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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2012

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REMINDER
Set clocks back an hour today if you haven't yet.

SUPERSTORM SANDY » 7 PAGES INSIDE

TOPPLED GIANTS

SUNDAY LIFE: Sandy in photos. 1B
NEWS: Experts offer coping tips. 6A
NEWS: Counties scramble for polls. 8A
LOHUD.COM: Photos, videos, updates

Residents look over a downed tree Tuesday in front of 110 Grand View Blvd. in Yonkers. High winds during Superstorm Sandy caused many scenes like this one throughout the Lower Hudson Valley, some fatal. MARK VERGARI/THE JOURNAL NEWS

No 1 reason why so many trees failed

By Michael Risinit
mrisinit@lohud.com

Eight trees crashed down around Victor Cedrone's home in Chappaqua on Monday night as Superstorm Sandy roared across the Lower Hudson Valley.

Spruce and pine, oak and ash — none fell fully on the house but each was unique in its landing.

"There was no major damage. As long as we were safe, I was happy," Cedrone said.

One crushed a working Ford Festiva (a second one that didn't run was unscathed). Another tore some shingles off the roof. A third ripped the fascia off the roof's edge and another knocked over an outside oil tank. Others fell across Route 133 and blocked the driveway.

Like election polls that rely on a representative sample, Cedrone's yard was

See TREES, Page 4A

Drivers wait for a fuel tank to resupply Shell at Routes 9 and 119 in Tarrytown on Saturday. SETH HARRISON/THE JOURNAL NEWS

Panic fuels gas lines as supply resumes

By Theresa Juva-Brown
tjuva@lohud.com

Though millions of gallons of fuel have been delivered, the desperate grab for gasoline reached new heights Saturday, with area motorists lining up earlier than ever and station owners struggling to keep up.

"I thought with the ships going up to Newburgh it would get better, but it hasn't," said Peter Kischak, president of Service Station Dealers of Greater New York. "People are panicking. People are driving around with a half tank or a quarter tank, and now everyone

See GAS, Page 4A

Businesses tally massive losses in storm's wake

By Ernie Garcia
elgarcia@lohud.com

Jennifer Bailey doesn't have an official estimate for the trashed office equipment, tennis courts, walls and electrical system at the tennis club she manages, but she figures it could be $250,000 to $500,000.

That's not counting lost customers.

"Everybody's job is impacted," said Bailey, who on Friday was busy with her staff cleaning the mess at the Hudson Valley Health & Tennis Club in Hastings-on-Hudson, where 35 people work. "We're looking into a FEMA loan to get us immediate cash-flow assistance."

Throughout the tri-state region, businesses small and large are evaluating Superstorm Sandy recovery costs that could reach $50 billion in economic losses and $20 billion in insured losses, according to EQECAT, a catastrophe risk modeling firm that produces analyses for the insurance industry.

Tom Larsen, a senior vice president at EQECAT, said Thursday that losses for businesses will be significantly higher

See BUSINESS, Page 7A

ELECTION 2012

ELECTION CENTRAL

Get live election results online

Visit LoHud.com/elections for live election results in state and regional races all night Tuesday.

Our endorsement

The Journal News Editorial Board shares its view on the best choice for president. **Editorial, 20A.** Find more online at www.LoHud.com/opinion.

Online voters guide

Before you head out to the polls Tuesday, head to LoHud.com/elections for help making informed decisions in local and state elections.

Inside

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WP

WEATHER » 2A
Today: Chilly, cloudy
HIGH: 51 LOW: 26
Monday: Clouds, sun
HIGH: 50 LOW: 26

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5 Things You Should Know

Giants urging fans to carpool to game

The New York Giants and Pittsburgh Steelers are still on for their game today at MetLife Stadium as recovery efforts continue in devastated New Jersey following Superstorm Sandy.

The NFL confirmed on Saturday that the matchup is still scheduled for its 4:25 p.m. kickoff. Given the gas shortage in the state, which led to rationing, and the lack of mass transit available, the Giants have urged fans to carpool. **5C**

2 arrests in Somers in $50,000 ID theft

Two men are accused of stealing a Somers woman's credit card information and using it to order $50,000 worth of computer equipment.

State police in Somers arrested 31-year-old Almanzor Dejesus-Castro of the Bronx and 38-year-old Paul Abreu-Grullon of Reading, Pa. on Thursday on grand larceny charges.

The men were sent to the Westchester County jail on $10,000 bail.

Experts: New labels may spur food suits

Supporters of a California ballot proposal to label cereals, sodas and other products containing genetically modified ingredients say their effort is about empowering consumers.

Legal scholars say the right to know in Proposition 37 also comes with the right to sue. The initiative on Tuesday's ballot is worded in a way that could invite lawsuits against food producers and stores, experts say.

Utah claiming wins in war on pot farms

The war against marijuana farming in Utah being waged by multiple agencies is working, U.S. Attorney for Utah David Barlow said.

Barlow, at a news conference Thursday, said a string of raids has resulted in about 13,000 plants were recovered from three farming sites in Washington, Iron and Juab counties this year, down from some 106,000 plants recovered from 17 sites in 2010.

4 Israeli media stars become politicians

Four prominent Israeli TV anchors and news pundits are leaving their jobs and running for parliament in Israel's upcoming elections, reflecting the rising star power of media personalities for an electorate that has long had a penchant for retired army generals.

Elections are scheduled for Jan. 22.

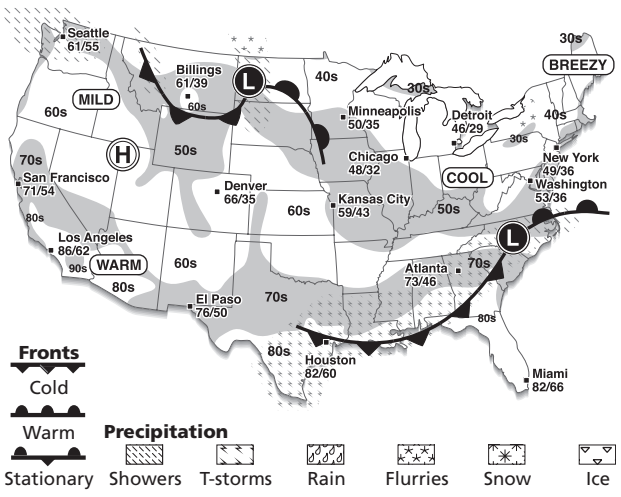
Compiled from wire reports by Carla Young.

LOWER HUDSON VALLEY 5-DAY FORECAST

Today	Tomorrow	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Chilly with clouds and sun	Times of clouds and sun	Partly sunny and chilly	Cloudy, rain possible; windy	Cloudy, rain possible; breezy
Highs: 46 to 51	Highs: 44 to 50	Highs: 43 to 49	Highs: 41 to 47	Highs: 40 to 46
Lows: 26 to 35	Lows: 26 to 32	Lows: 25 to 31	Lows: 31 to 37	Lows: 33 to 39

NATIONAL FORECAST TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



National summary: Brisk and chilly conditions will persist from the Great Lakes to the Northeast today. A front will spark showers and storms over much of the Southeast while the West remains generally dry and mild.

SHORE FORECAST

Today, winds from the northwest at 10 to 20 knots, waves 1 to 3 feet, visibility generally unrestricted. Tonight, winds from the northwest at 10 to 20 knots, waves 1 to 3 feet, partly cloudy.

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:30 a.m.
Sunset today	4:47 p.m.
Moonrise today	9:21 p.m.
Moonset today	11:12 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Nov 6	Nov 13	Nov 20	Nov 28

ALMANAC

LaGuardia Airport through 5 p.m. yesterday

Temperature

High	51°
Low	43°
Average temperature	47.0°
Normal high	59°
Normal low	46°
Record high	80° (2003)
Record low	32° (1951)

Humidity

High	79%
Low	48%

Precipitation (in inches)

24 hours through 5 p.m. yest.	Trace
Month to date	Trace
Year to date	31.06"
Normal year to date	38.22"

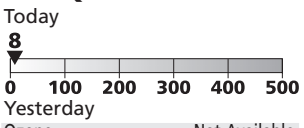
AccuWeather.com ©2012

TIDE TABLE

	Today		Tomorrow	
	first	second	first	second
New Rochelle				
High	2:43 a.m.	1:45 p.m.	2:26 a.m.	2:33 p.m.
Low	7:41 a.m.	8:16 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	9:05 p.m.
Yonkers				
High	1:36 a.m.	12:12 p.m.	1:23 a.m.	12:59 p.m.
Low	5:55 a.m.	7:06 p.m.	6:34 a.m.	8:00 p.m.
Dobbs Ferry				
High	2:04 a.m.	12:40 p.m.	1:51 a.m.	1:27 p.m.
Low	6:36 a.m.	7:47 p.m.	7:15 a.m.	8:41 p.m.
Tarrytown				
High	2:20 a.m.	12:56 p.m.	2:07 a.m.	1:43 p.m.
Low	6:50 a.m.	8:01 p.m.	7:29 a.m.	8:55 p.m.
Haverstraw				
High	2:46 a.m.	1:22 p.m.	2:33 a.m.	2:09 p.m.
Low	7:35 a.m.	8:46 p.m.	8:14 a.m.	9:40 p.m.
Peekskill				
High	2:59 a.m.	1:35 p.m.	2:46 a.m.	2:22 p.m.
Low	7:56 a.m.	9:07 p.m.	8:35 a.m.	10:01 p.m.

AIR QUALITY

Today



Yesterday

Ozone	Not Available
Particulates	Good

0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-150, Unhealthy for sensitive groups; 151-200, Unhealthy; 201-300, Very unhealthy; 301-500, Hazardous

Source: NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation

WEATHER HISTORY

Until a cold wave on Nov. 4, 1991, sent temperatures down to 3 below zero, Minneapolis had never had subzero cold so early. However, this city has endured January mornings with temperatures of 40 below zero.

Celebrities in the News

At benefit, every song's a message

NEW YORK — From "Livin' on a Prayer" to "The Living Proof," every song Friday at NBC's benefit concert for Superstorm Sandy victims became a message song.

Jon Bon Jovi

New Jersey's **Jon Bon Jovi** gave extra meaning to "Who Says You Can't Go Home." **Billy Joel** worked in a reference to Staten Island, the devastated New York City borough. The hourlong event, hosted by **Matt Lauer,** was heavy on stars and lyrics identified with New Jersey and the New York metropolitan area, which took the brunt of this week's deadly storm. The telethon was a mix of music, storm footage and calls for donations from **Jon Stewart, Tina Fey, Whoopi Goldberg** and others.

The mood was somber but hopeful, from **Christina Aguilera's** "Beautiful" to **Bon Jovi's** "Livin' on a Prayer" and a tearful **Mary J. Blige's** "The Living Proof," her ballad of resilience with the timely declaration that "the worst is over/I can start living now." Joel rocked out with "Miami 2017 (Seen the Lights Go Out on Broadway)," a song born from crisis, New York City's near bankruptcy in the 1970s, while **Jimmy Fallon** endured a faulty microphone and gamely led an all-star performance of the **Drifters'** "Under the Boardwalk" that featured Joel, **Bruce Springsteen** and **Steven Tyler.** The **Aerosmith** frontman then sat behind a piano and gave his all on a strained but deeply emotional "Dream On." **Sting** was equally passionate during an acoustic, muscular version of **The Police** hit "Message In a Bottle" and its promise to "send an SOS to the world."

