

USA TODAY LIFE™



Celebrity stunts both savvy and sloppy

Miley's abs were flat; who did better? **3D**

ALO CEBALLOS, FILMMAGIC

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LIFELINE



20TH CENTURY FOX

WEEKEND BOX OFFICE

'The Wolverine,' the sixth installment of the 'X-Men' franchise, slashed its way to a \$55 million opening this weekend, according to studio estimates from box-office trackers Hollywood.com. 'Conjuring' was No. 2 (\$22.1 million), followed by 'Despicable Me 2' (\$16 million) and 'Turbo' (\$13.3 million). Adam Sandler's 'Grown Ups 2' was No. 5 (\$11.5 million). Final figures are due today.

THEY SAID WHAT? THE STARS' BEST QUOTES



WIREIMAGE

More from NBC, TV press tour 4D

"I cannot live in front of the camera 24 hours a day. I have to take breaks and stay connected with myself. I'm a mom and ... when the cameras go off, I put on sweats and a T-shirt. The red lips come off. I needed some time to do that." — Christina Aguilera on taking a break from the spotlight and NBC's 'The Voice'

CAUGHT IN THE ACT



SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI, AP

Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt and two of their six-kid brood got quite the warm welcome as they arrived Sunday at Haneda International Airport in Tokyo. Pitt is in the country for the Japanese premiere of his new movie, 'World War Z.'

RUMOR PATROL



ALO CEBALLOS, FILMMAGIC

Since Jennifer Aniston got engaged to Justin Theroux last summer, rumors have swirled of canceled weddings and a broken engagement. "We have yet to set any dates," Aniston, 44, told the Associated Press Saturday. "There have been no canceled weddings. There have been no postponed weddings. There have been no arguments about where to get married. Just clearing all that up."

Compiled by Cindy Clark

NEWS PHOTOS QR READER

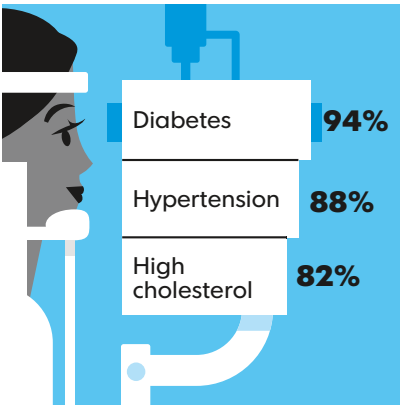
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CATHY PAYNE AND KARL GELLES, USA TODAY

BOOKS

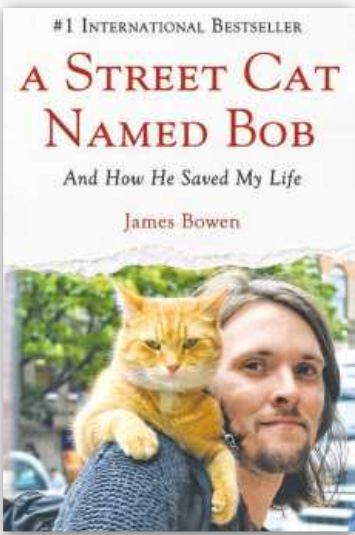


NEALE HAYNES FOR USA TODAY

James Bowen, 34, with Bob near Covent Garden in London, where, when he was homeless and addicted to heroin, he played guitar for money.

'Street Cat' put addict on road to recovery

James and Bob were lost, until they found each other



Kim Hjelmgaard

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USA TODAY

LONDON James Bowen's life was saved by a cat named Bob.

Bob is male, what the British call "ginger" but what Americans may think of as orange, although an amateur in the cat-color game might describe him as a peach tabby.

He is about 7 years old on the human clock, has a build that could be

described as "medium," and is possessed of a Buddha-like calmness. Bob is highly partial to freeze-dried meat treats.

But Bob — as Bowen makes clear in his book *A Street Cat Named Bob*, a best seller in Britain that is being published in the USA Tuesday — is no ordinary cat.

For a start, he is the four-legged life force who provided Bowen with the friendship and perspective to turn his life around. "He's a free spirit," Bowen says when USA TO-

DAY meets man and cat in the offices of their British publisher. (Bob does not actually write, but he looms large over these pages.)

"He's the most intelligent cat I've ever met," Bowen says.

Bowen is a Londoner by way of the English county of Surrey and the nation of Australia. He is 34, has shoulder-length brown hair and, for many years, harbored, as he puts it in the book, "dreams of becoming the next Kurt Cobain."

Instead, he spent close to a decade battling homelessness and heroin addiction.

