

# The Bakersfield Californian

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MIKA VOLKMAN / ZUMA PRESS

Megan Rapinoe, left, and Abby Wambach (20) celebrate the United States' 3-1 victory over France in Wednesday's semifinals.

## US women's team success creates buzz about soccer

BY STEVEN GOFF  
The Washington Post

The U.S. Soccer Federation should be grateful for Abby Wambach's courage and Megan Rapinoe's personality, for Hope Solo's intensity and Coach Pia Sundhage's steady hand.

The late-game drama generated by the U.S. women's national team has not only sustained the quest for a first Women's World Cup title since 1999; it has turned American soccer's fortunes during an otherwise disappointing stretch on the international front and reminded a mainstream audience of the sport's engaging powers.

With the U.S. women ready to face Japan Sunday in the tournament's final game, there's a buzz about soccer for

The U.S. soccer teams are truly America's "home" teams, regular travelers on

### WHERE TO SEE IT

The United States will be trying to become the first country to win three Women's World Cup titles when it faces Japan on Sunday. The game will be televised at 11 a.m. on ESPN.

the international circuit. As a nation, we export pop culture and political ideals, but to truly connect with a European, South American or African, soccer is the icebreaker. And with the United States making gains, it's now as easy to discuss Landon Donovan as Leonardo DiCaprio.

TV ratings and attendance figures show growing popularity in the U.S. national soccer programs, a product of the sport's development and Americans' intense pride in their country. Of late, however, substandard results had dampened that enthusiasm. The men's national team stumbled through this summer's CON-

CACAF Gold Cup, the championship for the North and Central America and Caribbean region, before being outclassed by bitter rival Mexico in the final.

The junior teams also faltered, failing to qualify for the Under-20 World Cup for the first time in 16 years and getting blasted out of the U-17 world tournament in the second round.

Shrouded by this week's heroics was a historically poor showing by this same women's group in World Cup qualifying last fall. So dominant in the region for 20 years, the U.S. lost to Mexico in the semifinals and needed to win a third-place match and a two-game special playoff against Italy just to book flights to Germany this summer.

Off the field, the U.S. soccer leaders suffered a punch to the gut in December when their seemingly impeccable bid to stage the 2022 World Cup (for men) lost

Please see **US WOMEN / A3**

### TOP STORY

PHONE HACKING SCANDAL

## Wall Street Journal top executive steps down

BY JOE FLINT, MEG JAMES AND HENRY CHU  
Los Angeles Times

LONDON — The News Corp. phone-hacking scandal claimed two high-ranking executives running the company's U.S. and British operations as Chief Executive Rupert Murdoch tried to stem the fallout from a growing crisis he had been downplaying.

The resignations of longtime Murdoch intimates Les Hinton as chief executive of Dow Jones & Co. and publisher of its *Wall Street Journal* and Rebekah Brooks as chief of News International in London came hours apart Friday.



Hinton

Hinton was in charge of News International and Brooks was editor of its *News of the World* when many of the hacking incidents are alleged to have occurred. Murdoch closed the 168-year-old tabloid last week amid the scandal.

Murdoch himself apologized Friday to the family of a 13-year-old homicide victim whose phone allegedly had been hacked by *News of the World* operatives in 2002 while the girl was still missing. A full-page apology he signed was scheduled to appear today in all British national newspapers under a banner headline saying, "We are sorry."

Members of Parliament had been demanding Brooks' ouster, but it was Hinton's exit that was most dramatic, given his 52-year association with Murdoch.

"That this passage has come to an unexpected end, professionally, not personally, is a matter

Please see **HACKING / A3**

## Economic outlook grim if no debt deal reached

BY TOM RAUM  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Horror stories are flying about the damage that might be wreaked should Congress and President Barack Obama fail to cut a deal by the Aug. 2 deadline to increase America's borrowing limit. Nearly every American is in harm's way, either directly or indirectly.

Absent a deal by then, the government would find itself tight on cash and unable to borrow — and have to start deciding which of the 80 million bills due in August it should pay and which it should put off.

