

## New Kandahar PX opens Saturday



Story and photo by  
By Spc. Jim Wagner  
*109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

**KANDAHAR AIR FIELD**, Afghanistan — More than 11 times larger than the current Post Exchange, and featuring services not found before, Kandahar's new PX opens to coalition forces and civilians Saturday.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service has been operating out of an 850 square foot building since the previous PX burned to the ground Feb. 21. In the 12 weeks leading to the grand opening, the 527<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, Ruston, La., has been busy erecting the 13,000 square foot facility.

AAFES employees and A Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., soldiers started stocking the shelves Monday with an enhanced lineup of merchandise that far outstrips the previous PX.

"I'd say it's gotta be more than \$1 million in inventory going in there," said Dan Fint, AAFES stock room manager.

Barbara Travis, PX team leader, promises no break

*Spc. Richard Hopkins, C Company, 527<sup>th</sup> Engineering Company, Ruston, La., uses a skill saw Tuesday on lumber being used to make shelving at the new PX.*

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## Bagram troops get fit in new facility

Story and photo by  
Pfc. Christina Carde  
*11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment*

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – To better accommodate the rapidly expanding population of the air base, the new Bagram gymnasium opened Wednesday offering more room and soon more equipment and activities to help troops stay fit.

In addition to the hangar-sized gym providing a much larger workout area, it also provides space for more state-of-the-art workout equipment, a game room and other fitness amenities troops have been requesting for quite some time.

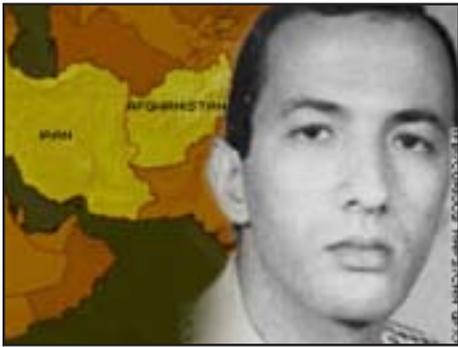
"The number of servicemembers here increases every week,"



*Servicemembers workout in a new, larger atmosphere Thursday with the opening of the new gym.*

See **GYM**, Page 6

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Saif Al Adel is believed to be a high-ranking member of the al-Qaida organization.

## Iran admits holding al-Qaida operatives

WASHINGTON— Iranian officials Thursday told a U.N. representative that Iran has several unnamed al-Qaida operatives in custody, CNN has learned.

The acknowledgment comes as Washington has intensified its accusations that al Qaeda terrorists are inside Iran — something Tehran had previously denied.

U.S. officials said the key question is whether the al-Qaida operatives in custody are allowed to communicate and receive visitors.

One Bush administration official told CNN that Lakhdar Brahimi, the U.N. special representative for Afghanistan, met Thursday in Geneva with Iranian officials. It was during that meeting that Iran said it had several al-Qaida operatives in custody, the official said.

The United States had planned to send its own representative to the meeting, but canceled “because of concerns of an al-Qaida link,” the U.S. official said.

The meeting was for the “six-plus-two” group made up of foreign ministers from Afghanistan’s six neighbors — China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan — as well as the U.S. and Russia.

Iran and the United States have been communicating indirectly through the group, which was originally formed to find a solution to the Afghanistan crisis.

“We know al-Qaida individuals are inside Iran,” this official said. “But what is the definition of custody? If they are in Iran, free

to plan and direct attacks, such as the Saudi bombings, and are able to receive visitors and updates and other information, that is not custody. That is safe haven.”

This official said senior Bush Cabinet officials will meet next week on Iran policy, adding that there is talk about isolating Iran at the United Nations, much as the United States did during the first 20 years after the 1979 revolution.

## Quake rescuers race against time

ALGIERS, Algeria — Rescue workers in Algeria are racing against time searching the rubble of collapsed homes and apartment blocks in the hope of finding survivors from Wednesday’s devastating earthquake.

