

FINAL SCORES

NHL: 2010-11 team schedules, 9C



By Martin Meissner, AP  
Landon Donovan: USA has two draws.

## World stage set for USA

Americans face Algeria today in bid to advance to next round. World Cup report, 1, 3, 6C



By Frank Masi, 20th Century Fox  
Action team: Cameron Diaz, Tom Cruise.

## 'Knight and Day' is witty and wild

Cruise, Diaz add to charm. ★★★ movie review, 1D  
Century's new classics, 1-2D

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

## Newsline

News Money Sports Life



In Gulf of Mexico; AP

### Judge blocks 6-month ban on drilling

Deep-water moratorium called punitive in federal court ruling, 1B



AP

### Haley wins GOP nod for S.C. governor

Victor in tough vote; Rep. Inglis is 5th incumbent to fall in primary, 5A



### Apple makes the right call on iPhone 4

Buyers will like smartphone upgrade. ★★★ ¾ review, 1-2B

### White House eyeing budget candidates

Administration says it's weighing "a number of very talented" people to replace exiting Orszag, 2A.

### Headway made in Arizona wildfires

Firefighters in Flagstaff area manage to secure part of 22-square-mile blaze closest to homes, 3A.

### Money: Radar up for Gulf fraudsters

Government has suspended trading in two companies claiming roles in oil spill cleanup. 1B.  
Dow dips 149 points on shaky home sales. 4B.

### Sports: Stars shine at Wimbledon

Top seed Serena Williams, 2004 champ Sharapova, French Open winner Nadal log victories. 1, 10C.  
Top center prospects in NBA draft. 7C.

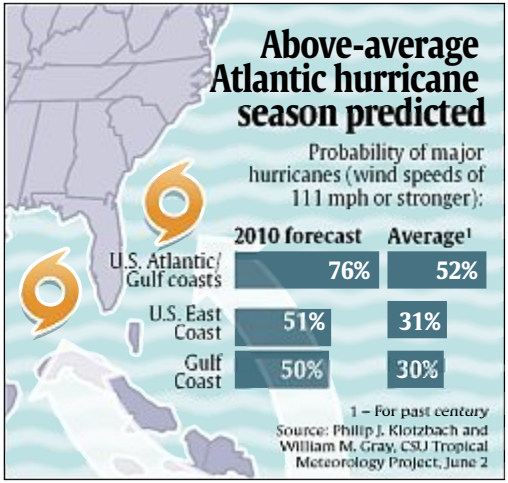
### Life: Superman goes grass-roots

DC Comics is asking readers to campaign for their towns to appear in story line launching in July. 1D.

	Regular	Mid	Premium
Current average	\$2.732	\$2.901	\$3.006
Previous day	\$2.737	\$2.906	\$3.010
Year ago	\$2.690	\$2.857	\$2.959

Source: AAA.com; arrows show direction of prices from previous day

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## The president vs. the general



By Pete Souza, White House, via AP

"Poor judgment": President Obama meets Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top commander in Afghanistan, in Copenhagen in October. McChrystal will meet Obama today to explain comments he made about Obama and his colleagues.

# Fire McChrystal? A new test for Obama

## Remarks by general, staff complicate Afghanistan effort

By Tom Vanden Brook, Jim Michaels and Mimi Hall  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Gen. Stanley McChrystal's forced return from Afghanistan today to explain embarrassing comments about President Obama and his top advisers could hardly come at a worse time.

A spring offensive against the Taliban in southern Afghanistan is moving slower than expected. The promised effort to retake Kandahar, the country's second-largest city, will take longer than initially forecast. Attacks on U.S. and coalition troops are setting records each month, and June is on track to be one of the bloodiest months for Americans in the 9-year-old war.

Obama said Tuesday the general he picked in May 2009 to run the war showed "poor judgment" in the comments

McChrystal and top aides made in interviews with *Rolling Stone* magazine.

During the series of interviews, McChrystal and aides ridiculed several administration officials, including Vice President Biden.

One unidentified staffer described national security adviser Jim Jones, a former Marine Corps commandant, as a "clown" who was "stuck in 1985," according to the magazine. And McChrystal accused U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Karl Eikenberry, a former top U.S. commander there, of leaking a memo that was

## Cover story

skeptical of McChrystal's troop plan in order to cover "his flank for history books."

Most of the article featured quotes from anonymous aides, including some who were getting drunk in a Paris bar. Aside from his comments about Eikenberry, McChrystal says nothing about policy differences with the president.

Obama said any decisions about McChrystal's future



Rolling Stone via AP

See COVER STORY next page ►  
Magazine: Copy of Rolling Stone story.

## Hotels give deals to do less cleaning

## Money-saving housekeeping cuts marketed as 'green'

By Roger Yu  
USA TODAY

Room cleaned, sir? Want to sleep on your bedsheets a few more days, madam?

