



Tributes flow as Vinnie loses Tanya - page 5

California's British Accent™ - Since 1984 Saturday, July 13, 2019 • Number 1791 Always Free

I quit! Leaks sink our man in Washington

President had branded British Ambassador "a very stupid guy"

Sir Kim Darroch has resigned as UK ambassador to the US, as a row over leaked emails critical of President Trump's administration escalates.

Theresa May said Sir Kim's departure was "a matter of deep regret" after the ambassador said it was "impossible" for him to continue.

Tory leadership candidate Boris Johnson has faced strong criticism for failing to fully support him.

President Trump said on Monday that the US would not deal with Sir Kim.

The US president had branded him "a very stupid guy" after confidential emails emerged where the ambassador had called his administration "clumsy and inept".

In a letter to the Foreign Office, Sir Kim said he wanted to end speculation about his position: "The current situation is making it impossible for me to carry out my role as I would like.

"Although my posting

is not due to end until the end of this year, I believe in the current circumstances the responsible course is to allow the appointment of a new ambassador."

The leak was described as "malicious" by head of the diplomatic service Sir Simon McDonald, who told Sir Kim: "You are the best of us."

widespread support

He told the Commons' foreign affairs committee it was the first time in his career that a head of state had refused to work with a British ambassador.

His resignation has prompted widespread support for Sir Kim while some have questioned Tory frontrunner Boris Johnson's stance.

According to sources close to the British Embassy in Washington, Sir Kim decided to resign after watching Mr Johnson refuse to

support him during the Tory leadership debate on Tuesday night.

It's understood that Mr Johnson spoke to Sir Kim on the phone on Wednesday afternoon.

Mr Johnson was asked repeatedly by fellow leadership candidate Jeremy Hunt whether he would keep Sir Kim in post if he became prime minister, but refused to answer.

Following Sir Kim's resignation, Mr Johnson said he was "a superb diplomat" and whoever was responsible for the leak "has done a grave disservice to our civil servants". Asked why he was not more supportive of Sir Kim, he said it was "wrong to drag civil servants into the political arena".

Europe Minister Sir Alan Duncan - who backs Mr Hunt in the leadership contest - said it was "contemptible



LEAKED EMAILS: Sir Kim Darroch had described Trump as 'clumsy and inept'

negligence" not to support Sir Kim.

"He's basically thrown this fantastic diplomat under a bus to serve his own personal interests," he said of Mr. Johnson's position.

'enraged'

Former foreign office minister Alistair Burt - also a supporter of Mr Hunt - said, referring

to Tuesday's debate: "Anyone, I think, would have seen last night's events and seen a potential prime minister letting someone go very publicly."

Tory MP and chairman of the Commons' foreign affairs committee Tom Tugendhat said in a tweet: "Leaders stand up for their men. They encourage them to try

and defend them when they fail."

However, Sir Michael Fallon - a supporter of Mr Johnson - said the Tory leadership hopeful had made it "very clear that the relationship with the United States is what comes first".

Fellow Tory leadership candidate and Foreign Secretary Mr Hunt told

cont. on page 3, col. 1

News from Britain

You made a mess of Brexit, Trump tells May

Strain grows on Special Relationship

DONALD Trump this week accused Theresa May of creating a Brexit "mess" as he hit back over leaked diplomatic emails criticising his leadership.

The US President tweeted it was "good news" Mrs May was leaving No 10 and made clear he preferred the Queen. And he warned relations with Britain's top diplomat in Washington, Sir Kim Darroch, who wrote the scathing secret memos, would now be cut off. Sir Kim resigned less than 24 hours later.

The outburst showed the leak had put strains on the special relationship between the UK and the US. Mr Trump said: "I have been very critical about the way the UK and Prime Minister Theresa May handled Brexit. What a mess she and her representatives have created.

"I told her how it should be done, but she decided to go another way.

"I do not know the ambassador, but he is not liked or well thought of within the US. We will no longer deal with him."

He added: "The good news for the wonderful United Kingdom is that they will soon have a new prime minister. While I thoroughly enjoyed the magnificent State Visit last month, it was the Queen who I was most impressed with."

Mr Trump lashed out after diplomatic emails from Sir Kim over the last two years showed he believed the White House was "uniquely dysfunctional" and "inept". The UK ambassador in Washington said the President's career could end in "disgrace" and "crash and burn".

A full-scale mole hunt was under way this week but furious MPs demanded a criminal investigation. Cabinet minister Liam Fox called for the "full force" of the law to be used against the culprit if there was criminality involved in the leak to a Sunday newspaper.

Conservative Tom Tugendhat, chairman of the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, wrote to Met Commissioner

Cressida Dick to call for a police probe. Foreign Office minister Sir Alan Duncan said: "If evidence of criminality is found, then yes, the police could be involved."

Asked if Mrs May agreed with the contents of Sir Kim's leaked assessment of the Trump administration, a spokesman said: "The PM does not agree with that assessment."

Mr Fox, who landed in Washington on Wednesday for a pre-arranged visit, said he would apologise to the President's daughter, Ivanka, who he was due to meet.

"This is such a damaging, potentially damaging, event that I hope the full force of our internal discipline, or even the law, will come down on whoever actually carried out this particular act," the International Trade Secretary said.

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt last night said that politicians should "call a spade a spade" when dealing with Mr Trump.



TRUMP ON MAY AND BREXIT: "I told her how it should be done, but she decided to go another way."



TOMMY ROBINSON: his Facebook Live video of a trial has put him behind bars

Tommy Robinson jailed for contempt of court

Tommy Robinson has been jailed for nine months over contempt of court.

The ex-English Defence League leader was found guilty last week of interfering with the trial of a sexual grooming gang at Leeds Crown Court in May 2018.

Two Old Bailey judges said his Facebook Live video of defendants in the trial had encouraged "vigilante action".

A social media account in Robinson's name called the sentence an "absolute joke" and said it was time to protest.

Outside the London court, supporters of Robinson, whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, booed as news of his sentence reached them.

The crowd marched towards the Old Bailey chanting "we want Tommy out" before some began pelting police with

bottles and cans.

