



Lead Stories

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Whale kills trainer at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida

Dawn Brancheau, a whale trainer, died in an accident at the [SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida](#) on Wednesday, at around 14:00 local time. The incident involved an 18-year-old [killer whale](#), Tillikum, also called Tilly. The [Orange County](#) sheriffs report trainer Brancheau has 16 years of experience. Brancheau was reported dead after being recovered from the pool.

Witness to the incident Victoria Biniak told [WKMG-TV](#), "He was thrashing her around pretty good. It was violent. [The whale] ...took off really fast in the tank, and then he came back, shot up in the air, grabbed the trainer by the waist and started thrashing around, and one of her shoes flew off."

In response to this accident, SeaWorld [San Diego](#) canceled its Shamu show, a show involving the whales at the San Diego location. "We're terribly saddened by the loss of the member of our SeaWorld family, it doesn't matter what park,"

David Koontz, a spokesperson for SeaWorld San Diego said.

Turkey charges seven military officers over coup plot

A [Turkish](#) court on Wednesday charged and jailed seven senior Turkish military officers for allegedly plotting several years ago to overthrow the Turkish government.

The officers consist of four admirals, an army general and two staff colonels. Among them were Admiral Ramazan Cem Gundeniz, Admiral Aziz Cakmak, retired General Mehmet Kaya Varol, retired Admiral Ali Deniz Kutluk and retired Admiral Ozer Karabulut. Also arrested were retired General İbrahim Firtına, who was Commander of the Air Force from 2003 until his retirement in 2005 and retired Admiral Ozden Ornek, Commander of the Navy, also from 2003 to 2005. The court released six other officers.

The seven were among more than 40 officers arrested on Monday over an alleged 2003 plot to create chaos in Turkey and justify a military coup. The military said in a statement that all top generals and admirals met at the military headquarters yesterday to evaluate "the serious situation" regarding the investigation

Last month [Taraf](#) newspaper stated it had obtained 5,000 pages of documents and tapes on the 'Sledgehammer' plan, which was aimed to overthrow the [AK party](#) (*Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi*) and to justify an army takeover in 2003. According to the report on January 21 2010, the army had plotted to provoke [Greek](#) fighter jets into shooting down a Turkish military jet and plant bombs in [Istanbul](#) mosques. The Turkish military had said documents were part of a

military training seminar and not meant to be carried out.

Chief of General Staff [İlker Başbuğ](#) on January 25 called these allegations "unconscionable" and said they were part of a campaign of psychological warfare designed to undermine public trust in the armed forces.

"This is not something we've ever experienced in Turkey before, so it's very hard to predict what will happen," said [Etyen Mahcupyan](#), director of the democratization program at Istanbul research institute [Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation](#). Possible military responses may range from a mass resignation to a statement expressing faith in the judicial process, he said.

29 of those detained are being questioned by Istanbul police and another ten officers were brought before an Istanbul court on Tuesday morning according to reports by [NTV](#) and state-run [Anatolian news agency](#).

The [Turkish Armed Forces](#) have been responsible for 4 military coups in [Turkey](#) of in last 50 years. Other senior military officers have been arrested and indicted in separate plot to overthrow the government, involving a supposed far-right, ultra-nationalist group known as [Ergenekon](#). Opponents of the government claim the ongoing trial of the Ergenekon group is being used by the government to target political opposition. The government rejects the accusation.

At least fifteen dead after landslide in Indonesia

At least fifteen people have been killed as the result of a landslide which occurred in [Indonesia](#) on Tuesday. According to [BBC News Online](#), at least sixteen were killed. It is thought that up to seventy people were killed as a result of the landslide, which occurred in a village near to the city of [Bandung](#).

At one point, villagers attempted to dig out surviving victims from the rocks and mud by using their bare hands, as rescue efforts were suspended temporarily due to heavy rain, before recommencing after lifting equipment arrived. At least sixteen dead bodies have been recovered by Wednesday. Roughly five hundred people are contributing to the search and rescue.

Priyadi Kardono, spokesperson for the Disaster Management Agency, stated: "We've found fifteen bodies so far and estimate that there are up to 70 people still missing." He also commented that fifteen other people had been injured, of which two have been hospitalised.

Three people arrested in connection with murder of shop owner in West Yorkshire, England

A spokesperson for [West Yorkshire Police](#) has announced that the police force have arrested three teenagers in connection with the death of a shop owner in [West Yorkshire, England](#). The three are currently remaining publicly unidentified. 63-year-old Gurmail Singh was killed after he was physically involved in a robbery of his shop, the Cowcliffe Convenience Store, that occurred on February 20, 2010 in the town of [Huddersfield](#).