More hotels are cutting back on housekeeping services. With their business sharply reduced, hotels are looking to save money by urging customers to forgo daily changing of linens, towels and toiletries.

The trend isn't new, but the urgency is spreading to more chains as the industry battles a historic downturn in travel. Hotels market their new housekeeping approach as a "green" effort, and some analysts and travelers say the spin has merit.

"I have no issues with hotels cutting back," says frequent traveler Mark Hanna, a technology industry executive. "Replacing my linen on a daily basis is the height of absurdity. I don't do it at home, so why do it in my hotel room?"

Best Western asks guests to specify their choice of housekeeping: no service, replace towels/empty trash/quick vacuum, or full clean. Guests can check their choice and specify the cleaning hour on a card hung on the door

knob. Since the program began late last year, about 40% of guests chose no or limited cleaning, says Ron Pohl of Best Western.

Some chains operated by Wyndham — Super 8, Howard Johnson, Travelodge, Days Inn and Ramada — are adopting Wyndham Hotels' practice of leaving linens unchanged whenever possible, says Wyndham spokeswoman Evy Apostolatos. Starting next year, all Days Inn hotels will reduce bed linen and towel changes from daily to every third day in occupied rooms.

Omni Hotels began asking customers last year whether they want limited housekeeping, in which bed and bath linens are changed on request or on the third day.

Some hotels give financial incentives. The Marmara Manhattan Hotel in New York offers a \$20-a-night discount to customers who go without housekeeping for three days. "The green rate" applies only to those who book at least three nights on its reservation system.

Bjorn Hanson, of New York University, says customers aren't buying the industry's "green" argument but are generally accepting modest cutbacks in housekeeping. "The long-term trend (for companies) is to look for ways to make hotels more affordable and accessible," he says.

Not every traveler likes the trend. Says business traveler James Lawrence Wilson: "If I'm paying for a hotel, then I want clean sheets, clean towels and a clean room every day."

# Slump stunts Sun Belt growth

## Texas cities gain despite economy

By Haya El Nasser and Paul Overberg  
USA TODAY

The recession and housing slump have ended booming growth for many cities in the Sun Belt, while some older urban centers and places with diversified economies are enjoying healthy gains, Census estimates released Tuesday show.

Texas cities are emerging as the growth leaders, according to the July 1, 2009, estimates. Four of the 10 fastest-growing — including No. 1 Frisco — and 11 of the top 25 cities that have populations above 100,000 are in Texas.

Florida cities, which saw dizzying growth during the housing boom, are seeing a dramatic reversal of fortune: Two of the state's 19 large cities lost people from 2008 to 2009.

Cape Coral, for example, grew by almost 50% since 2000, which put it among the 10 fastest-growing. From 2008 to 2009, however, it was the USA's sixth-fastest decliner, losing about 600 people to 154,202.

"The economy is changing the economy of growth, putting Texas in the lead and reducing Florida to a profile similar to a Northeastern state," says Robert Lang, urban sociologist at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

Growth is shrinking in many Sun Belt cities hit hard by the foreclosure

## Population in 75 large cities

■ 2000-09 rankings, shifts, 8A

crisis. Phoenix gained 24,000 people from 2008 to 2009, compared with almost 41,000 from 2005 to 2006.

Big Texas gainers include Dallas suburbs such as McKinney, Carrollton and Lewisville; oil centers Odessa and Midland; and high-tech hub and state capital Austin. Texas has escaped the worst of the downturn because of a diversified economy that includes oil and high-tech. It is "the star of the Sun Belt," says demographer William Frey of the Brookings Institution. "People are moving there for high-skilled and low-skilled kinds of jobs."

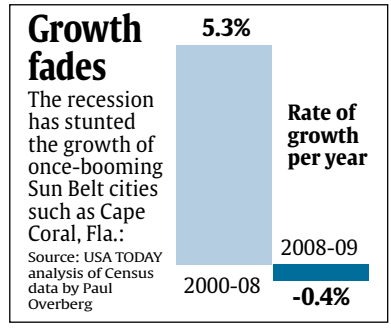
The estimates — the last before official 2010 Census numbers are released later this year and in 2011 — capture the fallout of the recession at its peak.

The recession has benefited large cities such as New York and Chicago, as people stay put rather than move out.

Other findings:

► Old industrial cities in the Northeast and Midwest continue to lose people: Flint, Mich., Cleveland, Buffalo. Detroit, the 11th-most-populous city at 910,920, lost every year this decade.

► New Orleans (354,850) has the largest decline since 2000 but the fourth-largest gain from 2008 to 2009 — evidence of a gradual bounce back from Hurricane Katrina in 2005.



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