

DIXIE CHICKS

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
AND QUEEN 'BEE'

SHOUT-OUT TO:
BEYONCE

UPDATE:

Queen "B" ! Thank You for
SINGING MY "HER" ROES "DIXIE
CHICKS" HOME!!!

AUSSY POWER !!!

Natalie Maines
Got That RIGHT !!!

Let us Petition President Obama to
Welcome Them "BACK TO THE USA" !!!
[AT THE WHITEHOUSE. GOK] ??? !!

The Rest of The story is below at p. 2 of 3

#IMAGINE / YOKO JOHN.

BEYONCE JOINS THE DIXIE CHICKS' CHICKS'

office," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore.

Hanks has still notched the fall's biggest hit, Clint Eastwood's *Sully*. It's been an especially star-studded season, with Tom Cruise in *Jack Reacher: Never Go Back* (No. 3, \$9.6 million in its second week) and Ben Affleck in *The Accountant* (No. 4, \$8.5 million in its third week).

But Perry's long-running character has fared better than each, at least in North America. The Halloween-themed *Madea* has made \$52 million in 10 days, making it Perry's biggest hit since 2009's *Madea Goes to Jail*.

Rounding out the top five for the Halloween weekend: *Ouija: Origin of Evil* (No. 5, \$7.1 million in its second week).

Review: Mel Gibson soldiers on with gripping 'Hacksaw Ridge'

War is hell, even for those who believe in heaven.

The horrors of the World War II battlefield are seen through the eyes of a devout soldier in the stunning military drama *Hacksaw Ridge* (***) out of four; rated R; opens Wednesday in New York and Los Angeles; in theaters nationwide Friday). Brutally intense and elegantly crafted, the film showcases the stellar acting chops of Andrew Garfield and Vince Vaughn, and it's director Mel Gibson's best work behind the scenes since 1995's Oscar best-picture winner *Braveheart*.

Hacksaw Ridge does wrestle with overt preachiness and wartime clichés in telling the story of real-life hero Desmond Doss, the first conscientious objector awarded the Medal of Honor. A Seventh-day Adventist who refused to touch a firearm because of his religious beliefs, Doss used his wits, determination and skill as an Army medic to save 75 soldiers during the Battle of Okinawa in 1945.

In the film, Desmond sees the destructive nature of violence as a child and has his steadfast belief system in place when he's a young man (Garfield). Still, because his brother and other boys in town enlist in the war effort, Desmond does the same — much to the dismay of his new girlfriend Dorothy (Teresa Palmer) and his veteran father (Hugo Weaving).

Desmond outperforms most everyone in boot camp but his hesitancy with weapons causes a rift among his peers and leadership, including his drill master (Vaughn), and puts his career at the mercy of a court martial. His Army mates question if he can adequately serve his country and watch their backs, yet he ultimately proves himself when his company engages the Japanese in the Pacific theater.

Gibson might still be a pariah in some corners of Hollywood as a result of anti-Semitic remarks made a decade ago, but nonetheless proves again that he's a passionate, gifted filmmaker. While characters and imagery are imbued with his own Christian views, he takes a secular

approach to his visceral battle scenes, a la *Saving Private Ryan*.

As he did so well in *Braveheart*, Gibson explores the reasons men fight for their country rather than just reveling in blood and gore. He creates a moving visual dichotomy between fresh-faced individuals entering the front and those dead-eyed souls who've survived the carnage, while also accurately capturing both sides of the conflict, touching on the spirituality of the Japanese and glimpsing a respectful code of conduct when foes meet eye to eye.

Garfield brings a simple sweetness to Desmond on the homefront and steadfast mettle later on when patching up gruesome injuries. It's a depth not seen so far from the British actor best known as Spider-Man. Vaughn is a revelation, combining the acerbic wit of his best comedy roles with a tough-guy edge and impressive emotion. And Weaving also is outstanding as the elder Doss, a shellshocked man haunted by his own World War I experience.

The bucolic life Desmond leaves stands in stark contrast to the ashen landscape where he plies his trade, but Gibson never lets his good-hearted nature falter, even when death seems imminent. Hope conquers all and unshaking faith fuels *Hacksaw Ridge*'s gripping narrative.

China's Wanda buys Dick Clark Productions for \$1 billion

BEIJING - China's Dalian Wanda Group has added another entertainment trophy to its stable of overseas acquisitions, paying \$1 billion for Dick Clark Productions, the TV company that produces the Golden Globes and the "Miss America" pageant.

Wanda is one of China's most important conglomerates and China's largest property developer. Its chairman, Wang Jianlin, is China's richest man by most measures, with an estimated net worth exceeding \$32 billion. The company owns AMC Theatres and bought Legendary Entertainment for \$3.5 billion in January. In September, it announced a movie partnership with Sony Pictures.

Diversifying away from China's weakening property market, Wanda Group has made entertainment a major focus of its growth in recent years. It has openly embraced a mission to fend off Western imports in the Chinese market and become a globally recognized Chinese entertainment brand. That push into the U.S. entertainment industry has raised alarm among some American lawmakers concerned about creative freedom and the promotion of Chinese propaganda. A group of legislators recently asked the U.S. Government Accountability Office to review Chinese takeovers.