Algerian officials say more than 1,000 people are confirmed to have died and some 7,000 people have been injured in the largest earthquake to hit northern Africa in two decades.

The death toll is expected to rise as rescuers — many working with little more than their bare hands — pull more bodies from the rubble.

Aid officials say Algeria’s medical system is struggling to cope with supplies, equipment, blood and manpower all running short.

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies says it has released \$154,000 from its disaster relief emergency fund to provide immediate help in Algeria.

The hardest hit areas are east of the capital, Algiers, where thousands of buildings were leveled by the quake.

In the capital itself officials say at least 400 people were killed.

Trucks were called into service as makeshift ambulances to transport the injured and the bodies of the dead from devastated Algiers neighborhoods and surrounding towns and villages.

In some areas medical workers have been forced to treat patients in the streets because hospitals did not have enough beds to accommodate all of the injured.



Arguelles, left, and Kell have chosen to die by firing squad in late June.

## Utah prepares for 2 firing-squad executions in June

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — The only state that dispatches condemned inmates by firing squad is assembling gunmen for back-to-back executions next month.

The nation’s last execution by firing squad was in 1996.

Exercising their right under Utah law, a serial killer, Roberto Arguelles, and Troy Michael Kell, a white supremacist who stabbed a fellow inmate to death, have chosen the firing squad over lethal injection and are set to die at 12:01 a.m. on June 27 and 28, respectively.

However, Kell filed an appeal last week that will probably halt his execution.

Of the 850 inmates put to death in the United States since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated capital punishment in 1976, two have died by firing squad, both in Utah: Gary Gilmore in 1977 became the first person executed in the United States after the court’s ruling, and John Albert Taylor was put to death 19 years later. Since 1977, Utah has executed four other killers, all by injection.

Anti-death penalty forces are protesting, arguing that the firing squad amounts to cruel and unusual punishment. And the prison is bracing for large crowds of protesters. Utah’s use of firing squads predates statehood in 1896 and is a remnant of the early Mormon belief that bloodshed is a required punishment for taking a life, said Richard Dieter, director of the Death Penalty Information Center, which says it is neutral about the death penalty but critical of its application.

# Stateside ties benefit Afghan Village

By Spc. Worley B. Smith  
109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan — Just outside the gates of Bagram Airbase in Afghanistan lies the village of Maiger. Comprised of nearly 2,000 families, (7-10 people per family) the village has been the focus of a stateside donation drive spearheaded by the 109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

The National Guard unit based out of Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, Penn., has been stationed at Bagram nearly six months for Operation Enduring Freedom. The village and unit separated by a numerous cultural, religious and socioeconomic differences found the common bond of charity to be the thread that ties them together.

The unit was first introduced to the village through the Adopt-A-Village Program. This volunteer program pairs U.S. military units stationed at Bagram with local villages in need of humanitarian assistance. The village was inherited by the 109<sup>th</sup> MPAD when they first arrived in country back in December from their predecessor unit the 300<sup>th</sup> MPAD, out of Atlanta, Ga.

After an initial assessment of the village by the ‘new’ sponsors, Spc. Sabrina Monn, decided to ask her former high school — James Buchanan High School for assistance with the village. The response was overwhelming.

After being in country just shy of eight weeks boxes started to arrive. First one box, then a couple of boxes and after that the floodgates were open. In total, the unit has accumulated more than 50 boxes of donated goods for their adopted village.

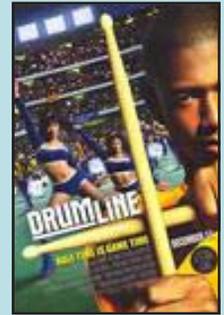
Among the routine arrival of donated goods were local newspapers articles from the Mercersburg, Penn., area featuring the commitment of the high school and surrounding community toward the project. The school even included a

See **MPAD**, Page 4

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the Dragon Palace: “Drumline.” A band director recruits a Harlem street drummer to play at a Southern university.