The spokesperson said that one person aged 18 and two people aged 17, all of whom came from the Huddersfield region, had been detained in connection to Gurmail Singh's death on Sunday. The shop owner had sustained head injuries

during the robbery. A post-mortem examination carried out on Singh determined that he was impacted in his head nine times by what was possibly a hammer.

Detective Superintendent David Pervin stated: "These men have been arrested as a result of the tremendous public response to my earlier appeals for information about this incident." Pervin pointed out that he still needs information from members of the public, and requested that any local people operating [CCTV](#) cameras in the area should contact the police. He also made a direct appeal to those involved in the attack: "[t]hey know who they are. The spotlight is already directly upon them and I call on them to do the right thing and hand themselves in now before we knock at their door and arrest them."

Up to 270,000 civil servants to go on strike in UK in March

According to reports from [BBC News Online](#) and [Sky News Online](#), a maximum of 270,000 [civil servants](#) will go on a strike in the [United Kingdom](#) due to a dispute over reductions to redundancy terms in the [public sector](#). Staff that are due to get involved in the strike, which will last for 48 hours between the dates of March 8–9 2010, will include driving test examiners, court officials, coastguards, tax workers, customs officers, and members of staff from [Jobcentre Plus](#).

The [UK Government](#) has stated that the money that will be salvaged by the [taxpayer](#) after the modifications will amount to [£500 million](#) ([US\\$760 million](#), [€564 million](#)). Individuals who are members of the [Public and Commercial Services Union](#) (PCS) took part in a vote in February 2010. The union announced that 81% of members had voted in favour of a ban of working [overtime](#), and that 63% of those polled supported blockages.

[Mark Serwotka](#), [General Secretary](#) of the British trade union for civil servants stated that "[t]hese cuts,

which will see loyal civil and public servants lose tens of thousands of pounds if they are forced out of a job, are more about crude politicking than making savings. We have suggested ways in which the Government can make these savings whilst protecting the rights of existing members, yet it seems intent on penalising the people who keep this country running."

10 billionth song downloaded from Apple's iTunes Store

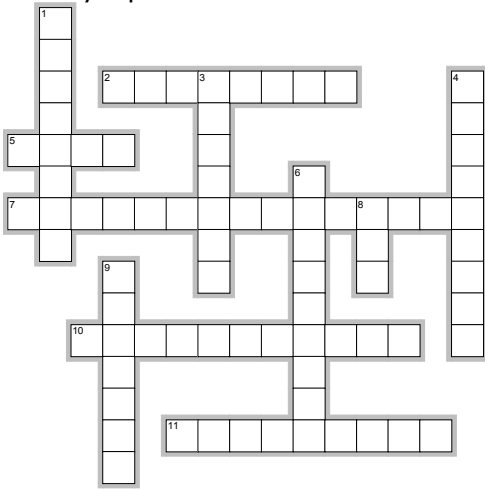
Ten billion songs have been downloaded from the [iTunes Store](#), an online digital media store which is owned by [Apple Incorporated](#). Louie Sulcer, of [Woodstock](#) in [Georgia](#), downloaded "[Guess Things Happen That Way](#)" by [American](#) musician, [Johnny Cash](#), which became the ten billionth song downloaded from iTunes. Sulcer won an iTunes gift card worth [US\\$10,000](#) (approximately [£6,550](#) or [€7,380](#)), after purchasing a song on the iTunes Store to win the prize.

Beforehand, Apple had launched a competition entitled "Countdown to 10 Billion Song Downloads", where the person to make the ten billionth "entry" of a song from the iTunes Store would win the gift card. An "entry" could be created by either downloading a song from the iTunes store, or by filling in a form on the Apple website.

The rules of the competition stated that "the downloading of the 10 billionth song is considered to be either the downloading of the 10 billionth song from iTunes or the receipt of the non-purchase entry after the download of the 9,999,999,999th song, whichever comes first."

Puzzle of the Day

Today's puzzle is a crossword



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

- 2. killing of multiple people
- 5. Indo-European language
- 7. not characterized
- 10. doesn't pay taxes
- 11. British spelling for one who memorizes

Down

- 1. to deal with
- 3. something that must be done before the main task
- 4. used to dry hair
- 6. removes grease
- 8. a constructed language
- 9. relating to Boole

•Last issue's solution



EclipseCrossword.com

Commons Picture of the Day



The female European green toad (Bufo viridis);

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Quote of the Day

A day will come when there will be no battlefields, but markets opening to commerce and minds opening to ideas. A day will come when the bullets and bombs are replaced by votes, by universal suffrage, by the venerable arbitration of a great supreme senate which will be to Europe what Parliament is to England, the Diet to Germany, and the Legislative Assembly to France. A day will come when a cannon will be a museum-piece, as instruments of torture are today. And we will be amazed to think that these things once existed!

Word of the Day

tedious *adj*

- 1. Boring, monotonous, time consuming, wearisome.

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