But after her first song, a cover of **Al Green's** soul hit "Let's Stay Together," she tossed aside the dress to reveal the bright blue minidress.

Obama's slogan "Forward" is also Wisconsin's state motto.

Obama's rally with Perry comes before he's set to be in Madison on Monday with rocker **Bruce Springsteen**.

Katy Perry wears Obama slogan

MILWAUKEE — Pop star **Katy Perry** sported a skin-tight minidress with **President Barack Obama's** campaign slogan "Forward" emblazoned across it at the president's campaign rally in Milwaukee.

Katy Perry

Perry came on stage at Saturday's event initially wearing a red, white and blue dress and holding a microphone shaped like the Statue of Liberty's torch.

Anna Nicole Smith case to be reheard

LOS ANGELES — Prosecutors refusing to accept an appellate court's ruling in the **Anna Nicole Smith** case asked the court Friday to change its decision and allow her former boyfriend and manager to be retried.

Howard K. Stern

California's 2nd District Court of Appeal ruled last month that **Howard K. Stern** could not be retried without violating the Fifth Amendment protection against double jeopardy. Attorneys in the office of District Attorney Steve Cooley filed a 19-page motion for rehearing that contends the court misinterpreted the law.

Compiled from wire reports.

The Journal News

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 24

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The Journal News Westchester, a division of Gannett Satellite Information Network Inc., is published daily. Periodical postage paid at White Plains, NY (USPS 017-009). Postmaster: Send address changes to: The Journal News, Suite N110, 1133 Westchester Avenue, White Plains NY 10604.

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Midday Daily: 0 2 1
Lucky Sum: 3
Midday WinFour: 3 9 9 5
Lucky Sum: 26
Daily: 8 6 6
Lucky Sum: 20
WinFour: 1 6 7 9
Lucky Sum: 23
Pick-10: 2 3 6 16 26 33 35 37 44 51 55 56 57 60 63 67 70 71 74 77
Take Five: unavailable
Lotto: unavailable
Bonus Number: unavailable
Powerball: unavailable
Bonus Number: unavailable
New Jersey
Midday Pick 3: 4 3 6
Midday Pick 4: 3 5 6 9
Pick 3: 7 1 4
Pick 4: 3 0 2 9
Cash 5: 3 6 10 18 21
Connecticut
Play 3 Day: 4 7 0
Play 4 Day: 7 9 7 0
Play 3: unavailable
Play 4: unavailable
Cash 5: unavailable
FRIDAY
New York
Midday Daily: 6 6 7
Lucky Sum: 19
Midday WinFour: 8 9 2 2
Lucky Sum: 21
Daily: 4 5 3
Lucky Sum: 12
WinFour: 7 3 3 0
Lucky Sum: 13
Pick-10: 6 10 11 16 29 33 34 35 39 43 46 50 53 56 64 69 75 76 79 80
Take Five: 3 8 12 25 38
Mega Millions: 4 18 22 38 44
Mega Ball: 24
New Jersey
Pick 3: 6 3 1
Pick 4: 5 6 3 4
Cash 5: 7 21 24 30 39
Connecticut
Play 3: 1 4 9
Play 4: 9 2 1 4
Cash 5: 1 8 11 17 19
Classic Lotto: 1 4 7 12 25 29

Jurors in Britney Spears breach of contract trial: Evidence was weak

LOS ANGELES — Jurors who heard libel and breach of contract claims by Britney Spears' ex-confidante said they were unimpressed by his case and agreed with a judge's ruling to dismiss his case mid-trial.

Thursday's ruling by Superior Court Judge Suzanne Bruguera was also praised by attorneys for Spears' family and her conservators, who said it was the right result after years of legal fights with Sam Lutfi, who claimed he was her manager and entitled to part of her fortune.

Lutfi sued Spears' conservators, claiming he had a valid agreement to serve as her manager.

– The Associated Press

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Kindness, volunteerism shine after storm

Neighbors, delis, worship houses give aid

By Randi Weiner
rcweiner@lohud.com

The tweet came in to The Journal News about 2 p.m. Friday: "I have D batteries, bottled water, and 7 hr hand and foot warmers. Know anyone in the Rye/ Harrison/Mamaroneck area who can use them?"

It was just one more sign that Superstorm Sandy has uncovered more than roofs and wires. The storm's aftermath also has uncovered an undercurrent of volunteerism and community-mindedness seen more rarely during the normal run of life.

Take-out places, delis and restaurants with power opened their kitchens and ovens so people could heat food and welcomed people needing to plug in. Businesses that weren't open to the public let people use their still-functioning Wi-Fi. Fitness chains offered free showers for those without power. Volunteers who had no electricity themselves came in early or stayed late at social service agencies across the region.

Nyack's Grace Episcopal Church offered its sanctuary to two nearby synagogues that were still in the dark, while Chabad of the Rivertowns opened its doors for anybody to come charge their devices and provided a community dinner Friday.

In darkened corners of Rockland, Putnam and Westchester, neighbors with power passed extension cords to neighbors without or loaned out generators.

Some even went further.

New City native Greg Livingston, now living in Wellesley, Mass., drove to Valley Cottage to check on his mother. While searching Wednesday for supplies, including matches, he came across Mike Gaeta of West Nyack coming out of the Nanuet Pathmark.

Gaeta offered to see if he had matches in his SUV's glove box, then rummaged in the back of his truck — emerging with a nearly full cigarette lighter and a small flashlight, both of which he handed over to Livingston. He also passed Livingston his business card, telling him he'd be glad to check on his mother and help out in any other way. The two had never met before.

Christine Mednick, 51, her husband Dave, 51, and 12-year-old son were trapped in their Wesley Hills home after two trees came down on their driveway during Sandy. Dave Mednick was recovering from surgery on his left Achilles tendon and not particularly mobile. He posted their plight on Facebook, where it was seen by Cliff Albertson, a fellow member of Christ Church of Ramapo.

Albertson drove over. "When I answered the door, he said, 'I brought my chainsaw. Can I get you loose?'" Christine Mednick said. Once the driveway was free, Albertson offered to drive Christine Mednick to a gas station to get fuel for her generator — a mission that took three stops.

"I was blown over," she said of his kindness. "But this is exactly how he is."

Anne Fardo, 38, of White Plains, who lives with her 83-year-old father, lost power Monday. During last year's Halloween snow, she also lost power and got help from her neighbor Bob Simons, who lives directly behind her. She reached out to him again via text this week, and he ran an extension cord from his garage to her kitchen.

"Everybody really does help everybody out," she said.

Fardo herself went outside during Halloween to a nearby — lighted — intersection and handed out candy to trick-or-treaters so they wouldn't walk on the darkened streets near her home. She also has offered to share her home with neighbors in need.

"I believe we're supposed to help one another," said Fardo, a practicing Catholic. "I don't have much, but I did have the refrigerator going."

Yonkers resident Marla Hurban, 52, and her 16-year-old daughter lost power about 8 p.m. Monday and were staying away from their windows when they heard a large noise.

They ran outside to find "the whole tar roof had lifted like a sheet of paper and blown back," Hurban said. Worried that water would get in, but knowing that roofers would be hard to get, she sent a text to friend Denis Burke and neighbor Anthony Garcia, hoping someone had a tarp or the name of a repairman.

"Denis ... got in the car and came right over to the house and (Garcia) had come over and ... the two of them climbed out of my daughter's window and tried to straighten out the tar and stayed up there an hour reattaching the roof," Hurban said. "They both risked life and limb. They're my heroes. I don't know if I would have done that."

Acts of kindness are a usually underreported part of life, said Rabbi Benjy Silverman of Chabad of the Rivertowns.

"It's just a matter of letting people know," he said. "I basically feel that people always want to help. Sometimes we don't know the appropriate channels, and now this has given people an opportunity to help."

Volunteers flocked to People to People on Saturday in response to the pantry's request for help to bag groceries and to distribute food to victims of Superstorm Sandy.

On Saturday at People to People in West Nyack, volunteers quickly finished packing emergency grocery bags with tuna, granola bars and peanut butter, working shoulder to shoulder in a crowded room.

Gina Cila of West Nyack came to volunteer at Rockland's biggest pantry because she was out of gas and couldn't drive anywhere.

"I wanted to do something, and this is the best thing I could do for my community," said Cila, who brought her 13-year-old daughter, Kristina, who also volunteered.

Within an hour or so, dozens of grocery bags were lined up in and outside of the pantry.

Staff writers Akiko Matsuda and Laura Incalcaterra contributed to this report.

Jack Wien, 14, fixes a plate of food during Shabbat dinner at Grace Episcopal Church in Nyack on Friday. Grace Episcopal open its doors to Congregation Sons of Israel and Temple Beth Torah, whose were displaced because of no power caused by Superstorm Sandy. PHOTOS BY CARUCHA L. MEUSE/ THE JOURNAL NEWS

Benjamin Beal collects money from Larry Kintisch for those less fortunate during Shabbat dinner at Grace Episcopal Church in Nyack Friday.

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Community rallies around Chanin family

Father killed, others injured as tree slams house

By Tim Henderson
thenders@lohud.com

The Pearl River community is eager to help the Chanin family and their four children as soon as Lise Chanin gets out of the hospital and arranges a funeral for her husband, Jeff, who was killed during Hurricane Sandy.

Her daughter, Danielle, is also still at Nyack Hospital after an oak tree smashed into the family's living room on Robin Street on Monday night, killing her father and severely injuring her mother.

"There's still a grieving process to go through and the funeral arrangements can't even be made until the family gets out of the hospital," said Pearl River Fire Chief David O'Brien. "There's been a tremendous outpouring of offers to help, and we're going to take everybody up on that, but right now we're just waiting for the family to land on its feet and decide what they need."

The house is not habitable and the family will need temporary housing while it rebuilds, O'Brien said.

Pearl River firefighters responded at the height of the storm and rescued the surviving family members by cutting the tree away with chainsaws, some borrowed from the town highway department, but Jeff Chanin was killed by the impact.

He was a real estate agent at the Prudential Joyce Agency in Pearl River, and his wife Lise is treasurer for the village of Chestnut Ridge.

Jeff Chanin's son, Eric, is a volunteer firefighter and also responded, but was kept away from the house.

Friends expect Lise to be released in a few days.

"She's making progress. Everybody's been very good to them," said Jean Willock, a family friend.

Among the groups announcing plans to help are Munno's Deli, Nyemchek's Dance Centre where the Chanin girls study dance, Karma Vault where Lise Chanin takes yoga lessons, all in Pearl River, and Orangetown Mighty Midgets where Tim Chanin plays soccer in Orangeburg.

Karma Vault is having a yoga-thon this afternoon to benefit the family, and Orangetown Might Midgets is planning to dedicate proceeds from its Oct. 9 fundraiser at Casa Mia Manor House in Blauvelt to help the Chanins.