Tomorrow night there will be a Heart’s Tournament.



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	Scattered t-storms H: 84F L: 54F	Dusty H: 88F L: 57F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Haze H: 95F L: 66F	Dusty H: 97F L: 66F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Scattered t-storms H: 81F L: 54F	Dusty H: 84F L: 54F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Partly cloudy H: 90F L: 57F	Mostly cloudy H: 86F L: 55F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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**MPAD**, from Page 3

banner for the unit showing their support and appreciation.

The boxes contained items such as children clothes, shoes, personal hygiene items such as soap, washcloths, toothpaste, toys, sporting goods such as soccer balls and jerseys in addition to school supplies like pens and pencils.

The unit has made a couple of visits to their village, the most recent being May 20, 2003. According to Staff Sgt. Eliza Downing, 403<sup>rd</sup> Civil Affairs unit, who escorted the unit on their most recent visit to Maiger, these items were very much needed.

"It means a lot to the villagers as well as to the base itself. When units visit and interact with their villages. It builds the level of trust between the military and the Afghans. The village elders are always very thankful," she said.

According to unit commander Maj. Robert Hepner Jr. from Mount Joy, Penn., adopting the village of Maiger has done just as much for the unit as it has for the village.

"It is a great feeling to help. Our experience here [Afghanistan] and with Maiger has helped us [109<sup>th</sup> MPAD] understand the harsh conditions Afghans face in rural areas. It also gives us an appreciation for how well we have it in America," he said.

Monn commented of what the interaction with the unit has meant to her.

**PX**, from Page 1

in service for Kandahar residents to the new PX, saying the temporary PX would close at 1600Z on Friday and re-open Saturday at 0700Z after a grand opening ceremony and ribbon cutting.

Soldiers, airmen, Marines, sailors and civilians have spent the past three months "making do" with the services provided at the temporary PX, she said, but promised the new one would more than make up for the temporary loss.

In addition to a bigger lineup of items already found on PX shelves — more DVDs, music and game titles — the new PX will provide items that have been in big demand with soldiers here, like tuna and charcoal.



Photo by Spc. Worley B. Smith, 109<sup>th</sup> MPAD

*Master Sgt. Richard Breach, 109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, offloads boxes of donated goods at the village of Maiger.*

"During my first deployment [Bosnia], I made the mistake of not getting involved with the locals. It's amazing to realize how something seemingly so small to us [Americans] as donating items can mean so much to people who have so little," she said, "I'm very appreciative of my former high school, because the students there who raised funds and collected donated goods did it for strangers — people they have never met. It just goes to show how big the hearts of Americans are. With all the needs at home they gave of themselves for the betterment of those less fortunate. That's what it's all about."

Maiger has given the 109<sup>th</sup> MPAD in return as much as they have received by means of the only way they could — their hospitality. During Tuesday's visit, having a lunch befitting of honored guest waiting for them upon arrival unexpectedly surprised the unit.

Since February, waiting time in lines has been anywhere between 15 – 30 minutes. That, coupled with no air conditioning made for an unpleasant shopping experience. The new PX sports seven heavy-duty air conditioning units and six registers, registers that allow debit and credit card "swiping" and cash-back service up to \$20.

An expanded gift shop is in the new PX for the time being, and the barbershop is in a building next to the PX. Construction is nearly complete on the new coffee/barber/gift shop next to the PX.

Travis also expects an AT&T phone center with 40 booths to open up for business in the coming weeks, with pre-paid phone cards for sale in the PX. Twenty phones are already at Kandahar, with another 20 expected in the coming weeks. An AT&T tech-

The unit was treated to a meal of flat bread, rice, lamb, fresh vegetables, and yogurt. The unit ate in the company of village elders and area Non-Governmental Agency representatives.

Breach commented on the level of hospitality displayed by the village.