"When you are addicted to heroin, you wake up sick with sweats, and your legs are kicking, and you are concentrating on getting the next fix — that's all," Bowen says.

A peripatetic and dangerous existence ensued, which led to Bowen playing his guitar on the streets for money. At various times, he also sold *The Big Issue*, a magazine that attempts to help the homeless by providing a sustainable way to work.

► **STORY CONTINUES ON 2D**

SNEAK PEEK PARKLAND

Meet the heroes from the day JFK died

Intertwined stories cast regular people as the key players in a tragedy

Bryan Alexander

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USA TODAY

Peter Landesman had an ambitious task with his film *Parkland* — finding a fresh look at the thoroughly examined assassination of John F. Kennedy.

The screenwriter and first-time director focused on the smaller players with vital but overlooked roles in the chaotic drama that played out on Nov. 22, 1963.

"This is a movie about the ground truth from the ground level," Landesman says. "What surprised me was the power and poignancy of those who survived that day and the three that followed — the heroism, the instincts and the pathos of those swept up in this tsunami. This is an event that happened to individuals."

The movie arrives Sept. 20. After the motorcade shooting in Dallas' Dealey Plaza, Kennedy was rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead despite desperate attempts to save his life. His assailant, Lee Harvey Oswald, died in the same hospital two days later after being shot.

The intertwining and unraveling narrative stays away from prominent characters such as the Kennedys and instead explores the besieged hospi-



PHOTOS BY CLAIRE FOLGER, EXCLUSIVE MEDIA ENTERTAINMENT

Billy Bob Thornton is Forrest Sorrells, head of the Secret Service in Dallas. "He felt completely responsible" for Kennedy, Thornton says.

tal staff — with Zac Efron playing the rookie doctor on duty and Marcia Gay Harden as the head nurse in the trauma room. The staff was told only that the president was on the way to the hospital, not of the terrible events that had transpired.

"No one was prepared for what was coming. They thought the president had the flu," Landesman says.

Paul Giamatti plays Abraham Zapruder, who happened to be filming the motorcade that day. "That 26 seconds of film changed his life and all of our lives forever," Landesman says. "It's the most examined and investigated piece of celluloid in the history of film."

Billy Bob Thornton portrays



Zac Efron's Dr. Jim Carrico treated both JFK and Oswald.

Forrest Sorrells, the head of Dallas' Secret Service office, who took the unstoppable crime personally.

"The Secret Service had never lost a man, and they lost their man," Thornton says. "He felt bound and determined to find out what happened immediately while he was going through the worst time in his life. He felt completely responsible."

Landesman was adamant about shooting key scenes in Dealey Plaza, even reconstructing the open-topped stretch limousine in which Kennedy was riding with first lady Jacqueline Kennedy. The setting carried emotional weight for the actors and crew. Thornton, who recalls being sent home from school at age 8 after the assassination, says he had a surreal experience in a scene near the plaza.

"Paul (Giamatti) looks so much like Zapruder that it just all seemed very, very real," Thornton says. "You really forgot that you were making a movie for a moment."

The film follows Oswald, played by an "eerily accurate" Jeremy Strong, and his family, Landesman says. James Badge Dale is brother Robert and Jacki Weaver is mother Marguerite. But *Parkland*, which will be showcased at the Toronto and Venice film festivals, does not address any of the conspiracy theories attached to Oswald's actions.

"That's not what this film is about. No one is putting together any kind of puzzle here. They're just surviving," Landesman says. "But the film will open up a new avenue of debate. And a healthy one."

HEALTH

Kids with MS may hold clues to disease

New definition for diagnosis could help scientists find cure

Karen Weintraub
Special for USA TODAY

BOSTON Two years ago, at age 12, Peter Marggraf of Newfields, N.H., suddenly started talking oddly and couldn't remember what year it was. He spent 10 days at Boston Children's Hospital, and still no one was sure what was going on.

Victoria Esselman was also 12 when she had her first episode. Her right arm had been tingling for months, as if it had fallen asleep, then her eyes started moving in different directions. "One went one way, the other went the other way," says her mother, Odette Esselman of Medford, Mass.



DISON PHOTOGRAPHY
Marggraf: 12 when MS hit.

Victoria also went to Boston Children's; she and Peter eventually were diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

MS is well known as a devastating disease; it usually strikes women in their mid-30s or 40s. Patients are told they are heading down an uncertain path that will lead to clumsiness and discomfort, and possibly a wheelchair or loss of brain function.

As devastating and mysterious as the diagnosis is in adults, the disease is often worse in children, who generally have more troubling episodes, as well as more years to decline. Though rare — only about 8,000 children have it worldwide — pediatric MS is gaining medical attention.