The namesake company of legendary American television host Dick Clark was purchased in 2012 by a group including investment firm Guggenheim Partners. It

produces several awards shows and the New Year's Eve countdown show in New York. Wanda said in its statement Friday that Dick Clark Productions' existing management "will remain in its entirety," and that both sides had reached a long-term operating agreement. It expects Dick Clark Productions to show "strong increases" in revenue and profit every year, but did not say whether its agreement with management was contingent on revenue targets.

Wanda's statement said it expected to find ways to coordinate development between Dick Clark Productions and its previous deals in film, tourism and sports.

Hollywood has eagerly welcomed Chinese partners. From 2000 to 2015, Chinese direct investment in U.S. entertainment firms amounted to \$4 billion, according to Rhodium Group. That pace then skyrocketed in January with Wanda's purchase of Legendary, which almost doubled that total by itself.

List: Who won big at the CMA Awards?

Here is a complete list of winners at Wednesday's Country Music Association Awards:

- Entertainer of the Year — Garth Brooks
- Female Vocalist — Carrie Underwood
- Male Vocalist — Chris Stapleton
- Vocal Group of the Year — Little Big Town
- Vocal Duo — Brothers Osborne
- New Artist of the Year — Maren Morris
- Album of the Year — *Mr. Misunderstood*, Eric Church
- Song of the Year — *Humble and Kind*, Lori McKenna
- Single of the Year — *Die A Happy Man*, Thomas Rhett
- Musical Event of the Year — *Different For Girls*, Dierks Bentley featuring Elle King
- Musician of the Year — Dann Huff (guitar)
- Music Video of the Year — *Fire Away*, Chris Stapleton
- Pinnacle Award — Kenny Chesney
- Lifetime Achievement Award — Dolly Parton

CMA Awards: Six unforgettable moments

The 50th annual CMA awards brought a night of surprising wins, spoiled surprise performances, tributes and teary speeches. We've rounded up a few of the biggest moments.

Beyoncé joins the Dixie Chicks

Beyoncé and The Dixie Chicks didn't need an introduction at Wednesday night's CMA Awards — so they didn't get one.

The surprise guests suddenly appeared after a commercial break on Wednesday's show, and soon the crowd was on their feet as the quartet kicked into Beyoncé's country-leaning tune *Daddy Lessons*.

It was Beyoncé's CMA Awards debut, and the Dixie Chicks' first appearance on the show in a decade.

Beyoncé performed *Daddy Lessons* at Nashville's Nissan Stadium last month, but at the CMAs, it had even more brass-band oomph. The song also briefly segued into

Long Time Gone, a Darrell Scott-penned tune that the Dixie Chicks featured on their 2002 album Home.

"Good job, Bey!" Natalie Maines exclaimed at the end of the song.

"Happy 50th anniversary, CMA," Beyonce said as she exchanged hugs with Maines, Martie Maguire and Emily Robison. Immediately after the performance, the two acts released a studio version of their collaboration. It's now streaming on Soundcloud.

Dolly's 'touching' tribute

"This was so touching," Dolly Parton said from the CMA Awards stage on Wednesday. "I would have cried, but I didn't want to mess up my eyelashes."

That was Parton's perfect review of the all-star tribute to the country legend, as she was honored with the CMA's Willie Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented by her longtime friend and 9 to 5 co-star, Lily Tomlin.

The medley featured six acts performing four Parton classics. Pentatonix teamed with Jennifer Nettles for an a capella Jolene, Reba McEntire belted out 9 to 5, Kacey Musgraves took Here You Come Again, and Martina McBride and Carrie Underwood joined the group for a closing I Will Always Love You.

"Gosh dang it, Dolly, we love you to pieces," McEntire said at the end of the song.

"For me to be receiving the Willie Nelson award, this is an absolute high for me," Parton joked from the podium. "I mean, for Willie to have a high achievement award, I mean, how appropriate is that? Because he's had some highs that border on historic, I can tell you that."

Garth Brooks' big night

He performed a medley of duets with his wife Trisha Yearwood, and he sang all night in Target commercials promoting his new box set.

But Garth Brooks' biggest moment at Wednesday's CMA Awards came at the end of the show, when the country superstar won the night's top prize: Entertainer of the Year. It's the fifth time Brooks has won the award in his career, and his first since 1998.

Brooks accepted the award from presenter and two-time winner Taylor Swift, who made her first CMA Awards appearance in three years on Wednesday.

"People, tonight, this is what it's all about," he continued. "It could not have ended better for me. I get to take (Yearwood) home, so that's a great thing for me. But I gotta tell you: We are so damn lucky to be part of this thing called country music!"

"I kind of went numb when they called my name," Brooks said backstage. "I went into a vacuum. When we left, I never thought I would get to come back. And when you come back, you never think you're going to get to hold one of these again."

