

PRT helps Bamian families leave Stone Age

Story and photo by Sgt. Hall
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAMIAN, Afghanistan – One by one, local Bamian families emerged from caverns dug into an Afghan mountainside where they were living to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 2 that would finally give them a house made of four solid walls to call home.

The governor of the Bamian province and his party, representatives from the Bamian Provincial Reconstruction Team, and the people of Bamian waiting to receive their new homes attended the official ceremony.

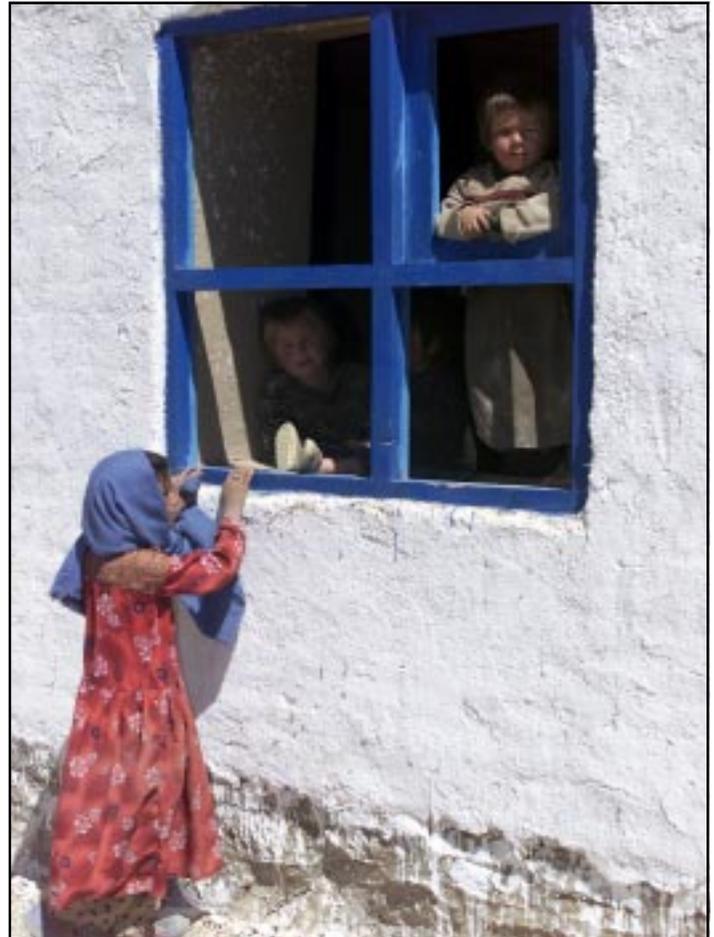
After the ceremony, an Afghan official called out names of the families who were to receive a unit. As each name was called, a representative from each family stepped up to draw from a plastic bucket a number that would match the number on the blue-painted door of their home made of sun-dried mud bricks.

The first to receive one of the units was 31-year-old Sayed Tazi who is the head of a family of six. “I am so happy because I didn’t have any land, and I’m so appreciative,” he said through an interpreter.

The families have been waiting a year now for the completion of the units, which were initially proposed about a year ago, said Lt. Col. Mark T. Schnur, Bamian PRT commander, Coalition Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force.

The cave dwellers had been living in the caverns of one of Bamian’s most prominent archeological sites: the site where three

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Children inspect their new home Sept. 2. The families who received the new homes had been living in mountain caves until local and international NGOs got together to build them new homes.

Ceremony in Pol-e-Charki reopens local clinic

Story by Staff Sgt. Timothy M. Williams
211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan - The grand opening ceremony for the Pol-e-Charki Clinic reconstruction project took place at the Pol-e-Charki High School on Wednesday.

The clinic re-opening marks the conclusion of the four-month construction project facilitated by the Coalition Joint Civil Military

Operations Task Force.

The clinic will provide health care for 2,500 children and their families in the surrounding 10 villages.

“This new building combined with the commitment of the Ministry of Public Health to provide medical staff, equipment, and maintenance is a blessing to the 2,500 people in the adjoining villages that it will serve,” Col. Mackey Hancock, commander of CJCMOTF, said.

The clinic was built with the modern conveniences of a health care facility. It includes a pharmacy, waiting room, three visitation rooms, indoor latrine, kitchen and a privacy fence. The clinic is also supported by a well and septic system.

