

Tales Emerge Of Victims In Ship Disaster

ROME (AP) — An Italian dad and his 5-year-old daughter. A retired American couple treating themselves after putting four children through college. A Hungarian musician who helped crying children into lifejackets, then disappeared while trying to retrieve his beloved violin from his cabin.

As details emerged Wednesday about the missing and the dead in the grounding of the Costa Concordia, the captain was quoted as saying he tripped and fell into the water from the listing vessel and never intended to abandon his passengers.

The search for the 21 people still unaccounted for in the disaster ground to a halt after the cruise liner shifted again on its rocky perch off the Tuscan island of Giglio, making it too dangerous for divers to continue. Rough seas were forecast for the next few days.

The bad weather also postponed the start of the weeks-long operation to extract the half-million gallons of fuel on board the vessel, as Italy's environment minister warned Parliament of the ecological implications if the ship sinks.

The \$450 million Costa Concordia was carrying more than 4,200 passengers and crew when it slammed into a reef and capsized Friday after the captain made an unauthorized diversion from his programmed route and strayed into the perilous waters.

Prosecutor: Flaws Found In Prison Mail Review

FORT MEADE, Md. (AP) — A copy of a magazine published by an arm of al-Qaida made its way to a terror suspect at the Guantanamo Bay prison, leading to an inspection of cells and a contentious new policy requiring special review teams to examine correspondence between prisoners and attorneys, U.S. prosecutors said Wednesday.

Navy Cmdr. Andrea Lockhart told a military judge during a pre-trial hearing that a copy of Inspire magazine got into a cell. She provided no details on who received the magazine or how. But she said the breach showed that prior rules at the base governing mail review were not adequate. Yemen's al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula launched the online, English-language magazine in 2010. An early issue contained tips to would-be militants about how to kill U.S. citizens.

Lockhart is part of the U.S. team prosecuting the case against Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, a Saudi national charged with orchestrating the attack in 2000 on the USS Cole that killed 17 sailors. Al-Nashiri, 47, is considered one of the most senior al-Qaida leaders. He has been held at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, since 2006 after spending several years held by the CIA in a series of secret prisons.

Rick Kammen, a civilian attorney for al-Nashiri, told reporters on that his client was not the recipient of the magazine and was not involved in the incident.

How mail between Guantanamo prisoners and their attorneys should be handled consumed several hours of the al-Nashiri's pre-trial session on Tuesday and Wednesday. At issue is whether even a cursory examination of the legal correspondence violates the attorney-client privilege.

Perry Calls Out Romney's Abortion Views

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP) — Texas Gov. Rick Perry said Wednesday that Mitt Romney changed his position on legalized abortion out of political convenience, one of the sharpest allegations leveled yet in the South Carolina GOP presidential primary.

Romney, who had supported legalized abortion while Massachusetts governor, says he changed his mind after weighing legislation that "would have created new embryos for the purpose of destroying them."

Perry, who is struggling to keep his presidential hopes alive, has criticized Romney before, but not always so pointedly. He told an anti-abortion forum in Greenville, S.C., that it's hard to understand how a public official could change his views on something as fundamental as abortion in his 50s, after decades to think about it.

"This is a decision that Gov. Romney made for political convenience, not an issue of his heart," Perry said.

Perry has shifted his own views on abortion somewhat. He recently said he no longer supports legal abortions in cases of rape and incest.

Wikipedia Goes Dark To Protest Regulations

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In a move that heightens the growing tension between Silicon Valley and Hollywood, Wikipedia and other websites went dark Wednesday in protest of two congressional proposals intended to thwart the online piracy of copyrighted movies and TV programs.

The web-based encyclopedia is part of a loose coalition of dot-coms and large technology companies that fear Congress is prepared to side with Hollywood and enact extreme measures — possibly including the blocking of entire websites — to stop the online sharing and unauthorized use of Hollywood productions.

The fight will test which California-based industry has the most sway in Washington.

For now, Silicon Valley appears to have the upper hand. Supporters of the legislation — called the Stop Online Piracy Act in the House and the Protect Intellectual Property Act in the Senate — say the bills are aimed at protecting jobs in the movie and music industries. But a campaign including tech heavyweights such as Google Inc. and Yahoo Inc. has successfully portrayed the bills as an attack on a free and open Internet.

"It has nothing to do with stolen songs or movies," said Justin Ruben, executive director of MoveOn.org, which is participating in the blackout. Ruben says tougher legislation — even directed overseas — could make domestic cultural commentators more prone to legal attack.