Tough decisions would come immediately: On Aug. 3, some \$23 billion in Social Security benefit payments are due to be processed. On Aug. 4, the Treasury Department must pay \$87 billion to investors to redeem maturing Treasury securities. On Aug. 15, more than \$30 billion in interest payments come due.

In addition to those costs, the government normally pays \$5 billion to \$10 billion daily to defense contractors, Medicare providers, federal employees and others.

Obama has said he can't guarantee Social

Please see **DEBT / A3**

## When a broken heart really is broken

BY KELLIE SCHMITT  
Californian staff writer  
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Large Weaver's heart symptoms were a mystery. The 60-year-old Bakersfield teacher had been feeling especially fatigued, with tightness in her chest and a demeanor she described as "zombie-like."

All signs pointed to an arterial blockage, but an echocardiogram, or heart ultrasound, showed a strange ballooning in the pumping chamber. There was another clue. Weaver had recently experienced high levels of stress in her third-grade classroom, which got worse when, she said, a supervisor pressured her.

"She had a broken heart," said Dr. Vinod Kumar, her Bakersfield cardiologist. "We were skeptical at first, but no longer. This is real."

Broken heart syndrome, or stress-induced cardiomyopathy, is a reversible condition that can be brought on by intense emotional trauma, such as a loved one's death, a natural disaster, a devastating financial loss or a fight with the boss. The phenomenon mimics a heart attack's symptoms, but it is caused by a section of the heart freezing and failing to pump blood.

Kumar and other cardiologists say they're seeing more and more of the malady, which affects about 1 to 2 percent of people who appear to

Please see **HEART / A3**



MICHAEL FAGANS / THE CALIFORNIAN

Dr. Vinod Kumar looks over a patient's electrocardiogram at the Heart Center on Commerce Drive in Bakersfield on Thursday.



Clark, Glover share lead in British Open as big names tumble

Sports, Page D1



Church to dedicate its newly installed solar panel system

Faith, Page A13



Gardeners need a few of their favorite, well-worn things

Eye Street, Page E1

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## DEBT: Default would be 'major crisis'

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Security checks and payments to veterans and the disabled will go out on schedule in the absence of a deal: "There may simply not be the money in the coffers to do it." He could be challenged on that, however, because some legal and congressional budget experts question whether he can unilaterally decline to pay Social Security benefits if there are still assets in the program's trust fund.

Regardless of how that issue is resolved, there's no question that government services, programs and benefits could take an enormous hit.

No one knows exactly what choices Obama and his top officials would make if the crisis comes. The White House Office of Budget and Management is the agency charged with reviewing possible cuts in benefits and payments while the Treasury Department handles cash flow. All have been mum about their crisis plans, apparently to avoid market speculation or panic.

But Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner has insisted the deadline is real. "There is no credible way to give Congress more time," he said.

One analysis, by the Bipartisan Policy Center, suggests that once the government runs out of cash and lacks the power to further borrow, it would need to slash spending at once by as much as a whopping 44 percent. The U.S. now borrows more than 40 cents for every dollar it spends.

To do that, the government must choose from among a total of 80 million payments it makes each month, the center said in its analysis, of Treasury accounts.

The Treasury Department on Friday dug into its bag of tricks for what it said was the final time, tapping a Depression-era fund set up to help stabilize the dollar to clear room for \$23 billion in additional borrowing authority. Treasury Undersecretary Jeffrey Goldstein called it "the last of the measures available to keep the nation under the statutory debt limit" until Aug. 2.

So long as the Treasury has tax revenues coming in, it can still make interest payments to technically avoid default. Some analysts think it would lean that way at first, so as to do less harm to the country's long-term credit rating. Default would be a "major crisis" that would radiate "shock waves" through the financial system, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress recently.

But putting a priority on paying interest on maturing debt to avoid a default would simply force spending cuts instead — some of them more likely to hit ordinary people.

Parks and monuments can be temporarily shut. That's been done before.

But is it worth taxpayers' money to pay the costs of pursuing a second trial against former baseball star Roger Clemens if the judge who declared a mistrial in his perjury case this week clears the way? And what about clinical trials on new drugs or other scientific research projects? Or completing half-finished highway construction projects?