As a prison van thought to contain Robinson drove away, several supporters shouted "we love you, Tommy".

Some of his supporters then moved towards Parliament where there were reports of journalists being verbally abused and physically intimidated.

City of London Police said officers arrested

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HUNT: 'black day'

I quit:

cont. from page one

the BBC Sir Kim was "doing his job" and his resignation was "a black day for British diplomacy".

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn accused Mr Johnson of wanting a "sweetheart trade deal" with the US and his lack of support for Sir Kim "shows he won't stand up to Donald Trump".

'enormous regret'

In a letter to Sir Kim, Cabinet Secretary and civil service head Sir Mark Sedwill said that while he understood his reasons for resigning it was "a matter of enormous regret that you were put in this position after a shocking betrayal of trust".

Cabinet Office Minister David Lidington said he was "enraged" by the situation and morale in the senior ranks of the civil service had taken "a very heavy blow".

Former head of the civil service Lord O'Donnell told reporters Sir Kim's successor could be chosen within two weeks - while Mrs May is still prime minister.

Mrs May said Sir Kim had had the full backing of the cabinet and he was owed an "enormous debt of gratitude" for his "lifetime of service" to the UK.

Public servants should be able to give "full and frank advice", she said, adding that it was important to defend "our values and principles, particularly when they are under pressure".

Hunt blasts Boris over EU exit plan

"Because Boris never answers the question, we have got absolutely no idea what a Boris premiership would be all about."

JEREMY Hunt launched an all-out assault on Boris Johnson this week as the only head-to-head clash of the Tory leadership race exploded into a furious row over Brexit.

In a live TV debate, Foreign Secretary Mr Hunt repeatedly accused the frontrunner for Downing Street of dodging questions over details of his blueprint for getting the UK out of the EU.

Mr Hunt said: "We're not going to leave without a deal with optimism, we need to have details."

bitter clash

But Mr Johnson hit back by mocking his rival as a "defeatist" who was not really committed to delivering Brexit on schedule on October 31. Their exchanges frequently descended into angry bickering as Mr Hunt stepped up his attack in a desperate push to make up ground in the battle for votes from the Tory faithful. And while favourite Mr Johnson was frequently forced onto the defensive, cracking jokes to deflect the onslaught, neither side appeared to land a knock-out blow on their opponent in the hour-long debate.

The bitter clash is likely to intensify concerns among senior Tories that the "blue-on-blue" attacks between the rival camps are threatening to deepen the Brexit divisions in the party. Mr Hunt repeatedly attacked his rival for refusing to give a straight answer. "You haven't answered any of my questions," he said. He said: "Because Boris never answers the question, we have got absolutely no idea what

a Boris premiership would be all about."

He said: "We need leadership to guide us through a big crisis."

Mr Johnson said the clash between the two candidates was "one of the reasons these blue-on-blue debates are so embarrassing".

When Mr Johnson continued to repeatedly make comments after he had been asked to stop, exasperated host Julie Etchingham called for him to let Mr Hunt speak. In one tetchy exchange, Mr Hunt repeatedly challenged Mr Johnson to say whether he would resign if he failed to deliver Brexit on October 31.

"Will you resign if you don't deliver it, yes or no?" he asked. Mr Johnson replied: "My opponent is clearly not committed to coming out of the EU on October 31."

'absolutely bizarre'

"I think it's very, very important not to envisage any circumstances in which we would fail to come out of the EU on October 31."

"I don't want to hold out to the EU the prospect that they encourage my resignation by refusing to agree a deal."

Mr Hunt also mocked his opponent over his pledge to deliver Brexit on schedule this autumn "do or die". He said: "I asked Boris a straight question and he said very clearly before that it was leaving on October 31, do or die."

"And I think it's do or die for the country but not a Prime Minister who would put his own neck on the line and that is not leadership."

"It's not do or die is it? It's Boris in Number 10 that matters."



CUT AND THRUST: the bitter tone of the Conservative leadership contest has led some Tories to voice concern that the party's divisions over Brexit will grow deeper

Mr Johnson said it was "totally defeatist not to set a hard deadline". But the Foreign Secretary responded: "Being Prime Minister is about telling people what they need to hear, not just what they want to hear."

Mr Johnson went on to say Theresa May's Brexit delay had been a "catastrophe", warning: "We cannot let that happen again." He added: "I'm not going to take anything off the table. I think it's absolutely bizarre at this stage in the negotiations for the UK to be reopening its position. It's not clear from what Jeremy is saying when

he would be prepared to come out."

Mr Johnson, in a swipe at his rival, said the EU will not take the UK seriously with a "papier-mache" Brexit deadline. "If we go into these negotiations from the beginning with a plan to allow that deadline yet again to be fungible, to be a papier-mache deadline, I'm afraid that the EU will not take us seriously," he said. "Nor will business understand they must prepare for no-deal."

In his opening statement Mr Johnson promised to give the country "its mojo back". He insisted he was the

right person to "unleash on this project", to deliver Brexit and "unite this country". Mr Johnson said: "This country faces a momentous choice - we can either continue with the same old, failed, can-kicking approach, destroying trust in politics, sapping business confidence.

"Or we can change, get back our mojo, restore this country's reputation around the world and put ourselves on the path to long-term success." He vowed to get Brexit done by October 31, pledged more money for schools and police, and promised full-fibre broadband for all.



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Navy frigate defends British oil tanker as tensions with Iran continue to rise

Iranian boats tried to impede a British oil tanker near the Gulf - before being driven off by a Royal Navy ship, the Ministry of Defence said on Thursday.

HMS Montrose, a British frigate shadowing the BP-owned tanker, was forced to move between the three boats and the tanker, a spokesman said.

He described the Iranians' actions as "contrary to international law".

Iran had threatened to retaliate for the seizure of one of its own tankers, but denied any attempted seizure.

Boats believed to belong to Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) approached the tanker, British Heritage, and tried to bring it to a halt as it was moving out of the Gulf into the Strait of Hormuz.

Guns on HMS Montrose were trained on the Iranian boats as they were ordered to back off, US media reported. The boats heeded the warning and no shots were fired.

