

SPORTS SCORES



Pedro Martinez: On mound for Mets.

Rivalry weekend

Yankees face Martinez at Shea; Cubs at champion Sox; Bonds tries in Oakland in interleague play, 1, 3-6C



Preakness tests Barbaro

Derby winner could find clear sailing, 1, 3, 12C

VW's Jetta is better

2006 model is bigger, stronger, sleeker. Test Drive, 4B



Wisteria Lane prepares for 'moving day'

Sunday's two-hour finale teases to cast changes aimed at recapturing Housewives' first-season magic, 1E

Fri/Sat/Sun, May 19-21, 2006

Newsline



News Money Sports Life

Nation's gas gauge

Table with 3 columns: Regular, Mid, Premium. Rows for Current average, Previous day, Year ago.

Travel costs will dampen Memorial Day, 1D. Find prices in 50 states at money.usatoday.com



Afghanistan violence surges

More than 100 are dead in variety of attacks. Above, car bombing in Herat, 6A

Bush visits U.S.-Mexican border

Divisive issue finds president touring dividing line at one of nation's most porous border areas and touting a comprehensive immigration plan, 8A

Baby boomers are keen on real estate

Survey: One in four own more than one property and count on real estate to help fund retirement, 1B

Money: Dell has new chip deal

No. 1 PC-maker turns to Advanced Micro Devices to supply some processors, a blow to partner Intel, 1B. Pay off debt or add to savings? How about doing both? Managing Your Money, 3B

Sports: Indy 500 qualifying, take two

May 28 lineup to be decided, if weather holds, 8C

Life: Poker boot camp beckons

Inside an intensive two-day seminar for card junkies fueled by the rise in popularity of Texas Hold'em and their dreams of going big time, 1D

By John O. Buckley

Stocks take another turn lower

Table with 3 columns: Index, Close, Change. Rows for Dow Jones industrial average, Nasdaq composite, Treasury note, 10-year yield, USA TODAY Internet 50.

USA TODAY Snapshots®

Presidents lacking backing

Presidents receiving the lowest approval ratings since polling on that topic began:



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By Bruce Horowitz USA TODAY

SEATTLE — Starbucks is changing what we eat and drink. It's altering where and when we work and play. It's shaping how we spend time and money. That's just for appetizers.

Starbucks has an even glitzier goal: to help rewrite society's pop culture menu. The company that sells 4 million coffee drinks daily in the USA is hot to extend its brand beyond the espresso machine to influence the films we see, CDs we hear and books we read. In the process, it aims to grow into a global empire rivaling McDonald's.

"It amazes all of us — how we've become part of popular culture," says Chairman Howard Schultz, sitting casually in his office near a photo of him arm-in-arm with Mick Jagger. "Our customers have given us permission to extend the experience."

The kingly of pricey coffee is intent on ranking among the top trendmeisters before the decade is out. Something like: If you love the taste of our coffee, you'll love our taste in pop culture, too. "Call it the Starbucksification of society," says George Ritzer, sociology professor at the University of Maryland. "Starbucks has created the image that they're cutting edge."

Schultz is dead serious about taking his company Hollywood — and

Starbucks aims beyond lattes to extend brand to films, music and books

Cover story

Starbucks stores in your state, 2A

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Fliers could keep their shoes on if new airport scanner is approved

Device would work like an MRI machine

By Thomas Frank USA TODAY

ARLINGTON, Va. — A government lab is testing a "very promising" new machine that would allow airline passengers to keep their shoes on while going through security checkpoints, the nation's aviation security chief said Thursday.

The machine, which detects explosive material on shoes when people stand on a platform, is getting a "highly expedited" review at the lab, said Kip Hawley, head of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

"We are looking at this with great interest," Hawley said. "Anything that speeds up explosive detection through the checkpoint, we want to encourage."

He wouldn't give a timetable for deploying the machines. They must pass testing in an airport before they are used to screen passengers. The ShoeScanner uses technology similar to a medical MRI to detect explosives in 5 to 8 seconds. It shoots radio waves at shoes to agitate molecules and analyze their structure.

Readings are sent to a computer that holds a library of explosives characteristics and makes a rapid comparison.