"It was fantastic! We could instantly tell that the villagers were glad to see us. We didn't expect to receive that type of meal. We thoroughly enjoyed it," he said.

As the 109<sup>th</sup> MPAD comes to the end of their deployment, they are left with the memories and experiences of their interaction with their adopted village. Do they feel they have made a positive impact on the village of Maiger? That's a question only they can answer.

"Absolutely! On each of our visits we have given the village school supplies that the children living there otherwise would not have access to. We have definitely made a positive impact," Hepner said.

"Yes. I'm glad we took the time to get involved with the local culture. We have carried on the work that the unit before us started and hopefully the torch will be passed to our replacements," Monn said.

"I think we have. I think the villagers of Maiger get just as much from seeing us; seeing we're friendly as they do from the donated goods we bring. It shows them we care and that American soldiers have a heart," Breach said.

nician is also expected to hook everything up soon, Travis said, maybe as soon as next week.

The work couldn't have been completed this quickly without the help of units throughout Kandahar, she said.

"Everybody's been great, chipping in to help us out," Travis said. "We started stocking and the first sergeant from (A Company, 3-504<sup>th</sup> PIR) said he'd get some people to help out. Since I got here in January, a week hasn't gone by that I haven't talked to the engineers. They've done a fantastic job.

"We have a great staff of AAFES employees, all of us volunteered to come over here," she continued. "We all have the same mission here, you're here to serve us, and we're here to serve you."



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## Hornish seeking strong Indy 500

**INDIANAPOLIS** — Sam Hornish Jr. has been asked the question often. Answering it has proved difficult.

For two seasons, Hornish has done virtually everything on the Indy Racing League circuit — taking back-to-back points championships, winning on six different tracks and earning nearly \$5 million.



Sam Hornish Jr.

But what about the Indianapolis 500?

“I hear that question quite a few times, and basically I’m trying to figure out a way to get people to stop asking it,” he said. “I guess the only way to do that is to win Indy.”

Hornish enters Sunday’s race again hoping to change an undistinguished record on the 2½-mile oval.

He’s never started on the front row, never finished in the top 10, never even led a lap here — statistics not befitting a points champion.

On Thursday, Hornish will have his last opportunity to fine tune Panther Racing’s No. 4 Dallara-Chevrolet. Carburetion Day remains the month’s final practice, even though Indy cars no longer use carburetors.

Hornish has much to do, considering that his performance this month has again been an all-too-familiar disappointment. He’ll start 18th, the lowest of his four Indy starts, and despite being the highest-qualified starter with a Chevy engine, he’s still struggled.

“If he wins the race this year with what he has to work with, they

should rename this place after him,” team owner John Barnes said Wednesday.

Barnes isn’t bashful about his regard for Hornish’s skills. He calls Hornish, who turns 24 in July, the best open-wheel racer in America, maybe even the world.

More importantly for the IRL, Hornish has all the traits needed to be its poster boy: He’s young, charismatic and successful.

After posting eight wins in his last 28 races and becoming the first IRL driver to win consecutive points titles, Hornish still isn’t its best-known figure.

That distinction belongs to Helio Castroneves for one reason — he’s a two-time Indy winner.

Hornish remains the Phil Mickelson, Dan Marino or Patrick Ewing of the IRL — good competitors who failed to win the “big one.”

And the more Hornish hears about it, the more he wants an answer.

“It’s depressing sometimes because I know we could have had some pretty good races,” said Hornish, who’s currently 10th in the IRL points standings. “I always look forward to coming back here, I just don’t like to talk about it.”

Barnes explains Hornish’s struggles as part inexperience, part timing.

In his first two Indy starts, Barnes said Hornish was too impatient. Last year, Hornish spent the entire month preaching patience.

His reward? Finishing ahead of only eight other drivers and last among those who hadn’t dropped out of the race or crashed.

In his two other Indy starts, Hornish finished 24<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, crashing in 2000 when he drove for PDM Racing and barely avoiding a crash early in the 2001 race when he spun in the front straightaway.