Capt. Keith A. Dotts, project engineer at CJCMOTF, in Kabul was lead on the Pol-e-Charki project. Dotts is responsible for all

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



A U.S. convoy came under attack Thursday west of Baghdad.

3 U.S. soldiers killed in ambush near Tikrit Thursday

TIKRIT, Iraq – Three U.S. soldiers investigating a suspected launch site for rocket-propelled grenades were killed in an ambush near Tikrit Thursday night, U.S. military officials said. Two other soldiers were wounded by the small-arms fire, military officials said.

The soldiers were with the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division. The soldiers were attacked at about 10:30 p.m. (2:30 p.m. ET) while on the east side of the Tigris River, near one of deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's former palaces. Tikrit was a stronghold of the Baath party when it ruled Iraq before the U.S. invasion.

West of Baghdad at least two more U.S. soldiers were wounded Thursday in what may have been a single attack, military officials said.

The soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division were wounded when they came under small-arms fire and their Humvee drove over an improvised explosive device, said a coalition spokeswoman. She said more than one vehicle was involved.

In Khaldiya, east of Ramadi, townspeople who may have been describing the same attack said a convoy of vehicles was ambushed and a number of soldiers wounded in a gunbattle that lasted for hours.

A celebration greeted word of the attack, with hundreds of Iraqis — many carrying pictures of ousted leader Saddam Hussein — firing weapons into the air, *CNN* correspondent Nic Robertson reported.

At least four U.S. soldiers were wounded

in attacks Tuesday in Iraq, the Coalition Press Information Center said Wednesday.



Blix said Iraq probably destroyed its WMDs 10 years ago.

Blix attacks Iraq weapons 'spin'

LONDON – The U.N.'s former chief weapons inspector has attacked the "spin and hype" he says the United States and Britain used when warning about Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction.

Hans Blix's comments on Thursday came hours after U.S. President George W. Bush said there was no evidence that Iraq's ousted president was involved in the September 11, 2001 attacks — disputing an idea held by many Americans.

"There's no question that Saddam Hussein had al Qaeda ties," Bush said. But he added: "We have no evidence that Saddam Hussein was involved with ... September 11."

In the run-up to the Iraq war, Washington argued that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) posed an imminent threat and that Saddam's government had close links to al Qaeda — the terrorist network run by Osama bin Laden.

However Blix told British radio Thursday that Washington and London "over-interpreted" intelligence about Saddam's weapons.

Comparing the two countries to medieval witch-hunters, Blix said the British and U.S. governments convinced themselves Iraq posed a threat based on evidence that was later discredited — including forged documents about alleged attempts to buy uranium for nuclear weapons.

"In the Middle Ages when people were convinced there were witches they certainly found them. This is a bit risky," Blix said.

A pre-war British dossier on Iraqi weapons "led the reader to the conclusions that are a little further reaching" than was the case, Blix said.

"What in a way stands accused is the culture of spin, the culture of hyping," he said.



A tree uprooted Isabel struck houses in Richmond, Virginia, Thursday night.

Isabel knocks out power to more than 1 million Thursday

(CNN) – Isabel was downgraded from a hurricane to a tropical storm Thursday after knocking out power to more than a million homes in North Carolina and Virginia and dumping heavy rain on much of the north-eastern United States.

"The storm is expected to weaken and move on later tonight to Washington — which already is experiencing 50 mph wind gusts," said *CNN* meteorologist Rob Marciano. From there the storm's center is forecast to move into Pennsylvania and make a straight path to Rochester, New York, Marciano said.

Isabel knocked out electricity to more than 1 million Virginia customers, according to Dominion Virginia Power. "We've got a long night ahead of us," company spokesman Jim Norvelle said. Outages are growing and the damage will be a "multi-day" repair, officials said.

In North Carolina, authorities said at least 67,000 homes were without power.

President Bush on Thursday declared North Carolina a major disaster area, clearing the way for federal aid to the storm-battered state.

ANA host awareness symposium in Nuristan

NURISTAN, Afghanistan – Recently senior representatives of the Interim Transitional Government of Afghanistan, Kabul-based diplomats, and military leaders from the Coalition traveled to Nuristan Province to discuss and introduce the Afghan National Army to the local populace.

Governor of Nuristan, Mawlawee Shir Gul, welcomed the delegation upon its arrival to the beautiful mountain community with Minister of Irrigation, Sayed Yousuf Nuristani, addressed the audience and relayed a message from President Hamid Karzai to the people of Nuristan. As an elder of the tribe, Nuristani also pledged the support of his people.

The Deputy Minister of Defense, Lt. Gen. Baryalai, praised the braveness and courage of the mountain tribe during the previous years of conflict and encouraged the youth to join the ANA in order to provide for the security of the entire nation.

Maj. Gen. Mohammed Moeen, ANA Central Corps commander, added, “The ANA is an Army of Afghanistan, an Army including all ethnicities, not just of one region.”

During the speeches pamphlets describing the benefits of the ANA were handed out to the crowd.

An ANA sergeant spoke to the young men about the ANA and answered their questions.

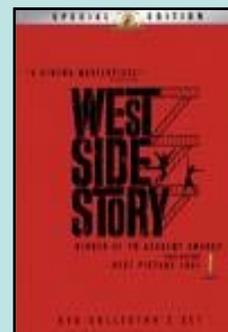
Several coalition forces representatives spoke to the crowd and encourage them to support the ANA. The representative also spoke about the benefits Afghan males received as part of the Afghan Army.

During the afternoon, the visitors and local guides explored the valley on horseback in order to select a site for opening a future National Army Volunteer Center.

(Information from CJTF-180 Press Release)

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR Building: “West Side Story.” Musical adaptation of Romeo and Juliet set in New York City, where rival street gangs (the Jets and the Sharks) battle for territory and respect. Is the love affair between former Jets leader Tony, and Maria, sister to Sharks’ leader Bernardo, doomed to failure?



Tomorrow’s movie will be “Formula 51.”

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 91F L: 61F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 90F L: 63F
Kandahar:	<i>Dusty</i> H: 97F L: 66F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 95F L: 63F
Kabul:	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 91F L: 61F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 88F L: 61F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Clear</i> H: 95F L: 58F	<i>Clear</i> H: 93F L: 57F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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gigantic Buddas were carved into a Bamian mountainside before they were destroyed by the Taliban, said Maj. Randy D. Castillo, Civil Joint Military Operations Task Force.

Wanting to preserve that site, the Bamian government asked the families to leave, but they had nowhere to go, said Schnur. Complications to build them homes arose for the Non-Government Organizations because the families didn't meet the standards to receive aid from any of the organizations, said Castillo. The reason why was because "they didn't get kicked out of a home; they opted to live there," he said.

After a series of scathing press reports in the international media, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees decided that they needed to do something, said Schnur. The UNHCR and other local and international NGOs began to develop a plan for assistance, he said.

Their first plan was to house the people in tents in a location the government set aside for that purpose, said Schnur. "Unfortunately it was a very poor site for tents (because) it is a very windy location and most of the tents blew down."

The families weren't satisfied with that situation so most of them moved back into the caves, he said.

When the initial plan failed, the NGOs got back together and

decided they would build a series of structures with solid walls. After they decided on a plan for the actual structures, the UNHCR and the Bamian PRT's civil affairs team did an assessment of the people living in the caves at that time and came up with a list of 105 families that would be entitled to one of the houses and gave them identification cards, said Schnur.

Again, complications arose that delayed the families' move-in date. When word got out that new homes were being built for the cave dwellers, families who weren't a part of the initial assessment started claiming they had been living in the caves and were entitled to a new home, said Castillo.

"Part of the people did not meet the initial criteria to receive the homes," which was that "they had to live in the caves to begin with," said Castillo.

The identification cards that were initially handed out only helped to alleviate the problem a little, said Schnur. All the confusion had left some families out in the cold, but the majority of the families on the list received a home, said Schnur.

The NGOs and local government will deal with those families who were left out at a later date, he said.

Chaman, an Afghan woman, received one of the units and finally has a solid place for her four children to live. "I prayed so much because I didn't have a house, and now I do," she said.

CLINIC, from Page 1

quality assurance and quality control. He ensures the contractor meets all deadlines and all the construction work is done correctly.

"This is a beautiful clinic and will offer some great advantages to this part of Kabul and the surrounding villages," Dotts said. "There are very few clinics around and the hospital is about 25 kilometers away, so this clinic will accommodate and benefit the families in this area."

Last week the coalition partnership with the Ministry of Health unveiled renovations at the Kabul Medical Institute (KMI), which will train much-needed doctors for service in the country. In the next couple of months the partnership will open more medical facilities just like the Pol-e Charki clinic.

"At this moment, we observe not only the erection of an essential medical facility, but also a segment of the master plan to provide for the healthcare of all Afghans," Hancock said.

Engineer M. Naseer, of the Khurasan Zameen Construction Company, has provided a strong dedication to the country's reconstruction efforts. He has provided additional items outside the contract to



Photo by Spc. Mia Gryseels

Col. Mackey Hancock, commander of CJCMOTF, raises up the Afghanistan flag at the opening ceremony of the Pol-e Charki Clinic in Kabul.

ensure the durability of the structure and healthcare of the villagers long into the future.

"Engineer Nasser and his company do great work for the community," Dotts said. "His company is here to build for the people of Afghanistan, and that's a great commitment."

In attendance at the ceremony were representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Reconstruction, CJCMOTF and representatives from the councils of the 10 villages.

"Today we witness another step forward for the Afghan government and more importantly for all Afghans," Hancock said.

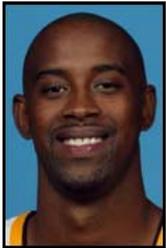


Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Anderson close to deal with Pacers

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Pacers are apparently close to signing veteran Kenny Anderson to help improve the team’s depth at point guard.



Kenny Anderson

Anderson, a free agent, was expected to arrive in Indianapolis on Friday to sign with the Pacers, a story on the team’s Web site said Thursday.

Anderson, who turns 33 next month, averaged 6.1 points and 3.2 assists last season for Seattle and New Orleans.

The 6-foot-1 Anderson has averaged 13.4 points and 6.4 assists with six teams over 12 seasons in the NBA.

Jamaal Tinsley has been the Pacers’ starting point guard the past two seasons, but new team president Larry Bird has said he believed Tinsley needed to “mature.”

New Jersey took Anderson with the No. 2 overall pick of the 1991 draft. He was a starter in the 1994 NBA All-Star game. He averaged 18.8 points and 9.6 assists for the Nets that season, both career highs.

Murder for hire: Swiss man solicits to murder Bryant’s accuser

MONTEREY PARK, Calif. – Authorities on Thursday arrested a Swiss bodybuilding coach they said made a \$3 million offer to kill the woman who has accused Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant of sexual assault.

Patrick Graber was arrested for investigation of soliciting a murder after making the offer to Bryant’s security director and then

meeting with undercover detectives, Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca told a news conference at his headquarters.



Kobe Bryant

Baca said Graber, 31, of El Segundo, agreed to carry out the murder for \$1 million up front and \$2 million after the fact.

“We believe it was a credible threat,” sheriff’s Lt. Jim Taylor said. He added that just before the arrest, Graber was given a bag full of movie studio prop money.

Graber was booked and held on \$1 million bail, and an arraignment was set for Monday. Sheriff’s officials said he had an expired visa and worked at a local gym.

The investigation began Sept. 8 after security personnel employed by Bryant said they had received a letter from Graber saying he could solve Bryant’s problems, the Sheriff’s Department said.

A security official met with Graber and then contacted sheriff’s investigators. A meeting was arranged with Graber and undercover sheriff’s detectives.

The detectives concluded that Graber was offering to commit murder and they contacted the accuser’s family in her home state of Colorado and authorities there to advise them of the alleged threat.

Authorities said others may have been involved in the alleged plot. Taylor said Graber planned to hire someone to commit the crime and offered to provide evidence that it had been done.

“He said he could make her not come to court, he could make her disappear, he could make her have a drug overdose,” Taylor said.

Redskins’ cornerback injured in practice collision Thursday

ASHBURN, Va. – Washington Redskins cornerback Fred Smoot was briefly knocked unconscious and taken to the hospital after a collision during practice Thursday.

Smoot took a hit to the head from safety Matt Bowen as the two defended Rob Johnson’s pass to Cliff Russell. Trainer Dean Kleinschmidt said Smoot was unconscious for “less than a minute” and woke up with a headache and back pain before being placed on a board and loaded in an ambulance.

“He had feeling,” Kleinschmidt said. “He could move his arms and legs and feel and squeeze. He responded. He did not have amnesia.”

Practice was stopped for about five minutes as Smoot was treated. Bowen’s aggressiveness in practice has been a problem for the Redskins since the start of training camp. He leveled running back Trung Canidate during the first week of practice, drawing the ire of coaches and cheers from his fellow defensive players.

Head coach Steve Spurrier did not blame Bowen directly for Smoot’s injury, but the coach said: “We’ve all got to realize we’re practicing against each other.”

Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

Saturday’s schedule (AFN Sports)

- MLB Houston Astros @ St. Louis Cardinals 0430L
- SportsCenter 0730L
- Friday Night Fights Charles Brewer vs. Freeman Barr 0830L
- MLB Seattle Mariners @ Oakland Athletics 1130L
- SportsCenter 1430L
- Baseball Tonight 1530L
- Action Sports 1600L
- College Football GameDay Preview 1900L
- NFL magazine 2030L
- College Football Marshall @ Kansas State 2100L
- College Football Oklahoma @ UCLA 0000L

Sunday’s schedule (AFN Sports)

- NASCAR Busch Series 0630L
- ESPNNews 0900L
- Inside the NFL 0930L
- SportsCenter 1030L
- College Football Arizona State @ Iowa 1130L
- SportsCenter 1430L
- Tennis 2003 Davis Cup Playoffs 1530L
- College Football GameDay Final 1730L
- NFL magazine 1830L
- SportsCenter 1900L
- Sunday NFL Countdown 1930L
- NASCAR Winston Cup Series 2130L

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Taliban fighters killed in attack Thursday

Story by Paul Haven

KABUL, Afghanistan (*Associated Press*) — U.S. warplanes working in support of Afghan ground forces pummeled Taliban positions in southern Afghanistan, killing at least 11 rebels in three days of fighting, the military said in a statement Thursday.

The fighting in the mountains of Kandahar and Zabul provinces has been going on since the end of August, and more than 100 suspected Taliban have been killed, according to U.S. and Afghan officials. Four American soldiers have died during fighting in Afghanistan in recent weeks.

The fighting in Zabul and Kandahar is part of an operation dubbed “Mountain Viper” that has been going on for more than two weeks.

“Operation Mountain Viper continues to destroy the Taliban’s ability to operate in the southern region of Afghanistan,” the military said from Bagram Air Base, north of the capital Kabul.

The U.S. military says it is inflicting heavy casualties on the rebels, but the ability of the militia to mount such stiff resistance over a sustained period has led to fears of a mounting security threat in Afghanistan, two years after the Taliban were ousted in a U.S.-led bombing campaign.

Over the weekend, Taliban militants in eastern Paktia province began threatening residents that they would cut the nose of any Afghan caught listening to music, and any man who shaves his beard.

While in power, the hardline militia banned music, forced men to grow their beards, and barred women from working and girls from going to school. The insurgents have been increasingly bold in their threats to Afghans deemed to be in leagues with the coalition.

Last week, four Afghans working for a Danish charity were tied up and shot to death along the side of a road by suspected Taliban after having been warned several times to stop working with foreigners.

In other violence, insurgents fired seven rockets at a coalition base in Deh Rawood, in central Uruzgan province. Coalition forces fired 81 mm mortars and machine guns at the suspected launch point. There were no reported casualties, and the military did not announce any arrests.

On Wednesday, suspected Taliban set off a bomb as a coalition convoy was traveling near the U.S. base in Kandahar, but there were no reported casualties, the military said in a statement from Bagram Air Base, north of the capital Kabul.

U.S. sees \$2 billion extra aid for Afghanistan

Story by Glenn Somerville

KABUL, Afghanistan (*Reuters*) - U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow said on Thursday he hoped Afghanistan would receive around \$2 billion in extra aid, warning that failure to rebuild the war-ravaged country “cannot be an option.”

On a lightning visit to Kabul, where he met senior officials including President Hamid Karzai, Snow said the United States had pledged around \$1 billion in extra donations, and that the amount should be matched by the rest of the world.

“The U.S. has talked in terms of a billion dollars and we’ve said we want to see the rest of the world...contribute at a minimum a like amount,” he told reporters after talks in Kabul.

Snow was due to fly to Pakistan later on Thursday before participating in a donor conference on Afghanistan in Dubai over the weekend, which will be held on the sidelines of semi-annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

There he will approach donor nations, reflecting the view in Washington that the costs of rebuilding Afghanistan and Iraq are too high to be borne by the United States alone.

Karzai’s government has complained bitterly that \$4.5 billion in promised international aid is not only woefully inadequate but has mostly failed to materialize.

President Bush has asked Congress for another \$800 million to support Afghan reconstruction. This is dwarfed by the U.S. military budget for Afghanistan of \$11 billion included in a proposed \$87 billion package for Afghanistan and Iraq.