Removing shoes at checkpoints has been one of the biggest inconveniences for passengers in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Checking for explosives

Registered travelers won't have to remove shoes or jackets at the security checkpoint after going through the new kiosk.



Passengers stand on a platform in the kiosk ... then are scanned for explosives.

Passengers have been urged to remove thick-soled shoes at checkpoints since Richard Reid tried to blow up a Paris-to-Miami plane in late 2001 using plastic explosive hidden in his sneakers.

"The question is: Can you operate and deploy (the machine) and have people walk on it without it breaking down?" Hawley said. "It's sensitive electronic equipment."

The TSA has been searching for technology that detects explosives better than the X-ray machines and metal detectors now used at checkpoints.

The ShoeScanner is being developed by GE Security, a General Electric subsidiary that makes the "puffer" portals deployed at dozens of U.S. airports that blow air jets at passengers to detect explosives residue.

The government's Transportation Security Lab in New Jersey also is testing GE's Itemiser, which detects explosives on passengers when they press a finger on an electronic reader.

The ShoeScanner and Itemiser would first be used only in checkpoint lanes reserved for travelers who pass a background check and pay an annual fee to get faster security under a Registered Traveler program starting in June. Airports and private companies will run the voluntary program. The TSA wants them to pay for new detection machines that may let participants keep their shoes or coats on through checkpoints.

Those machines could ultimately be used for ordinary travelers. "That could be the big payoff for the Registered Traveler program," Hawley said.

GE Security is a minority owner of Verified Identity Pass, a Manhattan company with contracts to run Registered Traveler in Orlando, Cincinnati, Indianapolis and San Jose airports.

"Registered Travelers would be far more secure than anybody going through the regular (security) lanes," Verified Identity CEO Steven Brill said. The ShoeScanner "is a better way to test shoes than putting them through an X-ray."

Hayden says NSA program is legal

CIA choice won't talk publicly about database

By Andrea Stone USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — President Bush's nominee to head the CIA defended the administration's warrantless surveillance program Thursday and said media reports about it have had a "corrosive effect" on the nation's intelligence gatherers.

Air Force Gen. Michael Hayden told the Senate Intelligence Committee that the National Security Agency (NSA) eavesdrops without warrants only on the phone calls or e-mails of terrorism suspects. He said officials use a "probable cause" standard that makes it unlikely that ordinary Americans would be targeted.

"The privacy of American citizens is a concern constantly," said Hayden, who as NSA director designed the surveillance program. "We always balance privacy and security."

During nearly eight hours of testimony, Hayden said repeatedly that when Bush pushed the NSA to step up its surveillance after the Sept. 11 attacks, he consulted with government lawyers. He said they told him eavesdropping on international communications was legal. "I could not not do this," he said.

But Hayden said he was "not here to confirm or deny" last week's report by USA TODAY that the NSA has been secretly collecting the domestic phone call records of tens of millions of Americans. Bush has confirmed the NSA surveillance program but not the call database report.

After Hayden's open testimony, the confirmation hearing went into closed session so he could discuss the phone database issue as well as other sensitive subjects such as detainee interrogations.

Before going into the closed session, Democrats expressed concern over the clandestine programs and what they said was the administration's failure to keep Congress informed. The full Senate and House intelligence committees were briefed for the first time Wednesday.

Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., said he left the briefing "more convinced than ever" that the phone surveillance program is illegal and "the president misled the public."

Hayden said that in 30 briefing sessions with members of Congress, no one had said that the surveillance program should be stopped or that it broke the law. "I came away with no course corrections," he said.

Hayden did acknowledge a series of mistakes by the U.S. intelligence community before the invasion of Iraq in 2003 — principally the conclusion that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. "We just took too much for granted. We didn't challenge our basic assumptions," he said.

The four-star general opened his testimony by saying that intelligence-gathering had become "the football in American political discourse" and that the "CIA needs to get out of the news — as source or subject."

A vote by the full Senate on Hayden's nomination to replace Porter Goss could come as early as next week. "It's very likely he'll be confirmed," said Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, the committee's senior Democrat.

Contributing: Bill Nichols

Exchange on phone surveillance



USA TODAY

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore.

