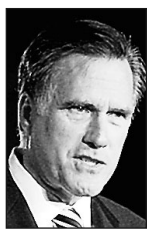


Obama, Romney In Final Sprint To Election

BY DAVID ESPO AND KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — The endgame at hand, President Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney plunged into the final two weeks of an excruciatingly close race for the White House Tuesday with TV advertising nearing an astronomical \$1 billion and millions of Americans casting early ballots in all regions of the country.



Romney

Increasingly, Ohio looms as ground zero in a campaign waged in tough economic times. The state's unemployment rate of 7 percent is well below the national average of 7.8 percent, Obama has campaigned here more than in any other state and Romney has booked a heavy schedule of appearances in hopes of a breakthrough.

The economy was the theme Tuesday as the two rivals put their final, foreign policy-focused debate behind.

Obama brandished a new 20-page summary of his second-term agenda and told a campaign crowd in Florida his rival's blueprint "doesn't really create jobs. His deficit plan doesn't reduce the deficit; it adds to it."

More than that, he said Romney changes his positions so often that

he can't be trusted.

In Dayton, Obama said of his rival: "In the closing weeks of the campaign, he's doing everything he can to hide his true positions. He is terrific at making presentations about stuff he thinks is wrong with America, but he sure can't give you an answer about what will make it right. And that's not leadership you can trust."

Before flying to Ohio for his 17th trip of the election year, Obama also said with a hint of humility: "It doesn't mean that every candidate is going to get everything done all at once perfectly, but you want somebody to be able to look you in the eye and say, here's what I believe."

Romney countered in an appearance before a large, cheering crowd in Henderson, Nev. He said Obama wants a new term for the same policies that have produced slow economic growth and high unemployment for four long years. "He is a status quo candidate. ... That's why his campaign is slipping and ours is gaining so much steam," he said.

Romney's aides dismissed Obama's 20-page booklet as nothing new, and the former Massachusetts governor said of the president: "His vision for the future is a repeat of the past."

There seemed to be no end to the television advertising in a season when voters report they are heartily sick of it.

Material collected by ad trackers showed the two campaigns and



MARK RANDALL/SUN SENTINEL/MCT
President Barack Obama stumps in Delray Beach, Florida, Tuesday, the morning after the third and final presidential debate held at Lynn University in Boca Raton. Several thousand supporters filled the Delray Beach Tennis Center to hear the President speak at what the campaign called a Grassroots Event.

allied groups have spent or reserved nearly \$950 million so far on television commercials, much of it negative, some of it harshly so. Romney and GOP groups had a \$100 million advantage over Obama and his supporters, although variations in the purchase price made it difficult to compare the number of ads each side had run.

Increasingly, the two campaigns were focused on turning out their

supporters in early balloting under way in more than half the states.

"Every single day right now is Election Day," Obama's campaign manager, Jim Messina, told reporters. On that, at least, Republicans offered no rebuttal.

About 5 million voters have already cast ballots according to data collected by the United States Elections Project at George Mason University, and about 35 million are expected to do so before Nov. 6.

U.S. May Soon Become World's Top Oil Producer

BY JONATHAN FAHEY
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK — U.S. oil output is surging so fast that the United States could soon overtake Saudi Arabia as the world's biggest producer.

Driven by high prices and new drilling methods, U.S. production of crude and other liquid hydrocarbons is on track to rise 7 percent this year to an average of 10.9 million barrels per day. This will be the fourth straight year of crude increases and the biggest single-year gain since 1951.

The boom has surprised even the experts.

"Five years ago, if I or anyone had predicted today's production growth, people would have

thought we were crazy," says Jim Burkhard, head of oil markets research at IHS CERA, an energy consulting firm.

The Energy Department forecasts that U.S. production of crude and other liquid hydrocarbons, which includes biofuels, will average 11.4 million barrels per day next year. That would be a record for the U.S. and just below Saudi Arabia's output of 11.6 million barrels. Citibank forecasts U.S. production could reach 13 million to 15 million barrels per day by 2020, helping to make North America "the new Middle East."

The last year the U.S. was the world's largest producer was 2002, after the Saudis drastically cut production because of low oil

prices in the aftermath of 9/11. Since then, the Saudis and the Russians have been the world leaders.

The United States will still need to import lots of oil in the years ahead. Americans use 18.7 million barrels per day. But thanks to the growth in domestic production and the improving fuel efficiency of the nation's cars and trucks, imports could fall by half by the end of the decade.

The increase in production hasn't translated to cheaper gasoline at the pump, and prices are expected to stay relatively high for the next few years because of growing demand for oil in developing nations and political instability in the Middle East and North Africa.