Barnes has noticed a change in Hornish this year, though.

“I think he matured at Richmond last year,” Barnes said. “He learned how to win and let the race come to him. He learned to be patient.”

Hornish’s win at Richmond was the third of five last season, and Barnes hopes that lesson will pay off Sunday.

While some view Hornish as the IRL’s face of the future, there have been murmurs he is considering moving to NASCAR next season.

His contract with Panther Racing runs out this year, and Barnes said he does not know if Hornish will leave the IRL.

Still, for Hornish to silence the critics and answer the questions, there is one thing he knows he must do: Change his fortunes at Indianapolis.

“I know that if you’re going to win any race, this is the one you want to win,” he said.

### Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

#### Saturday’s schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ Baseball Tonight (live) 0200Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0300Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0600Z
- ❖ Boxing: Friday Night Fights-Cruiserweights: O’Neill Bell vs Kelvin Davis (tape delayed) 0700Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (tape delayed) 0900Z
- ❖ NHL: NHL Playoffs - Eastern Conference Finals Gm 7 If Necessary: New Jersey Devils @ Ottawa Senators OR SportsCenter, Baseball Tonight & NBA 2Night (tape delayed) 1300Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1500Z
- ❖ ESPNNews (live) 1630Z
- ❖ AMA Motocross (250cc) (tape delayed) 1700Z
- ❖ ESPNNews (live) 1800Z
- ❖ PGA TOUR: Memorial Tournament Preview Show (live) 1830Z

#### Sunday’s schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ ESPNNews (live) 0200Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0230Z
- ❖ WNBA: Los Angeles Sparks @ Connecticut Sun (tape delayed) 0400Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0600
- ❖ NFL Europe: Week 8: Scottish Claymores @ Amsterdam Admirals (tape delayed) 0700Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (tape delayed) 1000Z
- ❖ MLS: LA Galaxy @ Kansas City Wizards (tape delayed) 1100Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (tape delayed) 1300Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (tape delayed) 1400Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1500Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (live) 1630Z
- ❖ MLB: NY Mets @ Atlanta Braves (live) 1700Z

## SPORTS, from Page 5

### McCall, Knaus fined by NASCAR

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — The No. 40 Dodge team of Sterling Marlin was fined \$10,000 by NASCAR on Wednesday for rules infractions incurred at The Winston all-star event last Saturday.

Lee McCall, Marlin's crew chief, drew the fine for an improperly attached weight that was found by NASCAR inspectors during pre-race qualifying inspections.

NASCAR assessed two other penalties regarding last week's event, which was won by Jimmie Johnson. Chad Knaus, crew chief for Johnson's No. 48 Chevrolet, was fined \$1,000 for an unapproved air directional device.

In addition, the No. 88 team of Dale Jarrett had its engine confiscated for a violation of the single-engine rule, which mandates all teams use the same long block engine for the entire event, which includes practice, qualifying and the race.

### California will get a second date

The oldest tradition in NASCAR is going away. The Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway, a mainstay on the Winston Cup schedule since 1950, will not be back in 2004, an anonymous source told ESPN.com.

Instead, NASCAR is moving its annual Labor Day weekend race to the California Speedway and is considering making it a night race. It's not known whether the Southern 500 title will accompany the race to Fontana, Calif.

"This could be the beginning of some fairly substantial changes in the Winston Cup schedules and there could be some big surprises down the road," said the source, who is close to the NASCAR family.

An official announcement is expected in the near future.

"This isn't the first time we've heard that but we haven't met with NASCAR to sign our sanctions for 2004 so right now we don't have any specific dates," said Cathy Mock, director of public relations at Darlington.

"I'm confident we'll have two dates in 2004 but right now we just don't know."

Asked what it would mean if Darlington no longer hosted the Southern 500, Mock replied: "It would be tremendously disappointing to lose the Mountain Dew Southern 500, especially considering we're about to host it for the 54<sup>th</sup> time. "But we don't want to worry about that because the schedule hasn't been determined yet."

