

82nd MPs maintain patrols for safety



Photo by Cpl. Keith Kluwe, 109th MPAD

A military police officer assigned to the 82nd Military Police Company, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., mounts his M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon at Fire Base Harriman while preparing for a patrol in the vicinity of Orgun-e, Afghanistan.

By 1st Lt. Cory Angell
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FIRE BASE SHKIN, Afghanistan — Since the 82nd Military Police Company arrived in Afghanistan last January they have faced the rugged conditions of living at fire bases along the Afghan-Pakistan border and enemy fire. Despite the difficulties, these paratroopers continue to thrive in the face of the challenges they face everyday.

“We have to be prepared to react to anything,” said Staff Sgt. Victor “Keith” Graf a squad leader with the 82nd MP Co., Fort Bragg, N.C.

When asked what the odds were that they may face enemy contact on any given day, Graf said, “The potential is there every time we go

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Air traffic controller called to active duty for second time

By Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — “I’ll beat them with my cane,” exclaims Staff Sgt. Thomas Billings.

This is his response to many comments, but it’s not expected from an Army noncommissioned officer.

Billings was called to active duty recently for the second time in his life, but at 56 he has had plenty of military experience.

A grandfather with 23 years in the military and four years short of retirement, Billings has been in the Individual Ready Reserve for about three years.

In 1960, Billings enlisted in the Air Force as an air traffic controller and served four years. He was called back in 1965 for Vietnam and got out in 1969. He then got married and started a family.

In 1970, Billings joined the Federal Aviation Administration where he worked until 1981. Due to a labor dispute, he left the company, but was rehired in 1999. This, along with friends’ encouragement, caused him to join the Army National Guard in 1982. Billings worked in a slaughterhouse for two years before working for a private air traffic control company. Then, in 1994, he started his own company, Controllers Northwest Limited in Pendleton, Ore. where he has four

employees.

Then, this year, Billings received his reactivation orders and thought someone was playing a joke on him.

“I do a lot of practical jokes, so originally I thought someone was getting me back. I looked at my orders and thought, someone got me good. I had to call the number to be sure. After I gave the woman my information from the orders she called me ‘Mr. Billings’ and I knew it wasn’t a joke,” he said.

His friends and family were as surprised as he was.

“The usual comment was, ‘Aren’t you too old, Tom?’” said Billings. “Before I got my orders, I would tell my friends they would send pregnant ladies before me because of my age so when I got orders the running joke was, ‘I guess they ran out of pregnant ladies.’”

Billings currently works as a flight operations specialist, but his passion is air traffic control. He has been an air traffic controller, both military and civilian, for 33 years. Now he owns his own company and enjoys it.

“I pretty much knew where I was going in life, then I stumbled into air traffic control and still love it — I love going to work,” said

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Imyan Faris.

Ohio trucker joined al-Qaida

WASHINGTON — An Ohio trucker has admitted to helping plan al-Qaida attacks in the United States after meeting terror chief Osama bin Laden at an Afghanistan terror training camp.

Imyan Faris, 34, checked out the chances of destroying a New York bridge and tried to buy equipment for proposed al-Qaida attacks while appearing to be a law-abiding trucker, according to documents unsealed Thursday in the U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia.

Faris pleaded guilty May 1 to providing material support to al-Qaida and to conspiring to do so, according to the documents. The charges together carry as much as 20 years in prison and up to \$500,000 in fines.

Sources told CNN that al-Qaida leader Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who is in U.S. custody, told his interrogators the target was the 116-year-old Brooklyn Bridge.

Grenade attack kills U.S. soldier

BAGHDAD — A U.S. soldier was killed and two others wounded Thursday when a rocket-propelled grenade hit a military ambulance south of Baghdad, U.S. Central Command said.

It was the fourth attack on coalition forces in 24 hours. The extent of the injuries was not clear.

Soldiers from the 804th Medical Brigade were transporting a patient injured in another incident to the 28th Combat Army Support Hospital, Central Command said.

"The ambulance was clearly marked with a big red cross," Capt. John Morgan said. "No regard for human life."

The grenade hit in the town of Al

Iskandariyah, north of Camp Dogwood.