British Heritage was near the island of Abu Musa when it was approached by the Iranian boats.

Although Abu Musa

is in disputed territorial waters, HMS Montrose remained in international waters throughout.

Defence Secretary Penny Mordaunt said the government was concerned by the incident and urged the Iranian authorities to "de-escalate the situation".

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt added the UK would monitor the situation "very carefully".

'form of piracy'

Prime Minister Theresa May's official spokesman said the government was "committed to maintaining freedom of navigation in accordance with international law".

The navy of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps has denied claims it tried to seize the tanker, Iranian news agencies reported. IRGC's navy said there had been no confrontation with any foreign vessels in the past 24 hours.

Iranian foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the UK made the claims "for creating tension".

"These claims have no value," Mr Zarif added, according to the Fars news agency.

The relationship between the UK and Iran has become increasingly strained, after Britain said the Iranian regime was "almost certainly" responsible for the attacks on two oil tankers in June. Last week, British Royal Marines helped the authorities in Gibraltar seize an oil tanker because of evidence it was carrying Iranian crude oil to Syria in breach of EU sanctions.

On Thursday an Iranian official said the seizure was "unnecessary and non-constructive escalation by the UK".

The official claimed the oil was not bound for Syria and called for the tanker to be released.

The government of Gibraltar said it would not comment on matters relating to the vessel as it was the subject of a police investigation. It said the matter was also



HMS Montrose was shadowing a British tanker as it moved into the Strait of Hormuz

now in the Supreme Court.

At the time of the Gibraltar incident, Iran summoned the British ambassador in Tehran to complain about what it said was a "form of piracy".

An Iranian official said a British oil tanker should be seized if Grace 1 was not released.

On Wednesday,

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani mocked the UK, calling it "scared" and "hopeless" for using Royal Navy warships to shadow another British tanker in the Gulf.

HMS Montrose had shadowed the British tanker Pacific Voyager for some of the way through the Strait of Hormuz, but that journey had passed without incident.

"You, Britain, are the initiator of insecurity and you will realise the consequences later," Mr Rouhani said.

The UK has also been pressing Iran to release British-Iranian mother Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe who was jailed for five years in 2016 after being convicted for spying, which she denies.

Scots baby world's youngest to have deep brain surgery

A two-year-old girl from Glasgow has become the world's youngest patient to undergo deep brain stimulation surgery.

Viktoria Kaftanikaite has had electrodes placed deep inside her brain to treat severe, uncontrolled and painful muscle movements.

The youngster suffers from a rare genetic condition called dystonia which left her screaming

in pain, unable to eat and causing breathing difficulties.

It is hoped the operation will vastly improve her quality of life.

It may also have implications on the use of this type of surgery in other young people.

Dystonia can be caused by inherited genetic problems, cerebral palsy or other brain injuries.

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Tributes flow as Vinnie Jones loses wife to cancer

TRIBUTES poured in this week for former footballer and actor Vinnie Jones's wife Tanya, who has died of skin cancer.

Tanya, 53, passed away at the couple's home in Los Angeles on Saturday with her husband of 25 years by her bedside. Sporting figures and celebrities sent messages of condolence to Jones, 54, after the sad news broke. March Of The Day host Gary Lineker

tweeted: "How terribly sad. Condolences to Vinnie and family."

Former boxer Frank Bruno added: "I'm very saddened to hear the news of Vinnie Jones's wife Tanya passing away. My thoughts are with Vinnie and his family at this difficult time."

'tragic death'

Good Morning Britain's Piers Morgan described her as "a delightful woman, and

a truly courageous fighter". He added: "My deepest condolences to Vinnie and all the family. RIP Tanya."

Wimbledon, with whom Jones won the FA Cup in 1988, paid tribute on their official Twitter account, writing: "Everyone at Wimbledon wishes to extend their deepest sympathies to our former player, Vinnie Jones, following the tragic death of his wife, Tanya." Leeds United and Chelsea – two of the midfielder's former clubs – also paid their respects.

A statement from Jones's management confirmed the sad news: "At 8.46am local time in Los Angeles on Saturday July 6, Vinnie Jones' wife, Tanya Jones, passed away after a long illness.

"Tanya passed peacefully at the Jones family home surrounded by Vinnie, their daughter and other family members.

"Vinnie and the family ask for privacy while they go through an



VINNIE AND TANYA: the couple first started dating as teenagers

ROBINSON:

cont. from page two

four people for alleged offences committed on Friday, the day of Robinson's conviction.

During the 2018 case at Leeds Crown Court, reporting restrictions had been put in place postponing the publication of any details until the end of a series of linked trials involving 29 defendants.

However, Robinson, 36, from Luton, broadcast footage from outside the court on 25 May 2018, while the jury in the second trial of the series was considering its verdict.

The video lasted an hour-and-a-half and was viewed online 250,000 times, after being live-streamed on Facebook.

In a written ruling, Dame Victoria said Robinson had claimed his intention in making the broadcast was to "denounce the media" for their behaviour.

But the judges found he had encouraged others "to harass a defendant by finding him, knocking on his door, following him, and watching him".

This created "a real risk that the course of justice would be seriously impeded", she

said.

Possible appeal

Robinson was originally jailed for 13 months on the day of the Facebook broadcast, but was released two months into his sentence after winning an appeal.

The case was then referred back to Attorney General Geoffrey Cox, who announced, in March this year, that it was in the public interest to bring fresh proceedings.

The nine month jail sentence served on Thursday includes six months for the Leeds Crown Court offence last year and another three months for contempt of court, following a suspended sentence given at Canterbury Crown Court in May 2017.

At the Old Bailey on Thursday, Dame Victoria Sharp told Robinson that the time he previously spent behind bars for contempt would be taken into account, reducing his sentence to 19 weeks - of which he would serve half before being released.

Robinson's barrister Richard Furlong raised the possibility of an appeal against the court's decision and was told he has 28 days to apply.

understandable period of mourning during this devastating time."