The soccer league, battling storm problems of its own, is trying to get the word out to parents this weekend with fliers at the weekend games.

Games involving travel have been canceled for safety and to conserve gas, said president Kerry Beckmann.

"Hopefully we'll get a nice amount of money that will help them, but it's also a visible sign of love and affection and support," Beckmann said.

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Superstorm Sandy toppled a row of massive oak trees at the edge of Harbor Island Park in Mamaroneck, where they lie in neat formation Tuesday. NED P. RAUCH/THE JOURNAL NEWS

TREES: Reasons varied why so many fell

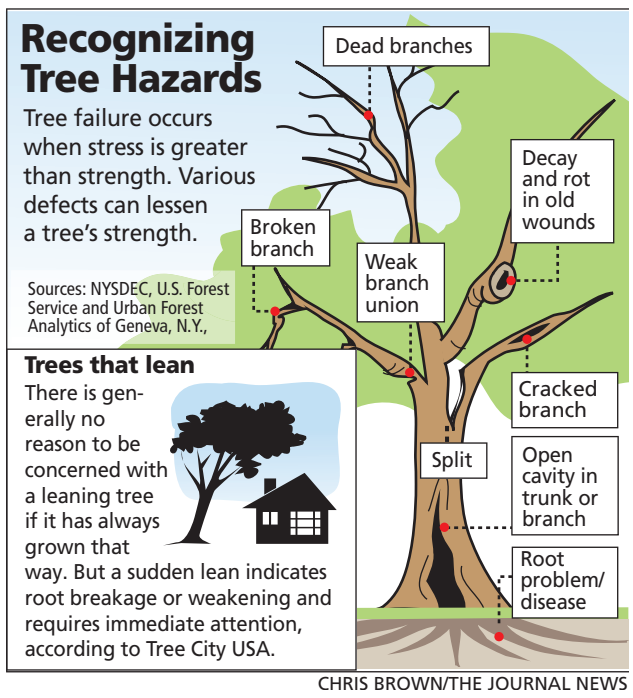
Continued from Page 1A

a slice of the destruction that blanketed the Lower Hudson Valley. Pines smashed cars in Eastchester and oaks fell across roads in Brewster. Two North Salem boys died when an oak crushed a family room as they played there Monday evening. A retired New York City police sergeant died when a tree came through the roof of his Pearl River home and a Yonkers man was killed when his car ran into a downed tree on the Sprain Brook Parkway.

While thousands of trees crashed to earth during Sandy, there is no one reason why trees come down, experts say. A host of causes can lead to toppling timber and many factors determine with how much force a falling tree may land with on a car, a roof or a living room, according to arborists and urban forestry consultants.

Wind speed and direction, whether the tree has any defects and how strong its root system is can all play into whether a tree stands or not. The force with which it lands is determined in part by whether the tree is uprooted or snaps off along its trunk, the size of its crown (the top mass of branches) and how far it falls before hitting a target.

In the background, a car maneuvers around downed trees and wires Tuesday on Route 121 in North Salem following Superstorm Sandy. FRANK BECERRA JR./THE JOURNAL NEWS



CHRIS BROWN/THE JOURNAL NEWS

Some species, are denser than others. The wood of oaks and hickories is heavier than that of willows and cottonwoods. The bigger the tree is, the more susceptible it is to falling because its center of gravity is higher.

"People want simple answers. The natural world is full of chaos," said Jerry Bond of Urban Forestry Analytics in Geneva, N.Y. "The bottom line is failure occurs when stress is greater than the strength of the tree."

That failure can be helped along by poor branch unions (two usually upright branches growing close together with bark instead of wood between them), limited root space or disease.

Trees also become comfortable with where they grow.

Winds in the Lower Hudson Valley usually blow roughly west to east. Trees put their resources into growing root and branch systems to anchor and balance themselves against that pressure. Sandy's strongest forces, however, blew in from the east and northeast.

"(Sandy) completely counteracted any strategy the tree has adopted," said Wes Kocher with the Illinois-based International Society of Arboriculture.

The 1938 hurricane that barreled across Long Island and into New England destroyed some 2 million trees, according to various accounts. Trees wrecked by severe weather account for more than $1 billion in property damage annually in the U.S., the National Storm Damage Center reported. There were 407 deaths from wind-related tree failures in the United States between 1995 and 2007, a Kent State professor wrote in a scientific paper.

Locally, a Croton-on-Hudson man died in 2008 when a tree fell on his car as he was driving in Cortlandt and a Yonkers couple was killed in 2004 when a tree fell on their SUV as they drove along the Saw Mill River Parkway. A 10-year-old girl died in 2002 when a tree crashed onto her tent at Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park in Putnam Valley.

A lost branch or section on an existing tree can allow disease or other problems to take root and further weaken the tree, said Dane Buell, director of general tree care at SavATree in Bedford Hills.

Buell said homeowners should have their trees inspected by an arborist certified by the Tree Care Industry Association.

"Often trees that fail once, they can fail again. But it's not a good thing to remove all the trees," he said.

Trees provide shade and act as windbreaks, lowering a home's cooling and heating costs. They lessen stormwater runoff and erosion, enhance property value and provide shelter and food for wildlife.

"Trees aren't negative. Trees are positive," Kocher said. "The benefits of trees are very strong."

As the area chainsaws its way out from under a forest's worth of debris, some have made peace with what is now horizontal instead of vertical.

"We know that we're lucky," Jeanne Rosen of Larchmont said. A large Norway maple rested on her roof and chimney Thursday, blocking her front door.

"It didn't hit our cars. There's not a tree in our living room." she said. "It could have been worse."

A worker raises the gas price Saturday at Shell at Routes 9 and 119 in Tarrytown. SETH HARRISON/THE JOURNAL NEWS

GAS: Millions of gallons reach region

Continued from Page 1A

wants a full tank."

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Saturday that 8 million gallons of gas had been delivered through New York Harbor since it reopened Thursday, and 28 million gallons more were expected over the next two days.

"The shortage of gasoline in the New York metro area has caused major inconveniences for our residents, and the state must take every action possible to address this issue," he said. "I have directed the state to temporarily suspend gasoline-distribution-related requirements so gasoline and other fuels can be transported throughout the region and New Yorkers can return to life as normal as quickly as possible."

Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, who toured storm-damaged communities Saturday, said he was assured regular fuel deliveries had begun and would continue. The county is working with the state to get generators to gas stations without power, he said.

"This is not 1979," he said. "There is no issue with a shortage of fuel. It's just getting the deliveries to the retailers, and that has already begun on a regular basis. Just yesterday there was a 2 1/2-million-gallon barge that was docked up in Newburgh, and that's where our main port is for deliveries. So it's getting out."

Oil analysts say the panic worsens the problem. Many stations and terminals lost power and couldn't pump their supplies in the first days after the storm, while people raced to stations to fill up their cars and get fuel for their generators.

"Things will get better, but until people stop freaking out, it's going to be bad," said Patrick DeHaan, petroleum analyst at GasBuddy.com.

Panic also is pushing up gas prices. The average for a gallon of regular gas in the New York City area is roughly $4, though motorists have reported prices close to $5.

The frenzy prompted the U.S. Department of Defense to bring 5,000-gallon fuel trucks to locations in New York City and Long Island on Saturday. The fleet provided emergency personnel and motorists up to 10 gallons of free gas per vehicle, pumped directly from the trucks. The locations for the free fuel did not include any in the Lower Hudson Valley.

Lower Hudson Valley gas stations had long lines for a third day. The Mobil on the Hutchinson River Parkway in Harrison had backups extending a half-mile in each direction by 9 a.m., police said. As early as 7 a.m., a long line of cars snaked onto Route 304 from Stop and Shop gas, one of the few stations open in New City.

Richard DeCarlo, manager of Joyce Leslie, a clothing store on Tarrytown Road in Greenburgh, said he called police because the gas line at the nearby Lukoil was blocking his parking lot.

Tom Kloza, analyst with Oil Price Information Service, said relief is in sight and urged people to calm down: "There is plenty of gas in the country. We are slowly reopening terminals, stations are getting power. Nearly all the lines will be gone by Wednesday — unless everyone continues to believe there is no gasoline … then there is a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Staff writer Jorge Fitz-Gibbon contributed to this report.

New Rochelle Community Services Officer Elmo Palomino stops a livery cab that attempted to cut the gas line at the Sunergy gas station on Main Street Thursday in New Rochelle. Motorists are experiencing long lines at the pumps or finding gas stations without any gas in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. TANIA SAVAYAN/THE JOURNAL NEWS

First responders, crews battle fatigue

Long workdays pose a serious safety concern

By Richard Liebson
rliebson@lohud.com

Assistant Fire Chief Andrew Seicol of the North White Plains Fire Department ties caution tape to downed wires on James Street in North White Plains Tuesday. Fire department personnel were clearing the roadways of damage from Sandy, making the area accessible to their trucks in the event of an emergency call. MATTHEW BROWN / THE JOURNAL NEWS

Yorktown and Bedford Hills firefighters work at the scene of a chimney fire at a home in Yorktown Friday in the wake of Sandy. FRANK BECERRA JR./THE JOURNAL NEWS

Fatigue is becoming a factor.

First responders in the Lower Hudson Valley who spent days preparing for Hurricane Sandy's arrival have barely had a chance to take a breath since the storm hit Monday, causing unprecedented devastation.

Faced with flooding, fallen trees and power lines, massive outages and hundreds of road closures, police, firefighters, public-works crews and electrical workers have been on the job around the clock and know that their work hasn't ended.

"It's what we plan for and what we train for, but, after a few days like we've had this week, it gets tough," said Westchester Public Safety Commissioner George Longworth. "We have made a number of procedural changes, because it's apparent that returning to normalcy is going to be a long-term process."

Those changes have included canceling vacations and time-off requests and returning a number of detectives to uniform, so more cops are available on the streets. Most county police officers have been working 12-hour shifts, while many are working 16, with eight hours off.

Until Friday the county Police Academy was being used as a makeshift shelter for police officers, with cots set up to allow weary cops a chance to get some rest.

"We encouraged people to sleep at the academy," Longworth said, "in part because driving home after working a long shift may not be a safe thing to do, especially with so many roads still closed or partially closed."

Jeff Coleman, the town of Cortlandt's director of environmental services, which covers highway and sanitation services, said workers have been pushed to the limit. Crews were working more than 12 hours during the initial phase of the storm, taking cat naps when necessary. Now, they're down to more "manageable" 12-hour shifts, he said.

"Rest is the biggest issue," Coleman said. "If they need to close their eyes, they do."

Barbara Bernstein, a psychologist at the Mental Health Association of Westchester County, said first responders have all the usual stresses on them as they deal with emergencies, and then some. Emergency workers have developed ways to cope with difficult situations, she said.

"They depend on each other," Bernstein said. "Their own peer network is essential."

But even as they deal with other people's emergencies, those workers are still thinking about the safety of their own homes and families, she noted.

The situation is even more difficult for utility workers who are brought in from out of town to help fix storm damage.

"They are away from their homes, their families, their routines," Bernstein said. "All the usual things that comfort us in difficult situations aren't there for them."

