

AFG fiberglass signs deal with Taiwan textile giant

By KIP BURKE
news editor

A Washington fiberglass plant has signed a marketing agreement with a Taiwanese textiles giant to bring high-quality woven fiberglass fabrics to the North American market, a event that bodes well for the area's industrial prospects.

Washington and Wilkes County leaders gathered to see Madanjit "OB" Oberoi, president of AFG, USA, celebrate a new agreement with Dr. George Ko, chairman of Baotek. Wilkes County Commission Chairman Sam Moore, Washington Mayor Ames Barnett, and other city and county leaders welcomed the delegation that traveled from Taiwan to Washington for the agreement, including Dr. Ko, Baotek President Dr. Bo Wang, and Baotek board of directors member Shawn Ko.

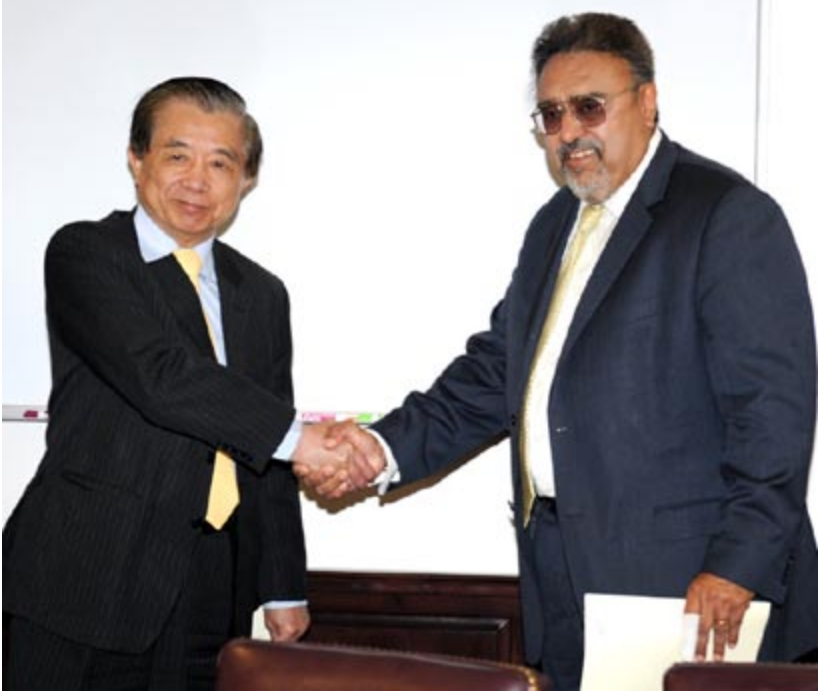
"We are a very proud company with good quality and good service, which we will bring over here," Baotek's Dr. Ko said. "We're very excited to see Mr. OB's growth here and that he will bring our product to the world from here."

The agreement opens the door for

opportunities to grow Wilkes County's established fiberglass and fabric industry, AFG USA's President OB Oberoi said. "On April 24 we signed a joint venture in which AFG will be the marketing agent for Baotek in North America. We anticipate a very rapid growth with Baotek's technology and AFG's cutting-edge marketing and sales globally. We feel that we will be able to make a great impact on the market, and take the sales to many, many millions of dollars."

"What AFG has decided to do is to join forces to leverage the synergies of the two companies," said Biren Oberoi, executive vice president of AFG. "Baotek is the number one producer of electronic fabrics in Taiwan. Their product goes into applications that go into printed circuit boards that go into iPads, iPhones and smart phones. Baotek controls 25 percent of the global market for notebooks and laptops – that's a pretty big company."

Alpharetta-based AFG, USA is 18 years old, and has operated at the former Standard-Coosa-Thatcher/SCT Yarns plant on Highway 47 in Washington-Wilkes for three years.



Madanjit "OB" Oberoi, President of Washington's AFG, USA plant (right), celebrates a new agreement with Dr. George Ko, Chairman of Taiwanese textiles giant Baotek Industrial Materials, Ltd.

"We've created jobs here, and we're going to create even more jobs, and this venture is a stepping stone to get us there," Biren Oberoi said. "AFG will warehouse its developed

product for industrial applications is already growing dramatically, OB Oberoi said. "By July, we should ship 22 truckloads, which should make us the biggest producer of fiberglass mat in North America. This is phenomenal – I never planned to be number one, but it is by the effort of everyone lowering costs and improving quality."

In addition, a new high-silica fiberglass product shows great promise, he said. "AFG is working on a new project with the U.S. military to make a fabric that will be able to withstand a continuous temperature of 1,800 degrees F. You can burn it, put fire to it for 36 hours, and it does nothing to it. We will be making this fabric here in this factory by workers in Washington and Wilkes County. It is a great application – and we will be the first people in America making silica fabric of 98.5 percent purity."

At the ceremony, Washington-Wilkes leaders welcomed the Taiwanese delegation. "This is a great day for Wilkes County," Chairman Sam Moore said. "We have a long history of textile and fiberglass production here, and we're really glad you chose Wilkes County."

AFG's production of fiberglass mat

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Day of Prayer to be observed today

Washington-Wilkes will pause today (Thursday) at noon for the 61st annual observance of the National Day of Prayer on The Square in Washington.

Community members and members of the Wilkes Ministers United, along with representatives from several area churches, will lead those attending in song and guided prayer, praying specifically for local, state, and national leaders, military personnel at home and overseas, and local educators, medical and health care staff, along with public servants in law enforcement, fire fighting, and emergency medical service.

The program for the observance serves as a prayer list with the names of most of the city and county public servants.

The 30-minute observance has traditionally ended with all singing "God Bless America."

New water plant contract will save city \$283,000 a year

By KIP BURKE
news editor

In response to one of new Washington Mayor Ames M. Barnett's first cost-cutting efforts, the City of Washington has successfully renegotiated the contract for the operation of the city's water and wastewater treatment plants for a savings of more than \$280,000 a year.

In a called meeting of the council last Friday, the city approved the awarding of a new contract it negoti-

ated with OMI to operate the city's two plants. OMI has operated the plants for the last 19 years, but the new agreement lowers the annual cost to the city from \$1,678,270 to \$1,398,382, for a savings of \$282,345 the first year, and more than \$1.1 million over the next four years, the mayor said.

The contract approved on Friday is a new contract which became effective on January 1 of this year. At the city's insistence, OMI committed to retain long-time project manager John Scott on the project

for the life of the contract.

Despite resistance from some council members, Barnett had insisted on renegotiating the existing contract with OMI because he had studied the contract and felt there were significant savings to be found. After putting the contract out for bid, OMI responded with a reduced cost for operating the plants, and a committee of Councilmen Kim Rainey and Mike Scarborough, City Administrator Mike Eskew, City Engineer Corky Welch, and City Attorney Barry Fleming negotiated the final contract terms.

The new OMI contract includes keeping project manager John Scott and his team intact, which was a condition on which the city insisted. Rock Raiford, region director for operations for OMI, said, "We appreciate the long tenure with the city of Washington, and we appreciated the ability to work together and look out for the people of Washington."

The new mayor, who campaigned on saving money for the taxpayers and utility ratepayers of the city, says the new contract shows that there was room for improvement in city expenditures.

"The city has got to get back to a balanced budget," Barnett said, "and it's crucial we bid out our service contracts to lower the costs. It's our goal to cut costs where we can so

we don't have to pass those costs on the citizens and the utility rate payers."

The savings from the new contract with OMI, combined with some \$55,000 annual savings from a renegotiated contract for auditing services, and some \$12,000 in sav-

ings on liability insurance, brings the total saved by Mayor Barnett to nearly \$350,000 in just the first four months of his term.



Former Tiger signs with NFL's Tennessee Titans

Gary Wilburn, a former Washington-Wilkes Tiger who went on to play for the University of Connecticut Huskies as a defensive back, has been recruited by the Tennessee Titans and agreed to a free-agent contract. He will report for his first day of practice next Thursday, May 10. Above, Wilburn was on hand to deliver some inspirational words to the 2012 W-W Tigers at their first day of spring practice on Monday. He told them of his own story and encouraged them to stick to their dreams and work hard to get there. More on page 8.

Wilkes Relay for Life is Saturday, 1 to 9, at W-W Parks and Rec

By KIP BURKE, news editor

Months of hard work and fund-raising will come together Saturday at the 2012 Wilkes Relay for Life from 1-9 p.m. at the Washington-Wilkes Parks and Recreation Center.

This year's Relay will extend only through the afternoon and evening rather than all night as in the past. Unlike previous years, this year's Relay will begin at 1 p.m. with the Survivors' Lap and will end at 9 p.m. with the memorial luminary ceremony.

"The 2012 Relay for Life is dedicated to the memory of Zella Bennett, a constant volunteer and organizer who lost her own battle with cancer recently," said Relay Chairman Margie Burke. "We know she'll be with us in spirit."

The Relay's theme this year is "A Cure for Cancer will be Music to Our Ears," and each team will be incorporating musicals into their decorations and activities, Burke said. "Each team has been raising money for weeks now, and will be raising more during the Relay. As always, we'll be continually walking the track all afternoon. We will have a prize for the person who walks the most laps."

In preparation for the Relay, more than 130 Wilkes County cancer survivors and their caregivers attended last Thursday's annual Survivors Dinner at the Third Shiloh Mission Center. "We had a wonderful crowd of survivors," Burke said. "Jean Anderson, the dinner's organizer, and all the volunteers did a great job cooking and serving our survivors and their caregivers."

The participation of cancer survivors has been a vital part of the Wilkes Relay effort. For the last two years,

the Wilkes County Relay has been honored by the American Cancer Society as the best in the nation for per capita survivor participation, earning the Power of Hope award.

Teams will be selling food and having activities dur-

ing the Relay for Life event. Rayle EMC, "The Wizard of Oz" team, will be selling candy, popcorn, nachos, pork skins, boiled peanuts, and drinks. Prior to the event, they are conducting a \$200 Gas Raffle. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and are available at the Rayle

EMC office or from team members. The drawing will be held today, May 3.

The St. Joseph's Catholic Church "Grease" team will be selling fish and chips baskets for \$5 from 4-8 p.m. during the Relay, and has been holding two raffles to raise money for Relay for Life. The first is for a beautiful doll, complete with bed and 50s-style clothing, made and donated by Sarah Dunavan. The second is for a meal, prepared and donated by Amy Johnston, that will be raffled as part of a dinner basket. Tickets to win the doll are \$2, and tickets for the dinner basket are \$1. Winners for each will be chosen during the Relay for Life event. For more information, contact Beth Jackson at 706-340-7948.

The Sanctuary's team "Annie" plans to sell strawberries, host Bingo, and have a raffle for a purple afghan.

Wills Memorial Hospital will be selling nachos, sausage dogs, hot dogs, brownies, cupcakes, and cake. Springfield Baptist Church will be selling fish, sausage dogs, pork skins, cupcakes, and sodas. New Saints CME Church and Hilliard Station Baptist Church, representing the Roy L. Burns Senior Center team, will be selling fish cakes, sausage dogs, and cokes. Tignall Baptist Church, "The Little Mermaid," will be selling baked goods, water, and sodas.

Denard's Personal Care Home's "Spiderman" team will be hosting hair-spiking and dying and a jump castle. The Denard's team encourages parents to allow their children attending the Relay to let them dress as their favorite super hero. At last week's Survivors' Dinner, five-year-old cancer survivor Aidan Tidwell was specially recognized for his heroic bravery during his fight with cancer.



Aidan Tidwell, a five-year-old cancer-surviving superhero, gets a round of applause at the Relay for Life Survivors' Dinner last week.

Qualifying dates are approaching for partisan and non-partisan elections

Candidates for Wilkes County offices will qualify for both partisan and non-partisan elections May 23-25.

“Candidates may qualify in the Wilkes County Probate Court in the courthouse from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, May 23 and 24, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Friday, May 25,” the county’s Supervisor of Elections Judge Thomas Charming said.

The primary election will be held Tuesday, July 31. All non-partisan offices for school board seats, probate judge, and magistrate judge, will be decided in the July 31 election. This is a change from previous elections, Judge Charming said, made by the Georgia legislature last year.

The change means that the non-partisan offices of Chairman of the Wilkes County School Board, Board of Education seats from District 3 and District 4, along with Wilkes Probate Judge and Magistrate Judge,

will be decided in the July 31 primary election.

Partisan offices on the July 31 primary ballot include the Wilkes County offices of Sheriff, Board of Commissioners seats for District 1 and District 2, Tax Commissioner, Clerk of Court, Coroner, and Surveyor.

If there is more than one candidate in any of these races and no one gets 50 percent of the vote, the top two vote getters will be involved in a runoff election August 21.

Winners in the partisan July 31 primary may face opponents in the General Election in November, but that is rare in Wilkes County.

The July primary is held, Charming said, to determine which candidates will represent the major parties on the General Election ballot in November. “Poll workers will give voters a form to complete and the voter will be asked to mark either ‘Republican’ or ‘Democrat.’ This allows the poll worker to give the correct ballot to

the voter for the primary they want to vote in,” he said. “In the General Election in November, however, a Georgia voter can mix his ballot to include candidates from all parties.”

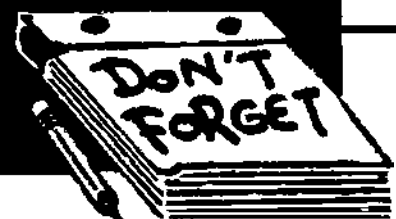
The fees for qualifying will be \$1,407.54 for Sheriff, and \$1,229.03 for Tax Commissioner, Clerk of Court, Probate Judge, and Chief Magistrate Judge. The fee to qualify for Coroner is \$108, and for Surveyor, \$10. Qualifying fees for Board of Commissioners seats and Board of Education seats is \$72.

Candidates for these elections are reminded that an announcement article of their intention to seek office will be run free of charge in *The News-Reporter* one time. However, information for such an article must be received by the newspaper not later than Friday, May 25, and may include only biographical information and a brief statement of intent. Candidates are responsible for providing the information and will not be contacted by this newspaper.



Washington-Wilkes welcomes Baotek visitors

Wilkes County Chairman Sam Moore and Washington Mayor Ames Barnett, along with AFG’s Madanjit and Madhu Oberoi, welcome Dr. George Ko, chairman of Taiwanese textiles giant Baotek Industrial Materials, Ltd. (Right) Dr. Bo Wang introduces an old friend, Commissioner Ed Geddings, to Dr. Ko at the ceremony marking the two companies’ agreement. (See the full story on page 1)



The Essene Worship Center will host a public Mother’s Day memorial service on Sunday, May 13, at 3 p.m. The community is invited to attend. Attendees will light candles and be given an opportunity to speak about loved ones. The speaker will be Rev. Wauneta Wilkinson of Atlanta. Light refreshments will be served.

The Washington High School Class of 1952 will have its 60th year reunion on Saturday, May 19, 7 p.m., at the Pope Center. The class has invited all graduates from the classes of 1950 through 1959 to join them for this reunion. For further information or to make reservations, call Don Taylor at 770-444-9824, or email

Wilkes Democrats to meet Thurs., May 10, 6:30 at Pope Center

Wilkes County Democrats are invited to the local party’s organization meeting on Thursday, May 10, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Pope Center.

“We are inviting everyone who wants to be part of the reason that Wilkes County Democrats will win in 2012,” said Patsy Harris, chairman of the 10th Congressional District for the Democratic Party of Georgia. “We have a great group of local folks working toward this goal.”

The planning committee will provide refreshments and local gas cards to be awarded as door prizes.

“Voter registration, the qualifying and election of local Democrats, and the re-election of President Obama are this year’s priorities for the Democratic Party of Georgia,” said Harris, “Wilkes County will play a very important part in the 10th Congressional District.”

For more information, contact Patsy Harris at 706-342-1011 or email patsydudney@yahoo.com.

bdtmjt@gmail.com.

The Little River Relay for Life Team is selling raffle tickets for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to Wings ‘n’ Things, the Jockey Club, and Bee Southern. Tickets are \$1 each. The drawing will be held at the Washington-Wilkes Relay for Life on Saturday, May 5. You do not have to be present to win. Contact team captain Frances Hudson at 706-293-4253 for more information.

Carter’s Grove Baptist Church will celebrate its 137th homecoming on Sunday, May 20, beginning at 11 a.m. The service will feature the Sanctuary Choir. Lunch will be served after the morning service.

Members of the Bethlehem Baptist Church will celebrate their church’s 119th anniversary Sunday, May 20, at 11:30 a.m. Pastor R.C. Lockhart will deliver the sermon. Dinner will be served.

New Salem Baptist Church will celebrate its 140th church anniversary on Sunday, May 20, beginning at 3 p.m. Rev. Harvey Peek, pastor of Rose Hill Baptist Church in Elberton, will be the guest speaker. A fellowship meal will be served prior to the service.

Carter’s Grove Baptist Church will have its revival on Monday-Wednesday, May 21-23, at 7

p.m. each evening. The church is located at 6080 Lexington Road in Crawfordville. For further information, call 706-401-3456.

The Washington-Wilkes Toastmasters will host a workshop entitled “How To Listen Effectively” on Thursday, May 24, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Mary Willis Library. Distinguished Toastmaster Cindy Cannon will be the facilitator. There is no charge and the public is invited to attend.

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church will celebrate its 111th anniversary May 27, 2:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. Richard Austin and the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church of Warrenton.

Ezzell, Walker named to Athens Christian School’s honor roll

Noah Ezzell and Taylor Walker have both been named to the Honor Roll for having all As and Bs at Athens Christian School by Headmaster Steve Cummings.

Ezzell, a first grader, has been recognized for his academic achievement during the third quarter of the current school year. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Ezzell of Washington.

Walker, a ninth grader, was recognized for his academic achievement for the second quarter of the current school year. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Walker of Rayle.

Taliaferro County band plans ‘An Evening of Jazz’ May 17

The Taliaferro County School band program will present “An Evening of Jazz” on Thursday, May 17. The event will include a performance and barbecue dinner beginning at 6 p.m.

The barbecue meal, prepared by Frank and Lou Bentley, will start the evening off. The meal will include pulled pork and sauce, coleslaw, baked beans, stew, bread, tea or water, and homemade cake.

Following dinner, over 50 music students will perform for parents,

teachers, and the community. Ensembles to perform include the fourth grade recorder class, middle school ensemble, percussion ensemble, and the TCS Wind Ensemble.

Tickets for the meal are \$8.50 each and must be purchased in advance. They will be on sale until Friday, May 11, and may be purchased from any TCS band student, band parent, or Music Director Joan Cole.

The event is open to the public with all proceeds benefiting the TCS band program.



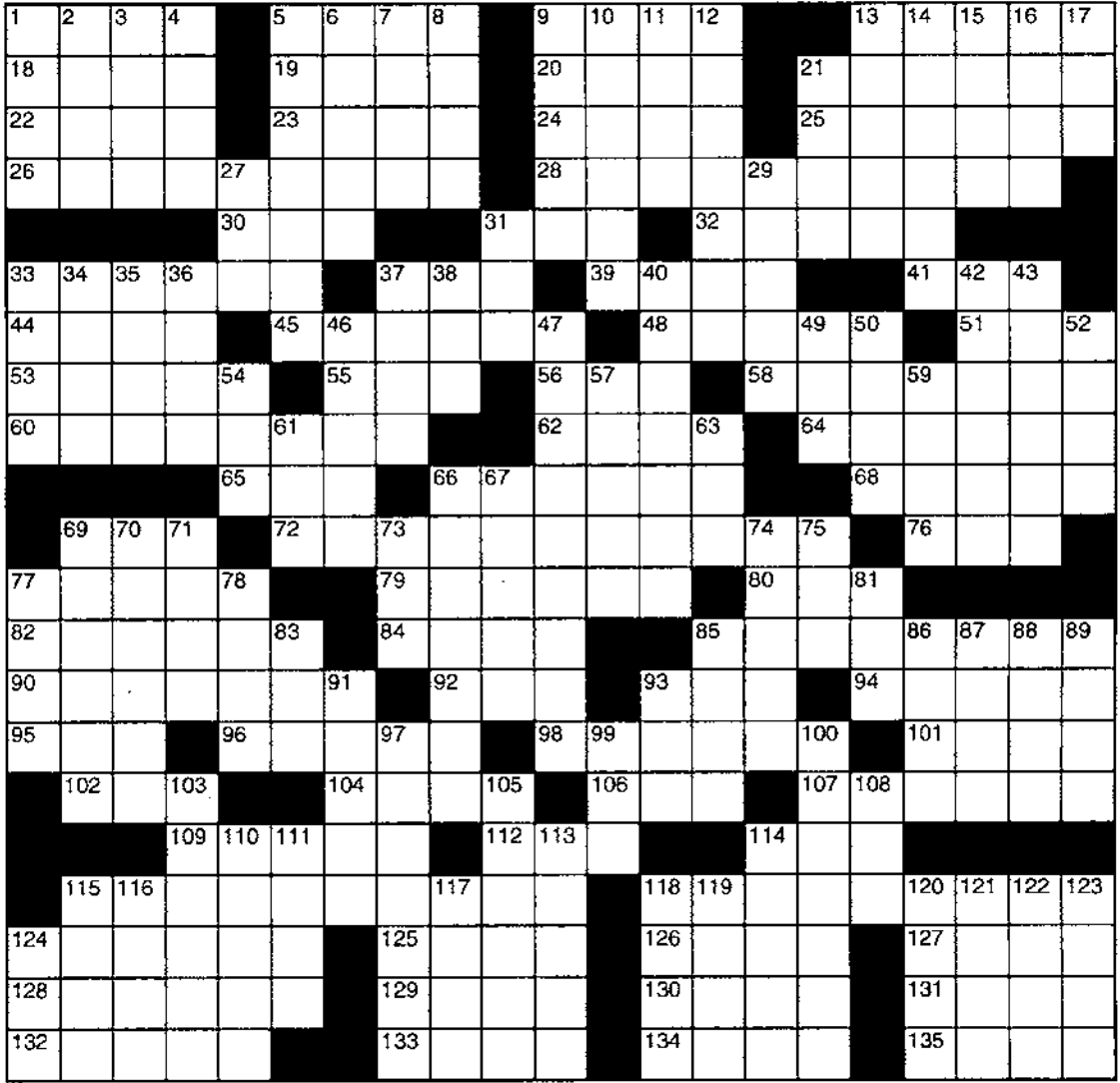
Spring Cruise-In to feature Kerry McAvoy’s classic Merc

The Memory Lane Cruisers local car club will hold its Spring Car Show on The Square Saturday, May 12, from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. The Cruise-In will feature, on the club’s plaques and T-shirts, Kerry McAvoy’s beautiful 1950 Mercury sedan. Driving visitors around town during the recent Spring Tour of Homes, McAvoy and his Mercury were the hit of the tour. Make your plans to come join the fun, food and music on The Square. Admission is free for the public, and there is a \$10 entry fee for each car.

Answers on page 5

Super Crossword FAUXCATIONS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Slightly open
 - 5 Celt
 - 9 Lose one's fur
 - 13 Orchestra section
 - 18 Ahmedabad attire
 - 19 Voice type
 - 20 Munich mister
 - 21 Proof-of-purchase, often
 - 22 Skip
 - 23 Skeleton part
 - 24 Proficient
 - 25 Second
 - 26 Soda jerk?
 - 28 Laundry CEO?
 - 30 Revolutionary
 - 31 Opie's aunt
 - 32 Drawing room
 - 33 "NYPD Blue" creator
 - 37 — sauce
 - 39 Dandelion or dandel
 - 41 Neutral color
 - 44 Soap additive
 - 45 Charlotte, for one
 - 48 Sacred song
 - 51 Swell place?
 - 53 Psychedelic
 - 55 Wharton's
 - 56 Gram
 - 58 Golf
 - 60 Dill
 - 62 Shoot down
 - 64 Tristan's
 - 65 Qty.
 - 66 Gimpel and
 - 68 Writer Rogers
 - 69 Existed
 - 72 Gas station attendant?
 - 76 Hook's mate
 - 77 Criticizes
 - 79 Mischievous
 - 80 Mauna —
 - 82 Dental appointment, e.g.
 - 84 Manuscript imperative
 - 85 Yacht
 - 90 Roller coaster operator?
 - 92 — Dawn
 - 93 Baby beaver
 - 94 Record player
 - 95 Actor Chaney
 - 96 Attract the IRS?
 - 98 Minnie of "Circle of Friends"
 - 101 Sturdy trees
 - 102 Inc., in England
 - 104 Spare fare
 - 106 Mrs.
 - 107 McKinley
 - 109 Unrefined
 - 112 Joplin
 - 114 Good buddy
 - 115 Herpetologist?
 - 118 Phrenologist?
 - 124 Fiesta target
 - 125 Bring to ruin
 - 126 Austin or
 - 127 Fancy fabric
 - 128 Starting point
 - 129 Sentence pt.
 - 130 Orner
 - 131 Spoken
 - 132 Prevent
 - 133 It may be
 - 134 Writer Harte
 - 135 Guarded
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Beginning on
 - 2 Actress Gertz
 - 3 Neighbor of Cal.
 - 4 "Puttin' on the —" ('83 hit)
 - 5 South American cowboys
 - 6 TV's "Kate & —"
 - 7 Italian rumbler
 - 8 Bank offering
 - 9 Contour
 - 10 Semitic tongue
 - 11 Perry's creator
 - 12 Dons one's duds
 - 13 Sonata movement
 - 14 Range
 - 15 College collar
 - 16 "Stopt!"
 - 17 Sneak a peek
 - 21 It's often jumped
 - 27 Travel agcy.?
 - 29 Egyptian statesman
 - 31 "Later!"
 - 33 Cinderella's soiree
 - 34 Spread in a tub
 - 35 Nag subtly
 - 36 Towel word
 - 37 Regret audibly
 - 38 Wordsworth work
 - 40 Certain inscription
 - 42 One of the Judds
 - 43 It's in the groove
 - 46 Page or LaBelle
 - 47 Vaughn's "Brideshead —"
 - 49 Fragrant neckwear
 - 50 Butte
 - 52 Surface measurement
 - 54 Singer Sumac
 - 57 Texas river
 - 59 Cryptanalyst's concern
 - 61 UN agency
 - 63 City in Kyrgyzstan
 - 66 New Haven hardwood
 - 67 — dope
 - 71 "Graf —"
 - 70 Impassioned
 - 71 "Graf —"
 - 73 Fleur-de- —
 - 74 Raise spirits?
 - 75 Parisian potatoe
 - 77 Monastery garb
 - 78 Computer command
 - 81 Matterhorn, e.g.
 - 83 Potok's "My Name Is Asher —"
 - 85 Hindu deity
 - 86 Restaurateur
 - 87 Ditch under a drawbridge
 - 88 Egyptian symbol
 - 89 investigative
 - 91 Chatter box?
 - 93 Baby butter
 - 97 Cause confusion
 - 99 Fix a fight
 - 100 Courbet, e.g.
 - 103 Pharmacist's concern
 - 105 Wall Street figure
 - 108 Half and half?
 - 110 Moving
 - 111 Mikita of hockey
 - 113 Battery part
 - 114 Kind of soup
 - 115 TV's "Spenser: For —"
 - 116 "What's — for me?"
 - 117 Cross inscription
 - 118 Use a dagger
 - 119 Gourmet
 - 120 Deere thing
 - 121 Skater
 - 122 Epps or Sharif
 - 123 Bank (on)
 - 124 Seal school



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