

TUESDAY

Review

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

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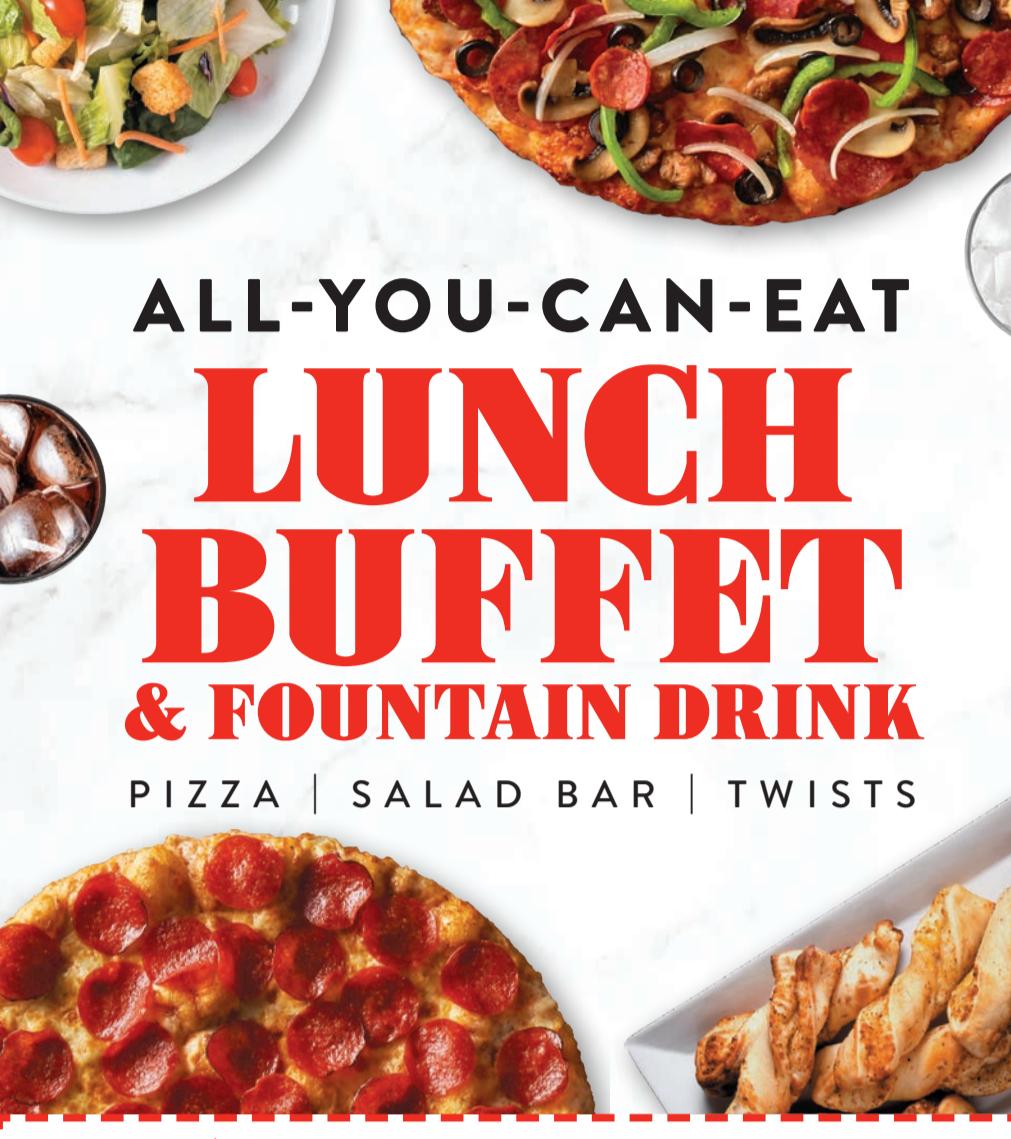
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FRIDAY-SATURDAY 11AM - MIDNIGHT

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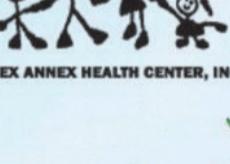
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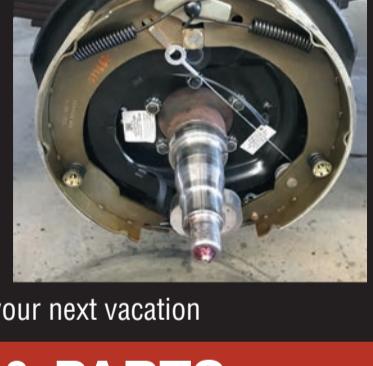
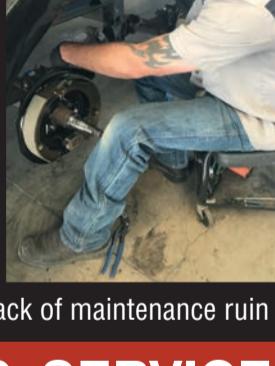
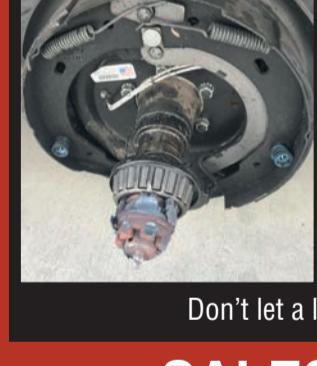
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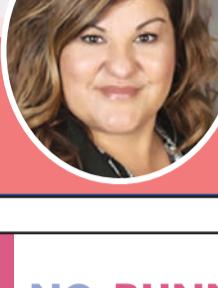


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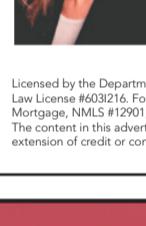
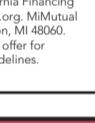
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9950 Ingomar Grade Road, Los Banos, 93635www.ingomarpacking.com**It's Fair Time!****Merced County Spring Fair Section
(Fair is April 30 to May 4)**

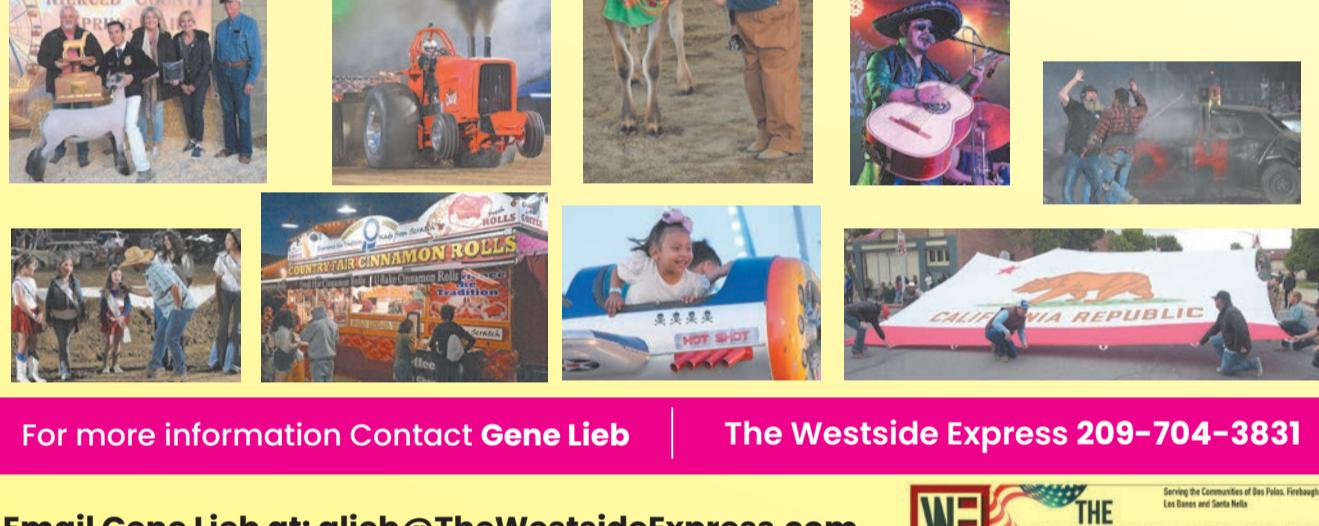
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Spring Fair Tab April 23 in The Westside Express, Gustine Standard, Westside Index and Turlock Journal!
Read all about what's coming to this year's fair, schedule of events and attractions

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Full Page \$700
1/2 Page \$450
1/4 Page \$300
1/8 Page \$200
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Inside Front Page \$900
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For more information Contact **Gene Lieb**

The Westside Express 209-704-3831

Email Gene Lieb at: glieb@TheWestsideExpress.comServing the Communities of Dos Palos, Firebaugh,
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in Los Banos. If you are new to the
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Distributed to readers of
The Westside Express
May 30, 2025, as well as to
local hotels/motels, Chamber
of Commerce, local retailers,
restaurants and real estate offices.

This full color directory will help
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increase your visibility.

**Important Dates:****Publication Date****May 30, 2025****Ad Reservation Deadline is****April 18, 2025****AD RATES:**

(ALL ADS ARE IN FULL COLOR)

Eighth Page	\$170
Quarter Page	\$225
Half Page	\$325
Full Page	\$600

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Soroptimist Awards Ceremony recognizes three women for the Live Your Dream

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Questions: Call Publisher, Gene Lieb at **(209) 704-3831**

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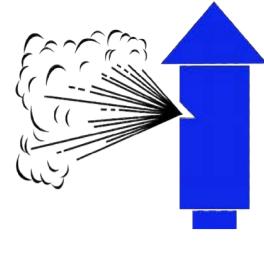
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THE WHISTLE STOP EVENTS



To have your non-profit event listed in Whistle Stops send the date, time, location and type of event by email to events@thewestsideexpress.com at least two weeks prior to the event. Please, no PDFs or photos.

March 19

6 p.m. Los Banos City Council meeting, 520 J St., Los Banos

March 20

9 a.m. — 2 p.m. Veteran Service Representative available to assist veterans at Los Banos Memorial Hall, 615 E St., Los Banos. Questions 209-385-7588

March 22

6 — 11 p.m. Los Banos Downtown Association Mardi Gras Casino Night at the Crest Event Center, 516 I St., Los Banos. Tickets \$65. (209) 587-0201

March 24

6 p.m. Pacheco Sports Boosters Live Pro Wrestling fundraiser. Pacheco High School Brett Lee Gym in Los Banos.

March 27

9 a.m. — 2 p.m. Veteran Service Representative available to assist veterans at Los Banos Memorial Hall, 615 E St., Los Banos. Questions 209-385-7588

March 28

Noon — Ribbon cutting of Los Banos and Peninsula Clean Energy Los Banos Community Center solar carport project, 645 7th St., Los Banos

April 2

6 p.m. Los Banos City Council meeting, 520 J St., Los Banos

April 5

10 a.m. Los Banos Tiger Trap Team First Sandy Wakeling Memorial Competition and Dinner. Tickets \$60. Email losbanostt@gmail.com for more details.

10 a.m. — 3 p.m. Week of the Young Child at Oliveria Park, 1115 Cardoza Rd., Los Banos. Free event, with food, games, community resources. Hosted by First 5 Merced County

6 p.m. Stephanie's House dinner dance and casino night fundraiser at Dos Palos D.E.S. Hall 1357 Elgin Ave., Dos Palos. Tickets \$75 Call 209-617-2821

April 7

8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Dos Palos Elementary preschool/TK/Kinder-garten roundup for 2025/26 school year at 2149 Almond St., Dos Palos. Child's last name begins with A through G

12:30 — 1:30 p.m. Free presentation in English on understanding Alzheimer and dementia at Los Banos Community Center, 645 7th St., Los Banos

1:45 — 2:45 p.m. Free presentation in Spanish on understanding Alzheimer and dementia

WILDLIFE WEEKLY

Despite the rumor, not all life is about the birds and bees

BY A. RENTNER

The Westside Express

The largest and most successful group of land plants alive today are the Angiosperms or those known as flowering plants. More than 80 percent of all living green plant species are flowering plants. When one thinks of flowering plants, those like roses, orchids, colorful flowering garden plants, and maybe vegetables like squash and tomatoes likely come to mind. But did you know that most trees are flowering plants, as well?

Many trees have showy flowers that attract attention. Locals here in the San Joaquin Valley are familiar with the spectacular display of almond trees flowering in February. However, some of our most majestic and iconic local trees like the native Valley oak and willow trees don't put on spectacular flower displays in the spring like almonds and peach trees do. The reason they don't is literally about the birds and the bees.

Flowers are the reproductive structures of flowering plants, and their sole purpose is to facilitate pollination or fertilization, so the plant can produce viable seed each year. That is how all flowering plants ensure the survival of their species. Viable seed depends on successful pollination of the female portion of a flower.

For many kinds of plants like almonds, peaches, pears and other fruit trees getting the pollen from the male part of the flower to the female part is the job of animals, birds and bees and even some mammals, like bats. About 86 percent of all flowering plants are pollinated by animals.

Attracting those critters in the spring is critical for a plant, and the flora of many species seem to know hummingbirds and honeybees love pretty flowers. Some animal pollinators are attracted by smell, which is why many flowers smell nice. Sorry, it's not about us humans trying to perfume the sitting room for visitors with a bouquet of sweet peas.

But what about the mighty oak? Why doesn't it push out flowers as magnificent as its stature? Is the willow weeping because it isn't as flashy as the magnolia tree? Fortunately, there is no vanity in the botanical realm.

Oak trees have flowers, a tiny female pistil-like that grows almost unnoticed above the base of leaves at the ends of branches. It is

dark red and sits atop a small stalk called a peduncle. The Valley oak (*Quercus lobata* — our local native oak) is monoecious meaning the female and male portions of the flower are located separately, but on the same tree. The male flowers (staminate) grow in clusters called catkins, and it is from these clusters pollen is produced — a lot of pollen.

Oaks and willows don't need showy flowers because the trees don't depend on the birds and bees for survival. All they need for pollination to happen is a breeze at the right time of year, some sort of wind that can carry pollen from the staminate flowers to the pistillate flowers. Anyone who has ever spent time near an oak, willow or mulberry tree when pollination is happening can attest to the volume of pollen a single tree can put in the air.

Whether pollinated by a bee or by the wind probably has something to do with whether a tree produces blossoms before it makes leaves or the other way around. Not having leaves in front of a flower thereby blocking the view of a passing bee or butterfly surely is important. In the case of oak trees, leaves may block pollen from reaching the tiny female part of the flower, although some oak tree species seem to grow flowers and leaves almost simultaneously.

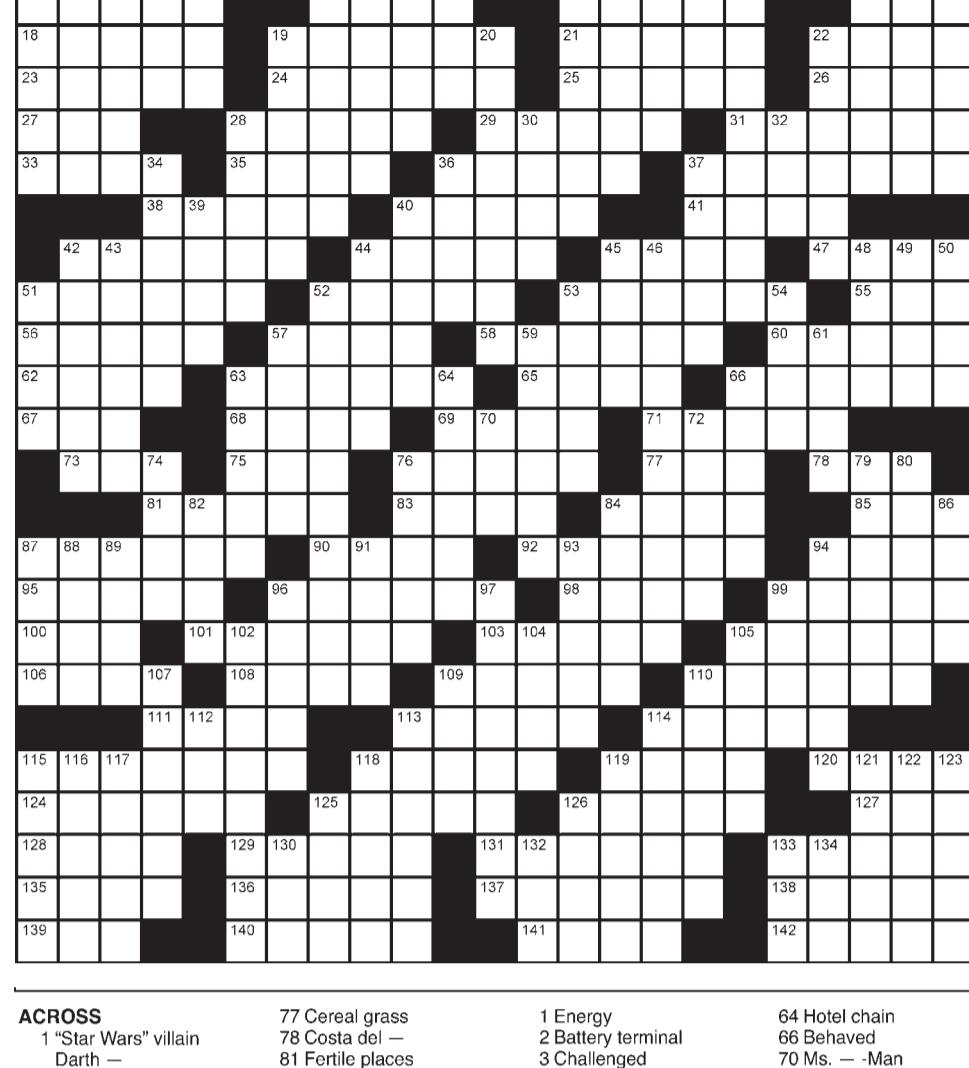
Everyone taking a walk down one of the many trails of the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge in early spring should stop at any oak they may pass to look for a tiny red flower at the end of a branch and, if found, make a field note of its location. Keep track of it during the year to see if an acorn develops. The Valley oak sports the largest acorns of any California native oak, nearly two inches in length.

The San Luis National Wildlife Refuge, Merced National Wildlife Refuge and the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge comprise the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Its headquarters and visitor center are located just north of Los Banos off Highway 165 at 7376 South Wolfsen Road.

The refuges are open to visitors daily from one half-hour before sunrise to one half-hour after sunset. The visitor center is open Monday through Friday except federal holidays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call the refuge visitor center at 209-826-3508, ext. 127 or check out the upcoming events on the website at fws.gov/refuge/san-luis.

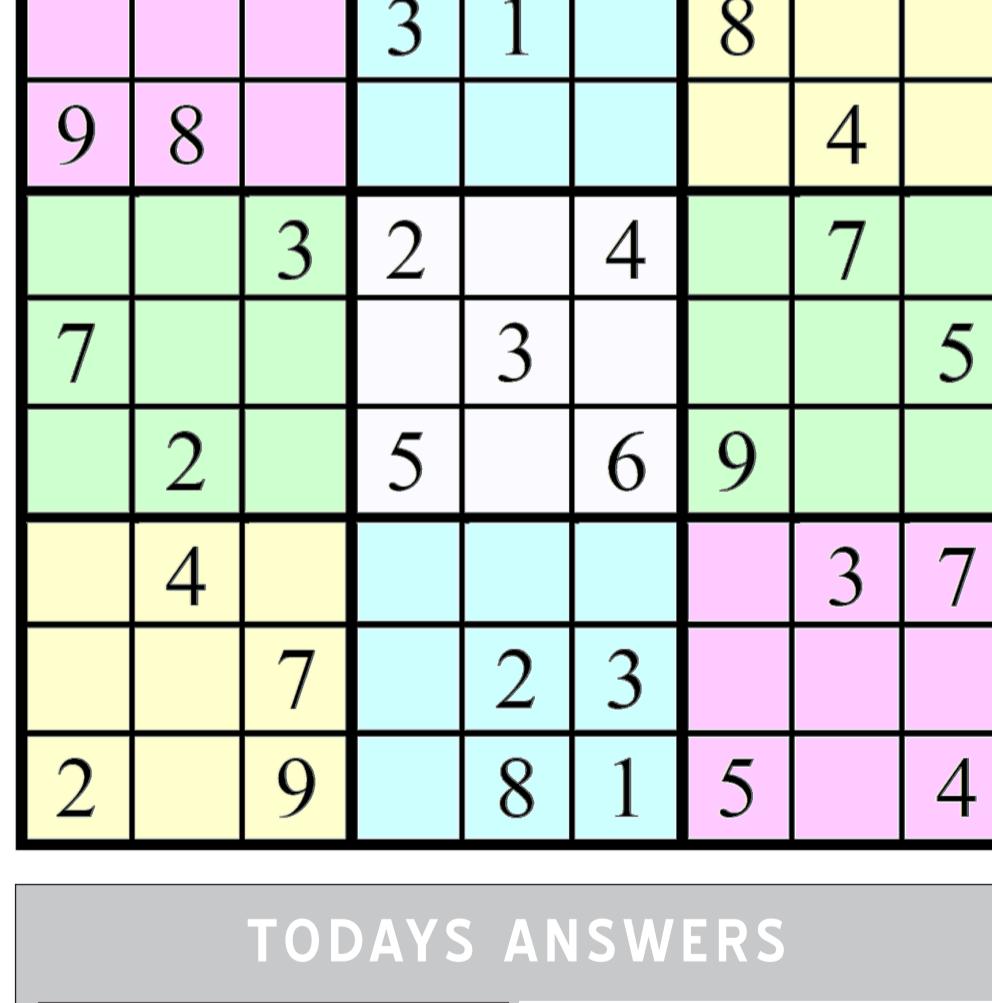
Oak trees have flowers, a tiny female pistil-like that grows almost unnoticed above the base of leaves at the ends of branches. It is

TODAY'S PUZZLER

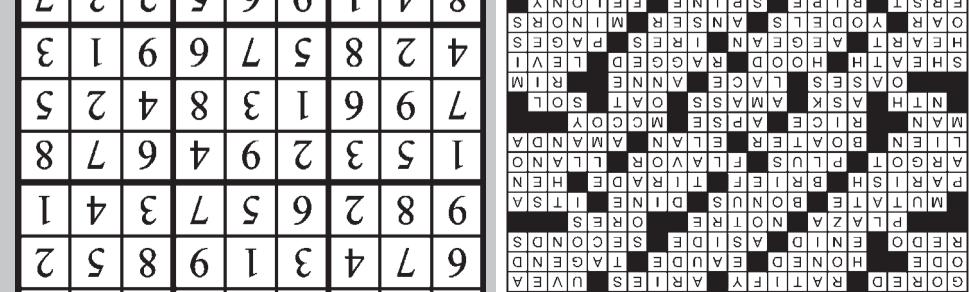


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	105 Underage ones	19 Material for busts	99 Bolus
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	140 Stuffed animal	54 Ticklish Muppet	
	141 Occident	57 Balance	
	142 Head count	59 — of two evils	
	76 Collect	61 Places	
DOWN		63 Too bold	

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