NASCAR spokesman Jim Hunter denied the report.

"Not to my knowledge," said Hunter, a former general manager at Darlington who now runs NASCAR's public relations office. "I think I would know if that was going to happen and I don't see that happening."

Bill Miller, general manager of California Speedway, said no sanction agreements with NASCAR for 2004 had been signed but admitted adding a date to its spring race was certainly acceptable.

"The reality is we have made no bones since this facility was built that we wanted a second date," said Miller, whose track seats 110,000 and draws another 15,000 in infield general admission for Winston Cup races. He also acknowledged California could accommodate a night race in '04.

## GYM, from Page 1

said Andrew Solomon, Morale, Welfare and Recreation coordinator for Bagram and gym designer. "The old gym wasn't big enough to facilitate the fitness needs of everyone here so we decided to expand."

The plans for the new gym started to take form last year with Bagram's previous MWR coordinator, Andrew Finnerty, but Solomon decided to make some changes.

"The original design was basically just a bunch of workout equipment in one big room," said Solomon. "I revised the design for convenience and privacy. There are different sections in the gym that are designed to house different types of work-out equipment as well as stretching and abdominal areas."

"The walls provide more privacy for people who want to stretch or exercise without having to worry about whose watching, and to put some distance between people doing different things," Solomon added. "Let's face it. Nothing's more annoying than trying to lift weights to close to the game area and getting a ping-pong ball in the face."

Even though the gym is up and running it is no where near complete according to Solomon.

"We have more than \$225,000 worth of equipment presently on order," said Solomon. "It was supposed to be here for the gym opening but with this being a landlocked country, shipments coming in late happens frequently."

The nearly quarter of a million-dollar fitness shipment is expected to arrive in four installments.

"The first arrival will contain all of the cardiovascular equipment," said Solomon. "We will be receiving 12 treadmills, nine cross-trainers, four bikes and two Stairmasters. Other equipment will include Iron Grip free weights and Hammer Strength plate-loaded weights."

In addition to new work-out equipment, the gym is also scheduled to have air-conditioning installed for the summer months.



