



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

March 19-20, 2005

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 109

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

1 2 6 38 41
Meganumber: 27
Jackpot: \$34 Million

FANTASY 5

5 9 11 26 32

DAILY 3

Daytime: 7 5 0
Evening: 0 3 2

DAILY DERBY

1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit

RACE TIME: 1:49.14

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Recent Sexual Obsessions: (1) surgical masks (Norman Hutchins, 53, was convicted in Leeds, England, in January, of tricking hospitals into sending him masks for his collection). (2) underwater photos of strangers' legs and buttocks (U.S. Army Maj. James V. McGovern was convicted in January of taking numerous such photos at the swimming pool at Yongsan Garrison, South Korea).

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1979, the U.S. House of Representatives began televising its day-to-day business.

In 1985, in a legislative victory for President Reagan, the Senate voted, 55-45, to authorize production of the M-X missile.

In 2003, President Bush ordered the start of war against Iraq. (Because of the time difference, it was early March 20 in Iraq.)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"History is principally the inaccurate narration of events which ought not to have happened."

ERNEST ALBERT HOOTEN
AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST (1887-1954)

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Splitting hares



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Tourists turn their backs on a furry PETA activist outside of Santa Monica Place on Friday. Moments later, PETA staged a demonstration where the rabbit was "clubbed" and "skinned" by a "Wet Seal executive" outside the mall, part of the animal-rights group's campaign against fur sales at Wet Seal stores. Wet Seal officials didn't return calls seeking comment.

Schools make the grade

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

Local public schools continue to achieve higher test scores than their state counterparts, according to a recent report.

Results of the 2004 Academic Performance Index, which measures the academic performance

of schools throughout California, were released last week. A majority of SMMUSD schools received an API score of 800 or higher for "excellent," said John Deasy, SMMUSD superintendent.

"This high quality student achievement is a source of pride

See SCHOOLS, page 7

Celebs draw line in sand over beach access

BY ANGIE WAGNER

Associated Press Writer

MALIBU — Just off the Pacific Coast Highway, where the Santa Monica Mountains tower over the ocean, some of Hollywood's biggest stars have settled into a slice of heaven.

Steven Spielberg. Danny DeVito. Goldie Hawn. Over the years, they have joined the lucky few who call Broad Beach home.

Their front yards open onto a

mile-long, sandy stretch of California coastline. They spent millions to get here, and they'd like to be left alone.

Alan Latter didn't spend a dime, and nobody's heard of him. But he figures he has as much right to the sand, surf and sun as any movie mogul.

The California Coastal Commission agrees. So do the residents of Broad Beach, as long as Latter and others stay off their property.

The question is: Where does

Signals crossed: Church, ACLU at odds over seal

BY KIM CALVERT

Special to the Daily Press

MID-CITY — A Santa Monica church that entered into the battle to preserve the cross on the county seal is keeping the faith.

Pastor Nathan Killian and his 250-member congregation at Santa Monica's Pilgrim Lutheran Church are plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed against Los Angeles County that claims the removal of the cross from the seal is a waste of taxpayer money and a violation of the First Amendment.

Church member and private attorney William J. Becker Jr., who took an active role in the cross controversy upon Pastor Killian's request, initiated the lawsuit.

"I started by doing some research, made some phone calls and the more I found out, the angrier I got," Becker said.



The official seal for the County of Los Angeles.

Becker said the lawsuit was put on hold last month by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Malcolm Mackey to await a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in a similar federal suit filed earlier by another group of public interest lawyers.

Several Pilgrim Lutheran Church members assisted in gathering signatures in a countywide six-month campaign that fell 61,606 signatures short of the 170,606 needed to put the issue on the November ballot.

Had the effort been successful, Los

Angeles County voters could have decided the fate of the cross themselves — rather than accept a 3-2 vote by the County Board of Supervisors to remove it.

Organizer David Hernandez, who led the signature campaign,

See SEAL OF DISAPPROVAL, page 6

Escape from Los Angeles?

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — More and more residents want to flee Los Angeles.

Fed up with traffic, crime and skyrocketing housing prices, a growing number of people who call Los Angeles County home said they plan to move away

See SO LONG, L.A., page 6

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Fulfill wishes, Sag

Santa Monica Daily Press

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You could be overly serious. You are not only raining on the parade of others, but you are spoiling what could be a very dynamic afternoon. Follow another's lead. Go out and don't cut yourself off from others. Family demands could be overwhelming, but with some perspective, you'll lighten up. Tonight: Choose your words with care.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your words or mood could convey much more than you realize. Make an effort to walk in another's shoes. Understanding will help you relax and enjoy the positives about this person. A trip, foreigner or long-distance call could please you a lot. Tonight: You don't have to go far.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You get a serious financial indicator. You can use this news positively if you so choose. Perspective has everything to do with how you feel. A partner does what he or she needs to do to draw a response. Meanwhile, you easily could be off-kilter, as your ruling planet goes retrograde today. Tonight: Do what feels right.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could be a little more serious than you realize. Often, you feel overwhelmed. Though you are on the right course, others could be unusually challenging. Work with controversy and see the positive in what others say. You will open doors. Don't take others' comments personally. Tonight: Be yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★ Step back. Much might not be in sync right now. Get physical and work out your stress and/or anger. A friend or loved one might not understand what is going on but is there for you. Decide to take some time off from the world. Tonight: Alone or with a favorite person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Others defer to you, as you seem to have a strong sense of direction. You might notice a radical change in your mood, as your ruler goes retrograde today. Others could become unusually assertive. Refuse to take comments personally. Tonight: Where the action is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You have to be available to others, even if you would like to cocoon. As a result, you might be unusually contentious, for you. You might need to adapt for now. Change plans if you feel pulled in too many directions. Gossip could be just that! Tonight: Do only what you must.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Take the high road and don't let others irritate you. In fact, if you do, spectacular events could occur. Catch up with an old friend you haven't heard from in a long time. A loved one could easily be offended in the next few weeks. Tonight: Where there is entertainment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Others clearly want what they want. You could be confused as to how to handle their demands. It is important not to overspend, even if you feel it will ultimately pay off. With Mercury going retrograde today, decisions and commitments will backfire. Tonight: Fulfill another's wishes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You have fire and energy, which, if misplaced, could upset many people. You have no idea what type of impact you have. Allow others to run with the ball. Put your energy into doing your taxes or getting into a project. Tonight: Go along with plans.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Work on relaxing and not internalizing frustration or anger. Do something exclusively for your well-being. Avoid overspending in order to soothe your soul. Try exercise or getting into a favorite hobby. A child or loved one could be off-kilter for several weeks. Tonight: Order in.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ A male friend's suggestion points you in the right direction. Take the lead with others. A child or loved one could become unusually uptight, only to become quite affectionate. Don't get stuck or become rigid. Tonight: Play out the perfect Saturday night.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: (310) 458-PRESS (7737) • Fax: (310) 576-9913
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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Pouring in for Purim in style