"I can't tell now if you've simply said one thing and done another or ... just parsed your words like a lawyer to intentionally mislead the public."



USA TODAY

Gen. Michael Hayden

"Well, senator, you're going to have to make a judgment on my character ... I was as full and open as I possibly could be."

Hayden and senators

Hearing excerpts, 4A

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Friday, May 19, 2006



**Tank toll:** Memorial Day weekend gas prices are expected to average \$2.93 a gallon for regular.

**Higher prices could stall Memorial Day journeys**

The rising cost of gas, airfares and other travel expenses will put a damper on Memorial Day weekend trips this year, a new AAA forecast suggests. An estimated 37.6 million Americans will journey at least 50 miles from home, up less than 1% from last year and the smallest boost since 2003. More than 80% of Memorial Day travelers will take road trips, and about 10% will fly. Holiday drivers will find gas prices nationwide averaging \$2.93 a gallon for regular unleaded, up 17 cents from a month ago and more than 75 cents higher than this time last year, the forecast says. Airfares cost about 10% more and hotel rates roughly 5% more than last year, but travelers who rent cars will see the biggest price jumps, AAA says: Rates are up about 19%, adding nearly \$6 to the average daily car rental rate of \$30.85.

By Laura Bly



**Wet pet:** The Gentle Pet spa makes it easy to bathe or just pamper that four-legged family member.

**A bath that's something to bark about**

It continues to be a dog's life. MTI Whirlpools near Atlanta, makers of high-end water spas for humans, has introduced Gentle Pet, a whirlpool for Rover. The pet spa made its debut last month at the Kitchen/Bath Industry Show in Chicago. "There was a tremendous amount of interest in it," MTI's Michael Kornowa says. "It's all based on the growing interest people have in their pets. They're family members now." And pampered ones, at that. The self-cleaning whirlpool, designed for permanent installation in garages, laundry or mud rooms, comes with a handheld shower and can be equipped with five full-size point-massage whirlpool jets and air volume control. "It's perfect for older dogs with hip problems or arthritis," Kornowa says. Price: \$1,199 as a soaker, up to \$2,599 for a spa with whirlpool. For a list of showrooms, visit [mtiwhirlpools.com](http://mtiwhirlpools.com).

**Tempt your palate on a budget**

Each day USA TODAY's Jerry Shriver recommends a wine that costs \$15 or less in his Cheers! blog at [usatoday.com](http://usatoday.com). Here are two highlights from this week's selections:

**2004 The Little Penguin Pinot Noir**, South Eastern Australia, about \$8. Though it goes overboard on the oak flavors, there is true Pinot Noir character here, which is rare at this price. Consider this wine for poolside sipping.

**2005 Perrin La Vieille Ferme Côtes du Luberon Blanc**, Rhône Valley, France, about \$8. This luscious white coats the mouth with smooth tropical fruit flavors. There's enough body here to stand up to light sauces.

For more wine picks, visit [cheers.usatoday.com](http://cheers.usatoday.com).  
 Get destination guides, travel deals and vacation recommendations on the Web at [travel.usatoday.com](http://travel.usatoday.com)



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Color me Elmo  
 At-home hues, 6D  
 By Leslie Smith JG, USA TODAY  
**Destinations & Diversions**

new scrapbook: \$28  
 (98% chance of rain this weekend: priceless)  
 there are some things money can't buy, for everything else there's MasterCard.  
 MasterCard



**Wanna bet?** Steve Maxwell, 25, of Media, Pa., at the WPT Boot Camp in Atlantic City.

**Poker boot camp**

Where jackpot dreams guarantee a full house

By Kitty Bean Yancey  
 USA TODAY

ATLANTIC CITY — The big guy to my right wearing sunglasses to hide his expression scares me. So does the big pile of chips in front of him. And I get a feeling that the baby-faced twentysomething across the table is a killer shark, too. He already has intimidated me into abandoning a decent starting hand (a pair of nines) by staring me down and confidently raising me \$250. Here am I — a Texas Hold'em novice — hunched over my cards in a windowless meeting room at the Borgata hotel and casino. I'm at a two-day poker boot camp, competing in an elimination tournament against 36 classmates. Nearly all play regularly with buddies, in casinos or at online gaming sites such as [partypoker.com](http://partypoker.com). You have to ante up about \$850 a day for this two-day WPT Boot Camp, licensed by the World Poker Tour. And that doesn't even include lodging or dinner.

