

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTO

FANTASY 5
5, 7, 11, 15, 28

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 7, 5, 0
Evening picks: 7, 5, 5

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 04, Big Ben
2nd Place: 09, Winning Spirit
3rd Place: 06, Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:47.40



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In April, choreographer Jenefer Davies Mansfield staged her "NASCAR Ballet" production at the Roanoke (Va.) Ballet Theatre, featuring 20 colorfully unitard-clad dancers, wearing corporate patches of the theater's sponsors, prancing and leaping around a banked-racetrack stage (to new-age music and the sounds of revving engines), "racing" but occasionally crashing into each other, to be rescued by other dancers who are the "pit crews." Mansfield was hoping for a big crossover audience of NASCAR fans gathered for a big race in nearby Martinsville. "In this business," she said, "you've got to take chances."



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Everybody should believe in something - I believe I'll have another drink."

— Anonymous



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Out with the old...



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Workers on Thursday tear down the old Pioneer Boulangerie Bakery on Main Street. The property, owned by developer Howard Jacobs was up for sale for \$27 million but was taken off the market last year. The property is approved for residential and commercial buildings.

CEPS may drop charter amendment

By Daily Press staff

After months of strategizing, combing neighborhoods for signatures and pushing their message in the local press, a powerful group of school parents announced Thursday it may drop its bid for an amendment to the city charter.

Leaders from the Community for Excellent Public Schools said they were heartened by a compromise reached Wednesday by school and city officials that would give the struggling school district at least \$6 million a year for the next five years.

The negotiations were made more urgent by the proposed charter amendment, which also would guarantee schools at least \$6 million a year. But it had more aggressive triggers to increase funding and would last indefinitely.

After negotiating the compromise with City Manager Susan McCarthy, schools superintendent John Deasy urged CEPS members to support the compromise and drop the charter amendment. He

said if the issue went to the polls, it threatened to alienate City Hall from the school district.

CEPS co-chair Shari Davis said her group held a special meeting at 9 p.m. Wednesday to discuss how to proceed. Though a prepared statement said CEPS would not "feel the need" to pursue the charter amendment if the school board and the City Council both approve the compromise, Davis declined to get into the details.

"It is appropriate to wait and see what the votes are," said Davis, adding the group would have more to say after Tuesday's council meeting. "We took into consideration that there was a great deal of effort that went into working out the details of the agreement. We took into consideration all the effort of the volunteers that worked so hard to help us collect those 15,000 signatures. We took into consideration what our mission is at CEPS — and we're proud that we were able to bring this issue to the forefront."

— John Wood



CITY HALL: DOLLARS & SENSE

A month-long series examining the Santa Monica City Hall finances

City Hall's 20 highest paid city workers

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Top employees here earned between \$155,000 and \$220,000 last year, and enjoyed 33 days of paid vacation — plus every other Friday off.

City Manager Susan McCarthy earned the most, taking home \$219,534 in salary and benefits, City Hall documents show. McCarthy was followed by Assistant City Attorney Joe Lawrence, who earned \$191,158 and topped his boss, City Attorney Marsha Moutrie, by \$3,689.

Eight other city attorneys, four police officers, two firemen and two department heads in City Hall also were among the 20 highest paid government workers in 2003. A police sergeant on that list earned \$64,763 in overtime alone, bringing his total wages to \$165,388.

Most, if not all, of the employees also received 33 days of paid vacation. Every City Hall employee gets 12 paid holidays on set dates and an additional 12 to 21 days of vacation time, depending on tenure. Nineteen of the top 20 earners are veteran workers who also are at the top end of their salary range, said Karen Bancroft, City Hall's director of human resources.

Workers are allotted another 12 days in sick leave each year, though many choose instead to cash in for extra pay. And because employees work longer hours Monday through Thursday, City Hall is closed every other Friday — meaning employees have another 26 days off.

Good compensation and healthy benefits apparently make local government posts attractive to job-seekers. City Hall employs 1,853 workers in 14 departments and is often flooded with applications.

"For example, when we recruited for lateral firefighters a few years ago, the applicants had to

already be firefighters in order to apply, and we had over 1,000 applicants," Bancroft said.

In total, City Hall this year will spend \$171 million on salaries, wages and fringe benefits — and \$8.5 million of that is for overtime, said Steve Stark, City Hall's finance director. Salaries account for more than 60 percent of the city's budget. By contrast, members of the City Council earn \$10,351 a year, while the mayor earns \$12,422, Bancroft said.

See SALARY, page 5

City Manager	\$219,534.24
Assistant City Attorney	\$191,158.44
City Attorney	\$187,469.37
Assistant City Manager	\$181,802.04
Police Chief	\$171,879.50
Police Captain	\$169,259.95
Deputy City Attorney	\$169,154.72
Deputy City Attorney	\$168,662.88
Director, Environmental and Public Works Management	\$165,752.52
Police Sergeant	\$165,388.23*
Fire Chief (retired)	\$165,105.54
Deputy City Attorney	\$160,606.94
Deputy City Attorney	\$158,717.38
Deputy City Attorney	\$158,644.41
Director, Transit Services	\$158,482.25
Deputy Police Chief	\$158,076.89
Battalion Chief — Prevention	\$157,954.10**
Deputy City Attorney	\$156,991.43
Deputy City Attorney	\$155,842.11
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(* Includes \$64,763.39 in overtime. ** Includes \$18,215.56 in overtime.)