By Daily Press staff

The Chabad House in Santa Monica is offering a free crafts fair this Sunday in honor of the holy holiday Purim.

The crafts fair, which will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the center court of Santa Monica Place, will include the making of hamantashen, a traditional cookie of the holiday. There also will be masks, graggers and tzivos.

Purim is one of the most joyous holidays on the Jewish calendar. It commemorates a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination. Purim is celebrated on the 14th day of Adar, which is usually in March. The 13th of Adar is the day that Haman chose for the extermination of the Jews, and the day that the Jews battled their enemies for their lives. On the 14th, they celebrated their survival.

Pitch a tent for summer camp news

By Daily Press staff

Parents this Sunday can find out the latest summer camp information firsthand and talk with camp operators and owners in person about summer camp programs for kids and teens ages 3 to 17 offered throughout Southern California, Hawaii and other parts of the country.

The American Camp Association (ACA) Camp Fair 2005 will offer information and what's been described as a fun-filled event for the whole family. Attendees will enjoy a carnival atmosphere with games, refreshments and prizes.

The free event will be held March 20, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences, 1715 Olympic Blvd.

ACA is an organization that accredits all types of camps based on up to 300 national standards for health and safety that are recognized by courts of law and government regulators. ACA accreditation is a standardized, voluntary system of review with a 50-year history.

Pacific Park rolls into high gear for spring

By Daily Press staff

Pacific Park plans to plunge and jump into spring break.

The Pacific Plunge and the X-treme Wave Jumper are the newest rides at Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier.

Pacific Plunge is a 45-foot tall tower ride designed for the entire family, which propels riders more than four stories into the air over the Pacific Ocean, and gives riders a sense of weightlessness and excitement.

The X-treme Wave Jumper, a multi-bungee cord harness that has guests leaping from more than two stories high above a super trampoline while experiencing a free-falling sensation and achieving gravity-defying feats.

Pacific Park is open daily from Saturday, March 19, through Sunday, April 3. The park, featuring 12 rides, 21 midway games and an oceanfront food plaza, opens daily at 11 a.m., except for Sunday, March 20, which opens at 1 p.m., with varying closing hours. Pacific Park will be open Easter Sunday, March 27, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Pacific Park is located on the historical Santa Monica Pier and is LA's only admission-free amusement park offering rides and attractions for kids and adults. For additional information, daily hours of operation or driving directions, call (310) 260-8744 or visit www.pacpark.com <http://www.pacpark.com>.



SURF REPORT

Saturday is when our next NW swell is due. This next swell is from some activity that's been swirling around north of Hawaii that will bring not only surf, but some rain and an onshore effect as well. For Saturday, size is expected to be around shoulder to head high around west facing breaks, possibly even breaks with SW exposure as some wind swell is likely to come in from the south. Sunday should peak with size running 2-3 feet overhead at most west facing breaks. Riptides are likely; caution is advised.

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

62°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	N/A	N/A	12:32	1.0	4:47	4.3	7:37	3.6
SUNDAY	12:07	2.7	1:04	-0.1	5:47	4.5	7:49	3.8
MONDAY	12:42	2.2	1:31	-0.2	6:30	4.8	8:02	4.0
TUESDAY	1:13	1.8	1:54	-0.3	7:06	5.1	8:17	4.2
WEDNESDAY	1:42	1.4	2:16	-0.2	7:39	5.2	8:33	4.5
THURSDAY	2:07	1.0	2:40	-0.3	8:04	4.7	9:02	4.0
FRIDAY	2:31	0.7	3:02	-0.1	8:34	4.2	9:30	3.4

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THE Q-LINE
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WE HAVE THE QUESTIONS.
YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS.
CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE
RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.



INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!



- Homemade
- Fresh Ingredients
- Pasta & Dinners
- Calzones
- Hot Subs

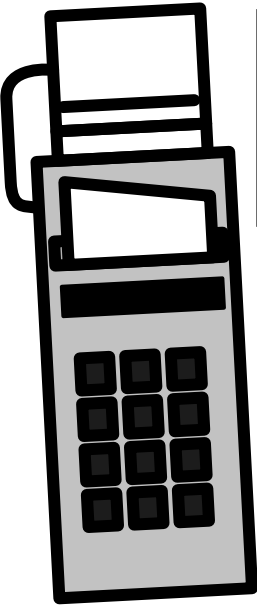
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The Q-Line

WAGING THE BATTLE ANEW OVER FAIR PAY

This past week, Q-line asked:
Do you support an increased minimum wage for (City Hall) and contract employees? Why or why not?