kevin\_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

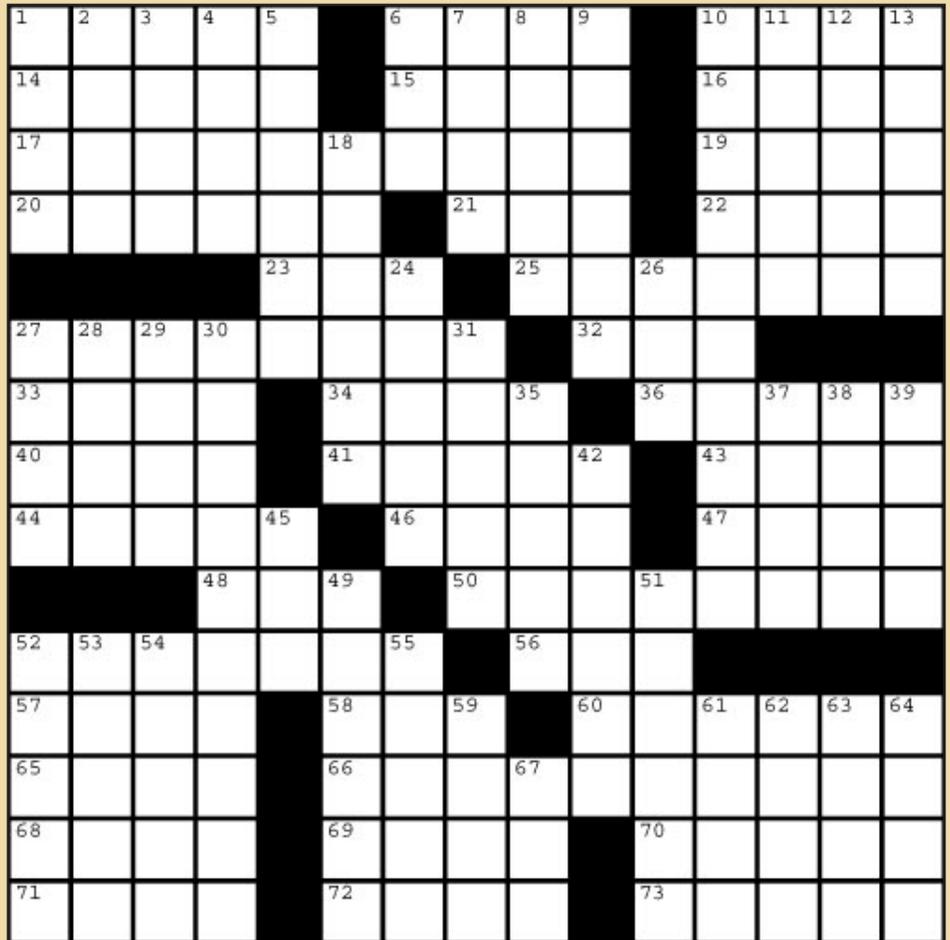
## Laugh Support

# Upward crossword

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

## Down

- 1 Synagogue
- 2 Tokay or merlot
- 3 Valhalla VIP
- 4 Four-sided fig.
- 5 Solid carbon dioxide
- 6 \_\_\_ Paese cheese
- 7 Like diehard rooters
- 8 “\_\_\_ on a true story”
- 9 Buck topper
- 10 Consisting of both Republicans and Democrats
- 11 Priestly vestment
- 12 Singles bar repertoire
- 13 Alamogordo event
- 18 A red 2-Down
- 24 English cattle breed
- 26 Have the blahs
- 27 Prisoner’s protest
- 28 Dubai dignitary
- 29 Hefty volume
- 30 Symbol often consisting of three arms or legs
- 31 Went out with
- 35 Screen \_\_\_ (PC accessory)
- 37 Brewer’s need
- 38 Up to the task
- 39 Burn a bit
- 42 Hannibal the Cannibal
- 45 Poitier role
- 49 Muslim’s place of worship
- 51 Norse home of the gods
- 52 Some soft drinks
- 53 To the left, to a tar
- 54 The second Mrs. Trump
- 55 They can be common or proper
- 59 Rolls of bills
- 61 Fit to be drafted
- 62 Inventor Sikorsky
- 63 Thin opening
- 64 “Alice” diner
- 67 Scooby-\_\_\_ (toon dog)



## Across

- 1 Excalibur, e.g.
- 6 Rum-soaked cake
- 10 \_\_\_ Cynwyd, Pa.
- 14 Seeker’s quarry
- 15 Politico Bayh
- 16 Fake: Abbr.
- 17 Circus pedaler
- 19 Cleanser scent
- 20 Soup legume
- 21 Pa. neighbor
- 22 Deck foursome
- 23 No-goodnik
- 25 Most prized
- 27 In leg irons
- 32 Gradually slower, in mus.
- 33 Cupid
- 34 Spacewalks, to NASA
- 36 Succotash beans
- 40 \_\_\_ Valley, Cal.
- 41 Wreck beyond repair
- 43 Kemo \_\_\_
- 44 Lock of hair
- 46 Campbell of “Scream”
- 47 \_\_\_ breve (2/2 time)
- 48 Basinger of film
- 50 2-Down server
- 52 “Titanic” director James
- 56 ACLU concerns: Abbr.
- 57 October stone
- 58 Boar’s mate
- 60 “T” affliction?
- 65 Petty or Loughlin
- 66 Campus center, perhaps
- 68 Folk’s Guthrie
- 69 Bring to ruin
- 70 Add more lubrication to
- 71 Baseball’s Musial
- 72 Flying “A” rival
- 73 Sudden moves

***Solutions will be posted in Saturday’s Freedom Watch***