

HOUSE CHAIRMAN COMPLAINS ABOUT PENTAGON RESPONSE ON BENGHAZI

WASHINGTON: The chairman of the House Benghazi committee yesterday complained that the Pentagon has failed to provide the names of all the pilots who sent drones over Libya the night of the deadly 2012 attacks, slowing the more than two-year-old investigation.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., said in a statement that the Defense Department ignored a request for nearly five weeks for the pilots who sent drones over Benghazi and Tripoli, and that the Pentagon, at the end of April, then provided an incomplete list.

"The committee needs all of the names so the relevant witnesses can be interviewed and the investigation completed," Gowdy said. "Surely (the Defense Department) can complete the simple task of finding the people within the chain of command in less than three months."

The Pentagon had no immediate response to the criticism.

The statement came as fresh questions have been raised about the validity of the House inquiry and Gowdy's own concession this week that the military could not have gotten forces to Libya in time to save the lives of four Americans, including US Ambassador Chris Stevens. "Whether or not they could have gotten there in time, I don't think there is any issue with respect to that. They couldn't," Gowdy told Fox News this week.

The GOP's former top counsel also



WASHINGTON: House Benghazi Committee Chairman Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C. speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill. — AP

said in closed-door testimony released this week that the military did what it could. Senior military officials have said limited intelligence about what was transpiring the night of the attacks and the absence of forces in close proximity to Libya hampered the response.

Democrats have called for panel to disband and say it is a thinly veiled excuse for Republicans to undermine Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton, who was secretary of

state at the time of the attacks.

Republicans say the Obama administration has dragged its feet, failing to produce needed documents or interview subjects, and delaying a final report in the twin assaults.

A senior Pentagon official has expressed frustration with the Benghazi panel, citing a "crescendo" of costly, duplicative and unnecessary requests, including a few based on claims made on Facebook or talk radio. — AP

COP DESTROYED WOMAN'S PHONE, LIED ABOUT ASSAULT

READING: A Pennsylvania district attorney says a police officer lied about being assaulted after breaking the cell phone of a woman driving in a car he pulled over without sufficient cause.

Berks County District Attorney John Adams announced the charges, including official oppression and evidence tampering, against 27-year-old Reading Officer Jesus Santiago-DeJesus. The officer is expected to surrender Thursday and doesn't have an attorney listed in court records. Adams says the officer claimed in a report that the woman didn't use a turn signal before the stop, although surveillance video from nearby homes and businesses shows she did.

Adams says the officer knocked the phone out of the woman's hand to destroy the video she was recording and wrongly charged her and a passenger. The officer is on paid leave. — AP

ITALY'S PANNELLA, CHAMPION OF ABORTION, DIVORCE REFORMS, DIES AT 86

ROME: Marco Pannella, the former leader of Italy's Radical Party and a key player in the country's adoption of social reforms including the right to abortion and divorce, died yesterday, his party said. Pannella, whose real first name was Giacinto, was 86 and had been suffering from lung and liver cancer. He was involved in campaigns on virtually every social issue of the post-war period, the most significant being the battles for divorce, which was legalized in 1970, and abortion, legalized in 1978.

The struggles pitted Pannella and like-minded people against the might of the Catholic church. Pannella also campaigned against hunting and nuclear power, and for gay rights and the decriminalization of soft drugs.

"A great Italian leader has left us," Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said. "I want to pay tribute on behalf of my government and my party to the life lived by a fighter for freedom who was a lion of a man." — AFP



ROME: Italian Radical Party Marco Pannella smokes a cigar during a press conference at his party headquarters. — AFP

DEATH OF UTAH RAIL WORKER MAY BE TIED TO KIDNAPPING

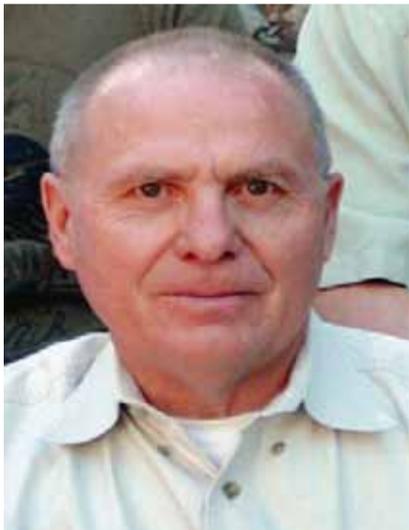
AMERICAN FORK, UTAH: Daylight was fading over the wide-open Wyoming countryside as two officers took a last look for a missing Utah rail worker. That's when they spotted a pair of boots.

Then they saw the jeans on Kay Porter Ricks' body. The 63-year-old Mormon grandfather was found dead along a dirt road Tuesday, five days after he vanished during his shift in downtown Salt Lake City.

Now, the FBI and investigators in two states are trying to determine whether a father and son on the run from police in a bizarre Utah kidnapping case had anything to do with his death. "There will be no stone unturned in this investigation," said Fred Ross, police chief of the Utah Transit Authority, Ricks' employer. "We will stay with this as long as it takes."

Police have not definitively linked Flint Wayne Harrison, 51, and his son Dereck James "DJ" Harrison, 22, to Ricks' death, which has been ruled a homicide. But investigators believe the two men were lying low with a friend close to where Ricks was working on the day he disappeared.

His body was found along the route the Harrisons likely took to their hideout in the Wyoming wilderness. Ricks' missing truck could explain how they traveled nearly 250 miles from Utah, authorities said. "There are some coinci-



AMERICAN FORK, UTAH: Kay Porter Ricks a Utah train maintenance worker who disappeared amid a manhunt for a father and son accused of a bizarre kidnapping, was found dead along a route that the suspects likely took authorities said Wednesday. — AP

dences there that would be impossible to ignore as we continue to investigate," Lincoln County Sheriff Shane Johnson told the Deseret News.

The Harrisons were arrested Saturday after a five-day search. The father surrendered and led police to the suspects' remote campsite near Pinedale, Wyoming. The two are accused of heavily using drugs and tying up a woman and her four teenage daughters in a basement on May 10 because they wrongly believed the mother had reported them to authorities. The family managed to break free and escape.

The Harrisons are set to be extradited to Utah to face 16 charges each, including kidnapping and drug possession. Authorities say they are not talking to police. The Ricks family was mourning their loss rather than speculating on what happened, family spokesman Richard Massey said. Ricks had three grown sons and six grandchildren. "As you can well imagine, it's difficult explaining to them what has happened to their grandfather," Massey said.

Ricks was a handyman who spent his free time helping neighbors fix their electric lights and ceiling fans. He lived by a regimented daily routine and would never have left work or gone to Wyoming on his own, Massey said. Authorities still have not found Ricks' truck but vowed to keep searching. It was last spotted on surveillance cameras in Wyoming, near where his body was found. — AP

SMALL PACKAGE FOUND ON POLISH BUS EXPLODES, 1 PERSON HURT

WARSAW: Officials say one person was hurt when a package found on a city bus in the Polish city of Wroclaw exploded. Firefighter Krzysztof Gielsa said on TVN24 yesterday that the package exploded on the sidewalk, where it was taken by the bus driver who had spotted it unattended on his bus. Gielsa said explosives experts were called in to check the substance inside the container. Agnieszka Korzeniowska, spokeswoman for the Wroclaw bus services, said one person was hit by a piece of the container. — AP