Here are your responses:

© “If Community Corp. of Santa Monica continues to give minimum-wage workers a one-bedroom apartment for \$350 a month and two-bedroom apartments for \$550 a month, then it is true that \$11.50 an hour, even the old federal minimum wage, will be enough for these workers from East LA and South Central LA to continue to move to Santa Monica. That’s been the case since Community Corp. started years ago ... But all of this begs the question, ‘Why is Santa Monica bearing the brunt of Community Corp. of Santa Monica’s goal, just like we are bearing the brunt of Los Angeles County’s homeless problem, along with Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles?’ The beautiful city by the ocean has been ruined by these twin scourges.”

© “I agree with those who say that the excessive minimum wage recently passed for city employees is for nothing that will benefit taxpayers. Typical action for this City Council — not much benefits for taxpayers anymore. Witness the traffic and parking mess and the growth of the vagrant and homeless population. It’s exasperating.”

© “Increasing a worker’s wage to \$11.50 an hour is merely an adjustment for inflation. Please consider that a 10-unit apartment building built in 1973 cost approximately \$250,000 to build, including the price of the lot. Today, that building would sell for approximately \$1.5 million or more as an apartment building, and as much as \$4 million as a converted condominium building by selling each unit for \$400,000 each. Trust me, folks, this form of profit well above inflation plays every day of the week in Santa Monica by real estate entities. I could go on and on regarding product price increases due to, by the most part, greed and not inflation nor high wages. It appears the only entity that is not entitled to profiteering are the workers. Yes, I do have a quarrel with the \$9.50 per-hour wage. It is not enough.”

© “The City Council, proposing that we pay \$11.50 an hour for city employees, I find absolutely outrageous. Other parts of the city don’t pay that so why should Santa Monica be any different? I think it’s just terrible. Let the City Council do something interesting like address the parking problems, instead of these ridiculous things. When I started working, I was making \$1.25 an hour up in Carmel, so that’s the name of that game.”

© “Absolutely not. They already make more than I do. Why the hell should they make more money than that? The heck with them. Let them get a real job. I’ll take their jobs any day.”

© “The voters of Santa Monica

turned down the living wage proposal and then the City Council goes behind their backs and passes one for the City Hall contractors. It makes no sense. It’s obviously an agenda SMRR has with the unions. The unions are the biggest supporters of SMRR and this is the payback because, otherwise, it makes no sense. It does not affect Santa Monica. If people from Santa Monica were getting a living wage, no one would have a problem. But this is about people who don’t live in Santa Monica.”

© “There is little wrong with the city requiring a living wage of its contractors. At the same time, it would only be fair to require the contractors prove they have a diverse staff and aren’t hiring illegal aliens.”

© “I am very much in favor of a minimum wage at \$11.50. Anyone who says they don’t notice anything different should be surprised because there sure is a lot of traffic going into Santa Monica in the morning and going out at night — people who can’t afford to live here. And it would be very much more efficient if they could (live here) and we would have a lot less pollution problems and smog and traffic. And everyone notices the traffic, so I’m all for it. Plus, people should have a living if they put in a decent day’s work and not just have all the chief executives get the money and then go to jail for getting greedy and wanting more.”

© “Yeah, I think it should be raised. That’s a great idea. I’ve got an idea for an improvement: How about raising everyone’s wage in the whole country to like \$100 an hour. That would really fix the economy. Make everyone prosperous.”

© “It is impossible to sustain first world wages in a third world country, which is what California is rapidly becoming.”

© “I think the city is being cheap. It should be giving \$21.50 an hour for minimum wage. That way, these people could afford to rent their own places. Hey, wait a minute, they are subsidized by low-income housing. They don’t need to get \$21.50. In fact, they don’t need to get \$11.50. They can just vote for all of the socialistic programs that the City Council passes out every month. More socialists, great.”

© “I am opposed to an increase in the minimum wage because it will up prices and cost taxpayers a bundle, and provide no benefits to them. I think that I’m opposed to it for those reasons. It also will increase money for taxpayers. A lot of these people are illegal aliens and I don’t see giving illegal aliens money to send back to Mexico and ruin our economy is good.”

A head for business used to be respectable



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

You can’t get away from ads and commercials these days. They are on bus benches, all over sports stadiums, and now they’re in that place that used to be a sanctuary from advertising — your local movie theater. Some magazines have more ads than articles, and TV and radio commercials seem to dominate the airwaves. There are even ads in urinals, although I can’t imagine why anyone would want their product name to be watered in this manner. And in case you think it can’t possibly get any worse, think again. The latest trend in advertising is for slogans and logos to be tattooed on people’s bodies.

More and more people are renting out their bodies in today’s consumption-crazed world. Many of them auction themselves off on eBay. One man got more than \$30,000 to put a temporary tattoo on his forehead advertising something called “SnoreStop.” He’s not on a TV with this tattoo. He just walks around, using his head as a billboard. An on-line casino has advertised on the backs of more than 40 boxers. A female runner will wear a tattoo ad for an appetite suppressant when she runs in the next Boston Marathon. This is particularly ironic since I think seeing any tattoos on certain bodies would automatically be an appetite suppressant. Most of the time, these slogans are temporary tattoos, but a California restaurant has offered free food for life to anybody who will get a permanent tattoo representing the restaurant. Is there anyone out there who doubts that they’ll find a volunteer?

The forehead is the most popular place for the ads. Other choice locations are arms and hands, and a pregnant woman’s stomach. Maybe soon, Gerber’s will start advertising mashed-up chicken on pregnant women’s bellies. I don’t even want to think about where the makers of Viagra are going to want to advertise.

How effective can this method of advertising be? How many people are going to come into contact with one of these human commercials? Besides, to put it mildly, isn’t this whole thing just a

tad undignified and tasteless? Selling one’s body or body parts may be a longstanding tradition, but it’s never been one that’s been respected by society. And what about the companies who choose to advertise like this? If you see the words, “Smith’s Funeral Parlor” on some guy’s forehead, are you more or less likely to use Smith’s the next time a loved one passes away?