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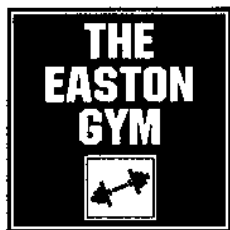
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Work late tonight, Leo



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)

★★★★ Face facts: Everyone has different ideas, and that is where the confusion lies. As hard as you try, you cannot get a consensus or agreement. Visualize more of what you want, and be willing to go out on your own to make it so. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Investigate options, and you'll gain. Many simply don't agree with you, no matter which way you turn or twist. Let differences be. Everyone is entitled to his or her opinion, whether you like it or not. Tonight: Take off, if possible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might be overwhelmed by what others dump on your plate. It will take all your diplomacy to not react too strongly. Allow differences and know that in the long run they will benefit you. Isolate a discussion to a key person. Tonight: Dinner for two.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Mars moving into your sign works as an energizer. You have all the energy you want, though you could be a bit touchy or difficult at times. Take it easy, especially late this afternoon. Others have strong opinions, too. Listen. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Others pull at you from different sides, adding to your confusion but providing options. You will need to drum up your creative genius to find answers. Perhaps, on the other hand, you enjoy the many options available to you. Tonight: Work as late as necessary.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Concentrate on your work and/or a project. Creativity flows later in the day. Extremes merge from all sides. Take the opportunity to look at different sides. Allow more playfulness into your life in the evening. Tonight: Play the night away.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Reach out for others. Complete your e-mail, clear your desk and deal with what might be happening around you. Others might not be easy, but you'll certainly hear many different points of view. Each might be right for that person. Tonight: Head on home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You see much more than others do. How someone presents his or her idea can make all the difference in what goes down. Loosen up and have a long-overdue chat. In the afternoon, you'll gain a better understanding. Tonight: At your favorite spot.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Others seek you out, but without great success. You seem to be everywhere handling a multitude of demands. Allow greater happiness by letting others reveal their true colors. Expenses demand some attention. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Digest all you need to at work, even if on some level you might not believe you are spending enough time on the issues. Sometimes completion is more important, especially this Friday. You gain a better perspective of your actions later in the afternoon. Tonight: Your night to howl.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Friends provide provocative information at best. You wonder about the heres and nows of a situation. Others provide various different impressions, making a decision close to impossible. Give yourself time to mull over a decision (like the weekend). Tonight: Your night to be alone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ One person says one thing, and another demands something else. You could feel like a piece of taffy if you let this confusion get to you. Know that the solution will be a while coming. Focus on your long-term needs. Tonight: Follow your pals.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMC a new 'hot spot'

By Daily Press staff

An award-winning Los Angeles Times journalist will speak next week in Santa Monica.

The free lecture "Hot Topics & Cool Heads" by Patt Morrison will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, May 14 in the Santa Monica College art lecture Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd.

It's SMC's annual "Rocky Young Lecture," named after a long-time former SMC professor and administrator who is currently senior vice chancellor at the Los Angeles Community College District.

Morrison is a writer and columnist for the Times — where her work has spanned topics from national political profiles to the O.J. Simpson case, the LA riots and the Persian Gulf War. She is a member of two Times' reporting teams that won Pulitzer Prizes for coverage of the 1992 riots and 1994 earthquake.

She was host and consulting producer of the nationally syndicated "The Book Show with Patt Morrison," produced by PBS station KCET, and she has won six Emmys and four Golden Mike awards — as founding host and commentator on "Life & Times Tonight," the nightly news and current affairs program on KCET.

Since 1994, her commentaries have been heard on NPR's "Morning Edition." She also contributes commentaries to KQED radio's "California Report" and has been a frequent guest host on KPCC radio's "Air Talk."

For information, call (310) 434-4003.

Venice kicks up its heels

By Daily Press staff

The third annual Carnevale Venice Beach is coming.

The event will be held May 15 from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Windward Circle — where Windward Avenue and Main Street meet.

"Since we're the Venice of America, it seems only natural that we have our own version of the famed Italian Carnevale with wild, colorful costumes and performances by our local artists each year," said Esquire Jauchem, the event's producer.

Last year, more than 2,000 residents watched two dozen musical, dance and performance artists.

"We think this is a wonderful event for the citizens of Venice, and the city is encouraging everyone to participate," said Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski.

Performers, vendor booths and a food court for local merchants and artists will be set up adjacent to the performance area. Those interested in becoming an event vendor should contact Nicole at (310) 576-7675, or send an e-mail to Vendors@Carnevale.US.

A costume contest will be held at 8 p.m.

"We had some unbelievable costumes last year and awarded more than \$2,500 dollars worth of prizes," said Bonnie Cheeseman, who is organizing the contest. "This year we will have even more prizes and we expect many more participants."

A poster contest, open to artists who live or work in Venice — is underway to select a design that will be used to promote the event. The winning entry will receive a \$500 cash prize.

The event, which focuses on art and the artists who live and work in Venice, is produced by the non-profit Venice Artists Forum, in association with the Venice Chamber of Commerce, Wavcrest Productions and is funded, in part, by a grant from the city of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department.

For additional information visit www.Carnevale.US, e-mail Celebrate@Carnevale.US, or call (310) 396-2803.

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SUNDAY	2:21	0.3	2:12	0.4	8:20	4.5	8:28	5.7
MONDAY	3:01	-0.4	2:44	0.7	9:09	4.5	8:58	6.1
TUESDAY	3:44	-0.1	3:17	1.1	9:59	4.3	9:31	6.4
WEDNESDAY	4:30	-1.3	3:51	1.5	10:52	4.1	10:08	6.5
THURSDAY	5:20	-1.4	4:29	1.9	11:52	3.7	10:49	6.4
FRIDAY	6:16	-1.3	5:12	2.3	1:02	3.5	11:37	6.1

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The Q Line

The Santa Monica City Council is considering raising the bed tax on hotel users. The tax hike would have to be voted on by Santa Monica citizens this November.

Santa Monica's bed tax is lower than in many surrounding cities, and some think keeping it low will allow Santa Monica to remain competitive. Others think if it's raised slightly, it will bring in needed revenue and that money can be

used to fund local schools.

So, this week, Q-line wants know, "Will you support a bed tax increase? Why or why not?"

