

Santorum Says Cuts In Social Security Needed

KEENE, N.H. (AP) — Risking the wrath of older voters, Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum is calling for immediate cuts to Social Security benefits and says the country can't wait to phase in reductions as most of his rivals have advocated.

"We can't wait 10 years," even though "everybody wants to," Santorum told a crowd while campaigning in New Hampshire Friday, breaking with opponents who say immediate cuts would be too big a shock to current and soon-to-be retirees.

Calling for cuts in Social Security often triggers strong opposition, and politicians typically suggest phase-in periods of up to a decade when broaching the topic.

Santorum, who was trying to leverage his strong Iowa showing in New Hampshire, argued that everyone must sacrifice now because the nation's "house is on fire" with soaring federal debt. He argued that he is being courageous and honest by telling Americans they can't afford to wait to rein in Social Security's growing costs. And he said he anticipated possible attack ads on his position, four days ahead of New Hampshire's GOP primary.

U.S. Scraps 8-Decades-Old Definition Of Rape

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration on Friday expanded the FBI's more than eight-decade-old definition of rape to count men as victims for the first time and to drop the requirement that victims must have physically resisted their attackers.

The new definition will increase the number of people counted as rape victims in FBI statistics, but it will not change federal or state laws or alter charges or prosecutions.

The White House said the change was not motivated by the recent Penn State child sex-abuse scandal. The expansion has been long awaited because policymakers and lawmakers use crime statistics to allocate resources for prevention and victim assistance.

Senior White House adviser Valerie Jarrett called the change a "very, very important step." The issue got top-level White House attention starting last July, when Vice President Joe Biden raised it at a Cabinet meeting.

Biden, author of the Violence Against Women Act when he was in the Senate, said the new definition is a victory for women and men "whose suffering has gone unaccounted for over 80 years." Calling rape a "devastating crime," the vice president said, "We can't solve it unless we know the full extent of it."

U.S. Warship Rescues Iranians Taken Hostage

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. Navy destroyer has rescued an Iranian fishing boat that had been commandeered by suspected pirates just days after Tehran warned the U.S. to keep its warships out of the Persian Gulf.

American forces flying off the guided-missile destroyer USS Kidd responded to a distress call from the Iranian vessel, the Al Molai, which had been held captive for more than 40 days, the U.S. Navy said Friday. The Kidd was sailing in the Arabian Sea, after leaving the Persian Gulf, when it came to the sailors' aid.

A U.S. Navy team boarded the ship Thursday and detained 15 suspected Somali pirates. They had been holding the 13-member Iranian crew hostage and were using the boat as a "mother ship" for pirating operations in the Persian Gulf.

Amid escalating tensions with Tehran, the Obama administration reveled in delivering the news.

"This is an incredible story. This is a great story," State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said, explaining that the very same American ships the Islamic republic protested for recently traveling through the Strait of Hormuz were responsible for the Iranian vessel's recovery.

Deported Texas Teen Headed Back To U.S.

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A 15-year-old Texas girl who was deported in May to South America after claiming to be an illegal immigrant was headed back to the United States on Friday, the U.S. State Department said.

Jakadrien Lorece Turner left Colombia on Friday and was on her way to the U.S., State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said.

The girl's mother, Johnisa Turner, told The Associated Press she'll be meeting her daughter when she arrives in Dallas and said she has "a gazillion questions" for Jakadrien.

"I am very excited," Turner said. "I feel like a weight has been lifted. But at the same time, I won't just feel really, really good until I'm able to touch her. Until I'm able to put her in my arms."

Joran Van Der Sloot Hints At Guilty Plea

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Joran van der Sloot appears ready to accept responsibility for the killing of a Peruvian woman five years to the day after the disappearance in Aruba of U.S. teen Natalee Holloway, for which he remains the prime suspect.

The Dutch citizen sought and received more time to decide how to plead as his trial opened Friday in the May 30, 2010, murder of 21-year-old Stephany Flores, whom he met at a Lima casino.

He said he was inclined to confess but doesn't accept the aggravated murder charges the prosecution seeks.

The presiding magistrate of the three-judge panel, Victoria Montoya, said the trial would resume Jan. 11.

NASA Questions Lovell's Right To Sell Checklist

MIAMI (AP) — NASA is questioning whether Apollo 13 commander James Lovell has the right to sell a 70-page checklist from the flight that includes his handwritten calculations that were crucial in guiding the damaged spacecraft back to Earth.

The document was sold by Heritage Auctions in November for more than \$388,000, some 15 times its initial list price. The checklist gained great fame as part of a key dramatic scene in the 1995 film "Apollo 13" in which actor Tom Hanks plays Lovell making the calculations.

After the sale, NASA contacted Heritage to ask whether Lovell had title to the checklist. Greg Rohan, president of Dallas-based Heritage, said Thursday the sale has been suspended pending the outcome of the inquiry.