Crazed sports fans have been painting their favorite team logos and names on their bodies for years. But these sports enthusiasts do these things because of love, commitment to team and cheap beer. But now companies are actually paying money to put their product names on people’s bodies. Those who are selling space on themselves somehow make the guy in the bleachers with the letters C-U-B-S on his hairy gut seem like a role model.

I’ve been looking for the silver lining in all this and I think I found it. This advertising trend will benefit two groups that are often maligned: Bald people and overweight folks. Because they have more room for words on their bodies, they’ll become the most sought-after models for this type of advertising. After they become successful, look for some discrimination suits filed by thin and full-haired people.

Maybe I’m taking it all too seriously. Maybe it’s just a fun way to get some recognition for a product. Maybe it’s just an easy way for someone with skin and a sense of humor to make a buck. Am I overreacting to what is just the latest example of good ol’ American ingenuity? I don’t think so. I can’t imagine paying someone to have the words “Read Lloyd’s Column” on his forehead. I have much too much dignity for that. On the other hand, if any of you readers want to advertise my column for the same reasons that sports fans paint their bodies, there’s nothing I can do to stop you. This is still a “Free Country,” as we’ll probably be reading on some candidates’ heads in the next election.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from “Sesame Street” to “Family Ties” to “Frasier.” He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the “Modern Times” column for CBSnews.com’s opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermodern-times.com.)

Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy



The Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy is seeking donations. Situated in a courtyard garden visible to the community, the fountain will be a respite for those seeking faith, peace and hope amongst the challenges of the world.

Donations to the Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy may be sent to:

St. Augustine By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
1227 Fourth Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401
Re: Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy

COMMENTARY



On any given Sunday, failure is part of success



EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT

BY THADDEUS REICHLEY

It has been a little over a week since I finished the LA Marathon, and I am still kind of depressed. I get this way every time I do a big race, so I should be used to it. Still, it's sometimes hard to recognize it in yourself, keep things in perspective, and keep plugging along. When I think about it logically, it makes perfect sense. For months I had a special focus to my life. Though it was by no means all encompassing, it was still always present. I had a goal, and I was determined to work hard to reach it. I looked forward to my daily workouts, whether they were easy jogs or 20-mile runs, because they were stepping stones along my journey. There is a satisfaction that comes with working towards something that makes the process — however painful it might be — much more bearable. I put in all of this work, focused my energy on the race, stuck to my training plan, and gave it my best shot. And now, it is over and I can't help but feel a little let down.

I am not planning on jumping off a bridge, or pulling a Forest Gump and running across the country. But I have had a little less motivation this week. Besides finishing the race and now feeling a lack of focus, I am especially troubled because I have a bit of an injury in my calf that was a result of last Sunday's little escapade. When my calf seized up, and tried to send me a pretty strong message. In hindsight, it might have been a good idea to call it a day right there and start handing out water and sponges, but a mix of adrenaline and stubbornness goes a long way. Twenty-six point two miles to be exact.

I managed to hold a pretty solid pace from there until about mile 15, but then things got ugly. My leg was hurting pretty bad, and it was getting harder and harder to shut it out of my head and keep to my splits. By the last five miles, it was all I could do to maintain a steady jog. When I finally came across the finish line, I was near tears, partially because of the pain, and partially because I was so damn happy to be finished. As I looked up at the clock, I had the final blow when I realized that I was 12 minutes slower than my goal time, and five minutes slower than my personal best. It was a pretty rough day.

So here I sit, injured, unfocused, and annoyed because after all of those months of training I wasn't able to do what I know I am capable of. The solution? Pick another race, set another goal, shake it off, and get back out there.

In athletics there are things you can control and things you can't control. I can't control the body I was given, but I can choose how I use it, what I eat, and what sports I decide to compete in. I can't control the weather, but I can choose my equipment and make the best of it knowing that everyone else is in the same boat. I can't choose the course, but I can plan my training accordingly so that I am ready for whatever hills come my way. And sometimes I can't control how I perform on any given Sunday because of factors out of my control. However, I can control how I let this performance affect me.

When it comes to failures, there are two ways to deal with them. You can let them bring you down, and make you feel like a failure. Or, you can treat them as learning experiences, and let it be the fuel for the fire as you move towards your next goal. I choose the second, because I know that sometimes it isn't about winning, meeting your goal, or even finishing the race. Sometimes success is found in simply having the guts to set a goal for yourself in the first place. Anyone can just plod through life. Those of us who set goals are taking chances. That is what keeps life interesting.

So, that's it for me and my wallowing. It's time to put down the ice cream and get my butt off the couch. It's time to pick something new to set my sights on. Some new challenge to give me focus. Something that will push me mentally and physically. Something really big. Actually, maybe I'll start with just getting down the stairs.

(Thaddeus Reichley works and trains in Santa Monica. Send comments and questions to thadstoughts@yahoo.com. His columns run every other weekend.)

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Pastor has faith people will seal issue for good

SEAL OF DISAPPROVAL, from page 1

this week filed the necessary paperwork to revive the petition drive. He said he expects to collect enough signatures within the six-month window required by county law to put the issue before the people.

Pastor Killian has faith that the power of the people will seal the issue once and for all.

"Our congregation is not political, but we do have a Christian concern for government, city, county and country," Killian said. "My sermons are about the Kingdom of God, but at the same time, we're charged to be good citizens."

Killian said it wasn't just a religious issue, but also one of history and heritage. One of several images on the seal that represents LA County's historical influences, the cross symbolized the contributions of Spanish missionaries.

"It's a rather small cross when you consider the whole seal," Killian said. "But it's as important to (local history) as the oil derricks and other pictures on there."

Becker's co-counsel in the action, which was filed in September 2004, include Dr. John C. Eastman of The Claremont Institute Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence, Manuel Klausner of the Individual Rights

Foundation and attorney Donald Wagner.

