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Blake and Jordyn: Ballad may be the difference.

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

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By John O. Buckley

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

USA TODAY Snapshots

Breaking in: Most common places that burglars enter homes. Front door 34%, First-floor window 23%, Back door 22%, Garage 9%, Basement 4%, Unlocked entrance 4%, Storage area 2%, Second floor 2%.

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Does where you live determine if you'll live?

A great medical secret — hospital death rates — will be made public in a bold federal initiative

By Steve Sternberg and Anthony DeBarros USA TODAY

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — At 8:35 a.m. on Good Friday, paramedics raced Eugene Cummsiskey into Yale-New Haven Hospital in a real-world test of the hospital's response to a heart attack.

Doctors found that the 76-year-old had a blockage in an artery so vital to the heart that they call it the "widow maker."

Within minutes, orderlies whisked him to the angioplasty suite, where doctors cleared his artery from within by inflating a tiny balloon. "It was like a crack military Special Ops unit," Cummsiskey says. "A lot of precision."

Now recovering at home, the retired prep school administrator from Guilford, Conn., owes his life as much to geography as to his doctors.

He lives within minutes of Yale-New Haven, which has one of the nation's lowest heart attack death rates, according to confidential data obtained by USA TODAY from a Medicare analysis of death



At Yale-New Haven Hospital: A patient with chest pains is treated in the emergency room.

Cover story

Heart info Consumers find help, 9D

rates at more than 4,000 hospitals.

Cummsiskey couldn't have known he'd be in such good hands. Hospital death rates are among the best-kept secrets in American medicine. The Internet may be crowded with consumer information, from school report cards to airline safety records, but death rates for most hospitals are still as closely guarded as the formulas for Kentucky Fried Chicken and Coke.

That will begin to change in June, when the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) plans to post the first broad comparison of the death rates for heart attack and heart failure on its website, Hospital Compare (hospitalcompare.hhs.gov).

The federal initiative marks a bold departure for an agency that has long been the repository of private information on Medicare patients. More than a dozen top hospitals provided USA TODAY with an exclusive

Please see COVER STORY next page

By Tim Dillon and Robert W. Ahrens, USA TODAY

Investors fish for profit in clean H2O

Three funds seek stream of income in a thirsty world

By John Waggoner USA TODAY

Investors are pouring money into the world's most valuable commodity — water.

Three exchange-traded funds (ETFs) — mutual funds that trade on stock exchanges — now focus on companies that hope to take advantage of shortages in clean water. The largest fund, PowerShares Water Resources, has seen its assets hit \$1.7 billion in under two years.

Why is water suddenly hot? Among the reasons:

450 million people in 29 countries suffer from water shortages, according to the United Nations Environment Programme.

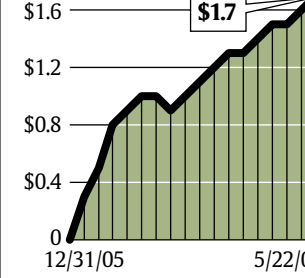
20% of the world's people lack access to safe, clean drinking water.

By 2025, an estimated 2.8 billion people will live in areas with scarce water resources.

Lack of clean water is "a bigger killer than AIDS in Africa," says Bruce Bond of PowerShares, which manages PowerShares Water Resources. "People are drinking contaminated water, getting sick and not being able to stay hydrated."

Water fund assets rise

Assets in PowerShares Water fund have soared since its inception (in billions):



By Marcy E. Mullins, USA TODAY

more S&P Global Water Index fund and First Trust ISE Water Index fund — made their debuts this month. A fourth, also from PowerShares, will start trading June 7. Water Resources, the oldest of the funds, has gained a sparkling 28% since its start in December 2005.

As water becomes scarcer, cities and towns must invest in infrastructure, such as aqueducts, water mains and treatment plants. They also have to drill wells and find new water sources, such as desalination plants. Fast-growing cities and businesses, particularly in emerging markets such as China and India, need lots more clean water.

