

## Utah Same-Sex Marriage Ban Axed

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A federal judge struck down Utah's same-sex marriage ban Friday in a decision that brings a growing shift toward allowing gay marriage to a conservative state where the Mormon church has long been against it.

The Salt Lake County clerk's office started issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Deputy Clerk Dahnelle Burton-Lee said the district attorney authorized her office to begin issuing the licenses but she couldn't immediately say how many have been issued so far.

Just hours earlier, U.S. District Judge Robert J. Shelby issued a 53-page ruling saying Utah's law passed by voters in 2004 violates gay and lesbian couples' rights to due process and equal protection under the 14th Amendment.

Shelby said the state failed to show that allowing same-sex marriages would affect opposite-sex marriages in any way.

"In the absence of such evidence, the State's unsupported fears and speculations are insufficient to justify the State's refusal to dignify the family relationships of its gay and lesbian citizens," Shelby wrote.

## Info Collection Changes Possible

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama suggested Friday that he may be ready to make some changes in the bulk collection of Americans' phone records to allay the public's concern about privacy.

Obama said he has not yet made any decisions about the National Security Agency's collection programs. But among the dozens of recommendations he's considering, he hinted that he may strip the NSA of its ability to store data in its own facilities and instead shift that storage to the private phone companies.

"There may be another way of skinning the cat," Obama said during a news conference.

His hint at concessions came the same week a federal judge declared the bulk collection program unconstitutional and a presidential advisory panel that included intelligence experts suggested reforms. Both the judge and the panel said there was little evidence any terror plot had been thwarted by the program, known as Section 215 of the USA Patriot Act.

"There are ways we can do it, potentially, that gives people greater assurance that there are checks and balances — that there's sufficient oversight and sufficient transparency," Obama said. Programs like the bulk collection of phone records "could be redesigned in ways that give you the same information when you need it without creating these potentials for abuse."

## Mikhail Khodorkovsky Leaves Jail

MOSCOW (AP) — In a few breathtaking hours, one-time oil baron Mikhail Khodorkovsky went from being a prisoner locked away for a decade in the remote depths of northern Russia to being a free man in Berlin. As he sped between those extremes, questions trailed behind.

Most prominently: Why Russian President Vladimir Putin decided to pardon the man who was once Russia's richest and one of the few with both the boldness and resources to challenge him.

Putin said he decided to approve Khodorkovsky's pardon application and let him walk free on Friday for humanitarian reasons — his mother is seriously ill. The way he announced it, in a scrum of journalists after his annual marathon news conference less than 24 hours earlier, had an air of spur-of-the-moment.

But there appears to have been considerable calculation behind it, and analysts saw it as a show of power and arrogance by the man who has dominated Russian politics since the turn of the millennium.

In the first burst of surprise after the pardon was announced, many speculated that Putin wanted to soften Russia's baleful image in the countdown to the Winter Olympics, his signature project, which starts Feb. 7 in Sochi.

## Anti-Prostitution Laws Struck Down

TORONTO (AP) — Canada's highest court struck down the country's anti-prostitution laws Friday, a victory for sex workers who had argued that a ban on brothels and other measures made their profession more dangerous.

The ruling drew criticism from the conservative government and religious leaders.

The court, ruling in a case brought by three women in the sex trade, struck down all three of Canada's prostitution-related laws: bans on keeping a brothel, making a living from prostitution and street soliciting. The ruling won't take effect immediately, however, because the court gave Parliament a year to respond with new legislation, and said the existing laws would remain in place until then.

The decision threw the door open for a wide and complex debate on how Canada should regulate prostitution, which isn't in itself illegal in the country.

The court found that Canada's prostitution laws violated the guarantee of life, liberty and security of the person. For instance, it said the law prohibiting people from making a living from prostitution is too broad.

It is intended "to target pimps and the parasitic, exploitative conduct in which they engage," the ruling said. "The law, however, punishes everyone who lives on the avails of prostitution without distinguishing between those who exploit prostitutes and those who could increase the safety and security of prostitutes, for example, legitimate drivers, managers or bodyguards."

# US Economy Expands At 4.1 Percent Rate

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
 AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy grew at a solid 4.1 percent annual rate from July through September, the fastest pace since late 2011 and significantly higher than previously thought. Much of the upward revision came from stronger consumer spending.

The Commerce Department's final look at growth in the summer was up from a previous estimate of 3.6 percent. Four-fifths of the revision in the report released Friday came from stronger consumer spending, mainly in the area of health care.