Becker said the Claremont Institute was underwriting the legal costs on behalf of the plaintiffs, which include Pilgrim Lutheran Church, located on Wilshire Boulevard and 17th Street.

"Our lawsuit has a particular cause of action alleging taxpayer waste," Becker said. "When the county elected to dismantle the county seal, they also elected to spend millions of dollars on a replacement."

The controversy over the cross started when the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California threatened to sue the county and demanded the cross be removed from the county emblem.

In a letter sent to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on May 19, 2004, the ACLU argued the presence of the cross was a government endorsement of Christianity. Rather than face a lawsuit, the County Board of Supervisors voted in June 2004 to remove the cross from the emblem, according to an ACLU spokesperson.

Despite the setbacks, Becker said his church wouldn't be deterred.

"It's an uphill battle," he said. "But we won't give up."

(Erica Ogg contributed to this story.)

More Angelinos want to split

SO LONG, L.A., from page 1

within five years, a Public Policy Institute of California survey shows.

A third of those polled said they want to move away, up more than 20 percent from 2003. The survey concluded residents are "stunningly unhappy with some key indicators of quality of life" and it "paints a picture of growing concern for any chance of long-term recovery."

The third annual survey found traffic, lack of affordable housing and low-performing public schools as reasons for the bleak outlook.

Seventy-four percent of the 2,000 participants said road congestion was a major problem and 64 percent said a lack of affordable housing was troublesome in the county. Two years ago, 67 percent cited traffic woes and 54 percent mentioned housing.

Fifty-eight percent of those polled believe race relations were not so good, compared to 53 percent in 2003.

"So many dimensions of people are more negative today," survey director Mark Baldassare said. "The way they rate housing problems, the way they view race relations, and increasing negativity were certainly important things we noted."

Santa Monicans are a capital gain

By Daily Press staff

Two Santa Monicans have been appointed to serve under Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's many citizen-based boards and commissions.

Malissa Feruzzi, 41, has been appointed to the Arts Council. Feruzzi, who is engaged to Santa Monica City Councilman Bobby Shriver — Schwarzenegger's brother-in-law — is the owner of Feruzzi Fine Arts. She previously was a design consultant for a residential design firm. She also has studied painting and sculpture at the University of California, Los Angeles. The position requires Senate confirmation and there is no salary. Feruzzi is a Democrat.

Michael Camuñez, 36, of Santa Monica, has been appointed to the Service Corps Commission. He has served as a member of the commission since 2002. Camuñez is counsel for the litigation department of law firm O'Melveny & Myers. Previously, he served as senior policy advisor for the Corporation for National and Community Service in

Washington, D.C., where he advised White House staff on policy and program development related to AmeriCorps. The position does not require Senate confirmation and there is no salary. Camuñez is a Democrat.

Michael Rubel, 55, of Malibu, will join Feruzzi on the Arts Council. He is general counsel at Creative Artists Agency, a talent and literary agency that represents artists in film, television, and music as well as providing corporate advisory services. Previously, he was a lawyer in private practice in Los Angeles. Rubel is a Democrat.

Gov. Schwarzenegger has proposed the elimination or reform of nearly 100 boards and commissions as part of his effort to reorganize state government to make it more accountable, efficient and responsive to the people it serves. The changes won't be made before the next state fiscal year beginning in July 2005. Gov. Schwarzenegger may continue making appointments to the boards and commissions until then to ensure continued operation of core governmental functions until their reform or elimination.

LOCAL

Schools pass with flying colors

SCHOOLS, from page 1

for this community, which so strongly supports its schools," Deasy said of the API results. "This simply would not be possible without the unprecedented support of our cities and our community members."

The API score for each school consists of both a statewide ranking in addition to a ranking that compares it to similar schools. The statewide ranking is determined primarily through schools' academic testing results.

The similar schools ranking is more difficult to measure, Deasy said. The state links each individual school with 99 other "similar schools," based on the school characteristics of mobility, ethnic breakdown, socio economic status, teacher qualifications, English learner population, class size and calendar type.

The state then compares each school against its 99 peer schools and gives it a score of one through 10 to get the similar schools ranking.

Twelve out of 14 of SMMUSD's API-reporting schools maintained or increased their statewide ranking for 2003 and 2004. Eleven maintained or increased their similar schools ranking for the same period.

Deasy said the API report does not directly affect school funding. The API report may have some impact, however, on real estate values, which could indirectly affect school funding.

Deasy said the API is one of two serious measures of school performances in California. The other is called the Annual Yearly Progress report, which does affect school funding.

Lincoln Middle School and Malibu High School were both placed in the top tier statewide, and also in the top tier within their peer group.

Two SMMUSD elementary schools, McKinley and Will Rogers, slipped one place in their statewide ranking, but retained high levels in their similar schools compar-

isons. The lowest scores on a statewide level are Will Rogers and Edison elementaries.

"It's not alarming," Deasy said. "Obviously, I would like all of our schools to always go up, but the slip is insignificant compared to how these schools fare overall."

A recent RAND Corp. report said California's public school system is the 48th worst in the nation, yet local schools have been able to stay a cut above the rest, Deasy said.

The report said California's public school system lags behind most of the nation on almost every objective measurement of student achievement, funding, teacher qualifications and school facilities. The state's K-12 school system has fallen from a national leader 30 years ago to its current ranking near the bottom in nearly every objective category.

While California's annual per student spending was about \$400 above the national average in 1969-70, it fell to more than \$600 below the national average in 1999 to 2000, according to the RAND report.

However, Santa Monica and Malibu schools have been able to retain much of its quality education because the community has financially contributed to ensure its success.

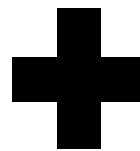
The Santa Monica City Council has shown its commitment to local schools by giving them millions of dollars every year, as well as partnering with the SMMUSD in joint-use agreements. One example of their close ties is City Hall and the school district operating facilities and parks together.