The checklist, he said, is being stored for now in the company's vault.

U.S. Ends Year With Hiring Surge

Nation Adds 200,000 Jobs In December

BY PAUL WISEMAN
AND CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON — Four painful years after the Great Recession struck and wiped out 8.7 million jobs, the United States may finally be in an elusive pattern known as a virtuous cycle — an escalating loop of hiring and spending.

The nation added 200,000 jobs in December in a burst of hiring that drove the unemployment rate down two notches to 8.5 percent, its lowest in almost three years, and led economists to conclude that the improvement in the job market might just last.

"There is more horsepower to this economy than most believe," said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at California State University, Channel Islands. "The stars are aligned right for a meaningful economic recovery."

It was the sixth month in a row that the economy added at least 100,000 jobs, the longest streak since 2006. The economy added jobs every month last year, the first time that has happened since 2005.

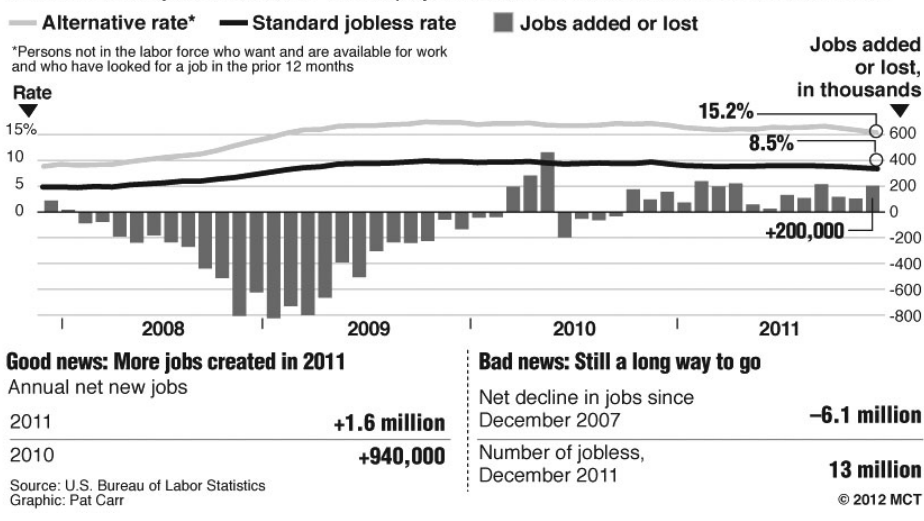
And the unemployment rate, which peaked at 10 percent in October 2009 and stood at 9.1 percent in August, has fallen four months straight. It was 8.7 percent in November.

If economics textbooks and the best hopes of millions of unemployed Americans are confirmed, the virtuous cycle may be under way, which would suggest the job market will continue to strengthen.

When people are hired, they have more

A brightening picture

The U.S. jobless rate fell in December to its lowest level since early 2009 as the economy added 200,000 net new jobs. The trend in U.S. employment since the recession's start in December 2007:



money to spend. The means greater demand for goods and services and results in businesses hiring even more people. That results in even more spending and leads to even more hiring.

That would be the reverse of the vicious cycle that took hold during the Great Recession. People lost jobs and spent less, so businesses rang up less sales and were forced to lay off more people. That led to even less spending and more layoffs.

"The labor market is healing," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at Mesirow Financial. She cautioned that "we still have a long way to go — years — to recoup the losses we have endured."

Indeed, the economy added 1.6 million jobs for all of 2011. That is better than the

940,000 added during 2010. In 2009, the most bruising year of the Great Recession, the nation lost more than 5 million.

But it will take 6 million more jobs to get the United States back to what it had in December 2007, when the recession began. Economists forecast the nation will add almost 2 million this year.

The unemployment report was the first to be released since Republicans across the country began voting to determine a candidate to face President Barack Obama this fall in an election that will turn on the economy.

Obama appears bound to face voters with the highest unemployment rate of any president running for re-election since World War II. Unemployment was 7.8 percent when Obama took office.

Romney's Rivals Look To S.C.

BY DAVID ESPO
AND PHILIP ELLIOTT
Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Mitt Romney's rivals are all but conceding defeat in next Tuesday's New Hampshire primary, looking past a weekend debate doubleheader in the Granite State and focusing on South Carolina as their best chance to slow his march to the Republican presidential nomination.

Romney campaigned in both states on Friday, prominent party leaders by his side, President Barack Obama on his mind.

Giving no ground when the government reported the creation of 200,000 new jobs in December, Romney said America deserves better than the economic results Obama has delivered. "Thirty-five consecutive months of unemployment above 8 percent is no cause for celebration," he said in a written statement.

Republican rivals Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich were no more inclined to applaud Obama for the drop in unemployment to its lowest level in nearly three years. But they had other worries, including a new survey that suggested Romney's narrow victory this week in Iowa's caucuses has sent his support soaring in South Carolina.