"We felt there were opportunities in water," says Christian Magoon of Claymore Securities. "It's

where infrastructure meets commodities meets global investing."

The funds try to distinguish themselves by where they invest and what they invest in. The PowerShares fund focuses on U.S. companies. "The U.S. is a big player in water," Bond says. "There's a lot of growth here." Its biggest holding is Valmont Industries, which makes agricultural irrigation equipment.

The Claymore fund, which is invested in 16 countries, follows a worldwide stock index. Its largest holding: Veolia Environment, a French company that provides water-management services. PowerShares Water Resources follows the Palisades Water Index of companies in the water industry.

The funds define a water-related company in varying ways. For example, General Electric is the third-largest holding in the PowerShares fund. While GE's Water & Process Technologies division produces water-treatment chemicals, filters and other purification products, it accounts for just 2% of GE's revenue. GE's water exposure might not be enough for water-investing purists.

Water ETFs cover a tiny specialized sector, so are more volatile than broader-based ETFs, such as those that track the S&P 500. Unlike most mutual funds, which investors buy directly from fund companies and are priced once a day, ETFs are traded continually on stock exchanges.

American Muslims reject extremes

Survey notes contrasts on Iraq war, role of faith

By Haya El Nasser USA TODAY

The USA's estimated 2.4 million Muslims hold more moderate political views than Muslims elsewhere in the world and are mostly middle class and willing to adopt the American way of life, according to one of the most comprehensive surveys of this segment of the nation's population.

The Pew Research Center study released Tuesday found that "Muslim Americans are very much like the rest of the country," says Luis Lugo, director of the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. "They do not see a conflict between being a devout Muslim and living in a modern society."

Muslim Americans, however, have a much more negative view about the Iraq war and the war against terrorism than the U.S. public as a whole, the survey found. The study also found pockets of sympathy for Islamic extremism, especially among younger people. Muslims between the ages of 18 and 29 express significantly greater acceptance than older people of suicide bombings in some cases.

The young show a greater tendency to identify themselves as Muslim first and American second. This faith-first pattern is even more pronounced among Muslims in Europe, according to previous Pew surveys.

Muslims here "come across as much more moderate than the Muslim public in other areas of the world," says Andrew Kohut, president of the Pew Research Center.

Muslims in the USA have been under scrutiny since the 9/11 terrorist attacks. More than half of those surveyed say it is more difficult to be a Muslim since then and believe that the government singles them out for extra surveillance. Only 5% say they have a favorable view of al-Qaeda, although 27% express no opinion.

Most hold a positive view of American society. Seven in 10 say Americans can get ahead through hard work, a higher proportion than the public as a whole.

The survey shows that 47% of Muslims consider themselves Muslim first and Americans second. Previous Pew surveys show that 42% of Christians identify with their religion before their country. Among white evangelicals, 62% say they identify themselves first as Christians.

The U.S. Muslim population is one of the world's most diverse. The nearly two-thirds who are immigrants came from 68 countries.

The poll found that African-Americans are the most disillusioned segment of the Muslim American population, a possible reflection of their economic conditions and experience with racial discrimination.

The poll has a margin of error of +/-5 percentage points.

The survey "clearly shows that the American Muslim community is well integrated in our society," says Ibrahim Hooper, communications director for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a civil rights and advocacy group in Washington, D.C. "The overwhelming majority of American Muslims reject terrorism and religious extremism."

Muslims in America

Views on life here:

Muslim Americans General public

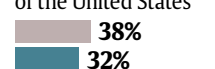
Believe you can get ahead with hard work



Rate your community as excellent or good



Satisfied with the state of the United States



Source: Pew Research Center Poll of 1,050 Muslim American adults Jan. 24-April 30. Margin of error is +/-5 percentage points. General public data taken from surveys conducted in October 2005, March 2006, January and February.

USA TODAY

Muslim views in survey

Assessing life in the USA, 11A



Thousands flee in Lebanon

Palestinians leave refugee camp during lull in clash between army, militants, 5A

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