Pediatric MS was virtually unheard of before the definition of the disease was changed in 2001 to allow patients under 15 to be given the diagnosis. The youngest child diagnosed so far was just 20 months.

The field has come far since then, says Lauren Krupp, a neurologist and director of the Lourie Center for Pediatric MS at Stony Brook University in Long Island, N.Y.

Drug companies are poised to begin the first clinical trials in children with MS. Nine U.S. centers are now collaborating to share data and treatment advice. And researchers, including Krupp, believe that studying young patients will help them better understand the environmental triggers that lead to MS and perhaps all autoimmune diseases.

"There is reason to believe that a lot of the factors leading to MS are



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA AROCHO FOR USA TODAY

Victoria Esselman, 16, lies at the base of a mandala surrounded by fellow Teen Adventure campers.



Victoria paints rocks with fellow camper Isabella Scherl, 4, in Exeter, R.I. Victoria was diagnosed with pediatric MS when she was 12.

going to be the same in kids and adults, but you can find it more readily in the kids," Krupp says.

It's also possible, she says, that whatever is triggering MS in kids is stronger, and therefore will be easier to find than it would be in adults.

No one knows what those triggers might be, but there is mounting evidence that obesity, smoke exposure, parents' autoimmune diseases, and early exposure to the Epstein-Barr virus that causes mononucleosis might all be factors, says neurologist Tanuja Chitnis, director of the pediatric MS center at Massachusetts General Hospital for Children in Boston. Genetic underpinnings of MS in kids might be the same or different than in adults with MS, she says.

Many adults with MS realize later that they had their first symptoms in childhood. There may be clues in the symptoms of teens like Peter and Victoria that have been missed be-

fore, says Nicholas LaRocca, vice president of the National MS Society, which committed \$2.5 million this month to study pediatric MS.

"We still don't know when MS actually begins," LaRocca says. "The more we can understand about pediatric MS, the more it will tell us about the overall trajectory of MS, not only for youngsters but even for those diagnosed in adulthood."

Until now, kids have had to take

medication approved for adults — and hope their doctors figure out the right dose for them. In the next few months, though, studies will begin on kids, testing to see what dose might be appropriate and whether one drug might work better than others.

Peter and Victoria have had very different physical and emotional trajectories with MS.

Victoria, now 16, spent a week this month at summer camp for kids with MS, teens she keeps up with all year online. She has had annual relapses and other problems but says her MS friends help her get through.

"Those events have become my life," she says. "They are the reason I'm OK with having MS."

Peter, an avid fisherman who has struggled to catch up with schoolwork after his "lost" seventh-grade year, doesn't have other friends with MS, or want them: "I'd just rather do my own thing."

Mostly, he just tries to forget he has the disease. "I feel perfectly normal. I don't think it hinders me — only when I'm actually sick."

IS THE USA READY FOR THE AGE WAVE?

ncoa
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USA TODAY

Coming Tuesday:

Are cities and towns across the USA prepared to meet the needs of an aging population?

We report on a new survey by the National Council on Aging, UnitedHealthcare and USA TODAY.

Video: Reporter Sharon Jayson will interview health and aging specialists live online at 4-5:30 p.m. ET.

USOFAGING.USATODAY.COM

ERs treat 34 kids a day for choking

Hard candy is a culprit for children under 14

Michelle Healy
@ByMichelleHealy
USA TODAY

More than 12,000 children under age 14 are treated every year in hospital emergency departments for non-fatal choking involving food — about 34 children a day, a study says.

Kids younger than 4 are most often endangered, and hard candy causes the most non-fatal choking episodes (16%) among all children under age 14, followed by other types of candy (13%), meat other than hot dogs (12%), bones (12%) and fruits and vegetables (10%), says the study in *Pediatrics*, published online today.

"Other high-risk foods, such as hot dogs, which can totally block the air-

Top choking hazards for kids

Most common causes of non-fatal food choking in kids under age 14:

16% Hard candy

13% Other types of candy

12% Meat (other than hot dogs, which often result in fatal choking)

12% Bones

10% Fruits and vegetables

GETTY IMAGES/
BRAND X PICTURES

SOURCE: PEDIATRICS

way of a small child, or seeds and nuts, which can be difficult for them to chew, are more likely to lead to hospitalizations," says Gary Smith, senior author of the study and director of the Center for Injury Research and Policy at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

In 10% of such cases, the children had to be hospitalized and often had to have a bronchoscopy — "a serious, invasive procedure" — to have the food removed from their airway, he says.

