

New Documents Released In NJ Scandal

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Newly released documents show officials scrambled to control the publicity damage in the days after lane closings near the George Washington Bridge caused huge traffic jams that now appear to have been politically orchestrated by officials in Gov. Chris Christie's administration.

In emails days after the closings, the Christie-appointed chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, David Sampson, suggested that the director of the Port Authority leaked an internal memo on the matter to a reporter.

Sampson called it "very unfortunate for NY/NJ relations" because the director is an appointee of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

On Thursday, Christie apologized for the closings, fired a top aide who was implicated in the scandal and cut ties with a top political adviser.

Target: Leak Larger Than Disclosed

NEW YORK (AP) — Fallout from Target's pre-Christmas security breach is likely to affect the company's sales and profits well into the new year.

The company disclosed on Friday that the massive data theft was significantly more extensive and affected millions more shoppers than the company reported in December. As a result of the breach, millions of Target customers have become vulnerable to identity theft, experts say.

The nation's second largest discounter said hackers stole personal information — including names, phone numbers as well as email and mailing addresses — from as many as 70 million customers as part of a data breach it discovered last month.

Target announced on Dec. 19 that some 40 million credit and debit card accounts had been affected by a data breach that happened between Nov. 27 and Dec. 15 — just as the holiday shopping season was getting into gear. As part of that announcement, the company said customers' names, credit and debit card numbers, card expiration dates, debit-card PINs and the embedded code on the magnetic strip on the back of cards had been stolen.

According to new information gleaned from its investigation with the Secret Service and the Department of Justice, Target said Friday that criminals also took non-credit card related data for some 70 million shoppers who could have made purchases at Target stores outside the late Nov. to mid-Dec. timeframe.

500 Reported Killed In Syria This Week

BEIRUT (AP) — With nearly 500 people reported killed in a week of rebel infighting, many Syrians barricaded themselves in their homes Friday, while others emerged from mosques angrily accusing an al-Qaida-linked group of hijacking their revolution.

The rebel-on-rebel clashes have overshadowed the battle against President Bashar Assad and underscored the perils for civilians caught in the crossfire of two parallel wars.

The violence, which pits fighters from a variety of Islamic groups and mainstream factions against the feared al-Qaida-linked Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, have spread across four provinces in opposition-held parts of northern Syria.

The infighting is helping Assad, whose forces have clawed back some of the ground lost to the rebels in recent months as they bombard the north and other opposition regions with warplanes, heavy artillery and crude explosive-filled barrels dropped over rebel neighborhoods.

"The revolution has been derailed," said Abdullah Hasan, a self-described secular activist in the northern town of Maskaneh, where fighters from the al-Qaida-linked group swept in last month. "None of the groups fighting in Syria represent me now," he said, adding that he was nonetheless hopeful that the infighting would help purge extremists from the ranks of the rebels.

Fed. Recognition Granted For Marriages

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Obama administration extended federal recognition to the marriages of more than 1,000 same-sex couples in Utah that took place before the Supreme Court put those unions in the state on hold.

The action will enable the government to extend eligibility for federal benefits to these couples. That means gay and lesbian couples can file federal taxes jointly, get Social Security benefits for spouses and request legal immigration status for partners.

Attorney General Eric Holder said the families should not be asked to endure uncertainty regarding their benefits while courts decide the issue of same-sex marriage in Utah.

The decision came days after Utah officials said they would not recognize the marriages. The office of Gov. Gary Herbert told state agencies this week to put a freeze on proceeding with any new benefits for the newly married gay and lesbian couples until the courts sort out the matter.

In a statement Friday afternoon, Herbert's office issued a statement that said Holder's announcement was unsurprising, but state officers should comply with federal law if they're providing federal services.

Jobs Report Sees Mixed Results

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The weakest month of hiring in three years ended 2013 on a sluggish note and raised questions about whether the U.S. job market can sustain its recent strong gains.

Employers added a scant 74,000 jobs in December after averaging 214,000 in the previous four months. Economists cautioned that cold weather likely played a role in the sharp slowdown. Many analysts said they would need to see more data before they could tell whether the job market had lost momentum.

The Labor Department said Friday that the unemployment rate fell from 7 percent in November to 6.7 percent, its lowest level since October 2008. But the drop occurred mostly because many Americans stopped looking for jobs. Once people without jobs stop looking for one, the government no longer counts them as unemployed.

The proportion of people either working or looking for work fell to 62.8 percent, matching a nearly 36-year low. Last month's expiration of extended unemployment benefits for 1.3 million long-term unemployed could accelerate that trend if many of them stop looking for work. Beneficiaries had been required to look for work to receive unemployment checks.