Still, producing more oil domestically, and importing less, gives the economy a significant boost.

The companies profiting range from independent drillers to large international oil companies such as Royal Dutch Shell, which increasingly see the U.S. as one of the most promising places to drill. ExxonMobil agreed last month to spend \$1.6 billion to increase its U.S. oil holdings.

Increased drilling is driving economic growth in states such as North Dakota, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Montana and Texas, all of which have unemployment rates far below the national average of 7.8 percent. North Dakota is at 3 percent; Oklahoma, 5.2.

Romney Alters Views In Appeal To Moderates

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mitt Romney abruptly moderated his foreign policy positions in this week's debate on issues like ending the war in Afghanistan and averting another conflict in Iran, hoping to neutralize one of President Barack Obama's main strengths with the election only two weeks away. But the move toward the political center comes with potential pitfalls.

By abandoning several of his sharpest criticisms of Obama from the past several months, Romney risks upsetting some conservatives and reinforcing the allegation — levied repeatedly by the president on Monday night — that his positions lack conviction and leadership.

His aim was to appear sober and serious, a plausible commander in chief, by not engaging in saber-rattling for political points. By narrowing the gap between his positions and those of Obama, he also may have succeeded in giving undecided voters, particularly women, the impression that he would lead a war-weary America into another conflict only reluctantly.

Romney aides said both the tone and substance of their boss' arguments were intentional and that he carried with him into the debate a key piece of advice: Talk about peace.

The overarching goal, they said, was for Romney to look like a suitable commander. After adopting a more assertively militaristic tone to win the GOP nomination amid challenges from more conservative candidates, he sought at all costs to avoid appearing as a warmonger.

Informant: NYPD Paid Me To 'Bait' Muslims

NEW YORK (AP) — A paid informant for the New York Police Department's intelligence unit was under orders to "bait" Muslims into saying inflammatory things as he lived a double life, snapping pictures inside mosques and collecting the names of innocent people attending study groups on Islam, he told The Associated Press.

Shamiur Rahman, a 19-year-old American of Bangladeshi descent who has now denounced his work as an informant, said police told him to embrace a strategy called "create and capture." He said it involved creating a conversation about jihad or terrorism, then capturing the response to send to the NYPD. For his work, he earned as much as \$1,000 a month and goodwill from the police after a string of minor marijuana arrests.

"We need you to pretend to be one of them," Rahman recalled the police telling him. "It's street theater."

Rahman said he now believes his work as an informant against Muslims in New York was "detrimental to the Constitution." After he disclosed to friends details about his work for the police — and after he told the police that he had been contacted by the AP — he stopped receiving text messages from his NYPD handler, "Steve," and his handler's NYPD phone number was disconnected.

Rahman's account shows how the NYPD unleashed informants on Muslim neighborhoods, often without specific targets or criminal leads. Much of what Rahman said represents a tactic the NYPD has denied using.

Authorities Say Surfer Killed By Shark In Calif.

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP) — A California surfer was killed Tuesday by a shark off a beach at coastal Vandenberg Air Force Base, authorities said.

The attack was reported by another surfer about 11 a.m. off the coast of Surf Beach in Lompoc, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department said in a statement.

The victim "had a friend who he was surfing with who saw the shark bite or hit the man," said sheriff's Sgt. Mark A. Williams. "His friend ended up swimming over and pulling him from the water where he received first aid."

The friend started first aid while another surfer called for help, but the male victim was pronounced dead by paramedics at the scene.

The Air Force said only that the victim was 38 years old and was not affiliated with the base, which allows public access to some of its beaches.

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

"Like" Kid Scoop on Facebook!

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SILLY SCARY STORIES

With Halloween just around the corner and a chill in the air, it's the perfect time to write a funny, spooky tale by letting your imagination run wild!

How many bats can you find on this page?

POP-ETRY IN MOTION

Edgar Allan Poe (1809 - 1849) wrote many creepy poems and stories that are still popular today. They've been made into movies and inspired countless other writers, too.

How many words can you think of to rhyme with each of the things shown here? Use them to write a great Halloween poem to read to your class.

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Identify words that rhyme.

ATTACK OF THE THESAURUS!

Even though it sounds like some kind of dinosaur, a **thesaurus** is filled with lots of great words to spice up your stories.

With a thesaurus, *she lived in a big, scary house transforms into she dwelled in a gigantic, forboding mansion. Nice!*

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Use a thesaurus.

Find the two identical jack-o-lanterns.