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By Kevin Kilgore

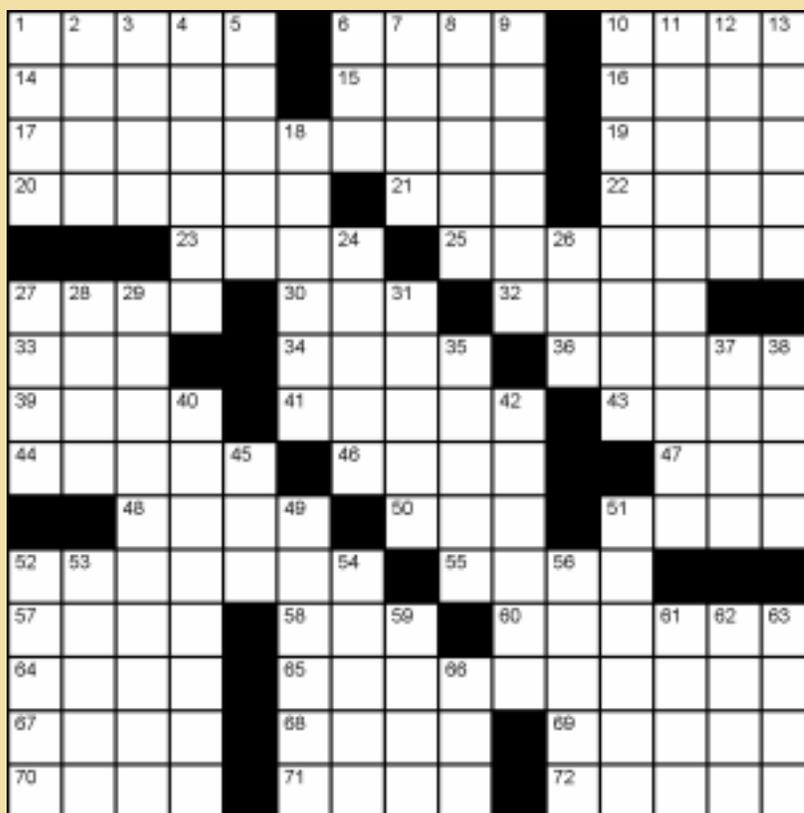
Laugh Support

Engame crossword

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

Across

1. Birth-related
6. Civil wrong
10. Taj Mahal site
14. Roomy dress cut
15. ___-the-counter
16. Home run gait
17. Trip down the Rhine, perhaps?
19. War, to Sherman
20. Driveway application
21. Chem room
22. In ___ land (spacy)
23. Actor Bogosian
25. Unbeatable foes
27. John, Paul, or John Paul
30. "___ to worry!"
32. Actress Winslet
33. Fruity quaff
34. Mortarboard tosser
36. Claro or cheroot
39. Opera's Lily
41. Witch trials town
43. Medical discovery
44. Synthetic fiber
46. Wacky
47. Teachers' org.
48. Take an ax to
50. Hide ___ hair
51. Rice Krispies sound
52. Do a slow burn
55. Take a siesta
57. Clobber with snowballs
58. Born, in bios
60. Evening do
64. Load with cargo
65. Cowardly Scandinavian?
67. Ticks off
68. Home to billions
69. Spanish hero
70. Sour-tasting
71. Have to have
72. Monopoly cards



Down

1. Catches red-handed
2. Skin soother
3. Songstress Turner
4. Founder of the Shakers
5. Prying tool
6. Cracker Jack bonus
7. Track shape
8. Daughter of Lear
9. "Jeopardy!" host Alex
10. Good at gym
11. Easily bribed TV private eye?
12. Esther of "Good Times"
13. Book of maps
18. Circular gaskets
24. Reef material
26. PC alternative
27. One of the Three Bears
28. Limburger emanation
29. Colonizer William's lockup?
31. Hawk's gripper
35. Interior design
37. Square footage
38. Gather, as rewards
40. Big name in ice cream
42. To a greater degree
45. Watch readout, for short
49. Nairobi native
51. Keep in
52. Bowler's headache
53. Stiller's mate
54. Pee Wee in Cooperstown
56. Scattered, on the farm
59. Nobelist Wiesel
61. Paella grain
62. Author Bagnold or Blyton
63. Some pass catchers
66. Young 'un

Solutions will be posted in Saturday's Freedom Watch