"It's challenging and it's a grind, but we're up for it," said Michael Langford, national president of the Utility Workers Union of America, which represents most of the local electric, gas and water workers as well as those from across the country who are responding to Sandy.

"Our people are working 16-hour shifts and will do so six or seven days a week until the job is done," he said. "They're tired, but they know what to do to stay safe and they're determined to do what it takes. That's what we thrive on. We take great pride in bringing these communities back to life by getting the power back on."

After 48 hours of responding to emergencies from Sandy, the Spring Valley Volunteer Fire Department was confronted Tuesday evening with a fire at a large apartment building just as power was being restored there. With help from 13 other departments — half the volunteers in Rockland County — they saved the building, although there was heavy fire damage to eight apartments and smoke and water damage to 16 others.

"The mutual aid I got was phenomenal," said Fire Chief Larry Bolson.

Afterward, he said, the firefighters "were emotionally exhausted."

"I went home and took a shower and shaved," he said. "I laid down in bed and slept for five hours. I couldn't go on. A lot of guys probably did the same thing. It's been an exhausting couple of days."

Despite the exhaustion, Bolson said the department remained ready for whatever comes next.

"I've been doing this for 31 years," he said. "We're a different breed. We're here when the public needs us and we try to do what's expected of us. We had a lot of 'thank you's and stuff like that from the people we have tried to help. That helps us a lot."

Keith Fennelly, president of the Westchester County Career Fire Chiefs Association, said that at the outset of large disasters such as Sandy, first responders have plenty of adrenaline to push through the initial response.

"But at some point, after the first few days, it's like somebody pulls the plug," he said. "But we're aware of that and we plan for it. You can't have all of your people working all of the time, so you plan downtime into the work schedules."

In many places, frustration is adding to the stress and weariness of first responders.

Somers highway chief Thomas Chiaverini said his crews worked in shifts from early Monday to late Tuesday before being sent home that night so they could return refreshed to deal with what he anticipates will be a long cleanup.

"This is one of the worst storms I've seen in 28 years," Chiaverini said. "Our crews have been out there and ready, but in many places we couldn't move trees until NYSEG (utility crews) moved the wires. There is no doubt this one is going to take some time."

Nevertheless, Longworth said, there will eventually be light, not only at the end of the tunnel, but throughout the region.

"It will get a little better each day," he said. "As power starts to come back it will provide relief for people and lessen the demand for first responders and emergency services. Things will return to normal."

The Journal News/LoHud.com staff contributed to this report.

High school sports bring respite from storm woes

Football playoffs, boys soccer thrill grateful fans

By Erik Shilling and Vincent Z. Mercogliano
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Area high school sports fans who weren't still waiting for a gas pump or for their power to return had a new option Saturday, for the first time since Superstorm Sandy: live high school sports.

Regional playoff games in football and boys soccer were among the events — some postponed for days — that finally returned, giving thousands of residents something more diverting than watching their fuel gauges drop.

At Harrison High School, that meant a Class A semifinal between the unbeaten Harrison Huskies and also-unbeaten Somers Tuskers that attracted hundreds of fans and the usual hallmarks of high school football: marching bands and boisterous student sections.

McGillicuddy Stadium's parking lot filled up around 45 minutes before the 2 p.m. game kicked off, and fans showed no sign of having just weathered an epic storm.

Leigh Platte, who was helping to run a concession stand selling food, coffee and other goods to benefit the Westchester County chapter of the Red Cross, said he and other band parents expected to sell around 350 hot dogs Saturday, as well as the same number of hamburgers.

Fans mobbed the booth during halftime, while youngsters played Hail Mary nearby and dads congratulated their boys in uniform, who were, by now, running out of the locker room back to the field.

"It's as if there wasn't a major event in the town," Platte said. "It's usually packed. And today it's packed."

Across the Hudson River, in Thiells, a similar scene played out at North Rockland High School, where the Panthers faced the Mamaroneck High School Tigers in a Class AA boys soccer quarterfinal.

Fans there said that it was good to be back to normal, even if it was under less-than-ideal circumstances.

"We've been extremely lucky," said Duffy Dwyer, of Thiells, who lost power for 18 hours.

"A couple of friends still don't have power of any kind," Dwyer said.

Dwyer added that he thinks its good to have the boys soccer playoffs resuming, after a delay that reached nearly a week.

"Everyone is looking forward to it," Dwyer said.

"If they played the other day, I would have had a problem with it, but this is the weekend," Dwyer said.

Another fan, Joe Schassler, of Jones Point, said he was still without power but felt lucky to be out and about.

"It's nice to get out of the house because it's cold," Schassler said. "Coming out here is like a break."

Coaches and players treated the games like any other.

At one point in the fourth quarter in Harrison, after a late Huskies turnover based on a questionable fumble call, head coach Art Troilo dressed down a sideline official.

It was the same reaction that he would've had at any other game, after a superstorm or weeks of clear skies.

Customers cold as they wait for power

Anger swells as overnight temperatures dip to low 40s

By Barbara Livingston Nackman
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While the number of customers who are in the dark — and now the November cold — is decreasing, the frustration from those still without power is clearly rising.

"There hasn't been a repair truck of any kind here," Joan Marcinkiewicz of Congers said of her neighborhood of single-family homes that is next to large townhouse complexes, Georgetown Manor and Stratford Arms.

This storm not only pulled down wires, but also seriously damaged transformers, say power utility officials, who stress that repairing the damage is a long process.

"Nobody likes to not have power, but this devastation is unprecedented. More than 80 percent of our customers were out of power," said Cecille Jones, an Orange and Rockland Utilities spokeswoman. "Just because a customer does not see a truck, doesn't mean we are not working on their electricity. Transformers can be miles away from a community but are essential to repair before the downed wires."

Just the same, many had cold homes as overnight temperatures dipped into the low 40s. The next several nights are expected to remain unseasonably cool. Rockland, Putnam and Westchester counties kept their overnight shelters open.

Barry Gegan of Mamaroneck wanted a dangling tree limb to be removed before it caused further damage in his already-darkened neighborhood by Murray Avenue School, but was told that areas near polling places and schools had priority.

"There is a dangerous near-freeze or actual freeze expected in the next few nights. Persons in homes without electricity and thus without heat may take sick or potentially freeze to death. Water pipes may burst in unheated homes, causing untold property damage," he said an email to the town. "I do not minimize the importance of our democratic process. However, I also do not overlook the ready solution, such as a sign on a darkened polling place's door, directing voters to another polling site nearby that has power, or to a nearby space rented for election purposes."

As of Saturday, Con Edison, which supplies Mamaroneck, had the greatest number of customers without power, some of whom have been told they won't see restoration until Nov. 9.

"Our crews are working around the clock," said Sara Banda, a Con Edison spokeswoman.

NYSEG reported 9,789 customers in Putnam without power.

The most outages were in Carmel, where there were 4,696 without power, while 2,213 were out in Putnam Valley.

But Martina Sheridan of Mahopac said the worst part was NYSEG's failure to give proper information and communicate effectively with customers.

"I got a message saying my power had been restored," said Sheridan, who lives between Carmel Town Hall and Lakeview Elementary School. "I was still in a dark, cold house."

She said when she called the company a representative told her she was not able to contact the crews in the field and she would start a new repair ticket.

"So I wonder, do they fudge their numbers? Are they unable to talk to people in the field?" Sheridan said.

Utility companies report there were 178,458 customers in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam counties without power, as of Saturday:

Consolidated Edison — 102,527 customers in Westchester.

Orange and Rockland — 46,281 customers in Rockland.

New York State Electric and Gas — 19,856 customers in Westchester and 9,789 in Putnam.

Central Hudson Gas & Electric — 5 customers in Putnam.

People eat lunch Wednesday in the cafeteria at Albert Leonard Middle School which the American Red Cross has set up as a temporary shelter after Superstorm Sandy in New Rochelle.
PHOTOS BY TANIA SAVAYAN/THE JOURNAL NEWS

Experts: Tools available to help deal with stress

Superstorm has lingering effects

By Linda Lombroso
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When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in 2005, it left behind record numbers of people afflicted with post-traumatic stress that has lingered, in some cases, for years.

While the after-effects of Superstorm Sandy are still wreaking havoc in the lower Hudson Valley, it is important to face worries before they careen out of control, say mental-health experts. And there are plenty of tools that can restore emotional equilibrium even if you're still getting dressed in the dark.

First, count your blessings if you've managed to escape physical harm from the storm, said Bonnie Goldstein, Ph.D., a Los Angeles-based clinical psychologist and author of "I'll Know What to Do: A Kid's Guide to Surviving Natural Disasters," published by the American Psychological Association.

"Once you get past 'Am I safe?' it becomes a day of thanksgiving before Thanksgiving, and that gratitude is what helps people get through," she said.

Stay away from frightening visuals of disaster scenes — be thankful, said Goldstein, if your TV is not working — since often such images can escalate stress and lead to a sense of helplessness.

Staying connected with friends and neighbors can mitigate a sense of pain and trauma, which is key to preventing a stressful incident from turning into post-traumatic stress, added Goldstein, whose patients include those who've endured earthquakes and mudslides.

"Sometimes what we fear most isn't the actual event but our powerlessness in it."

In fact, uncertainty is the root of anxiety, said Adam Weissman, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist with offices in Scarsdale and Manhattan. And problem-solving is often the way out of mental games that can wreek havoc on emotions.

Adam Weissman

As an example, Weissman used our inability to reach loved ones. "Yes, it is possible that a call to a friend or relative that goes straight to voicemail may mean that he or she is in danger," he said. "But we also know that thousands of homes have lost power and that laptop and smartphone batteries don't last very long. So what is more likely: that our loved ones are in serious danger or that they simply can't access their email, Facebook and the like for a few more days until their power comes back on?"

Weissman, a cognitive behavioral therapist, recommends strategies that include shifting your focus to something more positive, identifying "anxious exaggerated thoughts," sharing feelings with friends and family members, and taking stock of problems you've solved successfully in the past.

"It's a huge shock to go outside and see your car smashed," he said. "Give yourself a little space to have that reaction, and after you process it, pick yourself up by your bootstraps and say, 'I recognize that I'm anxious, I recognize this is a big inconvenience in my life, now what can I do about it?' Unless it's life threatening, there are always ways to come back from these things."

Children who may become fearful after hearing stories of storm-related tragedies need to be reassured that they're safe, said Goldstein.

For many kids, drawing pictures or writing down their feelings — particularly at night, when everything seems worse — can help bring fears to the fore and relieve much of their anxiety, said Weissman.

Linda Walter, a licensed clinical social worker and psychotherapist with offices in White Plains and Dobbs Ferry, suggests giving household chores to children — putting new batteries in the flashlights, for example — to turn the post-storm experience into an adventure of sorts. "Try to make a little excitement out of it," she said.

Of course, for some people, the excitement is too much, and anxiety has driven them out of their homes to places like the American Red Cross shelter at Albert Leonard Middle School in New Rochelle, where Janice Lehman is leading a team of volunteers trained to cope with the aftermath of disaster.

The night the storm hit, an elderly woman walked through the doors "literally shaking" about the trees falling on her property, said Lehman, a peppy South Carolina native on the Red Cross' national deployment team. "I gave her a big old hug and let her know she was in a safe place."