The couple, from Watford, first met when Jones was 12. They dated each other as teenagers and reconnected when Jones signed for Chelsea in 1991. They married three years later. They have two children from previous partners. The couple renewed their vows in style in Las Vegas in 2007 – with Jones wearing the same purple suit he had

worn for their original nuptials.

In 2013 it was revealed they were both being treated for skin cancer. Tanya had suffered for several years, whereas Jones discovered that he had cancer after a malignant melanoma below his eye was found. Tanya leaves a daughter, Kaley, 32, by her first husband, footballer Steve Terry. Tanya underwent an emergency heart transplant at the age of 21 following the birth of

her daughter and is also reported to have suffered from cervical cancer.

After Jones retired from football, he turned to acting and made his film debut in 1998 in Guy Ritchie's crime comedy Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels. He also starred in 2006's X-Men: The Last Stand and fantasy TV series Galavant. GMB's Susanna Reid tweeted: "So, so sorry Vinnie... my heart goes out to you and your family."

This Week's Pub Quiz Winners...

Another Pub Quiz victory this week for Brits in LA member Peter Granger-Taylor, pictured here with his triumphant team 'Space Force 1999'.

A big thank you to our guest host, magician Paul Roffman for stepping in whilst our regular quizmaster Sandro Monetti took a well-deserved break. Join us any Tuesday evening at The Cat & Fiddle Pub in Hollywood. It's free to play, lots of fun and kick-off is at 8pm

(And we would also like to give a big shout-out to runners up 'Heart and Chill').



Stargazing with Annie Shaw



ARIES: Be very low key and don't make any long-term plans currently as you will find yourself frustrated over delays. Then by month's end it will be time to enjoy and relax what your ruler Mars brings up for you in early August, so just go with flow for now.

TAURUS: Write a list of priorities and start with the biggest as your ruler Venus just might be slowing things down while she flirts with Mercury going backwards for a few days. The big change you could be waiting for will come next week, especially in finances.

GEMINI: Unexpected events recently have likely had you feeling unsure of your next move. You are being prepared to make decisions in key areas. Mercury is going pretty slow, so no time for action just now.

CANCER: Time to make peace or amends with anyone or anything that has caused you upset, as chances are you did not get the full story. Getting anything achieved otherwise will not be as fast as you would wish until early next month. Happy birthday!

LEO: The good news is that whatever has been dragging on for a while in your overall life is getting ready for changes. The good vibes from Jupiter will accelerate for you to take positive action. You should make it a priority to resolve a family situation.

VIRGO: If you find yourself feeling somewhat confused these next few days it's due to your boss Mercury stirring up old stuff. So be kind to yourself and try very hard not to worry. By the end of the week ahead some of it will be resolved and you will be ready to move forward.

LIBRA: This week is not a good time to be stubborn just so you can prove your point. If you do rest assured you will drag out any situation way longer than you need to and it's not necessary. If you are patient while Mercury is going backwards the reward will financial.

SCORPIO: You will be hopefully be recovering from any health issues. This is just in time for new work beginnings. You have not had the best of times for a while now, however still keep it low key until you get back in your stride. Then it will be time to rise up and be seen and heard.

SAGITTARIUS: We all need to be reassured at times, even if we intuitively know it. All that has been happening lately will be resolved sooner than you expect. Be ready to make or change plans at short notice as a result.

CAPRICORN: New beginnings may be much on your mind this next week or so, even if it is a new slant on something already in motion. Better be ready and willing to move on it immediately. By the end of the next week or so you will reap the rewards

AQUARIUS: Travel is highlighted for you these next few weeks. You may be going to a couple of distant places, if so prepare well. This is also the best time to plan ahead for a family reunion. Enjoy the planning its part of the deal.

PISCES: You may be a bit weary of the day-to-day routine currently. Best take note now and take time for you. Money that is due to come to you may will take a while longer than expected but it will arrive before month's end.

The British Weekly Sudoku by Myles Mellor #396

SUDOKU by Myles Mellor and Susan Flanagan

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9X9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3X3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

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

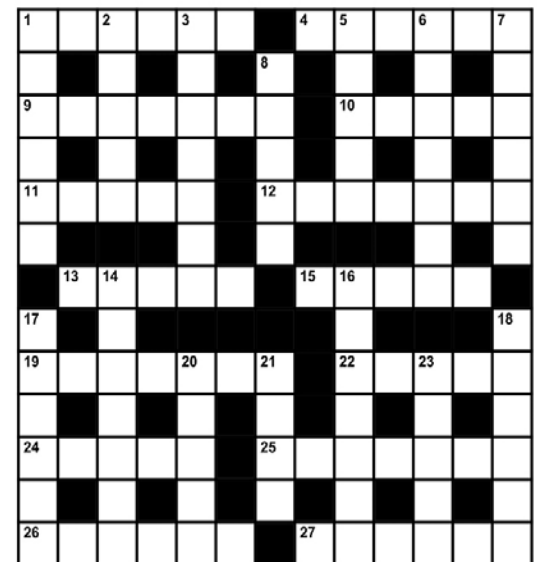
Solution to Sudoku #395

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

The British Weekly Crossword by Myles Mellor. #396

Across

- 1 Not far off (6)
- 4 Pungent condiment (6)
- 9 Farm vehicle (7)
- 10 Can be half-full and half-empty (5)
- 11 Mountain collection (5)
- 12 In the middle of (7)
- 13 Hotel visits (5)
- 15 Give or take (5)
- 19 Thrown out, as from a club (7)
- 22 Martin Luther King's inspiration (5)
- 24 "None of the above" choice (5)
- 25 Fastening, in carpentry (7)
- 26 In addition to (6)
- 27 Common events in whodunits (6)



Down

- 1 Inherent character (6)
- 2 "Won't Get Fooled ___" (The Who) (5)
- 3 Barrage (7)
- 5 Pool's black ball (5)
- 6 Level of achievement (7)
- 7 "Red Storm ___" by Tom Clancy (6)
- 8 Large family (5)
- 14 Brushes against (7)
- 16 Occasion for storytelling (7)
- 17 Use a paper towel (6)
- 18 Pix (6)
- 20 Minded (5)
- 21 Sand hill (4)
- 23 Just getting by (5)

Solution to Puzzle #395

1	L	O	N	D	O	N	4	A	5	S	P	I	R	E
	I	E	N	8	E	H	N	N						
9	L	A	W	Y	E	R	S	10	R	I	S	K	S	
	I	E	S	T	U	U	U							
11	E	E	R	I	E	12	A	N	G	U	L	A	R	
	S		L	B		I	E							
	13	F	U	L	F	I	L	L	15	M	E	N	T	
16	E	R				I	A						17	E
18	V	E	G	G	19	I	E	S	20	N	Y	L	O	N
	O	E	S	H	A	Y	Z							
22	K	I	N	D	S	23	E	A	G	E	R	L	Y	
	E	C	U	D										
24	S	T	Y	L	E	S	25	P	S	Y	C	H	E	

Go Green...Go Grey

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Photo © Rubya Churchill

Brits in LA



Still shaking all over...?