The 4.1 percent annual growth rate in the third quarter, as measured by the gross domestic product, came after the economy had expanded at a 2.5 percent rate in the second quarter. Much of the acceleration reflected a buildup in business stockpiles.

On Friday, President Barack Obama pointed to the upward revision to GDP growth as one of several signs of improvement in the economy. They include four straight months of solid job growth and a drop in the unemployment rate to its lowest point in five years.

"What it adds up to is we head into next year with an economy that's stronger than it was when we started the year," Obama said at a White House news conference. "I firmly believe that 2014 can be a breakthrough year for America."

The GDP report also gave a boost to Wall Street. The

Dow Jones industrial average was up about 80 points in late afternoon trading.

Economists still expect growth to slow a bit in the current October-December quarter. In part, that's because two-fifths of the third-quarter gain in GDP came from a buildup in business stockpiles. That gain isn't likely to be repeated in the fourth quarter. Many analysts think growth will slow to an annual rate between 2.5 percent and 3 percent this year before picking up next year.

The third-quarter increase in GDP — the economy's total output of goods and services — was the best performance since a 4.9 percent increase in the final three months of 2011.

Still, analysts expect that for the year, the GDP will expand only around 1.7 percent, down from the 2.8 percent growth of 2012. Much of that drop-off occurred because consumer spending was depressed by higher taxes that took effect last January and the government's across-the-board spending cuts. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated those two factors shaved 1.5 percentage points from growth in 2013.

But the drag from the government is expected to lessen in 2014. Many analysts are looking for growth to hit 2.5 percent or better in 2014.

Outside the volatility caused by changes in stockpiles, many analysts say the economy has begun to improve in the current quarter. Steady hiring has lowered the unemployment rate to a

five-year low of 7 percent. And much of the November data so far have been upbeat.

Consumer spending at retail businesses rose by the most in five months. Factories increased output for the fourth straight month, led by a surge in auto production. Builders broke ground on homes at the fastest pace in more than five years, strong evidence that the housing recovery is accelerating despite higher mortgage rates. Auto sales haven't been better since the recession ended 4 1/2 years ago. And the stock market is at all-time highs.

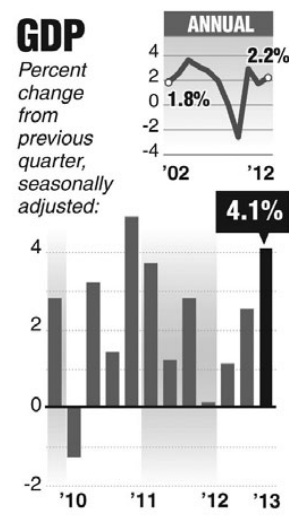
Analysts will pay close attention to consumer spending in the fourth quarter. It drives 70 percent of economic growth.

The government significantly boosted consumer spending in Friday's revised data, increasing it to a 2 percent growth rate, up from just 1.4 percent in the previous estimate, which has been the slowest pace since late 2009.

Economists said Friday that the new-found strength in the third quarter was an encouraging development but the period was still dominated by an unsustainable buildup in inventories which will act as a drag on growth in the current quarter.

Pierre Ellis, an economist at Decision Economics, said that the final look at third quarter GDP did offer hope that growth will strengthen in coming months, given the greater strength in consumer spending.

Congress gave final approval Wednesday to legisla-



## Militia Member Told FBI He Wasn't Violent

BY AMY FORLITI  
 Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A Minnesota militia member charged in what the FBI once called a "terror plot" to blow up the Montevideo police station allegedly told authorities in May that even though he had bombs, he was not a violent person and was using the Internet to investigate bad and dangerous people, according to a document unsealed Friday.

The document also suggests a possible link between Buford Rogers and another Minnesota militia member arrested last week.

Rogers, 25, of Montevideo, is scheduled to go on trial next month. He has pleaded not guilty to four counts, including being a felon in possession of a firearm and counts related to the possession of two Molotov cocktails, two "black powder nail devices" and a pipe bomb. He is not charged with terrorism.

Rogers made the comments during a May 3 interview with the FBI, according to a redacted transcript of that interview unsealed Friday after a request from the *Star Tribune*. Rogers' attorney, Assistant Federal De-

fender Andrew Mohring, had resisted the document's release. Mohring did not return a message seeking comment.

Authorities have said Rogers was part of a tiny militia plotting to blow up the Montevideo police station and raid a National Guard armory. At the time of his arrest, FBI officials said they believed they stopped an attack in its planning stages.