Dressed in red shoes to match her Red Cross vest, Lehman is a cheery powerhouse who insists on experiencing the post-storm difficulties just like everyone else.

Her cot has no fluffy extras, and her eyes well up when she talks about the people who depend on her for help.

"I don't get moody," she said. "I go with the flow."

The shelter, sparkling clean with free meals and accommodations for residents and their pets, has makeshift shower curtains in the locker rooms, created from garbage bags by Lehman and her team. Mental-health professionals, shared among the Red Cross shelters in Westchester, can be on site within minutes.

Lehman said that when people think of a shelter, they imagine a disorganized environment where chaos runs rampant and people are wandering around like lost souls.

Not on her watch.

"Honey, we'll be here for you until you can go home," she said, repeating what she tells people who are frantic about no power and dwindling resources. "That's what gives them the confidence and calms them down from a disaster situation."

So far, it seems to be working.

"People are not the same when they leave us," said Lehman, who plans to stick around until every last shelter resident has somewhere safe to go.

"They're hugging us saying, 'You've made me feel so at home.' "

Additional reporting by staff writer Heather Salerno.

American Red Cross volunteer Jeanne Knoll, left, and Janice Lehman, American Red Cross shelter manager, set up cots in the gymnasium at the temporary shelter at Albert Leonard Middle School in New Rochelle.

Maria Kaiser, 77, of New Rochelle eats a pizza lunch. She was the first to arrive at the shelter Sunday morning.

Week in review

MONDAY
Superstorm Sandy hits with ferocity

After dire warnings from meteorologists and government leaders, Hurricane Sandy — the hybrid "Frankenstorm" — struck the region with a vengeance, wreaking widespread havoc, killing several area residents and leaving thousands of people without power.

The superstorm formed by Sandy's merger with two other weather systems thrashed New York with howling winds and enough rain to keep daily life at a standstill and make it difficult for utility crews to restore power.

"I'm grateful to be alive," said Anne Putko, a Piermont educator, after gusts dropped a black walnut tree across her front yard rather than her house.

TUESDAY
Storm claims lives of 4 local residents

Though workers could patch the storm-ravaged Chanin family home, no tarp or chainsaw could be used to repair the damage left by Superstorm Sandy on the Chanin family.

Lise Chanin suffered a critical head injury after a large tree fell on her home as the storm raged Monday evening. Chanin's daughters Chloe and Danielle were treated for minor injuries. Their father and Lise's husband, Jeffrey, 51, a retired New York City police sergeant, was killed.

Chanin's death was one of four in the Lower Hudson Valley during Sandy's onslaught.

Two North Salem boys — Jack Baumler, 11, and Michael Robson, 13 — died when an oak tree fell onto the Baumlers' Bonnieview Street home.

Tiago Ferreria Neto, 54, of Yonkers was killed when his car struck a downed tree on the Sprain Brook Parkway in Greenburgh.

The home at 19 Bonnieview St. in North Salem where two boys died when a large tree crashed on it during Superstorm Sandy on Wednesday.
FRANK BECERRA JR./THE JOURNAL NEWS

WEDNESDAY
Utility repair crews in short supply

The work to restore power to more than 192,000 Westchester County utility customers who were blacked out by Sandy's gale-force winds faced one significant obstacle — New York City.

Facing outages to more than 643,000 customers — more than 350,000 of them in the five boroughs — Consolidated Edison crews focused most of their resources on larger outages in the Big Apple, leaving some Westchester County towns with just one truck and crew doing repairs.

"We have crews everywhere," utility spokesman Allan Drury said. "But the way a restoration works, you get to areas where you can restore the largest number of customers first.

More than 290,000 utility customers in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam counties, about 54 percent of all customers, remained without power at midday, as work crews for the area's four utility companies cleared trees and debris to address the largest storm-related power outage in the region's history.

THURSDAY
Motorists face lengthy gas lines

Gas may have been on its way to the Lower Hudson Valley but not soon enough for motorists stuck in lengthy lines to fill their cars and get gas for generators.

The crunch prompted Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano to issue an executive order rationing gasoline to 10 gallons per customer.

He blamed a "huge influx" of drivers from New York City and New Jersey for helping overwhelm local service stations and said at least 10 were out of fuel by 3 p.m.

Around the region, many stations remain closed due to power outages. Others closed in recent days after their supply ran out. And the ones that were open worried about when the pumps would run dry because a supply shortage in the region caused by Sandy left them unsure when they would get their next delivery.

"This is the worst I've seen," said Maher Attar, manager of a Mobil station at Mamaroneck and Rosedale avenues in White Plains, where dozens of drivers waited an hour for gas. "I will run out — maybe today, but I hope not."

BUSINESS: State recovery costs may exceed $18B

Continued from Page 1A

than what is normal for such a storm.

Those higher costs are due to large electric and utility losses that caused widespread business interruption.

On Friday, state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli estimated that New York's Sandy recovery costs could exceed $18 billion.

DiNapoli projected that tax revenue collections for the state, which are already $436 million below initial projections, will also be affected in the short term.

Lost state revenue starts with the smallest of businesses.

Randee Glick-Polito, co-owner of Pilates Studio of Rye, had both power and property losses.

Glick-Polito got an estimate of $15,000 to repair walls and floors damaged by their third flood in 3 1/2 years.

"We don't have a holiday business, but (the coming weeks are) one of our busiest times of the year," she said.

Small businesses like hers will suffer more than large corporations, said William Mooney, president of the Westchester County Association, a business group.

"For the small-business guys, especially the retail on the waterfront, this is devastating because you're coming into the biggest holiday season," said Mooney.

Jim Peoples, president of Provident Bank's district that includes the Lower Hudson Valley, said his bank did its part to help businesses survive by waiving any overdraft or late-payment fees as long as clients rectified their accounts by Friday.

Peoples expected that his Montebello bank will work closely with its clients with revenue losses by possibly adjusting loan-repayment schedules.

"If they had any destruction of property, we'll work with them to avail themselves of (Small Business Administration) programs to help them get back on their feet," he said.

Some of the region's corporate employers reported little disruption to their operations from the storm, while other companies had their employees work from home.

"The majority of our team has been online and conducting business as usual. We have stayed on schedule with our client's campaigns with some creativity and ingenuity (working from coffee shops, libraries, friends homes, etc.)," wrote Chris Maher, chief executive officer of House Party, whose office building on Irvington's waterfront was flooded.

Maher's social media marketing firm is on the second floor of 1 Bridge St., but the fashion company Eileen Fisher's retail outlet and most of its offices were on the first floor, where there was extensive water damage to merchandise in a storefront, office records and equipment.

Jim Gundell, Eileen Fisher's chief operating officer, said he didn't know when the company's operations would return to normal and he couldn't put a price on the damage.

Despite having 150 workers displaced, Gundell said that the company's fashion lines for spring and fall 2013 are on track.

"We don't think we'll have significant disruption for products next year," Gundell said.

Not all businesses are suffering economic losses in Sandy's wake.

Gavin Strube at Delaney Computer Services in Sloatsburg said his company is running servers for companies that have lost power and need their websites or networks.

"I hate to look at it that way, but any storm is good for an IT company," said Strube, noting that Delaney Computer Services also helped its neighbors by letting the public charge cellsphones and laptops in its retail storefront.

Construction companies, landscapers and roofers are also some of the sectors that will be busy in coming months, though Ross Pepe, president of the Construction Industry Council of Westchester & Hudson Valley Inc. in Tarrytown, didn't think it would eliminate an industry slump left over from the Great Recession.

"I don't see it resulting in a recovery, but there may be some jobs that develop in rebuilding the damaged facilities throughout Westchester and the lower Hudson Valley," he said.

Pilates Studio of Rye owner Tony Polito, standing on a damaged floor, looks on as O's Touch cleaning crew of Yonkers wipes down equipment at his business on Milton Road on Wednesday. The studio had three feet of flooding after Superstorm Sandy struck the area. PHOTOS BY TANIA SAVAYAN/THE JOURNAL NEWS

Susan Myers, right, and Linda Angarano, back, owners of Scissors on the Sound, clean the damage Wednesday on Milton Road in Rye. The store also had three feet of flooding after Superstorm Sandy struck the area.

RECOVERING FROM SANDY

Government agencies and banks have announced a variety of efforts to help businesses and homeowners recover from damages suffered during Superstorm Sandy. Here are some of the programs:

Bank of America: The bank's disaster relief program allows its customers to receive credit-line increases, modify or extend payments on loans and avoid early withdrawal penalties on certificates of deposit, among other services. Call 855-729-1764.

Federal Emergency Management Agency: President Barack Obama declared Rockland and Westchester counties disaster areas on Friday, allowing individuals with uninsured losses to seek financial help. Call 800-621-3362 or visit www.disasterassistance.gov.

Small Business Administration: The SBA has a Web page devoted to the 2012 hurricane season with information about disaster loans, grants and other financial assistance. Visit www.sba.gov.

Job loss: Those affected by the storm and who have lost their jobs or incomes should call the Telephone Claims Center at 1-888-209-8124, or 1-877-358-5306 if they live out of state.

Most candidates shift focus to storm response

By Elizabeth Ganga
eganga@lohud.com

With Superstorm Sandy causing widespread damage, power outages, gas shortages and other disruptions, candidates looking toward Tuesday's election have had to decide how much campaigning is appropriate in the final stretch and calibrate their response to the disaster to avoid any appearance of capitalizing on the destruction.

Some have suspended their campaigns, and others are turning over campaigning to surrogates or focusing on face-to-face contacts with constituents. Several are issuing statements emphasizing the hard line they are taking with power companies and distributing information about Federal Emergency Management Agency applications.

And some are getting out on the ground distributing dry ice, handing out food and putting their face on the storm response.

State Sen. Greg Ball, R-Patterson, has been perhaps the most aggressive. On Friday he was holding a barbecue and handing out dry ice and water in Mount Kisco. That was after earlier events in Yorktown and Lewisboro documented with dozens of photos on his campaign website.

He has toured storm damage and issued statements slamming New York State Electric & Gas Corp. and Consolidated Edison, demanding they "raise the bar."

Reached by cellphone on his way to another dry-ice distribution, he said his campaign was on hold and instead of his traditional shaking hands at train stations, he is focusing on constituent services.

"People don't give a crap about politics right now, they just want the power back on," he said.

Christopher Malone, a political science professor at Pace University, said it's a delicate balance fulfilling the role of public servant without appearing to take advantage. Candidates want to be compassionate without seeming political.

"Politics to most Americans is sort of a four-letter word, campaigning is a four-letter word," he said.

Rep. Nita Lowey, D-Harrison, showed how awkward that balance can become before a crowd of about 400 at a community meeting Thursday in Piermont, which was hard hit by the storm. While taking questions on FEMA assistance and other issues, the longtime incumbent, whose district has been redrawn to take in Rockland County, remarked that she had to be elected before she could represent those hurt by the storm there, drawing light laughter from the crowd.

Bill O'Reilly, who is working with several Republican candidates in Westchester and Rockland, said in some ways the past week makes little difference if the candidate hasn't made his argument to the voters. But voters can turn on them if they appear to be taking advantage.

