

Residents Return Home To See Sandy Damage

POINT PLEASANT BEACH, N.J. (AP) — Bill Goldberg's first reaction upon entering his flood-damaged home in this popular Jersey Shore resort community was unprintable.

His second was that life as he knew it had just been turned upside down — along with his refrigerator, freezer, and kitchen and dining room furniture.

"Now it's a matter of figuring out whether I have anything left," he said Thursday, as he scraped a thick layer of mud from his home.

Similar scenes were playing out up and down the Jersey Shore and along New York's beachfront communities as residents were allowed back into their neighborhoods for the first time since Hurricane Sandy hit Monday night. Some were relieved to find only minor damage; others were wiped out.

"A lot of tears are being shed today," said Dennis Cucci, whose home near the ocean in Point Pleasant Beach sustained heavy damage. "It's absolutely mind-boggling."

Fear And Frustration Mount In NYC

NEW YORK (AP) — Frustration — and in some cases fear — mounted in New York City on Thursday, three days after Superstorm Sandy. Traffic backed up for miles at bridges, large crowds waited impatiently for buses into Manhattan, and tempers flared in gas lines.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the city would send bottled water and ready-to-eat meals into the hardest-hit neighborhoods through the weekend, but some New Yorkers grew dispirited after days without power, water and heat and decided to get out.

"It's dirty, and it's getting a little crazy down there," said Michael Tomeo, who boarded a bus to Philadelphia with his 4-year-old son. "It just feels like you wouldn't want to be out at night. Everything's pitch dark. I'm tired of it, big-time."

Rima Finzi-Strauss decided to take bus to Washington. When the power went out Monday night in her apartment building on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, it also disabled the electric locks on the front door, she said.

"We had three guys sitting out in the lobby last night with candlelight, and very threatening folks were passing by in the pitch black," she said. "And everyone's leaving. That makes it worse."

Penn State's Ex-President Accused Of Perjury

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — The "conspiracy of silence" that protected Jerry Sandusky extended all the way to the top at Penn State, prosecutors said Thursday as they charged former university President Graham Spanier with hushing up child sexual abuse allegations against the former assistant football coach.

Prosecutors also added counts against two of Spanier's former underlings, Tim Curley and Gary Schultz, who were already charged with lying to a grand jury.

"This was not a mistake by these men. This was not an oversight. It was not misjudgment on their part," said state Attorney General Linda Kelly. "This was a conspiracy of silence by top officials to actively conceal the truth."

Spanier's lawyers issued a statement that asserted his innocence and described the new charges as an attempt by Gov. Tom Corbett to divert attention from the three-year investigation that began under his watch as attorney general.

"These charges are the work of a vindictive and politically motivated governor working through an unelected attorney general ... whom he appointed to do his bidding," the four defense lawyers wrote.

Syrian Opposition Bristles At Latest U.S. Push

BEIRUT (AP) — Members of Syria's opposition-in-exile bristled Thursday at the Obama administration's suggestion that Washington will handpick more representative leaders at a crucial conference in Qatar next week.

The new U.S. push appears aimed at creating a unified leadership that could work more closely with the West. But there are signs of resistance among deeply fractured opposition groups wary of attempts by foreign backers to dictate strategy in the civil war against President Bashar Assad.

"This direct tutelage and these dictates are not acceptable to the Syrian people anymore," said Zuhair Salem, the London-based spokesman for Syria's banned Muslim Brotherhood opposition group. The Brotherhood is part of the main political opposition group, the Syrian National Council, which is dominated by exiles.

Syrians and the U.S. administration have grown increasingly frustrated as the opposition proved unwilling or unable to coalesce. The U.S. and its allies have long bemoaned the lack of a cohesive leadership, and there is little doubt that this has held back more robust foreign aid and involvement to bolster the opposition in its fight.

With the battle for control of Syria almost certainly to be decided on the battlefield, the political opposition led by exiles is being further sidelined.



LESLEY CLARK/MCT
Mitt Romney addresses a crowd in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on October 24, 2012, with his campaign plane parked behind him.

Romney & Obama:

I'm The Real Man Of Change

BY DAVID ESPO AND KASIE HUNT
Associated Press

DOSWELL, Va. — Five days before the election, Republican challenger Mitt Romney and President Barack Obama vied forcefully for the mantle of change Thursday in a country thirsting for it after a painful recession and uneven recovery, pressing intense closing arguments in their unpredictably close race for the White House. Early voting topped 22 million ballots.

Republicans launched a late push in Pennsylvania, long viewed as safe for Obama. The party announced a \$3 million advertising campaign that told voters who backed the president four years ago, "it's OK to make a change." Romney and running mate Paul Ryan both announced weekend visits to the state.