Deasy characterized the relationship as a "life saver and "critical" in the success of the SMMUSD.

City Hall recently agreed to increase its annual contribution to the SMMUSD to at least \$6 million. In years prior, it gave \$2.5 million a year. That's in addition to millions of dollars more in in-kind services and one-time funds.

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LOCAL

Life’s not all a beach, according to residents

LINE IN SAND, from page 1

dunit. Staying in the wet sand is a safe bet for beach-goers. That’s public. Beyond that, a day at the beach could involve a bucket of trouble.

Two security guards patrol on ATVs in the summer, making sure visitors don’t stray into private areas. Some, like Latteri, claim they’ve been intimidated or harassed.

Homeowners complain that people hang out in their beachfront yards, dump their trash and defecate on the beach. They accuse the Coastal Commission of in effect trying to seize chunks of their land.

The commission and others say the dispute is all about guaranteeing public access to a state-owned beach.

“The problem really isn’t about parking or restrooms or any of that,” said Steve Hoye, founder of California’s Access For All. “It’s all about private property and public, and it’s about privilege. People would like to think Broad Beach is private.”

The clash over shoreline access goes on across the country, leading to lawsuits and disagreements in North Carolina, Michigan, Ohio and elsewhere. Private development along the New Jersey shore makes it almost impossible for the public to reach the beach in some areas.

But the battle at Broad Beach has something most beaches don’t — star power. Add in politics, and pretty much everyone has an opinion about it.

“It’s the wealthy against the average guy,” said Jefferson Wagner, owner of the Zuma Jay surfshop in Malibu.

Celebrities have been living in Malibu, about 20 miles west of Los Angeles, since the 1920s and 1930s, when Clara Bow, Bing Crosby and Joan Crawford helped turn the small community into an A-list hotspot. Today, many of Malibu’s famous residents spend their summer here in homes that range from \$3 million to \$30 million.

The celebrities aren’t eager to talk about the beach battle. But many Malibu residents support their Broad Beach neighbors and complain that the public doesn’t respect the beach.

“They treat this like a huge garbage dump,” said Ron Lawrence, a retired doctor out for a morning walk along Broad Beach. “I’ve seen people defecate on the beaches. They wouldn’t tolerate it in the city.”

Marshall and Winifred Lumsden aren’t famous, but they live among their tinsel-town neighbors in a cottage on Broad Beach, right next to one of two county-owned public pathways that lead from the road to the beach.

Families and surfers walk past their house to get to the sand, and some wash themselves with water out of the Lumsdens’ faucet.

Children want to play on the slide in their sandy front yard; dogs have run through their house. During the summer, people ask to use their restroom or plop down right in their sand.

There are no public restrooms, no life-guards, no restaurants on the beach. But that doesn’t discourage Latteri and others from wanting to soak up the million-dollar views for a few hours on the cheap.

“You gotta let us poor people have a

little bit of fun,” said Latteri, a 29-year-old who is in between jobs and drives here from Los Angeles.

Broad Beach visitors complain that security guards harass them or imply that the beach is private.

“He tried to scare me off,” Latteri said of one guard.

The “private property, do not trespass” signs don’t help explain the boundaries, either. On this day, the signs put up by homeowners claim the private property line begins 22 feet toward the ocean from where the sign is placed.

Houses next door might have an unmarked easement that allows public access.

It’s so complicated that the Coastal Commission posted a map of Broad Beach easements on its Web site last year to help explain it. But who prints out a map before hitting the beach?

The Coastal Commission wants the signs and the guards removed.

“If they are really concerned about the public trespassing onto their property or breaking into their homes, they can do what most of us do. We lock our doors,” said Linda Locklin, access program manager for the commission.

“Most of us live in cities and most of us have a sidewalk in front of our houses, and the public goes on that sidewalk at all hours of the day,” she said. “The rest of us have all come up with mechanisms to cope.”

Homeowners have nothing against the public, said Marshall Grossman, an attorney and board member of Broad Beach’s homeowners association. They just have to protect themselves. Most of the confusion surrounds the easements.

When beachfront homeowners want to develop their property, remodel or put up a sea wall, they apply for a permit from the Coastal Commission. The commission often requires owners to offer a public access easement across their property.

Fifty-two of the 108 properties on Broad Beach have lateral easements; many just went into effect last year. Easements vary in depth, but all begin where the wet sand meets the dry sand and extend back toward the homes. The public gets down to the beach from the county-owned pathways, then can move across the beach, in dry sand, along public easements.

But because not every house has an easement, the sand is a checkerboard of public and private patches. Wet sand is all public.

“As a result, members of the public and homeowners alike are hopelessly confused as to where the public can walk or park themselves and where they can’t,” Grossman said.

Grossman, a former Coastal Commission member, accuses the commission of scheming to get lateral easements from homeowners by making the permit process cumbersome.

The homeowners want lateral access to be uniform along the beach, but refuse to get rid of the security guards. Grossman said homeowners are willing to remove the signs and place smaller ones on each property.

If the two sides can’t agree, the commission could pursue a cease-and-desist order against homeowners or the whole mess could end up in court.

NATIONAL



Gambling firm goes all in on downtown area

BY ADAM GOLDMAN
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Stephen Crystal sees profits where others only see prostitutes. He spies opportunity where others see slums and bums.

The president of Barrick Gaming Corp. has ambitious plans to revive the fortunes of downtown Las Vegas, a gritty area that has long foundered in the shadow of the more prosperous Strip.

While powerful gambling companies shun investing in downtown — once written off as dead — Barrick is investing heavily.

The company has staked its fortune there, snapping up large swaths of land valued at more than \$200 million.

So far, Barrick has bought six casinos and several smaller properties on about 30 acres. The assets give Barrick a 40 percent stake in the downtown gambling market and about a third of the area's property, company officials said.

