

Poll:

Romney Closes In On Obama

BY JIM KUHNHENN AND JENNIFER AGIESTA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fighting a swell of economic anxiety, President Barack Obama has lost much of the narrow lead he held just a month ago over Mitt Romney and the two now are locked in a virtually even race for the White House, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll. The survey also found a majority of Americans disapproving of how the Democratic president is handling a national economy that fewer people think is improving.

Less than five months before the election, 47 percent say they will vote for the president and 44 percent for Romney, a difference that is not statistically significant. The poll also shows that Romney has recovered from a bruising Republican primary, with more of his supporters saying they are certain to vote for him now.

The economy remains Obama's top liability. Only 3 out of 10 adults say the country is headed in the right direction and 55 percent disapprove of his handling of the economy, the highest level detected in AP-GfK polls this year.

"I'm not going to vote for Obama," said Raymond Back, a 60-year-old manufacturing plant manager from North Olmsted, Ohio, one of the most competitive states in this election. "It's just the wrong thing to do. I don't know what Romney is going to do, but this isn't the right way."

Yet, in a measure of Romney's own vulnerabilities, even some voters who say they support Romney believe the president will still be re-elected. Of all adults polled, 56 percent believe Obama will win a second term. And despite three months of declining job creation that have left the public increasingly glum, Romney has not managed to seize the economic issue from the president, with registered voters split virtually evenly on whether Romney or Obama would do a better job improving it.

The polling numbers come as no surprise to either camp. Both Romney and Obama advisers have anticipated a close contest that will be driven largely by economic conditions. The



GOP presidential contender Mitt Romney greets attendees of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials conference, Thursday, June 21, 2012, at the Contemporary Resort at Walt Disney World, in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

JOE BURBANK/ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT

Obama camp is busy trying to define Romney, hoping it is reaching more independents like Doss Comer, 58, of Jacksonville, N.C., who said he would vote for Obama again, despite the lagging economy.

"I think we are on the wrong track," he said. "We're not getting anywhere. We're not growing. The unemployment rate just spiked up again." But, he added: "I don't trust Romney because of what he's doing. He's telling his business experience, that he was an investor in business. ... I don't think he has the right background any more than Obama."

With his Republican nomination now ensured, Romney has succeeded in unifying the party behind him and in maintaining a singular focus on making the election a referendum on Obama's handling of the economy. Over time, polls that measure Obama's standing have re-

flected fluctuations in the economy, which has shown both strength and weakness since it began to recover from the recent recession. The new survey illustrates how an ideologically divided country and a stumbling recovery have driven the two men into a tight match.

The poll results among voters who live in states decided by less than 10 percentage points in 2008 underscore Obama's challenge. Among those voters in the new poll, Romney has an advantage, a shift from last month when Obama held that edge.

Still, Obama's overall 49 percent approval rating is not unlike the approval ratings George W. Bush faced in June 2004 during his re-election campaign, when he and his Democratic challenger, John Kerry, were also locked in a dead heat.

Penn State Child Sex Abuse Case Goes To Jury

BY MARK SCOLFORO

AND GENARO C. ARMAS

Associated Press

BELLEFONTE, Pa. — Jerry Sandusky was either a "predatory pedophile" who lured young boys to Penn State with gifts and access to big-time football, or a victim of now-grown men who lied to get a payout, attorneys argued Thursday as the former coach's child sex abuse case went to a jury.

As jurors deliberated into the evening, one of Sandusky's adopted sons came forward for the first time to say that his father had abused him. Matt Sandusky, 33, was prepared to testify for prosecutors at the trial, his attorneys said in a statement. The statement didn't specify what the alleged abuse was.

The elder Sandusky, who faces life in prison if convicted of 48 counts of abuse of 10 boys over 15 years, was smiling and chuck-

ling to himself as prosecutors wrapped up closing arguments. His wife, Dottie, leaned forward in her seat with a concerned look, resting her chin in her hands.

The former assistant football coach was arrested last November in a scandal that led to the firing of beloved head coach Joe Paterno, who died of cancer in January, and the departure of the university's president.