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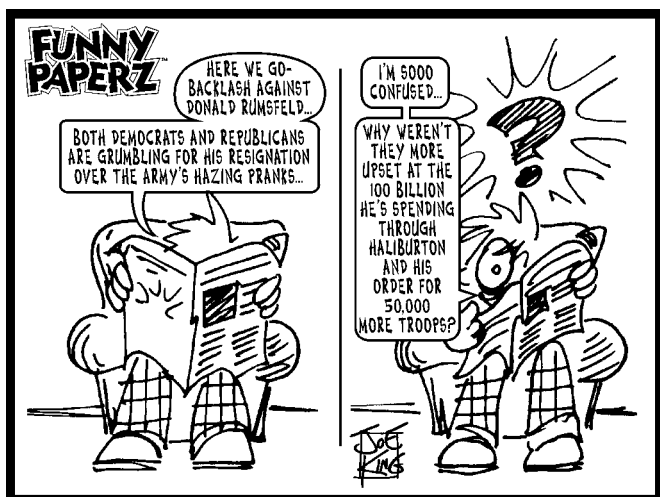
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OPINION

LETTERS



Member: AAEC, NCS, SCCS, etc.

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Palisades squirrels run amuck

Editor:

Are the City Council members stupid or just totally void of common sense?

The Palisades Park is being rapidly undermined by a large number of ground squirrels. Getting rid of these disease-carrying rodents would be an easy and inexpensive job for any pest control outfit.

The council's backing of \$10 million, elaborate engineering projects, and still waiting until next fall, is outright criminal neglect of citizens' health and welfare.

Kurt W. Simon
Santa Monica

Bush, practice what you preach

Editor:

I just finished re-reading Ron Scott Smith's column from the Thursday, April 22 issue (page 4). A most terrific column and my congratulations to Smith.

I can only add one point to the pot, titled the war in Iraq and against terrorism.

Any historian can tell any reader or listener that no nation can impose their own type of government, such as ours, on a religious type of government. The entire Middle East, except for Israel, is basically Muslim.

I do agree that, as Smith points out, we are interested in one thing in the Middle East, in three letters — oil.

Too bad our great leaders in Washington are too interested in creating more wealth for the richest 2 percent of Americans than for the rest of America.

Come on, George, practice what you preach.

Ronald Muochehim
West Los Angeles

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

Samohi student club befriends disabled peers



MY WRITE

By Bill Bauer

Something wonderful is happening at Santa Monica High School. It's "Circle of Friends," a club that creates friendships among students who are disabled and those who are not.

Non-disabled students volunteer to become a kind of "big brother" to classmates with disabilities. Their friends have Down Syndrome, Autism and other social skills challenges. The goal is promote friendships that become a positive long term force in the lives of both the disabled and non-disabled. About 150 high schoolers are involved.

It all works very simply. To participate, "peer" friends and disabled friends must agree to have lunch once a week and make frequent phone contacts with each other throughout the entire school year.

Club members participate in monthly group events, including field trips to places such as zoos and museums, holiday celebrations and other structured, large group activities. Students without disabilities are also encouraged to include their friends with disabilities with their own social group when going out for a movie or a burger, or just hanging out — both on and off campus.

Circle of Friends was founded five years ago by Barbara Palilis, a speech and language pathologist in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Samohi-based Palilis realized that her special needs students did much better when they could socialize with other students on an ongoing and regular basis.

Friendship is the operative word here. What usually develops is close personal relationships that students with special needs wouldn't have an opportunity to develop under normal circumstances.

"It gives those with social skills challenges a chance to solve day-to-day problems, improve communications skills and meet the challenges of the world when they have more than one friend who cares about them," said Palilis.

"Students join to touch the lives of others and find their own lives have been touched." Many even stay friends after graduation.

Circle of Friends is an extra curricular activity. Palilis is the unpaid adviser to the group and spends many long hours each

day mentoring and counseling both disabled and non-disabled students. Funding comes through contributions and fundraisers. The school district provides no financial support. Parents contribute money and other resources. Participants often pay for food and other expenses out of their own pockets.

Those who know the club refer to it as a "Shining Star." They marvel at the life-changing success stories, the miracles accomplished and how it has changed and improved the quality of life for everyone associated with it. It has even generated a sensitivity and awareness in the entire Samohi student body.

My hat is off — way off — to the students, parents, volunteers and others who work so hard to make this happen. They have provided hope and promise for the disabled far beyond anyone's dreams.

Supporters would like to see the SMMUSD recognize the club for its achievements. They also want to see its activities expanded districtwide, including middle and elementary schools. They are hoping for a permanent budget and district financial support — enough to pay a program adviser, for example.

The school board's special education district advisory committee wrote in a letter dated April 25, "We urge the district to support Circle of Friends ... and to allow this unique club to receive private funding in order to expand its reach to students in need at other campuses."

I'm more than impressed with the tremendous success achieved by this group. Maybe that's why I'm having a hard time understanding why those in charge aren't jumping up and down with joy, and making it into a districtwide, funded program. I don't understand why it hasn't even received the full recognition it deserves.

Circle of Friends has been instrumental in giving disabled students the tools to make and maintain friendships — an important skill necessary for living a meaningful life. So, it seems that many students with special needs in all our schools could be receiving tremendous benefit from the Circle of Friends model and they aren't. That's unfortunate.

Those running the district can make this happen, but they need to stop wasting time, end the back room bickering and do the right thing: Act quickly and make Circle of Friends available to all young persons in need of help.

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer).

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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Santa Monica Daily Press: Att. Editor 1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica, CA 90401 Or email: sack@smdp.com



LOCAL



City Hall to spend \$8.5M in overtime pay this year

SALARY, from page 1

As head of the 17-worker human resources department, Bancroft also oversees negotiations with the nine unions that represent City Hall workers. Those discussions began in April and must be concluded by the end of June. In the past, contracts for those workers have covered multi-year spans but because of the weak economy, Bancroft said City Hall can't afford to make long-term commitments. Contracts with seven of the unions are up this year. All nine will be up next year.

Individual employees also are reviewed on an annual basis. City Hall two years ago changed from a check-list type of review to a written comment format, so that workers receive more detailed feedback, said Jill

Veteran City Hall employees receive 33 days of paid vacation.