Romney Tries To Sidestep Tax Furor

BY KASIE HUNT AND TOM RAUM
Associated Press

WINNSBORO, S.C. — Mitt Romney tried doggedly Wednesday to sidestep the political furor he had started a day earlier by revealing he pays federal taxes at a rate of about 15 percent, less than millions of middle-income American families.

Facing a new controversy, his campaign confirmed that Romney has money invested in the Cayman Islands but said he was not getting any tax break.

Newt Gingrich, his main rival in this weekend's South Carolina primary, poked at Romney anew and disclosed that he personally pays more than twice what Romney does.

Just before Saturday's South Carolina voting, Romney is trying to wrap up his push for the Republican nomination, but it's been anything but smooth. He's spent nearly two weeks answering questions and criticism about his personal wealth and tenure at Bain Capital, the private equity firm he founded, and those subjects are sure to come up again in Thursday night's debate.

Gingrich slapped at the GOP front-runner, saying in Winnsboro that he himself paid 31 percent of his income in taxes for 2010, more than twice what Romney said he paid. Gingrich's campaign said the 31 percent was the effective federal rate on income, apparently not including Social Security payroll taxes.

Gingrich told reporters that he is not criticizing Romney for paying a tax rate below what many wage-earning Americans pay. Gingrich has proposed a plan that would give Americans the option of paying a 15 percent flat tax — which he notes is the same rate Romney is citing.

"My goal is not to raise Mitt Romney's taxes but to let everyone pay Romney's rate," Gingrich said.

There may be more fallout. Romney's campaign was con-



JEFF Siner/CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney and his wife Ann attend a campaign rally at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina, on Wednesday.

fronted with new questions about his finances Wednesday when ABC News reported that Romney has millions of dollars of personal wealth in investment funds set up in the Cayman Islands, known as a tax haven for Americans. The report said that Romney had the ability to pay a lower tax rate by investing in funds located offshore.

A spokeswoman for Romney's campaign confirmed that the Romneys have money in the Caymans. But the campaign did not say why. Spokeswoman Andrea Saul also said: "ABC is flat wrong. The Romneys' investments in funds established in the Cayman Islands are taxed in the very same way they would be if those funds were established in the United States. These are not tax havens and it is false to say so."

While a supporter rushed to Romney's defense, the former Massachusetts governor tried to duck the issue entirely on Wednesday, making no mention of his tax returns or tax rate during a rally at Wofford College here and declining to take questions from the news media. Instead, he delivered his standard campaign

speech and assailed Gingrich, who has been running second in opinion polls in South Carolina.

Romney aides, too, refused to comment about his tax returns or details of his tax rate when pressed. His campaign held a conference call featuring surrogates who tried to cast Gingrich, the former House speaker, as an unreliable leader, but the wealth and taxes issue showed no signs of going away.

At an event in Rock Hill, S.C., Romney kept away from the issue of his taxes, but he criticized Republicans who "jumped on that bandwagon" of criticizing free enterprise. "My goodness, I listened to Speaker Gingrich the other night talk about the enterprises I've been associated with," Romney said. "I'm proud of the fact that I worked in the private sector, that I've achieved success."

After months of resistance and under pressure from Republican presidential rivals, Romney now says he will release tax information for 2011 — but not until April, close to the tax filing deadline and when, presumably, the GOP race will have been decided.

Romney disclosed for the first

time on Tuesday that, despite his wealth of hundreds of millions of dollars, he has been paying in the neighborhood of 15 percent, far below the top maximum income tax rate of 35 percent, because his income "comes overwhelmingly from investments made in the past." During 2010 and the first nine months of 2011, the Romney family had at least \$9.6 million in income, according to a financial disclosure form submitted in August.

Further focusing attention on his wealth was Romney's offhand remark to reporters that his income from paid speeches amounted to "not very much" money. In the August disclosure statement, he reported being paid \$373,327.62 for such appearances for the 12 months ending last February, a sum that alone would him in the top 1 percent of U.S. taxpayers.

Romney has been consolidating GOP support before Saturday's South Carolina primary in which a victory could all but seal his nomination.

But the focus on his wealth is an unwanted distraction for him as he seeks to win votes in a state where the unemployment rate, at 9.9 percent, is among the highest in the nation, and amid rising public concern over income inequality. President Barack Obama's campaign advisers contend voters are unlikely to back a wealthy Republican with financial-industry ties at a time of lingering economic distress.

The maximum marginal U.S. income tax rate of 35 percent applies — in theory more than practice — to households with taxable income of over about \$388,500.

Obama and his wife paid federal taxes of just over 25 percent of their 2010 income of \$1.7 million, mostly from the books he's written.

