



SOCHI COLLISION COURSE Competitors were sent flying in the consolation finals of the men’s 1,500-meter short-track speedskating. In skiing, the American Julia Mancuso won a bronze in her third Olympics. Pages B8-12.

U.S. Debates
Drone Strike
On American

By MARK MAZZETTI and ERIC SCHMITT

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is debating whether to authorize a lethal strike against an American citizen living in Pakistan who some believe is actively plotting terrorist attacks, according to current and former government officials.

It is the first time American officials have actively discussed killing an American citizen overseas since President Obama imposed new restrictions on drone operations last May.

The officials would not confirm the identity of the suspect, or provide any information about what evidence they have amassed about the suspect’s involvement in attacks against Americans. The debate about whether to put the individual on a kill list was first reported on Monday by The Associated Press.

The first time the Obama administration carried out a targeted killing operation against an American citizen was in September 2011, when a C.I.A. drone killed the radical preacher Anwar al-Awlaki in Yemen; officials said little publicly about the operation. The White House acknowledged last year that four American citizens

Continued on Page A3

Impatience Has Its Reward:
Books Are Rolled Out Faster

By JULIE BOSMAN

“Annihilation,” the chilling first novel of a trilogy by Jeff VanderMeer that was released last week, tells the story of a scientific expedition to a mysterious place called Area X that has been cut off from the rest of the world.

Fans who want to know what happens in the second book won’t be on tenterhooks for long.

That book, “Authority,” will come out in May, only months after the first installment. On its heels is the third novel, “Acceptance,” to be published in early September.

While the television industry has begun catering to impatient audiences by releasing entire series at once, the book business is upending its traditional timetable by encouraging a kind of binge reading, releasing new works by

a single author at an accelerated pace.

The practice of spacing an author’s books at least one year apart is gradually being discarded as publishers appeal to the same “must-know-now” impulse that drives binge viewing of shows like “House of Cards” and “Breaking Bad.”

“Consumers want to be able to binge-read or binge-watch,” Christine Ball, the associate publisher of Dutton, said in an interview. “We wanted to give the consumers what they wanted in this case.”

Sean McDonald, the editor at Farrar, Straus & Giroux who acquired the trilogy by Mr. VanderMeer, said that when he read the first manuscript, he realized it

Continued on Page A3

Heroin’s Small-Town Toll, and a Mother’s Grief

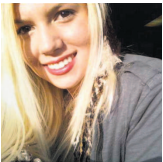
By DEBORAH SONTAG

HUDSON, Wis. — Karen Hale averts her eyes when she drives past the Super 8 motel in this picturesque riverfront town where her 21-year-old daughter, Alysa Ivy, died of an overdose last May. She has contemplated asking the medical examiner, now a friend, to accompany her there so she could lie on the bed in Room 223 where her child’s body was found.

But Ms. Hale, 52, is not ready, just as she is not ready to dismantle Ms. Ivy’s bedroom, where an uncapped red lipstick sits on the dresser and a teddy bear on the duvet. The jumble of belongings both comforts and unsettles her — colorful bras, bangle bracelets and childhood artwork; court summonses; a 12-step bible; and a Hawaiian lei, bloodstained, that her daughter used as a tourniquet for shooting heroin into her veins.

“My son asked me not to make a shrine for her,” Ms. Hale said. “But I don’t know what to do with her room. I guess on some level I’m still waiting for her to come home. I’d be so much more empathetic now. I used to take it personal, like she was doing this to me and I was a victim.”

Alysa Ivy



A Changing Face of
Addiction as Use
and Deaths Rise

When the actor Philip Seymour Hoffman died with a needle in his arm on Feb. 2, Ms. Hale thought first about his mother, then his children. Few understand the way addiction mangles families, she said, and the rippling toll of the tens of thousands of fatal heroin and painkiller overdoses every year. Perhaps it took Mr. Hoffman’s death, she said, to “wake up America to all the no-names who passed away before him,” leaving a cross-country trail of bereavement.

In the wake of the prescription painkiller epidemic, heroin, much of it Mexican, has wormed its way into unsuspecting communities far from the Southwestern border as a cheaper and often more easily obtained alternative. Ms. Ivy’s was believed to be the seventh fatal heroin overdose in eight months in this town of 13,000 on the St. Croix River near Minneapolis. Two months after

her death, and before yet another young Hudson woman died — at a “sober house” — of a heroin overdose in October, nearly 500 townspeople crowded into the First Presbyterian Church for a forum called “Heroin in Hudson: A Community in Crisis.”

Ms. Ivy’s death certificate, recently released, revealed that a mix of drugs was to blame; the police declined to specify the drugs since her death remains under investigation. But “Alysa was a heroin abuser, and her addiction to drugs killed her,” said Patty Schachtner, the St. Croix County medical examiner.

“It’s a tightknit community, and these kids all knew each other,” Ms. Schachtner said of those who overdosed. “They were not what you might expect. They were not the faces of heroin addiction we see on television.”

Nationally, those faces are getting younger and whiter. The most recent federal data show 19,154 opioid drug deaths in 2010, with 3,094 involving heroin and the rest painkillers. Eighty-eight percent of those who died from heroin were white, half were younger than 34, and almost a

Continued on Page A13

In West Bank Settlements, Israeli Jobs Are Double-Edged Sword

By JODI RUDOREN

MISHOR ADUMIM INDUSTRIAL ZONE, West Bank — The personal conflict that thousands of Palestinians face working for Israeli companies in the occupied West Bank is particularly stark for Hassan Jalaita, who for 18 years has repaired Israeli Army jeeps at the Zarfati garage here.