Government contractors are likely to be among the early victims, says Paul Light, professor of public policy at New York University. "No new contracts. Delayed payments. Stop work orders. I can't imagine that Obama would ever touch soldiers' pay. But you'd get closing of parks, as we've seen in Minnesota, the national monuments, freezes on discretionary spending including Medicaid."

He suggested other early austerity steps would likely include halting of highway projects and research grants, and orders to stop clinical trials of new drugs and cancer research.

The state government shutdown in Minnesota may indeed offer a preview of what lies ahead on a larger scale. State parks were closed. Driver's licenses weren't issued. Beer giant MillerCoors was told it couldn't sell beer in the state because its licenses hadn't been renewed.

Some conservative congressional Republicans have questioned whether there would really be a crisis if the Aug. 2 deadline were missed. They note that the government could cut programs instead and still make interest payments at least for a while. But Congress' top two Republicans, House Speaker John Boehner and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, have agreed that failure to raise the limit could provoke an economic catastrophe.

And major rating agencies such as Moody's and Standard and Poor's have already signaled they're poised to lower the nation's coveted Triple-A credit ratings if no agreement is reached. They also hinted that the ratings might be lowered even if the U.S. continues to make interest payments on its debt.

"Global investors will start asking themselves, how long will they get paid if Social Security recipients don't?" said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics. "There would be long-lasting economic

damage. The economy would be back in recession. Tax revenues would be falling again and the deficit increasing."

The U.S. has gone through short government shutdowns before — most recently in late 1995 and early 1996 — because of political standoffs.

But now the stakes are far higher because the dispute may capsize the entire U.S. economy, not just shut down government agencies and delay benefit checks.

Any unprecedented default on the U.S. debt would send the price of Treasury bonds — long viewed as the world's safe-haven investment — tumbling and interest rates soaring. And the higher rates wouldn't just be on Treasury bills and bonds but also on a wide variety of consumer and business loans pegged to Treasury rates — from mortgages to credit cards, car loans and student debt.

A U.S. default, or near-default, could also cause financial panic around the globe as international investors flee Treasury bonds and bills and other dollar-denominated investments. The value of the U.S. dollar against other major currencies could tank.

Given the already high unemployment rate and shaky housing markets, it would likely send the economy right back into recession.

"There's a huge amount of misunderstanding about the seriousness of this among the American people," said Robert Reischauer, former head of the Congressional Budget Office and now director of the Urban Institute. "One reason is that, while experts have been apoplectic about this for the better part of four months, there is no tangible evidence of any of these consequences coming to pass," because the stock market has still been going up and interest rates have remained low.

Economists can easily see a 1,000-point or larger plunge in the Dow if the negotiations to raise the debt ceiling fail — dealing a savage blow to already fragile 401(k) plans and similar retirement investments.

How hard and fast really is the Aug. 2 date? The national debt, the legacy of years of accumulated deficit spending by presidents and legislators of both parties, now stands at \$14.34 trillion. The government blew past the legal debt limit on May 16. Treasury has kept paying bills with accounting footwork ever since but is nearing the end of that, officials say.

## US WOMEN: Success has rekindled interest

CONTINUED FROM A1

out to tiny Qatar (albeit under controversial circumstances).

The doldrums continued at the Women's World Cup with mediocre displays in the group stage, including a loss to Sweden — the first-ever setback in the opening round.

The campaign was winding toward a sad end in the quarterfinals, with the Americans down a player and facing a deficit in extra time against Brazil. However, Wambach's stunning equalizer in the waning moments, followed by Solo's save in the penalty kick tiebreaker, altered the story line and rekindled the public's interest in women's soccer like no time since the 1999 final at the sold-out Rose Bowl.

The women's team might not have the drawing power of the men's squad — the gulf in attendance figures for home matches and in international player recognition is vast — but the women do offer unique characteristics.

Because pro opportunities in women's soccer aren't as lucrative as in the men's game, every player passed through college programs and all but German-based defender Ali Krieger compete in Women's Professional Soccer, the struggling U.S. league.