The Obama campaign was increasing its ad buy in Pennsylvania following the RNC's move, an aide

said while declining to cite how just much the campaign planned to spend.

A three-day lull that followed Superstorm Sandy ended abruptly, the president campaigning briskly across three battleground states and Romney piling up three stops in a fourth. The Republican also attacked with a tough new Spanish-language television ad in Florida showing Venezuela's leftist leader, Hugo Chavez, and Raul Castro's daughter, Mariela, saying they would vote for Obama.

The storm intruded once again into the race, as New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg endorsed the president in a statement that said Sandy, which devastated his city, could be evidence of climate change.

Of the two White House rivals, Bloomberg wrote, "One sees climate change as an urgent problem that threatens our planet; one does not. I want our president to place scientific evidence and risk man-

Consumers Give U.S. Economy A Lift Before Election

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — A flurry of data issued Thursday sketched a brightening view of the U.S. economy in the final days before a presidential election that will pivot on the strength of the recovery.

Cheaper gas, rising home prices and lower unemployment have given consumers the confidence to spend more. And retailers, auto dealers and manufacturers are benefiting.

At the same time, many employers remain anxious about the

economy, which is why only modest hiring gains are forecast for Friday's jobs report for October. It will be the last major report on the economy before Election Day.

Both presidential candidates pressed their arguments Thursday for why President Barack Obama's economic stewardship should or should not earn him another four-year term. Campaigning in Roanoke, Va., Mitt Romney argued that under Obama, household incomes have fallen behind inflation and poverty has worsened.



KRISTYNA WENTZ-GRAFF/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/MCT
President Barack Obama speaks to the crowd on Thursday, November 1, 2012, at a campaign stop at Green Bay's Austin Straubel International Airport in Wisconsin.

agement above electoral politics."

The ever-present polls charted a close race for the popular vote, and a series of tight battleground surveys suggested neither man could be confident of success in the competition for the 270 electoral votes that will decide the winner.

The presidential race aside, the two parties battled for control of the Senate in a series of 10 or more competitive campaigns. The possibility of a 50-50 tie loomed, or even a more unsettled outcome if former Gov. Angus King of Maine, an independent, wins a three-way race and becomes majority-maker.

Obama's aides left North Carolina off the president's itinerary in the campaign's final days, a decision that Republicans trumpeted as a virtual concession of the state.

Yet Romney's team omitted Ohio and Wisconsin from a list of battlegrounds where they claimed narrow advantage.

The Republican National Com-

mittee ad in Pennsylvania aired earlier in other areas of the country. Far less aggressive than many of the GOP attacks on the president, it said Obama took office promising economic improvement but had failed to deliver. "He tried. You tried. It's OK to make a change," says the announcer.

Republicans said the decision for Romney and Ryan to campaign in the state reflected late momentum, while Democrats said it was mere desperation.

"It is an improbable uphill climb for Mitt Romney to win a state where he has never been up in a single poll, he has no ground game and we have a voter registration advantage of more than 1 million people," said Jennifer Psaki, an Obama spokeswoman.

Romney and his allies also made late investments in Minnesota and Michigan, states that went comfortably for Obama in 2008 but poll much closer four years later.

pected to alter the outcome. Few voters are thought to still be undecided.

"People have given this a lot of thought," said Andrew Kohut, president of the Pew Research Center. "One report, unless it is a real shocker, is unlikely to affect their view of whether Obama has done a good job with the economy or if Romney would do a better job."

This week, Pew released a poll showing that likely voters, by 50 percent to 42 percent, thought Romney would do better at boosting job growth.

Business

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"The concrete truck (ready for a job) isn't going to wait for us to settle our issues," Tim added with a grin.

But while small business can be stressful at times, the Schmits have also found a great deal of enjoyment. They pool their talents, with one working on design and the other on presentation and sales. After talking with customers, they create drawings showing the finished product.

"Our products sell themselves, because customers can see what it looks like," Jason said.

Social media has played a major role in reaching customers, he added.

"We put up a picture of a kitchen, and within 24 hours we had 260 people who had looked at the picture. Facebook is an amazing thing," he said.

The brothers have found their niche in Randolph, a Cedar County town of about 930 residents. In a YouTube interview, they joke that their parents kicked their business out of the family garage. The brothers now work out of a new shop covering 8,000 square feet, offering more display room and greater flexibility.

"We held open houses at our facility, and the community was very supportive. We had hundreds of visitors," Tim said.