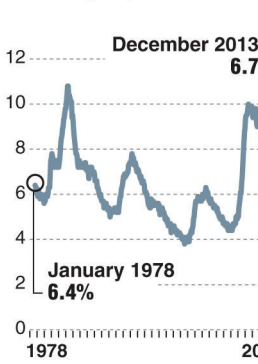
The stock market fell in early trading. The Dow Jones

A mixed jobs report

While the U.S. unemployment rate dropped below 7 percent in December, the number of people working or looking for work also fell, matching a nearly 36-year low.

Jobless rate is down ...

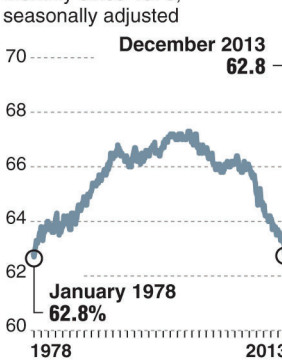
Monthly since 1978, seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Graphic: Pat Carr

... But labor force participation rate is down, too

Monthly since 1978, seasonally adjusted



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industrial average was down 26 points in mid-afternoon trading. And the yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.88 percent from 2.97 late Thursday — a drop that is normally a sign of a slowing economy.

It's unclear whether the sharp hiring slowdown might lead the Federal Reserve to rethink its plan to slow its stimulus efforts. The Fed decided last month to pare its monthly bond purchases, which have been designed to lower interest rates to spur borrowing and spending.

"I don't think the Fed is going to be panicked by this,"

said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors.

Naroff suggested that the 6.7 percent unemployment rate — a drop of more than a full percentage point since 2013 began — will eventually lead many employers to raise wages.

"It doesn't change what they're thinking," Naroff said of the Fed.

Many economists said it would be premature to conclude from Friday's report that the economy is weakening.

"We stop short of making larger observations based on this number," said Dan Greenhaus, chief global strategist at

Chemical Spill Brings W.Va. Capital To Standstill

BY JONATHAN MATTISE
AND BRENDAN FARRINGTON
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A chemical spill left the water for 300,000 people in and around West Virginia's capital city stained blue-green and smelling like licorice, with officials saying Friday it was unclear when it might be safe again for even mundane activities like showers and laundry.

Federal authorities began investigating how the foaming agent escaped a chemical plant and seeped into the Elk River. Just how much of the chemical leaked into the river was not yet known.

Officials are working with the company that makes the chemical to determine how much can be in the water without it posing harm to residents, said West Virginia American Water president Jeff McIntyre.

"We don't know that the water's not safe. But I can't say that it is safe," McIntyre said Friday. For now, there is no way to treat the tainted water aside from flushing the system until it's in low enough concentrations to be safe, a process that could take days.

Officials and experts said the chemical, even in its most concentrated form, isn't deadly. However, people across nine counties were told not to so much as wash their clothes in water affected, as the compound can cause symptoms ranging from skin irritation and rashes to vomiting and diarrhea.

No more than six people have been brought into emergency rooms with symptoms that may stem from the chemical, and none were in serious or critical condition, said State Department of Health & Human Resources Secretary Karen L. Bowling.

The company where the leak occurred, Freedom Industries, discovered

Thursday morning around 10:30 a.m. that the chemical was leaking from the bottom of a storage tank, said its president Gary Southern. Southern said the company worked all day and through the night to remove the chemical from the site and take it elsewhere. Vacuum trucks were used to remove the chemical from the ground at the site.

"We have the mitigated the risk, we believe, in terms of further material leaving this facility," he said.

Southern said he didn't think the chemical posed a public danger. He also said the company didn't know how much leaked.

The spill brought West Virginia's most populous city and nearby areas to a virtual standstill, closing schools and offices and even forcing the Legislature to cancel its business for the day. Officials focused on getting water to people who needed it, particularly the elderly and disabled.

"If you are low on bottled water, don't panic because help is on the way," Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin said at a news conference Friday afternoon. The governor said there was no shortage of bottled water, and that officials were working to get water to those who need it. At least one charity was collecting donations of bottled water, baby wipes, plastic utensils and other items for people unable to use tap water.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency also planned to deliver more than a million liters of water from nearby Maryland. Several companies were sending bottled water and other supplies, including Pepsi and the Coca-Cola Co., Tomblin said.

However, it appeared that some level of panic already had set in to some degree. At the Kroger grocery store in the shadow of a DuPont plant along the Kanawha River, people scrambled in the aisles to find bottled water, only to learn the store had been out since early Friday.

brokerage firm BTIG. "The economy, based on any number of other indicators, has been picking up steam of late which makes today's number...curious."

Unusually cold weather might have slowed hiring in December. Construction companies, which are heavily dependent on weather conditions, cut 16,000 jobs, the biggest drop in 20 months.

Michael Hanson, an economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, estimated that the cold weather lowered hiring by about 75,000 jobs.

It would still be a weak report even if those jobs were added back in, Hanson said. But he cautioned against reading too much into a single month's jobs report.

"It's a warning sign that things maybe weren't as strong as we thought," Hanson said. But "it's really hard to make an inference from one number."

