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An ocean apart on solving euro crisis

G-8 summit likely to focus on U.S. spending vs. German cuts

BY MICHAEL BIRNBAUM

BERLIN — There are 4,169 miles between Berlin and Washington. But on economic policy, the two capitals sometimes appear to be on different planets.

Germany has taken a tough-love, austerity-driven approach to solving Europe's recession, pushing struggling countries to sharply cut public spending and chop their debt even as their economies slump. The United States confronted its own crisis with an \$862 billion stimulus package in 2009, which brought debt levels to heights not seen since shortly after World War II but may have dulled the worst blow of its downturn.

Chancellor Angela Merkel, her advisers and even much of the German opposition see Europe's problems in starkly different terms than the Obama administration does. Merkel's impulse — to fight debt at all costs to boost investor confidence — has been at the core of Europe's crisis response, because industrial powerhouse Germany has been calling the shots. But she has come under heavy criticism from Americans who say her efforts are misplaced.

The differing approaches have gained renewed urgency as the crisis flares again in the euro zone, and Europe's response will probably dominate discussions Friday at the Group of Eight summit at Camp David. With a reelection fight looming, President Obama will want to avoid the economic hit that is likely to follow if the euro zone unravels. And there is new pressure on German-led austerity from furious voters in Greece and from French President Francois Hollande, who has pushed for more economic stimulus.

But the discussion inside Germany's borders remains starkly different from that in Washington, or even just across the Rhine in Paris, where politicians and voters are more tolerant of budget deficits and are willing to throw money at short-term problems in the belief that doing so can jump-start struggling economies, making it easier to pay off debts later on.

"The German community is a

GERMANY CONTINUED ON A14

Obama aims for some consensus with summits

The president hopes G-8 and NATO meetings will ease uncertainty over the euro crisis and Afghanistan. A14

Fears of a Greek euro exit

The impact in Greece would be dire — and analysts are struggling to predict the fallout around the world. A15

No simple choice

Stimulus or austerity? Despite what purists say, the realistic answer is: It depends. Steven Pearlstein, A16

Camp David's neighbor

A few miles downhill from the presidential retreat and summit site lies sleepy Thurmont. Style, C1

Forecasting the Preakness Stakes



JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

As jockeys and horses prepare for this weekend's Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course, columnist Andrew Beyer says handicapping the 137th running demands a clear-eyed analysis of what occurred at the Kentucky Derby earlier this month. Beyer does just that, and gives you his top three finishers in Baltimore. STORY, D1

Romney contending with headstrong allies

Their attacks on Obama could shift focus from his economic message

BY KAREN TUMULTY AND ROSALIND S. HELDERMAN

Mitt Romney wants to talk about the economy. But his ostensible allies keep interrupting him, and his own party is threatening to drown him out.

A reality of modern campaigning is that any candidate — even one as buttoned-down and disciplined as Romney — has to contend with stronger political crosswinds than in the past.

The latest example came Thursday, a day on which the Republican presidential front-runner had intended to talk about the federal debt. That message was largely lost as he found himself having to repudiate an attack against President Obama that had not happened —

and one his campaign was not involved in planning.

The controversy surrounded a New York Times report that a group of political operatives had proposed a racially tinged \$10 million ad campaign designed to resurrect a four-year-old controversy over inflammatory remarks by the Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr., Obama's former pastor.

"I want to make it very clear: I repudiate that effort," Romney said at a news conference. "I think

it's the wrong course. . . . I hope that our campaigns can respectively be about the future and about issues and about a vision for America."

Romney's response was more forceful than it has been in other recent episodes, including when he did not challenge a supporter who declared at an Ohio rally this month that Obama "should be tried for treason" and when he declined to condemn radio host

ROMNEY CONTINUED ON A5

Martin was shot at close range

NEW DOCUMENTS IN FLA. CASE RELEASED

Report reveals trace of drug in teen's system

BY SARI HORWITZ AND STEPHANIE MCCRUMMEN

Neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman shot Trayvon Martin from a very close range, according to documents a Florida prosecutor released Thursday that indicate a hand-to-hand struggle occurred before the teenager was killed.

A lab report, based on an examination of the two sweatshirts Martin was wearing, found holes and gunshot residue consistent with a "contact shot," meaning the gun was pressed against Martin's chest. An autopsy report said that the gunshot wound indicated he was shot from an "intermediate range," which experts say is between one and 18 inches away.

The reports, among nearly 200 pages of newly released information, add to the fragmented portrait of what happened the night of Feb. 26 in Sanford, Fla., when Zimmerman shot the unarmed black 17-year-old, provoking nationwide debates over racial profiling and self-defense laws.

It is unclear how the new documents might bolster or undermine the state's case against Zimmerman, who has a Peruvian mother and a white father.