The Schmits strongly believe in becoming part of the community. Their involvement has

ranged from Randolph's 125th anniversary celebration and the town play to working on projects with local churches.

"If you stick with people, they will treat you well," Jason said.

"And people have treated us so well that we try to repeat the favor," Tim added.

Jason encouraged the high school students in the audience to pursue more education before fully immersing themselves into business.

"In high school, you may have great business ideas. But the (college) education I got, I really can't put a value on it," he said, adding that he puts his engineering knowledge to work in his current business.

Thursday's program featured other entrepreneurial success stories in Cedar County.

Diane Dickes of Fordyce, Neb., has owned Diane's Greenhouse for 12 years.

"With a thought and a prayer, I started this. It's hard to believe how far I have come in the past 12 years," she said.

Technology has also come a long way, jokingly noting at first she could start her dial-up Internet, leave to make dinner and come back to find she was still waiting for results.

She has also developed a much more sophisticated marketing plan than her first year of handing out sheets in Yankton and other places. Today, she operates a website, Facebook site and blog.

However, nothing beats word of mouth and paying attention to customers' requests, she said. "You make your customers happy, and everything else is secondary,"

she said.

She has invested in two greenhouses and has added seasonal workers. She sees her greatest customer traffic for Mother's Day and Memorial Day.

At first, a business will require your cash as well as the sweat of your brow, Dickes said. "The first five or six years, everything goes right back into the business," she said.

However, owning a business can bring tremendous rewards, she said.

"I was told my business would never work," she said. "There were a lot of naysayers, but here we are. Our growth has exceeded our expectations."

Thursday's audience included Wynot and Laurel-Concord students. Their teacher, Chuck Tramp, said the session will dovetail well with next semester's classes.

"The students are realizing, they don't know what they don't know," he said of the new information.

Nebraska provides opportunities, but not one of his students indicated they would enter farming or stay in their hometown,

Tramp said.

Thursday's conference showed students the opportunities for entrepreneurs, he said.

"The average small business employs 19 people," he said. "The small entrepreneur isn't downsizing and has been pretty stable (through the economic downturn). They have hung tough and hunkered down."

The Internet, including e-commerce, has opened up the globe for small businesses, Tramp said.

"You can run your business internationally," he said. "It has changed things for small communities. You don't have to be in Omaha for this to happen."

Wynot High School seniors Nathan Wieseler and Kelsie Higgins both plan to pursue a future likely taking them elsewhere.

"I wouldn't mind farming, but I'm thinking of going into natural resources, maybe a conservation officer or wildlife biologist," Wieseler said.

Higgins is looking at a radiology career. Her classmates are attending college, with most planning to live in Nebraska or South Dakota.

Higgins hasn't ruled out the

rural life for herself. "I like the closeness of the small towns and the relationships with different people," she said.

Hartington resident Tim Nissen, one of Thursday's panelists, has shown the entrepreneurship spirit. He operates his Nissen Winery and Outlaw Trail Center near Bow Valley, Neb.

"Entrepreneurship is the backbone of rural communities. This (conference) is trying to inspire people and promote entrepreneurship," he said.

"There aren't large corporate entities looking to come to the small communities. It's easier to build from within. People are al-

ready invested in where they live."

Schools and non-profit organizations need to offer more entrepreneurship courses to young people, Nissen said.

"Our society teaches that you need to go out and get a high-paying job with great benefits. But the reality is that those jobs are few and far apart," he said.

"You can go into business and not just work for someone else for a paycheck."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

Lesterville Community Center
Prime Rib Dinner
Saturday,
Nov. 3rd 6-8pm
No Reservations Needed
Everyone Welcome!

Saturday, Nov. 3rd • 10am - 2pm
Make your own
Caramel Apples!
\$3.49
Apples, Caramel & toppings included
HyVee
EMPLOYEE OWNED
2100 Broadway • Yankton • 665-3412

Dakota Dance Association Presents
The Nutcracker Ballet
Directed by Linda Haar
Choreographed by Dorota Dannenbring
Friday, November 23 • 7:30 PM
Saturday, November 24 • 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Sunday, November 25 • 2:00 PM
Yankton High School Theatre
1801 Summit Street, Yankton, SD
Tickets on sale at the Yankton Mall by the JCPenney entrance
Ticket Sales Begin Saturday, November 3rd
from 1:00 to 4:30PM
Tickets also available
Monday—Friday 6:30-8:30 PM
Saturday & Sunday 1:00-4:30 PM
(through November 21st)
Friday, November 23rd 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
All Tickets—\$10.00
All Seats Reserved
Tickets will also be available at the door one hour prior to each performance. For more ticket information call 664-4747