Perry and his wife paid roughly 24 percent of their 2010 income of \$217,447.

Deputies

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have two deputies out until 2-3 a.m. in the morning," Vlahakis said. "The rest of the time, deputies are on call at home. A lot of times, the deputy will be called to an accident, and then another call will come in, so the deputy at home has to be called. It can take time.

"There are times when it will be slow, but it only takes one call to make the difference in needing the extra person," he added.

Vlahakis said he could think of three incidents in recent months where immediate back-up would have been advantageous to deputy safety. One incident involved a man with a rifle who had threatened people in a home and had made suicidal comments. Another involved a man with a knife threatening individuals in a home. The final incident was a family disturbance where a dozen people greeted the deputy when he arrived.

The deputy on duty was able to manage each situation, but Vlahakis said having another person at the scene or en route would reduce the amount of risk.

Vlahakis originally included the request for two more deputies in his 2012 budget proposal, but the commission chose to withhold approval of the funds until it had a clearer picture of the county's finances in the new year.

Ultimately, the expenditure was approved in a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Garry Moore dissenting.

Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen told the *Press & Dakotan* that it moves the county in a positive direction.

"When David Hunhoff was the sheriff, I brought (having two deputies working overnight) up to him a number of times. He said it wasn't warranted," Jensen said. "I could never understand that, because a sheriff's office presence in the county is important. Deputies should drive out to Lesterville and Volin, for example. Also, it's a big county, and when something happens, it's nice to have a

backup. I think it's important for officer safety."

However, Moore said the commission should have taken a deep breath before agreeing to the expenditure.

"We need to differentiate wants and needs," he stated. "Maybe we should have went to a part-time employee, or a couple part-time employees. The fact of the matter is, when you talk about two more deputies, you have workman's comp, retirement and health insurance, and that inevitably leads to more vehicles and who knows if they will need more office space."

The costs related to the two deputies will exceed the original expenditure, Moore argued.

"I agree that we need to have the safety of our officers in mind, but I also understand that the argument being used that we need back-up for domestic disputes is kind of a misnomer," he added, "particularly if you have a deputy in Gayville and one in Lesterville. If one or the other gets a call, it's not like they're going to run together."

Vlahakis said he does not anticipate any additional expenditures related to the hires. The figure approved by the commission includes benefits, and more vehicles or office space will not be necessary.

"Four of the five commissioners agreed with me that adding two additional deputies in the overnight hours is not a want but a need, not only for officer safety but also our citizens in the small towns, lake and rural areas who deserve a greater law enforcement presence than they get with only one deputy covering the county in the night-time hours," Vlahakis said. "This is an issue identified by many citizens during (my campaign for sheriff) that I promised to work on. I have and will continue to do so, and appreciate the support of the four commissioners who agree that this is the right direction for protecting our citizens and keeping our communities safe."

The process of hiring and training new deputies could take six or more months, according to Vlahakis.

Janklow

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Wednesday that the former governor's healthy corneas were donated, and that a stranger's eyesight is expected to be restored later this week as a result.

"I think he'd be happy to hear that — contributing to the very end," said Russ Janklow, who also drew several laughs during his speech.

In one case, Russ Janklow recalled a conversation he had with his father, who enjoyed performing pro-bono legal work, after the two became partners at a law firm.

"I said, 'Dad, this is supposed to be a profitable business,'" Russ Janklow said as the mourners chuckled.

In another instance, Russ Janklow recounted how his father would share the same stories over and over during trips to his hometown of Chicago with his children and grandchildren.

Russ Janklow said his father had started experiencing symptoms the month prior to the announcement. The elder Janklow told reporters at the time that his one regret in life was running a stop sign in 2003 and causing the fatal wreck. Everything else, he'd do the same, he said.

"My dad's a fallible man. We're all fallible. Human beings make human-being mistakes," Russ said.

Janklow didn't always seem destined to become such a

political force. He was a "hell-raising high school dropout" who talked his way into the University of South Dakota despite not having his degree, Daschle said.

"I'm told ... Bill was known as someone who could speak at a remarkable 80 words per minute with gusts up to 120," he added with a laugh.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard praised Janklow for saving rail service in the state, being the first on the scene to a natural disaster and wiring public school classrooms. "It's hard to imagine a South

Dakota without Bill Janklow," he said.

More than anything, Daugaard said, Janklow taught South Dakotans that despite the state's small size and remoteness, there is no reason to believe they are second-rate.

"That is his greatest legacy and his greatest gift to South Dakota," Daugaard said. "Bill Janklow showed us there is nothing that South Dakota cannot achieve — because he achieved so much himself."

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