Was that your first earthquake?

It isn't a very nice feeling is it...? I've felt a few but never one as long and strong as these two big ones. I think it is safe to say that most of us have heard of the Northridge quake that happened in 1994? That one had a magnitude of 6.7 and killed 16 people as well as causing a huge amount of damage. The most recent large one in Ridgecrest had a magnitude of 7.1 which on paper only sounds fractionally bigger but is in fact over two and a half times greater! It has been reported that one person may have died in Nevada as a result of this. He was unfortunately working under his car at the time the quake hit. But the structural damage is not even half as bad (compared to Northridge)

considering the strength. Obviously Ridgecrest has a far smaller population than the San Fernando Valley, but experts also give a lot of credit to the newer buildings which have followed the latest safety codes. This is vital, and scarily cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco have far too many older buildings that still haven't been made safe enough for 'the Big One'.

California governor Jerry Brown actually vetoed a proposed bill last year that was intended to draft a tougher construction code to keep buildings usable after a major earthquake. Seismologist, Lucy Jones (of Caltech) has been a big advocate for increasing California's minimum building standards. Construction costs would only rise

1% to 2%. Perhaps it is time to reconsider, Guv? You could also look into amending the Shake Alert app that Los Angeles City recently introduced as it didn't work for this one!

It doesn't mean we shouldn't be prepared though. I have seen many of you post about Emergency Preparedness Kits, which are a good start. But engineers and safety advocates say more can be done before the next big quake hits California. That includes bolting bookshelves to walls, arming kitchen cabinets and clothing dressers with toddler-safe locks, and using quake putty to affix breakable items to shelves. I was actually staying at a B&B in Lake Arrowhead this past weekend and was horrified that the host thought it was acceptable to hang a glass protected picture above the bed. Bookshelves above the bed are another big NO!

My personal musts (other than no dangerous objects over your bed) are the following: Microchip your precious pets! Due to the importance of this, many animal organizations offer this at a discounted rate. The Humane Society in Pasadena only charges \$25.

Also: make sure you and your close friends/family designate an out-of-state contact as the likelihood is that phone service will be spotty at best. If you have children you should also make sure their school and any babysitters have this plan in place.

Copy all of your important irreplaceable documents today! In fact, make two copies and keep them in separate places. You can make a physical copy and leave with someone out of state.

In other news, it looks like there is a vacancy at the British Embassy in Washington... I feel very sorry for Sir Kim Darroch. I think he made the right choice to resign. As there was no way he could have continued as our British Ambassador. Being constantly diplomatic



EARTHQUAKE SAVVY? This is definitely a no-no

is testing at the best of times, so imagine what it would be like when your scathing (private!) opinion of your host countries choice of leader is leaked? I am sure we have all been in the same boat but probably not on such a large and costly scale. Do

you think he should have brought out the stiff upper lip and stuck it out? Or was he right to resign? We would love to hear your thoughts on this. And also who you think should be appointed as our next representative? Emails can be sent to info@britsinla.com.

la In the meantime stay safe and check in with your local City Hall as many of them are hosting free Earthquake Preparedness events.

Cheers!
Eileen



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Meet A Member: Lauren Humphreys

Meet Lauren Humphreys from Bedfordshire, who moved to LA eight years ago to pursue 'whatever adventure life had in store'.

Was there a particular reason you chose LA?

I've always had a calling to LA and had been fortunate enough to visit many times. One year whilst visiting, (sounds very cliché) I walked into a bar and met my husband (now ex-husband). I'm also a huge sun worshiper and love being active outdoors so staying in LA was an easy choice.

What do you miss most from home?

The English sense of humor, to me is the best in the world. So at times I can miss the jokes - but on the whole I try to remain present and grateful to be here in LA and not focus on what I'm missing.

What was your first impression of LA and has it changed since?

I come from a very small village in Bedfordshire, where everyone knows everyone. Coming to a huge metropolis like LA was eye-opening on many different levels. It's louder, faster, more diverse, with more opportunities- it was a huge adjustment. Just because we speak the same language doesn't

mean we have the same cultures - it took me about two years to see clearly and adapt to a new way of life.

What do you find the biggest difference is living here versus Bedfordshire?

The biggest difference I would say is the attitude - people here are more positive, more optimistic and I feel more open minded. As a shaman and spiritual healer this diversity is very appealing. It's important to work with clients who are open to new experiences and the spiritual realm. Spirituality feels more accepted here which in turn makes me feel more accepted.

What advice would you give to somebody planning the move to LA?

If you want to come to LA and be a fairy, someone will know someone who can help you, which I absolutely love. People here genuinely want you to follow your dreams, no matter what they are.

Do you have a hidden gem in LA that you want to share with us?

The Red Rock hiking trail up in Topanga canyon is absolutely breathtaking. It's peaceful and untouched. At the back

of Runyon Canyon is a secret labyrinth. I highly recommend searching it out and walking round it.

