

Jury Convicts 5 In Post-Katrina Shootings

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A federal jury on Friday convicted five current or former police officers in deadly shootings on a New Orleans bridge after Hurricane Katrina, a high-profile victory for the Justice Department in its push to clean up the city's troubled police department. The case was a high-stakes test of the effort to rid the police department of corruption and brutality. A total of 20 current or former New Orleans police officers were charged last year in a series of federal probes. Most of the cases center on actions during the aftermath of the Aug. 29, 2005, storm, which plunged the flooded city into a state of lawlessness and desperation. Sgts. Robert Gisevius and Kenneth Bowen, Officer Anthony Villavaso and former officer Robert Faulcon were convicted of civil rights violations in the shootings that killed two people and wounded four others on the Danziger Bridge less than a week after the storm. They face possible life prison sentences. Retired Sgt. Arthur "Archie" Kaufman and the other four men also were convicted of engaging in a brazen cover-up that included a planted gun, fabricated witnesses and falsified reports. The five men were convicted of all 25 counts they faced. Shaun Clarke, a defense attorney and former federal prosecutor who moved from New Orleans to Houston after Katrina, said the verdicts are "critically important" to the Justice Department's reform efforts.

Syria Claims Progress In Crushing Uprising

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria's government showed off TV and still images of burned buildings and rubble-strewn streets empty of people in Hama, the epicenter of anti-regime protests, and claimed Friday it was putting an end to the rebellion in the besieged city. Under the suffocating clampdown, residents of the city warned that medical supplies were running out and food was rotting after six days without electricity. Across the country, tens of thousands of protesters marched, chanting their solidarity with Hama and demanding the ouster of President Bashar Assad. They were met by security forces who opened fire, killing at least 13 people, activists said. Government forces began their ferocious assault on Hama Sunday, cutting off electricity, phone services and Internet and blocking supplies into the city of 800,000 as they shelled neighborhoods and sent in tanks and ground raids.

Flight Examined After Unspecified Threat

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Passengers aboard a US Airways flight that flew in from Scotland have been removed and the plane taken to another part of Philadelphia International Airport because of an unspecified threat. US Airways spokesman Andrew Christie told The Associated Press on Friday that the 157 passengers and six crew had boarded the Anchorage, Alaska-bound Flight 968 when they were asked by TSA officials to deplane so it could be swept by law enforcement officials. The passengers were taken inside Terminal A. Airport spokeswoman Victoria Lupica (loo-PEE'-kah) said she did not what the threat was, but that the incident was referred to the FBI. Airlines that use the terminal include Lufthansa, British Airways, US Airways, Air Jamaica and Frontier.

Army To Trim Yearlong War Tours To 9 Months

WASHINGTON (AP) — Aided by the shrinking troop requirements for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army is cutting the current year-long deployment tours to nine months for most of its units beginning next January. The change will not affect any of the Army troops deploying this year, and some high-demand units — such as aviation and military police — will continue to serve 12-month tours. The move comes as the Iraq war continues to wind down and as the U.S. begins what is to be a slow, deliberate withdrawal from Afghanistan. And it reflects a reduced demand on the military as the Pentagon looks to shrink the size of the Army and Marine Corps and slash budgets in line with the administration's attempt to rein in spending. As part of that effort, the Army is also planning to cut more than 8,700 civilian jobs over the next year, with about half coming from support staff at bases and installations around the world. Those could include maintenance, administrative and security staff.

Bachmann: I Would Focus On Economy

NEWTON, Iowa (AP) — Michele Bachmann declared Friday "it won't take that long" for her to start turning the ailing economy around as president as she competed against other GOP presidential rivals to build support ahead of a key GOP straw poll in Iowa next week. Bachmann told reporters after a campaign event in Newton that the economy would start to improve almost immediately after she becomes president because she would immediately implement conservative economic policies to slash the nation's debt, rule out tax increases and cut regulations. "It won't take that long if we send signals to the marketplace," she said, standing by an earlier comment that the improvement would begin within the first quarter. Speaking to a crowd of more than 60 in the parking lot of a Pizza Ranch, Bachmann said Friday's economic report indicating that 117,000 jobs were created last month showed the economy remained too weak. She also said this week's plunge of the stock market was proof that an agreement to raise the nation's debt ceiling and cut spending that she voted against was "a stinky deal."

