

Consumers Expected To Keep Spending

WASHINGTON (AP) — Economists have advice for anyone worried that consumers are too fearful to keep spending: Look at what they're doing, not what they're saying.

A survey of consumer confidence shows that Americans were spooked early this month by the standoff over the debt ceiling, a downgrade of U.S. long-term debt and a swoon in stock prices. But maybe only temporarily.

If stock prices stay steady, consumers will likely keep spending, and the economy should improve modestly in the months ahead, economists say. Most downplayed the results of a Conference Board survey released Tuesday that showed consumers were in a gloomy mood in early August.

"They tend to register their anxiety about the future in these surveys ... without actually curtailing their spending," said Chris Rupkey, chief financial economist at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ.

Russia's Rosneft Teams Up With Exxon Mobil

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's state-owned Rosneft teamed up with U.S. company Exxon Mobil on Tuesday in a multibillion deal to develop offshore oil fields in the Russian Arctic — one of the last regions with immense and untapped hydrocarbon deposits — in return for access to resources in the Gulf of Mexico.

Because Rosneft does not have its own technology for deep sea drilling, it was looking for partners to develop the offshore projects in the Arctic and other regions of Russia. A deal it was pursuing with Britain's BP earlier this year fell through, leaving the path open for Exxon Mobil.

The oil giant already has experience drilling in the Arctic regions of Canada.

Rosneft spokesman Rustam Kazharov told The Associated Press that the "strategic partnership" with Exxon was signed in the presence of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. He was unable to name the plots that Rosneft will work on in the Gulf of Mexico and Texas.

Exxon Mobil said in a statement that Tuesday's agreement includes \$3.2 billion to be spent on exploring three giant undeveloped oil and gas fields in the Kara Sea — between the northeastern corner of continental Russia and the Arctic archipelago of Novaya Zemlya — in the Arctic as well as a sector in the Black Sea.

Petraeus Hangs Up His Military Uniform

WASHINGTON (AP) — David Petraeus, America's best-known general and the wartime model of a soldier-scholar-statesman, is retiring as arguably the most consequential Army leader of his generation.

Petraeus is bidding an official farewell to the Army on Wednesday and then opening a new chapter as director of the CIA, where he will try to keep up the pressure on al-Qaida and other terrorist groups plotting attacks from havens in Pakistan and beyond. He is to be sworn in as the nation's spy chief on Sept. 6, less than one week before the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

After a series of six command assignments as a general officer, including three in Iraq, many expected Petraeus would ascend to the military's top post, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Instead, President Barack Obama asked him to take over at CIA as part of a major shuffle of top national security officials that included Leon Panetta moving from CIA director to succeed the retiring Robert Gates as secretary of defense.

ATF Chief, U.S. Attorney Replaced

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department replaced three officials Tuesday who played critical roles in a flawed law enforcement operation aimed at major gun-trafficking networks on the Southwest border.

The department announced that the acting director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the U.S. attorney in Arizona had resigned and an administration official said a prosecutor who worked on the operation was reassigned to civil cases.

The operation, known as Fast and Furious, was designed to track small-time gun buyers at several Phoenix-area gun shops up the chain to make cases against major weapons traffickers. It was a response to longstanding criticism of ATF for concentrating on small-time gun violations and failing to attack the kingpins of weapons trafficking.

A congressional investigation of the program has turned up evidence that ATF lost track of many of the more than 2,000 guns linked to the operation. The Justice Department inspector general also is looking into the operation at the request of Attorney General Eric Holder.

Daryl Hannah Arrested In Oil Pipeline Protest

WASHINGTON (AP) — Actress Daryl Hannah has been arrested in front of the White House along with other environmental protesters who oppose a planned oil pipeline from Canada to the U.S. Gulf Coast.

The sit-in Tuesday involved dozens protesting the Keystone XL pipeline. It would go through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas to refineries in Houston and Port Arthur, Texas.

Before she was arrested, Hannah told The Associated Press the protesters want to be free from dependence on fossil fuels. The group calls for clean energy investments instead. Hannah says they hope President Barack Obama will not bow to oil lobbyists.

Hannah sat down on the sidewalk near the White House and refused orders from U.S. Park Police to move.

She has been arrested in the past for environmental causes.

Supplies Rushed To Towns Cut Off By Irene

BY JOHN CURRAN
Associated Press

NEWFANE, Vt. — National Guard helicopters rushed food and water Tuesday to a dozen cut-off Vermont towns after the rainy remnants of Hurricane Irene washed out roads and bridges in a deluge that took many people in the landlocked New England state by surprise.

"As soon as we can get help, we need help," Liam McKinley said by cellphone from a mountain above flood-stricken Rochester, Vt.

Up to 11 inches of rain from the weekend storm turned placid streams into churning, brown torrents that knocked homes off their foundations, flattened trees and took giant bites out of the asphalt across the countryside. At least three people died in Vermont.