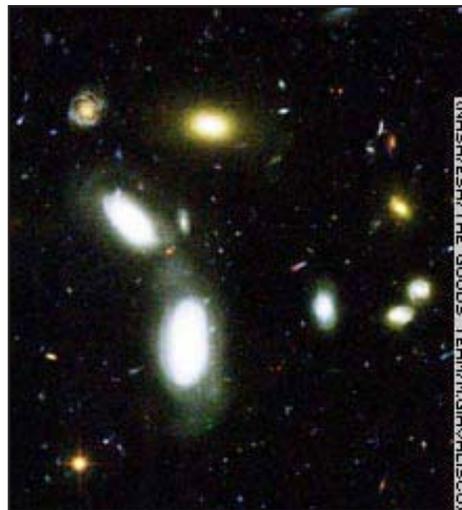
Nuclear watchdog criticizes Iran

CNN — Iran's nuclear program failed to report some of its sophisticated facilities to international monitors as required by an international treaty, a report published Thursday by the United Nations nuclear monitoring agency concludes.

Washington welcomed the International Atomic Energy Agency report and called on Tehran to prove its nuclear plans are peaceful and not for the building of nuclear weapons.

But the Iranian government pointed to other sections of the IAEA document as vindicating its nuclear program.

IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei's report said Iran had not met its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty because it failed to tell the IAEA about some sophisticated facilities.



Closeup of a cluster of galaxies in the new Hubble image.

Hubble snaps stunning baby pic of cosmos

WASHINGTON — A new wide-angle view of the universe looks back to a mere billion years after the Big Bang, revealing secrets about the lives of galaxies and the black holes at their hearts, scientists reported on Thursday.

The new view is contained in one extraordinary image, compiled by astrono-

mers using a super-high-resolution camera aboard NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, along with a catalog of objects giving off strong X-rays from space, detected by the Chandra X-Ray Observatory, another NASA-affiliated instrument.

The image shows a section of sky about one-tenth the size of the full Moon viewed from Earth. Though this may seem narrow, it is about 30 times wider than the last deep look into the universe, the Hubble Deep Field observation released in 1996.

That earlier vision was described as a keyhole view; this one might reasonably be called a picture window.

Probe finds 'significant misuse' Internet at IRS

WASHINGTON — Internal Revenue Service employees using thousands of computers accessed prohibited Web sites that included personal e-mail, sexually explicit sites and games. To Treasury investigators, it was a sign that "significant misuse" of the Internet continues after a crackdown a year ago.

"Employee abuse of the Internet is still widespread," the investigators reported.

The results of the Treasury Department investigation disappointed lawmakers who pushed the IRS to revise its Internet policies and block access to prohibited sites after a study in 2001 showed IRS employees spent more than half their workday on the Internet for personal reasons.

"This is a classic case of people getting an inch and taking a mile," Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley said Thursday.

"Nobody should collect a government salary to sit on their behinds and play around in chat rooms," said Grassley, R-Iowa, who oversees the Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service.

More than 28 percent of the inappropriate Web browsing was traced to 122 computers, leading investigators to conclude that a small number of employees were chronic abusers.

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Billings. "I told my son, 'If you can find something you love doing, that you want to get up in the morning and go to — that's 80 percent of the job.'"

Although he is not working air traffic control, Billings doesn't mind being here.

"I'd be happier somewhere else, but someone needs me here. (I'm here) because of patriotism," he said. "(Vietnam) was a war.

This is a conflict. In (Vietnam) we'd get shot at every day. Maybe this was a war when we first got here, but now it's more of a mop-up."

Billings sees one thing has not changed in the military from Vietnam to now.

"You develop good relationships with people really quick — overnight. You have to come to war to develop friendships like that. All the people around here — you have to trust them, trust they are doing their jobs so we can protect ourselves."

Billings also believes a good sense of humor is essential in a situation like this.

"I've got to be able to laugh about it. You can't take it too seriously. You're doing a job and it's easy to get frustrated here ... but you've got to have a sense of humor about it — got to be able to laugh at yourself."

Billings has held many jobs, seen two conflicts first hand, had two sons and two granddaughters and has been married four times. Through all this he wouldn't change a thing.

"I like what I've done. When I went into the military in the 60's it was a good thing. I grew up, got away from my family and on my own. The military makes you very independent. I'd even have the labor dispute again because we were right," he said. "I'd do it all again."



Billings.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

MWR's Dragon Palace is closed for renovations until further notice.

MWR will host a Barbecue 0730Z Saturday behind the basketball clamshell at Four Corners. Show up early for washers, dominoes, cards and music.