Senate Dems Bow To GOP In FAA Shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP) — With tens of thousands of jobs, more than \$1 billion and their reputations on the line, Senate Democrats gave way Friday to a power play by House Republicans in order to end a partial two-week shutdown of the Federal Aviation Administration. With lawmakers scattered for Congress' August recess, the consent of only two senators was required to pass a bill restoring the FAA's operating authority through Sept. 16. President Barack Obama signed it into law hours later. But partisan differences remain, and a repeat performance of the legislative standoff could come next month. The impasse had left hundreds of airport construction projects in limbo and idled tens of thousands of construction industry workers as well as nearly 4,000 FAA employees. One of the biggest costs was to the hard-pressed U.S. treasury, which lost about \$400 million in uncollected taxes during the two-week standoff and stood to continue losing \$30 million a day — more than \$1 billion in total — if there had been no solution before Congress returns from its recess.

U.S. Credit Rating Drops

S&P Says Debt Reduction Plan Falls Short

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Credit rating agency Standard & Poor's on Friday downgraded the United States' credit rating for the first time in the history of the ratings. The credit rating agency said that it is cutting the country's top AAA rating by one notch to AA-plus. The credit agency said that it is making the move because the deficit reduction plan passed by Congress on Tuesday did not go far enough to stabilize the country's debt situation. A source familiar with the discussions said that the Obama administration feels the S&P's analysis contained "deep and fundamental flaws."

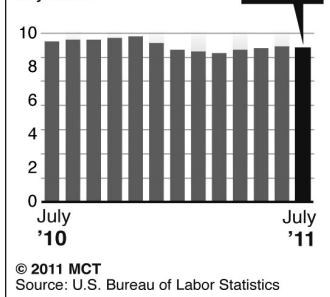
S&P said that in addition to the downgrade, it is issuing a negative outlook, meaning that there was a chance it will lower the rating further within the next two years. It said such a downgrade to AA would occur if the agency sees less reductions in spending than Congress and the administration have agreed to make, higher interest rates or new fiscal pressures during this period. S&P first put the government on notice in April that a downgrade was possible unless Congress and the administration came up with a credible long-term deficit reduction plan and avoided a default on the country's debt. After months of wrangling and negotiations with the administration, Congress passed this week a debt reduction package at the 11th-hour that averted a possible default. In its statement, S&P said that it had changed its view "of the difficulties of bridging the gulf between the political parties" over a credible deficit reduction plan. S&P said it was now "pessimistic about the capacity of Congress and the administration to be able to leverage their agreement this week into a broader fiscal consolidation plan that stabilizes the government's debt dynamics anytime soon."

Better-Than-Expected Jobs Report Soothes Wall Street

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Better. The job market beat expectations, and the stock market managed a modest gain — not great, but good enough after a turbulent week. The nation added 117,000 jobs in July, the government said Friday — far from what happens in a healthy economy, and only good for a reduction of one notch in the unemployment rate, to 9.1 percent. But the jobs number beat the forecast of economists, who were expecting no more than 90,000. And it was an overwhelming relief for investors, who just lived through two of the most brutal weeks in Wall Street history. "Nothing to pop Champagne corks over," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at Mesirow Financial, "but a much-needed shot in the arm for confidence at a time when we have so little."

The Dow Jones industrial average finished with a gain of 60.93 points and closed at 11,444.61. It made up only a small fraction of the losses from Thursday, when the Dow dropped 512, its worst since the financial crisis of 2008. Friday was not exactly quiet for the market, either. At the start of trading, investors were thrilled with the unemployment report, and the Dow rose 171. Ten minutes later, the gains were gone. Investors focused on Europe, which is struggling to keep Italy and Spain from being consumed by a growing financial crisis, and the Dow fell 243. "The fear was that they had no plan to deal with the situation," said Randy Warren, chief investment officer at Warren Financial Service. Later in the day, Italy promised to work toward a constitutional amendment to balance its budget. It was trying to calm investors around the world, who are worried that financial problems are spreading in Europe. The Dow's gain was only its second in the past 11 trading sessions. The average has lost about 10 percent of its value in that time. The Standard & Poor's 500, a broader measure of the market,



© 2011 MCT
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

finished just under 1,200, down a fraction of a point. It was the Dow's worst week since March 2009, down 5.8 percent. The S&P, down 7.2 percent, and the Nasdaq composite index, down 8.1 percent, had their worst weeks since November of that year. The gain of 117,000 jobs for the U.S. economy looked even better considering that 37,000 public jobs disappeared during the month. Most of those were from a temporary government shutdown in Minnesota.

BY JOVE!