"The main thing with these cases is that they are almost always preventable," says David Walner, a pediatric ear, nose and throat specialist at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

That includes cutting foods for children under age 4 into small pieces and ensuring that the children are supervised and stay seated when eating, the American Academy of Pediatrics says.

BOOKS

Who could say no to that face? Not Londoners

► CONTINUED FROM 1D

That all changed in the spring of 2007, when Bowen found the kitten that would become Bob — he is named, somewhat jarringly, for the demonic entity in David Lynch's *Twin Peaks* series. He was curled up in the corner of the hallway of Bowen's government-sponsored apartment in Tottenham, north London, a place where the pair still live, although now they pay full rent.

Two strays of this world had found each other. In time, they would heal each other, too. Despite his meager resources, Bowen saw to it that Bob's severe case of fleas was treated with antibiotics. And Bob's constant presence by Bowen's side would become the motivational lifeline he needed to put drugs behind him and alter his outlook on life for the better.

'PARTNERS AND BEST MATES'

When USA TODAY meets up with the pair and their literary agent, Mary Pachnos, who is American, at Hodder & Stoughton's book publishing offices, Bob sits directly in the center of the table in the room that had been reserved for our meeting. His tail continuously flicks the cover of the American edition of *A Street Cat Named Bob* (Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press).

Bob does not come across as cynical or lazy like Garfield, but there is something about him that brings to mind a less paunchy version of Jim Davis' fictional character. He radiates a stillness and wisdom.

"Bob is such a smart little man. He opens doors. I have caught him using the loo in my flat," Bowen says. "Most cats are loners, but Bob loves hanging out with me. We're partners and best mates."

He has also been a good little earner.

As man and cat developed a close relationship, Bowen started bringing Bob along with him on his daily busking performances in Covent Garden and other spots around London. With the tourist-friendly novelty of having Bob on his shoulder, the amount of money Bowen pulled in escalated.

He found that the pattern repeated itself when it came to selling *The Big Issue*.

"The minute Bob started working



NEALE HAYNES FOR USA TODAY

"Some people wanted to buy him. Some even said I was drugging him. But the truth is he just loves to perform."

with me, people started paying more attention to me," Bowen says.

Still, the immediate commercial possibilities that Bob presented were something Bowen didn't want to exploit.

"I had all sorts of crazy interest in him. Some people wanted to buy him. Some even said I was drugging him. But the truth is he just loves to perform. He loves the limelight."

And Bob is often in the limelight these days. At a recent event at a bookstore in central London, more



GARRY JENKINS

"Bob is such a smart little man," Bowen says: He can open doors, use a toilet and give high-fives.



WATCH VIDEO
LIFE.USATODAY.COM

Go online to see Bob and Bowen at a book signing, or scan the tag.

Bowen's book about finding Bob in 2007 and turning his life around is already a best seller in Britain, where a sequel, *The World According to Bob*, was published July 4.

the middle of winter, and I saw this guy shivering, and I looked down, and there was this cat sitting on top of all the magazines, and I just thought: 'That's bizarre. I've never see a cat doing that. Dogs, yes, but not a cat.' "

Pachnos, who is from Brooklyn but has lived in the United Kingdom "forever," handled the U.K. book rights to *Marley & Me*, the novel by John Grogan about a neurotic yet endearing dog that was made into a 2008 movie starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston. Pachnos saw a market.

"First of all, theirs is a story of great redemption," she says of Bob and Bowen. "Also, a lot of people just. Love. Cats."

A U.S. TRIP IN BOB'S FUTURE?

That hypothesis will be given a fresh test when *A Street Cat Named Bob* hits bookstores in the USA.

In the U.K., where it was first published last year, the book has sold more than 700,000 copies, and more titles and spinoffs are planned. It has been translated into 28 languages, resonating as far afield as Bulgaria and Thailand. More than 100,000 people follow the duo on Facebook and Twitter. At signings and events, lines form around the corner.

And the film script is being shopped around Hollywood.

For some, *A Street Cat Named Bob* may remind them of the fairy tale *Dick Whittington and His Cat*, which tells of an impoverished boy who achieves great wealth and the office of the Lord Mayor of London thanks to the talents of his cat. The story involves a long journey.

Though Bob has a passport and has been around the world in the form of fans sending home postcards of him purportedly in places from Russia to Kuwait, globe-trotting may not be in this particular pussycat's immediate future.

"The only way Bob is going to the USA is if he doesn't have to travel cargo class," Bowen says. "I want him to travel right by my side."

"Pudsey the dog (half of a dog trick act from Britain) was allowed to go in a suite on the Queen Mary, but that was Simon Cowell's doing."

Pudsey, it's worth noting, has also flown on Cowell's private jet. Don't tell Bob.