DeMint said. “If you see the finish line you can give it all you got.” http://bit.ly/odgzw2

AMODEI LEADS IN NEVADA SPECIAL ELECTION EARLY VOTING – The Las Vegas Review-Journal reports: “Republican Mark Amodei’s campaign grew more confident Monday of a victory over
Democrat Kate Marshall in the Sept. 13 special congressional election because partial returns from early voting show Republicans are voting in greater numbers than their percentage of registered voters. The secretary of state's office reported that 6,183 voters cast ballots in the 2nd Congressional District on Saturday, the first day of early voting, but the office did not release a breakdown that showed the number of voters who cast ballots by political party.” http://bit.ly/pygOQu

CODA —”Folks sat in traffic this morning, my apologies. Toughen up and get to work.” –New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, responding to complaints from state employees who were caught in traffic jams caused by closed roads.
SCORE EXCLUSIVE – TRUMP TALKING WITH PERRY: Rick Perry has been speaking with Donald Trump by phone since wading into the presidential race, a Trump representative told Morning Score. Michael Cohen, the New York businessman’s special counsel, said the Texas governor has called on “several occasions.” Someone else familiar with the dialogue said Perry has spoken to Trump three times, adding that Perry's daughter got on the phone during a recent chat. Perry spokesman Mark Miner said he would not discuss “the Governor's private conversations.”

Mitt Romney recently phoned too, two sources familiar with the call said. A Romney spokeswoman declined to comment.

“It clearly goes to show you the power that Trump controls or that Trump maintains with the American people, as now the current frontrunner is clearly seeking Mr. Trump’s endorsement,” said Cohen.

Trump, who announced he would not pursue the Republican nomination a few months ago, continues to hold open the possibility of running as an independent candidate in the general election if he does not like who the GOP nominates. Indeed, his team has explored how to get him on the ballot in all 50 states.

A Trump endorsement – or at least Trump’s acquiescence to who the Republicans nominate – could be significant. Public Policy Polling released national data yesterday afternoon about the potency of Trump in a three-way matchup against President Obama and a Republican. “Even though his birther shenanigans trashed his name with most voters, he would still pull 18% to Romney’s 30% and Obama’s 46%, meaning Romney would finish closer to third than first,” said Democratic pollster Dustin Ingalls. http://bit.ly/oss129

POPPING OVERNIGHT – PATAKI WILL NOT RUN: CNN’s Mark Preston cites a source close to former New York Gov. George Pataki to report that he will not run for president. “Pataki, who had been flirting with a White House bid for months, was scheduled to appear this weekend in the key early voting state of Iowa,” Preston writes. “Speculation was that the former three-term governor would announce his candidacy Saturday at the Polk County Republican fundraiser. But the source said that Pataki, who seriously considered running, has decided instead to forgo a run for the GOP nomination.” http://bit.ly/ozS5eu

***As Romney leads in Florida, voters turn from Palin and Dunkin Donuts comes to Des Moines, here’s POLITICO’s Morning Score: your daily guide to the permanent campaign.

STAYING THE COURSE – ROMNEY BETS HIS TORTOISE WILL BEAT PERRY’S HARE:
Campaigning in New Hampshire yesterday, Mitt Romney was adamant that he is not going to adjust his campaign strategy because of Perry’s surge in the polls. The AP reported from Dover that the former Massachusetts governor continues to campaign like the frontrunner: “If you're running for president, your focus should be on the person who is president and his failures, and how you're going to make America better,” Romney told reporters in Claremont. About the only thing he changed this week, he said with a laugh, was his
shirt. He cut short a question about the Gallup poll. There are many polls, Romney said, although he conceded, 'Rick is a very effective candidate.'” http://yhoo.it/ocdN27

GOING ON OFFENSE – PERRY SLAMS ROMNEYCARE: "Mitt is finally recognizing that the Massachusetts health care plan that he passed is a huge problem for him," Perry told conservative radio host Laura Ingraham. "And yeah, it was not almost perfect. I truly believe that you have to have the free market in play with our health care. I think Obamcare, which was modeled after the Massachusetts plan, is an absolute debacle." The Austin American-Statesman notes in its write-up of Perry’s comments: “Under Perry's leadership, Texas has the highest rate of uninsured residents in the country.” http://bit.ly/r94FLC