Prosecutors said Sandusky was "a serial, predatory pedophile" who used gifts and the pageantry of Penn State's vaunted football program to attract and abuse vulnerable boys who came from troubled homes.

"What you should do is come out and say to the defendant that he molested and abused and give them back their souls," Senior Deputy Attorney General Joseph McGettigan III told jurors. "I give them to you. Acknowledge and

give them justice."

During his closing argument, McGettigan put up smiling pictures of eight accusers when they were children; all testified at trial that Sandusky molested them.

Standing behind Sandusky, McGettigan implored the jury to convict him.

"He molested and abused and hurt these children horribly," McGettigan said. "He knows he did it, and you know he did it. Find him guilty of everything."

Defense attorney Joseph Amendola argued that the 68-year-old Sandusky was targeted by investigators who coached accusers into making false claims about a generous man whose charity gave them much-needed love.

"They went after him, and I submit to you they were going to get him hell or high water, even if they had to coach witnesses,"

Amendola said in a sometimes angry closing argument.

The closing arguments came after seven days of testimony, some of it graphically describing alleged abuse suffered at the hands of Sandusky, including touching in showers, fondling and in some cases forced oral or anal sex. One alleged victim — a foster child at the time — testified that Sandusky threatened him, telling him he would never see his family again if he disclosed the assaults. Prosecutors said Sandusky met his victims through The Second Mile, a charity he founded for at-risk youth.

Eight young men testified that they were abused by Sandusky, and jurors also heard about two other alleged victims through other witnesses, including another former coach.

Sandusky has repeatedly denied the allegations, but he didn't testify during the trial.

OBITUARIES

Blossom Mayer

Blossom McShannon Mayer, age 90 of Yankton, SD died on Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at the Yankton Care Center in Yankton, SD.

Memorial services will be on Saturday, June 23, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the Wintz Funeral Home in Crofton with Pastor Les Parmenter officiating. Inurnment will be at the Bloomfield Cemetery in Bloomfield, NE. Visitation will be on Friday from 6-8:00 p.m. at the Wintz Funeral Home in Crofton.

Blossom Marie was born on April 21, 1922 in Crofton, Nebraska to Walter and Gale (Stocking) Hennings. She was the second oldest of five daughters. Her family moved to Patricia, South Dakota when she was a young child. Blossom had fond memories of living in a one room sod house, searching for small ruby pebbles on



Mayer

1940. To this union three daughters and one son were born: Phyllis, Joyce, Marcia and Mark.

Blossom and Norman farmed in the Crofton-Bloomfield area for 34 years until Norman passed away in 1975. Blossom married Alfred (Tuck) Engstedt in 1977 and worked with him in his Crofton grocery store. Alfred died in 1984. In 1989 she married Dwight (Biz) Rissler. They enjoyed trips to Washington DC and wintered in Mission, Texas for several years.

Ruby Hill and carrying water from the creek. Her family moved back to Crofton, Nebraska where Blossom graduated from Crofton High School in 1940.

Blossom married Norman McShannon on August 14,

Biz died in 1995. Blossom then married Vern Mayer in 2000. They enjoyed playing cards, going out for Friday fish fries and raising Jack Russell Terriers.

Blossom was active in the Crofton U.C.C. Congregational Church, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Crofton Senior Center and the NFO Farm Organization. In her senior years she enjoyed caring for her parakeets and fish aquarium, wearing her beautiful jewelry, playing cards with her friends at Autumn Winds, playing bingo at the Yankton Care Center and loving her family. She enjoyed her unusual name Blossom and the comments she received from others.

She leaves to mourn her four children and their spouses, Phyllis (Alan) Dingman of Yankton, SD; Joyce (Chuck) Eckhardt of Crofton, NE; Mark (Shelley) McShannon of McKenzie Bridge, OR;

Criswell Funeral Home, Ada, is in charge of arrangements.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
June 22, 2012

Nancy Burgess

Nancy Burgess, 80, of Yankton died Thursday, June 21, 2012, at the Avera Yankton Care Center, Yankton.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 3 p.m. Monday at St. Benedict Catholic Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Ken Lulf officiating. Burial will be in the Sacred Heart Cemetery, Yankton.