An Atlas V rocket carrying the Juno spacecraft launches Friday on launch pad 41 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The primary mission goal is to reveal the formation and evolution of the planet Jupiter. The scientific spacecraft is scheduled to arrive to the planet Jupiter on July 4, 2016. Red Huber/Olando Sentinel/MCT



Gas Prices Expected To Fall

NEW YORK (AP) — This week's scary stock market plunge has a silver lining: Gasoline is about to get cheaper. That's because the same fears that forced a sell-off on Wall Street also brought down the price of oil.

Gas prices usually fall in late summer as families take fewer road trips. But the recent drop in oil should lower them more. Forecasters say the national average of \$3.70 per gallon could fall as much as 35 cents per gallon over the next month. American motorists consume roughly 378 million gallons of gasoline per day, so a 35-cent-per-gallon fall would reduce daily gas spending by about \$132.3 million. Rod Kirgis, 56, of Grandville, Mich., said he can't wait for gas to come down. Prices in his state are above the national average, rising two cents to \$3.83 on Friday. "It's been quite a strain on our family," he said. Kirgis, an engineer who pays about \$136 per week to commute 50 miles to his office, said he's had to cut back home repairs and sporting events and to help pay his gasoline bill this year. Prices should come down a bit each day for motorists. "They'll see a penny or two drop per day next week," said

Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst at GasBuddy.com, a consumer Web site that tracks retail gasoline prices around the country. DeHaan said the decline will likely start at stations along highways and other busy areas. Those stations need to replenish their storage tanks every day or so, and they'll get the cheaper gasoline faster than others. Of course, an unexpected surge in oil could drive prices higher again. But traders say it would take a calamity like a hurricane in the crude-producing waters of the Gulf of Mexico to really boost oil markets now. Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude has declined \$12.71, about 13 percent, in the last 10 days. On Thursday, while the Dow Jones industrial average

fell more than 4 percent, to its worse decline since the 2008 financial crisis, oil dropped even more. It lost nearly 6 percent, to a six month low.

Thursday – Dollar Doubles
Double Load Washing \$1.00
Tan While You Wash at SunKissed Tanning right next door – start your tan for less than \$1.00
KD Laundry
3rd & Broadway, Yankton • 6:30am-10pm

Your News • The Press & Dakotan

Diabetes & Thyroid Care
An independent practice treating diabetes, thyroid and cholesterol disorders.
For appointments, call **605-275-6525**
Welcoming New Patients
Oppenheimer Endocrinology
DIABETES & THYROID CARE
Mark J. Oppenheimer, M.D. 3926 S. Western Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

All Your Daycare Needs Under One Roof! Infants-Toddlers-Preschool
KOLOR ME KIDS
Daycare and Preschool included in one reasonable rate. Preschool includes standards for education. No need to arrange transportation to and from preschool.
School Age Center – Jr. Kindergarten–Age 12
Before & after school program with transportation to school provided. Open on school holidays and snow days when other facilities are closed.
19 years of making life easier for parents PHONE 665-7755/661-1806 or email kolormekids@iw.net

Black Hills State University
Register now for fall classes in Yankton
Black Hills State University offers an Associate of Science degree in Advanced Manufacturing at the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC). This high-quality program emphasizes advanced technical skills, along with management and leadership skills. This accredited degree program can be completed in two years, and prepare you to advance in manufacturing careers.
Fall Class Schedule
TECH 120 Smart Buildings Thurs. 5-8 pm
TECH 141 Manufacturing Technology Thurs. 4-7 pm
TECH 181 Safety Management Wed. 5-8 pm
TECH 212 CAD Mechanical Drafting Mon. 4-7 pm
TECH 341 Lean Concepts Thurs. 6:30-9:30 pm
TECH 387 Buildings Inspection I Thurs. 5-8 pm
To learn more or register for classes call Josh Svatos 605.668.5700 or visit www.BHSU.edu/Technology

jcpenny
you're an **INSIDER**
SUNDAY ONLY!
Extended Hours 11am-8pm
FRIENDS & FAMILY EVENT
Shop with our Associate Discount!
EXTRA 20% off NO EXCLUSIONS on all apparel, shoes accessories, jewelry & home in stores & jcp.com*
EXTRA 15% off Styling Salon Products
**Excludes Sephora.
**Except where prohibited by law.
***Valid Sunday, August 7, 2011 from 11am-8pm. Discount does not apply to Sephora, Gift Cards, current order/prior purchased or in combination with any other coupons. *Except where prohibited by law. For jcp.com order, use code WESHARE. ASSOCIATE PROCEDURES: Yankton Mall 1. Verify offer date. 2. Scan barcode. 3. Return coupon to customer. jcpenny