

## Cache destruction near Karbala



Sgt. 1st Class Tami Hillis

Explosive ordnance disposal team leader, Sgt. 1st Class Darrell Williams, instructs ISF members on safe loading of ordnance for transportation to a demolition site in Karbala. The munitions were recovered during ISF raids in and around Karbala. The disposed munitions included: 234 mortars ranging from 60 mm to 120 mm, 530 projectiles ranging from 57 mm to 155 mm, 12 107 mm and 122 mm rockets, 17 rifle grenades, 42 landmines, 203 hand grenades, 7,980 non-electric blasting caps, 700 pounds of unknown bulk explosives and approximately 70 rocket-propelled grenade launchers, PG-7, OG-7, OG-9, AT-4 and PG-7 ejection motors.

## Chicken farming gets a new boost in Hawr Rajab

**SGT. DAVID TURNER**  
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU – When Soldiers of the 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, began inspecting chicken coops in Hawr Rajab last December, they found munitions caches and bomb-making

materials instead of poultry.

Al-Qaeda in Iraq fighters terrorized the residents of this community south of Baghdad, destroying buildings, stealing feed and killing livestock.

Although peace has largely returned to the area – agriculture, the main source of employment for local

residents – is struggling to restore itself to its former state. With help from Soldiers of the 6-8 Cav. Regt. and the U.S. Department of State's Baghdad-7 embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team, farmers here are hopeful that

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# Women's committee reps meet in Mahmudiyah

**SGT. DAVID TURNER**  
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU – Representatives from four local women's committees in the Rasheed Nahia met in Mahmudiyah 20 miles south of Baghdad, May 5.

Among those attending the gathering were Soldiers of Multi-National Division – Center and the U.S. State Department's embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team Baghdad-7, who helped organize the committees.

Women's issues are nothing new to the Government of Iraq, and now, after years of turmoil and the rebuilding of the nation's institutions, the committees have provided many women a support channel, said Capt. Trista Mustaine, ePRT women's assistance group leader.

A key goal for the meeting was to introduce committee members to one another, as well as link them to their representatives in the nahia and other organizations. Representatives of the Iraqi Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the Red Crescent attended the meeting.

Mustaine, from Bradenton, Fla., said getting women involved in government and giving them better economic opportunities fosters stabilization and a return to normalcy.

One of the ways ePRT achieves this is with microgrants, up to \$2,500 per person, to help women start businesses. Those businesses include anything from internet cafes to agriculture, but sewing cooperatives have been the most popular. These co-ops provide major employment opportunities in their neighborhoods, giving women the means to buy materials and sell their goods collectively. Sewing co-ops, in turn, provide revenue for the women's committees,



Sgt. David Turner

Zaytoon Hussain Mraad holds photographs of wounded and orphaned children from her village during a meeting of women's committee representatives in Mahmudiyah. Capt. Trista Mustaine (sitting), Baghdad-7 ePRT, and MND-C Soldiers attended the meeting to assess progress in the development of local women's committees.

Mustaine said.

Chairwomen from the four committees addressed several issues to included the need for grass-roots level assistance from Coalition forces and the needs of widows and orphans.

Zaytoon Hussain Mraad, from Adwaniyah, showed a placard with pictures of more than 30 children in her village orphaned by recent violence. Fifteen of the children, all from Shiite families in Sunni majority region, lost both parents to criminal activity and sectarian violence.

Aieda Hassan Aziz, chairman of the Busayefi women's committee, said her husband was kidnapped months ago and she doesn't know where he is. Insur-

gents also stole her livestock, depriving her of an income. There are 62 widows in her town and even more orphans, she said.

The chairwoman from the Hawr Rajab women's committee, Manal Najeeb Mahmood, offered some words of strength and hope.

"Al-Qaeda in Iraq killed, kidnapped and destroyed. We stood strong with the help of Coalition forces, Iraqi Army and the local councils. We're here to stay," she said.

Mahmood said that profits from her women's committee's sewing co-op would go to help the 215 widows and

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## THE Dog Face Daily

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# CHICKEN: *Iraqi locals hopeful of returning prosperity*

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prosperity will return.

Members of the ePRT, along with 6-8 Cav. Regt. Soldiers, distributed more than 13,000 chicks to 10 poultry farmers in the Hawr Rajab area May 6. This delivery of egg-laying chicks is aimed at providing farmers with a more sustainable income for the largely family-based farms. Mike Stevens, ePRT agricultural adviser, estimated 40 new jobs were created with the May 6 delivery. Stevens credits Soldiers with the program's success so far.

"All I had to do was line up a plan to get the chicks out to the farmers. The (Soldiers) risked their lives to recon these chicken coops," Stevens said.

The program to restore Hawr Rajab's poultry industry began with microgrants to help farmers refurbish damaged coops. Last month, the ePRT distributed 3,000 chicks to farmers.

Prices for poultry products have been inflated here recently, with local residents relying on Baghdad markets for meat and eggs. Stevens hopes to see reduced prices for meat and eggs in local markets as a measure of success for the program.

Besides lower prices and higher employment for local residents, the greatest benefit to farmers is a better working relationship with their government,

Stevens said.

"This is all part of the membership drive that began with seed and plastic distribution. It's a way of encouraging locals to pay dues to get into the farmers union," he said.

The ePRT helped form local farmers unions as a way of restoring farmers' connections with the government. The ePRT also plans to provide agribusiness training to teach farmers how to use their money wisely, giving them greater buying power.

Stevens worked with the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture to get the program work off the ground. The MoA provides vaccinations for the chicks, and in turn looks to the ePRT and Soldiers in the area to help farmers in the short term.