SOUTH CAROLINA – ROMNEY PLANS SEPTEMBER VISIT: The campaign sent word through the press that sometime in September the candidate will visit South Carolina, not exactly a signal that they plan to aggressively play in the first-in-the-South contest. This comes on the heels of Romney declining Sen. Jim DeMint’s invitation to attend a Labor Day forum so that he could campaign in his must-win state of New Hampshire. The State in Columbia: “In Romney’s 2008 presidential run, he was endorsed by DeMint, a Greenville Republican. Despite the endorsement and spending millions in the Palmetto State, Romney finished fourth place in the state’s GOP primary.” http://bit.ly/o9cCn8

FLORIDA – ROMNEY LEADING IN SUNSHINE STATE POLL: A new Sachs/Mason-Dixon Florida Poll puts Romney up seven points (28-21) over Perry in the primary and eight points (51-43) over Obama in the general. Perry is tied (46-45) with Obama in a head-to-head matchup. Obama disapproval is 56 percent. [Speaking of Florida, Perry committed yesterday to the CNN-Tampa Tea Party Express debate on Sept. 12 at the state fairgrounds: http://thesent.nl/oBB6il].

PARLOR GAME – ADVICE FOR HOW ROMNEY SHOULD DEAL WITH PERRY: Yesterday we asked how Romney should respond to Perry's new status as the leader in the polls. We got tons of responses, and remarkably they split about evenly between those who think Romney should come out swinging and those who believe his campaign leadership should cross their fingers and hope Perry hangs himself. The biggest pack of responses, though, focused on the futility of the whole enterprise. Mainly Democrats, they argued that it is unlikely Romney ultimately wins the nomination, no matter what he does, because the party is just not in the mood to pick someone like him. Here are samples from each perspective:

Come out swinging:
- Ron Schneider, president of Premiere Political Communications in Austin: “Romney has a huge problem with Perry that will not get better by ignoring him...he will lose the nomination if he doesn't attempt to define Perry for Republican voters. Perry has a long record to run against and Romney better hop to it.”
- Jeremy Adler, University of Richmond '15: “I also think he needs to start playing in Iowa...New Hampshire should still be his main focus, but with Perry and Bachmann appealing to the same swath of voter there, Romney could get some decent support from mainstream Republicans.”
- A Republican operative: “His jobs address the day after Obama’s is a good start, but a national rollout and heavy hitting with it is needed to continue the momentum. Everyone knows who he is, but far fewer like him, and a plan for jobs should help that.”

Stay the course:
• An observer sympathetic to Romney: “Starting a knife fight now with Perry, who is particularly skilled at tearing down an opponent while he's got momentum, would probably be a disaster and might even rally the base against Romney – something he has avoided to date. They're going to have to wait until the press, with their help, softens him up a bit. Then, later down the road, with the establishment supporting him and hopefully an overwhelming financial advantage, Romney can try to take him down.”

• Bill Josephson of Andover, Mass.: “… Perry will make enough mistakes through brashness/cockiness where people will decide Romney is more presidential. There’s lots of voter anger everywhere. Hell, I’m angry as well due to the abysmal jobs market/economy. But in the end people will want a reasoned, intelligent, sunny side up (Reagan) [leader].”

It doesn’t matter:

• Kurt D. Witzel, a Republican State Committeeman from St. Louis: “I think he is a great guy with a great family and great skills and experience, but people have a hard time being passionate about the guy…. again, much like Bush 41 during his time in office. I do not know what Romney can do except try harder to be a ‘regular person’ who is passionate about something. Personally I think that if Perry does not shoot himself in the foot or something unexpected jumps out of his closet, he will be hard to beat.”

• Jeff Smith, assistant professor of politics at The New School of Management in New York City: “Culturally, ideologically, etc, Mitt Romney would be the perfect Republican candidate, if he could time-travel back to 1968. But not in 2012. In 2012, he's reduced to competing in only 1 of the first 3 big states, and essentially writing off the region of the country where his party is hegemonic. That said, Romney should do something.”