Brooks was open about his desire to win CMA's top honor, which this year pitted him

against Luke Bryan, Carrie Underwood, Keith Urban and Chris Stapleton. Brooks came out of retirement more than two years ago, and said he wanted the trophy for his band and crew. He likened the win to winning the 50th Super Bowl — the milestone year giving the honor added importance.

"I ran into Peyton (Manning) and I said, 'Where's the ring?'" Brooks said. "He went, 'Ehhhh.' I said, 'I'm going to make a ring out of this (trophy), I'm going to put it on my finger and I'm going to wear it for the rest of my life. The 50th, that's a cool thing.'"

Surprising wins

Surprise winners of the night include critical darling and top nominee Maren Morris, who bested Cole Swindell and Kelsea Ballerini for New Artist of the Year. Swindell and Ballerini each have multiple No. 1 hits while Morris has yet to chart her first.

Morris smiled through her tears as she accepted her award. The win came just minutes after the Texas-born singer/songwriter lit up the stage with a soul-stirring performance of My Church.

"Y'all! I can't win this award right after performing," she exclaimed from the podium. "I'm gonna fall apart."

"This is so crazy. I have amazing seats tonight ... last year, I sat across the street at a bar and watched this show (on TV). I never thought, as a songwriter, I'd be standing here today. Thank y'all so much for voting for me. My songwriting community here in Nashville, you gave me the courage to do this, so thank you."

Brothers Osborne were also admittedly stunned by their win for Vocal Duo of the Year, beating out the likes of Florida Georgia Line.

Little Big Town's Karen Fairchild called the duo's triumph "unbelievable" during the group's acceptance speech for Vocal Group of the Year. At the same time, Brothers Osborne were in the press room reiterating their shock.

"I'm almost convinced it's an elaborate hoax," said John Osborne.

"It took all we had not to fall down in the aisle and roll out in tears," added brother T.J. Osborne.

An incredible opening

While modern country music was in the spotlight, the show paid tribute to the genre's history with a star-studded opening that spanned decades.

Hosts Brad Paisley and Carrie

Underwood opened the program with a medley of classic and beloved country songs, accompanied by an armada of past winners of the show's top award: Entertainer of the Year: Charley Pride (1971), Roy Clark (1973), Alabama (1982-1984), Reba McEntire (1986), Ricky Skaggs (1985), Alan Jackson (2002-2003), as well as Vince Gill (1993-1994), who teamed up with Dwight Yoakum and Ben Haggard to honor his father, 1970 winner Merle Haggard, who died

in April. Most sang a few bars of the tunes for which they are best known.

Haggard paid tribute to his father with Mama Tried, Underwood covered Tammy Wynette's Stand By Your Man and Randy Travis watched as Paisley and Underwood sang his iconic Forever and Ever, Amen, chiming in on the song's last "amen." Travis nearly died after he suffered a stroke in 2013 and is working to regain his speech. "There was so many just legends in the intro, I was sitting there singing like I was kid," said Male Vocalist of the Year winner Chris Stapleton. "I got a little overwhelmed at the beginning, the gravity of what we get to be a part of, country music and the CMAs, it feels heavy but in a good way."

Brad and Carrie take on Trump, Clinton
Brad Paisley and Carrie Underwood told The Tennessean that election jokes were off-limits for their annual monologue at the CMA Awards.

Turns out that was a bit of a white lie — or as Paisley would say, "LIES!"

That's what the country star exclaimed as he hovered behind Underwood on stage, mimicking Donald Trump's moves at the second presidential debate.

"Crooked Carrie," he called her as she pointed out nominees for Entertainer of the Year in the audience. But really, Paisley explained, he was pulling for Underwood in the category.

"I love all you guys, but hashtag #I'mWithCarrie" he said from the stage.

"But what I think doesn't really matter, because this show is rigged — bigly!" From there, Brad and Carrie moved into Hillary territory. This year's show had a special gift basket for all guests, Underwood explained — "Your very own basket of deplorables!"

Items included Willie Nelson's Potted Meat and Tim McGraw/Faith Hill-branded Barbie dolls, complete with their own tour bus.

Jimmie Johnson punches his ticket to title race with Martinsville win

MARTINSVILLE, Va. — Jimmie Johnson's quest for his seventh career championship is alive and well.

Johnson won Sunday's race at Martinsville Speedway, locking himself into the NASCAR title race at Homestead-Miami Speedway next month. He'll face three yet-to-be-determined drivers to decide the championship, which would be Johnson's record-tying seventh if he won.

If that happened, the all-time championship leaders would be Richard Petty, Dale Earnhardt Sr. and Johnson.

But that's still a long way from being decided. In the meantime, Johnson became a winner at Martinsville for the ninth time — tying Jeff Gordon, who was running perhaps his final race on Sunday.

"I've been trying to ignore this conversation about seven, but now I can't," Johnson said in victory lane. "We're locked in. I'm just honored to be in this position. ... It's crazy

POSTED BY LEON IRBY 3 of 3 DATED: DECEMBER 18, 2016