Some think it's risky to dive into the downtown market, where gambling revenues have been flat for the past several years. But Crystal and his partner, D.W. Barrick, are betting that a number of high-profile projects will allow its investments to flourish.

"They're ambitious," said Andrew Zarnett, a casino industry bond analyst for Deutsche Banc in New York. "There's no doubt about it."

If the pieces come together, not only will Barrick profit handsomely, the down-

"For a pittance for what this would cost on the Strip, you can be a market leader. That is the story."

STEPHEN CRYSTAL

Dartmouth College graduate and former New Hampshire legislator

town area could experience something of a renaissance, harkening back to Glitter Gulch's glory days before the Strip took center stage in Las Vegas.

Barrick executives are clear about their company's strategy: They're making a real estate play, not one solely based on topsy-turvy gambling revenues that are primarily generated by tourists. The acquisitions have made Barrick one of the largest landholders in downtown Las Vegas along with Boyd Gaming, whose hotel-casinos include the California, Main Street Station and Fremont.

The reasons for heading downtown were obvious, Crystal said. An acre of real estate along the Strip, one of the most famous boulevards in the world, has been estimated by gambling analysts to cost from \$15 million to \$25 million.

For a young company, buying downtown at a fraction of that cost seemed like a prudent alternative.

"For a pittance for what this would cost on the Strip, you can be a market leader," said Crystal, 39, a lawyer, Dartmouth College graduate and former New Hampshire legislator. "That is the story."

Of course that's only a sliver of it. The

rest depends on whether Barrick's wager pays off. Much of the company's success depends on Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman, the city's biggest cheerleader and a pivotal player in the area's revitalization efforts.

The gregarious Goodman doesn't have any doubts about the future of downtown, where property is becoming scarce and the price per square foot is rising.

"It's the best bet in town," boasts the mayor, whose jurisdiction doesn't extend to the Strip in county territory.

A prime example is the Golden Nugget Las Vegas.

The Poster Financial Group bought the Golden Nugget properties in downtown Las Vegas and Laughlin in June 2003 for \$215 million from MGM Mirage Inc. They sold the Laughlin property to Barrick for \$31 million in November and the Golden Nugget Las Vegas for \$295 million last month to Landry's Restaurants Inc.

Landry's chairman and president, Tilman Fertitta, known for his real estate acumen, said he intends to expand the famous property and be a part of the coming revitalization.

"The Las Vegas Strip is moving that way," he said.

Ground zero downtown is next to Barrick's Plaza hotel-casino, an empty 61-acre lot that once was a railroad switching yard.

Goodman calls the dusty spot the "jewel of the desert," one that could bring jobs, visitors and perhaps young professionals willing to live downtown.

Goodman foresees a sprawling development, including a performing arts center and a mixed-use, high-rise project. Boyd Gaming's outgoing President Don Snyder has donated \$1 million to the arts center, which will receive funding from a rental car tax.

Las Vegas officials have hired renowned architect Frank Gehry to design a medical research facility on the parcel, and the mayor thinks the vacant property would be a suitable site for a major league baseball stadium or basketball arena. Officials also plan to build a transportation depot next to it that could serve light rail and buses.

In all, the site would be a portal for downtown, drawing residents, workers, tourists and their gambling dollars and helping the casinos bustle as in years past.

Rob Stillwell, vice president of corporate communications for Boyd Gaming, which first started its company in downtown Las Vegas, says things are coming full circle.

"Our perspective is that all the new ownership bodes well for downtown," Stillwell said.

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INTERNATIONAL

Mexican rains help wash away tensions

BY WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY — For 12 years, Mexico prayed for rain, hoping the water it owed the United States would pour from parched skies over the Rio Grande Basin.

Those downpours finally came, washing away most of a water debt that has enraged farmers in southern Texas and tested President Vicente Fox's relationship with the Bush administration. At its height in 2002, the debt reached 489 billion gallons — more than half the capacity of Lake Mead.

Flush from more than two years of wet weather on its northern border, Mexico has agreed to make good on all its outstanding water payments by September, then meet annual quotas spelled out in a 1944 treaty.

The new agreement announced during a visit by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice this month removes a significant point of tension before Fox meets President Bush in Texas on March 23.

But U.S. critics have accused the Mexican government of skirting its end of the bilateral bargain until a couple of rainy years made everything all right and wonder if another drought would lead to more shortfalls.

Texas Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison said Mexico should have been charged interest for falling so far behind.

"The No. 1 priority is this is never allowed to happen again," said Chris Paulitz, a spokesman for the Republican senator.

Under the 1944 treaty, Mexico promised to send the United States an average of 350,000 acre-feet of water annually from six Rio Grande tributaries. In return, America ships south 1.5 million acre-feet from the Colorado River. An acre-foot is 326,000 gallons, or enough to flood an acre of land a foot deep.

In 1992, Mexico stopped sending the required amount from the Rio Grande, saying drought had depleted its supplies. Water from the Colorado continued to pour across the border to the Mexicali area, another major farming area.

By the summer of 2002, farmers in southern Texas were going out of business for lack of water, while satellite images showed irrigated crops flourishing on the Mexican side of the border. A group of U.S. farmers eventually filed suit against Mexico under the North American Free Trade Agreement, claiming a dearth of water cost them \$500 million.

Fox's government accelerated efforts to pay the debt after Hurricanes Olaf and Nora drenched the border in 2003. Last year, heavy rains caused flooding, but also filled reservoirs.

This month, Mexico agreed to give its

See **POUR IT ON**, page 11

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INTERNATIONAL



Pouring it on: Mexico to pay its U.S. water bill

POUR IT ON, from page 10

northern neighbor 578,000 acre-feet of water, covering the last chunk of the debt. It also promised to pay 470,000 acre-feet over the next three years to prevent future deficits.