"I think that people are still a little shell-shocked right now. There's just a lot of disbelief on people's faces. It came through so quickly, and there's so much damage," Gail Devine, director of the Woodstock Recreation Center, said as volunteers moved furniture out of the flooded basement and shoveled out thick mud that filled the center's two swimming pools.

As crews raced to repair the roads, the National Guard began flying in supplies to the towns of Cavendish, Granville, Hancock, Killington-Mendon, Marlboro, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Rochester, Stockbridge, Stratford, Stratton and Wardsboro. The Guard also used heavy-duty vehicles to bring relief to flood-stricken communities still reachable by road.

The cut-off towns ranged in population from under 200 (Stratton) to nearly 1,400 (Cavendish).

"If it's a life-and-death situation, where someone needs to be Medevac-ed or taken to a hospital, we would get a helicopter there to airlift them out, if we could get close to them. A lot of these areas are mountainous areas where there may not be a place to land," said Mark



CLOE POISSON/HARTFORD COURANT/MCT
Shayna Weinstein, left, gets a hug from her dad, Andy Weinstein, as they prepare to leave what's left of their summer cottage (at left), August 29, 2011, on Cossey Beach in East Haven, Connecticut, that was destroyed by Tropical Storm Irene on Sunday. The storm, which completely flattened the house, struck on Shayna's 16th birthday. "It's the worst birthday I've ever had," she said.

Bosma, a spokesman for Vermont Emergency Management.

There were no immediate reports of anyone in dire condition being rescued by helicopter.

But it took a relay operation involving two ambulances and an all-terrain vehicle to take a Killington woman in respiratory distress to a hospital in Rutland, about 13 miles away, after floodwaters severed the road between the two communities, Rutland Regional Medical Center President Tom Hubner said. The patient, whose name was not released, was doing fine,

he said.

In Rochester, where telephones were out and damage was severe, people could be seen from helicopters standing in line outside a grocery store. McKinley said the town's restaurants and a supermarket were giving food away rather than let it spoil, and townspeople were helping each other.

"We've been fine so far. The worst part is not being able to communicate with the rest of the state and know when people are coming in," he said.

Libyan Rebels Say They're Closing In On Gadhafi

BY PAUL SCHEMM
AND KARIN LAUB
Associated Press

HEISHA, Libya — Libyan rebels say they're closing in on Moammar Gadhafi and issued an ultimatum Tuesday to regime loyalists in the fugitive dictator's hometown of Sirte, his main remaining bastion: surrender this weekend or face an attack.

"We have a good idea where he is," a top rebel leader said.

The rebels, tightening their grip on Libya after a military blitz, also demanded that Algeria return Gadhafi's wife and three of his children who fled there Monday. Granting asylum to his family, including daughter Aisha who gave birth in Algeria on Tuesday, was an "enemy act," said Ahmed al-Darrad, the rebels' interior minister.

Rebel leaders insisted they are slowly restoring order in the war-scarred capital of Tripoli after a week of fighting, including deploying police and collecting garbage. Reporters touring Tripoli still saw chaotic scenes, including desperate motorists stealing fuel from a gas station.

In the capital's Souk al Jumma neighborhood, about 200 people pounded on the doors of a bank, demanding that it open. Civil servants said they were told they would receive a 250-dinar (about \$200) advance on their salaries for the three-day Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, which starts Wednesday in Libya.

Rebel fighters were converging on the heavily militarized town of Sirte, some 250 miles (400 kilome-

"Sometimes to avoid bloodshed you must shed blood, and the faster we do this, the less blood we will shed."

ALI TARHOUNI

ters) east of Tripoli.

The rebels gave pro-Gadhafi forces there a deadline of Saturday — the day after the end of the Muslim holiday — to complete negotiations and surrender. After that, the rebels will "act decisively and militarily," said Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, the head of the rebels' National Transitional Council.

His deputy, Ali Tarhouni, said in Tripoli that "sometimes to avoid bloodshed you must shed blood, and the faster we do this, the less blood we will shed."

In an overnight phone call to AP headquarters in New York, Gadhafi's chief spokesman, Moussa Ibrahim said the rebels' ultimatum would be rejected.

"No dignified honorable nation would accept an ultimatum from armed gangs," he said. Ibrahim reiterated Gadhafi's offer to send his son al-Saadi to negotiate with rebels and form a transitional government.

The spokesman also claimed that a Tuesday afternoon missile attack on the regime stronghold of Sirte had killed 1,000 people and left scores more injured during public prayers marking Eid. He said 12 missiles were fired, possibly from airplanes seen circling overhead.

Obama Looks To Spur Private Sector Hiring

BY JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Limited in his ability to create jobs through direct spending, President Barack Obama is considering measures to encourage the private sector to free up its cash reserves and hire more workers to ease the nation's unemployment crush.

As Obama prepares to unveil a new jobs agenda next week, his aides are reviewing options that would provide tax incentives to employers who expand their payrolls.