Sundhage is a guitar-strumming Swede. Many players learned the game competing against boys. At age 3, Lauren Cheney had open-heart surgery. Krieger survived a pulmonary embolism in 2006. Stephanie (Lopez) Cox serves as an inspiration in the Latin American community, which doesn't embrace women's soccer like it does with the men's game.

Heather Mitts, who missed the previous two World Cups because of injuries, has modeled and is married to NFL quarterback A.J. Feeley. Captain Christie Rampone has two daughters. Becky Sauerbrunn was a national soccer scholar athlete of the year at the University of Virginia. Growing up, Nicole Barnhart named her kittens Mia, Lilly and Scurry — after the 1999 stars — and persuaded her parents to order cable so she could watch the matches.

While not as physical and fast as the men's game, women's soccer is refreshing in its sense of honor: fewer theatrical dives, less dissent aimed at the game officials and humbler goal celebrations.

Women's soccer isn't for everyone, and some traditionalists go out of their way to belittle the female game. But there's so disparaging the U.S. team's success over 20 years, the riveting theater it has produced the past week, and the galvanizing impact it has had on the American sports scene.

## HACKING: News Corp. trying to stem damage

CONTINUED FROM A1

of much sadness to me," Murdoch said in a statement.

The flight of top executives underscores the severity of the crisis that has News Corp. on the ropes. The company has tried to contain the damage by mounting a public relations offensive after being battered for nearly two weeks by rival news organizations and government officials on both sides of the Atlantic.

On Thursday, it was disclosed that the FBI had launched an inquiry to determine whether Murdoch's minions hacked into the phones of victims and families of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

Industry experts believe that Friday's developments are designed to protect Murdoch and his son and heir apparent, James, from further scrutiny by isolating the problem to Brooks and Hinton. The company has hired public relations company Edelman to help navigate the crisis.

"Heads had to roll, and it seems the appropriate heads did roll," said Laura Martin, media analyst with Needham & Co. "Even the prime minister of Britain, David Cameron, had been saying that Brooks had to go. Maybe Hinton was the sacrificial lamb. They needed someone other than James, so it had to be a pretty senior executive."

"Murdoch is trying to keep his empire in the U.K. intact," Martin said.

Robert Eckerstrom, director of Moody's Capital Markets Research, warned about investing in the company, writing in a note: "The ramifications of the recent discoveries may grow as more questionable practices are uncovered."

In a statement Friday, Hinton appeared to provide a defense for the Murdochs.

"There had never been any evidence delivered to me that suggested the conduct had spread beyond one journalist," reiterating what he had testified in Parliament four years ago. "If others had evidence that wrongdoing went further, I was not told about it."

The spotlight now shifts to the Murdochs, who plan to answer questions about the imbroglgio Tuesday in Parliament. The younger Murdoch had approved payments to victims of the phone hacking, but last week he said he had done so without knowledge of the full scope of questionable reporting practices.

The departure of two key members of Murdoch's inner circle also raises the profile of Chase Carey, News Corp.'s president and chief operating officer. Carey, an American who rejoined the company in 2009 after six years as head of El Segundo-based DirecTV, has yet to be tainted by the hacking scandal.

It was Carey, for instance, who announced this week that News Corp. would withdraw its \$12-billion bid to acquire the 61 percent of satellite TV company British Sky Broadcasting that it didn't already own.

A longtime lieutenant of Murdoch, Carey could take on even greater responsibilities if the company decides James Murdoch no longer figures into the company's succession plans. Carey is well-regarded on Wall Street, which is eager for signs that the situation is being brought under control.

Until Friday, News Corp. and the Murdochs had sought to downplay the scandal. A day earlier, the *Journal* quoted Rupert Murdoch as saying the company had handled the crisis "extremely well in every way possible," making just "minor mistakes." Murdoch expressed irritation with rivals' coverage, saying he was "just getting annoyed."

But Murdoch appeared to change course Friday.

"We are sorry for the serious wrongdoing that occurred. We are deeply sorry for the hurt suffered by the individuals affected," Rupert Murdoch wrote in the ads. "We regret not acting faster to sort things out."

A News Corp. spokeswoman did not respond to requests for comment.

## HEART: Doctors encourage relaxation

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have heart attack symptoms. That increase could be because doctors increasingly are aware of the unusual diagnosis, or that people are simply getting more stressed out.

"As doctors, we're often not attuned to emotions," said Dr. Tamara Horwich, an assistant professor of medicine/cardiology at UCLA. "But we have to be attuned to how big of a role our emotions and stressors play."

A decade ago, the symptoms often would baffle doctors, she said. Patients would have all the symptoms of a heart attack but there would be no blockage in the coronary arteries. When doctors would talk to the patients, they would learn of a recent, intense emotional event.

Broken heart syndrome was first described in Japan in the early 1990s, where it is called takotsubo cardiomyopathy, according to UpToDate, an online medical reference site. The disorder is much more common in women, especially postmenopausal women, though the reasons for that aren't entirely clear.

With a heart attack, part of the heart muscle dies. But, in broken heart syndrome, the heart muscle is simply stunned by an adrenaline surge. That means there's a good prognosis for recovery, and the heart can often return to normal, said Dr. Michele Hamilton, the director of the Heart Failure Program at Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute. Even so, patients need to see a doctor to diagnose if they're experiencing a regular heart attack since the symptoms are so similar, she said.

The triggering emotional event is often a stress that's out of one's control. That's why a CEO who is accustomed to a stressful life wouldn't be as much at risk as someone who had an unexpected run-in with her boss.

For Dr. Hamilton, the most striking example was a patient who had a small dog that was suddenly attacked and killed by a larger dog.

# "As doctors, we're often not attuned to emotions. But we have to be attuned to how big of a role our emotions and stressors play."

Dr. Tamara Horwich, an assistant professor of medicine/cardiology at UCLA

"You can imagine that being a tremendous stress," she said.

That patient, a woman in her 60s, came to the hospital with two-thirds of her heart muscle not working. The angiogram showed no blockage, though, and she was put on medications. Over the next several months, her heart recovered completely.

In Bakersfield, another woman suffered from broken heart syndrome after some unexpected workplace drama. The 57-year-old woman, who didn't want her name used, said she got angry with a colleague, and expressed her frustration by yelling. This led to a reprimand by her boss, and a note in her file.

"It really caught me off guard," she said. "I have a good work record and I always go that extra mile to be conscientious."

The upsetting events kept her awake into the early morning hours, her chest tight and her breathing troubled. The next day, she could barely walk from the parking lot to the hospital's door.

When she got her diagnosis, she was stunned.

"I thought, 'my husband's always good to me, I don't have a broken heart,'" she said, laughing. "But I

went home and googled it and found excellent information about it."

Now, if there's a problem at work, she takes a walk to the back of the office, and practices some deep-breathing techniques.

Weaver, the teacher, ended up retiring after her broken heart diagnosis. The stress just wasn't worth it, she said.

"Now, I have energy and I'm smiling and enjoying people's company," said Weaver, now 63.

Weaver said her broken heart has helped her learn not to internalize pressures, and keep her daily stresses in perspective.

That's a smart plan, says Dr. Kumar, who still sees Weaver for regular check-ups. He advises patients to do yoga, meditate and try to stay calm, even if someone else is yelling.

Weaver is doing just that — and more. She's been enjoying her free time with family, going on hot-air balloon rides, river rafting and cruising down the bike trail on a tricycle.

All of that positive emotional energy has done wonders in mending her broken heart, she said. "Emotions are one of the biggest contributing factors to health."

### FOR THE RECORD

The California High-Speed Rail Authority is spending \$700,000 on a conceptual study of the Grapevine as a possible bullet train route. A story in Friday's paper misstated the amount of the contract.

Sarah Ketchum is a financial adviser for Edward Jones. An article on page 8 on Friday incorrectly stated her position.

### Afghanistan deaths

Sgt. Jeremy R. Summers, 27, of Mount Olivet, Ky., died July 14 in Paktika province, Afghanistan, after enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire on July 13. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.