But the cost doesn't ruffle my classmates, who've caught the Texas Hold'em fever that's spreading, thanks to popular telecasts of tournament play such as the Travel Channel's *World Poker Tour*. This is just one of the schools created to deal with the hunger for mastering the game dubbed "the Cadillac of poker." Fellow campers — mostly middle-aged men — are here to get surefire moneymaking tips from three pros, including "first lady of poker" and *World Poker Tour* commentator Linda Johnson. Tuition also covers chips for camp tournaments, giving you the ecstasy of competition without the agony of losing real money. Most campers want to win more often. Some dream of quitting their day jobs and becoming that new breed of celebrity: professional poker ace. "It's easier to make money playing poker than to sell TV shows," says boot camp instructor Crispin Leyser, 38, a Brit who was struggling as a Hollywood producer when he

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**Want to hold your own at Hold'em? First, learn the lingo:**

- Hole cards:** Two cards dealt face down to each player at the beginning of each hand.
- Flop:** When the dealer turns up the first three "community" cards that all players can use.
- The Turn:** The fourth community card dealt face up.
- The River:** The fifth and final community card.

**'Da Vinci' is the new Holy Grail of travel**

Plot spots in Europe attract the faithful

By Laura Bly  
 USA TODAY

**Harry who?** The *Harry Potter* book and film phenomenon may have increased travel to the fictional sorcerer's British stomping grounds, but another cultural juggernaut is poised to cast an even more potent spell on both sides of the English Channel. Since the hardcover version of *The Da Vinci Code* was released in 2003, Dan Brown's novel has sold more than 40 million copies and inspired thousands of literary devotees to retrace central character Robert Langdon's search for the truth behind the murder of a curator at the Louvre. This week's launch of the movie based on Brown's blend of Renaissance art history, clandestine societies and religious bombshells has spawned dozens more vacation tie-ins — and, sniffs London's *Telegraph*, will probably attract its own "hordes of gum-



**Starting point:** The *Da Vinci Code* begins with the murder of a curator at the Louvre, which set an attendance record last year.

chewing, cathedral-exploring, tomb-clambering tourists" in search of the Holy Grail. "We've never seen a travel trend on this scale," says Jennifer Paul of *Fodor's Guide to The Da Vinci Code: On the Trail of the Best-Selling Novel*. The book and Ron Howard's cinematic offshoot have "so many attractive elements: mystery, history, page-turning adventure, a little romance, and beautiful, exotic, historic locations seen through the eyes of an American professor."

Indeed, key settings have logged sharp increases in *Code*-related pilgrims — and their cash. Scotland's Rosslyn Chapel greeted more than 118,000 visitors in 2005, up an astounding 200% from the year Brown's book came out. The Louvre, which set an attendance record last year with more than 7 million visitors, once treated the novel with French disdain. Now, it's peddling a 50-minute, downloadable audio tour, narrated by *Da Vinci Code* film star Jean Reno. Even Westminster Abbey, which refused to allow filming and denounced the book as theologically unsound, is offering two *Da Vinci Code*-related lectures at about \$47 a head, wine and canapés included.

**Pack your bags ...**

Tours, packages, books and websites help tourists crack *The Da Vinci Code* on the road, 12D

**Weekend Life**  
 Protests, 1E; reviews, 4E

View an interactive map of *Da Vinci Code* landmarks across Europe at travel.usatoday.com.

Just how much baggage can *The Da Vinci Code* craze carry? Consider this: Travelocity is spinning existing packages into "Code Cracking Getaways" to such non-Code-related "cloak-and-dagger" outposts as Baltimore (think former resident Edgar Allan Poe) and San Jose (Winchester Mystery House, anyone?). And in Exeter, N.H.'s 11 Water Street restaurant, there's a new "Dan Brown" cocktail — named in honor of a local boy who made good.

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