Read each sentence. Then draw a line to the word that has the same meaning as each of these circled words. If you get stuck, use a thesaurus for help!

The creature **knocked down** the old castle wall.

As the sun **rose**, the vampire looked angry.

The full moon was **covered by** dark clouds.

The werewolf had a loud **howl**.

The mummy began to walk **towards** me.

lurch blaring livid
ancient dusky

DR. BOOKER NOVEL'S INCREDIBLE STEAM-POWERED STORY GENERATOR

Having a hard time coming up with a silly, scary story idea? Use this awesome device to choose a **character**, **location** and **plot**. Mix and match to create lots of story ideas!

CHARACTER

- A dancing dinosaur
- A seaisick werewolf
- A powerful penguin
- A sleepy vampire
- An unraveling mummy
- A very nervous spider
- A zombie duck

LOCATION

- on another planet
- in a spooky swamp
- in a fancy hotel
- in a crumbling castle
- in a frozen forest
- next door to you
- in a chilly cave

PLOT

- builds a cheese-powered rocket.
- digs a tunnel to a distant city.
- becomes principal of your school.
- discovers how to turn invisible.
- wins a motorcycle stunt competition.
- explores the ocean in a submarine.
- becomes a country music star.

Extra! Extra!

Story Starts in the Newspaper

Look through the newspaper for:

- five nouns
- five verbs
- ten adjectives
- a rhyme
- a vehicle
- a food

Use all of these words in a spooky story.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Ghostly Mildred is planning a Halloween party but she got a bit carried away with her shopping list. Cross out the items that don't really seem correct for Halloween fun.

COBWEBS	FAKE SPIDERS
CANDY CANES	CANDY CORN
EGGNOG	FLASHLIGHTS
HAMBURGER	SWIMSUITS
PUMPKIN	BALLOONS
AMERICAN FLAG	CAULDRON
TURKEY	MISTLETOE
ICE CREAM	FOG MACHINE
CANDY EGGS	POLKA MUSIC
LEMONADE	VAMPIRE TEETH

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Use context clues to determine meaning.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

CHARACTER	E C I P S C V S S S
THESAURUS	C L I L E R R L L U
SENTENCE	I Y A O N E H S C R
WRITERS	V D A T T E Y R D U
DEVICE	E L Y I E P M A U A
CREEPY	D I R D N Y E S S S
POEMS	T W G O C R R I K E
SPICE	E A S M E O P S Y H
RHYME	R E T C A R A H C T
EDGAR	
DUSKY	
WILD	
PLOT	
TALE	
READ	

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

www.kidscoop.com

Guess My Costume

Look at the ads in the Classified Ad section of the newspaper. Write an ad about who or what you are going to be for Halloween. Give your ad to a pal and see if he or she can guess what your ad represents.

Standards Link: Writing: Describe and summarize concepts.

Write On!

Alliteration

Write a sentence in which all or nearly all of the words start with the same letter. *Example: Wendy walks with Wanda when the weather warms.*

Send your story to:

Press & Dakotan
C/o Noelle Schlechter
319 Walnut Street
Yankton, SD 57078
605-665-7811, ext 112

Deadline: November 19 Published: Week of Dec. 16
Please include your school and grade.

Weekly Writing Corner

It Was A Dark And Stormy Night ...

Finish this story.

It was a dark and stormy night and I told my mom that the British were coming. She was astounded! She locked the door and turned on the television to Sponge Bob. The British love American shows, so my mom said, "OK!"

My brother came downstairs screaming like a little schoolgirl.

"What's wrong?" asked my mom.

"There's a dinosaur outside!" he answered, "I heard their teeth are the size of microwaves."

"No, they're the size of bananas," I corrected.

"Whatever," he said. "The point is, we're going to get squished."

And that's when I woke up.

Myriam, 5th grade

It was a stormy night. It was so dark you couldn't see anything.

Gabby, 1st grade

It was a dark and stormy night and the lightning kept on striking. I was sick and feeling very ill. I couldn't do anything because my mom wasn't home. I was so scared I was under the couch. Mom finally came home and she told me to go to my room and I got under the bed. I said, "Go on storm," and it went away. I then said, "Yeah!" After that I wasn't ill anymore.

Teddy, 3rd grade

It was a dark and stormy night. I saw Frankenstein. I was scared of Frankenstein. He was chasing me.

Josh, 2nd grade

It was a dark and stormy night. There were doors slamming and furniture shaking. I had a hamster. Its blue eyes turned red!

Malorie, 2nd grade

It was a dark and stormy night. It was pouring down rain. The wind was strong. It was a scary storm.

Cody, 3rd grade