Those are the very same jeeps that confront Mr. Jalaita at the checkpoint he crosses each morning. The same ones that sweep through villages where his friends and relatives live. But those jeeps also help pay his \$1,471 monthly salary at Zarfati, more than triple the minimum wage in Palestinian areas of the West Bank, where a 19 percent unemployment rate and lack of labor laws make finding a decent job difficult.

“I feel like I’m not a human being — we are serving the occupation,” said Mr. Jalaita, 47, a father of five, two of them university students. “I am forced to work here because I have a house, I have a family. Tomorrow, if there is another place to work, if there is work in Palestine, I will do it.”

Israeli industries operating in settlements that most of the



Outside industrial parks in the West Bank, thousands of Palestinians work Israeli-owned farms.

world considers illegal and a prime obstacle to peace have become a focus of global attention in recent weeks, amid growing momentum for a boycott movement targeting Israeli businesses and institutions. The flash point was the actress Scarlett Johansson, who resigned her position

Further Delays
For Employers
In Health Law

G.O.P. Assails Change
as a Political Step

By ROBERT PEAR

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration announced on Monday that it would postpone enforcement of a federal requirement for medium-size employers to provide health insurance to employees and allow larger employers more flexibility in how they provide coverage.

The delay is the latest in a series of policy changes, extensions and clarifications by the administration, and it drew a new round of criticism from congressional Republicans, whose scorching attacks on the law have become a central theme in many of this year’s midterm election campaigns.

The “employer mandate,” which was originally supposed to take effect last month, had already been delayed to Jan. 1, 2015, and now the administration says that employers with 50 to 99 employees will not have to comply until 2016 — allowing Democrats to placate business concerns and pushing the issue well beyond this year’s midterm elections.

In addition, the administration said the requirement would be put into effect gradually for employers with 100 or more employees. Employers in this category will need to offer coverage to 70 percent of full-time employees in 2015 and 95 percent in 2016 and later years, or they will be subject to tax penalties.

“Today’s final regulations phase in the standards to ensure that larger employers either offer quality affordable coverage or make an employer responsibility payment starting in 2015,” said Mark J. Mazur, the assistant Treasury secretary for tax policy. The purpose of the penalty, he said, is to help offset the cost to taxpayers of providing coverage or subsidies to people who cannot get affordable health insurance at work.

Under the law, employers with

Continued on Page A18

Health Battle in Arkansas

Under conservative pressure, several lawmakers who supported Medicaid expansion are reconsidering. Page A12.

DE BLASIO PLANS
A MINIMUM WAGE
AND CITY ID CARDS

SETS UP ALBANY BATTLE

Lays Out Strong Liberal
Agenda and Benefits
for Immigrants

By MICHAEL M. GRYNBAUM and KIRK SEMPLÉ

Mayor Bill de Blasio charted a robust liberal agenda for New York City on Monday, pledging to bypass Washington to address economic and social disparities by expanding benefits for illegal immigrants and pressing for a higher local minimum wage.

In his first State of the City address, Mr. de Blasio said New York would become the largest municipality to offer identification cards to residents regardless of their legal status, making it easier for undocumented immigrants to open bank accounts, lease apartments or borrow library books.

And he vowed to bring New York in line with other liberal strongholds, like San Francisco and Washington, that already set their own minimum wage, although Mr. de Blasio will need approval from legislators in Albany to enact his version.

In promising to move quickly with his plans, the mayor made clear that he had lost patience with federal lawmakers, whose efforts to enact similar policies have stagnated, and that he was undaunted by the resistance he is already encountering among officials in the State Capitol.

“We cannot wait for Washington to act,” Mr. de Blasio said. “We will not let the gridlock there — or even the limits of Albany — serve as an excuse for New York City to roll over and ignore our mission.”

Mr. de Blasio is hoping to follow in the steps of other local leaders who have brought about liberal reforms in the face of congressional gridlock. Seattle’s new mayor is pushing a measure to make the city’s minimum wage among the highest in the nation. Mr. de Blasio’s proposal of municipal ID cards for undocumented immigrants, novel in New York, is based on similar measures already in place in several

Continued on Page A25



BUSINESS DAY B1-7

A Season for Flight Delays

Thousands of passengers have been stranded at airports for hours or days after bad winter weather forced flight cancellations. Nearly 40,000 flights were canceled in January, almost double the next highest monthly total. PAGE B1

NATIONAL A12-19

Vote Expected on Debt Deal

The House is likely to vote Wednesday on extending borrowing authority in exchange for reversing a cut to the pensions of some veterans. PAGE A19

Drug Shortages Vex Doctors

Despite government efforts to ease shortages of critical drugs, shortfalls persist, a report says. PAGE A15

FASHION B16

Freshly Wrapped

Diane von Furstenberg, who created the classic wrap dress 40 years ago, is keeping it relevant. A review. PAGE B16



SCIENCE TIMES D1-6

Archaeology of the Stars

The evolution of the universe is being traced through its elements. PAGE D1

Camel Footprints in the Bible

Camels in the Bible are out of time and out of place, a scholar says. PAGE D3

INTERNATIONAL A4-11

Error Kills 22 Militants in Iraq

Militants at a terrorist training camp in Iraq were killed when a commander mistakenly used live explosives during a demonstration. PAGE A6

Spain Aims to Curb Crusaders

Lawmakers in Spain will consider a proposal to curb judges who pursue human rights cases around the world. PAGE A7

ARTS C1-8

Papa Was a Pack Rat

Lists and receipts are among the minutiae from Ernest Hemingway’s daily life that are now available digitally. PAGE C1

SPECIAL TODAY

Wealth

There is successful, and then there is being so successful you are able to afford an expensive coach to make you even more successful. Also, even among the 1 percent, incomes are diverging as those at the very top, the 0.1 percent, pull away from everyone else. SECTION F

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A26-27

David Brooks PAGE A27

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