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 93F L: 64F	<i>Clear</i> H: 91F L: 68F
Kandahar:	<i>Clear</i> H: 104F L: 72F	<i>Haze</i> H: 104F L: 72F
Kabul:	<i>Dust</i> H: 91F L: 57F	<i>Haze</i> H: 93F L: 54F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 94F L: 73F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 96F L: 65F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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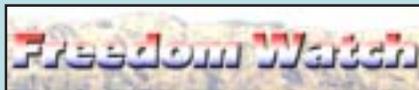
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Visit the CENTCOM Web site at www.centcom.mil and click on the Freedom Watch or Forces in Afghanistan link at the bottom of the page to get the latest editions of the *Freedom Watch*. To be added to the daily distribution list email william.james@us.army.mil

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out. (Improvised Explosive Devices) are out there. This whole country is a possible ambush site.”

The unit’s combat support role consists of many duties. Some of them fall under Maneuver and Mobility Support Operations.

The MMSO includes presence patrols and route reconnaissance gaining important information on the ability for vehicles of various types to negotiate the rugged Afghan terrain.

Graf said that it was very important that they generate accurate reports because future operations rely on the information and it could make or break an operation from the outset.

The unit also establishes traffic control points and generally has the freedom to investigate anything they see while on patrol.

“We can go anywhere, anytime and are more flexible than many other units,” said Graf.

The unit also sets up observation points and is part of the quick reaction force for the fire base they are operating at.

Sgt. 1st Class Jim Alexander, 82nd MP Co., and Graf said that while on QRF at Fire Base Shkin the unit was dispatched along with other elements to intercept enemy that were setting up a rocket attack on the fire base.



A military police officer with the 82nd Military Police Company, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., listens to a convoy briefing given at Fire Base Harriman near Orgun-e, Afghanistan. The 82nd MP Co. performs routine presence patrols in the Patika Province.

They made contact with the enemy and in the firefight that followed two soldiers were killed and seven wounded, two of the wounded were 82nd MPs.

“Every last one of them stepped up,” said Graf. “In no instance did anyone not take action.”

Graf said that while part of their unit was in the engagement the soldiers in the second wave of QRF were anxious to get there and assist the

others.

“Everyone knew what was going on and no one ever flinched, everybody was like ‘let’s go.’” said Graf.

Alexander and Graf talked about how many soldiers were required to jump in and perform the duties of others while under fire. They said that one of the first to get wounded was Staff Sgt. Michiru Brown making it necessary for Cpl. Gerald Snyder to immediately take over as squad leader.

One gunner was struck in his helmet with a round knocking him unconscious for a short time, and, as a result, Spc. Mathew Meyers jumped behind the gun and continued to lay down suppressive fire.

A short time later, Torbett regained consciousness and began firing an individual weapon until he and Meyers switched positions behind the gun again.

Alexander and Graf both described how everyone worked as a team in evacuating the wounded and continuing to react to the situation. Despite the hazards and rough living conditions, Alexander said that the soldiers thrive in the environment.

“In general, soldiers thrive on adversity,” said Alexander. “They talk about how tough they have had it and you can hear them talk about things they have been through together.”

“We just completed our 137th patrol since we have been here,” said Graf.

“We have been to just about every firebase in this country and I don’t think any other unit can say that.”



Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

Enhancing dining...

Some Afghan contractors lay cement to the foundation of the North dining facility extension. The North DFAC, which has only been open a couple months, is the newest DFAC on Bagram and the last of the base dining facilities to undergo final renovations. When complete, it will provide enhanced dining conditions and quality of life for troops.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



Aaron Sele, middle, and the Angels' starters have been atrocious.

Angels say it's not too late for turnaround

ESPN — It was about this time a year ago that the Anaheim Angels began to make their move, the one which took them from perennial also-rans to world champs.

While most of the focus was centered on the Oakland A's digging out from a disastrous first two months and the inability of the Seattle Mariners to duplicate their record-setting pace of the year before, the Angels, flying under the radar, gained legitimacy and confidence with each passing day.

Flash forward a year. The Angels are mired in third place in the

AL West, 13½ games out of first and on the very outer fringes of the wild-card race.

This year, there's no evidence of momentum, no hint that the Angels are about to storm from behind. As the season approaches the halfway point, the defending world champions are just ... there. It wouldn't be wise to write them off just yet though.

