

Ryan: Carter’s Leadership Topped Obama’s

GREENVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Paul Ryan delivered a scathing criticism of President Barack Obama’s stewardship of the nation’s economy Monday, arguing that even conservative punching bag Jimmy Carter’s presidency was better as Democrats streamed to North Carolina to nominate Obama for a second term.

“The president can say a lot of things and he will,” the Republican vice presidential candidate told more than 2,000 supporters in East Carolina University’s student recreation center, about 230 miles east of the Democratic National Convention site in Charlotte. “But he can’t tell you that you’re better off. Simply put, the Jimmy Carter years look like the good old days compared to where we are right now.”

The message, comparing today’s economic problems with the troubled economic conditions of the Carter administration, is part of a broader GOP strategy to ask voters whether they are better off now than they were four years ago. Polling suggests the criticism may resonate with voters who continue to like Obama personally but are frustrated with the pace of economic recovery two months before Election Day.



Ryan

Syria: No Dialogue Before Rebels Are Crushed

BEIRUT (AP) — The Syrian regime said Monday there will be no dialogue with the opposition before the army crushes the rebels, the latest sign that President Bashar Assad is determined to solve the crisis on the battlefield even if many more of his people have to pay with their lives.

The statement comes a day after activists reported that August was the bloodiest month since the uprising began in March 2011.

“There will be no dialogue with the opposition prior to the Syrian army’s imposition of security and stability in all parts of the country,” Information Minister Omran al-Zoebi told reporters at a news conference in Damascus.

The opposition has long rejected any talks with the regime until Assad is removed from power.

Muhieddine Lathkani, an opposition figure based in Britain, responded to the minister’s comments by saying “the key to any dialogue will be the departure of Assad and dismantling of the regime’s security agencies that committed all these crimes.”

Car Bomber Attacks U.S. Vehicle In Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — A suicide car bomber rammed into a U.S. government vehicle in the northwestern city of Peshawar on Monday, killing two Pakistanis and wounding more than a dozen — including two Americans — in one of the worst attacks against the U.S. in Pakistan in recent years, officials said.

The bombing was a vivid reminder of the danger of operating in Pakistan, especially in the northwest where Taliban and al-Qaida militants are strongest. The U.S. has persisted because its work in Pakistan is seen as key to countering militants who threaten American interests in neighboring Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Insurgents have carried out scores of bombings in Peshawar in recent years, but attacks against American targets have been relatively rare because of extensive security measures by the U.S. government — ones that diplomats sometimes complain limit their effectiveness and ability to move around.

The U.S. said it would review its security procedures following Monday’s attack, which was condemned by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Gulf Coast: Thousands Are Still Without Power

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Tens of thousands of customers remained in the dark Monday in Louisiana and Mississippi, nearly a week after Isaac inundated the Gulf Coast with a deluge that still has some low-lying areas under water.

Most of those were in Louisiana, where utilities reported more than 100,000 people without power. Thousands also were without power in Mississippi and Arkansas.

In Louisiana, many evacuees remained at shelters or bunked with friends or relatives.

“My family is split up,” said Angela Serpas, from severely flooded Braithwaite in Plaquemines Parish. Serpas and her daughter were staying with her in-laws while her husband and son were staying in Belle Chasse, a suburban area of the parish.

“This is the second time we’ve lost our home. We lost it in Katrina,” she said.

Actor Michael Clarke Duncan Dead At 54

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michael Clarke Duncan, the hulking, prolific character actor whose dozens of films included an Oscar-nominated performance as a death row inmate in “The Green Mile” and such other box office hits as “Armageddon,” “Planet of the Apes” and “Kung Fu Panda,” is dead at age 54.

Duncan died Monday morning at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, where he was being treated for a heart attack, said his fiancée, reality TV personality Rev. Omarosa Manigault, in a statement released by publicist Joy Fehily.

The muscular, 6-foot-4 (1.96 meter) Duncan, a former bodyguard who turned to acting in his 30s, “suffered a myocardial infarction on July 13 and never fully recovered,” the statement said. “Manigault is grateful for all of your prayers and asks for privacy at this time. Celebrations of his life, both private and public, will be announced at a later date.”

Duncan had a handful of minor roles before “The Green Mile” brought him an Academy Award nomination for best supporting actor. The 1999 film, based on the Stephen King novel of the same name, starred Tom Hanks as a corrections officer at a penitentiary in the 1930s. Duncan played John Coffey, a convicted murderer with a surprisingly gentle demeanor and extraordinary healing powers.

Duncan’s performance caught on with critics and moviegoers and he quickly became a favorite in Hollywood, appearing in several films a year. He owed some of his good fortune to Bruce Willis, who recommended Duncan for “The Green Mile” after the two appeared together in “Armageddon.” Duncan would work with Willis again in “Breakfast of Champions,” “The Whole Nine Yards” and “Sin City.”

His industrial-sized build was suited for everything from superhero films (“Daredevil”) to comedy (“Talladega Nights,” “School for Scoundrels”). His gravelly baritone alone was good enough for several animated movies, including, “Kung Fu Panda,” “Delgo” and “Brother Bear.” Among Duncan’s television credits: “The Apprentice,” “The Finder,” “Two and a Half Men” and “The Suite Life of Zack and Cody.”

Holiday

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650,000 workers in the state — or 13 percent — are union members. The national average is just less than 12 percent.

Union worker Mike Schreiner showed up for Toledo’s annual Labor Day parade because he loves the bands, the school teams and the hot dogs.

“All the kids line up and we throw Frisbees and get the candy out to ‘em. They won’t even have to do any trick or treatin’ this year — they got enough candy,” said Schreiner, 57.

More than 300 people marched in the Charlotte, N.C., Labor Day Parade, an overwhelmingly pro-Obama event a day before Tuesday’s kickoff of the Democratic National Convention.

North Carolina bans collective bargaining for teachers and other public workers and has the lowest percentage of union members in the U.S.

Gil Crittendon of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union Local 305 said he was marching in Charlotte because “it’s important that we stick together and push back.”

Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan campaigned in

Greenville, N.C., on Labor Day as part of an effort to counter the Democrats’ message.

“People are not better off than they were four years ago. After another four years of this, who knows what it’ll look like then?” Ryan said. “We’re not going to let that happen.”

In Buena Vista, Va., a small town on the western slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains, marchers dodged downpours from the remnants of Hurricane Isaac in a traditional parade featuring vintage stock cars and both candidates in the U.S. Senate race.

Decision 2012

Democrats Set For N.C. Convo

BY DAVID ESPO AND BEN FELLER
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — On the eve of the Democratic National Convention, President Barack Obama declared that Republican rival Mitt Romney should be penalized for “unnecessary roughness” on the middle class and accused him in a ringing Labor Day speech of backing higher taxes for millions in opposing the 2009 auto industry bailout.

“I’ve got one piece of advice for you about the Romney-Ryan game plan: Punt it away. It won’t work. It won’t win the game,” Obama said, blending sports-themed remarks with economic barbs before a cheering crowd in the nation’s industrial heartland.

He backed up his rally comments with a new television commercial that says Romney doesn’t understand the “heavy load” the middle class is carrying yet wants to give himself a big new tax break. It’s the president’s first new ad since last week’s Republican National Convention, a reminder that he and his allies have been outspent by millions in the ad wars over the past several weeks.

His sports comments in Toledo, Ohio, amounted to a rebuttal to Romney’s weekend appeal to voters to fire the current coach — Obama — and install the Republicans instead at the controls of an economy sputtering along with 8.3 percent unemployment.

The president headed to hurricane-damaged Louisiana late in the day as he slowly made his way toward the Democrats’ convention city.

A few blocks from the hall where Democratic delegates will gather on Tuesday, union members staged a Labor Day march through downtown. Though supporting Obama, they also expressed frustration that he and the Democrats chose to hold their convention in a state that bans collective bargaining for teachers and other public employees.

There was disagreement among the ranks of the marchers. “I understand their frustration ... but do they really think they’re going to be better off with Romney?” asked Phil Wheeler, 70, a delegate from Connecticut and a retired member of United Auto Workers Local 376 in Hartford.



NANCY STONE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

Brandon Martin of Sanford, N.C., sells Obama T-shirts at Carolina Fest with the help of his whole family, including daughter Alyssa, 8, in downtown Charlotte, N.C., Monday in advance of the Democratic National Convention.

Democrats chose the state to underscore their determination to contest it in the fall campaign. Obama carried North Carolina by 14,000 votes in 2008, but he faces a tough challenge this time given statewide unemployment of 9.6 percent in the most recent tabulation.

Romney relaxed at his lakeside home in New Hampshire with his family as Obama and running mate Joe Biden sought to motivate union voters to support them in difficult economic times. Romney took a mid-morning boat ride, pulling up to a dock to fuel up his 29-foot Sea Ray and pick up a jet ski that had been in for repairs.

In a statement emailed to reporters before he left his house, the businessman-turned-political candidate said: “For far too many Americans, today is another day of worrying when their next paycheck will come.”

Campaigning on Saturday in Cincinnati, Romney likened Obama to a football coach with a record of 0 and 23 million, a reference to the number of unemployed and underemployed Americans.

Obama rebutted him 48 hours later — and play by play.

“On first down he hikes taxes by nearly \$2,000 on the average

family with kids in order to pay for massive tax cuts for multimillionaires. ... Sounds like unnecessary roughness to me,” he said.

“On second down he calls an audible and undoes reforms that are there to prevent another financial crisis and bank bailout. ...

“And then on third down, he calls for a hail Mary, ending Medicare as we know it by giving seniors a voucher that leaves them to pay any additional cost out of their pockets. But there’s a flag on the play: Loss of up to an additional \$6,400 a year for the same benefits you get now.”

Romney denies that his plan to help the economy and reduce federal deficits will result in higher taxes for the middle class. But he has yet to provide enough detail to refute the claim, and Obama’s assertion rests on a study by the non-partisan Tax Policy Center.

As for the auto bailout that he backed and Romney opposed, Obama told the audience, “Three years later, the American auto industry has come roaring back. Nearly 250,000 new jobs.”

Obama’s new campaign commercial said that under Romney’s “a middle class family will pay an average of up to \$2,000 more a year taxes, while at the same time giving multimillionaires like him-

self a \$250,000 tax cut.”

Aides said it would air in Colorado, Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada, Ohio and Virginia, the by-now familiar list of battleground states where the 2012 race for the White House is likely to be decided.

The president and aides have acknowledged for weeks that they and the groups supporting them are likely to be outspent by Romney, and recent figures say that has been the case in television advertising in the battleground states for much of the past two months.

Republican strategists contend that they have used the advantage to begin to erode Obama’s job favorability ratings, but declined to provide any polling results to support the assertion.

At the same time, reports by firms that track advertising show that Republicans hope to expand the campaign battleground into Wisconsin, Michigan and possibly Pennsylvania and Minnesota. An effective ad campaign there in such states could force Obama to divert resources from other states to defend turf he has long assumed would be his with relative ease.

Isaac Offers Some A Brief Respite From Drought

BY JEANNIE NUSS
AND JASON KEYSER
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Several days of rain have given farmers in the nation’s midsection a welcome break from irrigating and hauling water for livestock as they contend with the worst drought in the U.S. in decades.

The remnants of Hurricane Isaac dropped several inches of rain on wide areas of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri as the storm trudged north. Some spots got more than a half-foot of rain.

For most farmers, the rain came too late to make a difference in their year. Corn farmers have been harvesting for weeks, and soybeans are far enough along that the rain won’t significantly improve their quality or growth.

Some farmers had rushed to bring in crops before the storm, fearing strong winds or even flash flooding could destroy what

they had managed to salvage from drought.

In Arkansas, where farmers have been struggling with triple-digit temperatures and little rain, Robby Bevis, 35, saw the storm knock down several of his 150 acres of rice.

“I hate to see any of it down, but that’s not as bad of percentage as what it could have been,” he said.

The 3 inches of rain that fell on Bevis’s fields between Scott and Lonoke also cut him a welcome break from watering his soybeans. He had been planning to irrigate before the remnants of Isaac sloshed through the region late last week.

He figured the rain might have saved him \$10 or \$15 an acre, although “the majority of the expense was throughout the summer.”

In Illinois, Kenneth Metcalf said the storm put some water back in his well, relieving him of the burden of having to buy and haul in hundreds of gallons of

water each day for his 160 head of cattle.

But Metcalf, 75, said he doubts the break will last long as the storm’s last clouds burn off and higher temperatures return, baking the area east of Springfield where he also grows corn and soybeans.

“I think we’ll be hauling water here again in a few days,” he said.

Still, it lifted his spirits to see so much rain, 4 or 5 inches by his estimation.

“I think everybody feels better,” he said, noting the rain was a start toward replenishing lakes and wells.

Farther south, Mike Campbell said he got 3 inches of rain on his farm in Edwardsville, Ill., which is about 30 miles from St. Louis. He

said it was too late for it to do anything for his corn, and he had worried the storm’s winds would destroy what little he had left. But the stalks were still standing Monday morning.

“I was actually surprised at that because the stalk quality is just terrible,” said Campbell, who has been farming for 35 years.

Still, the thin, dry stalks have left him little to harvest. During one run with his combine last week, he was getting about 30 bushels an acre, far short of the 150 bushels he would hope for in a normal year.

“It sounded like the combine was shut off. There was just so little stuff going through it,” he said. “It’s the worst I’ve ever seen.”

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Brandi Pravacek, CNP
Lewis & Clark
Specialty Hospital



Dr. Jeff Johnson
Lewis & Clark
Family Medicine, PC

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Soup & salad luncheon provided by Lewis & Clark Specialty Hospital.
RSVP to Jill Sprakel 664-5300 by Sept. 10th.



AM 1450

MORNING COFFEE

WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

Tuesday, September 4

7:40 am Yankton Library

(Kathy Jacobs)

8:15 am Y. County Commission

(Bruce Jensen, Allen Sinclair)

8:45 am Dakota Territorial

Museum (Crystal Nelson)

Wednesday, September 5

7:15 am United Way Kickoff

(Board of Directors)

8:15 am United Way Kickoff

(Board of Directors)

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