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Subject: Times Insider: Highlights From the Week

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 The New York Times

 The New York Times

Saturday, August 5, 2017

NYTimes.com/Insider »

 Will Shortz at his home in Pleasantville, N.Y. — with a 1929 Sunday puzzle supplement for Hearst newspapers.

Will Shortz at his home in Pleasantville, N.Y. — with a 1929 Sunday puzzle supplement for Hearst newspapers. Stephen Hiltner/The New York Times

Hello Insiders,

Do you, like me, love-love-love the New York Times crossword? Which day's puzzle do you like most? (You are probably aware that the puzzles increase in difficulty, with Monday's being the easiest.) How often do you complete the puzzle? [Tell us!](#)

If you're a word nerd, I have something truly delectable for you today: [An inside look at the life of Will Shortz, The Times's crossword editor.](#)

Times Insider's Stephen Hiltner takes you behind the scenes in Shortz's home. We have photos, stories, even an eighth-grade essay written by a 13-year-old Shortz. Title: "Puzzles as a Profession" (Grade B+). The man was nothing if not prescient.

Looking for something else? The photographer Scott McIntire writes about what it was like to capture a live lightning storm. [Tough work, but someone's got to do it.](#)

Until next week,

Francesca Donner

Times Insider

 Two of the images that the photographer Scott McIntyre made for an article about lightning strikes in Florida.

Two of the images that the photographer Scott McIntyre made for an article about lightning strikes in Florida.

Flash Dance: Adventures in Lightning Photography

By SCOTT MCINTYRE

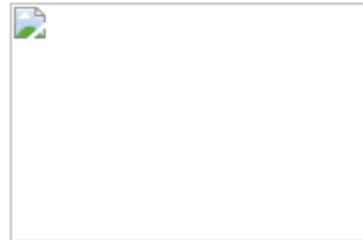
“It was behind the clouds, so I didn’t see any bolts, but it lit up the sky for long enough to allow me to capture its frequency.”

NEW YORK, AUGUST 9

Live Event: Discussing Data Protection at a New York Times ‘CryptoParty’

By INSIDER STAFF

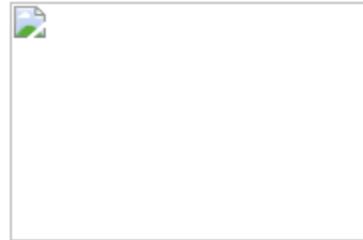
Join us on August 9 for an event on digital security, and learn the basics of protecting your data against online threats.



Scarred Dog Sentenced to Death. Reporter Haunted.

By JAN HOFFMAN

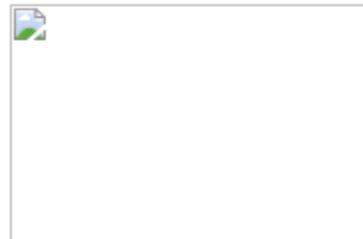
Ethical questions arise when our reporter Jan Hoffman chooses a dog named Bacon (not Elsey) as the subject of her story on canine behavior testing.



The Passion of a Congressional Health Care Battle

By ROBERT PEAR

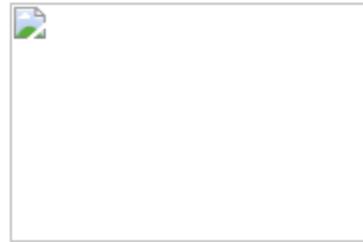
Our reporter compares the Republicans’ effort with prior fights over health care during the Obama, Bush and Clinton eras.



What Makes a Good Editor? A Long List of Stringers

By MELINA DELKIC

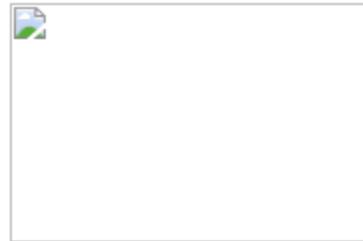
Stringers, like Dave Montgomery, who are not on staff but work on an as-needed basis, often do the legwork at the scene of a breaking story.



A Pentagon Correspondent Keeps Sight of the Person Inside the Uniform

By HELENE COOPER

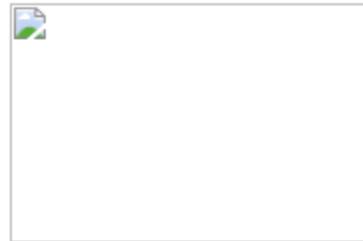
After President Trump's announcement barring transgender people from the armed forces, Helene Cooper reflects on the United States military's mosaic of humanity.



Will Shortz: A Profile of a Lifelong Puzzle Master

By STEPHEN HILTNER

The New York Times's crossword editor discovered his interest in puzzles as a child. Now he counts at least one former president among his fans.



Wondering What Else to Watch?

Then you might enjoy the **Watching newsletter**. Three times a week, we offer recommendations on the best TV shows and films to stream and watch, delivered to your inbox. Subscribe [here](#).

LOOKING BACK

1969 | Stuck on Earth, Photographing the Moon

By DAVID W. DUNLAP

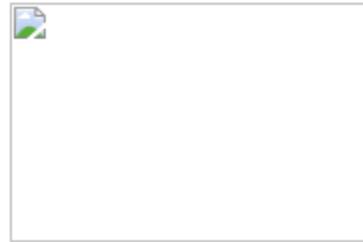
John G. Morris prided himself on being in the thick of news stories. But in 1969, he was more than 200,000 miles away.



What We're Reading

Compiled by ANDREA KANNAPELL

Great reads around the web, from Jonathan Martin, Jim Rutenberg, Jenna Wortham and others.



'Good Example of Profanity Use: Stepping on a Lego Brick'

By LELA MOORE AND BRIANNA MILORD

Our Top 10 Comments of the Week: Readers debate the power of a good curse, transgender people in the military and the fate of the "skinny repeal."



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