"With the (unbalanced) schedule the way it is, they can still get back into it," a longtime scout said. "They've still got all those games left with Seattle and Oakland, and there's plenty of time."

But the Angels didn't help themselves by losing the first three games of a showdown series with the Mariners at Safeco Field this week, dropping back under the .500 mark.

"They haven't played up to their talent as a group," GM Bill Stoneman said. "I don't know how to explain it. We found momentum last year. It's pretty easy to carry it on. But we haven't found it."



Jimmy Rollins, right, completed the Phillies' comeback with an RBI single in the bottom of the ninth.

Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

Saturday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ MLB: San Francisco Giants @ Oakland Athletics (live) 0000Z
- ❖ Totally NASCAR (live) 0300Z
- ❖ Pardon the Interruption (tape delayed) 0330Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0400Z
- ❖ PGA TOUR: Buick Classic: Second Round (tape delayed) 0500Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (tape delayed) 0700Z
- ❖ MLB: Kansas City Royals @ St. Louis Cardinals (tape delayed) 0800Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (tape delayed) 1100Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (tape delayed) 1200Z
- ❖ Walmart's Great Outdoors (tape delayed) 1230Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1300Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (tape delayed) 1400Z
- ❖ MLB: Boston Red Sox @ Philadelphia Phillies (live) 1500Z
- ❖ MLS: LA Galaxy @ NY/NJ Metrostars (live) 1800Z

Sunday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ Baseball Tonight (live) 0000Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0100Z
- ❖ NASCAR: NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: O'Reilly 200 (tape delayed) 0200Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0400Z
- ❖ PGA TOUR: Buick Classic: Third Round (tape delayed) 0500Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (tape delayed) 0800Z
- ❖ U.S. Gymnastics Championship (tape delayed) 0900Z
- ❖ 2003 USA Outdoor Track & Field Championships (tape delayed) 1100Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1300Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (live) 1430Z
- ❖ PWBA Greater Cincinnati Open (live) 1500Z
- ❖ 2003 NCAA College World Series - Championship Gm 2: Teams TBD (live) 1630Z
- ❖ NBA Matchup (tape delayed) 1930Z

Philles foil Hampton's bid, Braves' lead

PHILADELPHIA — Once the Philadelphia Phillies got a hit off Mike Hampton, they were ready for any pitcher — even John Smoltz.

Held hitless into the eighth inning by Hampton, the Phillies rallied late and Jimmy Rollins' RBI single with one out in the ninth inning beat Smoltz and the Atlanta Braves 3-2 on Thursday.

"It's good to beat Smoltz," Rollins said. "That dude is tough. Today we proved he's human."

Marlon Byrd looped a single to right field to end Hampton's no-hit bid after 7 1-3 innings. Placido Polanco's two-run single tied it off Smoltz, who blew just his second save in 28 opportunities.

SPORTS, from Page 5

Then in the ninth, Pat Burrell opened with a double off Smoltz (0-1) and, after David Bell flied out, Rollins singled to right on the first pitch, scoring pinch-runner Jason Michaels.

Jose Mesa (2-4) pitched a scoreless ninth.

"To beat a guy who is untouchable like Smoltz, it's quite a lift," said Turk Wendell, who recorded the final two outs in the eighth for Philadelphia.

Phillies manager Larry Bowa was ejected with one out in the top of the ninth for arguing balls and strikes with plate umpire Terry Craft. Bowa was tossed after a 1-2 pitch by Mesa on Javy Lopez.

The fiery Bowa stormed out of the dugout, threw his hat down several times, kept pointing at a corner of the plate and kicked dirt all over the plate. He was restrained by first-base umpire Charlie Reliford and Phillies bench coach Gary Varsho.

"I'm tired of hearing every time we play the Braves that their ball is a strike and ours is just a bit outside," Bowa said. "I respect what they've done. They're a great team. They've earned their reputation. But we've got pitchers who have been around a long time, too. Why doesn't Mesa get a pitch?"

Bloodied Wilson, Farnsworth both ejected

CINCINNATI — The Reds' new home turned into Great American Brawl Park for the second time in a week, with Paul Wilson getting the worst of it.

Wilson held Sammy Sosa to a harmless single in seven strong innings, then was bloodied and ejected during a fight that will have an impact far beyond Cincinnati's 3-1 victory Thursday over the Chicago Cubs.

Neither team is in a mood to forget.