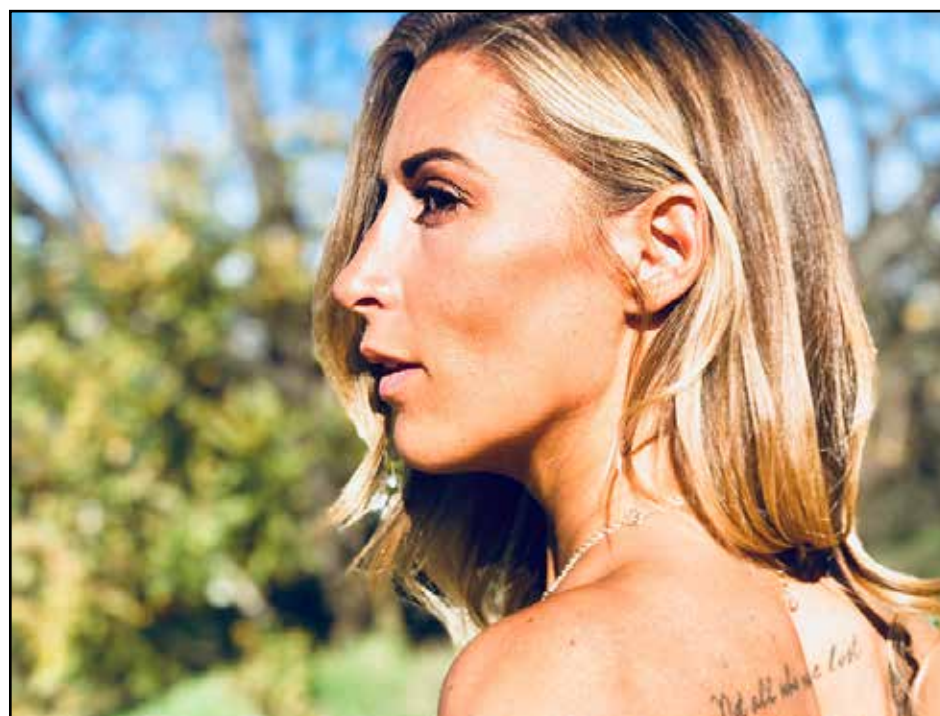
I'm a passionate foodie and vegan and always on the search for new locations. Pura Vita on Santa Monica Blvd, does incredible Italian plant-based food. If you're wanting a cheat day but still stick with the plant-based diet then check out Doomie's in Hollywood to get your hit of vegan fast food!

What would you suggest to others who are thinking about making the move here?

Be open to anything and everything. Get clear on what you want to achieve. And your dreams really can come true. Develop confidence, English people tend to be a little more reserved and stoic, which are good qualities but here in LA it won't necessarily serve you.

People come to LA to become stars. And you'll only ever shine brightly when you're being yourself. You do not need to come here and put on an act. Someone will always help you - there is genuine feeling in LA that people want you to succeed.

Lots of our members join our group Brits in LA seeking out words



LAUREN HUMPHREYS: "Follow your heart. Never lie. Always do your best."

of wisdom - what is the best piece of advice you've been given?

Follow your heart. Never lie. Always do your best.

Lastly, how can we find out more about you? Are you working on anything at the moment?

I work as a donation-based spiritual healer - I believe healing should be universal and accessible to everyone. By working through donations, there isn't a pressure on how much you think you have to afford.

I have spent the past

4 years traveling the world, living in places such as Thailand, Australia and Iceland. Studying spirituality, religions, and teaching yoga. On my inward journey to finding inner peace I removed all social media and noticed the difference it made in my life. Not having it has made such an impact on my psyche I will not join social media again. It has taken years to cultivate the level of calm I have and I fear the likes of Instagram may disturb it. Working as an energy healer it's important to keep my vibration as high as

possible. I do this by working out regularly, following a plant-based diet, fasting every week and understanding the power of solitude and detachment. This lifestyle enables me to give clear readings to my clients. I do deep rooted spiritual work, balance chakras, numerology, astrology. I teach vegan cooking and hold spiritual philosophy group talks too.

If anyone would like to work me for donation-based healing, please either call or drop me an email. Laurenhumphreys737@gmail.com

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BRITISH WEEKLY SPORT



Lampard holds face-to-face talks with Kante

N'GOLO KANTE met new manager Frank Lampard this week for 'clear the air talks' to find out just what his role will be in Chelsea's new midfield.

Kante (pictured above), Olivier Giroud, Andreas Christensen, Jorginho, Kepa Arrizabalaga and Ross Barkley joined up with the rest of Lampard's squad on their pre-season

training camp in Dublin on Monday after being given extra time off for international duty and injury recovery.

The little French midfielder played almost the whole season out of position on the right by Maurizio Sarri last term, instead of in his preferred central defensive spot, where he is recognized as one of the best in the

world - with the Italian choosing to play Jorginho in that role.

Lampard said when he was appointed: "Yes, I do know what I will be doing with N'Golo.

"I have said it before. Kante is one of the greatest midfield players in the world. In the last few years his performances have been outstanding.

"One of the pleasures of me getting this job is I am able to work with players of his quality, and my job is to find the best position to get the best out of him in the team."

Other players who also flew into Dublin yesterday to link up with Lampard's squad included Marcos Alonso, Mateo Kovacic, David Luiz, Emerson Palmieri, Tammy Abraham, Mason Mount and Izzy Brown.

After being announced as the new Blues manager, Lampard underlined his ambitions as Sarri's successor.

He said last week: "At Chelsea, you have to have the intention to win and if I didn't say that then I shouldn't be here. We want to develop players."

He added: "Yes we do, for sure [have a squad capable of challenging]. There is a lot of

competition at the top of the league.

"We have lost Hazard, but at the same time we

ave a very strong squad of players. Third last year, won the Europa League." Chelsea's first game

of the Premier League season is against Manchester United at Old Trafford.

Lamps denied opening win

Frank Lampard was denied victory in his first game as Chelsea boss by a late equaliser from Irish side Bohemians on Wednesday.

Striker Michy Batshuayi gave the Blues an eighth-minute lead, firing in after Kenedy's long-range shot was blocked.

But in the final minute of the friendly, trialist Eric Molloy lashed in a leveller for Bohemians.

Chelsea all-time record goalscorer Lampard, who succeeded Maurizio Sarri as manager last week, selected separate XIs for

each half in Dublin.