• Scott M. Ferson, president of The Liberty Square Group and a former press secretary to Ted Kennedy: “McCain didn’t have to survive this many opponents. Romney's in a steel cage primary death match with no partner against an unlimited number of bible wielding opponents. I doubt he successfully beats back all of them.”

ANOTHER VOICE – PEGGY NOONAN ON “PERRY’S POPPING-OFF PROBLEM”: The former Reagan speechwriter’s Wall Street Journal column today calls Perry sincere and consistent but makes clear that he is no Reagan. Peggy captures the sentiment many in the Northeast GOP establishment are feeling right now: “His primary flaw appears to be a chesty, quick-draw machismo that might be right for an angry base but wrong for an antsy country. Americans want a president who feels their anger without himself walking around enraged…In 2012, the Republican candidate will be called either mean or dumb, or both. Certainly, his politics will be called mean. And if the candidate is Rick Perry, people will look at him and think: Hmm, is there something to the charge? He should keep that in mind as he pops off.” The full column is behind the WSJ pay wall: http://on.wsj.com/n6roul

WHATEVER HAPPED TO BACHMANN – STAYING THE COURSE, GAMBLING ON A PERRY STUMBLE: Perry has taken the wind out of Michele Bachmann’s sails, and she has received almost no attention the last 10 days. “But for now, the Minnesota congresswoman is making no radical strategic changes to catch up with the high-flying Perry,” Reuters reports. “Bachmann has avoided directly criticizing or challenging Perry, choosing instead to keep her focus on early voting states, particularly Iowa and South Carolina, and depicting herself as the most solid social conservative in the race.” Spokeswoman Alice Stewart tells the reporter: “We will execute our game plan and worry about the ultimate polls, winning the caucuses and primaries.” Meanwhile, Bachmann appeared at a town hall hosted by freshman Rep. Tim Scott, the tea party favorite, in North Charleston yesterday. Nikki Haley made a dramatic entrance as “an undecided voter” and asked Bachmann about the NLRB. The live story from the SC town hall: http://politi.co/qtEVLt. The broader strategy story: http://reut.rs/nAJOlw.
MORE STRAIGHT TALK – HUNTSMAN PREVIEWS TAX REFORM PLAN: Calling for the outright elimination of the mortgage interest deduction might be as ballsy a move as calling the GOP anti-science. “In an on-the-record conversation at a Bloomberg View editorial meeting, the former Utah governor and ambassador to China said that in his effort to reform the tax code and reduce the deficit he would be willing to: 1.) take away the deduction for interest on home mortgages; 2.) treat capital gains as regular income; 3.) do the same with carried interest (that is, the profit share paid to hedge-fund managers and private-equity folks).” Per Bloomberg, Huntsman plans to roll out a detailed economic policy vision soon: http://bloomberg.com/p/WnBV9.

Without calling for higher taxes on the rich, Huntsman said in a PBS “NewsHour” interview that he would not hesitate to call on the rich to sacrifice. http://to.pbs.org/mSDMZd

HUNTSMAN’S PURPLE TIE – WHAT IT SAYS: It feels like Huntsman wears a purple tie every time he does a TV hit these days, just as Romney continues to go tieless. Purple is not a color you see that often on politicians so your Morning Score correspondent was struck to see him in purple on ABC’s “This Week.” CNN’s Piers Morgan and then PBS “News Hour” last night. We can guess at his image consultant’s pitch: purple sets you apart from the pack while looking post-partisan [think purple states] and tolerant [it is the primary color of the gay pride movement]. But, to us, purple connotes royalty and privilege.