The three men share a debate stage Saturday night and again Sunday morning with the other three surviving contenders, Texas Rep. Ron Paul, Texas Gov. Rick Perry and former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman.

Ordinarily, the week between lead-off Iowa and New Hampshire



ANDY JACOBSON/MCT

Republican presidential candidate and former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney is joined by South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who addresses a crowd during a spaghetti dinner-style campaign stop at the Tilton School in Tilton, New Hampshire, Friday, January 6, 2012. Romney stopped in Tilton ahead of the New Hampshire Primary on January 10, 2012.

is one of the most intense of the entire presidential campaign. That hasn't been as true this year in New Hampshire, given Romney's four years as governor of next-door Massachusetts, his numerous campaign trips here and the reaffirming victory in Iowa. With only three days remaining until the first-in-the-nation primary, television advertising was relatively modest, with Paul, Romney and a committee supporting Huntsman the only entities spending significant sums.

Gingrich has been talking of merely holding Romney's winning total under 50 percent in New Hampshire, and Paul, arriving in the state on Friday, focused his criticism on Santorum.

"He brags about being for a balanced budget amendment but

never did anything about it," Paul said of Santorum's time in the U.S. Senate. "He voted four or five times to raise the debt ceiling. He voted to double the size of the Department of Education."

Campaigning in Concord, Huntsman was asked whether the other candidates had "clawed their way to the right," leaving him as the centrist in the race. He called himself a realist. "We have to draw from ideas that are doable and not so outlandishly stupid that they create a lot of political infighting and finger-pointing and never, ever in 1,000 years are going to get done," he said.

Perry unveiled a new commercial for stations in South Carolina, as did a group that backs Santorum.

Explosion In Syrian Capital Kills 25

BY BASSEM MROUE
AND ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY
Associated Press

BEIRUT — A bomb exploded Friday at a busy Damascus intersection, killing 25 people and wounding dozens in the second major attack in the Syrian capital in as many weeks, officials said, vowing to respond to further security threats with an "iron fist."

The government blamed "terrorists," saying a suicide bomber had blown himself up in the crowded Midan district. But the country's opposition demanded an independent investigation, accusing forces loyal to the Syrian regime of being behind the bombing to tarnish a 10-month-old uprising against President Bashar Assad.

"Is there anything worse than these crimes?" said Majida Jomaa, a 30-year-old housewife who ran to the streets after hearing the explosion around 11 a.m. "Is this freedom?"

It was impossible to determine the exact target of the blast, but a police bus was riddled with shrapnel and blood was splattered on its seats, according to Syrian TV video and a government official. Blood also stained the street, which was littered with shattered glass.

The bomber "detonated himself with the aim of killing the largest number of people," Interior Minister Mohammed Shaar told reporters. State media said most of the dead were civilians but security forces were also among them.

Congratulations



Xtreme Salon & Spa Ribbon Cutting

The Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Committee hosted a ribbon cutting for Xtreme Salon & Spa. Brooks and Tammy Ugofsky, owners of the salon have added three facial treatment rooms where they offer Microdermabrasion, Skin Peels, Oxygen Facial Therapy, Body Contouring Wraps, Mud Wraps and Sugar Scrubs along with Deep Tissue, Reflexology, and Reiki offered by the massage therapist. Educational classes are also performed by professional makeup artists and the stylists bring all the latest in modern hair and nail fashions. Xtreme Salon & Spa is open Monday through Friday 9-7 p.m. and Saturday 9-3. They are located at 11th and Broadway Ave. and can be reached at (605)664-0135.

YANKTON DAILY
PRESS&DAKOTAN

Going Out of Business

continues at
SALE
Gifts AND Giggles

Take an
EXTRA **30-50%**
OFF

the lowest ticketed price on Fall,
Winter & Holiday Merchandise!

After 20 years of outstanding business, Gifts & Giggles has made the difficult decision to have a "Going out of Business Sale" to make room for the expanding LuLu's. To make room for our renovation, we also will be sacrificing LuLu's entire fall and Holiday stock of women's clothing, jewelry and accessories.

Gifts AND Giggles
and LuLu's

217 W. 3rd St., Yankton • 665-6767

LENNOX

Innovation never felt so good.™

Sales & Service

Call The Professionals At...

Larry's HEATING & COOLING
920 Broadway • 665-9461

60th Wedding Anniversary



Mr. & Mrs. Steve Vellek

Steve and Christine (Sieler) Vellek will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on January, 8, 2012. They were married in 1952 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Yankton, SD. They have two children Nancy Nelson of Sioux Falls, SD and Mary Cummins of Allen, IL, and one grandchild.

God Bless Mom & Dad!

Love,
Nancy & Trent,
Jamaica, Mary, Pat & Aaron