Each Blues XI featured a mixture of experience and youth, with the likes of senior internationals Batshuayi, Danny Drinkwater, Cesar Azpilicueta and Pedro lining up alongside teenagers Marc Guehi, Dujon Sterling and Conor Gallagher in the first half.

After the break, there were run-outs for a number of players who spent last season on loan away from the club, including defender Kurt Zouma and midfielders Tiemoue Bakayoko, Lewis

Baker and Izzy Brown.

Lampard was appointed Chelsea boss on a three-year deal last Thursday after leading Derby to the Championship play-off final, where they lost to Aston Villa, in his first season as a manager.

The former England international, who made 648 Chelsea appearances and scored 211 times as he won 11 major trophies with them as a player, succeeded Sarri, who left Stamford Bridge in June to take charge of Italian champions Juventus.

Lindelof adds to United woes

VICTOR LINDELOF has piled more misery on Ole Gunnar Solskjaer after his agent claimed he wants to go to Barcelona.

With Paul Pogba and Romelu Lukaku already trying to quit Old Trafford this summer and with David De Gea refusing to sign a new deal, the Manchester United boss is fighting to hold his squad together on a pre-season tour Down Under.

Lindelof, a £30million buy from Benfica two years ago, is arguably United's best centre-back and has attracted interest from a host of Europe's top clubs, chiefly Barcelona, who have been told that their top defensive target, Matthijs de Ligt, will not be moving to the Nou Camp. And the Sweden defender's agent Hasan Cetinkaya said Lindelof could move on this summer, suggesting the 24-year-old is keen to make the switch if United are willing to let him go.

"Lindelof is in the orbit of a great European club," said Cetinkaya. "But leaving United depends on the English club."

Solskjaer's other problems include De Gea, who is out of contract next summer and yet to sign a new £350,000-a-week contract that is on the table,



LINDELOF: headed to Barcelona?

while a spat between Pogba and Jesse Lingard - caught on film by the club and posted on United's official social media feeds - hinted at tensions in the camp. The future of Alexis Sanchez is another headache after the £500,000-a-week forward, whom the United boss is keen to offload, suffered a hamstring injury playing for Chile.

But Solskjaer's biggest issue is the future of Pogba, who wants a new challenge and is determined to force through a move to Real Madrid or back to his former club Juventus, with United unwilling to accept anything less than £150m. Pogba's agent Mino

Raiola claimed United have known about the player's disenchantment for some time and accused them of not doing enough to protect him against perceived criticism.

"The player has done nothing wrong," said Raiola.

"He has been respectful and professional. The club has known his feelings for a long time.

"It's a shame other people only like to criticise without the right information and I'm also sorry that the club does not take any position against this.

"Hopefully there will soon be a satisfying solution."

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Origi inks new Reds deal

Striker Divock Origi has signed a new long-term contract with Liverpool.

The Belgium international, 24, signed from Lille in 2014 on a five-year deal, only to spend two seasons out on loan.

But he returned to have a big impact with the Reds last term, scoring twice against Barcelona in the Champions League semi-finals before sealing the 2-0 win over Tottenham in the final.

"The feeling was

always that I wanted to stay," said Origi. "There is something special going on here."

The Reds paid £10m to sign Origi after he impressed at the 2014 World Cup and he remained on loan at Lille for 2014-15.

Over the following two seasons he scored 21 goals for Liverpool in all competitions but struggled to overcome an ankle injury and was loaned out to German side Wolfsburg for 2017-

18.

Origi had to wait until December to make his first Premier League appearance of 2018-19, coming off the bench to score a late winner in the Merseyside derby, before a memorable end to the season.

"It's a story really only football can write," said Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp. "It didn't really work out at Wolfsburg and, coming back, he was thinking about leaving.



Divock Origi has scored 28 goals in 97 appearances for Liverpool

"But he grew and grew and grew, in training sessions you could

see it, and he scored unbelievably important goals.

"Now he is this wonderful player again so it's great to have him."



Koscielny has played 353 times for the Gunners and won the FA Cup twice

Gunners captain at war with club

Arsenal captain Laurent Koscielny has refused to travel on the club's pre-season tour of the US.

The 33-year-old France defender is out of contract at the end of the 2019-20 season and is a reported target for French clubs Bordeaux, Rennes and Lyon.

"We are very disappointed by Laurent's actions, which are against our clear instructions," said Arsenal.

"We hope to resolve this matter and will not be providing any further comment at this time."

Bordeaux have reportedly offered Koscielny a three-year deal.

The central defender joined Arsenal in the summer of 2010 for a fee of around £10m.

He has played 353 times for the Gunners and won the FA Cup twice, in

2013-14 and 2014-15.

Last season Koscielny played 30 times for the club in all competitions, including one appearance for the under-21 side in the EFL Trophy.

Arsenal had been in talks with Koscielny over his future since late last season and, at that point, the club felt things were moving in a positive direction.

However, the 33-year-old returned from his summer break and asked to be released from his contract a year before it expires, which Arsenal refused.

Negotiations have been taking place over the past few weeks, without resolution.

On Wednesday, Koscielny communicated his intention not to join the squad on their pre-season tour to the USA - and on arrival at the Gunners'

London Colney training ground this morning he confirmed this decision.

The flight was due to depart at 12:30 BST without the Frenchman who, while facing disciplinary measures, will be expected to continue training and if he refuses to do so will be in breach of contract. He has not been stripped of the captaincy as things stand.

Koscielny's behaviour has stunned Arsenal officials, who were already looking to use the transfer market to strengthen in central defence but had no intention of parting with their skipper unless a suitable offer arrived.

As yet they have received no offers, but it is understood Koscielny has options lined up that would see him return to France if he was a free agent.

I spurned PSG for Poch says record signing

TANGUY NDOMBELE has revealed that Tottenham won the race for his signature because of Mauricio Pochettino.

Spurs' new £65million record signing was courted by some of Europe's top clubs, including Liverpool, Manchester United, Juventus and his hometown club Paris Saint-Germain. But it was Spurs who landed the France midfielder from Lyon last week thanks to their Argentine trump card.