That approach is a more indirect effort to spur the economy and relies less on government intervention and massive public works projects.

Among the proposals circulating in the White House is a \$33 billion tax credit that Obama first proposed early last year but that Congress whittled into a smaller one-year package.

Under one version of the plan, employers would receive a tax credit of up to \$5,000, subtracted from their share of federal payroll taxes, for every net new hire. White House officials caution that the overall jobs plan is still subject to change.

The tax credit, however, is a relatively untested idea. Congress passed a version in March 2010, known as the HIRE Act, which provided \$13 billion in tax credits to qualified employers who hired new workers. But there is no government data to



Obama

track its success.

"The HIRE Act was very small," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics and an occasional adviser to Democrats and Republicans.

"It really didn't add to payrolls."

"It would have to be bigger," he added. "Something more along the lines that the Obama administration proposed in 2010."

While promising a major jobs package, Obama is hamstrung by budget cuts and a tight debt ceiling that he had a hand in negotiating.

As a result, economists predict that while the president's initiatives could eliminate some drag on the economy and maintain the status quo, they won't be enough to propel it to new heights.

Still, Obama on Wednesday predicted his plan could push the economy to grow 1 percent to 1.5 percent faster.

"That could mean half a million to a million additional jobs," he said Tuesday in an interview with radio talk show host Tom Joyner.

Obama's jobs package is designed to supplement other proposals already in the pipeline, including free trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama and the renewal of a highway construction bill.

OBITUARIES

Harlen Voigt

AVON — Services for Harlen A. "Bud" Voigt, 86 of Avon, will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday, September 1, 2011, at the Danzig Baptist Church, rural Avon. Burial will be in the church cemetery with military honors.

Visitation will be at the church Wednesday from 5 to 9 p.m., with the family present from 7 to 9 and a time of sharing.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Harlen A. "Bud" Voigt, son of Ralph and Katie (Fisher) Voigt, was born May 11, 1925 on a farm near Avon, SD. He died Monday, August 29, 2011 at the Good Samaritan Society in Tyndall. Bud attained the age of 86 years,



Voigt

three months and 19 days.

Bud attended James Country School and graduated from Avon High School in 1945. He served in the United States Army during and after World War II from April 5, 1945 to December 6, 1946 in Japan.

Bud married Marian Siewert on May 25, 1950 at her parents' home in rural Avon. Nine children were blessed to their union. Bud was a farmer and also was the business manager of the Avon Meadow View Manor for 30 years. He was a member of the Avon School Board for 12 years and also a member of the Arthur Wissman American Legion Post #150 in Avon.

Bud was a faithful member of the Danzig Baptist Church where he served as Sunday School Superintendent, teacher and deacon. He always had a sense of humor and a positive attitude. Bud accepted Christ as his Lord

and Savior at age nine and studied the scriptures consistently. He lived out what he believed and was a strong man of faith. Bud loved his family and it was important to him that they follow Christ.

Thankful for having shared his life are his wife Marian of Avon; nine children: Dave and Jan of Avon, Ramona Bloodgood and Dan of Mitchell, Barb Van Gerpen and Lorne, June Finck and Jerry, Laurie Jurens and Loren, all of Avon, Tom and Jane of Brandon Valley, Tim and Jennifer of Gregory, Don and Robin of Moorcraft, WY, and Christy Becker and Les of White Bluff, TN; 32 grandchildren; 24 great grandchildren; two sisters: Irene Eben and husband Andy of Avon and Ruth Krull of Sibley, IA; sister-in-law Vernice Voigt of Colum-

bus, NE; brother and sister-in-law Dwane and Betty Siewert of Avon; and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Bud was preceded in death by his parents; a brother Edwin; a sister Evelyn Rueb and husband Rayburn; parents-in-law, Gus and Linda Siewert, and brothers-in-law: Jake Krull and Marv Siewert.

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Viola Konstanz

VERMILLION — Viola Mabel Konstanz, 91, of Vermillion died Saturday, Aug. 27, 2011, at Centerville Good Samaritan Center.

A memorial service is at 7 p.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church, Vermillion. Burial of ashes will be in Bluff View Cemetery at a later date.

Eugene Kozel

AVON — Eugene J. Kozel, 89 of Avon died Monday, Aug. 29, 2011, at the Good Samaritan Society, Wagner.

His funeral service is at 10:30 a.m. Friday at First Baptist Church, Avon, with burial in the Trinity Presbyterian Cemetery,

rural Avon.

Visitation is 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the church with the family present.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

www.yankton.net

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www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

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Head 2 Heels Ribbon Cutting

The Yankton Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Committee hosted a ribbon cutting for Head 2 Heels, 108 W 3rd St. Ivadell Marquardt and Susie Wann are the owners of this unique boutique. They specialize in unique & fun styles for all ages & sizes. Their hours are M-F 10-6 p.m. and Saturdays 10-4 p.m. Go to their website at www.head2heels.net or call (605)665-2599

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