"I've got a question: Didn't they just get into a fight a couple days ago?" Cubs manager Dusty Baker said. "It looks like they've got some bad blood brewing with some other people.

"All I know is we're not the club to have bad blood with because we've got some guys that can hurt you with that ball. So I don't suggest too many people get into some knock-down war with us."

The Reds and the Phillies squared off last Friday in a much nastier fight. Sean Casey and Adam Dunn were the two Reds ejected, and they await punishment from baseball.

Wilson got into it with reliever Kyle Farnsworth, who threw a fastball inside as he tried to put down a sacrifice bunt with a man on first and the Reds up 2-1 in the seventh inning.

"It's a 2-1 game and he's trying to bunt and make an

out," Farnsworth said. "I'm not trying to hit him. He came at me, and I just did what I had to do. It kind of surprised me."

Minnesota avoids sweep

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Everybody wanted to give Corey Koskie credit for igniting the Minnesota Twins.

Everybody but Corey Koskie.

"Guys can holler all they want," the third baseman said after homering twice and driving in a career-high six runs as the Twins routed the Kansas City Royals 16-2 Thursday.

"But they've got to put it on themselves. Everybody took it upon themselves. I had nothing to do with it."

The Twins, who had lost the first three games of the series and seen their lead in the AL Central shrink to one game over the Royals, rapped out 23 hits.

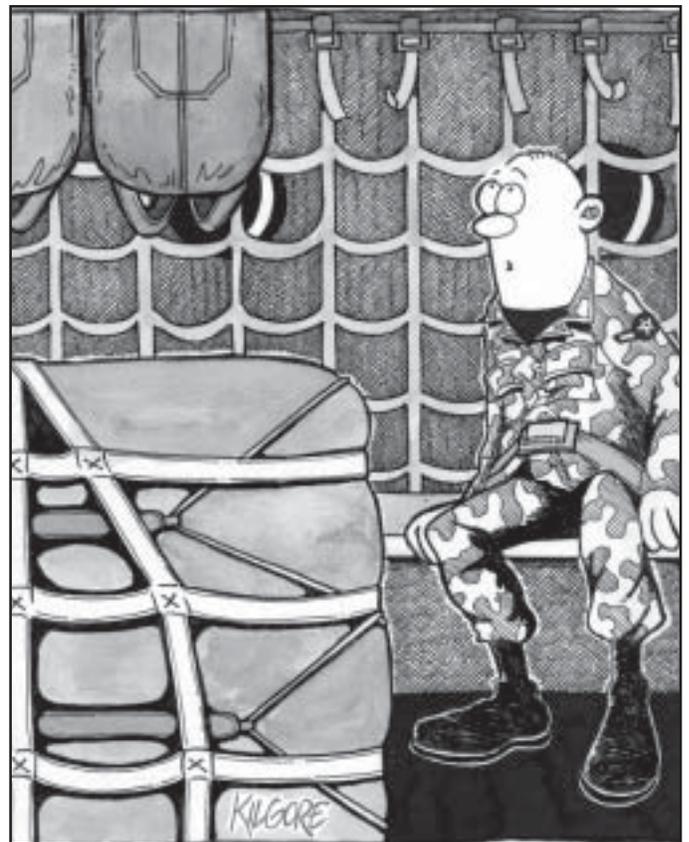
After the Royals' 8-6 victory Wednesday night, several Twins took themselves to task, with Koskie being the most vocal.

"He was just telling everybody to bring the energy. You don't see Koskie like that very often. You see Koskie upset, you know something's serious," center fielder Torii Hunter said.



Cubs pitcher Kyle Farnsworth, top, hits Paul Wilson after the Reds pitcher reacted over an inside fastball during the seventh inning.

"Six parachutes; four officers, two NCOs and one airman ... oh man ..."