In the interview, Rogers told the FBI he was not aware of anyone planning an attack, but said he was trying to investigate groups he considered dangerous. He also said: "I'm not a bomb guy," but talked of making bombs and admitted owning some bomb-making materials.

At one point during the interview, FBI Special Agent Shane Ball noted Rogers was potentially planning an operation, had bombs, and had connections to a Russian group — which Rogers had said he communicated with online about starting a unit in Minnesota. Rogers acknowledged the situation looked bad.

Rogers told Ball he was not violent, and he expressed anger at dangerous militia groups, whom he called terrorists. He said he was mad at

the people who carried out bombings at the Boston Marathon in April and in Oklahoma City in 1995. He said he formed his militia to "do good, not harm people," the transcript said.

Rogers also told Ball he used a Facebook account under the name David Black to "check on people" and find "snakes in the grass," the transcript said.

Rogers also talked about other people he associated with through his militia, including a man named Keith, whom he described as an intelligence officer who used to work with the Army but is now with the National Guard.

Last week, authorities arrested Keith Novak, whose first name and career match

the description of the man Rogers spoke about. Novak, 25, of Maplewood, is charged with fraud in connection with identity theft for allegedly stealing the personal information of members of his former Army unit to make fake IDs for people in his own militia.

Authorities say Novak is the self-described commander of a group called the 44th Spatha Libertas.

Authorities have said Rogers and a handful of family members are in a group they call the Black Snake Militia. The family members have been public about their anti-government beliefs.

Novak's defense attorney did not return a phone message Friday.

**Yankton Transmission Specialists**  
 • Transmissions • Drive Lines • Transfer Cases • Differentials  
 2 Year/24,000 Guarantee (605) 665-1175  
 2409 East Highway 50

**10% OFF Your Project**  
**Blackburn Basement Systems**  
 Waterproofing & Repair  
 Basement & Foundation Specialists™  
 Wet Basement? Basement Wall Bowed? Foundation Settling?  
 • FREE Estimates • Financing Available  
 Toll Free 1-800-392-3389  
 www.blackburnbasementrepair.com  
 (Cannot be combined with any other offers)

**Shop Early!**

Our store and gas station will close at 5:00pm on Christmas Eve and will be closed Christmas Day so our employees can spend the holiday with their families. We will re-open at 6:00am on Thursday, December 26.

**Happy Holidays From All Of Us At...**

**HyVee**  
 EMPLOYEE OWNED  
 2100 Broadway, Yankton • 665-3412

**FREE Bible Courses**  
 Bible Correspondence Courses are available free of charge from **WORLD WIDE BIBLE STUDY**.  
**CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION** are issued to each student who completes a course. These studies deal solely with facts of the Bible, are non-denominational and can be completed during spare time at home. These courses will increase your knowledge of the Bible and can give your life a fuller meaning.  
**ALL OF THE WORLD WIDE BIBLE STUDY MATERIALS ARE FREE.** Your Bible is the only text needed. To enroll mail the coupon below and you will receive study materials by return mail.  
**TO ENROLL:** Mail this ad to the following address or email your name & address to [hmid00@comcast.net](mailto:hmid00@comcast.net)  
 Mail To: Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 World Wide Bible Study P.O. Box 40105 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nashville, TN 37204 USA City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 WWBS is sponsored by a group of Christians to encourage Bible Study.

**Take the guesswork out of your retirement plan**

Discover how our exclusive *Confident Retirement*® approach can help answer questions you may have about your retirement, like:  
*When will I be able to retire? How do I make the most of the money I have? How can I leave a lasting legacy to my loved ones?*

Call me today to get started.

**Lori K. Leader**  
 Financial Advisor  
**Leader, Larsen & Associates**  
 A financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.  
 115 Broadway Avenue, Suite 2  
 Yankton, SD 57078  
**605.665.8608**  
 lori.k.leader@ampf.com

**Ameriprise Financial**

Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA and SIPC. Confident Retirement is not a guarantee of future financial results.  
 © 2013 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.

**“When I found out I was pregnant, I was scared and alone. LSS cared.”**

Lutheran Social Services provides free, confidential options counseling to help you make the best choice for you—and your child.

If you're thinking about adoption, go to [www.adoptiveparentprofiles.LssSD.org](http://www.adoptiveparentprofiles.LssSD.org) to see potential adoptive families.

Whatever your choice for you and your baby, we're committed to helping you before and after your baby is born.

**Lutheran Social Services**

Pregnancy Counseling Services

**888-201-5061 • www.LssSD.org**  
 MARNE CREEK PLAZA  
 610 W. 23RD ST., SUITE 4  
 YANKTON, SD