"There's a very, very fine line to walk there, and, if you cross over that line, it's at your extreme peril," he said.

For executives in charge of public works crews and police departments providing direct services to residents, it may be easier to put aside the campaign and focus on the task at hand.

Ossining Mayor William Hanauer said he has stopped campaigning and is spending long hours working with the village's emergency committee.

"There is just so much I can do and no more, and the safety and health of the village is by far the most important thing," Hanauer said.

The role of legislators becomes one of getting information to constituents and facilitating coordination among localities, utilities and the state, said state Sen. David Carlucci, D-New City. Carlucci has been very critical of Orange and Rockland Utilities' response and level of communication.

"My campaign has been completely suspended," he said. "Any volunteers I have are focused on getting information to members of our community."

Malone said despite the cynicism around politics, he thinks most politicians are acting from genuine concern when they try to help storm victims.

Still, he said, "Is the compassion good politics? Absolutely."

Staff writer Khurram Saeed contributed to this report.

Helping out the needy

Candice Hartman, left, of Sloatsburg, and Scott Kohn, right, of Suffern, pack bags for distribution as volunteers from Rockland receive and pack food for distribution to the needy at the People to People Food Bank in Nanuet, on Saturday.
JOHN MEORE/THE JOURNAL NEWS

Wet, windy storm may hit Wednesday

By Theresa Juva-Brown
tjuva@lohud.com

Another nasty storm may be heading up the East Coast to deliver another blow to communities that were just pummeled by Superstorm Sandy.

"It's certainly not going to be as strong as Sandy," said AccuWeather meterologist Rob Miller. "We can expect some wind and rain, starting on Wednesday, continuing into Thursday."

The tri-state region could get 1 to 3 inches of rain and wind gusts up to 40 mph, though there is still "a possibility this swings out and barely clips the area," he said.

He also noted that temperatures will continue to stay about 10 degrees below normal for this time of year. Temperatures are expected to dip into the low 40s or upper 30s, he said.

Counties scramble to get polling places ready

By Erik Shilling and Akiko Matsuda
eshilling@lohud.com

Voting will happen as usual Tuesday in the Lower Hudson Valley, though conditions will be trying for voters and poll workers alike, officials said Saturday.

In Westchester, officials said many polling stations still lack power, including those in Bedford, Mamaroneck, Rye, Mount Pleasant, Yorktown, Scarsdale and parts of Greenburgh. Contingency plans will be announced Monday for any polling places that might not have power by Election Day.

"We're not the only county in distress," said Taijan Jones, a spokeswoman. "There are no generators to be had."

In Rockland, Board of Elections clerk Jazzmine Vasti said things were going "full steam ahead" at all of the usual polling locations, some of which will be operating on generators.

"Right now we have 30 more sites out of 80 that we are looking to get power restored to," Rockland Republican Election Commissioner Louis Babcock said Saturday afternoon. "We are working very closely with Orange and Rockland (Utilities) and the Rockland County Emergency Operations Center to get those sites up by Monday afternoon."

He said voters who usually go to Woodglen Elementary School at 121 Phillips Hill Road in New City would have to go somewhere else Tuesday. The new location is yet to be determined, but voters will be notified by reverse 911 calls before Election Day, Babcock said.

Anthony Scannapieco, the Republican Board of Elections commissioner in Putnam County, said that they, too, weren't going to be fazed by Superstorm Sandy. Scannapieco, a 22-year veteran of elections, said that this year was undoubtedly the toughest he could remember, even though officials hardly thought about postponing the vote.

Some observers had raised the possibility that the elections would be postponed or held on a second day under a little-noticed provision of New York election law. But Scannapieco said that was never on the table. "Never discussed," he said. "That would be totally insane."

Request for Information

Title: Seeking off-Campus Student Housing
Location: Purchase College, SUNY
Student Affairs Division
735 Anderson Hill Road
Purchase, NY 10577

Proposal: Purchase College, SUNY is seeking temporary off-campus room accommodations for up to 350 junior and senior students for the 2013 fall semester with the option to renew for the fall and spring 2013-14. Off campus housing is needed in order to facilitate a major residence hall rehabilitation project.

We are looking for efficiency apartments/hotel suites within close proximity to the Purchase College campus that can accommodate 2-4 students per unit with private bath, common area, single beds, small kitchen and close to transportation routes. The agreement would be from August 31 to December 21, 2013.

Anyone interested in the request for off campus housing should attend an open information meeting on November 8th 2012, 1-2pm. in Room 322 located on the third floor of the Student Services Building. If you have any questions please contact John Delate at (914) 251-6328 or e-mail john.delate@purchase.edu. For directions please go to our website http://www.purchase.edu/.

Please RSVP by November 6, 2012 for the meeting by sending an e-mail to Jessica.Cordero@purchase.edu.

Submitted by:
Ernie Palmieri,
Vice President for Student Affairs

WP-0000181205

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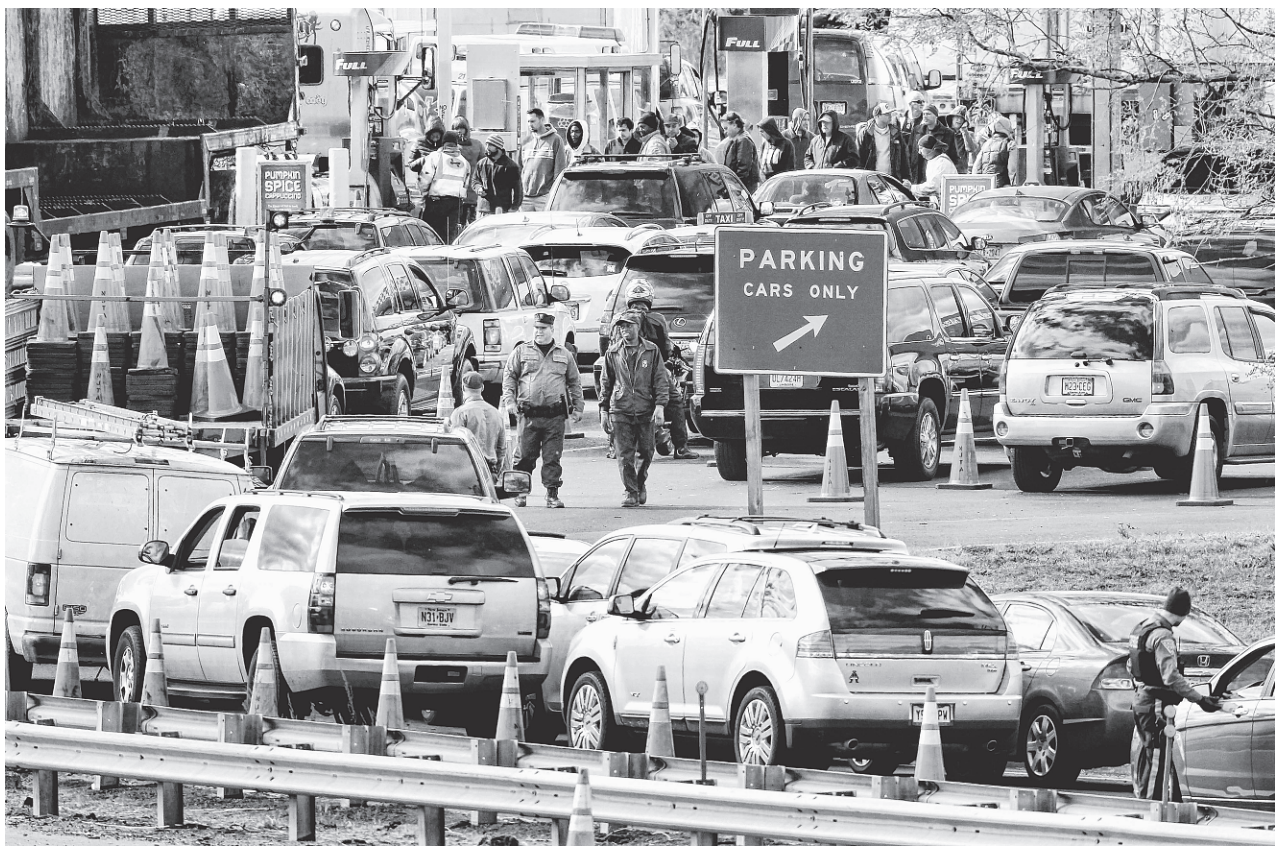
Power returns but gas shortages on rise

Fuel rationing goes into effect in New Jersey

By Karen Matthews
Associated Press



New Jersey state troopers keep order as motorist line up to buy gasoline Saturday at a service area on the New Jersey Turnpike near Woodbridge. MEL EVANS/AP

NEW YORK — More New Yorkers got power Saturday for the first time since Superstorm Sandy struck the region, but frustrations mounted over gasoline shortages as refueling sites turned into traffic jams of horn-honking confusion.

Gas rationing went into effect in northern New Jersey, while crowds lined up at free fuel distribution sites in New York's boroughs, where a limit of 10 gallons a person was imposed. New York officials then said emergency vehicles had priority over the public.

"It's chaos, pandemonium out here," said Chris Damon, whose family was displaced from his home in the Queens neighborhood of Far Rockaway and are staying with relatives. He circled the block for 3½ hours at the Brooklyn Armory, where the National Guard was directing traffic.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo had announced that the 5,000-gallon trucks from the Defense Department would set up the emergency mobile gas stations at five locations around the New York City metropolitan area. "Do not panic. I know there is anxiety about fuel," he said.

After the long lines formed, New York state officials said the public should stay away from the refueling stations until emergency responders first got their gas and more supplies are then made available.

The scene was more orderly in hard-hit Staten Island, where a line of cars stretched for two miles under the supervision of police and National Guard troops. An additional 400 people were on foot, carrying gas cans.

As gas rationing went into effect at noon in northern New Jersey, police began enforcing rules to allow only motorists with odd-numbered license plates to refuel. Those with even-numbered plates must wait until Sunday.

Jessica Tisdale of Totowa waited in her Mercedes SUV for 40 minutes at a gas station in Jersey City, but didn't quite understand the rules and was ordered to pull away because of her even-numbered plate.

"Is it the number or the letter?" she asked around 12:10 p.m. "I don't think it's fair. I've been in the line since before noon. I don't think it's fair. There's no clarity."

The officer who waved her out of line threw up his hands and shrugged.

In Washington, President Barack Obama visited the headquarters of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for an update on recovery efforts and said "there's nothing more important than us getting this right."

"Obviously we've now seen that after the initial search and rescue, the recovery process is difficult and it's painful," Obama said. "But I'm confident that we will continue to make progress as long as state and local and federal officials stay focused."

Obama cited the need to restore power; pump out water, particularly from electric substations; ensure that basic needs are addressed; remove debris; and get federal resources in place to help transportation systems come back on line.

About 2.6 million people remained without power in six states after Sandy came ashore Monday night. About 900,000 people still didn't have power in the New York metropolitan area, including about 550,000 on Long Island, Cuomo said.

About 80 percent of New York City's subway service has been restored, he added.