Stevens said one farmer who received the chicks, Kaleed Jasim, reminded him of his job at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"He said it was very nice to see farmers (being) focused again in Hawr Rajab," Stevens said.

"He's kind of like me back home. If something happens, I worry about my farmers, and you could tell he's worried about his farmers," he added.

Jasim used to work for the MoA during Saddam Hussein's regime.

"He will be able to employ people with this business and provide employment to the industry he loves: agricul-



Sgt. David Turner

Specialist Amy Ellenwood, Company A, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, holds a chick during a distribution of more than 13,000 chicks to poultry farmers in Hawr Rajab.

ture," Stevens said.

The 6-8 Cav. Regt. is operationally attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

## WOMEN

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numerous orphans of her town.

Doctor Maha al-Hadithy, a Red Crescent representative, said assistance from Coalition forces was welcomed,

but much more could be done on the local level.

Another big issue, al-Hadithy said, was the rise in divorces among religiously-mixed couples. Sectarian strife has torn families apart, and legal assistance may help put them back together

again.

Al-Hadithy struck a positive tone in her remarks, however, saying that women's committees have nothing to do with religion or tribal loyalties. Only the improved lives of Iraq's women matter, she said.

## Safety Thought of the Day

### Rollover Prevention Reminders

- Know the vehicle's maximum weight limitations and operate within them.
  - Ensure the load is properly positioned and secured.
  - Be mindful of the center of gravity, especially with a heavy load.
- Decrease maneuvering speeds and avoid drastic vehicle corrections.
- Approach turns with caution, and reduce speeds.
- Remain clear of road edges and watch for curves, slopes and potholes.
- Make every attempt to stay upright - steer into the rollover direction.
- Don't be overconfident in your equipment or your abilities - error on the side of safety.
- When in doubt, use a ground guide to negotiate obstacles.
- Rehearse rollover and water rescue drills before each mission.
- Wear seat belts - they save lives.

## Headline Highlights

# Singer arrested; knife law; non-stick gum; chocolate crook

## Gas price protest singer arrested at convenience store

VALPARAISO, Ind. (AP) — A man with a guitar and a megaphone climbed atop a convenience store roof to serenade commuters with his musical protest of high gasoline prices — until police halted the impromptu concert.

Once atop the roof of the Family Express store Monday, and above pumps dispensing fuel at \$3.78 per gallon, Jay Weinberg, 29, performed his ditty called "Price Gouge'n."

Dozens of supporters chanted: "I can't afford it. I'm banging on my dashboard. I can't believe they think I'm a fool."

The performance lasted about 15 minutes before three police officers arrived and arrested Weinberg on charges of trespassing and disorderly conduct. Police said he was cooperative.

The crowd, made up of Weinberg's friends and other people who just happened to be pumping gas, continued singing. Then some, including his wife, Danielle, drove to Porter County Jail to bail him out.

Weinberg left the building around 7:30 p.m. and was greeted with cheers.

Chinese citizens must register their identities when they buy potentially deadly knives, Xinhua quoted the Ministry of Public Security on Tuesday as saying.

The new regulations come as China steps up security ahead of the Beijing Olympics.

The targeted daggers include those with blood grooves, lock-knives, and knives with blades measuring over 22 centimeters, the ministry said in a circular posted on its website, [www.mps.gov.cn](http://www.mps.gov.cn).

Police departments at all levels should check knife manufacturers for illegal production of deadly weapons, it said.

Regulations concerning knife tools used by China's ethnic groups are to be set by local autonomous governments, the report said.

All parcels addressed to Olympic athletes, dormitories and sporting venues will be subject to X-ray checks, media reported on Tuesday.

China, whose Communist rulers value stability above all else, has come down hard on anyone they fear could upset the Games, from people protesting against the demolition of their houses for venues to the country's sometimes restless ethnic minorities.

developing a non-stick chewing gum that can be easily removed from pavements and shoes has raised 10 million pounds to help bring its product to market.

The new financing comes from institutional and private investors, with IP Group -- an early backer -- chipping in an additional 800,000 pounds, the firm said on Wednesday.

Revolymers' new Clean Gum is the result of polymer research at the University of Bristol, where the company was created as a research spin-out in 2005.

Today's chewing gums are made from synthetic latex, which is resistant to the weather and is strongly adhesive. Clean Gum adds a special polymer to modify its properties, making it far less sticky.

## Chocolate breath odor helps officer nab suspect

BREMERTON, Wash. (AP) — It was the odor of chocolate on the suspect's breath that gave away a 15-year-old boy accused of shoplifting candy bars in Bremerton. An officer responding to the shoplifting report Friday night caught up with the suspect on a bicycle.

First he denied taking candy bars, but the officer could smell an odor of chocolate and called witnesses who identified the boy.

He confessed and said he was hungry and did it for the thrill.

## Registering potentially dangerous knives

BEIJING, May 6 (Xinhua) (AP) —

## UK non-stick chewing gum firm raises 10 mln pounds

LONDON (Reuters) — A company

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							9	
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1		6	7	8				
		7			5	2		

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

**Solution to yesterday's puzzle:**

8	9	2	1	5	7	4	6	3
4	1	5	3	6	9	2	7	8
3	6	7	2	4	8	1	5	9
7	2	1	5	8	3	6	9	4
5	3	6	9	7	4	8	2	1
9	4	8	6	1	2	5	3	7
2	8	4	7	9	5	3	1	6
1	5	9	8	3	6	7	4	2
6	7	3	4	2	1	9	8	5

**ARABIC QUESTION OF THE DAY**

Have you seen...?

shiffit....?