"I understand why people might be surprised I chose Tottenham," he said. "I think it is a very good choice.

"It was deeply thought through. Tottenham have one of the best managers in the world. The fact he wants you, it makes you want to come and work with him. He was the crucial factor in my decision.

"It is difficult to describe but he knows how to touch people, to leave a mark on people. He looked me in the eyes and said: 'Come with me, I am sure you will get better'.

"It is these types of little things that made me want to sign. I saw that he really wanted me, that he really liked me.

"PSG are a great club, in the city in which I grew up - but today, I am not disappointed. Not at all.

"Aside from football, as a man, it is better for me to go to London. It will allow me to discover a new country, a new culture of football. I am going to come out of my cocoon."

Ndombele says he is a football addict and claims he can even remember watching strike stars Robbie Keane and Dimitar Berbatov in action for the north London club.

"They have quite a young team, with very good players," he said.

"When a club was a Champions League finalist this season, you have to look at their project.

"To put €70m on the table for me, it was a strong signal. When I look at Tottenham, I see a big European club. It is another dimension. To go to the next level, it was the best choice."

The arrival of Ndombele - as a dynamic replacement for Belgian star Mousa Dembele, who left Tottenham last January to play in the Chinese Super League - is the biggest signal yet that last season's Champions League runners-up

mean business next term, after not signing a single player in the last two transfer windows.

"I have quite different qualities to the others," said Ndombele. "Admittedly, I am joining a squad that is already in good shape. "But I want to make my contribution. When you are a Champions League finalist, the aim has to be the next time to, as a minimum, repeat that feat. Nobody has talked to me about it but as I am a competitor, I think that the club wants to win the Champions League."

Ndombele's rise has been rapid. He was still playing in the French fifth division for Amiens in 2015, and admits he is driven by the fear of his career coming to a sudden stop. "My reality of having started from the lowest point makes me think in this type of way," he said. He has already been compared to some of the best midfielders to grace the Premier League such as Paul Pogba, Michael Essien and N'Golo Kante.

"I am here to make my own path," he said. "I am Tanguy, not the new Essien, not the new Pogba. There is work to do, I need to continue to hustle."

England roar into Cricket World Cup Final

Aussies routed at Edgbaston as Morgan's men book final date with New Zealand

*ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, Edgbaston
Australia 223 all out (49 overs): Smith 85, Woakes 3-20, Rashid 3-54
England 226-2 (32.1 overs): Roy 85, Root 49*, Morgan 45*
England won by eight wickets*

England surged into their first World Cup final for 27 years with a sensational eight-wicket demolition of Australia at Edgbaston on Thursday.

The hosts will have the chance to lift the trophy for the first time when they meet New Zealand at Lord's on Sunday.

A first win in a World Cup knockout match since 1992 was secured over the defending champions on a day that will live long in the memory, justifiably alongside anything from the 2005 Ashes or the 2010-11 tour of Australia.

It was built on a riotous opening seven overs, when Australia were reduced to 14-3 by the new-ball brilliance of Chris Woakes and Jofra Archer.

Steve Smith, so often England's nemesis, held Australia together with 85, helping them to a total of 223 that at least gave them something to bowl at.

But home nerves over the menacing presence of Mitchell Starc were allayed by a prolific opening partnership between Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow, who added 124 for the first wicket.

Roy crashed 85 before Joe Root and Eoin Morgan took England to their target with 17.5 overs to spare.

The ease of England's progression to the final was such a contrast to the group-stage defeat by Australia that left them on the brink of elimination.

Since then they have beaten India, New Zealand and turned in this, their best performance of the tournament to date.

They will start the final as firm favourites to be crowned world champions.

Until Saturday's final round of group games, England were set to play India in this match.

Although they would never admit it, the opportunity to play their oldest enemies at a ground where Australia have no win of any kind since 2001 and England had won their previous 10 matches was absolutely perfect.

The toss seemed like a huge boost for Aaron

Finch's men - batting first has been a big advantage in the tournament - but that was to discount the carnage that would follow.

Edgbaston exploded with noise as Finch, David Warner and Peter Handscomb were removed, cheers that were matched in volume by the boos for Warner and Smith.

Although Smith ensured what the crowd knew could have been a tricky chase - they cheered as Roy defended Starc's first over - Roy injected belief with an outrageous flick for six off the left-armer.

As it became clearer that England were strolling, the party moved through the gears with Smith launched for three consecutive sixes by Roy.

By the end, as the rain fell, the whole of Edgbaston was telling the world that cricket is coming home.

This was a complete display by England, who were magnificent with the ball, sharp in the field and dominant with the bat.

Although Bairstow was trapped leg before by Starc for 34 and an angry Roy was wrongly adjudged to have hooked Pat Cummins behind, Root and Morgan



JASON ROY: the England batsman was in imperious form on Thursday

were untroubled in an unbroken stand of 79.

After the match, Roy was fined 30% of his match fee and given two demerit points for showing dissent at his

dismissal.

Given their team for this tournament only really came together at the last minute, it is to Australia's credit that they made the semi-

finals with such ease.

But here they were ambushed by England and now must regroup before the Ashes begin on this ground on 1 August.



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Big Sam 'turned down' Toon

Former England boss Sam Allardyce says he turned down the chance to return to Newcastle United as the club's manager.

Allardyce was in charge of the Magpies from 2007 to 2008 and was considered as a replacement for Rafael Benitez, who left the club at the end of June.

Benitez departed after his contract expired, saying the Premier League

club "did not share his vision".

"I was very flattered that I was considered but it's that thing - don't go back," Allardyce told Talksport.

"It never got to the type of talks people are suggesting but it wasn't for me. I politely said no."

Sheffield Wednesday boss Steve Bruce is the latest name being considered by Newcastle owner Mike Ashley.

"I never got to talk to Mike," added Allardyce, whose last managerial post in the Premier League was at Everton.

"My agent contacted me, I had a think about it and a quick look at the situation and thanked them very much.

"It's not for me. Maybe if it was the first time around I would have jumped at it.

"I appreciate the offer but I was surprised - I've not worked for a full season."

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