OCTOBER 31 – THE DROP-DEAD DEADLINE TO GET IN THE RACE: Palin can only play the waiting game so long. Looming legal deadlines will force her to make up her mind if she wants to actually appear on the ballot in the primaries that allot delegates. October 31 is the last day to submit a candidate’s name for inclusion on the Florida primary ballot. POLITICO: “By the next day, candidates have to file for the South Carolina primary ballot — along with a $25,000 fee. And the deadlines for other states come fast and furious after that. It’s $1,000 by Nov. 18 in New Hampshire. On Dec. 5, thousands of signed petitions are due in Illinois.” Don’t forget, though, that Bill Clinton campaign didn’t get started until October 1991. http://politico.com/0oyQf

REALITY CHECK – PALIN LOSING HER PULL OVER GOP VOTERS: A Pew poll out Thursday showed 41 percent of Republicans saying there’s “no chance” they would ever vote for Sarah Palin. A Gallup poll out Wednesday showed Palin tied for third with Ron Paul at 11 percent nationally if she got in. And, in Iowa, a PPP poll puts her at fifth – behind Perry by 11 points. Just because the former Alaska government would shake up the race doesn’t mean she has a clear path to the nomination. http://politico.com/mWLSlr

WHAT THE CANDIDATES ARE UP TO TODAY: Michele Bachmann visits Angie’s Sub Shop in Jacksonville Beach, Fla., at 3:30 p.m. Romney attends a fundraiser at a house in Lancaster, N.H. Ron Paul attends a breakfast at Café Espresso in Portsmouth at 8 a.m. and speaks to the sheriff’s association at a country club in Gilford at 2:30 p.m. Rick Santorum attends a breakfast meet-and-greet in Greenville, S.C. at 8:30 a.m. and an afternoon meet-and-greet in Spartanburg. Thad McCotter speaks to the Scott County Lincoln Club in Davenport at noon before a 2:30 meet-and-greet in Cedar Rapids. Gary Johnson speaks to the Rotary Club in Salem, N.H.

SNEAK PEEK – IOWA DEMS WELCOME 4 REPUBLICANS TO DES MOINES: In advance of a Republican picnic Saturday—featuring Perry, Ron Paul, Thad McCotter and George Pataki (at least he is on the schedule—unclear if he still goes)—the Iowa Democratic Party is releasing a new 38-second web video this morning that paints them as supporting policies which don’t pass the smell test. “Something smells rotten and it isn’t the egg salad,” the un-narrated cartoon video says, with messages displayed on the screen. “Tea Party Republicans: Serving up the same failed economic policies...again.” http://bit.ly/r0MLvL.

“NEVER QUIT” – NEW HAMPSHIRE GOP CHAIR REMAINS DEFIANT: “State Republican Party chairman Jack Kimball said Thursday he will not resign his post, despite pressure from a growing list of state party officials,” the Union Leader reports. “Noting his Tea Party leanings, he said, ‘I represent a movement – a political movement – much larger than myself.’ He mentioned as an aside that he owns a boat named ‘Never
Quit. Kimball warned of a destructive fissure in the Republican Party if he is forced out.” The press conference means these fireworks will last at least through Sept. 1, when the state party executive committee votes on whether to remove him. He did say yesterday that he will accept the committee’s decision, but it has been reported that there are already enough votes to expel the tea party activist from the chairmanship.

http://bit.ly/qxIkM0

WEST VIRGINIA GOVERNOR – TOMBLIN UP 14 POINTS: Democratic Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin leads by 14 points (47-33) over Republican Bill Maloney in a poll commissioned by the Democratic Governors Association and conducted by the Mellman Group. Ahead of the Oct. 4 special, 20 percent remain undecided and the Dem is picking up about one-third of GOP voters. http://politi.co/p0aI_gG

WHAT THEY’RE BUZZING ABOUT IN IOWA – “DUNKIN’ DONUTS WILL EXPAND INTO DES MOINES, SIOUX CITY MARKETS”: “The company is planning to add about 20 locations in the Des Moines market, which covers a 35-county area that runs from Minnesota to Missouri and spans about one-third of the state,” the Register reports. “Five locations will go into the Sioux City market and 12 are planned for the Cedar Rapids market.” http://bit.ly/ojmFcp

CODA – QUOTE OF THE DAY: “I’m not even sure I know where it is.” – Rick Perry, asked by conservative radio host Laura Ingraham to promise that he will not vacation at Martha’s Vineyard. http://bit.ly/nUONmS