Jones, the assistant director of human resources. At the close of the review, workers are put into one of four categories — "demonstrates quality performance," "further development needed," "below satisfactory," or "not acceptable." Jones said the majority of workers fall in the first category and those who don't are reviewed more frequently or terminated.

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STATE □ NATIONAL

EPA 'dams' toxic waste that flows into river

BY DON THOMPSON
 Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — The Iron Mountain Mine once channeled more than a ton of toxins into the environment every day, poisoning the drinking water source for 70,000 people across northern California.

But on Thursday, Environmental Protection Agency officials were scheduled to celebrate the opening of a reservoir that will further trim the flow of pollutants.

The Slickrock Creek Retention Reservoir is formed by a 150-foot-high earthen dam. It will capture water flowing from the 4,400-acre open pit and underground mine so that it can be cleansed and released by a wastewater treatment plant that opened a decade ago.

The plant has treated more than 1.3 billion gallons of acid mine drainage, the EPA said Wednesday. It has captured about 1.9 million pounds of copper and 6.6 million pounds of zinc so far, trimming the flow of copper by 80 percent and zinc by 90 percent.

The reservoir will boost those levels to 95 percent, and EPA spokesman Mark Merchant said the rest can safely be released.

The mine began operating shortly after the Gold Rush, in 1860, and was shut down in 1962. Miners split open Iron Mountain in their search for iron, silver, gold, copper, zinc and pyrite, exposing the heavy metals to rain and groundwater that combined to form a neon green toxic soup.

Iron sulfide in the pyrite reacted with oxygen in the air and water to form sulfuric acid.

The Environmental Protection Agency called the federal Superfund site, located west of Redding, the nation's largest source of toxic metals.

Workers trying to clean up the mine found the pooling acid so strong that it dissolved their metal shovels overnight and copper-plated tools in minutes. Water dripping on bare skin had to be neutralized with baking soda before it could burn.

Even scientists garbed in full-body "moon suits" with masks, goggles and gloves suffered from the toxic fumes produced by what they concluded was the most acidic water ever discovered in nature — more acidic than battery acid, worse than water found in volcanic lakes.

They also discovered a microbe that thrives in the harsh conditions and dramatically speeds up the acid production.

The EPA settled with the former owner, France-based Aventis CropSciences USA, for nearly \$1 billion in 2000, in one of the largest such settlements in the Superfund program's history.

The settlement included \$160 million to operate the treatment plant, and \$700 million to \$800 million for additional work at the mine.

Scientists say they still have their work cut out for them. It will take an estimated 2,500 years for the water runoff to return to healthy metal levels.

Border Patrol agents saddle up to round up immigrants

BY GABRIELA RICO
 Associated Press Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. — When the U.S. Border Patrol was created by Congress in 1924, the federal government agreed to buy the feed as long as patrolmen provided their own horses.

Eighty years later, in a back-to-basics move, the Tucson sector of the Border Patrol is deploying 100 horse patrols along the U.S.-Mexico border to help track and catch people entering the country illegally.

The addition of horses to the region is part of the Arizona Border Control Initiative, a multipronged campaign announced in March by Asa Hutchinson, undersecretary for Border and Transportation Security, part of the Department of Homeland Security.

Along with horses, large numbers of patrol agents, additional aircraft, electronic ground sensors, remote video cameras and unmanned aerial vehicles are being poured into the area.

The goal is to take control of what is known as the west desert corridor, from the Yuma County line to the Arizona border town of Sasabe. Those 121 miles of international border have been a hot spot for the Border Patrol for the past few years as crackdowns in Texas and California pushed illegal immigrants into Arizona's rough landscape.

In a recent five-day operation, seven horse patrols rounded up 600 illegal immigrants in the rugged terrain of Jalisco Canyon, near Arivaca.

In March, four horse patrols caught

more than 100 people traveling together in the same area.

John M. France, assistant chief patrol agent in charge of the equines, said the recent captures illustrate that high-tech can't solve everything.

"We need the gizmos, and we need the technology, but you never, ever give up on the basics," he said.

Michael St. John, supervisor of the sector's horse patrol, said recently the animals' ability to navigate steep hills is critical to catching up with the human traffic.

"Even the Humvees and four-wheel drives can't get in there," said the seven-year agent, who has supervised the horse patrol since it began operating at the sector's Tucson station in October. "On foot, we have no advantage."

While horses have always been part of the Border Patrol force, France said he is pleased to see renewed respect for their effectiveness.

"Sure, they're cute, and everybody likes to pet them, but they're a tool," said France, a 25-year veteran of the Border Patrol. "It's exciting that we're enhancing our basics along with our technology."

This tried-and-true method of patrolling the border is also helping the agency address concerns about noise and the environment.

France called horses "one of the most effective and ecologically sound means" of patrolling the border because they can take an agent into rugged terrain and make little noise when approaching people in the desert.

NATIONAL



Kentucky horse industry fighting stiff competition

BY MURRAY EVANS
Associated Press Writer

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Saying that Kentucky's status as a leader in the horse industry is in danger, several powerful farm owners and breeders formed a new group to promote its economic importance in the state.

Backers of the group, the Kentucky Equine Education Alliance, said Kentucky's horse industry has slowly given ground to other states that have incentives for thoroughbred owners and breeders.

The last two Kentucky Derby winners — Funny Cide and Smarty Jones — were sired in Kentucky but foaled in other states.

John Gaines, a member of the new group, said Wednesday that Kentucky faces a concerted effort by other states to subsidize "and otherwise enhance their state's horse industries, with the clear goal" of replacing Kentucky as the industry leader.

Gaines, the founder of the Breeders' Cup, the Kentucky Horse Park and the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, said 626 thoroughbred stallions lived in Kentucky in 1986.

Now there are 386, he said, and those stallions each generate \$8.5 million per year toward the state's gross domestic product.

Other prominent horsemen associated with the group include Bill Casner, co-owner of WinStar Farm in Versailles; Robert Clay, owner of Three Chimneys Farm in Midway; and Bill Farish of

Lane's End Farm in Versailles.

Casner is part of a group that owns Distorted Humor, the sire of Funny Cide, winner of the 2002 Kentucky Derby. Distorted Humor was bred to Belle's Good Cide at WinStar Farm, and Belle's Good Cide was shipped to New York to give birth, qualifying Funny Cide as a New York-bred horse. Funny Cide's first two career wins came in races exclusively for New York-breds.

"We've sent mares to New York to take advantage of the New York breeding program," Casner said. "We're businessmen. We've placed a large investment in this state, but ultimately, it has to be a profitable business for us. When we have a horse that goes to stallion, we have to make a decision where to send that horse."

Members of the state General Assembly who attended the announcement said they wanted to help protect Kentucky's signature industry.

One of the charter members of the alliance is Four Star Sales of Lexington, for which Kerry Cauthen is a managing partner. Cauthen also is a member of the Kentucky Horse Racing Authority, which is charged with promoting economic development and tourism, in addition to its traditional role as a regulator of racing and breeding. Cauthen said the new group will complement the racing authority.

"The racing authority sees it as two bullets for the same gun," Cauthen said. "It's a fantastic initiative."

Bear bites camper in Utah

BY PAUL FOY
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — A black bear apparently bit a camper late Wednesday in remote Desolation Canyon on the Green River, the site of a similar attack last July.

The victim, part of an organized rafting trip, was still in the eastern Utah canyon on Thursday with only minor injuries, said Ruth McCord, spokeswoman for the Bureau of Land Management in Price.

"Yes, there was a bear attack," McCord said Thursday. "It wasn't very severe from what we can tell — scratches on a person's chest, a puncture wound in the thigh."

She said details were very sketchy. The attack about 120 miles southeast of Salt Lake City happened around 11 p.m. Wednesday.

State wildlife authorities planned to set traps in an effort to capture the bear, McCord said.

It wasn't certain if the victim was abandoning the rafting trip for medical care. Officials at the nearest hospital, Castleview Hospital in Price, said they had no patient suffering from a bear attack and weren't expecting one.

Neither Bill Bates, southeastern region wildlife manager for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, or Derris Jones, the regional supervisor, could be reached Thursday for further details. Both are investigating the attack, McCord said.

The attack was similar to one that happened last July along the same stretch of the Green River.

In that case, Nick Greeve, 18, of West Linn, Ore., was grabbed by the head and neck in his sleeping bag and treated for puncture wounds and lacerations. Other campers in the rafting party of 20 chased that bear away. Wildlife officials were unable to find the bear.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Q & A: Beckinsale and Jackman's 'Van Helsing'

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Kate Beckinsale wants to set the record straight: She is not, nor has she ever aspired to be the object of Goth-geek fantasies, despite a succession of films that suggest otherwise. The bewitching Brit most recently appeared as a latex-clad vampire at war with werewolves in the piceous "Underworld," and this week she's back in black (leather) as a sexy monster hunter in "Van Helsing." Her latest leading man, Hugh Jackman of "X-Men" fame, is also intent on distancing himself from the baroque blockbusters that have thus far distinguished his career — so much so that upon conclusion of principal photography on "Van Helsing" he left Hollywood to spend a year playing song-and-dance man Peter Allen on Broadway. They may have had their fill of this genre, but it didn't prevent the pair from pumping up "Van Helsing" in a powwow with the press.

QUESTION: Given that you'd both recently done special effects-laden films with supernatural characters, was there any hesitation in signing on for "Van Helsing"?

HUGH JACKMAN: When I met Steve (director Stephen Sommers) I was on my way to shoot "X-Men 2." I thought that after that, I would do a smaller, independent film. I was a bit reluctant about being in another big franchise, summer popcorn movie. They take so long to make, that it's like a year of your life. Plus I knew I was coming to Broadway for a year, and I was

concerned that if the films did well, there'd be more and more (sequels).

WHAT CONVINCED YOU TO TAKE THE ROLE?

HJ: I rang Steve and told him I know this picture's going to be great, I know the characters are great, but that I'm a bit nervous about, you know, what I just mentioned. There was a pause, and he said, "Hugh, I think you're the only actor in Hollywood who is nervous about being in two successful franchises." And I had a giggle and that was about it.

KATE BECKINSALE: I'm not interested in vampires at all, so I'm kind of surprised I'm here. When I got sent the script for "Underworld" I almost didn't read it because I thought, ooh, vampires and werewolves aren't really my kind of thing. Then when I got (the script for "Van Helsing") there were vampires and werewolves in it, but my character was so different... I don't have a career plan, and I like to see how things come out and keep going in different directions. This very much felt like a different direction for me. But yeah, I can't do anymore vampire films.

Hugh, you've been working on the stage in New York. Is there a different sense of responsibility in making big-budget films than there is on a smaller theater productions?

HJ: With the stage show, it's changed in that if I'm sick, the show's off. If I had a bad day filming, we can just reschedule and do it again. With theater, there's that



discipline — you've just got to be on every night, which can be tough.

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR DIRECTOR, STEPHEN SOMMERS.

HJ: Steve is very guileless, like an innocent. It's totally infectious.

KB: During shooting, you watch him watching the monitors and he's twitching and moving and saying all the lines for everybody. It's extraordinary; he's like a kid with a very expensive Barbie and Ken.

HJ: I'm not that expensive, actually.

KB: Oh, yes you are (laughs).

IN AN EARLIER INTERVIEW, KATE DESCRIBED YOU AS "THE NICEST MAN IN HOLLYWOOD." DOES THE LABEL FIT?

HJ: You're going to ruin my career, Kate.

KB: I checked you out, believe me. I watched you for six months. You are the nicest.

HJ: How do I react to that? Well, it's easy to be nice around good people. We had fun. I think it's the most fun I ever had on a set.

'Van Helsing' movie bites

Review

Special to the Daily Press

As films about bloodsuckers go, this one kinda sucks. For \$150 million, Universal got themselves oodles of noodle-nuking special effects, a bloated score and a couple of fetching movie stars in Hugh Jackman and Kate Beckinsale. But one thing's for sure, they didn't get much of a script, and all the high-tech illusion money can buy is still no substitute for good storytelling. Writer-director Stephen Sommers, who has fattened the studio's coffers with "The Mummy" and its progeny, was given carte blanche to realize his latest fantastic vision — a showdown between the legendary vampire-hunter Van Helsing and a trio of iconic monsters: Dracula, Frankenstein and The Werewolf. The result is the most extortionate B-movie ever produced; a ghoulish goulash of CGI overkill peppered with stilted dialogue and a host of historical inconsistencies. Most objectionably, Sommers takes extreme liberties with classic characters millions of moviegoers hold sacred. In the hopes of staving off criticism of these offenses, the studio's publicity department did something highly unusual — dispatching letters to critics asking us to refrain from revealing certain plot developments. "We believe the audience will thank you," the note concludes. We'll see about that.

Jackman, in the titular role, cuts a dashing figure, but bears little resemblance to the gray-haired gent who stalks Dracula in the novel by Bram Stoker. A cross between Indiana Jones and the

Outlaw Josey Wales, he's charged with eradicating supernatural villains by a clandestine order of clerics operating out of a high-tech lab beneath the Vatican. Van Helsing is equipped with an arsenal of high-tech gadgetry — who knew high-powered assault weapons and smart bombs existed in 19th Century? — by a pusillanimous friar named Carl (David Wenham) who accompanies him to Transylvania for a showdown with the terrible triumvirate. There VH hooks up with Anna Valerious (Beckinsale), the sole survivor of a royal family that has been trying to slay Dracula for centuries in order to lift a mysterious curse. Anna looks great in her tight leather corset and, despite being a mere mortal, is unchecked by the laws of physics that govern the rest of us. Not only does Anna fly through the air with the greatest of ease, and regularly get tossed through stone walls with nary a hair out of place, she's an ace at keeping a straight face while delivering cornball one-liners. Speaking of unexplained supernatural powers, our leading man's apparently been alive for a few hundred years and he's holding up better than Dick Clarke. I could go on about the movie's dippy denouement, but — in deference to the studio — I'll leave at this: Frankenstein, as played by Shuler Hensley, might be the unintentionally funniest film character of all time. Where was this guy when they were casting "Young Frankenstein"?

(Rated PG-13 for nonstop creature action violence and frightening images, and for sensuality. Running time: 132 minutes)



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ENTERTAINMENT



MARY-KATE AND ASHLEY OLSON

Olsen twin's big screen debut reveals much

Review

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

The Olsen twins, Mary-Kate and Ashley, have amassed a ridiculous fortune starring in innocuous direct-to-video fare for girls with titles such as "The Case of the Sea World Adventure" and "You're Invited to Mary-Kate and Ashley's Camping Party." Well, now girls, boys and — no doubt — dirty old men are invited to Mary-Kate and Ashley's big screen sexual awakening and, ugh!, is it ever unseemly. Ostensibly a kids' movie, "New York Minute" offers plenty of perverse peeps at the dolled-up, not-quite-legal siblings in various stages of undress. The opening sequence features Ashley having a nightmare in which she delivers an important speech in the nude, awakens in a cold sweat, hops in the shower and is surprised by a giant snake. Later, both Olsens — fresh out of the shower at the Plaza Hotel — are surprised by a snake ... er, shirtless guy who, after ogling the robe-clad twins (in slo-mo, no less), excitedly exclaims, "Is today my birthday?" As if sending ill-advised messages about sexuality to legions of impressionable little

girls weren't reprehensible enough, director Dennie Gordon also offends with a slew of shameful stereotypes that includes a Chinese woman threatening a dog with chopsticks and a predominately African-American hair salon dubbed "The House of Bling."

The breakdown: Uptight overachiever Jane Ryan (Ashley) is the polar opposite of her rebellious sis, Roxy (Mary-Kate). Jane likes George Bush, Roxy would rather listen to Bush. Constantly at odds, the two can seemingly only agree on matching miniskirts. A day trip into Manhattan turns into a kooky adventure that pits the Ryan girls against an inept gangster (Andy Richter) and a creepy truant officer (Eugene Levy). A pubescent-pleasing soundtrack blares throughout as our diminutive heroines run from the bumbling bad guys and into the arms of a couple of studs, both of whom look to be in their late twenties. In the end, of course, the girls realize they're not so different after all, and that together they can accomplish anything ... even turn a mess of a movie into big box office.

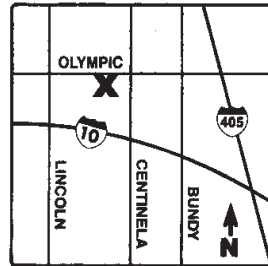
(Rated PG for mild sensuality and thematic elements. Running time: 91 minutes)

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NATIONAL

Fire is the catalyst for forests to change with climate

(Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series examining global warming.)

JEFF BARNARD
Associated Press Writer

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — High in the rugged Klamath Mountains, an old-growth stand of Brewer spruce, left over from the last mini-Ice Age, was killed when the Biscuit fire burned across 500,000 acres of southwestern Oregon forest two summers ago.

Dominick DellaSala does not expect this stand of Brewer spruce to grow back.

The reason: The climate is now warmer and drier than it was 275 years ago when the trees got their start. And fire, the great catalyst for change in the West's forests, has opened the way for something else to move in that better fits the new climate.

"Brewer spruce is an indicator species of the climate change in this region," said DellaSala, a forest ecologist and director of the World Wildlife Fund's Klamath Siskiyou Program. "It's adapted to cool places and infrequent fires. You get away from fog and cool temperatures and it disappears."

Across the West, forests are showing signs of a changing climate: bigger and hotter wildfires, hardwoods and brush moving into conifer forests after they burn, more insect infestations, and trees moving into high-altitude meadows once too cold to support them.

Just how much of that might be due to human-caused global warming is difficult for scientists to sort out, said Nate Mantua, an atmospheric scientist with the Climate Impacts Group at the University of Washington in Seattle.

"If this were a court trial, a good lawyer could get you off," Mantua said. "But there are all kinds of circumstantial evidence that point in the direction that, as we accumulate greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, these kinds of things become more frequent and more widespread."

Greenhouse effects aside, the West's climate goes through ups and downs of temperature and precipitation linked to El Nino, atmospheric changes in the South Pacific that change every two to seven years, and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, atmospheric changes over the North Pacific that change every 20 or so years, according to a Climate Impacts Group report.

Ronald P. Nielson, a bioclimatologist at the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station in Corvallis, heads a team using climate models combined with vegetation maps to predict future wildfires.

The team's examination of fire seasons over the past century shows that the size and number of fires goes up and down much more closely with climate variability — temperatures and precipitation — than with how intensely people fight forest fires.

"This is really saying that climate's in the driver's seat," Nielson said.

The vegetation components of the models foresee forests moving north in latitude and treelines moving higher on mountains. Junipers expand into sagebrush in eastern Oregon and the Great Basin. Deserts in New Mexico, Arizona and southeastern California turn into grasslands. Conifer forests of the Northwest, particularly the southern fringes, see more oaks and other broadleaf trees.

Already, foresters are seeing brush and hardwoods growing back where vast fires in southwestern Oregon in 1987 killed Douglas fir and pine, and subalpine fir moving into high-altitude meadows of grass and wildflowers on mountains on Washington's Olympic Peninsula.

Looking backward, the model picked out the Idaho fires of 1910, the Tillamook burns in Oregon in the 1930s, the Yellowstone fires of 1988, and the Biscuit fire in 2002. Predictions of the near-term future are getting more accurate. The team hopes to be able to suggest key places to thin forests to reduce fire intensity.

Nielson and others have a hypothesis of how forests react to a warming world that they call early green-up and later brown-down.

With a little bit of warming, much of the United States gets wetter, allowing forests to expand into steppe and grassland now too dry for trees. Increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere acts like fertilizer, allowing trees to use water more efficiently and grow faster.

"The hotter it gets, the more plants demand water. That increased demand from trees overtakes the benefits that produced the greening. Then you can get a situation where trees that were initially growing more rapidly could quite suddenly flip around and start declining from drought stress induced by elevated temperatures."

The catalyst for changing forests is fire, said Don McKenzie, a research ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service in Seattle and the Climate Impacts Group.

"The lag time ... when there is no fire can be as much as 500 to 600 years," he said. "The big old trees we have now, if it gets a little warmer, they will not drop dead. Much more sensitive are the seedlings, trying to germinate."

"Insects could be just as important as fire as an agent of change related to climate," he added.

Beetles killing white spruce on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula appear to be due to milder winters that don't kill as many beetles and longer summers that allow them to breed twice instead of once, he said.

The result is the same as a fire, forcing seedlings to start anew in climates that may no longer be hospitable.

"It's much harder to establish and grow than it is to maintain," he said.

For clues to the forests of the future, University of Oregon geography professor Cathy Whitlock looks back thousands of years by examining sediment cores drilled from lake bottoms. Grains of pollen tell her what trees were growing and pieces of charcoal indicate fire intensity.

"One thing we know is that around 9,000 to 6,000 years ago it was warmer and drier than it is today in the Northwest," said Whitlock from her office in Eugene. "That gave rise to more fires in drier vegetation. If you are going to look for a modern counterpart, that would be the time to go back to."

Whitlock thinks the surge in wildfires since the late 1980s — peaking at 8.4 million acres in 2000 — is more related to global warming than fuel buildups from fighting forest fires the past 100 years.

"On a longtime scale we are really moving into a cooler wetter period with more wet forests and fewer fires," she said. "It's only with global warming that we are moving out of that natural trend," into hotter summers and drought across the West.

"There are a lot of reasons to explain that besides global warming. But it's definitely curious we have only just started having large stand-replacement fires."

"The future projections are so extreme that it's going to definitely cause a lot of impact on people in the way they make their livelihoods," Whitlock added.



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WORLD BRIEFLY

Suicide bomber kills six

By The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A suicide attacker blew up a car bomb Thursday outside the so-called Green Zone that houses the U.S. headquarters in Baghdad, killing five Iraqi civilians and an American soldier.

Twenty-five people were injured in the blast at a checkpoint to the Green Zone, including two American soldiers. The bomb, hidden inside an orange-and-white Baghdad taxi, exploded outside of a three-foot-high concrete blast wall.

A suicide bomber also died in the attack, the military said.

The bomb attack came a day after U.S.-led forces launched their biggest assault yet against militia-men loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, raiding hideouts in several cities and clashing with gunmen. At least 15 Iraqis and a U.S. soldier were killed.

Moderate Shiites tried to persuade al-Sadr to back away from his confrontation with the United States — a reflection of their growing concern.

Benefit company shut down

By The Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.

One of the nation's largest death benefits companies was charged with racketeering and shut down by state and federal regulators, who said the company's schemes took more than \$1 billion from 29,000 investors.

Mutual Benefits Corp. was raided Wednesday by federal marshals at its downtown Fort Lauderdale headquarters and a subsidiary. Lawyers from the Securities and Exchange Commission seized the company's files.

The Office of Statewide Prosecution charged Mutual Benefits with racketeering and 15 counts of investor fraud. The company's escrow account for about 6,000 policies will have a deficit of about \$3.4 million by September, the insurance office said.

In a civil complaint, the SEC said Mutual Benefits committed fraud in the sale of viatical settlements, in which investors buy life insurance policies at a discount from the terminally ill or elderly in need of cash. The investors collect the benefit when the insured person dies.

No company officials were charged, but three were named in the complaint: President Peter Lombardi and brothers Joel and Leslie Steinger, the company founder.

A message left on a company hot line was not immediately returned Thursday.

Medics sentenced to death

By The Associated Press

SOFIA, Bulgaria — A Libyan court sentenced six Bulgarian

medics to death on Thursday on charges that they intentionally infected more than 400 children with the AIDS virus, Bulgarian national radio reported.

International observers had been monitoring the trial in the coastal city of Benghazi, where the Bulgarians — five nurses and a doctor — were employed at a hospital when arrested in February 1999.

Prosecutors had demanded death sentences, accusing the Bulgarians of intentionally infecting the children with HIV-contaminated blood as part of an experiment to find a cure for AIDS. Twenty-three of the children reportedly have since died of AIDS.

Initially Libya claimed the infections were part of a conspiracy by the CIA and Israeli intelligence — though it has backed away from those allegations.

All six had pleaded innocent, and experts for the defense have argued poor hygiene likely led to the contamination.

The speaker of Bulgaria's parliament Ognyan Gerdzhikov, said that the verdicts will be appealed.

The European Union, Amnesty International and other organizations have criticized the proceedings, and Bulgarian Foreign Minister Solomon Pasi claims the medics were severely tortured.

Older Americans are the economic engine

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Americans who are 45 and older are a growing economic force, responsible for more than half the nation's consumer spending, but they often lack the skills and information to make good financial decisions, according to a study released Thursday.

The AARP says in its "Report to the Nation on Consumers in the Marketplace" that older Americans often feel overwhelmed when confronted with tasks such as choosing a health care provider or selecting investments for a retirement account or sorting through telephone service options.

"With the growing complexity, the growing number of choices ... many consumers feel they have insufficient time to navigate through that," said John Rother, AARP's director of policy and strategy.

Ensuring that older Americans are good consumers is important because what they don't spend on goods and services can go toward important savings goals, the report said.

The study, which is based on federal data through 2001, is AARP's fourth annual report on the state of older Americans. AARP is an non-profit advocacy group for Americans aged 50 and older that is based in Washington, D.C.

Drug imports gain support

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The push to legalize prescription drug imports has a surprising new ally as the issue gains momentum in Congress.

CVS Corp., which operates more than 4,100 pharmacies nationwide, became the first drug store chain to support the importation of prescription medicines.

Thomas Ryan, CVS chairman, president and chief executive officer, said such a move would be a recognition of reality — a growing, somewhat shadowy business enterprise that he said is valued at \$2.5 billion to \$3 billion a year, far more than other estimates of the cross-border drug trade.

"Millions of Americans have already opted to import drugs because they can't afford not to. We owe it to them to face this issue head on and not look the other way," Ryan told the government task force reviewing drug importation.

Ryan and three Republican governors who also testified Wednesday said the federal government can no longer avoid the issue because of rising drug costs and Americans' increasing use of international pharmacies.

FBI looks at Kerry's Vietnam involvement

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The FBI, closely tracking the anti-war movement in the 1970s, concluded John Kerry was a glib, moderate figure in a Vietnam veterans group that took a radical turn around the time he left it, documents show.

The FBI file on Vietnam Veterans Against the War says the organization swung toward "militant and revolutionary-type activities" but accuses Kerry, now the Democratic presidential candidate, of little more than charisma.

The bureau's more than four-year investigation of the organization is detailed in more than 9,000 pages released Wednesday under a Freedom of Information Act request from The Associated Press.

"Kerry was glib, cool, and displayed just what the moderate elements wanted to reflect," the summary says.

Kerry left the group before the end of 1971 and was not implicated in violent activities or conspiracies attributed to other members in the file.

Campaigning Wednesday in Los Angeles, Kerry welcomed the release of the records. "I think it's great," he said. "I'm very proud of my efforts to end the war. I welcome anybody's perusal of them. I'm proud that I stood up to Richard Nixon. And you know, I personally have also requested those documents. So I'm happy to have them out there. It's terrific."

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- 5 Lie in the sun
- 9 Adds to the pot
- 11 Took a part
- 13 Minister to
- 14 Laughable
- 15 Emulate Mr. Bojangles
- 16 Insect feature
- 18 Dominions
- 20 Penna. neighbor
- 21 Longed
- 22 Lose freshness
- 23 Approval
- 24 Gimlet base
- 25 Make a contract legal
- 27 Hunger attacks
- 29 Auditing org.
- 30 Parodies
- 32 Spot to jot
- 34 Casual day no-no
- 35 Treasure guardian
- 36 Chew the scenery
- 38 Seattle cager

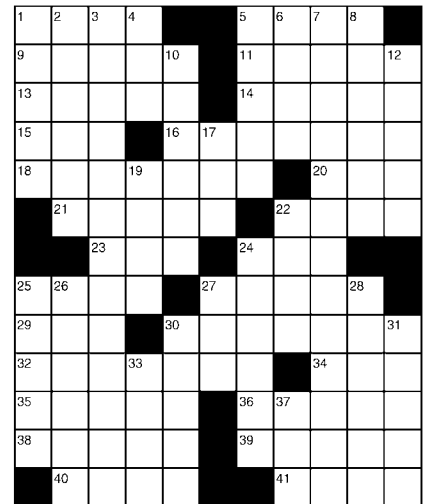
DOWN

- 1 Espresso drink
- 2 Freeway entrance
- 3 Means of advancement
- 4 Assam export
- 5 Prepares the hook
- 6 Skin woe
- 7 Megalith
- 8 Pound's cousin
- 10 Gawked
- 12 Traded
- 17 Reporter Potter
- 19 Party to
- 22 Flag waver
- 24 Look
- 25 Spills the beans
- 26 Patch type
- 27 Shell game need
- 28 Prepare for the game
- 30 Blueprint data
- 31 Small sounds
- 33 Let off
- 37 Disfigure



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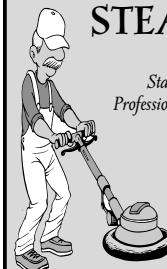
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