Arturo Duran, commissioner of the U.S. side of the International Boundaries and Water Commission, called the agreement "an incredible sign" of cooperation.

Duran said 60 percent of the water debt will be paid off before the end of March and the rest by September, but he acknowledged the agreement isn't a guarantee against future shortfalls.

"Mexico can always come back and say 'we have water but it's for our use,'" said Duran, whose commission works with a Mexican panel to apply water treaties and settle trade disputes.

Cristobal Jaime Jaquez, general director of Mexico's National Water Commission, said the country has opened state water utilities to some private invest-

ment, is curbing excess demand and modernizing dams to use water more efficiently.

Duran also urged new accords making it harder for Mexico to fall behind on payments. "We need to give the treaty some teeth," he said.

Revamping the treaty may be overdue: the population on the two sides of the border has increased dramatically since the agreement.

The new agreement lets Mexico spread the impact of the payments by including water from a tributary not included in the treaty. That should soften the blow for Mexican farmers.

Sixty percent of the repaid water, however, is expected come from dams in a single border state, Tamaulipas, angering farmers there.

"Who can guarantee it will rain next year?" Perfecto Solis, president of a Tamaulipas corn cooperative, asked. "If it doesn't, the United States will have its water, but what will happen to us?"

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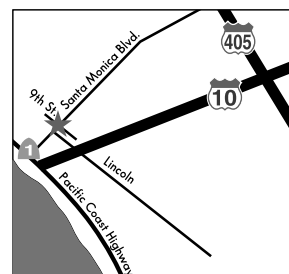
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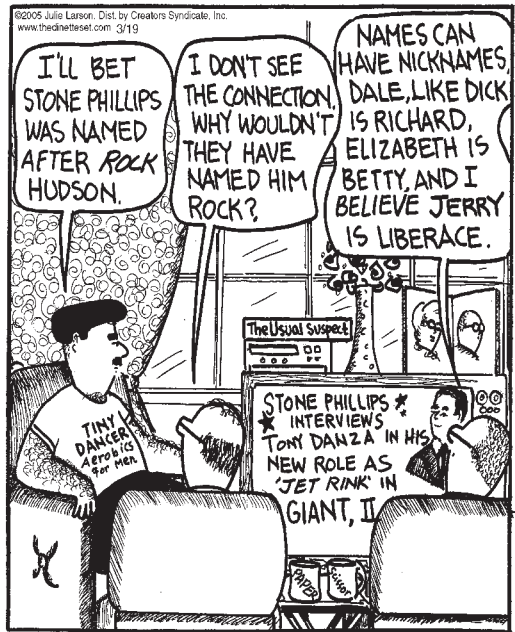
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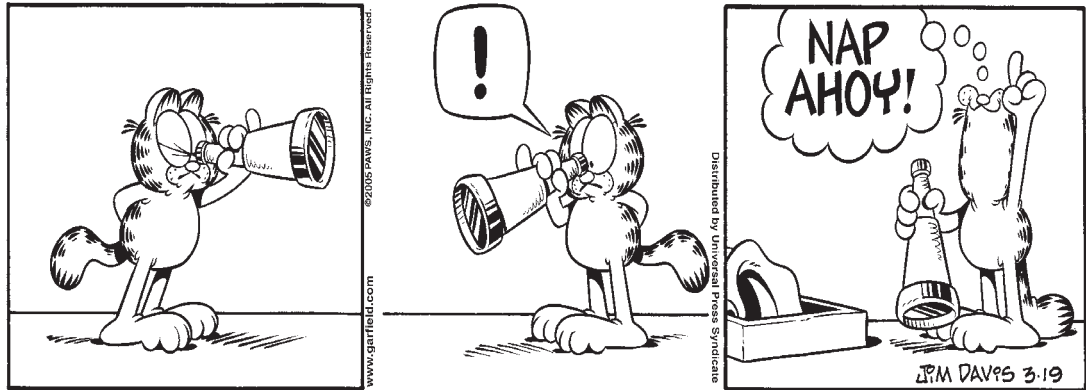


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25 Emeril cry

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29 Neck part

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38 Individually

39 Binds

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2 Acid type

3 Idles

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6 De-pressed

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9 Orange butterfly

10 Swear

16 Chop up

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22 Eastern warrior

23 Lennon song

24 "Told you!"

25 Most vile

28 Game with a ball

30 Red as —

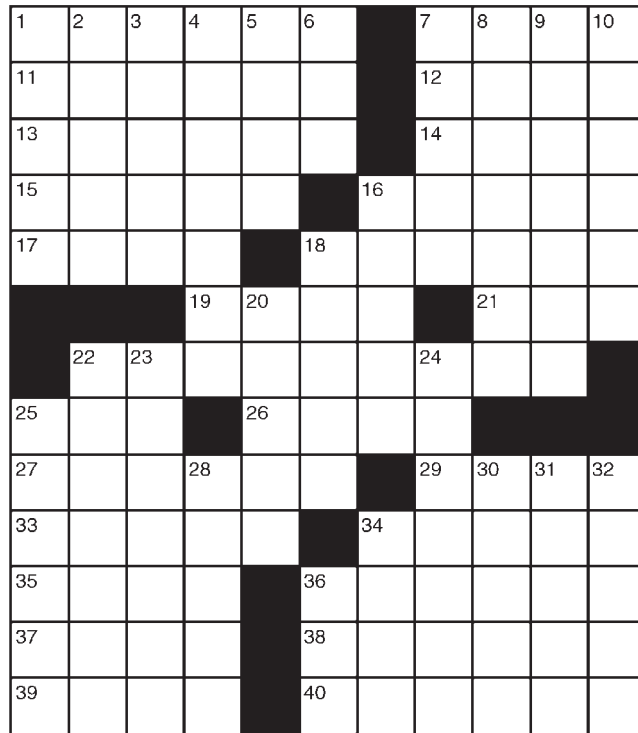
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