Marcia (David) Jones of Milford, NE; 9 grandchildren; 8 great grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 2 step-great grandchildren and a sister Peggy Carrico of Conroe, TX.

Blossom was preceded in death by her parents, husbands; three sisters Opal Shalberg, Violet Meyer, Jean Swensen; infant brother Wallace Dale; son-in-law Ray Pool; and one step-great grandson Michael Stevens.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
June 22, 2012

WINTZ
FUNERAL HOME, INC.
Hartington * Coleridge * Crofton
203 W. Franklin, PO Box 505
Hartington, Nebraska 68739

Visitations begin at 4 p.m. Sunday at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a Scripture service at 7 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Delphine Millette

VERMILLION — Delphine "Del" Millette, 94, of Vermillion died Wednesday, June 20, 2012, at Sanford Vermillion Hospital.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion.

Pile-Up Of Economic News Sends Stocks Lower

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors yanked money out of stocks Thursday after new reports from the U.S. and China pointed to a sharp slowdown in manufacturing.

The Dow Jones industrial plunged 251 points, the second-biggest drop this year.

Losses in energy and materials companies led a widespread rout on the stock market. The Dow started sinking after 10 a.m., when the Philadelphia branch of the Federal Reserve reported a sharp contraction in manufacturing in the Northeast. The losses accelerated throughout the day.

"The news has been horrible out there," said Uri Landesman, president of Platinum Partners. "The U.S. economy is slowing down. And China's growth is definitely under question."

The bad news kept piling up as the day went on. Mining and other companies that made basic materials fell hard after prices for commodities such as copper and oil dropped. Goldman Sachs analysts advised their clients to bet that stocks would fall, and speculation swirled that Moody's would cut the credit ratings of 17 banks.

Court Sidesteps Issue Of Broadcast Indecency

WASHINGTON (AP) — Broadcasters anticipating a major constitutional ruling on the government's authority to regulate what can be shown and said on the airwaves instead won only the smallest of Supreme Court victories Thursday.

The justices unanimously threw out fines and other penalties against Fox and ABC television stations that violated the Federal Communications Commission policy regulating curse words and nudity on television airwaves.

Forgoing a broader constitutional ruling, however, the court concluded only that broadcasters could not have known in advance that obscenities uttered during awards show programs on Fox stations and a brief display of nudity on an episode of ABC's "NYPD Blue" could give rise to penalties. ABC and 45 affiliates had been hit with proposed fines totaling nearly \$1.24 million.

Broadcasters had argued that the revolution in technology that has brought the Internet, satellite television and cable has made the rules themselves obsolete. The regulations apply only to broadcast channels.

The justices said the FCC is free to revise its indecency policy, which is intended to keep the airwaves free of objectionable material during the hours when children are likely to be watching.

Video Shows Zimmerman's Re-Enactment

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — George Zimmerman appears believable when he re-enacts for police what he says led to the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin, but some of his statements are questionable, lawyers who reviewed the footage said Thursday.

Even a detective who interrogated the neighborhood watch leader pointed out inconsistencies in his story, particularly Zimmerman's claim that Martin punched him and slammed his head onto the ground when the teenager had no prior history of violence.

The video and audio tapes released by Zimmerman's attorney give Zimmerman's most detailed account yet of what led to the Feb. 26 shooting, but it still leaves unanswered whether the shooting was justified.

The evidence was released almost a week before Zimmerman's second bond hearing on a second-degree murder charge, and on the heels of unflattering telephone calls capturing Zimmerman and his wife talking in code about using money collected for a defense fund to pay credit cards.

Syrian Pilot Lands Fighter Jet In Jordan

BEIRUT (AP) — A Syrian fighter pilot on a training mission flew his MiG-21 warplane to neighboring Jordan, where he was given asylum Thursday in a defection from the fiercely loyal air force that signals some of the most ironclad allegiances in Damascus could be fraying. Syria immediately denounced the pilot as a traitor.