Other economists were also skeptical. Mark Vitner of Wells Fargo noted that several industries reported unusually steep job losses. Accounting and bookkeeping services, for example, lost 24,700 jobs, the most in nearly 11 years.

And performing arts and spectator sports cut 11,600, the most in 2 1/2 years. The movie industry shed 13,700 jobs.

Economists said those unusually large losses are likely a statistical quirk that's unlikely to be repeated.

Robert Stiver was unable to find water at that store after trying at least a dozen others in the area and worried about how he'd make sure his cats had drinkable water. The water at his home had a blue tint and smelled like licorice, he said.

"I'm lucky. I can get out and look for water. But what about the elderly? They can't get out. They need someone to help them," he said.

That's what 59-year-old Dan Scott was doing: Taking care of his 81-year-old mother, Bonnie Wireman, and others in the area.

"She takes everything to heart. She forgot a few times and stuck her hand in the kitchen sink. When she realized what she did, she took out alcohol and washed her hands. Scrubbed them. She was really scared," he said.

Inside Kroger, there were signs that the chemical spills had affected business. Anything that used water — from the deli counter to the produce section — was either closed or had a limited supply.

Outside the restrooms, a handmade sign told the story: Because of a chemical spill in the Elk River, the store was advising people not to use the water fountain. The bathroom sinks were wrapped in plastic.

Freedom Industries was ordered to stop storing chemicals in areas where they could flow into the retention pond that failed in Thursday's leak, said state Department of Environmental Protection spokesman Tom Aluise.

The tank that leaked holds at least 40,000 gallons, Aluise said, though officials believe no more than 5,000 gallons leaked from the tank. Some of that was contained before escaping into the river, he said.

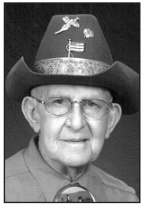
The company was already cited for causing air pollution stemming from the odor first reported Thursday, Aluise said.

OBITUARIES

Ruben Semmler

Ruben Semmler, 94, at Tripp Good Samaritan Home passed away on January 8, 2014.

Ruben was born near Corsica, SD on October 12, 1919. He was the 9th of 12 children born to Frederick and Christina (Smearer) Semmler. He married Catherine Baer of Ipswich, SD, on January 3, 1944. The couple settled in the Tripp/Parkston area where they farmed. Ruben was seriously injured and nearly died in a tractor accident in 1970. He recovered and continued farming until lingering complications from the accident forced him to retire in 1979. The couple then moved to Heritage Square Apartments in Parkston. Catherine died in 2003 and Ruben remained in Parkston until he moved into the



Semmler

Good Samaritan Home at Tripp in late 2011.

The couple raised three children: Veronica Granger, a retired nurse in Longmont CO; Maryann Eklund who along with her husband, Russell, own a general contracting and real estate business in Great Falls MT; and Leo Semmler, a retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant who along with his wife, Bunny, raise quarter horses near Watertown SD. Ruben has four grandchildren: Julie (Daegal Tsang) Eklund, Douglas (Dani) Eklund, Danielle (Brent) Honsbruch, and Michelle Semmler. He also has two great-grandchildren: Saskia Tsang and Zachary Tsang.

Ruben served in the Army from 1941 until 1943, including 18 months in Australia during the Japanese attacks on Darwin. Ruben took pride in being a good farmer who diligently cared for his crops and livestock. He was good with his hands and could build and repair almost anything. He also

enjoyed riding spirited horses. Upon retirement, Ruben excelled at several hobbies including playing pool, macramé, rattlesnake hunting, and counted cross stitch. Ruben completed more than 240 counted cross stitch projects in a 17-year period despite the fact he was color blind. Recently he was asked what he was most proud of in his life. He said, "My three kids and what they've accomplished." Friends and family will remember Ruben for his great sense of humor. He was always telling a joke or humorous story from his

childhood, and was never above instigating a good practical joke.

Ruben was preceded in death by all eleven of his brothers and sisters, which, by the way, was one of his goals.

A memorial service will be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Parkston at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, January 20th. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Ruben's name to Farm Rescue at <http://www.farmrescue.org> or 1-701-252-2017. They are a non-profit organization that assists family farmers, who have suffered

an injury or illness, with planting or harvesting their crops.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
January 11, 2014

James 'Chubby' Orton

James "Chubby" Orton, 82, of Gayville died Thursday, Jan. 9, 2014, in Sun City West, Ariz.

Arrangements are pending with the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Yankton.

Marilyn Jurrens

Marilyn K. Jurrens, 60, of Yankton died very unexpectedly on Thursday, Jan. 9, 2014.

Memorial services are at 2 p.m. Jan. 18 at Calvary Baptist Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Jon Cooke officiating.

Visitations begin at 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, with a 7 p.m. Prayer service, video tribute and memory sharing. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday, Jan. 18.

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Public Open House

1.13.14

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For more information, please call 605-668-8000.

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital