

SPORTS SCORES

The Players Championship



By Scott Halleran, Getty Images

Phil Mickelson: Last year's winner gets ready.

Wicked finish at Florida course

Final three holes at Sawgrass are major test — and pain, 7-10C



NO. 1 IN THE USA



By Robert Hanashiro, USA TODAY

Price: Says daily life "is like a split-screen."

Woman remembers every day of her life

Jill Price, 42, has had vivid recall since the time she was 14. Condition is rare but verified, researchers say, 1D

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Newsline

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Burma 'horrendous,' U.S. diplomat says



AFP/Getty Images

In Irrawaddy delta: Woman eats at a relief area.

'A very real risk of disease outbreaks' described in wake of cyclone; in the USA, Burmese nationals reach out to help, 8A

North Carolina leads digital way. Broadcasters to turn off their analog TV signals in Wilmington in September, 1B

Tape of police beating prompts probe. Philadelphia officers are photographed kicking and beating three men during a traffic stop, 3A.

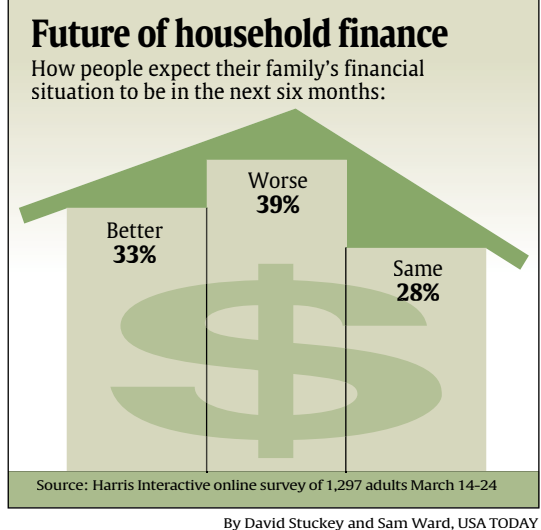
Money: 'Smartpen' unites notes, audio. Pulse allows user to review written notes that are synchronized with audio. Personal Technology, 1, 3B.

Sports: Turf worries ripple through USA. Federal investigation of artificial surfaces reflects anxieties among health and elected officials, 1-2C. Magic trounce Pistons; Detroit up 2-1. NBA, 1, 6C.

Life: Stripped-down TV season. Life on Mars and Eleventh Hour look strong, but strike-hobbled season means fewer new shows, 1D. Speed Racer is dud for kids and adults. Review, 1D.

Record oil prices sink stocks. Table with columns: Index, Close, Change. Includes Dow Jones industrial average, Nasdaq composite, Treasury note, 10-year yield, USA TODAY Internet 50.

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Inside the wedding few will see, 2A



By J. Scott Applewhite, AP

The bride-to-be: Jenna Bush, 26, will marry Henry Hager on Saturday in a simple ceremony at the Bush family's ranch, a contrast to formal weddings presidential children have had at the White House.

Bucking tradition, Jenna plans low-key nuptials

Bush's daughter opts for 'private' ceremony at ranch

By Maria Puente USA TODAY



The groom-to-be: Henry Hager, 29.

Jenna Bush is getting married Saturday, a semi-historic event that America will not get to see. CNN will not be going live to the ceremony. People magazine will not be snapping cover pics. Paparazzi will not be hanging from hovering helicopters. That's because Jenna, the first presidential child in decades to marry for the first time during her father's term, will not be married at the White House.

Cover story

as, secluded with about 200 of her closest family and friends. The speaker of the House, ambassadors and lobbyists, justices and lawmakers, princes and potentates — the usual mob at White House weddings — they're staying in Washington. And don't ask for many details; the Bush White House says this is a "private" event. That's quite a change from 1967, when Lynda Bird Johnson married Marine Capt. Chuck Robb in the White House and her mother's press secretary released every detail. Happy wedding stories helped counter grim Vietnam War news on the front pages. History shows that a presidential family wedding can do wonders for a faltering president's image, and few presidents have needed a helping hand more than George W. Bush: He has the highest negative ratings for a president in 70 years.

Please see COVER STORY next page ▶

Clinton makes case for staying in

Draws criticism for her emphasis on whites

By Kathy Kiely and Jill Lawrence USA TODAY

Hillary Rodham Clinton vowed Wednesday to continue her quest for the Democratic nomination, arguing she would be the stronger nominee because she appeals to a wider coalition of voters — including whites who have not supported Barack Obama in recent contests. "I have a much broader base to build a winning coalition on," she said in an interview with USA TODAY. As evidence, Clinton cited an Obama spokesman Bill Burton said that in Indiana Obama split working-class voters with Clinton and won a higher percentage of white voters than in Ohio in March. He said Obama will be the strongest nominee because he appeals "to Americans from every background and all walks of life. These statements from Sen. Clinton are not true and frankly disappointing at a time when our party needs to come together and offer this nation a unifying vision."

USA TODAY interview

Associated Press article "that found how Sen. Obama's support among working, hard-working Americans, white Americans, is weakening again, and how whites in both states who had not completed college were supporting me." "There's a pattern emerging here," she said. Clinton's blunt remarks about race came a day after primaries in Indiana and North Carolina dealt symbolic and mathematical blows to her White House ambitions. The Obama campaign stepped up pressure on superdelegates who have the decisive votes in their race. In both states, Clinton won six of 10 white voters, according to surveys of people as they left polling places. Clinton lost North Carolina by 14 percentage points and won Indiana by 2 points after competing full-out in both states. She had loaned the campaign \$6.4 million in the past month. She said she might lend more. "We should finish the contests we have and see where we stand after they're over," she said, referring to the six remaining primaries that will end June 3. There were signs of unrest Wednesday, even among Clinton allies. California Sen. Dianne Feinstein wondered to The Hill, a Capitol Hill newspaper, "whether she can get the delegates that she needs." Former South Dakota senator George McGovern, whose 1972 presidential bid gave Clinton her first political experience, switched his support from Clinton to Obama.



Clinton: Says she can build coalition.

Clinton rejected any idea that her emphasis on white voters could be interpreted as racially divisive. "These are the people you have to win, if you're a Democrat, in sufficient numbers to actually win the election. Everybody knows that." Larry Sabato, head of the University of Virginia Center for Politics, said Clinton's comment was a "poorly worded" variation on the way analysts have been "slicing and dicing the vote in racial terms." However, he said her primary support doesn't prove she's more electable. Either Democrat will get "the vast majority" of the other's primary election votes in a general election, he said. "We should finish the contests we have and see where we stand after they're over," she said, referring to the six remaining primaries that will end June 3. There were signs of unrest Wednesday, even among Clinton allies. California Sen. Dianne Feinstein wondered to The Hill, a Capitol Hill newspaper, "whether she can get the delegates that she needs." Former South Dakota senator George McGovern, whose 1972 presidential bid gave Clinton her first political experience, switched his support from Clinton to Obama. ▶ Hear excerpts of the Clinton interview at politics.usatoday.com

43,000 deployed unfit for combat

Troops sent since 2003; health issues unknown

By Gregg Zoroya USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — More than 43,000 U.S. troops listed as medically unfit for combat in the weeks before their scheduled deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan since 2003 were sent anyway, Pentagon records show. This reliance on troops found medically "non-deployable" is another sign of stress placed on a military that has sent 1.6 million servicemembers to the war zones, soldier advocacy groups say. "It is a consequence of the consistent churning of our troops," said Bobby Muller, president of Veterans For America. "They are repeatedly exposed to high-intensity combat with insufficient time at home to rest and heal before redeploying."

The numbers of non-deployable soldiers are based on health assessment forms filled out by medical personnel at each military installation before a servicemember's deployment. According to those statistics, the number of troops that doctors found non-deployable, but who were still sent to Iraq or Afghanistan fluctuated from 10,854 in 2003, down to 5,397 in 2005, and back up to 9,140 in 2007.

The Pentagon records do not list what — or how serious — the health issues are, nor whether they were corrected before deployment, said Michael Kilpatrick, a deputy director for the Pentagon's Force Health Protection and Readiness Programs. A Pentagon staffer examined 10,000 individual health records last year to determine causes for the non-deployable ratings, Kilpatrick said. Some reasons included a need for eyeglasses, dental work or allergy medicine and a small number of mental health cases, he said. This is the first war in which this health screening process has been used, the Pentagon said.

Most of the non-deployable servicemembers are in the Army, which is doing most of the fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Between 5% and 7% of all active-duty, National Guard and Reserve soldiers slated for combat were found medically unfit due to health problems each year since 2003, according to statistics provided to USA TODAY. Unit commanders make the final decision about whether a servicemember is sent into combat, although doctors can recommend against deployment because of a medical issue, Army spokeswoman Kim Waldron said. "The commander consults with health care professionals to determine whether the treatment a soldier needs is available in theater," said Army Col. Steven Braverman of the Army Medical Command. At Fort Carson, Colo., Maj. Gen. Mark Graham ordered an investigation into deployment procedures for a brigade deployed to Iraq late last year. At least 36 soldiers were found medically unfit but were still deployed, Graham told USA TODAY. For at least seven soldiers, treatment in the war zone was inadequate and the soldiers were sent home, he said, and at least two of them should never have been deployed. In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee in February, the panel's chairman, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., asked Army leaders about an e-mail from the surgeon for the Fort Carson brigade that said medically "borderline" soldiers went to war because "we have been having issues reaching deployable strength." "That should not be happening," Army Secretary Pete Geren told the committee. "I can't tell you that it's not, but it certainly should not be happening."

By the numbers

Since fiscal year 2003, more than 43,000 U.S. troops have been deployed to combat despite being rated as "non-deployable."

Table with columns: Year, Number of troops. 2003: 10,854; 2004: 8,996; 2005: 5,397; 2006: 8,672; 2007: 9,140

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