The brazen move was a clear triumph for the rebels fighting to overthrow President Bashar Assad and was the first defection by an air force officer with his plane since the uprising began in March 2011.

The pilot, identified as Col. Hassan Hammadeh, removed his air force tag and knelt on the tarmac in prayer after landing at King Hussein Air Base in Mafrqa, Jordan, 45 miles (70 kilometers) north of Amman, a Jordanian security official said.

Hammadeh will be allowed to stay in Jordan on "humanitarian grounds," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

LaVonne Polzien

SIOUX FALLS — LaVonne K. Polzien, 72, died June 21, 2012 at the Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, SD.

A memorial service will be 2:00 p.m. Saturday, June 23, 2012 at Miller Funeral Home, 507 S. Main Ave., Sioux Falls.

LaVonne Kay Poulsen, the daughter of Peter and Etta (Millard) Poulsen was born September 25, 1939 in Yankton, SD. She graduated from Yankton High School in 1957 and went on to attend Augustana College in Sioux Falls.

On September 8, 1962, LaVonne was united in marriage with William "Bill" Polzien at Zion Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. LaVonne worked as a secretary for the National Bank of South



Polzien

Dakota (now U.S. Bank). She was then employed for over 30 years as a legal secretary for the Daventport Law Firm before her retirement.

LaVonne was a member of Hope Lutheran Church and a past member of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. She enjoyed playing Mah-Jong, but especially loved boating and camping at Lewis and Clark Lake in Yankton, SD.

LaVonne is survived by her husband, Bill Polzien of Sioux Falls; a son, Tom (Judi) Polzien of Sioux Falls; a daughter, Susan Warwick of Omaha, NE; four grandchildren, Alicia, Ashley, Amber (fiancé: Jesse), and Andrew (significant other: Nichole); one great-grandson, Braiden; and a sister, Ginette (Bill) Grosz of Peoria, AZ. She was preceded in death by her parents, and a sister, Maxine Poulsen.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
June 22, 2012

Audrey Mobley

ADA, Okla. — Audrey Mobley, 79, of Ada, Okla., died Tuesday, June 19, 2012, at her home. No services are planned at this time.

She was born October 5, 1932 in Wagner, South Dakota to Everette Provost and Evelyn LeClaire Provost. She came to this area fifteen years ago from California.

She married Kenneth Mobley in Livermore, California. Mrs. Mobley was a tax preparer.

Survivors include her husband Kenneth Mobley, eight children; Kathy Ellis, Raymond Stevens,

Karen Dunn, Robert Mobley, William Mobley, Frank Mobley, John Mobley and Maryanne Mobley, eight grandchildren; Anna Kussmaul, Michael Bauer, Danielle Paulsen, Autumn Dunn, Curtis Dunn, Linda Dunn, Leslie Dunn and Nicole Stevens, and eight great-grandchildren.

The family says those who wish may make memorials to: American Cancer Society, P. O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718.

Obituaries may be viewed and online condolences sent to criswellfh.com.

Thank You

I want to thank all my dear friends and relatives for all the cards and best wishes, and coming to my 85th birthday party. It was great and so much fun getting so many together.

I want to especially thank Morey and my family—Steve and Yavonne Slowey, Tim and Dawn Slowey and Patrick and Camille Slowey for putting all of this together.

Kathleen Slowey Ekeren

IN REMEMBRANCE

Jeffrey Leo Potts

10:30 AM, Friday

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Fordyce

WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME
and Cremation Service, Inc.
605-665-3644



WINTZ
FUNERAL HOME INC.
Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton
402-254-6547

www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIAL!
4:00 to 8:00 pm
Fire-Grilled One Topping Tuscano Pizza
Add a 2 Ltr of Coke, Diet Coke or Sprite for \$1.00
\$5.00
Tuscano Pizza grilled on the sidewalk in front of the store every Friday thru Summer. Weather permitting.
HyVee EMPLOYEE OWNED
2100 Broadway, Yankton