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

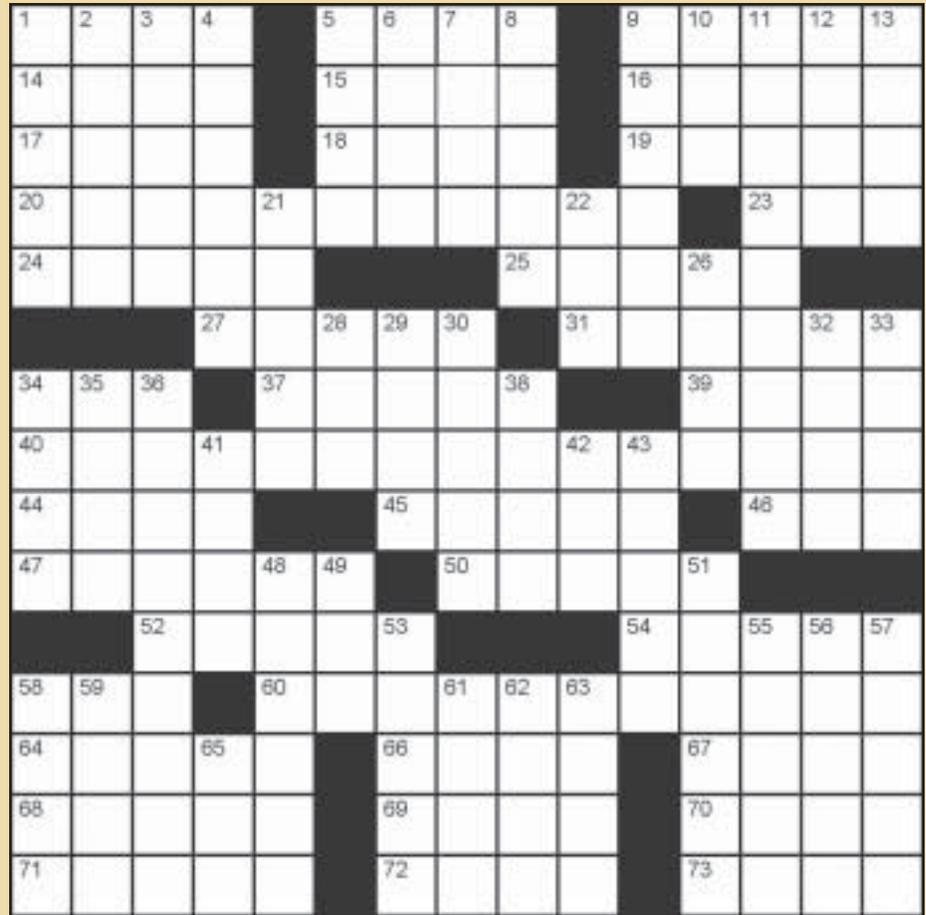
Laugh Support

Slippery crossword

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

Across

1. Sing like 14-Across
5. Skelton's __ Kadiddlehopper
9. Grinding tooth
14. Singer Fitzgerald
15. Take a bath
16. Gladiator's spot
17. Butcher's cut
18. Part of BTU
19. Morticia's husband
20. "Guys and Dolls" song
23. Have a tab
24. Mill output
25. Rimes of country
27. Gadded about
31. James of "Marcus Welby, M.D."
34. Rm. coolers
37. Halloween quaff
39. Leslie Caron role
40. Santana song
44. U2 singer
45. Jackie's predecessor
46. Storm center
47. Muddleheaded
50. Take effect
52. __ Wences
54. Get well, in a way
58. Benzoyl peroxide target
60. Seals & Crofts song
64. __ Lodge (motel chain)
66. Be an omen of
67. Square footage
68. Extend, in a way
69. Showy bloom
70. Addition column
71. "Golden Boy" playwright
72. Bit of progress
73. Art Deco master



Down

1. Peddles
2. Political muscle
3. Trixie's sitcom pal
4. Crude carrier
5. Whodunit board game
6. Smallville's Lang
7. Villain's work
8. Tungsten, e.g.
9. Hungarian
10. "__ y Plata" (Montana's motto)
11. Soft drink flavor
12. From square one
13. Tear to the ground
21. Do an offensive lineman's job
22. Coming-out girl
26. __ contendere
28. Get-up-and-go
29. Ball-shaped cheese
30. Painter of ballerinas
32. "Now __ me down ..."
33. Muse count
34. "Mamma Mia!" group
35. Lunkhead
36. Construction rock
38. Icy coating
41. "Mona Lisa" singer
42. Op. __ (footnote abbr.)
43. Very unusual
48. Provides funding for
49. "__ Hear a Waltz?"
51. Cancel out
53. Foaming at the mouth
55. Job offerer
56. "You __ kidding!"
57. Nonchalant
58. Shutout score
59. On the rocks
61. "Don't stop!"
62. Valhalla bigwig
63. Fit together
65. Bottom-line figure

Solutions will be posted in Saturday's Freedom Watch