MARTIN CONTINUED ON A6



MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES

Donna Summer, 1948-2012

Dubbed the Queen of Disco, the strong, sexy Grammy Award-winning singer blazed a path in the 1970s for performers such as Madonna, Lady Gaga and Rihanna. She shimmied and grooved her way to the top of the charts with disco tunes, many of which she co-wrote. Her throaty voice and forthright sexuality helped sell more than 20 million records. Even as disco went out of fashion, she remained a fixture, beloved by legions of fans. OBITUARY, B6

Eugene Robinson: Donna Summer rose above her mundane genre with the effortless power of her voice. A21

See photos of Donna Summer and a video about her at washingtonpost.com/obituaries.

Norton silenced at House hearing

Delegate not allowed to testify on measure limiting D.C. abortions

BY BEN PERSHING

Rep. Trent Franks's district in suburban Phoenix is two time zones away from Washington, a fact not lost on D.C. leaders as the Arizona Republican presided Thursday over the latest in a long series of attempts to control social issues in the nation's capital. At issue this time was his bill,

with 193 co-sponsors, to ban all abortions in the District beyond 20 weeks, except to save the life of the mother.

Adding insult to injury, from the point of view of local officials, was that Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D), the District's lone, nonvoting member of Congress — sitting in the front row of a subcommittee hearing room — was not allowed to speak.

Presiding over the hearing, Franks, who frequently cites the Constitution, said Congress has the authority to "exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever" in the District. He also

described late-term abortions as "inhumane" and "torturous," and he called them "the greatest human rights atrocity in the United States today."

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (N.Y.), the subcommittee's ranking Democrat, called the measure another attack on women's rights and criticized Republicans for not allowing Norton to testify. "Never in my 20 years as a member of Congress have I seen a colleague treated so contemptuously," Nadler said.

Norton, who was also not al-

ABORTION CONTINUED ON A10

It's alive! . . . Barely.

Bacteria under ocean floor make tortoise's pace of life look exhilarating

BY JOEL ACHENBACH

All it survival of the slowest: Extraordinarily old, bizarrely low-key bacteria have been found in sediments 100 feet below the seafloor of the Pacific Ocean, far removed from sunlight, fresh nutrients and what humans would consider anything interesting to do.

Some of these organisms, sci-

entists say, could be at least 1,000 years old. Or maybe millions of years.

Their strategy for staying alive is to be barely alive at all. Their metabolism is dialed down to almost nothing, an adaptive advantage in a place with so few resources. The bacteria that survive are the ones that can satisfy themselves with minute traces of oxygen and a parsimonious diet

of organic material laid down millions of years ago.

Such buried bacteria have been found before, but a new study, published Thursday online by the journal Science, has provided the clearest look at their glacial pace of existence. The conclusion, in short, is that microbes can putter along at

BACTERIA CONTINUED ON A7

IN THE NEWS



DAVID PAUL MORRIS/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Market debut of 'FB' Facebook will initially trade at \$38 per share Friday, a price that values the social network at \$104 billion. A12

'Invest in Burma' The White House eased sanctions on the country and will dispatch its first ambassador there in 22 years. A10

THE NATION

Attorneys made closing arguments in John Edwards's corruption trial; jurors begin deliberations Friday. A3

A Senate bill intended to tighten economic sanctions against Iran was blocked by Senate Republicans who said they were holding out for a tougher measure. A10

The State Department granted a visa to Cuban President Raul Castro's daughter but denied entry by Cuban academics, angering both Cuban American leaders and U.S. scholars. A6

THE ECONOMY

Rep. Dave Camp (R-Mich.), the House Ways and Means chairman, called for "fast-track procedures" to force lawmakers to complete an overhaul of the tax code next year. A13

National mortgage-foreclosure activity in April decreased 5 percent from March and was down 14 percent from a year ago. A13

The United States slapped stiff tariffs on imports of Chinese solar panels, the result of a dumping case. A22

The Senate confirmed President Obama's two

nominees to the Federal Reserve Board, with both receiving the support of at least 70 senators. A12

THE WORLD

Unidentified North Koreans are demanding a ransom of \$142,000 to release 29 Chinese fishermen whose boats were seized, Chinese media reported. A10

A judge suspended Ratzko Mladic's genocide and war-crimes trial after an evidence error; the ruling could delay the trial for months. A8

Police were investigating a gunfight in a remote area of Honduras at which U.S. drug agents were present. A8

HEALTH

Consumers should not eat contaminated shellfish from South Korea and retailers should stop selling it, regulators said. A12

THE REGION

An Annandale man pulled a giant northern snakehead out of Virginia's Occoquan River, but before he realized he may have hooked a world record, the fish had become dinner. B1

SPORTS

The Nationals suffered a 5-3 loss to the Pirates and dropped out of first place before the AL East first-place Orioles come to town. D1

INSIDE

WEEKEND

Summer's near And advice is here. We tell you how to make the hottest months cool.

SPORTS

Ice, wood, repeat An arena is getting a workout as L.A.'s hockey and basketball teams stay alive in the playoffs. D1

BUSINESS NEWS.....A12
CLASSIFIEDS.....F1
COMICS.....C5
LOTTERIES.....B3
OBITUARIES.....B5
OPINION PAGES.....A19
TELEVISION.....C4

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