The storm forced cancellation of Sunday's New York City Marathon. Mayor Michael Bloomberg reversed himself Friday and yielded to mounting criticism about running the race, which starts on hard-hit Staten Island and wends through all five of the city's boroughs.

"I still think that we had the resources to do both, and that we want people to be able to take a break and that sort of thing," Bloomberg said during a visit to the borough of Queens. " … It's a big part of our economy."

As he spoke, he was met by catcalls from residents angry about the city's response to the storm.

The overall death toll from the storm was 105, including 41 in New York City. The widespread power outages made many New Yorkers recoil at the idea of police protecting a foot race and evicting storm victims from hotels to make way for runners.

"When you have a significant amount of people voicing real pain and unhappiness over its running, you have to hear that. You have to take that into consideration," said Howard Wolfson, deputy mayor for government affairs and communications.

Each day has brought signs of recovery.

Aida Padilla, 75, was thrilled that the power at her large housing authority complex in New York City's Chelsea section had returned late Friday. "Thank God," said Padilla, 75. "I screamed and I put the lights on. Everybody was screaming. It was better than New Year's."

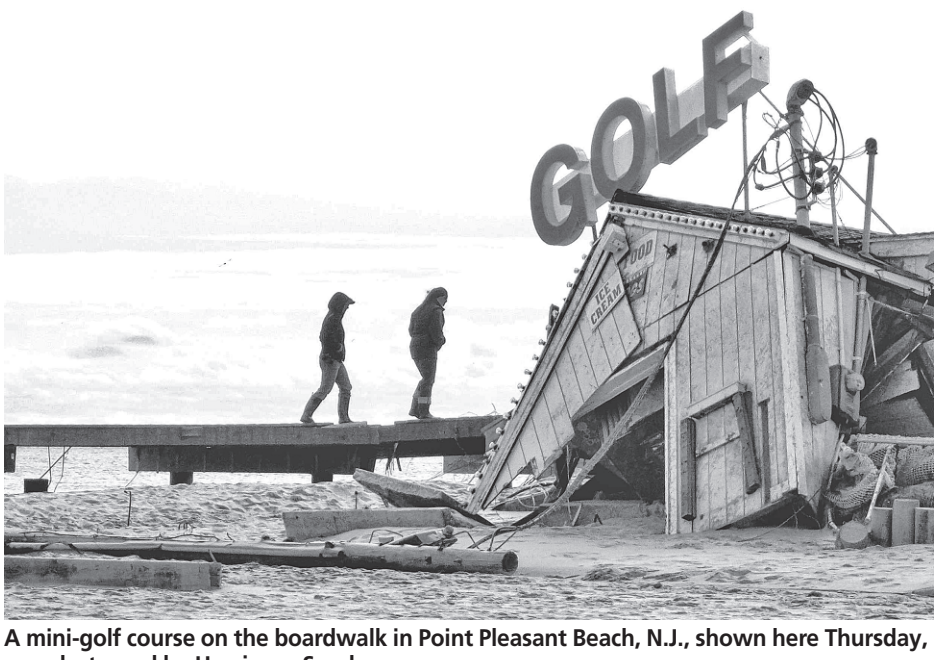
The governor said the New York area had a strong sense of community, "but until you have your lights on you're not happy."

"We're not going to stop until we have every house and every home restored," he said.

N.J. shore damage saddens many

Many begin to wonder what the future will hold

By Wayne Parry
Associated Press



A mini-golf course on the boardwalk in Point Pleasant Beach, N.J., shown here Thursday, was destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. WAYNE PARRY/AP

SEASIDE HEIGHTS, N.J. — It is one of the icons of America, the backdrop to a thousand stories — the place where Tony Soprano's nightmares unfolded, where Nucky Thompson built his "Boardwalk Empire," and where singer Bruce Springsteen conjured a world of love and loss and cars and carnival lights and a girl named, incongruously, Sandy.

But after the storm of the same name passed through last week, the seaside towns of the Jersey Shore have been upended, and some of the boardwalks have been pushed into the sea.

And those who live there, those who spent their childhood weekends there and those who experience its stories from afar are asking different versions of the same question: What happens now?

"This is just a heartbreaking experience seeing all these places we love that are just decimated," said Jen Miller, a blogger about the Jersey shore who lives in the Philadelphia area. "It's just what you do every summer: you go 'down the shore.'

"The pictures are awful; my heart breaks looking at them," she said. "I run on all these boardwalks. I go over that bridge between Belmar and Avon. It's one of those things you think will always be there. And now it's not."

All along the state's 127-mile coastline, the storm wrecked communities rich and poor, from multimillion-dollar homes in Bay Head and Mantoloking to blue-collar bayfront bungalows. Boardwalks were trashed, a roller coaster swallowed by the ocean. The worst damage was nearest the ocean, but winds and water wrecked homes several miles inland as well. Damage assessments were still being made, but thousands of homes were affected.

"Who ever thought they'd see a roller coaster in Seaside Heights in the ocean?" New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie asked. He vowed to help rebuild the shore, while cautioning it might not look exactly the same.

For many people, the Jersey shore is much more than a place; it's an identity, a brand. It's the place where Gov. Christie got into it with a heckler last summer while eating an ice cream cone while out for a stroll with his family.

It's also the economic engine that powers New Jersey's $35.5 billion tourism industry.

A young Jon Bon Jovi shot one of his first music videos atop a rest room pavilion on the Seaside Heights boardwalk in 1985, across from the Sand Tropez clothing stand and Lucky Leo's arcade; Richie Sambora played the guitar solo to "In And Out Of Love" in a Seaside Heights lifeboat.

"It's gone," Bon Jovi said on NBC's "Today" show, hours before he and Springsteen were to headline a televised concert Friday to raise money for storm victims. "The entire Jersey Shore that I knew is gone."

That Jersey shore is a blend of competing aromas: the fried dough of zeppoles just before the powdered sugar goes on, the extra garlic on pizza slices, the salty spray coming off the ocean, and the smell of the chemical protectants they spray on pier pilings to insulate them from water damage.

It's where the click of spinning prize wheels, carnival barkers' shouts and the "pop" of breaking water balloon games compete for attention with boom-box rap, pop and heavy metal from strolling or skateboarding teens.

"When you're a teenager and you get your driver's license, the first thing you do is get in the car and drive down to Seaside Heights," said Marilou Halvorsen, a lifelong shore resident who until recently worked for the company that owned the now-wrecked Casino Pier in Seaside, where the remains of a roller coaster sit half-submerged in the ocean.

"You walk on the boardwalk, you get an ice cream cone, you take your kids on their first carousel ride: whether you're young or old, these are memories that are part of your life in every stage of your life," she said. "This is the skyline of the Jersey shore. It's a special place, a historic place."

Historic, indeed. Atlantic City built the world's first boardwalk as a way to keep guests from tracking sand into beachfront hotels. A small portion of that Boardwalk — now uppercased as a formal street name — was destroyed in the storm, although the Boardwalk in front of the nine oceanfront casinos remained intact.

In Wildwood, the widest beaches in New Jersey — a half-mile from the boardwalk to the water in some spots — helped protect the famous boardwalk amusements in what is routinely voted as the Jersey shore's most popular beach. Will Morey, president of Morey's Piers, said his rides sustained some electrical damage from flooding, but nothing that won't be fixed well before Memorial Day.

"This is a part of our culture; it's deep in the soul of Jersey," he said. "The whole Jersey shore phenomenon is pure Americana. Is it the sense of freedom, the sun, the water, the Greek joints and the pizza stands? I think it's a symphony of all these things. It's an authentic experience and a very powerful one."

Superstorm was most harmful to elderly residents

Poor health claimed some; others couldn't or wouldn't evacuate

By Larry Neumeister
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Even with her Coney Island apartment squarely in the path of Superstorm Sandy, Loraine Gore was staying put. At age 90, she said, she had her reasons.

"I'm tired," she told a friend who urged her to evacuate. "I don't want to go."

After floodwaters subsided, Gore's body was found face-down in her home — one of nearly a dozen New Yorkers older than 65 who perished in the storm.

While Sandy claimed victims as young as toddlers, it was crueler to the city's elderly.

Some were vulnerable because of poor health. The power failure cut off the oxygen supply for an ailing 75-year woman living in Manhattan's East Village. Her grandson rushed to a nearby hospital to get a manual tank, but by the time he returned, she had died from an apparent heart attack.

Others died fleeing the storm. On Wednesday, police discovered the bodies of an 89-year-old man and his 66-year-old wife next to their car in a vacant lot on Staten Island. Police believe the couple died after their car became submerged in water.

Most drowned alone in bedrooms, living rooms and basements that flooded.

One 84-year-old victim in Queens was confined to a wheelchair, meaning she probably couldn't have fled the rising water. But other older victims weren't homebound. They chose to stay and risk their lives, perhaps too stubborn or too weary to do otherwise.

Another was 82-year-old Jimmy Rossi, known as "Uncle Jimmy" because so many people in his tight-knit Staten Island community are related. Rossi lived in a beach bungalow and spent much of his time tending to his aging bulldog, Shorty.

As the water began to rise Monday night, neighbors assumed Rossi had heeded calls to head for higher ground. A niece heard through a friend that he was going to his son's house. He told his son he was going to a friend's.

But when the storm eased Tuesday, it became increasingly clear Rossi had done neither.

Rossi's son, Joe, his nephew and some neighbors used a kayak to break the windows of his submerged home in a frantic, failed search.

On Wednesday, his body was found in the marsh behind his house, where Shorty had survived.

Neighbor Richard Quinn, a retired firefighter, speculated that Rossi had left the house to escape the rising water but got swept up in it.

"Like the rest of us, he probably figured it wasn't going to be as bad as it was," said Quinn, who has lived across the street for 50 years. "It was like a tsunami coming."

Gore's final hours were spent in the apartment where she had lived alone since her husband, a former transit worker, died more than a decade ago. She was known as a neighborhood pioneer — one of the first to live at the water's edge in a complex of 22 two-story townhouses.

Longtime friend Celina Grant recalled Gore as "a pleasant, humble person" who was a "very, very independent woman."

She "loved gardening and loved God," Grant said.

'What can I do?': New Yorkers seek ways to help

Volunteers walk toward homes to help residents clean up Saturday in Staten Island. JULIO CORTEZ/AP

By Jocelyn Noveck
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Normally on a Saturday morning, Erica Siegel, a 33-year-old real estate agent, would be working or taking a run. But this weekend found her packing rolls of toilet paper, boxes of garbage bags, and canned vegetables and soups to bring to a Queens park, where they would be sorted for delivery to storm victims.

Siegel's also been asking fellow real estate agents to join her in an effort, advertised on Facebook pages and blogs, to find vacant homes — for sale or rent — to help house storm evacuees.

"I have to tell you, it feels like a virus going around, this need to help," she said, speaking a mile a minute as she raced to get out of her house. "So many people are feeling it."

In ways big and small, ordinary people from storm-affected areas are seeking out opportunities to help. In terms of drama, these efforts don't rise to the level of the heroic rescues that have made TV newscasts — like the man who ventured into chest-deep waters to rescue a stranded cab driver. But they are a way, these people say, of giving something, if just a little, to those who, by mere chance and geography, suffered more than they did.

No shortage of helpers

"It turns out, people really, really want to do something," said Lyn Pentecost of the Lower Eastside Girls Club, which serves some 150 low-income families and was thrilled to find supporters donating more than $15,000 in less than four hours Saturday, after a 7 a.m. email. "They just want to know how to do it."

A world away on the Upper East Side, where power was never lost, Kim Hartman, a mother of three, was one of those who found herself searching for ways to help.

"I looked at the kids, and they were sitting around, doing nothing," she said. "I wanted to stop the inertia."

So she took two of her kids and a friend to a local food pantry, where they spent three hours preparing packages for the needy. It turned out there were too many volunteers on subsequent days, so this weekend, the family is making hundreds of packaged lunches at home and bringing them over.

"This makes it very real to my kids," said Hartman, who's also hosting four guests from areas without power. "You can look at the pictures, but I think you need to walk out the front door, to really feel the change that has happened in the city."

Getting the word out

The efforts are being organized in a myriad of ways: on Facebook pages and Twitter feeds, community blogs, school email lists, or by word-of-mouth. They are supplementing the larger-scale efforts by relief agencies like the American Red Cross, the Catholic Charities of New York or the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

"Anyone looking to get dirty can meet me at 326 Seaver Avenue this morning," Sean Sweeney, a former community board chairman in the hard-hit borough of Staten Island and also an amateur photographer, posted on Saturday. "Bring gloves and your Resolve and I don't mean carpet cleaner."

A few days ago on his page, Sweeney says, he asked whether anyone could spare a generator for a man who was a quadriplegic and had no power. Within hours, he had not only a generator but also someone to help him bring it over.

"People have opened their hearts," Sweeney said.

For some in New Jersey, life in the dark isn't so bad

By Ben Nuckols
Associated Press

SEA GIRT, N.J. — Kids built Legos and rode bikes instead of playing video games. Dogs were walked twice as often as usual. And movie nights with friends — the lucky ones with generators — were cause for celebration.

In the well-kept inland sections of Sea Girt on the Jersey shore, Superstorm Sandy did little property damage.

But it did knock out power, and four days later, no one knew when the lights would come back on.

For sure, living in the dark for 13 hours a day is an inconvenience. But for Dawn DeMarco, a holistic health practitioner and a divorced mother of three, it brought at least one unexpected pleasure.

"It's kind of a blessing" for the kids, DeMarco said, "because all they want to do is play video games and be on the computer and watch TV, and they can't do it!"

As darkness fell Friday evening, the only illumination along Laurel Avenue in Sea Girt came from a Verizon Wireless truck at the end of the road. Parked next to a pitch-dark Verizon store and blasting techno music, the generator-powered truck — which usually hawks its wares at food festivals and state fairs — gave residents a chance to charge their phones while browsing the latest tablets and smartphones from Apple, Samsung and Motorola.

"There was a lady actually crying," said Kent Bernard, the Verizon employee who manned the truck. "She was so thankful to just have a phone charging. She hadn't been able to talk to her parents since the storm."

Farther down the street, homes with recessed lighting and high-definition TVs were illuminated only by the warm, faint glow of candlelight.

The only sound was the humming of the occasional gas-powered generator. Debris had been swept up into neat piles, awaiting pickup by the curbside. Bored teenagers strolled down the street, and the occasional bicyclist whizzed by, all but invisible.

Jamie Shannon and his girlfriend were passing the time in their candlelit living room with their dog and three cats, listening to a battery-powered radio. On their front porch, they had a cooler stocked with beer and wine.

"I think we're kind of lucky here without power," Shannon said. "We're getting around. The dog's been walked four times a day, just out of boredom."

Gordon Hobbis, a volunteer firefighter and the owner of an industrial-supply company, has been logging long hours during the storm.

Although he hooked up a generator to his house on Wednesday and was planning to have neighbors over to watch a movie, he's still living more simply than usual.

"I kind of enjoy it a little bit because it's a complete change of pace," Hobbis said.

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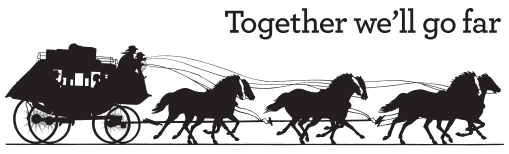

*Wells Fargo may, at its own discretion, limit the number of unique codes and/or cancel the free credit score and complimentary credit report promotion at any time. Your credit report will look like what a lender would see if the lender obtained your credit report at the same time. Your version is formatted to be more easily understood. Your credit score could vary by lender depending on the type of scoring used. The credit score you receive in this promotion probably will not be the same as the score obtained by a lender and is for educational purposes only.

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

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WP-0000179204

Montrose accident victim ID'd as male resident, 38

Pedestrian died after being hit by car, officials say

By Jorge Fitz-Gibbon and James O'Rourke
jfitzgib@lohud.com

MONTROSE — A 38-year-old man struck and killed by a vehicle Friday night was identified as Alexei Richard of 139 Dutch St., Montrose, the Westchester Medical Examiner said Saturday.

Richard was struck from behind about 8:15 p.m. while walking on Route 9A between Laurel Hill Road and Old Albany Post Road.

State police said he was struck by a southbound 2011 Chrysler sedan occupied by a husband and wife.

Police did not release the identity of the occupants of the car.

Richard was taken to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, where he was pronounced dead.

The medical examiner ruled the incident an accident, and said the cause of death was blunt-force head injuries, skull and leg fractures, and brain contusions.

State police Investigator Sean Morgan said Friday night that Richard was dressed in dark clothing and walking in the roadway when he was struck.

"We're not really sure why he was in the lane of traffic," Morgan said.

"I don't know if he was crossing or maybe just veered into traffic," he said. "It's not clear."

No additional information was provided by state police late Saturday.

Police at the scene were investigating a spot on the road about 20 to 30 feet behind where the car had stopped. The windshield of the dark Chrysler was visibly damaged on the passenger's side.

Morgan said the driver of the car, who was traveling with his wife, was cooperating with police at the scene and was not expected to be charged for his role in the crash.

Neither the driver nor his passenger were injured in the accident, Morgan said.

In addition to state police, the Montrose Fire Department and the Cortlandt Community Volunteer Ambulance Corps responded to the scene.

Route 9A, also known as Albany Post Road, was blocked to traffic for several hours Friday as police investigated.

Haiti sees small rise in cholera cases after Hurricane Sandy

Poor sanitation, sewage blamed for outbreak

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — The Haitian capital saw a small increase in the number of people infected by cholera after last week's destructive rains from Hurricane Sandy, an international medical group said Friday.

Doctors Without Borders said the group's five cholera treatment centers had at least 457 patients Monday. There were 500 patients Tuesday.

Spokesman Mathieu Fortoul said the number of cholera patients had since dropped, with the group's clinics having about 430 patients Friday.

The increase in cases was anticipated. Cholera spreads through water, and Haiti has seen a spike in the number of cases after periods of heavy rainfall. The country is vulnerable in large part because it doesn't have proper sanitation and sewage systems.

Cholera, an intestinal infection caused by the bacterium Vibrio cholera, has sickened more than 600,000 people and killed more than 7,500 others in Haiti since it surfaced several months after the devastating 2010 earthquake, health officials say.

Many people have attributed the disease's introduction to a unit of U.N. peacekeepers from Nepal, where the disease is endemic.

Haiti was spared a direct hit from Hurricane Sandy when it passed to the west the night of Oct. 24, but heavy rain in the storm's outer bands pounded the south and capital for several days.

Officials say at least 54 died, more than any other Caribbean country. The storm also destroyed 70 percent of the crops in southern Haiti, authorities say.

The rainfall compounded the misery for the some 370,000 people still living in flimsy shelters as a result of the

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2012 ZIP CODE DISTRIBUTION NOTICE

48 HOUR DISTRIBUTION BEGINS: Distribution hotlines open at 9:00am this morning (Sunday) for White Plains residents only. Trucks are being loaded with new, leading brand, energy saving, infrared heaters and soon will be delivered to lucky state residents who find their zip code on the distribution list below.

White Plains residents set to get new infrared heaters to save up to 50% on heating bills for only $159 and free shipping

Compared to the Suggested Retail Price of $499.95 this is a great opportunity for our residents to own one of the highest quality, energy saving, cool-to-the-touch, portable infrared heaters available today, and stop spending a fortune on heating bills. The first 362 callers who beat the 48-hour deadline are getting these money saving portable infrared heaters.

WHITE PLAINS, NY - If you or a loved one has difficulty paying for heating bills, then this distribution of brand new portable infrared heaters is your chance to make life a little easier. These infrared heaters warm the room evenly and efficiently without drying out the air. They never get hot to the touch, like other heaters, so they are safe for pets and children.

Company spokesman, David Brinkman, says, "We have 362 of these brand new, high quality infrared heaters reserved for White Plains residents right now, so those who find their zip code listed in today's paper need to call the zip code Distribution Hotline immediately to get theirs."

These revolutionary infrared heaters are changing the lives for many that find it difficult to pay for the high cost of heating a home. Infrared heat warms in a way similar to the warmth we feel from the sun, it's been described by many as "bone warming" heat. It is completely safe and does not deplete oxygen from the air, which would make you tired, nor dry out the air, which irritates your skin. The iHeater brand is said to be the most sought after brand of infrared heaters. iHeaters have been selling strong for many years, they have in-house customer service located in Indianapolis, Indiana. The iHeater infrared heating elements are backed by a lifetime warranty and don't burn out, like other low-end brands of infrared heaters that use bulbs.

Similar infrared heaters of this quality are expensive, the suggested retail on this unit is $499.95, but state residents are being urged to call the Toll Free hotlines at 1-855-462-7934 because the first 362 callers who beat the 48-hour deadline will be able to claim one of these infrared iHeaters and have it delivered directly to their door for only $159 and the shipping is free. This is an extraordinary opportunity for those in need of help on winter heating bills to take advantage of this zip code distribution. "We're bracing ourselves for all the calls because a program like this, for an infrared heater of this quality, has never been released before. So if the lines are busy, keep trying. We'll answer every call in the order they are received" Brinkman said.

Simply Plug it in: *Saving money on heating bills is very easy with an iHeater infrared heater. Today's distribution is intended to help those in need of keeping warm this winter without spending too much on heating bills.*

Stay Warm and Save Money: *iHeater infrared heaters are safe for pets and children to be around, the outside of the unit stays cool to the touch. They also heat evenly, quietly, and do not dry out the air. Heats up to 1000 square feet.*

The Toll Free Distribution Hotlines open at 9:00am this morning (Sunday) for White Plains residents only. You must be one of the first 362 callers who beat the 48-hour deadline to have your infrared heater delivered to your door for only $159 and free shipping. (suggested retail: $499.95)

Zip Code Distribution List:

If your Zip Code appears below call toll free:

1-855-462-7934

06830	10471	10532	10553	10591	10605	10705	10801
06831	10502	10533	10570	10594	10606	10706	10803
06878	10522	10538	10573	10595	10607	10707	10804
10464	10523	10543	10577	10601	10701	10708	10805
10466	10528	10550	10580	10603	10703	10709	
10470	10530	10552	10583	10604	10704	10710	

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